

# Voyager



Navy League  
of the United States



VOL. 82 DELGENE PHILLIPS - EDITOR

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## FUTURE EVENTS

**Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, 10 January

**Dinner Meeting**  
Wednesday, 17 January

**Other Events**  
Thursday, 17 May 2018 Golf

## ABOUT US

The Lake Washington & Everett Council (LW&EC) is part of the Navy League of the United States, [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)

### *Council Adopted Units:*

US Naval Station Everett  
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  
U. of Washington NROTC  
NavSta Everett Sea Cadet Div USNSCC

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## LW&E Council Tours USS Stennis (CVN 74)

On 29 November, 25 people toured USS Stennis (CVN 74) at Bremerton, WA as guests of the council. The seventh Nimitz-class nuclear-powered supercarrier in the United States Navy was named for US Senator John C. Stennis of Mississippi. Commissioned on 9 December 1995, the 1,092 foot aircraft carrier can carry 90 aircraft on its 4.5 acre flight deck and hangar and is homeported in Kitsap, WA. USS Stennis and her 3,000 crewmembers provide forward presence and credible deterrence, conduct sustained air operations, maritime interdiction, counter-piracy operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief around the world. As Strike Group flag ship, Stennis hosts an embarked air wing and deploys with as many as six ships.



## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Every volunteer driven organization can only be successful if it is led by strong leaders. The Lake Washington & Everett Council has been blessed over the years with exceptionally strong officers and directors—all **strong leaders!** In

January 2018 our council will have a new president. **Sanu Chacko** joined our board of directors approximately 18 months ago. Recently he was the Chief Information Officer for a major manufacturing corporation, Northern Industries which he will be leaving in early 2018 to form his own consulting company, iTechZen. In addition, Sanu is the current commanding officer of one of our “student” adopted units, Sea Cadet Division 134, which conducts drills at Naval Station Everett. **Matt Thompson**, a member of our board of directors the past three plus years, will become our council First Vice President. Matt is a Navy veteran who started out as a helicopter crewman, later migrating to meteorology. He worked for the US Antarctic Program as a weather forecaster, for the National Weather Service in Alaska and most recently as the Meteorological Officer for NOAA in Seattle. He is a prior CO of Sea Cadet Division 134 and is currently Pacific NW Sub-Region 13-4 Director which includes five Sea Cadet units, 203 cadets and 48 adult volun-

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President..... Sanu Chacko  
First Vice-President..... Matt Thompson  
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Judge Advocate..... Bert Kinghorn  
Chaplain..... Jim Ardissono

**Other Directors:** Cec Allison Dan Burr  
John Deehr Kevin Isherwood Phil Johnson  
Delgene Phillips Pete Stiles John Thoma

**Honorary Members:** Jim Britt “Mitch” Mitchell

**National Director Emeritus:**  
Louise Chase (LWC) (NLUS)  
Roger Ponto (LWC) (NLUS) / Past LWC President  
RADM John Lockwood, USCG, Retired

teers. The complete list of our 2018 Officers and Board of Directors is on this page and our website.

### Our Mission and Communication

The mission of the Lake Washington & Everett Council is to:

- Support our Puget Sound Sea services, including adopted units: USCGC Healy, USCGC Henry Blake, USCGC Blue Shark, USCG Base Seattle, USS Jimmy Carter, NavSta Everett and Undersea Research & Development Squadron.
- Support local Naval Reserve Officer Training Units including the University of Washington NROTC, Sea Cadet Squadron Everett Division 134, and Liberty High School NJROTC.
- Increase awareness of the diversity of maritime commands and units in Puget Sound.
- Convey the pivotal role that our Puget Sound sea services play in our country’s national and regional security.

