

NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



The Scuttlebutt

Letter From The President

Happy Holidays from Newport. As I reflect back on a very busy year, I'm thankful for the exceptional work put in by the members of our Board of Directors and our Council membership. Without your efforts, the many successes we experienced would not have been possible. Our Council again took the lead in recognizing the superb men and women of the sea services in our area through Sailor of the Quarter and graduation recognition programs. Additionally, the team organized and executed the pre-commissioning dinner and post-commissioning reception for the U.S. Coast Guard's Fast Response Cutter Maurice Jester. We also organized a welcome picnic for the Naval War College's new class of international students and their families.



President
Capt. Rob Winneg, USN
(Ret.)

In October, we held our signature event, Military Appreciation Night, with the Commander of Coast Guard's First District, Rear Admiral John Mauger, as our Keynote Speaker. At the end of November, your Council hosted a Holiday Reception where the new Commanding Officer of Naval Station Newport, CAPT Henry Roenke, shared news of the exciting changes coming to the station. I was also honored to represent the Council along with

several other members at the unveiling of the Keel Plate for the soon-to-be constructed destroyer USS J. William Middendorf (DDG-138), named after our longtime Council member, former Secretary of the Navy, and Ambassador Middendorf.



I'm excited about 2024. We start off in great fashion by hosting the annual meeting of the New England Region's Navy League leadership on January 13th. Navy League National President Christopher Townsend will be joining us for that event. We will then begin additional planning for the year, including some new opportunities to gather socially as a Council. Be on the lookout for those notices.

I can't thank all of you enough for the successful year of the Newport County Council. We could not have done it without you.

- Rob Winneg

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Rob Winneg

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"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"



The Scuttlebutt

National Holidays

13 October: National Navy Birthday Ball

The National Navy Birthday Ball celebrating 248 Years of Naval Greatness was hosted by the Commander of Fleet Activities Sasebo (CFAS) at the Harbor View Club in Japan. The theme was “Power, Presence and Protection.” The theme reflected the many challenges facing the nation and armed services this year, from government decision-making jeopardizing sea service funding to the horrific terrorist attack in Israel and the subsequent retaliations. ADM Lisa Franchetti, the 42nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations, thanked Sailors around the globe for their service.



At the Navy Birthday Ball at The Harbor View Club, Sasebo, Japan

(PHOTO RIGHT) Master-at-Arms Senior Chief Frank Courtney (left), Yeoman Seaman Apprentice Alexander Quintero (center) and retired Master Chief Thomas Gomes (Right) represent the oldest sailor at Naval Station Newport, the youngest sailor, and the guest of honor for the command's Navy birthday ceremony conducted in the Port Operations Department earlier today. Gomes, who works at NAVFAC here, had formerly served as installation command master chief prior to his retirement from active duty. Thanks to the sailors and team at the Ney Hall Galley - an incredible 248th birthday cake.



Behind the scenes in Newport, RI

Photo & text by Bruce Katz, PAO, NAVSTA Newport

11 November: Veteran’s Day

Excerpts from National Navy League President, Christopher Townsend’s Message as published in the November edition of Seapower Magazine titled ‘Logistic: The 6th Domain’:

“The importance of strong sea services is well understood and supported by the members of the Navy League and much of the nation’s populace. Less well-understood is the importance of a robust Merchant Marine...
...On November 11th, Veteran’s Day – our Nation honors the men and women who have served in our U.S. armed forces, including our tremendous sea services. We should also honor our merchant mariners for their selfless contributions to our nation’s prosperity and armed services as well.”

VFW Post 406 Newport, RI 02840 celebrates Veterans Day in King’s Park, Newport, joined by grateful citizens and families remembering their heroes.





