



Voyager

THE LAKE WASHINGTON & EVERETT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOL. 106 DELGENE PHILLIPS - EDITOR WWW.LAKEWASHNLUS.ORG DECEMBER 2023

FUTURE EVENTS

Board Meeting TBD
Dinner Meeting TBD
Scuttlebutt Social Hour-3rd Wed

ABOUT US

The Lake Washington & Everett (LW&E) Council is part of the Navy League of the United States, www.navyleague.org

SUPPORTED UNITS

USCG Base Seattle
USCGC Healy (WAGB 20)
USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)
USCGC Blue Shark (WPB 87360)
USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)
Undersea R & D Detachment
Liberty High School NJROTC
Snohomish High School MCJROTC
U. of Washington NROTC
Naval Station Everett Division USNSCC
US Naval Station Everett
Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN
Destroyer Squadron Nine
USS John Paul Jones (DDG 53)
USS John S. McCain (DDG 56)
USS McCampbell (DDG 85)
USS Kidd (DDG 100)
USS Gridley (DDG 101)
USS Sampson (DDG 102)
USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)
Afloat Training Group - PACNW
Branch Health Clinic Everett
Regional Support Organization - PACNW
Naval Operational Support Center Everett
Puget Sound Naval Shipyard &
Intermediate Maintenance Facility

Lake Washington & Everett Council Navy League of the United States

2024 Annual Naval Station Everett Dinner

Blue Heron Room, Port of Everett

1205 Craftsman Way, Everett, WA

Saturday, 20 January 2024

5:00pm – 8:00pm

Hosting and honoring the outstanding sailors
of all the units homeported at
Naval Station Everett.

Program

Check in and Reception 5:00pm - 5:55pm

Color Guard - Sea Cadets 6:00pm

Guest Speakers 6:05pm

RADM Charles E. Fosse, USCG
Commander 13th Coast Guard District

Dinner 6:30pm

Awards 7:00pm to 8:00pm

Seats are limited. Please book yours by 10 January.

Service Dress Blues for Active Duty Military.
Business Casual for civilians.

REGISTER @ <https://lakewashnlus.org/event-5490485>

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



I trust everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We have much to be thankful for the past year, not least your ongoing support and contributions to the Lake Washington and Everett Council. As the council enters 2024,

I thank all of our sponsored commands for their participation in our monthly Scuttlebutt Sailor Social Hours, as well as the public for their attendance and support of our sailors. We look for-



ward to seeing everyone at the Naval Station Everett Awards Banquet on 20 January, at the Port of Everett (*above*). Please be sure to RSVP by 10 January as seats are limited. If you are unable to attend in person, we would be grateful for a donation which would sponsor a sailor's dinner. Please

2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Karmin Pincus
 Vice-President..... *Vacant*
 Treasurer..... Jeff Garrett
 Secretary..... *Vacant*
 Judge Advocate..... Bert Kinghorn
 Chaplain..... *Vacant*

Other Directors:

John Deehr	Phil Johnson	John Kartak
Bob Lockyer	Delgene Phillips	Pete Stiles
John Thoma		

Honorary Members: Jim Britt "Mitch" Mitchell

National Director Emeritus:

Louise Chase (LWC) (NLUS)
 RADM John Lockwood, USCG, Retired

visit our website to donate and/or RSVP

<https://lakewashnlus.org/event-5490485>

Thank you again for your continued support. We appreciate each and every one of you. Now, on to the excitement that 2024 will bring!

Karmin

karmin.pincus@lakewashnlus.org



LW&E Council board members Jeff Garrett and Karmin Pincus (*below*) welcomed USCGC Healy (WAGB 20) back to Seattle on 15 December.



A memorial service was held in Cle Elum, WA on 27 September by the 13th Coast Guard District command master chief, Master Chief Petty Officer Shane Carroll, as the master of ceremonies, which featured commemorative remarks from the District Commander, RADM Charles Fosse and Douglas Munro's nephew, Doug Sheehan. Munro was commemorated with a rifle salute and a wreath laying at Munro's grave site. Raised in Cle Elum, Munro graduated from high school there in 1937 and enlisted in the USCG while in college. On 27 September 1942, CG Signalman Munro participated in a rescue mission of nearly 500 Marines from unexpectedly numerous Japanese forces. During the recovery, Munro positioned his craft between the Marines and enemy fire, acting as a shield, ultimately losing his life. For his actions, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Esteemed Council Member Passes

CAPT Angus McDonald, USN Retired, passed away at age 97 in his home in Bellevue on 27 September 2023. Angus was a faithful council member attending many dinners and was the 2017 winner of the John and Cyndee Lockwood Lifetime Achievement Award. Angus was born in Waukegan, IL, but due to the depression, he moved to Limerick, ME to live with his mother and her parents. After their house burned down, he enrolled as a boarding student at Hebron Academy graduating as valedictorian and then enrolled at MIT.



