

Voyager

THE LAKE WASHINGTON & EVERETT COUNCIL NEWSLETTER



Navy League
of the United States



VOL. 76

DELGENE PHILLIPS - EDITOR

WWW.LAKEWASHNLUS.ORG

JUNE 2016

FUTURE EVENTS

4 Jun Golf Scramble
14 Sep Dinner meeting
6 Jul Board Meeting
7 Sep Board Meeting
2 Nov Board Meeting
16 Nov Dinner Meeting

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)
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

Council Inspired at May Dinner

By Pete Stiles

Photos by Delgene Phillips

With 36 members and guests in attendance, the Lake Washington & Everett Council held its Spring Dinner at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel. Following the no host social hour, President Pete Stiles began the program at 1845. The Liberty High School NJROTC presented the Colors and Marjorie James led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Colors were retired and Board Member Jim Ardissono gave a very meaningful invocation. The buffet dinner



was served at 1900. Following dinner, Pete introduced Richard Anderson (*above right*) who joined Seattle Seafair in the Fall of 2015 as its new President and CEO bringing over 35 years of experience in professional sports, venues and hospitality management. Prior to arriving in Seattle, Richard served in a variety of senior level positions in major corporations and organizations. Earlier in his career, Richard served as President and CEO of Joe Robbie Stadium (now Sun Life stadium) in Miami, FL, home to the NFL Miami Dolphins and Florida (now Miami) Marlins. He also served as a senior member of the Super Bowl XXIX Hosting Committee. Prior to joining Joe Robbie Stadium, he was Vice President of Administration and Operations for the Pittsburgh Pirates where he provided oversight for the club's facility operations including facility management for Three Rivers Stadium. Seafair now competes with many other activities so (*continued on page 3*)

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE



The view from the bridge is obscured in fog with visibility zero...Not! Actually President Pete's view will be back next issue. The council outlook is actually very sunny with the summer ahead

including the Golf Scramble at Eagle's Pride (right) on Saturday, 4 June—see page 11 for details.



Editor

Voyager is the official newsletter of the LW&EC NL-US and is published quarterly in March, June, September and December and printed by American Publishing & Printing, Inc. in Kent, WA and provided to all members. Comments and suggestions are welcome and should be sent to: Voyager Editor, P.O. Box 547 Bellevue WA 98009-0547 or email to: etpefp@comcast.net

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j.ardissono@wfafinet.com

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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.

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

(continued from page 1) the Seafair board recently met to answer the question: “What is Seafair?” From the follow on discussions by the management team, three points answered the question: (1) Bringing the community together, (2) Memory making and (3) Affordable fun. Most of the Seafair events are free and bring the community together making lifetime memories. Seafair is currently tackling the transportation problems relating to traffic at events. Speed skiing will be introduced this year which involves boats racing around a circular track traveling 100 miles per hour towing 10 skiers 200 feet behind the boat. Seafair will continue to honor all veterans at Seafair. Following his presentation, Pete presented Richard with the Council’s Challenge Coin and an antique “Ship’s Prism.” Pete next introduced the



Left to right: Matt Griffin, council members June Allison, Jay De Bellis & Cec Allison

evening’s keynote speaker, Matt “Griff” Griffin. A graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point with a degree in Engineering Management, Griff served in the 75th Ranger Regiment as a Rifle Company Fire Support Officer. During his active duty, Griff served three tours in Afghanistan and one tour in Iraq. Post military, Griff moved to the private sector as the Director of Military Sales for Remote Medical International and the Director of Special Operations for Protect the Force. He currently serves as a logistics officer for Team 5 Foundation. Griff is the President and co-founder of Combat Flip Flops, a unique and rapidly growing company located in Issaquah, WA. The company was actually founded in Kabul, Afghanistan



and it specializes in developing solutions for companies growing business in “difficult locations”... Afghanistan and Columbia among others. Griff started by defining culture as people with shared values that live together. Value based leadership was learned as a child when his father, as P.E. Instructor at USMA, hosted cadets at his home and Griff knew he wanted to be a cadet. He graduated in 2001 from the USMA and served under men guided by the values of duty, honor and country in the army. Mentored by Army Rangers as a cadet, he knew he wanted to be one. Again, hard work got him to the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Fort Lewis. Once more, he found highly motivated, intelligent personnel that shared the same values as expressed in the Ranger Creed which Griff partially recited: “Recognizing that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of the Rangers. Acknowledging the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.” Three months later, he deployed to Afghanistan with a mission to deny Al-Qaeda fighters safe havens in high mountain villages. The Rangers walked the Korangal Valley from village to village and home to home and routed the fighters. Early one morning he had an empathetic moment while viewing a mother and her children praying and playing. He felt they were glad the Rangers were there but Griff felt he had no way to help them, particularly the women who had no hope of equality in their country. (continued on page 4)



