

# Compass Points

VOL. 17

JUNE-JULY 2019

ISSUE 3

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

**Initial Directors**

John J. Spittler, Ronald M. Etychison, William O. Leonard, Robert C. Crates, Charles Levine, H.T Milburn, John A. Lynch, Jr, Mark D. Rouse

**2019 Officers & Directors**

Stacy Kehoe  
President

Mickey McCamish  
Director & Immediate Past President

Larson Mick  
Vice President

Shane Pilcher  
Treasurer

David Smith  
Secretary

Jim Fields  
JAG

Ron Galante  
Director

Willard Rice  
Director & Editor of *Compass Points*

Billy Hewitt  
Director - Legislative Affairs

Joseph Holloway  
Director - Membership & Retention

Alden Perry  
Director - Military Affairs

Dan Saieed  
Director - Programs

Bill Conner  
Director -Youth Programs

Bruce Weeks  
Director - Fundraising

Keith McLeod  
Chaplain



## President's Message

Stacy Kehoe, President

Dear Navy Leaguers

The joint meeting with MOAA in April at the Walden Club awarding our next generation of leaders was a great time by all who attended. Mickey and I also had the pleasure of attending Howard High School's Military Award program and we met Bill Gates!!! That was a moment in time for us! Just when that week ended, we revamped our energies into RiverBend week! Willard did a spectacular job in organizing everything from signing contracts, counting inventory, organizing the mandatory training, and securing our volunteers.

All the while, Ron Galante was putting on the finishing touches for our USS TN SSBN 734 Submarine visit to King's Bay, GA.

*Continued ~ page 8*



NL Board Meeting .....	Jul 10
Social at Scotties.....	Jul 18
Family Bowling Adventure .....	Aug 4
LST 325 visit .....	Aug 22-26
August Dinner Meeting .....	Aug 27
Navy Ball .....	Oct 5

## Social Get-Together at Scotties-on-the-River Tuesday, July 18

Our Navy League Council is having an informal get-together for all members on the outdoor patio at **Scotties-on-the-River** which is at 491 Riverfront Parkway in downtown Chattanooga **on July 18th**. Join your fellow Navy Leaguers for an evening of good cheer. An out-of-town guest, CDR Anthony Almon, a career Navy

*Continued ~ page 3*

## August 27<sup>th</sup> Member Dinner

Mark your August calendar on Tuesday the 27<sup>th</sup> for a Navy League Member Dinner at the Walden Club. The highlight of the dinner will be an address by honored guest, Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. What a great opportunity to connect with our Washington representative. Joining us for this dinner will be members of MOAA

*Continued ~ page 3*

### IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message.....	1
Social at Scotties.....	1
August Dinner Meeting .....	1
USS Tennessee brief report.....	2
USS LST 325 Visit .....	2
CDR Almon background .....	3
Bowling Navy Ball Raiser .....	3
April Dinner Report.....	4
Big Surprise at Howard.....	4
Editorial: The Parks.....	5
Riverbend Navy Ball Raiser .....	6
Chatt Navy League Wins Big.....	8
Aug 27Dinner Reservation Form .....	10
SPECIAL SECTION	
USS TN trip—The FULL report.....	S1-S6



## Trip to USS Tennessee- a Big Success 34 Navy Leaguers and friends tour the Nuke

The past several months have been filled with Navy League events: Awards for youths, fund raising at Riverbend and none more appropriate than our trip to visit the USS Tennessee SSBN 734.

Landlocked Tennesseans don't get to see the real Navy very often .. much less go aboard an active duty ship. Well, thank Ron Galante for organizing our 3rd trip to Kings Bay to go aboard the fleet ballistic missile sub.

Apparently, he forgets what it takes to do this each time and he enthusiastically says "let's go again".. and, before you know it, there is a bus filled with snacks and submarine movies headed diagonally across the largest state east of Texas. It is possible that, as a submariner, he thinks the rest of the Navy exists just so that the submarine force can do its more important job.

