

Voyager



Navy League
of the United States



VOL. 74

DELGENE PHILLIPS - EDITOR

WWW.LAKEWASHNLUS.ORG

DECEMBER 2015

FUTURE EVENTS

13 Jan Dinner meeting

8 Mar Healy dinner

More at

www.lakewashnlus.org

ABOUT US

The Lake Washington & Everett Council (LW&EC) is part of the Navy League of the United States, 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)
- USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730)
- Undersea R & D Detachment
- Liberty High School NJROTC
- U. of Washington NROTC
- Naval Sea Cadet Corps, NS Everett Div
- Navy League Cadet Corps Training Ship Henry M. Jackson

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USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) Welcomed as Adopted Unit at November Dinner

With 45 guests in attendance the Lake Washington & Everett Council held its final dinner event of 2015 at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel on Wednesday, 18 November. Following the social hour First Vice President Pete Stiles opened the evening at 1845. The Liberty High School NJROTC presented the Colors and Marjorie James led the audience with the "Pledge of Allegiance." Colors were then retired and board member Cecil Allison gave the invocation. The



Thanksgiving buffet was served at 1900 and at 1945 First VP Pete (continued on page 4).....

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



As I stated in my last “View...” time flies and we are now looking back on a very successful year for the Lake Washington & Everett Council. More importantly, planning and looking forward to anticipated programs and activities in 2016.

Events and Tours

As in the past our council will hold six **dinner events**, one every other month. Five will be held at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The sixth, our “Summer Fun Event,” is held at a venue that is not normally available to the general public. Past locations have included CenturyLink Field, the 446th Airlift Wing at McChord AFB, the Coast Guard Museum at Coast Guard Base Seattle, the Don James Center at the University of Washington football stadium and the Virginia Mason Athletic Center (the Seattle Seahawks practice facility). We provide a mix of very interesting speakers at our dinner events and on Wednesday, 13 January, our Keynote Speaker will be Bill McSherry from The Boeing Company. Our second dinner of the year

will be held on Wednesday 8 March when we will recognize the crew from one of our adopted units, the USCGC Healy (WAGB 20). The Healy recently returned from its annual “cruise” to the Bering Sea and during that deployment it become the first United States vessel to visit the North Pole unaccompanied. Our council holds eight to ten **tours** each year to Navy and Coast Guard commands and also to private sector companies... again, venues not normally available to the general public. Tours have been held at Submarine Group 9 (which includes a tour of a nuclear submarine), Boeing manufacturing facilities in Everett and Renton, the Boeing Scan Eagle Program (military drones) and a day cruise aboard the USCGC Healy among others. Board member Jim Ardissono is our Tour Director and shortly he will begin scheduling tours in the first quarter of 2016. In August 2015 we successfully held our **First Annual Golf Tournament** at the Eagles Pride Golf Course at Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the planning for the “Second Annual...” is underway. The tournament will be held, again, at Eagles Pride in early June 2016, **Note...** those attending our events and tours **do not** have to be a member of our council nor have served in in the military. All, whether prior military or not, are highly encouraged to attend our dinners and tours.

Communications

The Lake Washington & Everett Council publishes its newsletter, “*Voyager*” on a quarterly basis. Our Editor, CAPT Delgene Phillips USCG, Retired, publishes articles on our dinners, tours, additional council events and other relevant information pertaining to the sea services. You can receive *Voyager* in two ways: the printed version or by going to: www.lakewashnlus.org. If you prefer to receive *Voyager* via our website, and **not the paper copy**, please contact Delgene at etpefp@comcast.net. Our council also maintains an outstanding website, www.lakewashnlus.org which is updated on a continual basis. Our Website Editor, LCDR Phil Johnson, USGCR, Retired, publishes interesting and relevant information pertaining to the sea services and advertises our dinners and tours a month in advance of each event plus you can register for those events electronically. A **new enhancement** in early 2016... **you will be able to pay in advance for our dinner events electronically or at the door with a credit card.** A new communications project will be developed

2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 RADM John Lockwood USCG, Retired (LWC)

in early 2016 when we implement what we are calling “**Social Media Engagement**” which in addition to *Voyager* and our website, we will interact with current council members and future members via a combination of Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and other similar up-to-date media—much more to come on this topic.

Youth Programs

Our council has three “youth” organizations that we support as adopted units: the University of Washington NROTC, the Liberty High School NJROTC and both a Sea Cadet unit and a Navy League Cadet unit, both located at Naval Station Everett. We provide financial support to each unit and articles and photos on each will be published periodically in *Voyager*, including this issue.

