



# COMPASS POINTS

Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council of the Navy League US

*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services ~ U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Flag Merchant Marine*

VOL. 14

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2016

ISSUE 1

## NATIONAL CALLS FOR "ACTION" ~ WRITE CONGRESS!

### JOIN US FEBRUARY 18th FOR OUR DINNER SOCIAL & 2016 ELECTIONS

#### Message from the President



Ron Galante

Dear Navy League Members & Supporters:

December's Chattanooga Navy League dinner was enjoyed by all who attended with games and prizes for all being the highlight of the dinner.

Our board members are busy working on scheduling 2016 events and developing programs to boost membership.

Dan Saieed, our program Chair, has scheduled Tom Petrilak as our guest speaker for our February 18<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Tom, who is a retired Navy Captain, is the Chief Operations Officer for Physician Services and Director of Veterans Affairs for the Erlanger Health System. He will discuss the Erlanger Veterans Affairs initiative, which is focused on reducing barriers to care for veterans in the Chattanooga area. Tom's Bio is on page 2

of this edition of *Compass Points*.

Jack Spittler, Gary Meyer, and Mickey McCamish are currently developing plans to re-contact lapsed members to encourage them to renew their Navy League membership.

The crew of the USS Tennessee, SSBN 734, has once again agreed to host a visit to Kings Bay, Georgia and provide a guided tour of the boat among other activities. I have been working with the Gold Crew to set up our visit. The details of the visit are still in the planning phase and therefore subject to change, but right now we plan to leave Chattanooga at 7:30 AM on Friday June 17, 2016 on a chartered bus and arrive at Kings Bay, Georgia at

approximately 4:00 PM. After checking into a motel, we will have dinner at a local restaurant, probably with representatives from the Gold Crew. The next morning, Saturday, June 18, we will depart the motel for the submarine base for a guided tour of the boat. Afterwards, we will have lunch and likely engage in other activities currently being planned. We will depart in the late afternoon and arrive back in Chattanooga late that evening. I will have more information to share with you at the February dinner meeting.

Also, at our February dinner meeting, we will be electing officers and directors for 2016. All of the nominees were officers and directors in 2015, except Stacy Kehoe and Willard Rice, who responded to the request made at the December dinner meeting for our members to become more involved. You will find the slate of nominees for officers and directors [on page 2](#) of this newsletter.

Please continue to ask others to join the Navy League, so they can participate in events like the tour of the USS Tennessee. Bring them to the



*The crew of the USS Tennessee, SSBN 734, has agreed to host a visit to Kings Bay, GA and provide a guided tour of the boat to our Council members, among other activities.*

dinner meeting, so they can learn first hand what the Chattanooga Navy League has to offer. I am looking forward to seeing you at the February dinner meeting.



Tom Petrilak graduated magna cum laude from Park University, Parkville, Missouri with a Bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management and earned a Master of Healthcare Administration degree from Baylor University in 2002. He is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives.

He received a direct commission in 1985 after serving as a Navy Hospital Corpsman with the Marines for 6 ½ years. He comes to Chattanooga after a distinguished 36-year Navy career where he served in numerous positions as a health-care administrator including service on the aircraft carrier USS CARL VINSON, at the Navy Fleet Hospital in Zagreb, Croatia, and on deployment in Afghanistan. Tom retired from the Navy as a Captain in October 2015.

In November 2015 Tom joined the Erlanger Health System as the Chief Operating Officer for Physician Services where he is responsible for the operations of 46 medical practices, employing more than 200 physicians and over 730 support staff. He also serves as the Director for Veteran Affairs for the Erlanger Health System with a goal of reducing barriers to care for veterans in the Chattanooga area.

Tom is a Past President of the Mid-South Chapter of Healthcare Executives and has served on the University of Memphis, MHA Program Advisory Board. Tom is happily married to the former Dottie Baagoe of Jacksonville, FL. He and Dottie are active members of Bridge Christian Church in Chattanooga and are extremely proud of their three sons: LTjg Thomas A. Petrilak, USN; Midshipman 1/C Gregory F. Petrilak (a Senior at Duke University); and Midshipman 3/C Christopher J. Petrilak (a Sophomore at Florida State University).