The Lake Washington & Everett Council places **great value on communicating on a regular basis** with its “members and friends.” We do this in a variety of ways, the first being the *Voyager* that you are now reading. *Voyager* is our National Navy League’s “2016 Donald M. Mackie Award Winning Newsletter.” Board member Delgene Phillips is *Voyager’s* Editor and the newsletter is published on a quarterly basis, both in printed format and electronically (on our website). *Voyager* reports on council dinners, tours and events and the activities and accomplishments of our ten adopted units (commissioning ceremonies and change of command ceremonies) as well as other relevant information pertaining to the sea services, e.g., “U.S. Coast Guard Celebrates 227 Years of Service,” and the commissioning of USCGC Munro (WMSL 755). The council has an outstanding website: [www.lakewashnlus.org](http://www.lakewashnlus.org). Updated and enhanced in 2017, it is updated weekly by website editor and board member Phil Johnson. In **Sea Services News** you will find up-to-date and pertinent news articles about the US Navy, US Coast Guard, the US Marine Corps and the US Merchant Marine on a weekly, monthly and annual basis. On the **Honor Page** you will find true stories about various members of the US military



(all services), some going back to World War II that describe the heroism and valor that were typical of men and women serving our country in the past, as well as the men and women serving today in the armed services. We also announce future dinner events and tours and on our enhanced website you can now register for those events and pay via credit card. The Lake Washington & Everett Council communicates with its "members and friends" by holding five dinner events and four to six tours each year. The events are held at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel and feature speakers from various Puget Sound area Navy and Coast Guard commands and, on occasion, defense contractors. All discuss or talk about current sea services activities and their impact on our local maritime infrastructure. In addition, at our dinners we recognize our commands' "Sailors of the Quarter" and "Sailors of the Year" and the midshipmen, officer candidates and cadets from our three naval officer training units. Lake Washington & Everett is one of two Puget Sound Navy League Councils that schedules tours each year. Tours are scheduled aboard Navy submarines and aircraft carriers stationed at Naval Base Kitsap and Bangor, the Trident Training Facility located at Bangor and USCG cutters stationed at Coast Guard Base Seattle. Once each year we schedule a tour at one of The Boeing Company manufacturing facilities, either at Everett or Renton. We hope that you will join us at our bi-monthly dinner events and tours... or both. You will find them **educational, extraordinarily interesting and, as a bonus, a fun experience!**

**Thank you for your continued support and interest in the Lake Washington & Everett Council... both are truly appreciated.**

*Pete Stiles  
President*

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBER!**

*Douglas Hoople*

**Check us out on Facebook!**

**[www.facebook.com/groups/LWENLUS/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LWENLUS/)**

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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
- ◆ Hire America's Heroes
- ◆ Tacoma Council of the Navy League

## UW NROTC Commissioning Ceremony

By Pete Stiles

Photo courtesy of NROTC

On 5 September 2017, council members Dan Burr and Pete Stiles attended the summer commissioning ceremony in the Grieg Garden at the University of Washington for 2ndLt Litthideth Phansiri USMC (below). Approximately 50 guests were in attendance including many members of 2ndLt Phansiri's family. CAPT Mark Johnson USN, Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer of the UW NROTC was presiding officer. Dr. Harry Bruce, Dean Emeritus of the Information School at the University of Washington was the keynote speaker. 2ndLt Phansiri was born in Laos, immigrated to the United States as a refugee and grew up in Kansas City, KS. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in July 2003 and attended recruit training at Marine



Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. During his enlisted service, he served as an Aviation Maintenance Data Specialist in a variety of billets at Marine Corps Air Stations (MCAS) in New River, NC and Iwakuni, Japan. 2ndLt Phansiri also served as a Production Recruiter and staff non-commissioned Officer-in-Charge at Recruiting Sub-Station in Bellevue, WA. Phansiri was subsequently selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program and reported to the University of Washington on 11 September 2013. While attached to Husky Battalion he held the billets of Company Commander, Communications Officer, Armory Officer and Birthday Ball Coordinator. He also led the installation of a new computer lab for the ROTC building and the creation of a new NROTC website. On 17 March 2017 he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Informatics with dual concentrations in information assurance and cyber security and information architecture. After his commissioning, 2ndLt Phansiri will report directly to the Basic School in Quantico, VA.

## UW NROTC Change of Command

By Pete Stiles

Photos courtesy of NROTC

On 15 September 2017, CAPT Mark Johnson USN was relieved by CAPT Michael Lockwood USN (right with wife Angie) as Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Washington NROTC.