Everett

In January 2016 the Lake Washington Council merged with the Everett Council and inherited three new adopted units, the USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563), the USCGC Blue Shark (WPB 87360) and the USS Henry R. Jackson (SSBN 730) which we “share” with the Bremerton Olympic Peninsula Council. The good news... we are now associated with a navy town and community, and that said, a primary goal in 2016 will be to re-establish a Navy League presence in Everett and in Snohomish County which I think will take at least a year, if not longer. But this will happen and, as above, “more to follow.” **We appreciate your continued interest and support of the Lake Washington & Everett Council and look forward to seeing you at our events and tours in the coming year.**

*Pete Stiles,
First Vice President*

Winter Dinner Event

Wednesday, January 13 January 2016
1800 - 2100

Red Lion Bellevue Hotel
11211 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 998004

Keynote Speaker

Bill McSherry

Vice President, State & Local & Global
Corporate Citizenship – Commercial Airplanes
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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

(continued from page 1) resumed the program by inviting Joe Forde, owner of community affiliate



Forde Financial & Tax, Inc. to the podium where Joe (above left with LTJG Brett Morris, CO USCGC Blue Shark and his guest Maddy Huggins) was recognized and received the council's Certificate of Appreciation. Pete thanked him for his interest and long time support of the council. Pete next invited board member Al Torstenson to the podium. Al is the naval science instructor at Liberty High School and is "in charge" of their highly successful NJROTC Program. Each year the Lake Washington & Everett Council provides



financial assistance to the NJROTC, money that is used to support their annual program activities. Pete presented Al a check for \$750 and thanked him for his ongoing support and for the structure and guidance that he provides the cadets each school year. Pete announced the proposed 2016 council officers and board members that was included with the evening's agenda. Officers and board members will be officially approved and initiated at the January dinner meeting. RADM Mike Sharp USN, Retired, next briefed on the

USS Washington (SSN 787) commissioning ceremony. RADM Sharp is the Chair of the Commissioning Ceremony Committee. Their recent activities are covered on page 12 of this issue. The USS



CAPT Angus McDonald, USN, Retired, and fellow council member Les Crowe are always present to hear about submarines. CAPT McDonald is a former sub skipper and author of "The Scorpion Story: How She Was Lost."

Washington, the third warship named for the State of Washington, is the latest Virginia Class nuclear submarine and is currently under construction in Newport News, VA. Learn more about the USS Washington (SSN 787) at:

www.usswashingtoncommissioning.org

As the newly merged Lake Washington & Everett Council we gained three new adopted units, one being the USS Henry M. Jackson (SSBN 730) (at left) which is shared with the Bremerton Olympic



Peninsula Council. Traditionally our council recognizes the Sailors of the Quarter and Sailors of the Year from our adopted units. Pete invited the Jackson's Chief of the Boat (COB) CMC Scott Payten USN (above left) and Sailor of the Quarter LS1 Benn Hauter USN (above right) to the podi-

um where LSI Hauter was recognized and honored for his exemplary performance for the past year with the Council's Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$75. Pete then asked Marjorie James to join him at the podium. Marjorie (*below with Pete Stiles*) was the founder and long time Executive Director of Hire America's Heroes. For the past eight years Washington Senator Maria Cantwell



has honored women who have dedicated their lives to help the communities of Washington State and beyond. This year, because of her outstanding work as Executive Director of Hire Americas Heroes, Marjorie had been awarded the 2015 "Woman of Valor" winner. Pete congratulated Marjorie for being selected as the 2015 award winner. The keynote speaker for the evening was CAPT Mark Lakamp, USN, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Everett, the Navy's newest and most modern installation. CAPT Lakamp first recognized the 100th anniversary of the Naval Reserve and any naval reservist present. Everett is the Navy's only natural deep water port on the west coast. Since its 1994 establishment, the station has not required maintenance dredging which has allowed unrestricted access for naval vessels. Current vessels homeported are USS Shoup (DDG-86), USS Momsen (DDG-92), USCGC Henry Blake (WLM-563), USCGC Blue Shark (WPB-87360), and in 2016, the USS Gridley (DDG-101) is scheduled to arrive in spring, followed by the USS Sampson (DDG-102) in the summer and the USS Kidd (DDG-100) in the fall. Other station support functions include the very low frequency radio station at Jim Creek, near Oso, WA, which allows communications with Pacific submarines. The navy controls approximately 5,000 acres of old growth forest in the vi-