Combat Flip Flop Photo



(continued from page 3) After serving three tours in Afghanistan and one tour in Iraq, Griff left the military. After typical post military duty problems of loss of community, identity, drug abuse and sense of purpose, Griff eventually recovered his sense of purpose while back in Afghanistan in a combat boot factory where approximately 400 persons were helping their families with a sense of honor and duty, providing for their soldiers who protect their country. Griff asked himself, "How do I take the values of duty, honor and country and amplify them into the values I learned as a Ranger?" The answer was to create a small elite team of people that shared the same value system and build a private company and a culture that would help the war on terrorism. The mission of the company he founded is: **To create peaceful, forward-thinking opportunities for self-determined entrepreneurs affected by conflict. Our willingness to take bold risks, community connection, and distinct designs communicate, "Business, Not Bullets" - flipping the view on how wars are won. Through persistence, respect, and creativity, we empower the mindful consumer to manufacture peace through trade.** Starting in his garage in Issaquah, the company now makes flip flops in Bogota, Colombia; sarongs and scarves handmade in Afghanistan factories by local women and jewelry made from landmines in Laos. A portion of the profit is donated back to the women in Afghanistan. The simple plan is to educate a woman who educates her family,

leading to a bunch of educated families and educated communities, thus reducing the recruitment base for radicals in these developing nations. Through a great deal of effort and many other people coming on board, the company is scheduled for 500% growth this year. Presently, over 65 girls are in school in Afghanistan. Finally, addressing the NJROTC cadets, Griff spelled out how to build a high performance team based on values. (1) Write

down the values people told you to have, values that resonate with you and values that make you happy, fulfilled and motivate you. Then, look to the people that inspire you and write their values down. (2) Select your top three and put those written values somewhere where you can see them every day and share with people in your life who will hold you responsible and accountable to those values. The last step is difficult: (3) Live those values. Eventually, you will see changes in yourself, family, teams, companies and employees. Your culture will form. Following his inspiring presentation, Pete thanked Griff and his wife Michele for participating in the evening's program and he presented Griff with the council's challenge coin and a ship's prism (below). The program was adjourned at 2045 and feedback for the audience, across the board... "the best speaker in years!"



USCG Cutter Henry Blake is a hard working Council Adopted Unit

Article by LCDR Ray Reichl, CO
Photo courtesy of Cutter Henry Blake

USCGC Henry Blake (WLM 563) is a 175 foot Coastal Buoy Tender homeported at NAVSTA Everett. Cutter Henry Blake's primary mission is ensuring aids to navigation in the environmentally



sensitive Puget Sound are maintained to the highest standards, therefore ensuring the safe navigation of the vessels which carry over

40 billion dollars worth of cargo each year through the Sound. Cutter Henry Blake has primary responsibility for the maintenance of 225 aids to navigation (149 navigational buoys, 10 mooring buoys, two NOAA weather data buoys, and 64 shore aids) in Puget Sound from the Canadian border to Olympia, Straits of Juan de Fuca, Grays Harbor, and Willapa Bay. Cutter Henry Blake has secondary servicing responsibility for an additional 1,024 aids to navigation from Southeast Alaska to central Oregon. Cutter Henry Blake also performs other Coast Guard missions including



Search and Rescue, Homeland Security and Marine Environmental Protection. In the last year: In May 2015 Cutter Henry Blake repositioned numerous aids to navigation in Grays Harbor as part of the Army Corp of Engineers channel realignment. In June 2015 Cutter Henry Blake participated in the Clean Pacific exercise (*bottom*



left) in Vancouver BC displaying the US Coast Guard's ability to recover spilled oil in the marine environment. In August 2015 Cutter Henry Blake sailed to Juneau Alaska to participate in the Buoy Tender Round-up (*above*) which was a weeklong training event as well as servicing multiple buoys in Southeast Alaska. In October 2015 Cutter Henry Blake sailed 200 miles up the Columbia River (*below approaching the John Day Dam and lock*) servicing 35 buoys. In 2016 Cutter Henry Blake has serviced 42 aids to navigation and is preparing for a trip in June to service aids in Grays Harbor and Willapa Bay and participate in the Portland Rose Festival.