Gathered on the Quarterdeck of Clark Hall were students, staff and guests including the wives of the two captains, members from the Blue and Gold Association, and members from the Lake Washington & Everett Council, Navy League US. The change of command ceremony was brief as CAPT Johnson read his orders, followed by CAPT Lockwood reading his orders. CAPT Lockwood's command is intend-

ed to last three years. The poignant moment in the ceremony happened when CAPT Johnson (left) said to his wife Valeria...



"Thank You for sticking with me." This was a great tribute to his wife and all active duty wives (and husbands) whose contributions are many and gracious.



## USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) Welcomes New Commanding Officer

Photo & Article by Mass Communication Specialist  
1st Class Amanda R. Gray

The Seawolf-class fast attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23) welcomed a new commanding officer during a change of command ceremony on 6 October. CDR Keith Floyd, from Rocky Mount, NC, relieved CDR Melvin Smith, (below)



from Long Island, NY, as commanding officer of Jimmy Carter during a ceremony held at the Keyport Undersea Museum. *"I embrace this moment,"* said Smith. *"I look forward to my future assignment with enthusiasm, and look back on*

*you guys,"* said Smith. *"You energized my days, overwhelmed my sense of pride, exceeded my every expectation, and you delivered the world, asking only for respect in return. You certainly earned that and so much more."* Smith's next assignment will be at Commander, Submarine Development (DEVRON) 5, where he will serve as the deputy for training. *"To the Jimmy Carter Sailors along with your families, I am grateful for how you welcomed me and my family into the Jimmy Carter family,"* said Floyd. *"I look forward to serving as your captain and promise to give you my all as we execute our mission and pursue operational excellence in everything we do."* Floyd reports to Jimmy Carter from Washington D.C., where he served as the special assistant to the deputy director for Officer Personnel and Policy at the Naval Reactors Headquarters. USS Jimmy Carter is the last and most advanced of the Seawolf-class attack submarines and is currently homeported at Naval Base Kitsap in Bangor, WA. The one-of-a-kind vessel has all the capabilities of a Seawolf-class submarine, plus a 100-foot-long, 2,500-ton hull extension known as the multi-mission platform to test new generations of weapons and support Navy SEAL operations. Carter is a LW&EC adopted unit and was represented by Jim Ardissono and Pete Stiles.

*this experience with pride and a huge sense of accomplishment. It is both bitter and sweet, but regardless of my thoughts, it is the end of my time as commanding officer of Jimmy Carter."* During Smith's command tour, which began 29 May 2015, Jimmy Carter completed two major deployments, spending over 450 days at sea. Under his leadership, the boat also completed multiple inspections and maintenance availabilities. In addition, Jimmy Carter earned the Battle Efficiency Award, or Battle "E", for 2016 and U.S. Submarine Forces Pacific Retention Excellence Award for 2015. *"To my crew, dang, it feels so good to have served with*





## Naval Station Everett Sea Cadet Division 134 Honored at Dinner

*Article & photos By Delgene Phillips*

The 20 September dinner program opened with Jessica Chacko, age 15, (*at right with Pete Stiles*) a Sea Cadet since age 12, describing her Sea Cadet experience. The leading petty officer in the Naval Station Everett Sea Cadet Division USNSCC, she hopes to be a Chief Petty Officer by her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. Her advanced training includes Petty Officer Leadership Academy and USCG Maritime interdiction training where she learned firearms, vessel boardings and self-defense tactics. She staffed NL orientation training which is recruit training for younger cadets. She found it very difficult at first since she had never conducted training before; however, she loved the training and developed self confidence. Last summer, she staffed recruit training in Oregon which involved training for older recruits from which she learned to be flexible and adaptable. Her future training will include FAA ground school and an international exchange program. With three years left in the program, and with the help of her fellow cadets and those who preceded her, Jessica plans to make the drill experience an enjoyable environment so that the cadets will enjoy their



experience as much as she did. Her father, Sanu Chacko, (*below right*) commanding officer of her unit, followed and presented an overview of the Sea Cadet Program established in 1962 to "create a

*Left to right: LTJG Linda Conti NSCC, PO1 Jessica Chacko NSCC, SA Michael Pleticha NSCC, PO2 Blake Sketchley, NSCC, SN Kayla Osborn NSCC, SA Connor Nolan NSCC, SA Cole Basney NSCC, SA Tristan Nolan NSCC, LTJG Sanu Chacko NSCC*





favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth". Today's U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps continues to further the image of our maritime services by adhering to a standardized training program designed to:

- (1) Develop an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills.
- (2) Instill virtues of good citizenship and strong moral principles in each cadet.
- (3) Demonstrate the value of an alcohol-free, drug-free and gang-free lifestyle.
- (4) Expose cadets to the prestige of public service and a variety of career paths through hands-on training with our nation's armed services.