cinity including the Navy Jim Creek Recreation area. The Navy Support Complex Smoky Point near Maysville, WA contains fleet support facilities and programs including commissary and exchange. Another support facility, The Pacific Beach Resort and Recreation Center including a hotel and beach cottages are located in Grays Harbor, WA. Electronic warfare training is also conducted at a nearby range with a new transmitter to be completed next year. CAPT Lakamp reiterated the three CNO tenets of: War fighting, Operate forward, and Be Ready. Naval Station Everett exists to accomplish all three. The Pacific Northwest is the Navy's third largest fleet concentration area. USS Nimitz (CVN-68) is currently homeported in Bremerton undergoing large scale maintenance for 16 months. A home port shift from Everett allows crewmembers to move without incurring more costs and travel time if the ship home port remained at Everett. Carrier Strike Group 11 remains at Everett with RADM Brown commanding. CAPT Lakamp briefed on the various current or recent operations of Everett based vessels including working with SE Asia countries to prepare for natural disaster responses. The Navy's energy reduction goal is 50% reduction by 2020 and the modern, from the ground up, buildings on the station save energy. In closing, CAPT Lakamp thanked the Navy League for its continuing support. Pete presented CAPT Lakamp (*below*) with a Letter of Appreciation and then reminded the audience that our next dinner event will be on 13 January.



Naval Station Everett Division – U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Succeeds at Regional Flagship Competition

Article by Matt Thompson, LTJG, USNSCC

Photo by ENS Linda Conti, USNSCC

From 30 October – 1 November, The Naval Station Everett Division, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) attended the Region 13 (PNW) Flagship Competition. The event was held at Camp Casey, at the Fort Casey State Park, Whidbey Island, WA. This regional competition included seven Sea Cadet units with 99 cadets from around the Pacific Northwest. From the Naval Station Everett Division (132NSE), 10 cadets and four officers attended this event. The cadets competed in core areas in which all Sea Cadets train including: first aid, color guard, knot tying, competition drill, knockout drill (performing manual of arms without mistakes), and personnel inspection. Over the course of the day, a team of four cadets participated from each unit for each event. Both drill and knockout personal drill were attended by all cadets. After a great competition,

together to build camaraderie between units, and to test the knowledge of the cadets of the USNSCC. These cadets chose to come to this event, and represent their unit, instead of staying home and celebrating the Halloween holiday. All cadets are commended for their attendance. The USNSCC, with its congressional charter, is sponsored by the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and the Navy League of the United States. The program goals helps further the image of our maritime services by adhering to a standardized training program. These areas are: to develop an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills, instill virtues of good citizenship and strong moral principles in each cadet, demonstrate the value of an alcohol-free, drug-free and gang-free lifestyle, and expose cadets to the prestige of public service and a variety of career paths through hands-on training with our nation's armed services. Benefits of serving include leadership training, self-confidence, advancement, and exposure to the vast military opportunities that are open to qualified cadets. Each cadet serving honorably in the USNSCC may be

eligible for accelerated promotions once they enlist in the USN or USMC. The USN can accelerate an enlistee up to E-3 upon graduation from boot camp, and the USMC may grant up to E-2, due to the experience gained in the USNSCC. Other cadets who have excelled in their studies can be recommended to service academies, and university ROTC units. In the last survey at the U.S. Naval Academy, 10 percent of cadets were



Front Left to Right: LTJG Matt Thompson, CO, SN Keagan Gay, SA Cody Rister-Pedersen, SN David Malone, SA Blake Sketchley, SR Raymond Schneider-Padgett, ENS Linda Conti, PAO. **Back Row:** SN Dominic Owens, PO3 John Hyatt, SA Cristopher Reynaud, SA Andrew McCartney, SR Cameron Hickey. **Not Pictured:** Dr. Ann Wanner, Instructor; ENS William Westwater, OPS Officer

the NSE Division earned the following team awards: 1st in first aid, 2nd knot tying, 2nd color guard, 2nd knockout drill. Individual awards went to PO3 John Hyatt 2nd Place in knockout drill and SA Blake Sketchley 3rd Place in knot tying. This event is an annual competition that brings units

former USNSCC Cadets. The CNO has stated that the training gained in the USNSCC saves the USN \$14,000 in training. The Naval Station Everett Division has been proud to have help place five cadets in service academies over the past few years. These academies include the U.S. Naval Academy,

U.S. Military Academy (West Point), U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and the California Maritime Institute. Other cadets have entered university ROTC programs, and many others have enlisted in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, and U.S. Army. The Naval Station Everett Division, USNSCC, is just one of the many units with the sponsorship of the Navy League of the United States. We thank our sponsor—Lake Washington & Everett Council for their continuing support.

