

Compass Points

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ISSUE 5

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

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President's Message

Stacy Kehoe - President

Greetings Fellow Navy League members ...

It is amazing what can be accomplished in a mere two months' time since we last communicated with one another. In September, we had multiple guests to help us welcome RADM Jeff Hughes and his assistant, "then-LT Jess Phenning" now LCDR Jess Phenning on September 18th at the Walden Club for a "meet and greet." You will read more in the following article that will give you more insight to this visit. Needless to say, it was a success for all of us who took different roles in ensuring RADM Hughes' visit was a success to Chattanooga.

The following day, Willard Rice and I joined the NJROTC unit at Howard High School and continued presenting RADM Hughes and

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Annual Member Meeting Dec 5th

Party Time

In this era of political correctness, it's difficult to announce celebratory events in December without leaving out or offending someone. So, here is a try: We are having our Navy League Annual Member Meeting on December 5th. It's a "Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice and All Other" party all rolled into one! It also is the **time when we elect our Council's Officers & Directors** for the following year.

So, whatever inspires you the most to attend, let it propel you. It is important that we have a good turnout to make our election official. Please get your reservation in to Shane Pilcher in a timely manner - details on the last page of this issue.

It's good news that we have gotten this meeting back into December where most

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Veterans Day Nat Cemetery Ceremony ..Nov 11
Wreaths across Chatt deadline.. Nov 30
Member Annual Meeting/Holiday Party ..Dec 5
National Cemetery Wreath Laying..... Dec 14

OFFICER & DIRECTOR NOMINEES FOR 2020

Stacy Kehoe-President
Larson Mick – Vice President
Shane Pilcher-Treasurer
David Smith-Secretary
Mickey McCamish—Immediate Past President
Bill Conner-Director-Youth Programs
Jim Fields-JAG
Ron Galante-Director
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Joe Holloway-Director-Membership & Retention
Keith McLeod-Chaplain
Alden Perry-Director-Military Affairs
Willard Rice, Jr. Director-Compass Points Editor
Dan Saieed-Director-Programs

Annual Member Meeting & Party

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holiday and celebrations rightfully belong!

The Walden Club will be decked out in all its splendor to usher in the season. While there will be some Navy League business to cover, it won't last long. This meeting will be filled with exciting and entertaining surprises that *Compass Points* has signed an oath NOT to divulge!

Reservations:

Get them into Shane Pilcher

Reservation Form on Page 12

Fallen 5 Monument Dedicated & Open

As another article in this issue reports, the monument to honor the 5 servicemen who were killed while on duty at the NOSC 4 years ago was dedicated this past week in a quite moving ceremony. You may find the report enlightening. Local Navy Leaguers are encouraged to visit and experience it.

It seems to this writer that, when mass shootings around the country occur, there is usually a reminder of other previous shootings but the Chattanooga massacre rarely is mentioned. (This may just be my perception.) Yet this one struck the core of our armed forces and those killed weren't random people who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time but were people specifically dedicated to protecting the US.

Hard to understand but, at least here in Chattanooga, we can keep alive the memory of what happened by putting a visit on our personal "bucket" lists. You won't regret taking the time.

The **Wreath of Honor** is at the Tennessee Riverfront Park on Amnicola Highway just across the entrance road that passes by Naval Operating Support Center NOSC.



the president's message

Continued from page 1

LCDR Phенning with an inside view of our local cadets at Howard High School. During this visit, I presented LCDR Dirk Ames, the Senior Science Instructor, our annual donation to the NJROTC program to ensure their continued success. I also gave RADM Hughes and LCDR Phенning each a Greater Chattanooga Navy League Challenge Coin.

Everyone has heard of the expression... “by the fruits of (one's) labor...” Well, our “fruits” flourished during our annual, Navy Ball held on October 5, 2019 at the Chattanooga Convention Center. It was a HUGE success! It was a success because we all came together...our council, the NOSC personnel, and the Chattanooga Sea Cadet Division.

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We worked hard from May onwards to raise funds, seek donations, hold monthly meetings, and much more. Approximately 160 people showed up to dance the night away. I want to thank each and every one of you that participated in some form or fashion to make this year's Navy Ball a success. Read more about the Navy Ball and enjoy just a select few of many pictures.

In December, we will hold our Annual Meeting so you are all invited to enjoy the holiday season and be a part of a unique program presentation. **You don't want to miss this one!**

—Stacy

The Navy in the News.....



