



Navy League
of the United States



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JUNE 2021

FUTURE EVENTS

Board Meeting	TBD
Dinner Meeting	TBD
Scuttlebutt Social Hour	TBD

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

SUPPORTED UNITS

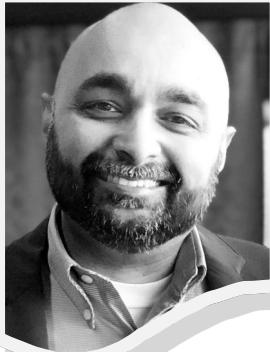
USCG Base Seattle
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USS Momsen (DDG 92)
USS Gridley (DDG 101)
USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114)
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Intermediate Maintenance Facility

USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101) Celebrated *Women's History Month*

March marked national Women's History Month, commemorating and encouraging the study, observance and celebration of the vital role of women in American history. As a celebration of women's achievements throughout history and society, **USS GRIDLEY (DDG 101)** used the month of March to celebrate and reflect upon women who not only greatly influenced our nation, but those who also took an oath to serve our country through military service. Thanks to the shipboard Diversity Team for hosting a celebration on the flight deck, which included a cake cutting ceremony and a group photo of all female sailors serving aboard **USS GRIDLEY!**



VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



Welcome to another outstanding issue of the Voyager, the 2020 Mackie Award winning newsletter of the Lake Washington & Everett Council. In this issue, starting on the next page, you will read about some of our outstanding units and the sailors who make them shine. The USS Gridley

celebrated Women's History Month in March and now has a new Command Master Chief. The Navy Medicine Readiness Unit, Everett (aka Branch Health Clinic, Everett) celebrated some new outstanding Sailors of the Quarter, and you will get to read about them. Since May is the Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, you will read about the history of AAPI members of the US Coast Guard. This issue, June 2021, is bittersweet for me. As I type this, I am preparing for the retirement of two of my favorite people currently on active duty in the US Coast Guard: **RADM Anthony "Jack" Vogt** (who retires as Commander, USCG District 13) and **CAPT Jed Boba** (who retires as Commanding Officer, USCG Base Seattle). They have been friends of our council, and I have been blessed to have known both men and wish RADM Vogt and CAPT Boba fair winds and following seas! In happier news, I just learned that Naval Station Everett has been designated as the Homeport for

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the US Navy's initial twelve Constellation Class guided missile frigates! Our council cannot wait to support these new ships and their crews in addition to all other NSE homeported vessels that we continue to support. The Constellation-class (FFG



62) multi-mission guided-missile frigate is being developed by Fincantieri Marinette Marine who provided the artist rendering above. The frigate will have the capability to carry out multiple missions and can operate independently or as a part of a strike group and will be designed to operate in littoral and blue water environments. Lead ship in the class, USS Constellation, is the fifth US Navy vessel to be named Constellation and is scheduled for delivery in 2026 and achieve initial operational capability by 2030. This has been a vision that CAPT Mike Davis believed and worked on since he took command of NSE almost three years ago and it is now becoming a reality. It is an amazing opportunity for Naval Station Everett, the City of Everett, and Snohomish County, and I trust we, as a council, will be able to promote and assist all the new members in the future. CAPT Davis, however, will be off to his next challenge in Naples, Italy as the Chief of Staff at Navy Region Europe, Africa, Central working with RADM Scott Gray (previously Navy Region North-West). Thank you **CAPT Davis** for your support, leadership, and your friendship over the last three years! We also bid farewell to **CAPT Mary Ellen Durley**, Commanding Officer, USCG Healy (WAGB 20) who will be relieved by CAPT Ken Boda in June.

I hope you all have a blessed summer!

Sanu

Council Supported Units Updates

On 3 March, CAPT Zerr (*below*), Commander, Destroyer Squadron 21, visited **USS Momsen (DLG 92)** and shared with the crew his vision for **Momsen**: combating extremism, importance of diversity & culture, teamwork, and unit readiness.