A quick survey of some of the participants elicited these comments:

Stacy Kehoe ".. found new respect for those who serve aboard submarines... trying to imagine living in such tight quarters for 3 or 4 months at a time, under water... thankfully, we have the finest men and women serving..."

Larson Mick "... impressed with the level of complexity of all the systems that make fresh water, clean air, etc. .. the back-up power system is a simple 1938 diesel generator!... Boat not new but maintained so well that they expect to get another 10 - 20 years out of her."

David Smith "...would encourage all Navy League members to tour the USS Tennessee... (entire) Smith family enjoyed meeting and talking with the USS Tennessee Blue and Gold crew members".

**READ ABOUT IT ALL on SPECIAL SECTION PAGES S1—S6**



*USS Tennessee SSBN 734 casting off*

**Since this page is about things that float. . . . .**

### Coming to Chattanooga !

A very exciting event is going to unveil on August 22nd. The USS LST 325 (retired) is going to dock in Chattanooga until the 26th.. With visiting hours every day, this will be your chance to go aboard an historic Navy ship right here in Chattanooga. For those Navy Leaguers who identify with the surface Navy, this is as good as it gets.

The USS LST 325 is the last fully operational WWII LST and continues to sail the nation's inland rivers to share the history of these incredible vessels and those who built them and served on them. It will be docked at Ross's Landing. Without the LST, it's doubtful that the landings at Normandy or the island hopping campaign across the Pacific would have met success. LST 325 was there at the Sicily, Salerno and Omaha Beach invasions.

More details about visitation will be divulged in the weeks ahead. If anyone has interest in or ideas on how we might make this visit special, please contact Willard Rice : [Wkrice@aol.com](mailto:Wkrice@aol.com) or cell phone 603 557 7224



**USS LST 325—veteran of WWII**

**Scotties.....***Continued from page 1*

and now NJROTC instructor at Port St Joe High, FL is planning to visit with us and provide an update about NJROTC and Sea Cadet programs. No reservation needed. Everyone just order what you like --Dutch Treat. Starts at 6 pm.

**CDR Anthony Almon****Guest at the Scotties-on-the-River social, July 18**

After graduating from high school in Macon, GA. Anthony Almon joined the Navy. Upon completion of Basic Training, he went on to Basic Electricity and Electronics school, Electronics Technician "A" School and Nuclear Power Training. Later, he attended Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL (BUDS) training graduating in May 1980.

First SEAL assignment was at SEAL Team Two in Little Creek from 1980 – 1985. Then he reported to Naval Special Warfare Center in Coronado as a BUDS instructor. During that tour that he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at National University, San Diego.

After retiring from active duty in 1987, he worked for 10 years at the Duke Hospital Hyperbaric Center in Durham, NC. Joining the Naval Reserve in 1991, he was assigned to Naval Reserve SEAL Team Four in Little Creek, VA and later earned his commission as an Ensign in January 1993.

Volunteering for recall as an Officer Recruiter for the Canvasser Recruiter Program in 1997, he served in multiple recruiting assignments, including as a Navy Recruiting District commanding officer and earned a Master of Science degree in Information Systems at University of NC.

In April, 2006, LCDR Almon was assigned to Navy Recruiting Command as Program Manager for Naval Special Warfare/Naval Special Operations recruiting. During this tour, he volunteered for an Individual Augmentation and deployed to the International Security and Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan.

After retiring in May 2011, CDR Almon worked as a contractor at Special Operations Command, the National Director of Sales for Battlefrog, and career placement of veterans and volunteered with the Naval Sea Cadets. In August 2016, he became Senior Naval Science Instructor at Port St Joe NJROTC.

**August Meeting.....***Continued from page 1*

- sort of a return invitation since they scheduled the April Awards meeting that we attended. Get your **reservations in to our new Treasurer, Shane Pilcher**—details on the **Reservation page — PAGE 10** of this issue.