Coast Guard Foundation Honors CG Air Station Sitka Aircrew

The 2015 Pacific Northwest Awards dinner was held in sunny Seattle on 2 September 2015 at the Bell Harbor Conference Center on Pier 66. The event, attended by more than 400 people, honored Coast Guard heroics and mission excellence from throughout the region, from Washington and Oregon to Alaska and beyond. Event co-chairs Joe Bundrant from Trident Seafoods and Paul Stevens from Foss Maritime, each expressed their companies' thanks and appreciation for the Coast Guard, and their commitment to safety and professionalism for their respective businesses. The 2015 Heroic Action Award was presented to a crew from CG Air Station Sitka that rescued the crew of the fishing vessel *Kupreanof* in June of this year. *"The Coast Guard showed up just in time, and once we were in their hands, they did their drill and we were saved... How do you thank people for saving your life? I've thought about that every day since the accident. Thank you doesn't always seem right. It doesn't sound like quite enough,"* said Stephen Berry, Captain of the *Kupreanof*, in the video highlighting the rescue. The crew was represented by pilot LT Benjamin Neal, AET2 Jamie Flood, flight mechanic and AST2 Jason Yelvington, rescue swimmer. LCDR Christopher Stoeckler, co-pilot, was included in the honor but could not attend the event. RADM Richard T. Gromlich, Commander Coast Guard District 13

and VADM Charles Michel shared remarks about the mission and work of Coast Guard members in the Pacific Northwest. ADM Paul Zukunft, Commandant of the Coast Guard, served as keynote speaker. *"It is because of you, and it is because of our Coast Guard Foundation, that we take the time to recognize individuals at events like tonight... I could not be more proud of our most diverse and fully competent United States Coast Guard,"* said ADM Zukunft. *"This is a great time to serve in the United States Coast Guard. In my 38 years in the service, there has never been a more relevant time to be in this service."* The event was punctuated with a live auction that raised an additional \$100,000 for Coast Guard Foundation Shipmate Fund projects that provide morale, wellness and recreation gear for Coast Guard units around the country. Local newscaster Brad Goode served as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. *"We thank all of tonight's guests for bringing an enthusiasm and deep respect for the work of the Coast Guard in this area. The service is an important part of the community here and it shows when you look around this room and see so many people showing their support,"* said Anne Brengle, president of the CG Foundation. The Pacific Northwest Awards dinner is held every-other-year in Seattle. In 2016, the event will be held in Anchorage at the Hotel Captain Cook.



Left to right: Joe Bundrant, PO2 Flood, VADM Michel, LT Neal, PO2 Yelvington, Paul Stevens, ADM Zukunft, Ann Engle, not pictured: LCDR Stoeckler USCG photo

Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Ball

By Pete Stiles

Photos courtesy of NROTC

On Friday, 6 November 2016 Lake Washington & Everett Council Vice-President Pete Stiles and his wife Julie attended that annual University of Washington Navy & Marine Corps Birthday Ball, held at the UW Husky Student Union Building. With 250 midshipmen and guests in attendance, the formal evening opened with traditional events including an outstanding rendition of the “*Star Spangled Banner*” by MIDN Myint-Zu Kyaw, the Sword Detail, the cutting of the birthday cake, and Missing Man Table and Honors Ceremony (below). Additionally, the oldest marine, the



youngest marine, the oldest sailor and the youngest sailor in attendance were recognized. In order they were: GySgt Jose Ledesma, MIDN Carsen Weber, CAPT John Deehr

and MIDN Chris Hutchison. The guest of honor and keynote speaker was ADM Bruce Clingan, USN (at right with CAPT Deehr). A 1977 University of Washington NROTC graduate, ADM Clingan began his career as an F-14 Tomcat fighter pilot with Fighter Squadron VF-124 and VF-211, making deployments aboard the USS America (CV 66), USS Enterprise (CVN 65), USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and the USS Nimitz (CVN 68). He commanded VF-11 and after completing the nuclear power program, served as Executive Officer on the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Subsequently he commanded the Sixth Fleet flagship USS LaSalle (AFG 3) and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). ADM Clingan began his current tour of duty in February 2012 as



Commander Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, Commander US Naval Forces Europe and Commander U.S. Naval Forces Africa. ADM Clingan’s outstanding presentation focused on “leadership” and “taking responsibility” and included several antidotes and “lessons learned” that he experienced during his early career as a junior naval officer... all very relevant and pertinent to his audience of Navy and Marine Corps midshipmen and officer candidates. CAPT John Deehr said, “It was an absolute honor to have you all in attendance at our Annual Navy Marine Corps Ball on Friday. Hopefully we



can continue to grow the event every year until the ballroom is at capacity.” University of Washington NROTC is an adopted unit of our council.



