

"The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

August to December, 2014 Edition

Volume 38, No. 3



NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES



President's Message

Jim Harbuck

Fall is in the air and we have had a lot of activities in the past few months. I hope you all have had a chance to participate and enjoy the opportunity to associate with our outstanding sea service personnel.

Here's a sampling of what was recently available:

In June we hosted a cookout with the U.S. Coast Guard personnel at Station Vallejo. What a great group of dedicated Coasties.

In August, we celebrated the 224th Birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. We were fortunate to have Vice Admiral Charles Ray – Commander of the Pacific Area as our guest speaker.

October has been and continues to be a busy month with: Fleet Week and the Blue Angels; Commissioning of the U.S.S. America and the dinner event celebrating the birthdays of the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

Comment: The recent commissioning of the U.S.S. America (1st of a new class of Amphibious Assault vessels) reminds me that we, in the Navy League, are an important educational force advocating a strong sea service. One of our missions is to "inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services". You can and do make a difference when you contact your specific Congress representative and stress the need for a strong Navy and Marine Corps.

Still to come: The Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner event in early December and the Christmas Brunch in mid-December. Those of you who have come to the last couple of dinners noticed that we have now included a 'silent auction' to the event. We feel this is a win-win for our Council finances and provides you the opportunity to bid on some valuable items. We plan to continue these silent auctions at several dinners in 2015.

In closing I want to thank all our members for their generous support. The Board of Directors and I solicit your comments, thoughts and ideas on how our Council programs can be enhanced and enriched for the benefit of all Council members and our adopted units. I look forward to seeing you at the December events.

Jim

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NEWS AND NOTES FROM NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Combined Federal Campaign

The Navy League kicks off its nationwide Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on Sept. 1. Federal civilian, postal and military personnel are eligible to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions until Dec. 15. CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity drive, with almost 200 campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions of dollars each year.

There is an opportunity for Regions and Councils to be involved and share in CFC contributions. Please contact your Region President, or Stacy McFarland at Navy League Headquarters at smcfarland@navyleague.org

Remember that we are the "Trusted Partner of the Sea Services." I hope you will engage with me in accomplishing our mission.

James H. Offutt, National President
Navy League of the United States

U.S. COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY DINNER



Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray
Commander, Coast Guard
Defense Force West.

He serves as operational
commander for all U.S. Coast
Guard missions within half of
the world that ranges from the
Rocky Mountains to the wa-
ters off the East Coast of Afri-
ca.

His comments included inter-
esting activities of the coast
guard.

Speaker, Vice Admiral Charles W. Ray.



Left to Right: SK2 Vance Hughes, LCDR Derek Smith, CAPT Gregory Stump, VADM Charles Ray, Roxy Alexander, CDR Stacey Mersel, CDR Jeff Hall, BM_ Sam Alexander.

VQ-3 DET TRAVIS

We have been very busy out here to say the least. One of our chiefs recently promoted to Senior Chief, and one of our First Class Petty Officers was selected to Chief. The Aircrews have been flowing in and out of our facility as normal and we received a visit from our Commodore Captain Heather Cole where she addressed the Det and reminded them of how well they were doing and to keep up the great work? I am leaving next week to move my Family to our retirement house in Washington State.

V/R AMCS Richard Weatherly

THE STORY OF WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

When Morrill Worchester was 12 years old as a paper boy for the Bangor Daily News, he won a trip to Washington, DC, that included a visit to the Arlington National Cemetery. Since 1992 he has been the owner to the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. He never forgot his trip to Arlington and since then honors our Veterans resting at Arlington every year. As the years have passed, many organizations volunteer their assistance transporting these Holiday Wreaths to Virginia. American Legion and VFW Posts gather to place hand tied red bows on each wreath which includes the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

After photos of the wreaths appeared on Attention caused thought to help at Arlington Cemetery at their own Nary's.



gravestones with the the internet, a National sands of people offering and duplicate this pro- tional & State Ceme-

In 2007, Wreaths formed as a non profit ues to support groups

Their mission: REMEMBER, HONOR, TEACH. In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath laying ceremonies in every state. Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on Veterans graves, with over 60,000 volunteers participating. December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the U.S. Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day."

Across America was organization and contin- across the country.

Anyone wishing to purchasing a wreath to be donated for as little at \$15.00 each, contact the following for the two military cemeteries in our area. Colma/San Bruno: Josephine Romine at romineav1@prodigy.net; Dixon CA: Pat Everette at 925-676-2417

SAN FRANCISCO AIR STATION CHANGE OF COMMAND



Team Members—USCG Air Station SF.



The Presentation.



Change of Command Ceremony. Left to Right: Cdr William Sasser, RAdm Joseph Servidio, Cdr Michael Campbell.



Change of Command Ceremony. Left to Right: USN Chaplain-Lt Cdr David Stround, Incoming CO-Cdr Michael Campbell, CO District 11-RAdm Joseph Servidio, Outgoing CO-Cdr William Sasser.

USS AMERICA COMMISSIONING CEREMONY

OCTOBER 11, 2014

This 45,000 ton vessel, with length of 844 feet, is an aviation-centric amphibious assault ship designed to operate the US Marine Corps next generation of aircraft, the MV-22 Osprey and F-35B Joint Strike Fighter, and to support the Marines across the full spectrum of military operations. It's motto, "Bello Vel Pace Paratus," translates as "Prepared in War or in Peace." The US Navy tasked the Navy League (Pacific Central Region) to sponsor this commissioning.

It's crew of 65 officers and 994 enlisted personnel, will be home ported in San Diego, CA.