Navy Times..Oct 18

(Mass Comm Specialist Seaman Apprentice Alec Kramer/Navy)

BOSTON — The USS Constitution sailed in Boston Harbor to celebrate its 222nd birthday and the U.S. Navy's birthday. The ship left Charleston Navy Yard Oct 17th and headed out to fire a 21-gun salute.

The event celebrates the birthday of “Old Ironsides” — the world's oldest commissioned warship still afloat — and the Navy's 244th birthday. Cmdr. Nathaniel Shick, the Constitution's commanding officer, says the ship has served the country with distinction and he's honored to celebrate its legacy.

On its return back to the yard, the ship was scheduled to fire another salute as it passed Coast Guard Sector Boston, the former site of the shipyard where the Constitution was built and launched in October 1797.

The Navy Ball – Best Ever !

Chattanooga was rockin' on Saturday eve October 5th. The Navy Ball, held at the Chattanooga Convention Center, was the epicenter of good times with music, dancing, prize winning, magic, delicious dinner and celebration—of the Navy's 244th Birthday.

People from all aspects of the Navy League community were there: Reservists, Active Duty personnel, Sea Cadets, veterans and friends along with Navy League members, the young, the old and everywhere in between. Even though there was much amusement, there was an equal amount of respect for the solemnity of the event: Celebration of the US Navy's place in the country's history, the symbolism of the POW/MIA table, the presentation of Colors by the Chattanooga Division Sea Cadets, the Pledge of Allegiance and the thrilling singing of the National Anthem by Bo Cox, the toasts to the serving Armed Forces.

Master of Ceremonies Chip Chapman kept everything moving along. There was never a dull moment. LCDR Joel Crawford, Chaplain USN lifted our spirits delivering heartfelt and inclusive invocation/benedictions. LCDR Remillard, CO of the NOSC, presented the MIA/POW honors. Stacy Kehoe, Greater Chattanooga Navy League President welcomed all to the Ball. Ron Galante, organizer of the event, graciously thanked all of the Ball Committee members and those who helped raise funds for the Ball for their accomplishments during the 6 month planning and doing process.

Changing gears from all that, there was the sheer fun of the rambunctious raffle that delivered prizes including a



**Stacy Kehoe with Bo Cox singing National Anthem
Chattanooga Sea Cadets Josiah Burnette, Josh
Singer, Gage Neudigate & Jerimiah Burnette pre-
sent Colors**

Continued from adjacent column

variety of restaurant and store gift cards, lots of \$\$\$, monster TV sets – and Shoes! (more on that, in a bit). You never knew what Lucas Shafer was going to come up with after his next dip into the chance bowl and you'd better be alert when he called out your number— or else, back into the ticket bowl for another.

Highlight of the evening (if you didn't win a prize) was the magic show put on by professional entertainer Jason Maxwell (“..in from Vegas..” ? -- could have been) who baffled us by creating mysterious communications between randomly selected young ladies. And somehow, his thoroughly tied-up assistant, with no outside help, removed a suit jacket worn by a random volunteer and emerged from behind a screen with his jacket under her bindings.

Now, Shoes! We had a pair of super hi-technology mens' size 12 hiking boots to give out. Only problem was matching the boots to a winner. Tickets kept coming up for people for whom the boots wouldn't fit. So Stacy Kehoe solved the problem: **“The Size 12 Club”**. She called for all size 12 men to come up with their door prize ticket stubs to put in a special bowl to be exclusively drawn from. There was a little problem since, then, none of them had a stub to match to the winning ticket! But Stacy solved that too —with new tickets and shortly a **“Size 12 Club” winner** was declared.

Bottom line: Everyone enjoyed the extra fun and the super boots went to a delighted winner.



Stacy Kehoe with SIZE 12 Club winner: Sea Cadet Jerimiah Burnette

The Navy Birthday Ball #244



Chloe & Zachary Rowan YN3 active duty NOSCer—Both volunteered at Navy League Riverbend beer tent



The NOSC "surge" group
.....they work & party together.



Potential Sea Cadet Jonas Ownsby, and Sea Cadets Delaney Van Veldhuizen & Chase Ledeman with Sea Cadet mom, Kim Robinson



Jaden Maxwell, magician, had some tricks for the dance floor too.