NROTC Wall of Fame Induction Ceremony

By Pete Stiles

In 2013 CAPT David Melin, USN, Commanding Officer of the University of Washington NROTC, implemented the NROTC “Wall of Fame” and the current Commanding Officer, CAPT John Deehr, has continued the tradition. The Husky Battalion has produced many fine graduates. All of them are inscribed on plaques with their commissioning class in the hall in front of the second deck classroom at Clark Hall on the UW campus. The first NROTC class graduated in 1930. Following are past Husky Battalion graduates who have been inducted into the Battalion Wall of Fame along with three local Navy veterans who have been selected as Distinguish Alumni Veterans:

Husky Battalion

LtCol Gregory “Pappy” Boyington – Class of 1934

RADM Robert W. Copeland – Class of 1935

Mr. John Fluke, Sr. – Class of 1935

BGen Robert E. Galer – Class of 1936

Col Bruce F. Meyers – Class of 1945

RADM Horton J. Smith – Class of 1945

Distinguished Alumni Veterans

Mr. Charles W. H. Maatthael – US Navy 1943

RADM Herb Bridge – US Navy 1947

Richard H. Layton, M.D. – US Navy 1958

On permanent loan from the Naval History and Heritage Command, the UW NROTC has the battle ensign (*above right*) from the USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413), a World War II destroyer which was commanded by LCDR Robert W. Copeland, USN during the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The caption reads as follows: **USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413) Battle Ensign** which was flying on USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413), lost in October 1944 during the Battle of Samar, climaxing the Battle of Leyte Gulf. During this battle, a collection of relatively light U.S. warships prevented a much larger Japanese force from attacking the amphibious invasion fleet off the Philippine island of Leyte. Roberts was inadvertently left alone to fend off heavily armed Japanese battleships, cruisers, and destroyers. Steaming aggressively through a gauntlet of incoming shells, Samuel B. Rob-

erts scored one torpedo hit and numerous gunfire hits as she slugged it out with larger enemy warships before finally being sunk. After the battle, Samuel B. Roberts received the nickname “the destroyer escort that fought like a battleship.” Roberts was commanded by LCDR Copeland, a 1935 graduate of the UW NROTC



unit. The flag was retrieved by Chief Torpedoman Rudy Skau from the sinking ship as she went down in the melee. Lake Washington & Everett Council members Dan Burr and Pete Stiles attended this year’s ceremony. Two additional Husky Battalion alumni were selected for the 2015 Wall of Fame, ADM Bruce W. Clingan, USN, Class of 1977 and Mr. Michael E. O’Byrne, Class of 1961. In addition, ADM Clingan was the keynote speaker for this year’s Wall of Fame ceremony.

Recognize This Ship?

If you think it is a WW II liberty cargo vessel, then you are half correct. Find out what happened to this vessel in June 1967 by reading the article on page 15 of this issue and discover how it relates to an adopted unit of our council.



The Long Blue Line: Hemingway's historic rescues in the Pacific Northwest

Reprinted from *The Coast Guard Compass*

Posted by LTJG Katie Braynard, USCG

This is part of a series honoring the long blue line of Coast Guard men and women who served before us, highlighting the customs, traditions, history and heritage of the Coast Guard and written by William H. Thiesen, CG Atlantic Area historian. Henry George Hemingway (below) served one of the most interesting and distin-



Photo courtesy of Hemingway family

guished careers of any officer of his era. In January 1911, this native son of Washington, D.C., graduated from the United States Revenue Cutter School located at Fort Trumbull in New London, CT. Hemingway saw service as a line officer on several

revenue cutters, including the *Rush* of Bering Sea Patrol fame; and the *McCulloch*, which had distinguished herself in the Battle of Manila Bay in 1898. Hemingway witnessed some of the service's earliest organizational changes, including the 1915 consolidation of his own U.S. Revenue Cutter Service with the U.S. Life Saving Service to form the modern United States Coast Guard. He was serving on board the cutter *Morrill* on 6 April 1917, when the U.S. Navy broadcast, "Plan One, acknowledge," thereby transferring all Coast Guard units and personnel from the Treasury Department to a war footing under the Navy. On the same day Hemingway began serving under the Navy, Canada suffered one of the worst disasters in its history. The fully loaded munitions ship *Mont Blanc* exploded in Halifax, killing 1,600 people and wounding many more. Hemingway led the cutter *Morrill*'s rescue party on shore to render emergency assis-