On 16 March **USS Gridley (DLG 101)** bade Farewell to CMDCM King! Command Master Chief King (*below right*) served as the CPO for Repair



Division for three years. He led his sailors through rigorous certifications, damage control trainings, and through **USS Gridley's** 2019 NATO Deployment. His deck plate leadership and command impact onboard **USS Gridley** will not be forgotten. Master Chief King was awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal before his departure and received a warm farewell from fellow khaki as well as numerous sailors in engineering department.
(Continued on page 8)

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Recognition of Branch Health Clinic Everett Personnel

*Compiled by MCPO Eugene Johnson, USN
U.S. Navy photos*

The mission of Branch Health Clinic Everett is Force Health Protection and readiness. They promote, protect, and restore the health of all entrusted to their care, maximizing the warfighter's performance through optimized medical readiness to meet the operational requirements and to train/develop Naval Medical Force.

Branch Health Clinic Everett's Sailors of the Quarter, Second Quarter are:



HM2 Sandra Berens – Sailor of the Quarter works in the administration department. Her responsibilities include the following:

- (1) Assistant Administration Leading Petty Officer. Leads 14 military and civilian staff across Administration, Supply, and Medical Records divisions. She educates and oversees the implementation of policies, directives, and standards to clinic staff in a timely manner ensuring mission success.
- (2) COVID-19 Vaccine Administration Team Lead.
- (3) Command Pay Personnel Administrator.
- (4) Clinic Sponsorship Coordinator. Coordinates arrival and sponsorship for all new personnel
- (5) Assistant Command Fitness Leader.

HM2 Berens joined the United States Navy from Las Vegas, NV on 27 May 2008 at the age of 29. After initial training, she attended Operations Specialist "A" School in Great Lakes, IL with follow on orders to Naval Station San Diego, CA where she served on USS Halsey (DDG-97) from December 2008 to January 2013 and USS Russell (DDG-59) From January 2013 to January 2014. During her first tour, she advanced to Operations Specialist Third Class and then Operations Specialist Second Class. She earned the Sea Combat Air Controller qualification and obtained the Surface Warfare qualification. In January 2014, she received orders to Naval Consolidated Brig, Miramar. She served as a Corrections Specialist performing duties as the Prisoner Orientation Manager, planning the training and indoctrination of all newly arriving prisoners. HM2 Berens then decided to fulfill her dream of becoming a Hospital Corpsman. She was accepted to cross rate and attended Hospital Corps School at Fort Sam Houston completing October 2016 with orders to Naval Medical Center, San Diego at the Branch Health Clinic, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, as Work Center Supervisor for the Administration Office from November 2016 to December 2019. In January 2020, she received orders to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Unit Everett, WA assigned to the Administration Department as the Command Pay and Personnel Administrator. Since reporting, HM2 Berens became the Assistant Lead Petty officer for the Administration Department responsible for administrative support of 74 Active Duty and 31 Civilian personnel. She is enrolled in American Military University working toward an associate degree in health sciences.

HM3 Kyrie Bushman – Junior Sailor of the Quarter works in the Medical Homeport department. Her responsibilities include the following:

- (1) Team Leader: Manages the day-to-day operations of three teams' encompassing 12 junior corpsmen, who assist five medical providers.
- (2) Nursing Assistant.
- (3) Process Improvement.
- (4) Infection Control.
- (5) COVID-19 Vaccination team member.



HM3 Bushman was born in Cedar Rapids, IA and enlisted in the Navy June 2013. After completing Hospital Corpsman “A” school in San Antonio, TX, she reported as a general duty corpsman to Naval Hospital Jacksonville, FL and was assigned to ICU and advanced to Third Class Petty Officer in 2016. In 2017, she reported to NMRTU Mayport, FL as lead technician for the clinic’s immunization department. She reported to NMRTU Everett in 2018 and currently is Assistant Leading Petty Officer for Medical Homeport for the last three years. HM3 Bushman’s personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medal (two awards), Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation, and Navy Good Conduct Medal (2 awards).