**Family Bowling Event Planned****Reserve Aug 4th—for a family fun day**

Plans are in motion for a family bowling outing on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm-4 pm at SpareTime Bowling in Hixon. This is in lead-up to the Navy Ball which is set for Oct 5<sup>th</sup>. To make the Ball the best we can put on, we are engaging in various fund-raising activities... such as the beverage sales at Riverbend and this Bowling Event will generate some funds for the Ball. But most of all, it will be a fun afternoon for Navy Leaguers, NOSC staff, Reservists, families, children and friends

Some of the detail: Bowling shoes provided, electronic scoring, children gutter guard railings easily activated at each alley held at a modern facility with 32 bowling lanes, separate game room, separate bar & grill, vending machines, plenty of room for non-bowling spectators, ample supply of colorful bowling balls with the bowling session, and much more.

Shortly, there will be communications out to everyone on all the details. Ron Galante, with his thoroughness for making events run flawlessly, will be in touch.

Meanwhile, don't plan to cut the grass that day.

## April Awards dinner

It seems so long ago, but we had great Awards night at the meeting back on April 23rd that we held in combination with MOAA. Reason for the joint meeting was that both organizations focus on recognizing our community's youth through awards to Junior ROTC members and, in our case, also to Sea Cadets.

Special guests at the dinner included Tennessee's 3rd District US Congressman Chuck Fleischmann. Our Council President, Stacy Kehoe, who is also an officer in the US States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, awarded the Chattanooga Navy League's "Theodore Roosevelt Award" to two outstanding cadets from the Chattanooga Sea Cadet Division: Delaney Van Veldhuizen and Jeremiah Burnette.

Kehoe also announced a Roosevelt award for Cadet Ensign Tytianna Nelson who is NJROTC "Cadet of the Year" at Howard High school. Howard High School's NJROTC Senior Science Instructor, Dirk Ames, stated that the award will be presented to Cadet Nelson at Howard High during a major assembly May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Check below to see who showed up!



Navy League President Stacy Kehoe with Sea Cadets Delaney Van Veldhuizen & Jeremiah Burnette, recipients of Theodore Roosevelt award on April 23rd



Howard High NJROTC "Cadet of the Year," Tytianna Nelson with Stacy Kehoe at ceremony May 23

## A BIG Surprise at Howard High School

Council President Stacy Kehoe and past -president Mickey McCamish (in his role as current president of MOAA) went to the Howard school on May 23<sup>rd</sup> in follow-up to the joint Navy League-MOAA awards dinner back on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. It was planned that the Howard recipients of our Roosevelt award and other awards from MOAA would receive them in a special assembly with all the school gathered at Howard.

So far, so good....but, there was a mysterious amount of security (so secret that the local media didn't even catch wind of it until it was over!) and, lo and behold, Bill Gates stepped onto the stage along with Stacy, Mickey and others lending his support to the appreciation of accomplishment represented by the multiple Howard students receiving awards that day.

Probably no higher profile person --- one deeply committed to improving education in the US -- has set foot in a Chattanooga school in years, or perhaps, ever. It was good company to be with on that special day for Howard... and Navy League was there too.!



Mickey McCamish and Stacy Kehoe flanking Bill Gates at the Howard High awards assembly

### A Note from the Editor.....a Transition

Since our last get-together, there have been several changes in the roster and responsibilities in our Council. The most significant one is that Mark Parks, after 8 years as our Treasurer has relinquished those reins and resigned his position. With his many other volunteer activities including as a Treasurer and newsletter editor at the CAVC, of which our Navy League Council is an Associate Member Organization, it was time for him (and Patty) to free up some time.

If Mark's impact at Navy League was just as Treasurer, his departure would be relatively easy to handle. But, it is more than that – Mark is the behind-the-scenes and, many times, the in-front-of-the-scenes person who makes a lot of good things happen at Navy League. As Treasurer, he didn't just "count the money" and make sure every aspect of our finances were exact and correct. As Director, he could be counted on to provide good counsel and advice on all subjects with friendship and good humor.

He and Patty were there at nearly every dinner making sure all the arrangements were perfect, that everyone's reservation was firm, and accommodated all kinds of last minute changes so no one, ever, was left in the lurch.