Sanu said the program goal is to have cadets graduate from high school with a purpose in life and confident in choosing a career path. The NavSta Everett unit was established in 1970 and presently trains at NavSta Everett with 49 cadets. Another training site is provided by the "John T. Sessions Historic Aircraft Foundation" museum which provides opportunities for sea cadets to help with aircraft preservation. Presently, there are 48,000 sea cadets in 400 units lead by 3,000 volunteers. The two programs are Sea Cadet Corps for ages 13 –



*Left to right: Pete speaks with seated Sea Cadet parents Mike Nolan, Robin Podmore & Sheila Podmore*

17 and the Navy League cadet corps for ages 10 - 13. Sanu remarked that after cadets attend recruit training they are a different person and commented on the transformation by his daughter Jessica from a "bookworm in a corner" into a person of confidence who can speak to anyone as demonstrated this evening. Sanu explained that after arriving in the USA 20 years ago from India, he and his wife decided that volunteering for the Sea Cadet Program was a way to give back to this country. After recruit training, cadets can attend advance training and experience any work experience in the armed force - from chef to Navy SEALs. Consequently, sea cadets will have experienced several career fields by the time they are ready for college. Sea Cadets wear navy enlisted uniforms with Sea Cadet insignia and require at least a 2.0 GPA but the Everett unit has a 3.2 GPA. At a soccer camp last year, other parents thought that the uniformed cadets they observed nearby were in remedial youth training until they were surprised to learn otherwise. Jessica is an example of leadership training at an early age that prepares the cadets to be the next generation of leaders. Pete presented Sanu (*at left*) a certificate of appreciation and a check as council support for activities by NavSta Everett Sea Cadet Division.





## Coast Guard Response to Hurricane Harvey

Article & photos By Delgene Phillips

At the 20 September dinner meeting, CAPT Brendan McPherson, USCG, Chief of Staff, 13<sup>th</sup> USCG District, presented an overview of USCG support and operations during Hurricane Harvey. The USCG response to Hurricane Harvey was the largest and most complex response to a natural



disaster in history. CAPT McPherson (*above right with council members RADM Bert Kinghorn, USCG, Retired and his wife Susan*) was the press official to the principal federal official following the Katrina disaster. Hurricanes Harvey, Maria and Irma caused widespread property damage but thankfully were not as deadly as Katrina. Coastal areas received over 50 inches of rain over several days. Typical hurricanes cover a brief period but Harvey continued for several days causing areas that had never flooded to flood. The Pre-stage challenge for the Coast Guard was where to put resources to respond afterward. The USCG was uniquely ready for three reasons: (1) Bias toward action – no deployment order necessary - local units know both the area and the federal and local partners they will be working with and the USCG has a long history of responding to natural and man made disasters. (2) Manage system - a way to bring other agencies after 911 attacks used for federal, state and local partners. (3) Small service with large impact. USCG response is fast, agile and flexible by flooding the affected area with resources. Then after two weeks, recover, redeploy, execute mission and then recover. For the current hurricane season, this has happened over and over. For the USCG, it is get in quick, get the job done and get out because the USCG