The Navy Birthday Ball #244

Kristun & Kermit Cut the Cake



Kristun McCaw steps up as the youngest Navy participant



Kermit Mock takes the honors as the party's oldest Navy Vet



Sea Cadets, Families & Friends

Dance floor was jumpin'



Reception for RADM Hughes

Walden Club impressive venue for Navy visitors

Those who heeded the impassioned calls from *Compass Points* and repeated e-mail reminders in early September to attend the Sept 18th reception for RADM Jeff Hughes were amply rewarded. Rarely has so much been imparted about the Navy in such an enjoyable and informative manner. RADM Hughes displayed broad knowledge not just about the manpower needs of the Navy (after all, he is the Commanding Office of the Navy Personnel Command) but also of the strategic issues that drive the need for people resources.

Setting the stage, he and his “side-kick” LCDR Jessica Pfenning, showed us a “thinking-piece” video that presented the worldwide challenges the Navy faces in the coming years. A rational and apolitical view of the dynamics that make all problems and their solutions moving targets, it provided us with an understanding about how important it is that the Navy’s leaders have the big picture in mind.

What became evident about the Navy is that its guiding principal of moving its senior officers -- especially those likely to occupy the highest levels -- through many different assignments fosters knowledge and perspective in those officers about all the elements that together create a capable Navy. This was in evidence as Hughes parried questions not just about personnel issues but on other topics as diverse as: What

LOOKING SHARP & Cool!

Remember it was still 95 degrees on Sept 18



From left: CDR Daniel Giller, LCDR Jessica L. Pfenning, LT Patrick T. Acker, RADM Jeff Hughes, NL President Stacy Kehoe, NOSC CO LCDR Remillard, and Navy Leaguers (Ret) CPTNs Mickey McCamish & Billy Hewitt

Continued from adjacent column

is the impact of the planned growth to the 350 ship Navy? What are the operational tradeoffs between procuring just a few of super capable ships versus getting a dozen nearly as capable ships. Same thing with aircraft?

RADM Hughes let leak a bit of his life story—coming into the Navy via NROTC at Duke. Becoming an aviator specializing in helicopters. Becoming an honorable Tennessean, not just due to his command based in Millington TN but also by having a daughter at University of the South in Sewanee.

Mickey McCamish to lead Friends of the Festival

Navy Leaguer Mickey McCamish, our immediate Past President, has stepped up to the helm...yet again. This time it is for all of Chattanooga: Taking on the responsibility to direct the Friends of the Festival (FOTF) onto the right course. FOTF is most known for organizing the annual **Riverbend Music Festival** but also manages many other events such as River Front Nights, the LST 325 visits and other events. FOTF makes Chattanooga a better place.

As a long-time volunteer to FOTF, he always wore his other hat as a Navy Leaguer ensuring that Riverbend had a “military appreciation night, that the Navy scheduled a Navy week here, and that the LST foundation found a welcome port-of-call, among other actions.

Thank you, Mickey, for what you have contributed and Fair Winds & Following Seas on your new endeavor as Executive Director of FOTF.

Worldwind visit to NJROTC

RADM Hughes lifts prospects at The Howard School

As part of his world wind tour of Chattanooga (which included not just the Navy League reception but also visits to the nearly finished "Fallen Five" Memorial site and the NOSC), RADM Hughes invested a significant part of his time here in a visit to the Howard School NJROTC unit. It is doubtful that such a high ranking active duty Navy officer has ever stepped inside Howard so his presence there told a huge story: "...that even though we are getting new ships, it is the people who are most important" and that what the NJROTC cadets were doing was important for their and the country's future.



RADM Jeff Hughes' enthusiasm was rewarded by attention from all



Naval aviator LCDR Jessica Pfenning in action

Together with fellow aviator LCDR Jessica Pfenning, he described how the Navy contributed so much to the nation in many ways including, for example, "..... the Navy was first into Puerto Rico when the hurricane devastated it last year". By encouraging and fielding questions from the cadets, they shared personal stories of how they became part of the Navy and where that has taken them.

Most of all, said Hughes, "You have to be passionate and love what you are doing." Outlining how there were opportunities to receive further education through the Navy, they certainly planted the seed that there is a lot out there to look to after they complete high school and beyond the Chattanooga borders.