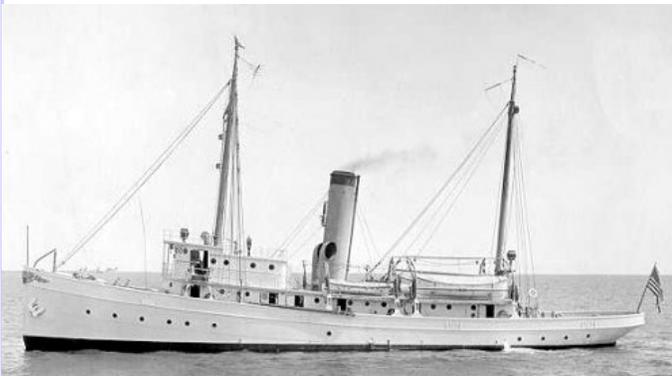


tance. His party proved to be one of the first responders to the disaster and, for his efforts, he received a commendation for meritorious service from Navy Secretary Josephus Daniels. Not long after his rescue work in Nova Scotia, Hemingway served in the Navy's New York Division under Coast Guard CAPT Godfrey Carden, the famous captain of the port for New York during World War I. Despite their difference in rank, it was not long before these two strong-minded officers clashed over Hemingway's work habits and behavior. Their dispute required the intercession of the service's commandant, Ellsworth Bertholf, and likely resulted in Hemingway's early transfer to a new assignment. In May 1918, Hemingway received orders to serve as a gunnery officer on



board the armored cruiser USS San Diego (ACR-6) (above), then serving as convoy escort on the East Coast. On 19 July 1918, the German submarine U-156 torpedoed the San Diego off of Long Island resulting in the largest U.S. warship loss of World War I. Hemingway survived the sinking and served the rest of the war as executive officer aboard cutter *Tuscarora*, homeported in Key West. For his war service, the Navy awarded him the World War I Victory Medal with Escort Clasp and two stars; however, a medal he received a few years later would set him apart from his peers. In early 1922, after a tour of three years on board *Tuscarora*, Hemingway packed his belongings and headed west for a new assignment in Port Angeles, WA. He began serving on cutter *Snohomish* (at right), a 152-foot seagoing tug designed to save lives and disabled ships in the dangerous waters of the Pacific Northwest. Hemingway saw three year's service aboard the cutter, but with *Snohomish* he would experience more action than many officers do in an entire career. Hemingway's

greatest challenge came on 14 February 1923, during a fierce storm that brought fog, rain, snow, heavy seas and hurricane force winds. In the early evening, he steered *Snohomish* out of Port Angeles to render assistance to the steamer *Coolcha*, which had stranded near Vancouver Island. Meanwhile, the lumber steamer *Nika* transmitted an SOS after the freighter's rudder broke and disabled her. The Canadian salvage steamer *Algerine* volunteered to assist the crew of the *Coolcha*, so Hemingway altered course for the *Nika* and steamed through the storm to reach her early the following day. At 0300, he arrived to find the 2,500-ton *Nika* out of control in heavy seas and gale force winds. To make matters worse, the vessel caught fire not long after the cutter's arrival and desperate crewmembers launched a lifeboat to save themselves. Hemingway assessed the situation and maneuvered the *Snohomish* to within 20 feet to pass a three-inch line to the vessel. After securing the line, the *Snohomish*'s crew used a ring buoy slid along the line stretched between the vessels to rescue the fourteen remaining crewmembers. After saving the crew from the burning vessel, *Snohomish* located the drifting lifeboat and rescued the rest of the vessel's 33 crewmembers. That day proved a day of days and *Snohomish*'s humanitarian mission was far from over. In addition to grounding the *Coolcha* and *Nika*, the storm blew ashore two more vessels. Before *Snohomish* could deliver *Nika*'s survivors to dry land, Hemingway had to alter course to rescue the crews of grounded



steamers *Tuscan Prince* and *Santa Rita*. By the end of the day, *Snohomish* had gathered on board 105 wreck victims without the loss of a single life. At the time, these efforts resulted in the highest number of individuals saved by a single cutter since the founding of the Coast Guard in 1790. Considered by local reports as “an act of bravery and daring seamanship,” the *Nika* case demonstrated Hemingway's skill as a mariner, captain and