does not have the budget that other federal agencies have in disaster relief. USCG statistics for Hurricane Harvey: 11,000 lives saved, 1,300 pets rescued, hundreds of nav aids serviced, waterways opened, 2,000 active reserves and auxiliary responded as far away as Alaska. Over 50 helicopters were deployed along with 75 shallow water flat bottomed boats and 29 cutters. From D13 one helo went to San Diego from Astoria to replace San Diego helos deployed to Mobile. Two air crews from Astoria and Port Angeles Air Stations plus 100 personnel from throughout the district deployed to man support centers and help with logistics. About 2,500 USCG personnel were also affected by Hurricane Harvey; 51 lost everything they owned; 24 suffered significant damage. USCG units were damaged in Texas and Florida. CAPT McPherson ended by reading a letter from a deployed pilot, LCDR Craig Lynch, detailing what LCDR Lynch observed during his deployment and which he titled: humanity, humility and bias for action. He ended his letter with the following quote, *"The single most important part I wish to relate from my experience is not limited to one professional organization success or efforts but to highlight the incredible humanitarian spirit of American citizens when trouble comes calling, in and out of uniform - truly inspirational."* CAPT McPherson closed his remarks by saying that the professionalism and heroism shown by USCG men and women in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, South Carolina and Puerto Rico also resides right here in the Pacific Northwest. The previous week, he had the honor to meet CG crewmembers of the Motor Lifeboat Invincible from CG Station Grays Harbor who were honored by the Association for Rescue at Sea (AFRAS). See complete story on the next page. Below, CAPT McPherson accepts his NL Certificate of Appreciation and remarks, *"Every ship should have a CG helo on the stern."*





## Coastguardsman Honored By Association For Rescue at Sea

*Official USCG Press release*

*Photo by USCG Petty Officer Patrick Kelley*

The AFRAS Gold Medal is awarded annually to a Coast Guard enlisted member who exhibited exceptional courage and heroism during a rescue at sea. AFRAS selected PO2 Jacob M. Hylkema of Station Grays Harbor, WA, for award of the 2016 Gold Medal. Petty Officer Hylkema was cited for extraordinary heroism on the night of 6 October 2016, while serving as a crew member on board Motor Lifeboat Invincible (*below*), Station Grays Harbor, WA, during the rescue of the master of the S/V *Grace* which was transiting from Tacoma, WA, to San Francisco, CA, when it was caught in an approaching storm while off Long Beach, WA. At approximately 2230, Invincible crossed the bar outbound to escort S/V *Grace* across the bar into port. While waiting for Invincible, S/V *Grace* sus-



**Left to right:** U.S. Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard congratulates now PO1 Hylkema. Roybal-Allard is the Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, of the House Committee on Appropriations.

coverage, driving rain and 50-knot winds, visibility was reduced to less than 100 yards. A life ring was transferred to the master using a heaving line. The master donned the life ring and entered the water. Unfortunately, the master's legs became wrapped in the heaving line resulting in the seas and current dragging him under the water. At this point, only the life ring was keeping the master's head above water. Astutely recognizing the master's perilous situation and in danger of drowning as the seas pulled him under, Petty Officer Hylkema selflessly volunteered to deploy as a surface swimmer. With little time to act, Petty Officer Hylkema entered the ocean from Invincible, battling now 18-20 foot breaking seas, to swim more than 150 feet to the master in order to cut him free. By this time, the master was suffering from extreme exhaustion from fighting the building seas and was slipping out of the life ring he desperately clung to, Petty Officer Hylkema freed the master from the entangling lines and held him in the life ring while being pulled back to Invincible.

Fully aware of the potential danger, Petty Officer Hylkema placed the stricken master's life above his own while alongside Invincible, remaining in the water as the crew recovered the barely coherent master first. Heavy seas swept Petty Officer Hylkema away into the dark until finally pulled safely aboard after the victim. Petty Officer Hylkema demonstrated remarkable initiative, exceptional fortitude and daring in spite of imminent personal danger. His courage and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Coast Guard.



USCG photo by PA3 Kurt Fredrickson

tained additional sail damage and was unable to steer or maintain heading in the 30-40 knots of wind and 15 foot seas. Once on scene, the Invincible determined that building weather conditions and structurally weak deck fittings would preclude taking S/V *Grace* in tow. It was decided to have the master don an immersion suit, anchor the vessel, then evacuate into the water to be recovered by Invincible. By the time the anchor was set, the weather conditions deteriorated on scene to 16-18 foot seas. With the combination of night fall, cloud



## Liberty High School Navy JROTC Activities

*Article & photos by John Deehr*

Liberty High School NJROTC is an adopted unit of Lake Washington & Everett Council. In prepa-



ration for their upcoming school year, Liberty High School's NJROTC Unit conducted their annual Air Rifle Marksmanship Camp (*above and at right*) 24-25 August where 14 new cadets participated and learned about air rifle safety and proper shooting techniques.