In 1944 he received a USNA appointment. After commissioning, he served aboard USS Leary and WWII submarines USS Spikefish, USS Sea Robin, and USS Barbero. Following a successful interview by ADM Rickover, he later assumed command

of USS Ulysses S. Grant (SSBN 631), completing four Gold crew patrols. At the Pentagon he became special assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Meritorious Service Medal. After retirement, he spent years researching the causes of the USS Scorpion sinking and published his findings. Leaving the Navy and Hawaii after three tours, a Honolulu Advertiser columnist dedicated a column to McDonald in which he wrote, *"Angus has one of the most excellent minds I have ever encountered. He is able to pierce through all of the fluff and nonsense and search out the fundamentals of a problem. But far better than that, he is a gentleman and a man of character. A good husband, a good father, and a good citizen."* Angus left Hawaii for Bellevue, WA and put worked in the nuclear power industry for several years. He enjoyed life in the Pacific NW having parties, volunteering, attending cultural events, golfing, and salmon fishing. Angus was married to Mavis, who passed away in 2009. He was adored and will be greatly missed by his four children, Jot, Sally, Scott, and David, his seven grandchildren, Kai, Kristin, Lauren, Eliot, Matt, Megan, and Jeremiah, and five great grandchildren, Maia, Jack, Fletcher, Philip, and Torren.

LW&EC BUSINESS AFFILIATES

Corporate Sponsors

- ♦ The Boeing Company
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- ♦ B.E. Meyers & Company, Inc.
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- ♦ Craig Chapman, CFP, Financial Advisor Oppenheimer & Co., Inc.
- ♦ First Command Financial Services
- ♦ Flags & Flagpoles Northwest
- ♦ Forde Financial & Tax, Inc.
- ♦ Global Construction Services, Inc.
- ♦ Gloria R. James, P.L.L.C.
- ♦ Heritage Bank
- ♦ Human Resources of Auburn, Inc.
- ♦ Port of Everett
- ♦ Red Lion Hotel Bellevue
- ♦ US Bank Everett
- ♦ US Family Health Plan (USFHP) at Pacific Medical Center
- ♦ Vertical Path Recruiting, Inc.

Through their financial contributions, these business affiliates demonstrate their commitment to LW&EC-NLUS, to the mission of the Navy League, and their desire to support young people through our programs and scholarships.

Partners

- ♦ Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council of the Navy League
- ♦ Seattle Council of the Navy League
- ♦ Tacoma Council of the Navy League

News from LW&E Council Supported Units

Liberty High School NJROTC unit Patriot Company Completed Basic Leadership Training (BLT) from 12-15 Oct 2023. On 12 Oct 2023, eighty-one



Above: c/LTJG Fischer Skroch demonstrates first aid
cadets, teachers, and chaperones arrived at Liberty High School at 0600 and boarded buses for the CISPUS Learning Center in Randle, WA for Patri-

ot Company's three and a half day Basic Leadership Training Camp. Primarily designed to "jump start" the NJROTC experience for new cadets to the unit, it is beneficial for all cadets to attend as more experienced cadets have the opportunity to mentor and train the new cadets in attendance. This year's cadet staff, led by Cadet Lieutenant Com-



During the low ropes challenge course, Cadets work to maneuver through a balanced cube without knocking it off its perch.

mander Elwyn Ream, developed a demanding and engaging schedule that included classes in naval history, proper use of the chain of command, public speaking, first aid, guidon procedures, flag folding and the phonetic alphabet. In addition to these classes the cadets participated in a Physical Fitness Assessment, a low ropes challenge course, a hike to Curtain Falls, barracks inspections, company drill, small group leadership and communication exercises, and a final personnel inspection. In order to pack this all into a 3.5 day period, the cadets were up at 0600 each day and did not stop moving until lights out each night at 2200. While this camp is demanding on everyone who participates, many cadets consider it the highlight of the school year.