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Local Events

3 November: Naval War College Foundation (NWCf) Sentinel of the Sea Award

The Honorable John Francis Lehman, Jr., the 65th U.S. Secretary of the Navy, received the NWCf's Sentinel of the Sea Award in recognition of his meritorious conduct, self-sacrifice, vigilance, and dedicated service to the Nation. Naval War College Foundation Chairman Daniel E. Holland III presented the award at the New York Yacht Club in New York City, NY. Recipients of the award exemplify the U.S. Navy motto, Non Sibi Sed Patriae / Not Self But Country. The Naval War College Foundation honors these extraordinary American patriots with the Sentinel of the Sea Award in recognition of their meritorious conduct, self-sacrifice, vigilance, and dedicated service to the Nation annually.



Hon. John Francis Lehman, Jr., 2nd from right

Naval War College Cuisine Nights at the Officer's Club

18 October: Naval Command College (NCC)



18 December: Naval Staff College (NSC)





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Newport County Council Navy League Events

19 October: Military Appreciation Night and Annual Dinner Meeting

An annual sumptuous event for the Newport County Council, this year's event was held again at the Newport Wyndham Hotel and Resort. The Council invites active-duty sea services members and spouses to be its guests at a dinner in appreciation of their service. Navy League Members, Community Affiliates and Business Members defray the costs. Guest Speaker for the evening was Rear Admiral John W. Mauger, USCG, First District Commander (D1) U.S. Coast Guard, who assumed his duties in May 2022 oversees all Coast Guard missions across eight states in the Northeast including over 2,000 miles of coastline from the U.S.- Canadian border to northern New Jersey and 1300 miles offshore.

He previously served as the Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, responsible for the development of national policy, standards, and programs promoting Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Stewardship.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Coast Legion of Merit (two awards), Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), the Coast Guard Commendation Medal (three awards), the DHS Secretary's Exceptional Service Gold Medal, and the EPA Administrator's Silver Medal. A native of Jenkintown, PA, RADM Mauger resides in Wellesley, MA with his wife, Leah, and two children.

During the time of his taking command, RADM Mauger had to oversee operations for the recovery of the Titan submersible, the cone cap of which had exploded on the morning of June 18, killing all 5 people on board. The Titan had descended to view the wreckage of the Titanic. It was scheduled to return in the afternoon to a Canadian research vessel, the Polar Prince, that was providing surface support about 900 nautical miles east of Cape Cod. About 1 hour and 45 minutes after the Titan plunged below the surface, the Polar Prince lost contact with it and notified the Coast Guard. An international search-and-rescue operation began and followed by a 3 month recovery mission.

Citing this as an example, the RADM built an education for the audience on the absolute necessity of the Coast Guard, not only as a protector and defender of the nations' shores and sea ways, but as reliable humanitarian aid and critical strength provider to US allies. He quoted many heroic "Coasties" who had performed rescues at Sea, putting their life in peril, and in some cases losing it.

In his first weeks of command, he also was a Guest of Honor at the Commissioning of the Jester in Newport. With the arrival of more Coast Guard Cutters and NOAA ships at NAVSTA Newport, the Coast Guard is going to be a very visible valuable asset in Northeast waters. (cont.)

**THANK YOU TO THE WYNDHAM STAFF FOR A FINE RECEPTION AND OUR PROGRAM SPONSORS
AND OUR MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED AND HELPED MAKE THIS PROGRAM POSSIBLE!**



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Newport County Council Navy League Events

19 October: Military Appreciation Night and Annual Dinner Meeting (cont.)



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Newport County Council Navy League Events

19 October: Military Appreciation Night and Annual Dinner Meeting (cont.)





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Newport County Council Navy League Events

28 November: The President's Annual Holiday Reception

The Newport County Council hosted their Community Affiliates and Business Members at a festive reception of holiday specialties at The Wyndham Resort. As a special treat 2 sets of admission tickets donated by the Audrain Auto Museum, which is a legendary museum and fixture in the community for vintage and antique car enthusiasts, were raffled to attendees. Visit www.audrainautomuseum.org. Thank you Audrain Auto Museum!

Guest Speaker for the evening, the new Commanding Officer of Naval Station Newport, presented a casual but excellent overview of recent and ongoing developments and programs at the Base. As many of the Business and Community Affiliates are in the naval and maritime industries, this gave them an opportunity to get a head start on 2024 business plans.