Liberty High School NJROTC Unit conducted their annual New Cadet Orientation (*below*) 28-29 August. Twenty-two of nearly 50 new cadets participated. Standing on the far right below is Liberty High School NJROTC new Naval Science Instructor, ISC Matthew Spears.







Liberty H.S. NJROTC Cadets learned a lot and had a great time at Basic Leadership Training (BLT) camp at the CISPUS Learning Center in Randle, WA from 12-15 October.





## Council Briefed on NROTC and Navy Region Northwest at November Dinner

*Article & photos by Delgene Phillips*

After presentation of the colors by Liberty High School NJROTC, pledge of allegiance by Liberty NJROTC Cadet Mathea Caole, benediction by Cec Allison and a Thanksgiving turkey dinner with all the trimmings, the 15 November dinner preceded with a social hour (*Les Crowe below speaking with Jim Duke*) and began with mem-



bers approving the 2018 council officers and board of directors. President Pete Stiles welcomed guest Jeff Davis, President of Seattle Council NLUS. Three University of Washington NROTC midshipmen first class followed presenting a capsule of their situation at NROTC: (*below left to right*) Rowan Hobson, civil engineering major, from Pennsylvania selected for



Naval Aviation training; Ryan McMullin, oceanography major from Texas also selected for Naval Aviation training and Keith Fife, math major, from Bremerton, WA, desiring to go nuclear submarine option. They were followed by CAPT Mike Lockwood, USN, since September the new CO of NROTC who gave an update on the



**Left to right:** Liberty NJROTC Color Guard Carson Tucker (9th Grade), Luke Ransom (12th Grade), Chandler Alexander (11th Grade), Allison Costantini (9th Grade)

Husky Battalion, one of the first six NROTC units in the US in 1926, and which has commissioned almost 4,000 naval and marine corps officers since. The battalion has 94 personnel and is still located in Clark Hall. Summer training is in all navy mission areas. Incoming freshmen complete orientation to the military and US Navy. Of 27 seniors this year, 12 are selected for flight training. Recent events include a Veteran's Day cere-



**Above:** Enjoying the traditional Thanksgiving buffet is Emily Zwolfer next to her dad, CAPT Tom Zwolfer





*Left to right: CAPT Mike Lockwood & wife Angie*

mony and an upcoming Navy – Marine Corps Birthday Ball. In addition to Naval Science classes, physical training, etc., five midshipmen will attend Notre Dame Leadership Weekend in February. For twenty consecutive years, Naval ROTC midshipmen from around the country have met once a year at the University of Notre Dame to



learn and discuss issues critical to their roles as future leaders in the Navy and Marine Corps. Northwest Navy Competition involves the NROTC units from five schools (UW, Utah, Idaho, WSU and Oregon State) in the Northwest and this year Washington won the competition. Washington is the only senior NROTC unit to have a sailing program thanks to a donation from the Blue and Gold Foundation who purchased the NROTC sailboat, *Vigilant*, and 41 midshipmen and officer candidates are in the sail club activity.

CAPT Thomas Zwolfer, USN, Chief of Staff for Navy Region Northwest began his program with an overview of the US Navy since 1794 when it was established with six frigates including USS Constitution still in commissioned today. Navy mission is the same today: preserve our ability to operate around the world, detect and deter aggression around the world, be ready to fight at a moment's notice. The earth is covered 70% by water, and 90% of global commerce moves by sea, so the US Navy protects sea lanes for global commerce for the US and the world. Today, the Pacific Northwest Navy is busy in the Pacific, namely South China Sea, and around the world. Presently, the US Navy is building two submarines a year. China is on track to have more naval vessels than the US in 15 years. The South China Sea is surrounded by 50% of the world's population. China is claiming sovereignty over a large area of the South China Sea in the face of international law that states otherwise. They have developed military style airfields and structures on low lying reefs or rocks in the center of the sea. Navy Region Northwest covers 200 navy commands in 11 states. The four major commands are Naval Station Everett, Naval Base Kitsap, NAS Whidbey Island and Naval Magazine Indian Island. Navy Region Northwest contains all types of naval vessels, aircraft and all three types of submarines. Partnerships are with environmental agencies and local native tribes; mutual aid agreements are with FEMA and all local fire departments with Navy fire crews fighting four times the number of fires off base versus on. Pete Stiles presented Certificates of Appreciation to each speaker (CAPT Lockwood at left and CAPT Zwolfer below) and a council check for NROTC.