And what about the 2017 Riverbend/ River Front Nights fund raising campaign? Who did that?... Mark! Raising over \$10,000, he single-handedly recruited the volunteers, managed the beer tent, made sure all the money came out right. There were 15 days that started at about 3 pm for him and went to or past midnight that summer to make it happen. It put a foundation under our Navy Ball for years.



And what about BOGO ? – You know: What you get at Publix. Buy One Get One ..Free! Yes, with Mark you also got Patty, or vice-versa. ....A team that made every event special – Christmas/Holiday party shenanigans, raising funds through 50/50, the team making sure the check-ins at dinners were always smooth. And, Patty also has been the principal photographer for *Compass Points* for years. —contributing, no doubt, to its graphic appeal and to *Compass Points* winning the Navy League First in Nation **Mackie Platinum Level Award** this past year .

I never tired of hearing their stories of cross country Amtrak travel. Someone has to keep it in business. Undaunted by the challenge, they even went to Hawaii by train (There was a cruise ship involved.)

Thank you Mark and Patty.... Happy "(t)Rails" .

Willard K. Rice, Jr—Editor, *Compass Points*



## Riverbend Fund Raiser Achieves its Goals

### Raises Over \$1000 for the Navy Ball

This year's Riverbend shook things up a bit. Shortened from the previous 8 night stand, the new 4 night event featured fewer but higher visibility entertainers - - and higher prices. With performers of national "celebrity" level reputation, the goal was to generate a broader level of interest.

It is difficult to assess whether it reached all of Riverbend management's goals but it did meet our Navy League goal to raise money for our Navy Ball while pulling together our Navy community. Final accounting (and payment) from Riverbend management is not yet in but our revenue from beer, tips and Navy League "Koozie" can/ bottle cooler donations **will total almost \$1300.**

In 2017, led by Mark Parks, we "hit it out of the park" by handling beer sales on an exhaustive 15 nights of Riverbend and RiverFront events through the summer. After a year's hiatus (we took a "bye" last year), the question was: Could we? Would we pull it off again? Was it going to be possible to muster the support from Navy Leaguers, active and reserve Navy men & women and the Sea Cadet volunteers?

The answer: a resounding "yes" on all scores with more than enough volunteers. We had a Waiting List of Active & Reservists from the NOSC eager to participate! We had 17 volunteer for anywhere from 1 to 4 nights.

And, finally, would we even be able to secure a "beer tent"? Fortunately, Navy Leaguer Mickey McCamish helped us get in the door, not so easy having not been at Riverbend last year

Our beer "tent" this year was not actually a "tent" ... more like an "underpass overhead covering"! We



**\$6.50 ! Well.....It was a large can**



Wednesday crew: HM2 Robert Sturwold, YNSN Zachary Rowan, CPO Amanda Simonton, Willard Rice. Dan & Stacy Kehoe, Larson Mick.. .....missing from photo ...Chloe Rowan

Note : New Navy League sign!

*Continued from adjacent column*

were positioned under Riverfront parkway next to the amphitheater that is below the Hunter museum - - well-protected from the sun and rain, should it come. Yes, a bit out in left field but, to use the "glass half - full half empty" saying, our glass was definitely more than half full Thursday night when a torrential storm drove the throngs right into our lap in the only protected place in all of Riverbend!

It rained so hard that the band at the amphitheater had to shut down their electrical equipment for fear of electrocution. They got off the stage, walked through the audience and led the crowd in singing songs everyone knew like "Sweet Caroline" and "Take Me Home Country Roads".. an ethereal experience as hundreds of voices competed with the thunder and our exhortations of .."cold beer".

Just in case anyone is interested, we had 7 kinds of Budweiser beers (plus Coca Cola products) and the beer brand that sold the least was regular Budweiser! It is definitely not the "King of Beers" anymore! What will happen to the Clydesdales?

There is hope for the health of our country! After 3 beer brands, our 4th highest selling beverage was - - hold on to your socks - - **WATER!**

Riverbend 2019 crews — Thurs, Fri & Sat



**Thurs crew:** CPO Amanda Simonton, CPO Tracy Clark, YNSN Zachary Rowan, Billy Hewitt, LS2 Christopher Figueroa, PS2 Carrie Patterson



Koozie donations & tips were 75% of our earnings



In case you can't see a little dot which is Lionel Richie or Keith Urban, why not visit the Navy League beer tent?