Below: c/LTJG Allison Marckel (R) demonstrates flag folding assisted by c/PO1 Rachel Kollarmalil & c/PO2 Max Lo



Cadets work to complete the mile run portion of the Physical Fitness Assessment



U. of Washington NROTC Husky Battalion participated in the Salute to Service football game on 11 November against the University of Utah. The battalion held the state flags on the field and performed in a joint color guard to honor those who have served in our country's armed services.



Snohomish High School Marine Corps JROTC students (*at left*) helped clean up the Snohomish High School campus in October.



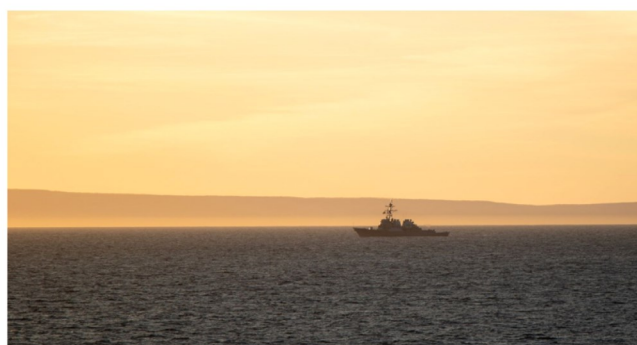
The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer **USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)** (*above*) conducts a replenishment-at-sea with the USNS Yukon (T-AO-202) in the South China Sea.



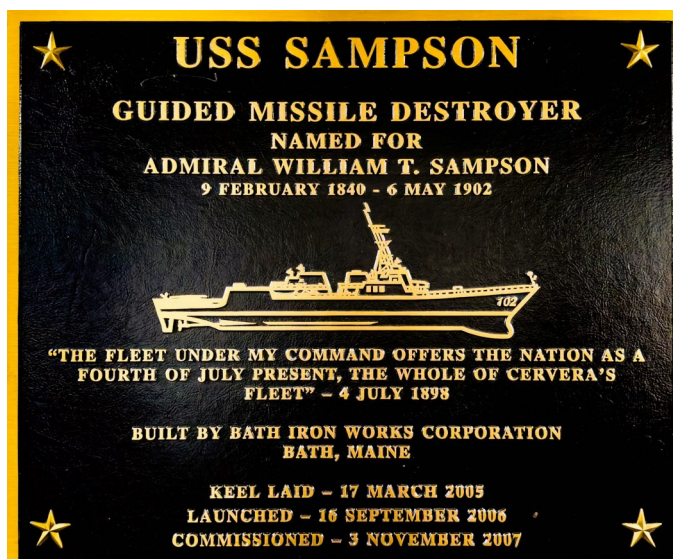
The crew of **USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)** mourns the loss of former First Lady Rosalynn Carter pictured below christening the Carter at Electric Boat in Groton, CT, on 5 June 2004.



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer **USS John S. McCain (DDG 56)** (below) transits the Pacific Ocean. McCain is currently underway conducting routine operations in U.S. 3rd Fleet.



Sixteen years ago on 3 November 2007, **USS Sampson (DDG 102)** was commissioned in Boston, MA. Sampson is the fourth ship named for RADM William T. Sampson who was born in Palmyra, NY and entered the United States Naval Academy in 1857. After graduating first in his class, he served as an instructor at the Academy, teaching physics. In 1864, he became the executive officer of the monitor Patapsco of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron and engaged in sweeping torpedoes off Charleston, SC. He survived the loss of that ironclad on 15 January 1865, when she struck a torpedo, exploded, and sank with a loss of 75 lives. In 1886, he became Superintendent of the Naval Academy. Later he was President of the Board of Inquiry to investigate the destruction of the USS Maine. On 29



May 1898, elements of Sampson's command spotted Spanish Admiral Cervera's squadron moving into Santiago harbor and the naval presence there was greatly increased to prevent Cervera's escape. On the morning of 3 July 1898, Cervera's fleet came out of the harbor. Sampson was ashore at a conference with General Shafter, making plans for a coordinated attack on Santiago. RADM Winfield Scott Schley was in command of the Flying Squadron in Sampson's absence and met the Spanish fleet, completely destroying every Spanish vessel in a running sea battle lasting five hours. The next day, RADM Sampson sent his famous message: *"The Fleet under my command offers the nation as a Fourth of July present, the whole of Cervera's Fleet,"* which caused a controversy since it did not mention RADM Schley.