## Liberty High School NJROTC Veteran's Day Assembly

Article by Delgene Phillips  
Photo courtesy of Liberty High School

On 15 November, Liberty High School held a Veteran's Day assembly planned and presented by the Liberty High School NJROTC. Local veterans were invited and LW&EC members and veterans Cec Allison, Delgene Phillips, Pete Stiles, John Deehr, Dee Crouch and Al Torstensen attended. After presentation of the colors by NJROTC Color Guard, the Liberty High School Choir sang the National Anthem followed by a medley of patriotic songs encompassing the songs of all the military services. The Master of Ceremonies was the NJROTC Unit Commanding Officer, Cadet Lieutenant Commander Luke Ransom and the guest speaker was LTC David Waggoner, USA, Retired (*below at podium*). Colonel Waggoner related a story about a soldier he lead in Vietnam, namely, SGT Allen John Van Fredenberg, B Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. He was called "Van" by all who knew him and was a good soldier born on 19 October 1946 and his hometown was Phoenix, AZ. On 3 September 1969, Van was ordered to move a quantity of captured Chinese made grenades so they could be evaluated. Suddenly, there was an explosion and Van was instantly killed. His name is on the Vietnam Memorial ("The Wall"): Panel

W18, Line 30. LTC Waggoner related Van's story at the assembly and at every chance he gets so veterans like Van will never be forgotten. The assem-

U.S. NAVY PHOTO



bly was briefed on USS Liberty (AGTR-5), a USN Technical Research Ship (*above*) used to gather intelligence by monitoring, recording and analyzing wireless electronic communications in various parts of the world. On 8 June 1967, the USS Liberty was sailing in international waters off the coast of Israel when suddenly it was attacked by Israeli fighter jets and torpedo boats. USS Liberty suffered so much damage it never had another mission. Of the crew, 34 sailors died and 173 were wounded. The crew was collectively awarded two Navy Crosses, 11 Silver Stars, 20 Bronze Stars, nine Navy Commendation Medals, and 204 Purple Hearts, as well as the Presidential Unit Citation for the ship. Liberty High School is the proud custodian of the USS Liberty (AGTR-5) ship's bell seen below at left of the podium.





## NROTC Celebrates Navy Marine Corps Birthday

*Article by Delgene Phillips*

*Photos by Caeen Couto*

The University of Washington NROTC held its annual Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Ball on 17 November at the Husky Union Building Ballroom. The formal dinner planned entirely by the Husky Battalion celebrated 242 years of Naval history and was filled with ceremony, tributes, toasts and moments to honor the memory of all service men and women who served in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Over 200 midshipmen, officer candidates and their guests and numerous veterans and civilians attended. Following a social hour, the ceremony began with the Presentation of the Colors by the UW NROTC Color Guard, followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Midshipman Myint-Zu Kyaw and the ceremonial cutting of the cake. Next, the oldest sailor present, CAPT Michael Lockwood (*above right*), the new commanding officer of the Husky Battalion and the youngest sailor, MIDN Mina Smyly, were recognized, followed by the oldest marine present, MSgt Jose Ledesma and the youngest Marine midshipman present, MIDN Connor Smith. Guest of honor was MajGen Mark R. Wise, USMC, Commanding General Third Marine Aircraft Wing. MajGen Wise (*below*) was a UW NROTC graduate and challenged the midshipmen and officer candidates to find their opportunities to inspire performance when they become leaders. The evening continued with traditional formal toasts and dancing.





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**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 our Puget Sound Sea Services: USCGC Healy, USCGC Henry Blake, USCGC Blue Shark, USCG Base Seattle, USS Jimmy Carter, Naval Station Everett and Undersea R & D Detachment.
- Supports local Naval Reserve Officers Training Units and US Naval Sea Cadet Corps: Liberty High School NJROTC, University of Washington NROTC, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Naval Station Everett Division—134.
- 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.***