### Nominees for 2016 Officers and Directors

The following members have been nominated as officers and directors for 2016. We will elect them during our February Council Dinner Meeting. You will have the opportunity to make nominations from the floor, but if you do nominate someone from the floor, you should first gain their permission:

<b>President</b>	<b>Ron Galante</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Dan Saieed</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Larson Mick</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Mark Parks</b>
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	<b>Jim Fields</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Stacy Kehoe</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Mickey McCamish</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Gary Meyer</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>Alden Perry</b>



*(L to R): National Directors Dan Saieed and Billy Hewitt of the Chattanooga Navy League pose with U. S. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann, Tennessee's 3rd Congressional District Rep. He is a member of the Chattanooga Navy League and an avid supporter of the sea services.*

*Dan and Billy were in Washington to attend the National Directors Meeting. For one day, they and other National Directors briefed Congressional Reps. on the state of the sea services and the impact of sequestration on them. The trip included another two days to discuss national-level Navy League issues. All Directors attended at their own expense.*





John Lehman, Secretary of Navy in Reagan's administration, recently had a very informative editorial in *The Wall Street Journal* about our Navy through "Bureaucratic Bloat" that deserves national distribution.

With 280 ships, Lehman declares, we are far too small to protect our worldwide interests. Yet on Dec. 14 2015, Secretary of Defense Carter ordered Navy ships be cut even further.

This unbelievable action repeats the error of the 1970s - sending sailors and too few ships on longer deployments of eight to ten months instead of six, thus worsening the results of ships and planes that are breaking down for lack of care. Recently the Persian Gulf was left with no United States carriers for over two months. Conversely, the civilian staff was hugely expanded.

It now takes an average of 22-1/2 years from the start of a weapons program to conclusion instead of the four years it took to deploy the Minutemen ICBM and Polaris Submarine Missile System years earlier. Conversely China and Russian procurement averages 7 years. Our new cost plus contracts provide every incentive for spending to grow.

One of our many Navy League missions is to spread the word! Three other Wall Street editorials advise that China is building its first carrier, adding to a fleet that already includes a Russian-made carrier. While China and Russia expand, America deliberately reduces, cutting one trillion in a sequestration deal that reduces our Navy down to 272 ships, which is less than one half the size of the Navy at the close of Reagan's administration and down by 13 ships since 2009.

What the United States can't afford is to retreat in the obvious face of increased danger! **What can you do? Write Congress! If writing is not your forte, the National Navy League makes writing your elected officials on hot-button topics very easy.** Go to the Navy League website (<http://navyleague.org>); in the top right corner, move your cursor to "Legislative Affairs"; click on "Write Congress"; click on "Take Action"; and follow the instructions. After typing in your name, mailing address, and email address, an email message will pop up addressed to all your elected officials from the President down to your State Representatives. The process will take you about ten minutes, and probably less than five minutes if you are under 50! Do this today. The men and women serving in our sea services and protecting our freedom deserve no less!

### National Navy League Addressing Member Registration Issues

Several members who registered with the Navy League over the past several months, either via email or snail mail, have expressed concern they have not received their membership cards and are not receiving *Seapower* Magazine or other correspondence from National Headquarters. Dan Saieed and Billy Hewitt, two of our Council members who are also Navy League National Directors, recently returned from a National Directors' Meeting. They reported this issue was one of the topics of discussion. Over the years National has purchased several computer programs to enhance day-to-day operations to include membership registration and tracking. These programs only provided band-aid fixes. The end result is National is operating with several computer programs which are not fully compatible with each other, creating problems to include the registration and tracking of members. Rest assured, National is fully aware of the frustration this problem is creating amongst its members who registered and paid their dues several months ago but who are still not reflected as members. Dan and Billy reported National intends to fix the problem by the end of March 2016. We ask for your patience while National is addressing the problem. Our Council considers anyone who has registered and paid dues to be an active Navy League member who is welcome to attend all Council functions. If you are not receiving *Seapower* Magazine, you may access the digital version on the Navy League website by clicking on <http://navyleague.org/> or you may access the magazine directly by clicking on <http://www.seapower-digital.com/seapower/>.



**Previous Trivia Question:** How many females have had the honor to serve as Tomb Guard for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier?

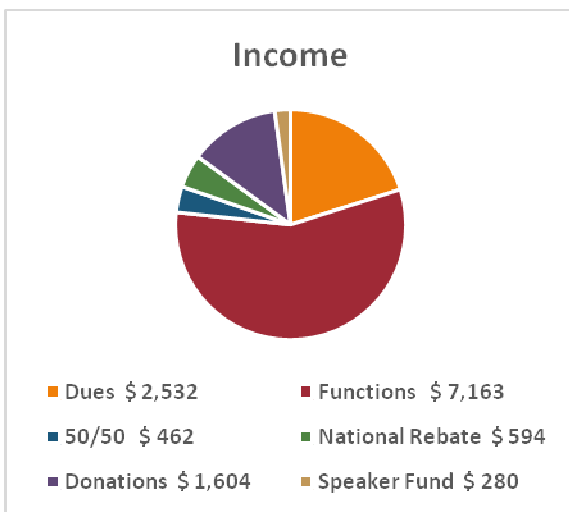
**Answer:** In 1996, SGT Heather Johnson became the first female to earn the Tomb Guard Identification Badge. Since then, there have been two additional female Sentinels awarded the Tomb Guard Identification Badge.

# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

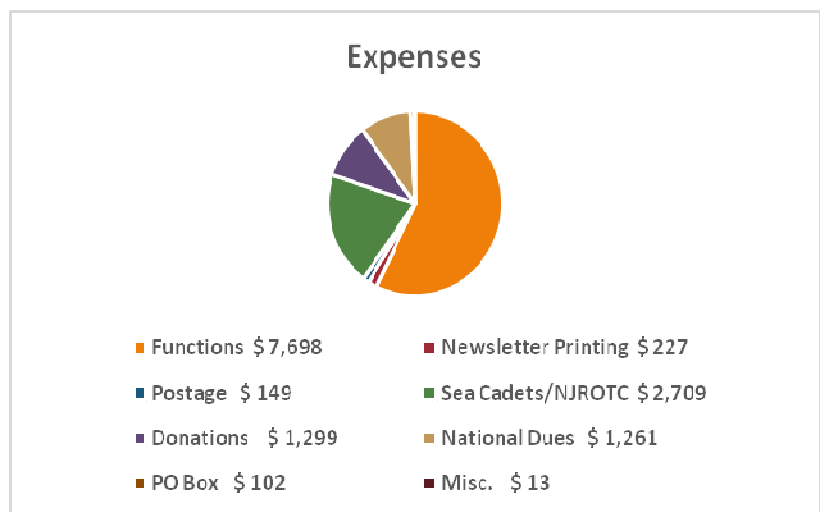
## NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES, GREATER CHATTANOOGA AREA COUNCIL

The Navy League has three missions: to enhance the morale of active-duty personnel and their families; inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and support youth through programs such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines that expose young people to the values of our sea services.

### Financial Highlights



Total Income: **\$ 12,635**



Total Expenses: **\$ 13,458**

### 2015 Social Gatherings

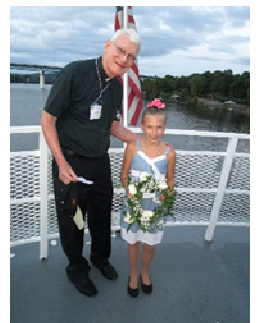


Navy Operational Support Center; changing perception of sacrifice; We Party at the Chattanooga Choo-Choo.

The Council held six social events during the year which brought Council members together: RADM Kent Davis talked about our Navy's mission around the world; Joe Wiegand thrilled us with his portrayal of President Teddy Roosevelt; The Brewhaus served up some authentic German cuisine at our the perfect sailor who



Belle Riverboat hosted us and provided venue to memorialize the marines and were killed in the 16 July shooting at the Daniel D. Barks, Esquire, spoke of the wrapped up the year with our Christmas



*(Continued ~ page 5)*

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# 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

## NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES, GREATER CHATTANOOGA AREA COUNCIL

### Sea Cadet/NJROTC Support

Support for Sea Cadet / NJROTC Units continues with monetary contributions totaling \$2,709. The Chattanooga Navy League also supports our Sea Cadet and NJROTC leaders by paying for their Navy League membership.

### Support of Active Duty Military

Navy League members helped to organize and participated in the Armed Forces Day Parade in May. The parade, held every year in Chattanooga, shows our community's support for the active duty military.



### Youth Awards



The Greater Chattanooga Council is very involved with our youth and encourages them to excel by presenting awards to the leadership and top achievers. Five local cadets were awarded the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal during our April Council Dinner Meeting. Joe Wiegand, nationally acclaimed for his rendition of Teddy Roosevelt, presented the awards.

### Compass Points Newsletter

Compass Points is the Council's newsletter to our membership. It is published bi-monthly and is posted on the Council's Navy League website ( [www.chattanooganavyleague.org](http://www.chattanooganavyleague.org) ) and distributed via email and postal mail to members who do not have email. Compass Points is a convenient link to our members providing Navy League news, upcoming events, interesting stories about Council members and photos that share the story of recent social events.