RADM Tom Brown III, Chairman and Jeanne Sharkey, Navy Leagues Primary Fundraiser for this event.



USCG Birthday.



Marine veteran and former Secretary of State George Schultz and Captain Robert Hall, CO Ship's captain.



San Francisco Mayor, Edwin M. Lee.



Picture is of podium with dignitaries for ceremony.



USS Americas commissioning housed over 10,000 attendees.

FLEET WEEK ABOARD THE GEORGE COBB (WLM 564)

October 12, 2014

Sixty-five Contra Costa Council members and guests spent a day on the bay during Fleet Week watching the activities, the aerobatics and the Navy's Blue Angels. They were guests of the USCGC George Cobb, a buoy tender from Southern California. The one-day trips were scheduled by Trevor and Wren Hall who have coordinated this annual event for many years.

For a number of years we have been invited to ride on the San Francisco Bay aboard USCG Aspen, our Council's adopted unit docked at Yerba Buena Island. This year the Aspen was scheduled to be unavailable due to a scheduled yard maintenance period. The George Cobb was assigned for this year.

The Aspen and Cobb anchor in the middle of SF Bay and become the focal point for the Blue Angels as they perform their exciting maneuvers. Therefore, the stationary position. Other Coast Guard vessels perform patrols to keep civilian craft outside the area reserved during the Blue Angels' flights as a safety precaution.

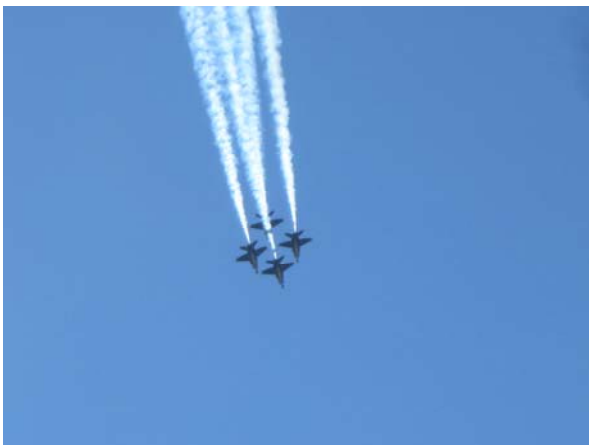
Riders of the Cobb reported having a great day 'at sea' with a terrific BBQ lunch aboard. Our Council was given 30 'slots' per day (Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday) to enjoy the excitement of all the activities. Reports back to Wren were glowing as to the weather, the ship's crew, the BBQ and the Blue Angels.



People boarding the George COBB buoy tender.



Derek Haley, BMP . Our guy on the George COBB buoy tender.



Blue Angels.



U.S. Coast Guard boat patrolling the waters.

USN/USMC Birthday Dinner

October 23

Contra Costa Council heard a 'pinch hitter' with great experience at its USN/USMC birthday dinner Thursday, October 23 at Zio Fraedo's in Pleasant Hill. Colonel Allan Cruz, USMC (Ret) was called to duty on 24 hours notice when LTCOL Christopher Curtin, Commanding Officer of our Concord Marines, was unable to attend.

Colonel Cruz' career began with enlistment in 1966 during the Vietnam war. He served 21 months in Vietnam with the Third Marine Division, and remained in the reserve following his end of enlistment. He was a Staff Sergeant In 1971 and received a direct commission in 1975.

The Colonel was activated during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and again for Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He then served at Camp Pendleton until his retirement in 2005.

His overseas assignments included Japan, Norway, Kuwait and Iraq. He has completed several NATO and US military senior officer courses.

Since retirement he has had several executive positions in nuclear engineering and information services companies.

Colonel Cruz spoke to the dinner meeting on a range of topics including the importance of persons focusing on the future, and an update on the need for strength, preparedness and readiness in our armed forces. The uncertainties of today's world require the United States to be the best military organization in the world. He mentioned the commissioning of USS America October 11 in San Francisco as important for the future of the Navy and Marine Corps.

Our speaker lives in Walnut Creek with his wife, Susan, who accompanied him at dinner.



Left to Right: ET1 & Mrs. William Auer, Marge Burns, Pam Speka, LCDR & Mrs. Paul Wewers, Barney Meade.



President Jim Harbuck, and our speaker, Col. Allan Cruze.



Head Table: Bill Sharkey, Ann Gates, Colonel Cruz, Jim Harbuck Susan Cruz, Jeanne Sharkey, Pete Gates , Barbara Harbuck.

Contra Costa Council of the
 Navy League of the U.S.
 4551 Alhambra Way
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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today!

I am not a U.S. Citizen *I am a U.S. Citizen*

New Member Renewal

Name(s) (Mr., Mrs., Dr. etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name

Name of Spouse: (Mr., Mrs., etc.) First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name

Address: Number, Street Name, (Apt., Ste., P.O. Box) Date of birth

City State Zip code (+4)

Home Phone Business Phone E-Mail

Sponsor's Last Name Sponsor's Membership # New Member in Council

MAIL APPLICATION TO: Marge Burns
1422 Cortez Ct., Walnut Creek 94598

Type of Membership (Please Check One):

- Individual One Year Member\$65.00
- Joint Husband/Wife One Year \$117.00
- Individual Two Year Member\$117.00
- Individual three Year Member.....\$175.00
- Individual Life Membership.....\$500.00
- Joint Husband/Wife Life Membership....\$750.00
- Active Duty Military Spouse.....\$30.00
- Associate One Year (non US citizen).....\$50.00

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