Captain Henry M. Roenke IV, USN, a native of Geneva, New York, began his naval career at the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with distinction in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering. He is a 2023 graduate of the United States Naval War College, earning a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. He assumed the duties as the Commanding Officer of Naval Station Newport, RI on July 28, 2023.

He started his presentation off refreshingly with the words, "A little background – I have no experience in installation management prior to change of command this past July. My previous jobs in the Navy have been on Submarines or in Intelligence. This means my perspective is "fresh". What I've seen since July is encouraging and exciting. There is a lot of great work happening at Newport and I'm proud to be a part of it."

These Highlights are quotes from CAPT Roenke :

NAVSTA Newport remains the Navy's :

- "World Class Center of Learning Excellence". Four of the top Five Tenants by size are schoolhouses or coordinate training. Their schedule and their students comprise most of my staff's day to day, whether that is housing officer candidates, feeding students, and otherwise making sure they can learn. On any given day there are, on average, 2,195 students onboard. Other schools include the Naval Justice School, the Religious Program Specialist "A" School, the Senior Enlisted Academy, and the USMC Aviation Logistics school.

- A World Class Center of Undersea Warfare Research, Development, Testing and Evaluation, the Naval Undersea Warfare Command – Newport is our largest tenant, doing important work to keep our undersea forces capable and ready today and into the future. It is important to me to keep the lights on, the water flowing and the gates open so they talented NUWC engineers can support the fleet.

- An operational center of excellence. We frequently host visiting Destroyers and Littoral Combat Ships. More frequently we support the operations of the seven ships homeported here. These include NOAA's Research Vessels Henry B. Bigelow and Okeanos Explorer; the three buoy tenders, USCGC Oak, USCGC Ida Lewis, and USCGC Sycamore; and the Medium Endurance Cutter's Campbell and Tahoma. The NOAA and USCG missions that Naval Station Newport supports requires near-daily comings and goings. (cont.)



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Newport County Council Navy League Events

28 November: The President's Annual Holiday Reception (cont.)

A 2023 Year in Review is available but to conserve space for the Preview of 2024 I have eliminated it. If you would like a copy, please contact me at ahhuot@cox.net.

2024 As we look ahead there will be a lot going on:

- The demolition of Hooper Hall, a former Naval War College building that is no longer safe
- Restoration work on Mahan Hall wraps up then work on Conolly Hall begins while finding spaces for everyone to work.
- Projects to open a spray park at Carr Point, work on the Ball Fields there, and expand the kitchen at Leisure Bay, our coffee shop.
- We are planning to host the Save the Bay Swim again next year. We are offering Salute to Summer again. There are other surprises and events in planning that I hope to announce soon.
- Our biggest news involves the expansion of missions for our Coast Guard and NOAA partners.

Coast Guard: We recently kicked off the formal design work and impact studies for the US Coast Guard's mission expansion. In 2027 we plan on demolishing Pier 1, building a new support building and a 4 berth pier. That new pier will host at least two (possibly four) of the Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Cutters, starting in late 2029 or early 2030. We have a number of studies ongoing that is looking at the impact of those Coast Guardsmen on traffic, gate loading, medical services, housing, and other areas. Naval Station Newport needs to be, and will be, ready to host those ships when they arrive.

NOAA: We will begin breaking ground on a construction project for a new NOAA pier and support building this year. This pier will host NOAA research vessels. The building will support NOAA's Office of Marine and Aviation Operations, which is responsible for the operations of all NOAA's research ships and aircraft.

The expansion of the NOAA and USCG missions at the waterfront is exciting, but requires a lot of coordination and efforts to make sure it is done in an environmentally responsible, cost-effective, and timely manner. The Newport team is up to the challenge. Click link below for in depth coverage by Newport Daily News on the NOAA center.