**Fri crew:** Renita Moore, CPO Tracy Clark, HM2 Robert Sturwold, Hal Moore, PS2 Carrie Patterson, BM2 Gary Coles, CPO Amanda Patterson,



Beer tenter YNSN Zachary Rowan also did color guard on Military Appreciation Night . Makes our sign look good!



**Sat crew:** Renita & Hal Moore, BM2 Gary Coles, PS2 Carrie Patterson, "J", Cody Davis, CPO Amanda Simonton

Missing from some photos: Robert Sturwold & Willard Rice

## First in Nation Award for Chatt Navy League *Compass Points* garners top Award

At the Navy League National convention Stacy Kehoe sent back a bulletin that our council's newsletter, ***Compass Points***, had won the **#1 in nation Platinum level Mackie Award** for excellence in newsletter communication for 2018. Navy League headquarters reviews the newsletters produced by all the local Councils and selected *Compass Points* for the top award.

Winning this award is not just a one man show. It wouldn't have happened without departed Mary Dall's layout & design work during first half of the year. Patty Parks' photos along with those provided by Stacy Kehoe and Joe Holloway provided graphic interest, Concise and informative letters in each issue from 2018 President Mickey McCamish highlighted what was important.

And, finally, the support and feedback from the members letting me know you actually read it makes all the difference. Thank you all.

Willard K Rice, Jr  
Editor- *Compass Points*

## Mackie Award

### NEWSLETTER AWARDS

#### —PLATINUM—

Greater Chattanooga

#### —GOLD—

Broward County

Central Florida

Channel Islands

Denver

Greater Austin

Imperial Valley

Pittsburg

San Diego

Spokane

Tacoma

#### —SILVER—

Alameda

Pensacola

Placier County

Richmond

Savannah

## Greater Chattanooga wins Excellence Award at National Convention

In addition to the Mackie Award for Newsletters, our Council also won an 'Excellence Award' for "Sea Service Unit Adoption" in the Small Council segment. Our council's initiative with the USS Tennessee crew including not just making visits to the boat but hosting them on a visit to Chattanooga was cited, along with our support for the Sea Cadets among other activities, as examples of what the Navy League is all about.

## Shane Pilcher & Larson Mick

### Take on new roles

As reported elsewhere in this issue, Mark Parks, our Director and Treasurer, has resigned. But our bench is strong. Director Shane Pilcher has accepted the call of the Board of Directors to fill that position. **Welcome Shane.**

Also, Edward Shropshire, due to the press of his work schedule has resigned as Director and Vice President. **Thank you Ed** for your participation and support this past year.

The good news is that long-time Director Larson Mick has accepted the Board's vote to fill the position of Vice President. **Welcome Larson.**



*the  
president's message*

*Continued from page 1*

Then, Ron “launched” (pun-intended) our group for a wonderful, 2-day visit with both the Blue and Gold crews.

After 8 years of dedicated service to our Board, our now former-Treasurer, Mark Parks, has retired from his position. Our new Treasurer is Shane Pilcher, who was recruited by Mickey some months ago. Shane is also a retired Chief Petty Officer, and I know he will continue to bring a standard of excellence to our Board of Directors. We also have a new Vice President, Larson Mick. Larson is a retired JAG Commander from the Navy. Larson is a long-time member of the Board so he already knows us.

Billy Hewitt and I went to Norfolk, VA on June 18<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> and attend the National, Navy League Convention. Billy is our Legislative Director and has been faithful in keeping our council abreast of current, Legislative developments.

On July 18<sup>th</sup> we are holding our quarterly social event with a “twist.” CDR Almon is a retired Navy Seal and has Chattanooga ties. He is coming in his full Dress Whites for photo opportunities. This is going to be a fundraiser for both our Council and .

*Continued from adjacent column*

for the NSOWC Sea Cadet program. NSOWC is one of the specialized, national, Sea Cadet programs and is extremely expensive for our cadets to attend. Whatever money we raise through donations, will be split between us and Sea Cadets. Be sure to mark this on your calendar!