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## HOLIDAY SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



1. (L to R): Nancy Patterson with Dan and Joan Williams.
2. (L to R): Willard and Linda Rice with Laurel Niemeyer.
3. (L to R): Mitch and Penny Chastain.
4. (L to R): Ann and John Woody , Ed Lusk, and George Phillips.



# HALLS DECKED WITH HOLLY



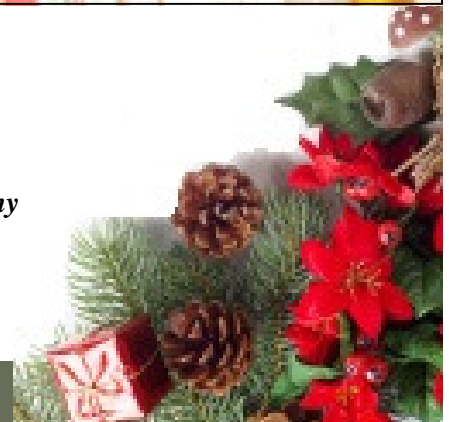
1. (L to R): *Barbara Shuptrine, Carolene Perry, Mary Winfrey, Alden Perry, and Jack Spittler.*
2. (L to R): *Bill and Anne Leonard, Jennifer Goodrich, and Earl Hereford.*
3. (L to R): *George Phillips, Vince Patterson, and Carolene Perry.*



## FUN, GAMES, PRIZES & SURPRISES



1. (L to R): Sandy and Kitty McMillan with David Smith.
2. (L to R): Kathy Todd, Frank Kirbus, Bob Todd, and Gary Meyer.
3. (L to R): Dan Saieed, Mickey McCamish, and John Niemeyer with Jenny Richards (seated).





# FELLOWSHIP & FOND MEMORIES



1. (L to R): *Patty and Mark Parks.*
2. (L to R): *Angie and Patrick Abercrombie.*
3. (L to R): *Larson Mick with Sue and Ron Galante.*



**GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
AREA/JOHN J. SPITTLER  
COUNCIL**  
P. O. Box 151  
Signal Mountain, TN 37377



• OUR ADOPTED COMMAND AND UNITS •

**STAY CONNECTED**

[chattanooganavyleague.org](http://chattanooganavyleague.org)

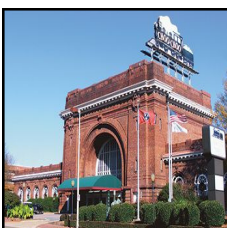
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• MACKIE AWARD WINNER •

*Compass Points* is the bimonthly publication of the Navy League of the United States Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council.

*Editor • Sandy McMillan  
Publisher • Mary B. Dall  
Photographer • Patty Parks*



**Dinner Social**  
**Thursday, February 18, 2016**  
*Chattanooga Choo-Choo Historic Hotel  
Roosevelt Room  
1400 Market Street  
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402*

- 6:00 PM Social Time (Cash Bar in adjacent lounge)
- 6:30 PM Welcome (Members & Guests please take seats)
- 6:35 PM Invocation, Colors, Pledge of Allegiance
- 6:45 PM Buffet Dinner
- 7:30 PM Guest Speaker ~Tom Petrilak
- 8:15 PM Election of Officers and Directors
- 8:30 PM 50/50 Drawing and Announcements
- 8:45 PM Retire the Colors and Adjourn

**DINNER RESERVATION FORM**

Please complete and return the dinner reservation form, at right, for the February 18th Dinner Social of the Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council.

Reservations may be **phoned** in to Mark Parks: 423-326-0839, **no later than Noon, Thursday, February 18th.** Mark may also be reached at [mparks@epbfi.com](mailto:mparks@epbfi.com).

**Cancellations should reach us NO LATER THAN NOON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016.**

**FEBRUARY 18, 2016**  
**DINNER RESERVATION FORM**  
*Chattanooga Choo-Choo Historic Hotel  
Roosevelt Room  
Chattanooga, TN 37402*

**Buffet featuring 2 Entrée selections, sides, rolls, dessert, tea & coffee:**

**NLUS Members:** \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00  
**Non-Member Guests:** \_\_\_\_ x \$40.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ .00

Please **PRINT** the names of all **guests** and **members**:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations should reach us NO LATER THAN NOON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016.**

**Mail reservations and your check, made payable to Chattanooga Navy League, to:**

**Mark Parks**  
**6920 Sawtooth Drive**  
**Ooltewah, TN 37363-6894**

*NOTE: Pay-at-the-door without Advance Reservations is \$45.00 per person. Regrettably, **no shows will be charged the full amount for dinner.***