

Compass Points

VOL 18

January-February 2020

ISSUE 1

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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Keith McLeod
Chaplain



President's Message

Stacy Kehoe - President

Happy New Year Fellow Navy Leaguers

The 2019 year has been such a blessing to not only our adopted units, but more importantly, to our council members. You know the saying, "It is better to give than to receive." Our council gave, gave, and gave some more. We held our first-ever joint meeting with MOAA and presented the Youth Awards to the US-NSSC Chattanooga Division, and were surprised at Howard High School by a visit from Bill Gates, himself! We also organized a trip to King's Bay, GA, while simultaneously running our RiverBend booth, and RiverBend, itself. And this all happened by June!

By the end of June, two of our members attended the National Navy League Convention in Norfolk, VA and learned a lot about the organization and received two, outstand-

Continued ~ page 3



Member Dinner Meeting	Feb 20
M of H Heritage Opening	Feb 22
Member Dinner Meeting	Apr 16
Armed Forces Day parade.....	May 1
Riverbend Fund raiser.....	May 27-30
Member Meeting with MOAA.....	Aug 25
Navy Ball (tentative).....	Oct 17
Annual Meeting Dinner	Dec 3

Member Meeting Feb 20th Dinner!

Calling all members. The first dinner meeting of the year is set for Thursday February 20th at 6pm at the Walden Club. The highlight of the evening will be having Lt Cmdr PJ Remillard, the CO of the Reserve Training Center, affectionately (?) now known as the "NOSC", as our speaker.

It's always a special evening when we have someone from the "real" Navy there to tell us how it is. Also, we'll be officially installing the year 2020 Officer and Directors who were elected at the December meeting. Get your reservations in to Shane Pilcher. Details on the last page.

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Feb 20 Member Meeting Speaker

LCDR PETER J. REMILLARD

Lieutenant Commander PJ Remillard was born in Plymouth, MA. A family relocation brought him to Bloomington, IN where he graduated from Bloomington High School South. After a few years of working in Bloomington, IN, he enlisted in the Navy and entered recruit training in June 1997.

After graduating Personnelman "A" School, his first assignment was Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center in Waco, TX. His next tour was at Navy Air Reserve Center Selfridge, MI where he was selected for the Seaman to Admiral 21 commissioning program. While participating in the STA 21 program, he attained the rank of PN1 and earned his Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership from Miami University (Ohio).

Upon commission, his first Division Officer tour was on USS SIMPSON (FFG 56) as the Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer. He then opted to Fleet-up and remain onboard SIMPSON for an additional two-year tour as the Auxiliaries Officer. Following his sea duty assignments, he reported to Navy Operational Support Center Chicago where he was the

Training/Travel Department Head and then the Manpower/ADP Department Head. During this shore duty assignment, he earned a Master's Degree in Human Resources from Webster University.

LCDR Remillard then completed the afloat Department Head training pipeline enroute to USS FORREST SHERMAN (DDG 98) as Chief Engineer. After successfully completing an 18-month tour, including a nine month Fifth Fleet deployment, his next assignment was as an Assessor at Engineering Assessments Atlantic in Norfolk, VA. From there he transferred and was the Commanding Officer for NOSC Battle Creek, MI.



His personal decorations include five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, six Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and various other unit, service and campaign awards..

Navy League in the Community



Navy Leaguers Stacy Kehoe, Alden Perry, Mark Parks, Willard Rice, and Billy Hewitt join with Noah Long to present gift tray that Stacy gathered for the Coast Guard, base Master Chief McMahon hefts the heavy load.



Stacy Kehoe at the NOSC with bags of ground coffee she wheedled out of local Starbucks. Don't try to get the coffee back, Starbucks! They are ready to defend their stash.

*the
president's message*

Continued from page 1

ing awards that proved our hard work is paying great dividends to our country, community, and council.

In August, we continued our fundraising efforts for the Navy Ball and celebrating the United States Coast Guard's birthday at the bowling alley.