Record Breaking CG Ice Breaker Healy Honored at Dinner

Article by Pete Stiles
Photos by Delgene Phillips

With 65 guests in attendance, on 9 March the Lake Washington & Everett Council held its "Annual Healy Dinner" at the Bellevue Red Lion Hotel. Included in the guests total were 25 enlisted and officer Healy crewmembers including EM2 Kelly Vannett and his guest Dana White enjoying the dinner (*below*). Following the no host social hour, President Pete Stiles opened the

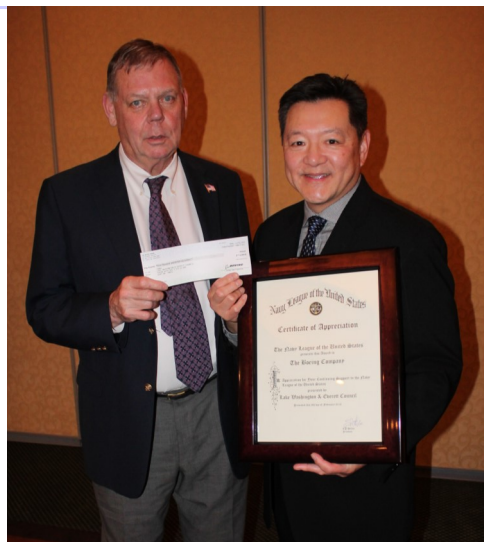


program at 1845. The Liberty High School NJROTC presented the Colors and LT Stephanie Titus USN (SC)

led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Colors were retired and CAPT Cecil Allison, USCG Retired, gave the invocation. The buffet dinner was served at 1900 and at 1945 Pete introduced three special guests: ADM Thomas Haywood USN, Retired, Chief of Naval Operations 1978 – 1983, RADM Jeff Garrett USCG, Retired, Healy's first commanding officer and CAPT Dave Visneski USCG, Retired, the Healy's second commanding officer. Next, Mr. David Muniz, (*below left*) Service Delivery Manager for GE Energy Connections came to the podium. GE is the Healy's primary electrical contractor and annually contributes \$1,000 in support of the Healy dinner. Following David's short remarks, Pete



thanked both Dave and GE Energy Connections for their continued interest and support and presented David with the council's Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Bob Kiga (*at right*) was



asked by Pete to join him at the podium. Bob is Manager, Customer Engagement, BMA Northwest Region, Global Sales & Marketing - Boeing Defense, Space & Security for The Boeing Company and is the council's primary contact when scheduling tours of Boeing's Everett and Renton manufacturing facilities. In addition, The Boeing Company, for the past several years, has generously contributed \$5,000 to the council which is used to cover a part of the council's annual business expenses. Pete thanked Bob and The Boeing Company for their generous 2015 contribution and presented Bob a Certificate of Appreciation. CAPT



Jason Hamilton USCG, Commanding Officer of the USCGC Healy (*above left with wife Darya*) was introduced as the evening's keynote speaker. After recognizing the past Healy skippers in the audience, CAPT Hamilton briefed on the summer 2015 Healy Arctic operations and changes noted from previous trips. It is estimated that by 2040, due to global warming, a new open ocean will be in the Arctic due to less sea ice. The Northwest Passage has increased traffic including the cruise ship Crystal Serenity later this year. Many Arctic nations are trying to extend their reach to insure



they can extract mineral resources. Healy provides the needed U.S. Arctic presence. With 1.2 million gallons fuel capacity, Healy has range when needed and capability. Approaching the North Pole last summer, Healy broke more than eight feet of ice. Last summer Healy had two missions sets, assessing the health of the Arctic and continuing with the CG R&D Center expanding Arctic capabilities by testing different equipment in the Arctic. Healy tested different Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV); conducted Search & Rescue (SAR)



Left to right: Petty Officers Stevenson, Smith & Ahlin. Not Present: Petty Officers Bishop & Cole

exercises; tested various autonomous environmental sensors and communication systems. A SAR