HN Jones – Blue Jacket of the Quarter works in the dental department. Her responsibilities include the following:

- (1) Dental Technician. Assisting three dentists and two hygienists in the dental treatment of 3,063 service members.
- (2) Central Sterilization Storage Room (CSSR) Technician.
- (3) COVID-19 Team Assistant.
- (4) Continuous Process Improvement.
- (5) Department Training Representative.

Latoya Jones arrived in the United States as an immigrant from the beautiful Island of Jamaica on 25 June 2014 becoming a resident of Brooklyn, NY where she lived for five years. She is the second of six children and the first of two girls. While residing in Brooklyn she completed the Home Health Aid course assisting patients with activities such as bathing, meal preparation, laundry, and shopping. Desiring more and with encouragement from relatives, she attended college in the spring of 2016. Through hard work and dedication, she graduated Cum Laude with an associate degree in science with a health concentration from Medgar Evers College. Unsure of acquiring a bachelor’s degree due to financial constraints, through persistency and great persuasion from a USN recruiter, she made the courageous decision to join the world’s greatest Navy. Although unsure she really wanted to undergo boot camp at the age 36, she did her research and was moved by the phenomenal history of the US Navy and its dedicated sailors. She knew she was making the right decision, so on 18 June 2019 she reported to basic training for a life changing experience completing in August 2019 with four more months of training as a Hospital Corpsman in San Antonio, TX followed by six weeks of rigorous training to become a phenomenal addition to the Dental Corp. After graduation she left San Antonio to join the fleet to make her mark as a naval sailor. She arrived at her first duty station in Naval Station Everett to be an addition to the Naval-NMRTU Everett Hospital Bremerton team. Arriving during the Covid-19 pandemic had some challenges; however, that did not stop HN Jones from working hard to make her mark. With the amazing support of her department team, chain of command, her LPO, and mentor she was awarded Sailor of the month in October and Second Quarter Blue Jacket of the Quarter. She is a firm believer that “teamwork makes the dream work.”

The Long Blue Line: Asian-American history of the Coast Guard

By William H. Thiesen, Ph.D.
Coast Guard Atlantic Area Historian

Asian-American men and women have participated in the U.S. Coast Guard for over 165 years, playing an important role in the history of the service and its predecessor services. Cultural contact with Asian peoples came only as the nation's borders expanded to the Pacific Rim. The first documented case of an Asian man serving aboard a Coast Guard asset took place in 1853, when the San Francisco-based cutter *Argus* rescued the lone survivor of the dismantled junk *Yatha Maru*, fed, and clothed him, and enlisted him into the crew. The cutter's commanding officer, LT William Pease, phonetically spelled this first Asian recruit's name as "Dee-Yee-Noskee." Cutter muster rolls tell the rest of the story of Asian participation in the 19th century. Ethnically Asian names begin to appear on cutter muster rolls just after the Civil War. Expanded revenue cutter operations in the Pacific and the purchase of Alaska in 1867 presented an opportunity for more Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino men to enter the rolls on West Coast cutters. As with other minorities, these men initially filled positions in food service or non-ranking enlisted rates. By the end of the

Below a rare photo showing Asian personnel aboard Cutter Bear. These men began to serve on West Coast cutters immediately after the Civil War. (Coast Guard Collection)



Chiaio-shung Soong during his years in the U.S. This image was taken at his church in Wilmington, NC. (Courtesy of the 5th Avenue Methodist Church, Wilmington, NC)

the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service, Soong attended Duke and Vanderbilt universities before returning to China as a missionary. He became a wealthy and influential power broker in Chinese politics and his children were among early 20th century China's most powerful military, political and economic leaders. In addition, April 1904 saw 37-year-

old F. Miguchi, of Kobe, Japan, enlist as a cook aboard the cutter *Gresham*. Before he left the service in December 1905, he had advanced in rate from ship's cook to ward-room steward; saved the life of a drowning cutterman; and received the first Silver Lifesaving Medal awarded to a minority Coast Guardsman. Little else is known about Miguchi and even his first name remains a mystery to this day. Wars in the Pacific had a major influence on Asian-American ser-