leader. After assessing the vessel's chaotic rescue environment, he prioritized his operational goals and set his shipmates to carry them out. The engineering crew responded immediately to all signals from the bridge and the deck gang improvised the effective ring buoy system under very dangerous conditions. After returning safely to Port Angeles, *Nika*'s captain told reporters that he



had never seen a ship handled as well as *Snohomish*, nor had he seen a crew work as a team as efficiently as the cutter's. After the *Nika* rescue, Hemingway received a great deal of praise from the local community, and, in 1928, he was awarded the Gold Lifesaving Medal (above), a distinction enjoyed by few cutter captains. Hemingway served 20 additional years after his time in Port Angeles and retired as a captain in 1944. During his 33-year career, Hemingway had commanded cutters in both the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. He served in World War I and commanded Coast Guard destroyers during the Rum War. He also commanded the famous Secretary-Class cutter *Ingham* in her maiden voyage from Philadelphia to Port Angeles, WA, and he served in World War II, overseeing the Potomac River Naval Command. Through it all, he distinguished himself as a great leader, skilled cutterman and a member of the long blue line.

USS Washington (SSN-787)

Article & photos by Alan Beam

The Western Washington State Navy League councils were honored to host a namesake visit of five crewmembers (*below*) from the pre-commissioning crew of the Virginia Class attack submarine USS Washington (SSN-787) which is under construction at Huntington Ingalls Newport News Shipyard in Newport News, VA. They were making their first visit to Washington State on a familiarization tour.



Left to right: LT Eric Stromme, Assistant Engineer; Sailor of the Year (SOY) EM1(SS) Perry Benzschawel; and Junior SOY, ET2 Camden Fernald; Chief of the Boat ITSCM(SS) Adam Bruchette; and CDR Jason Schneider, CO

The namesake visit included attending the Kitsap County Veterans Day Ceremony, where they met with representative Derek Kilmer, a Commissioning Committee Honorary Co-Chair. They also attended two Navy League meetings, several Rotary Club meetings, and briefed The University of Washington NROTC on submarine construction practices.

USS Washington is one of fourteen next generation attack submarines, the Virginia Class: (<https://quietwarriors.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/the-virginia-class1.pdf>)

USS Washington will provide the Navy with the capabilities required to maintain the nation's undersea supremacy well into the 21st century.

Their inherent stealth, endurance, firepower, and sensor suite directly enable them to support five of the six maritime strategy core capabilities: sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence. (SSN-787) will be 7,800-tons and 377 feet in length with a beam of 34 feet. It can operate at more than 25 knots submerged. Her 134-member crew can launch up to 12 Tomahawk land-attack missiles and Mark 48 advanced capability torpedoes.

It is anticipated that the USS Washington (SSN-787) will be christened on 5 March 2016 and commissioned in late 2016. For information on how to participate in the commissioning or donate please contact Pete Stiles or visit: USS Washington Commissioning website: (<http://www.usswashingtoncommissioning.org>)





Veterans Day was a busy one that began with an early morning appearance on Seattle KIRO Radio's David Boze Morning Show; then a drive to the Washington State Capital, Olympia, for a meeting (*above*) with Governor Jay Inslee and other senior officials. Escorted by RADM Sharp, the Washington Commissioning Committee Chairman, the crew also met Kim Wyman, Washington Secretary of State, Ralph Munro, Former Secretary of State, and Olympia Mayor, Stephen Buxbaum.

Wyman and Munro serve as Honorary Co-Chairs of the Commissioning Committee.

It was not all hard work as Lake Washington and Everett Council President Pete Stiles (*below right of center*) hosted the USS Washington crewmembers at a Seattle Seahawks football game prior to the crewmembers returning home to Newport News, VA.



Base Seattle Ends Term as Seahawks Official Adopted Military Unit

By SN Sarah Wilson, USCG
Photos by PO Amanda Norcross & SN Wilson

Coast Guard members from the Coast Guard 13th District in Seattle and Marine and Navy members



from the Marine Corps Security Forces (MCSF) Battalion at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, as well as several Seahawks players, Sea Gal cheerleaders and members of the local media, gather round a stage as RADM Richard Gromlich (*above*), Commander 13th CG District, gives a speech during the Seattle Seahawks change-of-command ceremony at the Coast Guard Base Seattle, 13 October 2015. During their year long term as the Seahawks official adopted military unit, Coast Guard crews carried the 12th Man Flag farther than ever before, from Antarctica aboard the USCGC Polar Star (WAGB 10), a 399-foot heavy ice breaker homeported in Seattle, to the North Pole aboard the USCGC Healy (WAGB 20) a 420-foot medi-