exercise used a shore launched UAV (Boeing Insitu ScanEagle) with UAV control transferred to Healy and the simulated people on the ice picked up by CG helo. An Arctic secure communication test involved the Secretary of the Air Force in San Diego speaking with Healy CO in real time. With 52 scientists on board including 13 personal investigators, getting to the North Pole was not a scientific priority however; but for U.S. prestige and presence, it was accomplished unaccompanied for the first time on 5 September. CAPT Hamilton's brief included a slide showing Russia's 40 ice breakers with five more on the way and the five U.S. ice breakers (one inactive—Polar Sea). If Congress starts the process for a new ice breaker now it would be ready by 2023. Following CAPT Hamilton's presentation, Pete invited the Healy's Command Master Chief, EMCM Scotty Hudson USCG to the podium who in turn introduced Healy's 2015 Sailors of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year and related why they had been selected. Award winners included: MK2 Caleb Smith USCG, 2015 Sailor of the Year; MK1 John Cole USCG, Q1 2015 Sailor of the Quarter; BM3 Benjamin Ahlin USCG, Q2 2015 Sailor of the Quarter; DC2 Christopher Stevenson USCG, Q3 Sailor of the Quarter; MK2 Kenneth Bishop USCG, Q4 Sailor of the Year. Each was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a check for \$100 for the Sailor of the Year and \$75 for the Sailors of the Quarter. The meeting was adjourned at 0850.

CG Persons of the Year Honored at Awards Banquet

Article by Pete Stiles

Photo by Dan Burr

Each year the Coast Guard Reserve Officers Association and Chief Petty Officers Association hosts the Enlisted Person of the Year Awards Banquet at the CG Base Seattle Gymnasium. Attending were ten active duty award nominees and six reserve award nominees. RADM Richard Gromich USCG, Commander of Coast Guard District 13, was the keynote speaker. Candidates for each award are judged on leadership, diversity of career, military bearing, professional and personal development, working with others and exemplifying core values.

The 2015 Award winners:

Active Duty Enlisted Person of the Year

YN1 Jaimee Baker USCG grew up in Brooklyn, NY. She entered the US Coast Guard in 2006 and began her career at Station Golden Gate, CA, pri-

or to entering the support community. Petty Office Baker is currently assigned to the Personnel Support Division at CG Base Seattle where she serves as the Administrative Office Supervisor, directly responsible for five personnel. In addition to her primary responsibilities, she also has a variety of collateral duties that she is responsible for on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

YN1 Baker has served her career in California, Alaska, Bahrain, Florida and most currently in Seattle, WA. Notably during 2015, YN1 Baker coordinated suicide prevention and awareness events with the intention of ensuring that members were made aware of the various resources available, stress management techniques, the prevalence of suicide within the Coast Guard and to promote the correlation between a healthy body and a healthy mind. Petty Officer Baker pushed this event nationwide, in which over nine units and approximately 800 members participated. In addition she began working closely with the Work Life Staff, visiting units in the Pacific Northwest to train members on operations resiliency and personal stress management.

Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

ME1 David Hays USCGR grew up in Vancouver, WA. After graduating from high school he joined the Coast Guard Reserve and started his career at Port Security Unit (PSU 313). ME1 Hays is currently assigned to PSU 313, Everett, WA as a reservist on Title 10 orders to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where he fulfills a vital role in the Waterside Division as a Lead Tactical Coxswain in support of Joint Task Force Guantanamo's antiterrorism and force protection mission. Upon returning from Guantanamo Bay, ME1 Hays plans to utilize his GI Bill benefits and attend college on a full time basis to pursue a degree in geological science, to continue his Coast Guard career at Station Seattle and help create a world free of multiple sclerosis.

(At left: RADM Gromich, YN1 Jaimee Baker, Pete Stiles and ME1 David Hays, following presentation of Navy League Certificates by Pete Stiles.)



University of Washington NROTC Winter 2016 Commissioning Ceremony

*Article by Pete Stiles
Photo courtesy of NROTC*

Since its inception in 1926 the University of Washington Naval Reserve Training Corps (NROTC) has provided continuous support to the United States Navy and Marine Corps by educating prospective naval officers. A significant aspect of the NROTC – University relationship is the superior academic environment provided by the University of Washington. The availability of degree programs in all major scholastic fields, supported by outstanding facilities, has made a lasting contri-



bution to the education of officers in today's Navy and Marine Corps. On Friday, 18 March the University of Washington NROTC held its Winter Commissioning Ceremony. Presiding Officer was CAPT Mark Johnson USN, NROTC Commanding Officer and Professor of Naval Science. Keynote speaker was LtCol Michael Viers USMC, Retired. The four Navy midshipmen/officer candidates receiving their commissions:

ENS Kevin Brockman graduated from Olympic High School in Bremerton, WA in 2012. Upon graduation he enrolled in the UW NROTC program as a College Programmer. ENS Brockman graduates with a Bachelor of Science degree in Atmospheric Sciences and reports to the Naval Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC to begin training as a Nuclear Submarine Officer.