vice in the Coast Guard. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Asian recruits continued to serve mainly on cutters based out of the West Coast. However, the 1898 Spanish-American War altered the service's recruiting and the early 1900s saw countless Asian enlistments from captured territory, primarily the Philippines. After the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Japanese-Americans were excluded from participating in the Coast Guard bringing to a temporary close an 85-year record of ethnically Japanese service members. That policy was later rescinded, and Japanese-Americans returned to the service. During World War II, Filipinos comprised the largest Asian group to serve in the Coast Guard. Most of these men were American citizens, but many native Filipino military men transferred to the Coast Guard after the Japanese captured their homeland in 1942. The exiled president of the Philippines even transferred the patrol boat Bataan and its crew to the Coast Guard for the duration of the war. Native Filipino Florence Finch worked for GEN Douglas MacArthur's intelligence office before the Japanese invasion of the Philippines.



Florence Smith Finch supplied food and medicine to American prisoners of war in the Philippines then became a USCG SPAR late in World War II. (Coast Guard Collection)

After the fall of the island nation, she smuggled supplies to American prisoners-of-war and Filipino guerrillas. The Japanese arrested Finch, but American forces freed her in early 1945 and she boarded a Coast Guard-manned transport bound for the U.S. She next enlisted in the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, or SPARs, becoming the first Asian-American woman to don a Coast Guard uniform. Asian-Americans were also the first minority graduates of the Coast Guard Academy. In 1949, Chinese-American Jack Ngum Jones became the

first minority officer to graduate from the Academy. Native Chinese Kwang-Ping Hsu graduated from the Academy in 1962. He was the first foreign-born Academy graduate and one of the Coast Guard's first minority Coast Guard aviators, flying missions primarily in the Arctic and Antarctic.



Kwang-Ping Hsu, born in mainland China was one of the service's first minority aviators and became known for polar aviation missions. (Coast Guard Collection)

Harry Toshiyuki Suzuki graduated in 1963. In 1979, Filipino Wilfredo Tamayo completed the Academy's International Cadet Program. He was one of the first graduates of the program and he later became the 22nd commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard. The year 1980 saw Japanese-American Moynee Smith become the first minority female graduate of the Academy and, in 1982, Jeanien Yee became the second Asian-American graduate. In 1986, Hung Nguyen became the first Vietnamese-American graduate of the Coast Guard Academy. Recent decades have seen Asian-American service members enter senior officer and enlisted levels in all branches of the service. For example, 1958 saw Manuel Tubella transfer from the Marine Corps to become the service's second minority aviator and advanced to the rank of captain. In 2013, RADM Joseph Vojvodich became the Coast Guard's first Asian-American flag officer and, in 2016, RADM Andrew Tiongson became the service's second Asian-American flag officer. For over 165 years, thousands of ethnically Asian men and women have served with distinction in the U.S. Coast Guard. They have been diligent members of the long blue line and they will play an important role in shaping the service in the 21st century.

(continued from
page 3)

On 12 May CDR-Matt Noland (*left*) relieved CDR Nate Wemett (*center*) in a formal Change of Command ceremony held on the Alpha Pier alongside **USS KIDD (DDG 100)**. CDR Matt Noland, a native of Baton Rouge, LA has over 18 years of experience in the United States Navy. **USS KIDD** was proud to honor these men and host RADM David Welch and CAPT Patrick O'Mahoney. CDR Parina Somnhot (*above right*), **USS KIDD (DDG 100)** Executive Officer presided over the ceremony.



Congratulations to **USS RALPH JOHNSON (DDG 114)** sailors (*below*) PS1 Lett, DC2 Reyes, FCA2 Axas, GSM2 Padilla, EM3 Shellhouse and LS3 Wynn on their well-deserved promotions.