On August 27<sup>th</sup>, we will, once again, merge with the MOAA group and welcome Congressman Chuck Fleischmann back to Chattanooga. This is an extremely important meeting that all Navy League members should attend. As you are aware, the Legislative Affairs is one of the Navy League’s national objectives, and we must honor our Congressman with our attendance. Registration info is on back page of this issue. Note registration is with Shane Pilcher now

Thank you for your continued support of our Council and all that we do. We strive to support our Active and Reserve personnel as well as our youth programs: The Sea Cadets and the NJROTC programs. Without your support, this would not be possible. I hope your summer is relaxing and enjoy the warm temperatures.

—Stacy

**The USS Tennessee trip was very much a family affair**



**The Kehoes — Zander, Stacy and Dan**



**(l-r) The Smiths – brother Keith, David and sons Travis & Chris**

# Make Plans Now to Join Us

**JOINT NAVY LEAGUE - MOAA DINNER**  
**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2019**



*Republic Center, 633 Chestnut Street, Suite 2100  
 Chattanooga, Tennessee 37450*

Join your fellow Navy Leaguers — together with MOAA — for our August Dinner Meeting. The highlight of this meeting will be having Tennessee 3rd District Representative Chuck Fleischmann join with us for a briefing on pertinent topics of interest to the Navy League, MOAA and others.

Social Period.....	6:00
Welcome (and take seats) .....	6:30
Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance.....	6:40
Dinner.....	6:45
Navy League topics.....	7:30
MOAA topics.....	7:40
Program: Congressman Chuck Fleishmann ..	7:50
Adjournment .....	8:30

## RESERVATION FORM

NAME (S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Dinner price is \$35 for Members and their Guests**

# \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners @ \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations are due NLT Friday August 23rd 2019. Please mail your reservations and check to **Shane Pilcher, 34 Milford Drive, Rossville GA 30741.**

Alternate contact for Shane is:

spilcher@outlook.com and cell # 423 910 9724

**Compass Points** is a bi-monthly publication of the United States Navy League Greater Chattanooga Council

Editor — Willard K. Rice Jr  
 Photographer — Patty Parks

### MACKIE AWARD WINNER

### STAY CONNECTED

Chattanooganavyleague.org

Follow us on Twitter  
 ChattanoogaNavy League

Follow us on Facebook  
 ChattanoogaNavy League

### OUR MISSION

- Educate community leaders about the importance of Sea Power to our nation's survival and continued prosperity
- Directly support the men and women serving in the Navy Marines, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.
- Support Sea Service family members: parents, souses, children and other relatives of service members
- Support the youth of our communities by giving time, talent, and money to Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Navy & Marine Corps Junior ROTC units



## USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit by Navy League

By Ron Galante



*Continued from adjacent column*

### After months of planning.....

The Greater Chattanooga Navy League sponsored a trip on May 31 –June 2019 to visit Kings Bay Naval base and tour the *USS Tennessee SSBN 734*.

This is the third trip that I coordinated to visit the *USS Tennessee* and its crew. The first trip was in January 2014, which was the most difficult trip to plan since it was the first time I had coordinated the trip to visit the *USS Tennessee* and everything was being done for the first time. The second trip was conducted in June 2016 and as it turned out the day we toured the boat was my birthday. I got a whole submarine for my birthday!

While this third trip was the easiest to organizer, it still took six months to plan and execute from start to finish and resulted in a 6-inch high stack of documentation. ENS Jason Wollberg was my point of contact with the boat and he was extremely diligent and timely with his efforts in coordinating this trip. With his help, every event turned out

as planned and on time.

### 7:30 AM Friday May 31

Thirty of us boarded the 55 passenger US Coachways bus at McCallie school at 7:30 AM and we departed before 8:00 am thanks to the earlier than planned arrival of all the attendees. I think they realized that we were travelling under the precepts set by hall of fame football coach Vince Lombardi on when a team bus would be departing. Coach Lombardi would communicate to the team (Green Bay Packers) that the team bus would leave at 8:00 am for a scheduled trip but if you got to

the bus departure location at 8:00 am you would have learned that the bus left at 7:45 am. Our bus left at 7:45 am, with all those scheduled to ride the bus on board.