In September, RADM Jeffrey Hughes paid a visit to Chattanooga, and we celebrated the USNSCC's birthday all the while visiting Howard High School's NJROTC program.

October, of course, was the best Navy Ball celebration that we had experienced in a long time.

To wrap up the year in December, we held our Annual Meeting. Afterwards, our Executive Board members were honored for their service to our

Continued from adjacent column

country by receiving a Quilt of Valor. We were able to bless our local "Coasties" with 18, Christmas Stockings for the crew as well as NOSC Navy and Marine Corps with some StarBucks coffee.

Lastly, many of our council members are heavily involved with the soon-to-be opening of the Charles H. Coolidge Medal of Honor National Heritage Center. I am anticipating the opening ceremony on February 22, 2020!

I want to personally say, "Thank YOU!"

...Stacy

Medal of Honor Heritage Center Opening—Feb 22

You'd have to be dead to not know that there is Big EVENT happening in Chattanooga very soon! February 22nd to be exact. Half and full page announcements have been running in the Chattanooga Times Free Press and other media for weeks. The opening is set for 10:00 am on Feb 22.

While Navy League is not part of the Heritage Center, there is no question that among the Medal Of Honor recipients there is a multitude of the Navy, Marine Corp and Coast Guardsmen who were awarded the Medal of Honor, most of them after having made the ultimate sacrifice.

Chattanooga Navy Leaguers are among those who kept the predecessor MOH Museum alive and made this new center possible. There is an intersection of interest between Navy Leaguers and the events that led to all of the MOHs being awarded. The Heritage Center surely will be a national treasure.



Continued from adjacent column

Annual Meeting Report

Those who attended the Annual Member Meeting dinner back on December 6 were astonished by the events of the dinner. Unknown to anyone, Stacy Kehoe organized a “**Quilts of Honor**” ceremony in which she presented custom hand-made quilts to all of the members of the Chattanooga Navy League Board for “their support, consideration and prayers during (her)year-long health challenge through which she had come out the other side. These quilts are made by a national network of dedicated quilters who put their hearts into their work. Many are pre-

sented to veterans **enduring PTSD. While the Navy League recipients don’t** qualify on that score, it was the heartfelt appreciation from Stacy that counted and overwhelmed us.

The meeting also included the election of the 2020 Officers and Directors. They are to be inducted at the next member meeting which is Feb 20th. And, finally, there was an avalanche of Christmas/Holiday gifts in which every attendee received some kind of inspired or priceless gift gathered from who-knows-where by Stacy.

Also, several awards were presented. See article.

A BIG THANK YOU all around

Council Awards

At our December meeting, another highlight was the presentation of awards. Starting it off, Stacy Kehoe presented a beautiful plaque to Mickey McCamish in recognition that, in the prior year, 2018, when he was President of our council, the National headquarters selected US Navy League of Greater Chattanooga for **Outstanding Community Outreach** – providing support to various Navy activities such as the NOSC, USCG and organizations covered by its extended mission, such as NJROTC and Sea Cadets.

Also, the **Mackie Award** at the Platinum level (the only one in the whole US) was earned by our *Compass Points* newsletter with Editor Willard Rice accepting. These awards had been announced at the National Convention last June but it took until now to get all the moving parts in one place.

And, the most prestigious award of all, the **Sandy McMillan Award**, our Council’s premier honor, was presented to Ron Galante for his immense contribution to the success of the Navy Ball and the fund raising that supported it. This award, established in the name of Sandy McMillan, annually recognizes the Navy League member who best exemplifies the character, leadership and traits that Sandy displayed in the many years he was part of our Council.