On 29 March CDR Matt Noland, (*above*) who became the commanding officer of the current destroyer **USS KIDD (DLG 100)** on 12 May, earlier stands before the original **USS KIDD (DD 661)**, which served in World War II and is now the centerpiece of a military museum in Baton Rouge. (*Photo by Hilary Scheinuk, The Advocate*)

The first voyage of **USS KIDD (DD 661)** was one of some notoriety. Under the command of CDR Allan B. Roby, the destroyer moved from its shipyard across New York Harbor for delivery to the Brooklyn Naval Shipyards . . . flying the skull and crossbones of the Jolly Roger high from the foremast. The edition of *TIME* magazine that week carried a photo of Kidd, announcing that it had been one hundred years since the Jolly Roger had flown in New York Harbor. The crew quickly adopted the pirate Captain Kidd, who ironically hailed from New York, as their mascot and hired a local cartoonist to paint the famed buccaneer's image high of the forward smokestack. Not wishing to dishonor the name of RADM Isaac C. Kidd, who died on the bridge of his flagship **USS ARIZONA**

(BB 39) during the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor; however, the crew obtained permission from Mrs. Kidd first. The Admiral's nickname at the Naval Academy had been "Cap" (as in "Captain Kidd") and he had gone by this nickname his entire life. So, on the crew's behalf, Mrs. Kidd obtained official permission from the powers-that-be in the Navy for them to paint the pirate on the stack and fly the Jolly Roger. The **KIDD** would become the only vessel in the history of the United States Navy to ever have such leave granted to fly the flag of piracy.





On 26 April Rear RADM Peter Stamatopoulos, (above left) Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command, addresses sailors assigned to the Sea-wolf-class submarine **USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23)** during an award presentation onboard Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The submarine's galley won the fiscal year 2021 Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award for food service excellence in the submarine category. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jessica C. Tukes)



On 26 May Coast Guard Base Seattle conducted training (above) and a personnel transfer with the buoy tender **USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)**.

Earlier **USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563)** prepared to service a buoy off Everett, WA.

In honor of Women's History Month, (at left to right) are Blake sailors: BM3 McEaney, MK2 Weiss, MK3 Randleman, and BM3 Judge.



Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & Intermediate Maintenance Facility will co-host a three-day camp open to all students on the Olympic Peninsula who will be entering grades 3-8 in the fall. Other military hosts include Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division, Keyport; Puget Sound Navy Museum; and the US Naval Undersea Museum. Dates are July 13, 14, 15 or August 10, 11, 12. Time is 1000 - 1130 each day for grades 3-5, 1300 - 1430 each day for grades 6-8. Students will participate in fun activities that incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematic (STEM) principles. Students will receive all materials needed to complete projects the week before camp and will interact with instructors online via Zoom. Registration is FREE and closes June 30. First come, first served! For more information or to register, provide class desired and school grade in fall by email to: psns_kypt_stem.fct@navy.mil.

On 2 April **University of Washington NROTC** Husky Battalion proudly commissioned seven new Navy and Marine Corps officers! CAPT Lockwood and CDR Flynn performed a commissioning ceremony via video conferencing for new ENS Michael Heffner USN and six new Marine Corps officers: 2ndLt Zayda Betz, 2ndLt Chaz Bracken,

2ndLt Matthew Schmidt, 2ndLt Connor Smith, 2ndLt Marc Wechsler, and 2ndLt Henry D, Zing. Each new commissioned officer worked hard to earn their undergraduate degree while simultaneously completing NROTC training. They practiced and will continue to develop their leadership abilities that are grounded in our core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented an in-person ceremony along with in-person training, but these individuals overcame the obstacles presented to them and successfully completed their requirements and earned their commission. **NROTC** has not halted in its progress to commission junior officers and is committed to the development of all midshipmen and officer candidates, regardless of the social or global conditions.

On 30 April RADM Christopher Sweeney, *(below)* incoming commander, **Carrier Strike Group 11**, spoke at a change of command at Naval Station Everett, WA. Carrier Strike Group 11, the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, recently returned from a more than 10 month deployment to the U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets. *(Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Elliot Schaudt)*



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NAVY LEAGUE

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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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