Plenty of bottled water and snacks were provided for the near 8- hour bus ride each way to and from Kings Bay. Of course, we watched submarine movies both travelling to Kings Bay and returning to Chattanooga. The attendees had previously voted on which movies they would like to view during the trip and the movies shown were as follows:

### Going to Kings Bay:

Das Boat- Iconic drama of a WWII German Diesel Submarine exploits in the Atlantic.

Hunt for Red October- Modern-day high-tech drama of a Soviet nuclear submarine defecting to the U.S.

Missile Submarines- Very interesting factual History Channel documentary of the origins and current status of nuclear missile submarines.

### Returning to Chattanooga:

Run Silent Run Deep- Iconic drama of a WWII American Diesel Submarine exploits in the Pacific.

Operation Pacific- John Wayne starred in this drama of a WWII American Diesel submarine operating in the Pacific (includes an indication of how the early WWII American torpedo problems were solved).

Operation Petticoat- Comedy Academy Award nominee of WWII Diesel pink submarine

Regulus- Documentary story of the first nuclear missile

*Continued ~ page 2*

## Special Section- S2

### USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit by Navy League.....

*Continued from page S1*

submarines.

Surprisingly, all the snacks lasted through all these movies, with over 100 bottles of water being consumed. We stopped at a Cracker Barrel restaurant near Macon GA.

**4:00 pm** Precisely on time, we arrived at the Microtel hotel in Kingsland GA where we decompressed from the long trip and got ready for our 6:00 pm private dinner at the nearby Millhouse Steakhouse.

We had dinner with 20 crew members and their wives. After some brief comments by Stacy Kehoe and myself, we presented the Blue and Gold crew command representatives with reading materials for their leisure hours on their long deterrent patrols.

The Gold crew captain, executive officer, chief of the boat and supply officer received personalized, and autographed copies of hard cover submarine adventure books donated by author Rick Campbell, a retired submarine officer now turned novelist. Paper back copies of these books were also donated to the ship's library.



**Ron Galante & Stacy Kehoe (on the ends) present the *Tennessee History* “coffee table “ books to the key members of the Blue & Gold crews**

*Continued ~ from adjacent column*

The Gold and Blue crew captains, executive officers, chief of the boats and ENS Wollberg, the Gold crew supply officer received *Tennessee History* coffee table books donated by Congressman Fleischmann. All 20 of the crew and their wives received our Chattanooga Navy League challenge coins.

After a great meal and a great deal of interaction by the crew and our attendees, we boarded our bus



around 9 pm and returned to the Microtel .

**Well fed— and happy**

**7:30 am Saturday morning**

After most of the attendees took advantage of the hotel's complimentary breakfast, we all boarded the Coachways bus for our short trip to the Kings Bay Naval Base and to the waterfront where the *USS Tennessee* was docked, beside another fleet ballistic missile submarine (I will never tell which one).

Before we entered the Kings Bay main gate, we stopped by the *USS George Bancroft SSBN-643* memorial for a group photography opportunity. The *USS George Bancroft* was commissioned on January 22, 1966 and decommissioned September 21, 1993 and now its superstructure serves as an ideal non-confidential photographic backdrop for groups, families and individuals.

**Finally, on the base**

After going through multiple levels of security clearance procedures at the main gate, waterfront and at

*Continued ~ page S3*

## Special Section - S3

### USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit by Navy League.....

*Continued from page S2*

the boat, we finally gained access to the *USS Tennessee*. We were divided into four groups and assigned to four different crew members who guided us through multiple compartments and areas, — such as the control room, torpedo room, sonar shack, clean air manufacturing location, missile compartment, missile control center, etc.

The tour took over two hours and was highlighted by information sharing by each group's crew-member guide, as well as on-station crew to explain what was done by them at that particular location and to answer our many questions. In many cases the answer to a question was: "That's classified and I will not be able to answer that question." However, there still were many questions answered and that combined with what the crew explained about their responsibilities was still too much to recall in totality after we left the boat.