Stacy Kehoe presents Sandy McMillan award to Ron Galante



Mickey McCamish & Willard Rice accepted the National Navy League *Outstanding Community Outreach* & Platinum *Mackie Outstanding Newsletter* awards, respectively

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS ELECTED 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

Bill Hewitt-Director-Legislative Affairs

Joe Holloway-Director-Membership & Retention

Keith McLeod-Chaplain

Alden Perry-Director-Military Affairs

Willard Rice, Jr. Director-Compass Points Editor

Dan Saieed-Director-Programs

Officers & Directors to be Installed at February 20th meeting

At the February 20th member dinner meeting, we will be having an **Installation Ceremony** to validate the results of the election we held at the Annual Meeting in December.



Here they are: The Rogues Gallery from the left: Larson Mick, David Smith, Keith McLeod, Billy Hewitt, Mickey McCamish, Stacy Kehoe, Dan Saieed, Alden Perry, Willard Rice, Ron Galante, Shane Pilcher — missing: Jim Fields, Joe Holloway and Bill Conner

Quilts of Valor

As described in the article about our December Annual Meeting dinner, a very special event was hosted by Stacy Kehoe...the presentation of **Quilts of Valor** to the Council Board members who had stood by her in her year of uncertainty and challenge. She bestowed on them these beautiful unique quilts in appreciation. Accompanying her in the presentation was **Karen Downer SE TN State Representative for Quilts of Valor**. Karen explained the origin and significance of each of these hand-made quilts. You'll see her in many of the photos



Billy Hewitt with brother, Richard



Joan & Keith McLeod —Maybe a trip to Sioux country is in their future?



Joe Holloway—looks like he's already headed to the Smokies with his quilt



Jim Fields is in there somewhere



Stacy Kehoe with one of the most spectacular quilts helped by one of Jim Field's office mates



Likely struggle ahead at the Pilcher's: Maritza already has a hand on Shane's new quilt

Quilts of Valor

More honored recipients.....



Alden Perry .. "We are family"



Mickey McCamish—looking cozy



Bill Conner: Is this really for me, Stacy ?



Ron Galante—all wrapped up



Willard Rice—looks like Linda's looking ahead to snare it



David Smith with son, Christopher, looking pleased



Larson Mick - ready for camping?



Sam Saieed holds the quilt for his Dad, Dan

New Feature - - Member stories

In the interest of acquainting fellow members about each other's Navy-oriented experiences, a new feature is being kicked off. I am hopeful to get others to volunteer their story by putting my own on the line in this issue...Along with fellow guinea pigs, **Ron Galante** and **John Niemeyer**

Somewhat on the theme of "How I met your mother" or "What did you do in the war, Daddy?" This is meant not to be so serious or lengthy. Just a few questions about your first involvement with the Navy (MC, Army, whatever)Here goes:....

Willard Rice

Chattanooga Navy Leaguer

How or why did you get in the Navy?

I joined the NROTC as a freshman in college at Harvard. I was aboard in the "contract" program: graduate as Ensign with 8 year commitment including minimum 2 years active duty. Contract meant Navy did not pay anything except for uniform allowance while in college. Student newspaper published photos of us drilling with rifles on football practice field in cold drizzle on Monday afternoons under headline "Is this teaching them to think?" Later the college kicked ROTC out but about 10 years ago it got readmitted. However, now with voluntary military few join.

What was your first assignment?

Junior year I went on 6 week midshipman "cruise" to GTMO where we practiced nuclear war: sit inside decrepit ship with ventilation off, buttoned long sleeve shirts, pants tucked into socks under 100 degree sun all day. Being my first time south of NY, it was an eye opener to meet other midshipmen, some from U. of Virginia. They raptured about going to "THE Beach" like I and everyone else was supposed to know that meant "Virginia Beach." Plus UVA was "THE university. We had some outstanding beaches back on Long Island (NY) was my retort.

And then what?