From left: LCDR Pfenning, Cadets Juan Andres, Alex Perez, Bryan Calderon and Jonathan Escobar with RADM Hughes, center receiving the NJROTC medallion

Continued from adjacent column

Part of the excitement for the day was witnessing how NJROTC Naval Instructors Dirk Ames and Bill Conner (both, incidentally, Navy Leaguers with Bill being our Director of Youth Programs) encourage, set examples and lead the diverse group of students in the NJROTC unit. Indirectly and directly they are fulfilling one of the missions of the Navy League which is to broaden citizen and youth exposure to the sea services. It is no small task to insert into the lives of teenagers an awareness of the larger world.

Our Navy League Council is fortunate to have this way of outreach.

Navy League Support Gift for Howard NJROTC

RADM Hughes' visit to the Howard NJROTC unit on September 19th was also an opportune time for Chattanooga Navy League President Stacy Kehoe to present a Navy League \$500 contribution for support of the NJROTC cadet activities.

Accepting for the battalion was Dirk Ames, Senior Navy Instructor at Howard . Fellow instructors MMC Anthony Murphy. USN RET. and MSGT Bill Conner USMC RET were part of the overall ceremony and prepared the NJROTC cadets for the visit.

The Howard School NJROTC unit has hit the **Trifecta!**

This trio have upwards of 80 years of Active Duty Service- and can connect their experiences with the U.S. Coast Guard (Ames) U.S. Marines (Conner) and the U.S. Navy (Murphy). You have to be there to see how these three bridge the generational and culture gaps between teenage life and high school with the future these cadets will encounter after graduation.

Witnessing the enthusiasm and sense of responsibility that participation in NJROTC provides these students was an unexpected reward. It is a good thing that Navy League Chattanooga has a connection there and is helping to expand its impact.



Howard NJROTC Senior Naval Science Instructor LCDR Dirk Ames USCG RET accepting donation from Stacy Kehoe, Greater Chattanooga Navy League president



MSGT Bill Conner US Marines (ret) preparing the class for RADM Hughes

"Now, what are some questions you 'll want to ask andwhat ones do you not?"



"Looks like that buckle needs attention" ... LCDR Dirk Ames USCG (ret)

Chattanooga's "Day of Infamy" Wreath of Honor dedicated

Back on July 15, 2015, the Naval Operations Support Center was attacked and five Marine and Navy servicemen were killed by a homegrown terrorist. The tragedy pulled together the entire community and the moniker "NoogaStrong" came into being as thousands of people and organizations found ways to recognize and respect what had happened.

On October 19th the outpouring of respect for the sacrifice that was paid by the "Fallen Five" culminated in the dedication of the "Wreath of Honor" memorial at the Tennessee Riverpark, a stone's throw from the spot where the five servicemen gave their lives.

Attended by goodly number of "everybody who is anybody" in the local community, the solemn but hopeful ceremony which included over 30 members of the slain servicemen's families established a central point for remembrance of what happened on that "**Day of Infamy**". Many dignitaries spoke but the most heartfelt words came from fellow servicemen Marine Colonel Russo and Navy Captain Berta, in from Dallas and Washington, respectively.

Though not on the podium, local Navy Leaguers were there paying respects in recognition that the "Fallen Five" were members of organizations whose welfare is at the center of our mission to support the sea services.

Continued from adjacent column

The terrorist struck at the core of our military killing five "ordinary" servicemen, the backbone our country's armed forces, but in the process making them "extraordinary" symbols of what keeps our democracy alive and the forces that would obliterate it at bay.

The Memorial's five spires are each inscribed with the name of one of the men: Carson Allen Louis Holmquist, Randall Scott Smith, Thomas Joseph Sullivan, Squire Kimpton Paul "Skip" Wells, David Allen Wyatt. A sculpted metal wreath hovers overhead like a halo.

Just a few hundred feet from the NOSC, you can look over one shoulder to the place the men died and over the other to the perpetually flowing Tennessee River. The appropriateness and timeliness of the setting becomes fully evident. Marine and Navy men gave their lives.

In years ahead, do not be surprised if this memorial becomes as celebrated and revered as the monuments and settings at Missionary Ridge and Lookout Mountain and on visitors' "must see" list.

As Colonel Russo implored: "lest we forget".