Below SN Davion Gibson and CMC Jeffery Fleming of **USS Sampson** work with a Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) program detailer during the Career Development Symposium



Pacific NW held at **Naval Station Everett**. USN Personnel Command Fleet Engagement Team provided career counseling to 133 PACT sailors

from Naval Base Kitsap - Bremerton, NAS Whidbey Island, and **Naval Station Everett**, which resulted in 118 Sailors gaining a rating with follow-on orders or on track for a rating that requires a package submission. Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jeanette Mullinax



Aboard **USS Kidd (DDG 100)**, sailors conduct a replenishment-at-sea with fleet replenishment oiler USNS John Ericsson (T-AO 194) during a replenishment-at-sea during Multi-Large Deck Event.

Commander, Fleet Activities Yokosuka's Commadore Matthew C. Perry General Mess (*below*) hosted an open galley event for the installation's community and their guests on Thanksgiving Day 23 November 2023. More than 40 general mess staff members and temporarily assigned personnel



from **USS Melius (DDG 69)** and **USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)** started work at 0430 to ensure the 25 turkeys, 25 ribeye roasts, 18 hams, 60-



pounds of shrimp and hundreds of pounds of produce, baked goods, among other traditional Thanksgiving dishes were ready to serve at the installation's annual open galley event. *USN photo by James Kimber*



Commander Eirik Høgstad, (*above*) commanding officer of Norwegian Coast Guard Vessel Svalbard, and Commander Blair Sweigart, attend a science roundtable aboard the **USCGC Healy (WAGB 20)**, while moored in Tromsø, Norway, 3 Oct 2023. The science roundtable brought together researchers and operators from the US, Norway, and Canada to discuss best practices in search and rescue, environmental protection, and vessel safety and navigation in the Arctic. *USCG photo by Senior Chief Charly Tautfest*

A Legendary December Rescue

The SS *Meredith Victory* was named after Meredith College, a small women's college in North Carolina and was built to transport sup-



USN Photo

plies and equipment overseas during WW II when it was operated by American President Lines. In 1950, it was laid up at Olympia, WA, as part of the Reserve Fleet. The ship was then deployed in the Korean War. In December 1950, UN Command troops were executing a tactical withdrawal from the Chosin Reservoir against the People's Volunteer Army and Korean People's Army forces. Over 100,000 soldiers were to evacuate the city of Hungnam on 193 ships bound for the southern port of Pusan. News of the evacuation spread, and nearly an equal number of civilians also gathered at the port, hoping to board as well.



Photo credit: Bob Lunney

On 20 December, on arriving Hungnam, USA officers boarded and explained the current grave situation and proposed rescue of refugees. Captain Leonard LaRue (left) decided to evacuate as many refugees as possible. Boarding went on from the afternoon of 22 December until the next morning. Using booms and makeshift elevators, the crew filled the five cargo holds and the entire main deck. More than 14,000 Korean civilians were crammed aboard. SS *Meredith Victory* departed shortly after 1100 on 23 December for Pusan, 450 nautical miles away, as gunfire from ships and explosives destroyed the port in an "enemy-denial-operation" razing. The ship had no



escort or means of self-defense. Years later, LaRue would reflect on that trip, *"I think often of that voyage. I think of how such a small vessel was able to hold so many people and surmount endless perils without harm to a soul. And, as I think, the clear, unmistakable message comes to me that on that Christmastide, in the bleak and bitter waters*

Photo credit: Bob Lunney



off the shores of Korea, God's own hand was at the helm of my ship." Despite the fact that the refugees were "packed like sardines in a can" and most had to remain standing up, shoulder-to-shoulder, in