ENS Brandon Keck graduated from Wellsboro

Area High School, PA in 2004. He studied Physics at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania from 2006 – 2009 and Mechanical Engineering at Penn State from 2009 – 2010. He then enlisted in the United States Navy and reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL. Following recruit training he reported to the Defense Information School at Ft. Meade, MD where he completed Mass Communication Specialist "A" School. He then reported to Expeditionary Combat Camera in Norfolk, VA. He completed two deployments to the SOUTHCOM AOR and was then selected for the Seaman-to-Admiral 21 Program. ENS Keck joined the Husky Battalion in

April 2014 and will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Earth and Space Sciences. He will next report to Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC to begin training as a Nuclear Submarine Warfare officer.

2ndLt Daniel McGurkin graduated from Moscow High School, ID. During his senior year he entered the United States Marine Corp Delayed Entry Program and was scheduled to attend boot camp following graduation. While in the Delayed Entry Program he was awarded the NROTC Scholarship and after graduating Summa Cum Laude honors reported to Husky Battalion in September 2012. 2ndLt McGurkin graduates with a

Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a focus in International Security. He will report to The Basics School in Quantico, VA on 13 September 2016.

2ndLt Austin Snyder attended Basic High School in Henderson, NV in 2012. At Basic High School he participated in the Marine Corps JROTC program where his instructor LtCol Viers advised him to apply for the NROTC scholarship. He received a four year NROTC scholarship to the University of Washington and reported to Husky Battalion in September 2012. 2ndLt Snyder graduates with a degree in Political Science with a focus in International Security and will report to The Basic School in Quantico VA on 9 August 2016.

The following is from an email received by council board member Phil Johnson:

Things are fast and furious in Pensacola. I completed my first solo in the T-6 last week, knocked out my aerobatics check ride on Monday, 25 April and am awaiting my aerobatics solo amidst the weather. Next, I will go full force into instruments. It is hard to believe that I've been out of Seattle for almost a year now. Time flies when you're flying! :) Please accept and extend my warmest regards and continued thanks to the other Navy League gentlemen that I have had the pleasure of interacting with. I saw the photos from the most recent Healy appreciation dinner and they made me smile fondly. I've attached a solo picture, which you can share as well. Thank you for your continued support. I hope you and your wife are doing well, sir. Have a wonderful week.

*Very respectfully,
Carolyn Mahoney*

LTJG Carolyn Mahoney is the former USCGC Healy Public Affairs Officer who did such a great job as the Navy League liaison and as a Deck Watch Officer during the Healy Tiger Cruise from Juneau to Seattle. She is in the US Naval Air Training Command as a Coast Guard student aviator. The T-6A Texan II (*shown below*) is a tandem-seat, turboprop primary trainer whose mission is to train Coast Guard, Navy and Marine Corps pilots and Naval Flight Officers. It is made by Raytheon Aircraft Company and is powered by one Pratt & Whitney Canada PT-6A-68 turboprop engine; 1,100 horsepower. It replaced the T-34C.





USS Maine (SSBN 741) Tour on 28 April

By Jim Ardissono

Photo by MC2 Amanda Gray USN

On 28 April 2016, LW&E Council took 28 guests on a tour of the Trident Training Facility at Naval Base Bangor and the USS Maine (SSBN 741). USS Maine (SSBN 741) is a United States Navy Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine in commission since 1995. She is the fourth U.S. Navy ship authorized, and the third commissioned, to be named in honor of the state of Maine. The group was greeted and welcomed aboard by Master Chief. The guests were broken into groups of four to tour the boat. There are four women officers on this submarine.

The crew was extremely enthusiastic about showing us all around and answering our questions. You could see and feel their enthusiasm for their work and camaraderie with their fellow sailors.



2nd Annual Lake Washington & Everett Council Golf Scramble Saturday 4 June 2016

Proceeds go to council adopted units for SOQ,
SOY, MWR, Military Families in NEED

Location: EAGLES PRIDE Golf Course
I 5, - Exit 116, - JBLM, - Tacoma, WA 98433
(253) 967 - 6522

Time: 1300 Shotgun Start

- ☐ \$75/Golfer or \$285/4 Person Team
- ☐ \$65 Military & \$60 Student

Includes golf, golf cart & BBQ
"Awards, Prizes"

Questions: j.ardissono@wfafinet.com 425-503-2556

Mail Golfers Names & CHECK PAYABLE TO:
LW&E-NLUS

c/o Jim Ardissono
22510 SE 64th Place, Suite 210
Issaquah, WA 98027

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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, 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.