They gathered in the rain ..but it was a bright hopeful day

Appeal to Navy Leaguers for “Wreaths Across Chattanooga” at Chattanooga National Cemetery

Leave no Grave Marker Behind

Many Navy League members are probably aware that, for several years, there has been an expanding campaign to put wreaths on the grave markers at the Chattanooga National Cemetery during December. The purpose is to **Honor** those who have served, **Remember** their contribution and **Remind/Teach** new generations of the sacrifices made.

There is a perception that a wreath is placed on every grave marker at Chattanooga National Cemetery but that isn't the case. In reality, wreaths donated at a national level cover less than 10,000 of the 43,000 headstones but, each year, the number decorated is growing through the contributions from our local community.

If you would like to help, a contribution to the project can be made to “**Wreaths Across Chattanooga**” (a local version of the national “Wreaths Across America” campaign. If you put “On behalf of Navy League” in the remarks section of your check, those gifts will be added up. We will publish a running total of the donations associated with Chattanooga Navy League. \$10 pays for one wreath but you might want to cover several.

Last year, Chattanooga Navy Leaguers contributed over \$1500 to this campaign. It would be great if our total this year surpassed that. **Wreath laying will be at noon on December 14th** All are welcome to help. **Contributions needed by November 30th**.

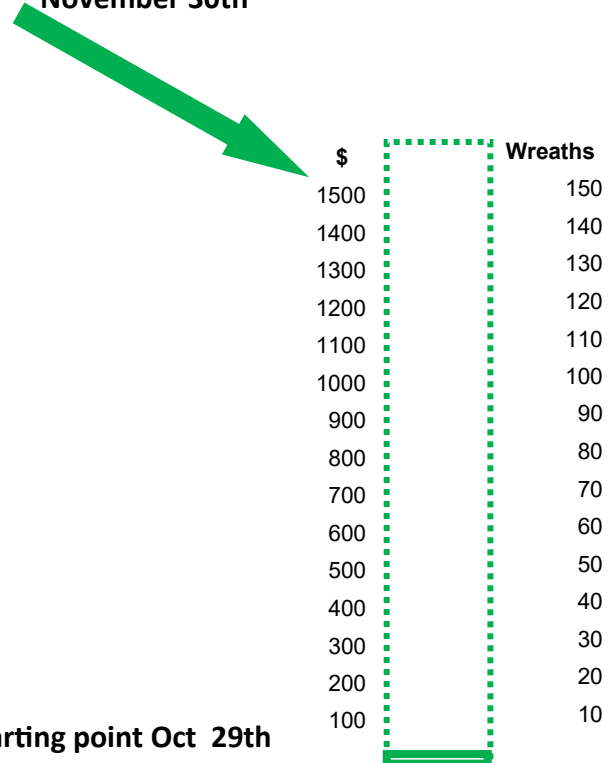
**Please mail your donation to
Wreaths Across Chattanooga
180 Hamm Road, Chattanooga, TN 37405**

Thanks for your help.



**Wreaths at Chattanooga National Cemetery
.....last December**

**Where we hope to be by
November 30th**



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

Chattanooga Council

Editor — Willard K. Rice Jr

MACKIE AWARD WINNER

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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, spouses, 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

Our Supported Units



Make Plans Now to Join Us

COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING DINNER

Thursday, December 5, 2019



WALDEN CLUB

Republic Center 633 Chestnut Street, Suite 2100

Chattanooga Tennessee 37450

Social Time (CC purchase via waitress) 6:00 PM
 Welcome (please take seats).....6:30 PM
 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance6:35 PM
 Buffet Dinner.....6:45 PM
 Election & Installation of Officers & Directors.....7:30 PM
 Mystery Event..... 7:45 PM
 Adjournment.....8:30 PM

Reservation Form

Council Dinner Meeting -Thursday, Dec 5, 2019

NAME (S) _____

E-MAIL _____ Telephone _____

Annual Meeting Dinner price is \$35 for Members and their Guests

_____ Dinners @ \$35 = \$ _____

RSVP by 2 December 2019

Make Check Payable to: Navy League Chattanooga

Mail Payment /Reservation to Shane Pilcher, Navy League Treasurer

P.O . Box 91104 , Chattanooga, TN 37412

Reservation questions: E-Mail & phone contact : spilcher@outlook.com & 423-910-9724

Optional : PayPal payment.... Add \$1.50 per person

Log onto website: www.chattanooganavyleague.com/paypal.html

Note: Pay at the door without Advance Reservation is \$45 per person.

Regrettably, **no shows will be charged the full amount for dinner**