Upon graduation, I was assigned to a WW II vintage destroyer, USS Kenneth D Bailey DDR 713, home ported in Mayport, a place I'd never heard of.. but that set off a sequence of fortuitous life events such as meeting future wife that never would have happened had I not been sent to FL

Initially, they didn't know what to do with me. I was the EWO — Electronic Warfare Officer—which meant I was in charge of one radio and one guy.in a dark smoky corner of CIC to track the Russians. Later, I was Communications Department head and OOD. I still have dreams of having lost a page out of the crypto code publications. Our ship had extra radar and comm gear so we could direct flight control intercepts for squadrons flying off 6th fleet carriers Forrestal & Enterprise. In battle, carrier was to shut off its radar & comm gear. Ours would stay lit to direct the fighters to the "bogies." We were more expendable.

I learned that our dept's Electronic Technicians (ETs) in the 60s were the precursors of software programmers in the future. You never knew if what they were doing would work until they were finished—usually late. It inoculated me for a career in computer industry.

Anything else stick to mind?

First captain admonished us green Ensigns that the most important thing was that, "When you said you would do something, do it without fail: No "dog ate my homework". It was good advice for life.

Navy Ball and Riverbend: Partners

There is **good news regarding the 2020 Navy Ball**. One element of the Ball is raising enough money to pull it off in style. An important part of that has been generating income at the **Riverbend Music Festival**. Navy Reservist Amanda Simonton Davis has stepped up to manage the Beer Tent that we have been staffing the last two years. Final details are coming into place.

Members and volunteers from previous years can expect details on needs soon. Briefly, Riverbend is just 4 nights now, May 27-30. There will be a new format which promises to make this year's event the best ever. Last year's tent manager, Navy Leaguer Willard Rice, reported that "We had a blast. It was great having Reservists, Active duty Navy staff, Sea Cadet supporters and Navy Leaguers all working together". When the call goes out for volunteers, don't be bashful ".

Ron Galante

Chattanooga Navy Leaguer

How or why did you get in the Navy?

In 1960 I dropped out of high school. 3 years later in 1963 I'd been a supermarket clerk and a messenger on the streets of NY. Going nowhere. What to do? "Join the Navy!" but no school guarantees offered for dropouts.

What was your first assignment?

As boot camp was concluding, the USS Thresher, SSN 593, sank with all hands being lost. "Would you like to go to submarine school when I you finish with boot camp?". I jumped at the chance. After sub school, I was assigned to the USS Alexander Hamilton SSBN 617 (nuclear ballistic missile submarine) as a mess cook with the rank of seaman apprentice.

And then what?

Being a mess cook was similar to the part in the Ben Hur movie where Charlton Heston was imprisoned on a ship as part of the crew chained to the oars. The only way to get off mess cooking was to be promoted. I located a torpedoman manual, studied, took the test and earned a promotion to Torpedoman 3rd class. However, there was a hitch: to stay aboard the Hamilton, I'd need to be 'career designated' and ship

Continued from adjacent column

over for 6 more years. By this time, I was married. The thought of being on 6 months of patrols every year for the next 6 years was not acceptable. I declined the offer. Next stop: the torpedoman's gang on the USS Amberjack, a diesel sub.

Anything else stick to mind?

in 1966, with my 3-year Navy tour up, I was discharged. I enrolled in college and continued on to graduate business school with the help of the GI Bill. I must admit I was **very concerned** that I would fail, since I had not graduated high school and had left school 7 years prior to starting college but I earned a B.S. degree graduating #1 and summa cum laude and an MBA with straight As. All finished in 4 years. That led to a 40-year international business career bolstered by my wife, Sue, who has provided constant support and love throughout our 55-year marriage. (More on my post-Navy career when there is another *Compass Points* issue.)

I will be forever grateful to the Navy for helping me through college with the GI bill and I will do all I can for the Navy in appreciation for the chance the Navy gave me to succeed.



Ron's nightmare

John Niemeyer Chattanooga Navy Leaguer

How or why did you get in the Navy?