um ice breaker also homeported in Seattle. PFD Panda (*right*), the CG mascot used to draw attention to use of personal flotation devices, pops out of the top of a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle, supplied by the Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion from Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, the new Seahawks adopted unit. During the ceremony, various vehicles, boats and cutters



were on display and available for tours to attendees who were representing the CG 13th District, MCSF Battalion Bangor, Seahawks, Sea Gals and USAA. CPO Scott Puulik (*above*) poses for a photograph with two Seattle Seahawks Sea Gals. PO3 Zachary Fissell (*below*), a boatswain's mate, salutes and sounds a boatswain's pipe, per military tradition, as honored guests board USCGC Mellon (WHEC 717), a 378-foot high endurance cutter homeported in Seattle.



Liberty High School NJROTC Leads Veterans Day Assembly

By Delgene Phillips
Photo by Megan Kirschner

On 10 November Liberty High School NJROTC presented a Veterans Day Assembly at the school. Local veterans were invited and LW&EC members and veterans Cec Allison and Delgene Phillips attended. After the school assembled in the gym, all were welcomed and thanked for attending by NJROTC Commander Cadet/LCDR Bella Oliver. All veterans were asked to rise and were thanked for their service. Liberty NJROTC presented the colors and the national anthem was sung by the Liberty High School Jazz Choir. Cadet/LTJG Robert Lecoque then demonstrated how most in the audience have a connection to a military member. He then introduced a short video



that highlights the history of Veterans Day. Cadet/LTJG Aaron Tidwell explained the origin of Veterans Day, or Armistice Day, which was proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson to commemorate the heroism and sacrifice by those who had died in the service of America. This idea was later expanded and dedicated to world peace and is now called Veterans Day to remember all the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines, that have lived, died, and bled for freedom. Out of the 318.9 million Americans today, there are approximately 21.8 million veterans living in our country. Cadet Tidwell then welcomed the speaker, one of those veterans, a former captain in the USAF and a father of two Liberty Patriots, Mario Oliver. Mr. Oliver, a proud veteran, recalled his air force career and how it affected his outlook on life and how it prepared him for the civilian world following his active duty. Cadet Oliver thanked her dad

and remarked growing up as a child of a military parent, she always loved military songs and then introduced the Liberty High School Choir which sang one of her favorites, titled *“Bring Them Home”* by Pete Seeger. Afterward, Cadet Oliver related the story of the USS Liberty (AGTR-5), a Technical Research Ship used by the Navy during the 1960s to gather intelligence by monitoring, recording and analyzing wireless electronic communications of nations in various parts of the world. On 8 June 1967, the USS Liberty was sailing in international waters off the coast of Israel. The mission: intelligence collection. That morning, an Israeli aircraft was spotted flying over the ship on several occasions. Then suddenly the ship was attacked by fighter jets. Having little means to defend themselves, the crew fought back, calling desperately for support. After expending their ammunition, the Israeli forces withdrew, only to come back a few hours later with torpedo boats. Five torpedoes were launched at the USS Liberty, with one especially damaging explosion, blowing a hole amidships 30 feet in diameter. The USS Liberty had suffered so much damage that it was deemed not suitable for action and never had another operational mission. Of the crew of 294 officers and men, including three civilians, 34 sailors died and 173 were wounded. For their bravery and sacrifice, 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. In addition, the ship’s commanding officer received the Medal of Honor for his valiant attempt to save his ship. However, all these awards do not even begin to atone for the sacrifices of these sailors. Cadet Oliver then requested, *“Here at Liberty, we are the proud hosts of the USS Liberty’s ship’s bell. If you look closely at it, you can see evidence of the battle. Will you please observe a moment of silence as we ring the bell in remembrance of those brave Liberty sailors and in honor of all veterans living and dead, followed by the playing of Taps.”* Cadet Tidwell rang the bell and *“Taps”* was played by Mr. Jared Tanner, Liberty Band Teacher. Cadet Oliver concluded the assembly with an invitation to view the USS Liberty ship’s bell, and encouraged students to participate in the *“Letter to Soldiers”* event during lunch for the rest of the week and to reflect upon the meaning of Veterans Day and how to help honor veterans.

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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, USS Henry M. Jackson, 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, Navy League Cadet Corps Training Ship Henry M. Jackson 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.