<https://www.newportri.com/story/news/local/2023/12/07/71830029007/>





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Newport County Council Navy League Events

28 November: The President's Annual Holiday Reception (cont.)





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Member News

22 October: Honor Flight Vetrans

(PHOTO RIGHT) Stephen Doherty Sr. (pictured left), of Middletown, and MSCS Anthony A. Cercena, USN (Ret), of Newport, and a Navy League of the US National Director Emeritus, were among 50 Rhode Island veterans on the Honor Flight from TF Green Airport to Washington D.C. to visit the war memorials dedicated to their service in their respective wars.



11 November: AMB. Middendorf Keel Plate Unveiling Ceremony

Lifetime Navy League Member Amb. J. William Middendorf, a Little Compton resident (pictured below in cap) has an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, DDG-138, named in honor of him, the USS J. William Middendorf. The former U.S. Secretary of the Navy and an U. S. Ambassador to the European Union during 1985–1987, was honored at a keel plate unveiling ceremony at the Naval War College. Military dignitaries included Ms. Jill Boward, Executive Director, Combatants, Program Executive Office Ships at the Department of the Navy and U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro and RADM Garvin, President of the Naval War College. Navy League guests are pictured on the left and included author Ken Dooley, a Lincoln, RI resident. Ken Dooley has co-authored two books with Middendorf and is a close personal friend of his.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said that the “Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, built around the Aegis Combat System, are the backbone of the Navy’s surface fleet. DDG-138 is the 88th ship of its class and is a fitting tribute to Middendorf, who championed the Aegis system while he was secretary of the Navy in the mid-1970s”.

According to Frank Lennon of the Providence Journal, “During Middendorf’s tenure (1974-1977) he increased the Navy budget by more than 60% while the Army and Air Force budgets remained relatively flat.”

Editorial Note – This is a constant Navy League item on the Congressional legislative agenda.

For more on this amazing “Renaissance Man” read “A Fitting Tribute” by Frank Lennon

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Sea Services Changes of Command, Graduations, and Awards

15 November: Naval War College Graduation



The U.S. Naval War College (NWC) celebrated its in-residence fall graduation onboard Naval Station Newport. Graduates included six students from the College of Naval Warfare's (CNW) senior-level leadership program and 31 from the College of Naval Command and Staff's (CNCS) intermediate-level leadership program.



30 November: International Surface Warfare Officers School Graduation



At the Graduation, Distinguished Guest, Former Commander of the Colombian Navy ADM Guillermo Enrique Barrera-Hurtado (ret) spoke eloquently of the necessity for international intelligent synchronicity among individual active duty members in the Navies of the world in this cyber age at the International DIVO Class 23 ISWOS held at the Mullen Auditorium. Lt Ndeye Fatou Traore of Senegal received Top Honors in the Class of 13 students from a total of eight countries.



7 December: SWOS Class 274 Graduation



Held in the Mullen Auditorium at SWOSC, Commanding Officer CAPT Brian T. Mutty presiding, the Distinguished Guest was CAPT Richard S. Callas, USN Ret. Executive Director SWSC who commended the students on their achievements while at SWOS expressing confidence in their readiness to make a difference in the coming challenges they'll be facing. Five graduates who had truly distinguished themselves received awards. The Navy League Award was presented to LT. Margaret Willetts by Tom Feeney, NCCNLUS Past President for academic excellence.



20 December: USCGC Oak SOQ Award



U.S. Coast Guard Cutter OAK - WLB 211 Sailor of the Quarter Award was presented to EM2 Lindsey by NLUS member Pat Burke on board attended by the crew and command and several NCCNLUS members who also attended the presentation which included a cash award.





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Sea Cadets

Sea Cadets who assisted at the Military Appreciation Night and the Color Guard, THANK YOU!!



To follow Sea Cadet activities this Quarter, go to their Facebook sites.

www.facebook.com/NCBCSeaCadets/
www.facebook.com/FalconDivision/

...And Breaking News, Just a Little Before Christmas, a Loud Clatter was Heard on the Roof of the Hall.....



**The International Programs Naval Command and Staff College
Holiday Party**

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU!!



SeaAirSpace

April 8-10, 2024
Sea-Air-Space 2024
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Newport Navy League
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