I was going to be drafted and decided that I wanted to see if there was any way I could at least do some engineering. The Navy was the only branch with a designated staff corps, so I held out for the engineering 5105 designator. I risked being drafted. I had to give up a graduate fellowship at MIT to finish my MSCE at Wisconsin before enlisting to preclude being drafted.

After I graduated from Wisconsin with my MS, I went to work for Shell Oil Company who would give me military leave, and hold a job for me when I got out. I told Shell, based on Navy recruiter promises, that I would be able to work from January to June. Turned out I got orders in February to report in March.

What was your first assignment?

The office issuing my orders to OCS mistakenly sent two of us two weeks early. So I missed two weeks of real pay, to be in no-man's land at OCS. The enlisted were not happy to have us in their barracks and OCS wouldn't take us. We organized records in the office for two weeks and worked for the Chaplain. Got sent to CECOS after four months of OCS, not bad duty. RVN (Republic of Vietnam Navy) officers visited Port Hueneme often, and we were advised to take "tiny" sips of each toast so they didn't have to carry us out. Tough duty.

Continued from adjacent column

And then what?

At the conclusion of CECOS they assigned all single officers (roughly 50%) to Vietnam or related duty, and all married officers to US Billets. I wanted to get to Great Lakes Naval Station, because Laurel was still at the University of Wisconsin, finishing her nursing degree.

I got assigned to the Naval Reserve Training Command, Fort Omaha, Omaha, NE located in an old Army base where supposedly a major peace treaty had been signed. I was attached to an office that handled all maintenance and construction related to the then 430 US Naval Reserve Training centers.

Anything else stick to mind?

Being at Fort Omaha with a lot of career-played-out senior officers was no picnic. They mostly had been passed over several times. The Admiral had a C 130, but did not fly it much, so us junior officers would be assigned to the plane in lieu of commercial airlines. Flew from Omaha to San Francisco once, which took 5 hours or more I think. Not a happy group on the plane.

Had to travel to New York City during the air controllers strike, never saw my baggage. You just went in a terminal and got on the first flight that was headed in the direction you wanted to travel. Had to get a shave, new shirt, etc. in NY City on Ensign's pay! Before credit cards. I worked with many very fine people, it was a much better experience than was popularly believed.

Navy Leaguers hit home run for

"Wreaths Across Chattanooga"

Final results of the campaign to raise funds for wreaths for the Chattanooga National Cemetery were that Navy Leaguers donated \$2200, greatly surpassing our stretch goal of \$1500. Much thanks to all who contributed and showed that Navy Leaguers cared about the symbolism of the event. Navy Leaguer Mickey McCamish spearheaded the entire campaign raising over \$150,000 city-wide and delivering over 15,000 wreaths.



The December Dinner ... Celebrants



Pat & Ron Eytchison with Patty & Mark Parks (standing)



From right: Larson Mick, Shane & Maritza Pilcher, Dan Saieed & son, Sam



You can't do better than joining the Alden/Carolene Perry family, Stacy!



Ron Eytchison looks pleased with his Christmas treasure. What is it?

The December Dinner.... Celebrants



From left; Tom & Pat McGrath, Ron & Sue Galante, Laurel & John Niemeyer, Linda & Willard Rice. This is before it got crazy.



Someone's got to get the party started
Count on Patty Parks and Stacy Kehoe



"For me?" says John Niemeyer to Stacy Kehoe



From left: Mickey & Carol McCamish. Richard & Billy Hewitt,
David & son, Christopher Smith, join the party

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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Chattanooganavyleague.org

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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, February 20, 2020



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
 Installation of Officers & Directors.....7:30 PM
 Speaker LCDR PJ Remillard..... 7:45 PM
 50/50 Raffle & Final Announcements.....8:15 PM
 Adjournment.....8:30 PM

Reservation Form

Council Dinner Meeting -Thursday, Feb 20, 2020

NAME (S) _____

E-MAIL _____ Telephone _____

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

_____ Dinners @ \$35 = \$ _____

RSVP by Monday Feb 17, 2020

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**