Photo credit: Bob Lunney

freezing weather conditions during the entire voyage, there were no injuries or casualties on board. There was very little food or water, and the people were virtually unable to move. J. Robert Lunney (right), Staff Officer on the ship stated, *"There's no explanation for why the Korean people, as stoic as they are, were able to stand virtually motionless and in silence. We were impressed by the conduct of the refugees, despite their desperate plight. We were touched by it."* First Mate D.S. Savastio, who only had first aid training, delivered five babies during the three-day passage to safety. The ship arrived in Pusan on Christmas Eve, but *Meredith Victory* had to travel another 50 miles to Geoje Island before it could debark its passengers on 26 December. Among the passengers were the parents of Moon Jae-in, the 19th president of South Korea. He was born on Geoje Island two years after the evacuation. Captain LaRue remained in command until the ship was decommissioned in 1952. He left the sea and became a Benedictine monk of Newtown Abbey, NJ. After the Korean War, the ship sat in the harbor of Bremerton, WA, as part of the "mothball fleet" until it was put back in service in 1966 for some troop ship missions during the Vietnam War. In 1973, the ship was laid up in Suisun Bay. In 1993, it was towed to China and scrapped. After the war, the South Korean government honored Captain Leonard LaRue with the Gold Star Eulji - Order of Military Merit and all ship's

crew with the Presidential Citation. On 24 August 1960, the United States Merchant Marine awarded the ship's crew the Merchant Marine Meritorious Service Medal, its highest honor and the *SS Meredith Victory* was conferred the title of "Gallant Ship" by a special act of the U.S. Congress that was signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The US Department of Transportation declared it "the greatest rescue in the history of mankind." *Guinness World Records* has described it as "the largest evacuation from land by a single ship."



Photo credit: Bob Lunney



Geoje Huengnam Retreat Memorial Tower

Patriot Company Wins 15th Consecutive Regular Season Drill Meet



On Saturday, 2 December 2023, over 60 Patriot Company cadets participated in their first drill competition of the 23-24 season. The drill meet was held at Graham Kapowsin High School in Graham, WA. JROTC teams participating: Graham Kapowsin (Army JROTC), Federal Way (Air Force JROTC), Todd Beamer (Air Force JROTC), Auburn Mountain View (Army JROTC), Bremerton (Navy JROTC), Spanaway Lake (Navy JROTC) and Steilacoom (Army JROTC). Patriot Company cadets practice five days a week, before and after school, and on weekends, in order to properly prepare for a drill meet that includes competitions in Color Guard, Armed and Unarmed Drill, Academics, Physical Fitness, and Air Rifle. Building on their impressive record over the past three and a half years, Liberty won a record ten team awards, twenty-six individual awards and racked up ninety-eight

team points to easily outpace the second-place finisher. Congratulations to all the team commanders and team members who worked extremely hard to get the teams ready for the competition. Patriot Company travels to Spanaway Lake High School on 20 January 2024 for their second drill meet of the season.

(At left from left to right) Cadets Jordon Gunderson (10th grade), Charlie Van Parys (10th grade), and Khoi Vo (10th grade) stand by to receive the first through third place individual awards for Sporter Air Rifle.

Patriot Company swept the first through third place awards for Individual Ironwoman Physical Fitness. *(Below left to right)* Cadets Xinyi Li (9th grade), Allison Marckel (12th grade) and Lillian Toepfer (9th grade) stand by to receive the awards.



LAKE WASHINGTON & EVERETT COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
P.O. Box 547
BELLEVUE WA 98009-0547

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your email address is correctly updated!***

NAVY LEAGUE *of the United States*

Lake Washington & Everett Council

CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA SERVICES

Lake Washington & Everett Council is your community organization that:

Supports Puget Sound Sea Services: USCGC Healy, USCGC Henry Blake, USCGC Blue Shark, USCG Base Seattle, USS Jimmy Carter & Undersea R & D Detachment, Naval Station Everett, USS John Paul Jones, USS Kidd, USS Gridley, USS Ralph Johnson, USS Sampson, USS John S. McCain, USS McCampbell, Destroyer Squadron Nine, Carrier Strike Group ELEVEN, Regional Support Organization - Pacific Northwest, Afloat Training Group - Pacific Northwest, Naval Operational Support Center Everett, Branch Health Clinic Everett and Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility

Supports local Naval Reserve Officers Training Units and US Naval Sea Cadet Corps:

- Liberty High School NJROTC and Snohomish High School MCJROTC
- University of Washington NROTC and US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Naval Station Everett Division
- Increases awareness of the diversity of maritime units in Puget Sound
- Conveys the pivotal role of Puget Sound sea services in national and regional security
- Furthers understanding that maritime commerce is the cornerstone of our region's economy.

Navy League of the United States Mission Statement

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine.

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