One very interesting fact that a crew member shared with my group was about the submarine movie "*Crimson Tide*". The movie depicts the conflict between the commanding officer and executive officer and crew members on each side and it nearly resulted in the launch of the submarine's ballistic missiles on Russian targets.

The movie raised concerns of how the SSBN's could launch their missiles. Those concerns resulted in a change in how missiles are now launched from these SSBN submarines. While there are many multiple levels of approvals, keys, etc. that are needed by different individuals on board the submarine, the submarine requires codes from its Naval command and control headquarters to be able to launch a ballistic missile.

During our tour of the *USS Tennessee*, we shared the boat not only with the crew but it was family day and many family members were also touring the boat. It was interesting to see the crew's children, parents, wives, etc. touring the boat. This was a great opportunity for the crew's family to learn more about where their loved

*Continued from adjacent column*

one works while out on a long deterrent patrol.

Unfortunately, this was not an opportunity my wife and I had when I served aboard the *USS Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617* in the early 1960's, since, although our home U.S. base was in Charleston S.C. where my wife and I lived, the submarine operated out of Rota, Spain and family members were not allowed to visit the submarine even if they were in Rota, Spain.

After the tour of the boat was over and the bus left the Naval base, we stopped by a nearby display of full-sized ballistic missiles that have been used by SSBN submarines since the early 1960s to the current time.



From 1960 to 1976, the United States operated its SSBN fleet from three international bases located in Spain, Scotland and Guam, because the ranges of these earlier missiles required that these submarines would be required to make deterrent patrols in the Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic and Pacific oceans to be able reach their assigned cold war targets should they be required to launch their missiles. These bases were closed when the longer range C-4 missile became operational. The C-4 missile first flew in January, 1977. The missiles that are currently

*Continued ~ page S4*

## USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit—Navy League

used by the *USS Tennessee* are the D5.

To give you more perspective on the size of these missiles, nearby photo shows how they dwarfed our group.

After our missile display visit, we departed for a great lunch at Lang's Marina restaurant in St. Mary's, which was only two blocks from the St. Mary's Submarine museum. After lunch, we walked the short distance to the museum where we saw a very interesting 30 minute presentation about the history of the museum, some of the more interesting exhibits at the museum and other facts about the curator.

The picture to the side shows the group intently listening to the curator, Keith Post's presentation. Reb Burton, third from the right in the light blue shirt in the front row was rewarded with a museum challenge coin, since he remembered the name of the submarine the curator, Keith Post, mentioned during his talk as having served on first during his submarine career. The *USS Nathan Hale* was the answer.

After our visit at the St Mary's submarine museum, we boarded the bus to head back to Chattanooga and

viewed some of our stash of submarine movies on the way back .Along the way, we stopped for a quick dinner at



Apparently—size matters



*Continued ~ page S5*



Museum curator Keith Post (Left.) and Vic Stock (Right.) A retired submariner who donated interesting memorabilia to St Mary's submarine museum)

## Special Section - S5

### USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit by Navy League.....

fast food restaurants conveniently located in one area where the attendees could choose the restaurant they wanted to dine at.

#### Midnight Saturday

We arrived back at McCallie at roughly midnight to pick up our cars, which were located in a secure parking lot. We are thankful and fortunate to have had McCallie give us permission to park our cars in their parking lot and to load and unload our bus at the school.



The Blue...and the Gold



That's Hamilton County Sherriff Jim Hammond & RADM Vance Fry seated on front left . Sorry, no time to get the other names..



Torpedo on a Stick?



Navy League Board Members Ron Galante, David Smith, Alden Perry, Larson Mick and Stacy Kehoe gathering some power!

Is that one of those early WWI II torpedoes that circled around and sunk the sub that fired it?

## Special Section - S6

### USS Tennessee SSBN 734 Visit by Navy League.....

Navy Leaguers, friends, USS TN crew & families at Welcome dinner Friday  
May 31



Not everyone — but we caught most