

# Compass Points

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ISSUE 2

*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

Fellow Navy Leaguers ...

I pray that this greeting finds you and your family in good health and spirits. Our area, in particular, has had a difficult time between the pandemic and the tornados. I, myself, as well as many others, lost power for several days, and others lost their homes. One of our close family friends lost their entire house and belongings. Once the police authorized volunteers to go into the subdivision, my family and I were able to go in and assist with this particular person's home with salvaging what we could. It was truly disheartening to see this up close and personal, and to see the entire subdivision in such disarray. Please continue to pray for these individuals.

I have received a few phone calls and emails as to the latest plan for our next Navy League

*Continued ~ page 2*



Picnic Dinner Meeting .....	June 25
Member Meeting with MOAA.....	Aug 25
Veteran Day .....	Nov 11
Navy Ball (tentative).....	Oct 17
Annual Meeting Dinner .....	Dec 3

Perhaps... Maybe... Almost...

# YES!

## Navy League Meeting June 25th

If you read Stacy Kehoe's letter first, you know that we actually have a PLAN for getting together! Not our traditional dinner at the Walden Club but an outdoor event- --a gathering, a picnic at the Tennessee Riverpark. We hit on this after much agonizing – looking for way to balance both our desire for a Navy League meeting and the desire to do so in the safest way possible.

Without elaborating or exaggerating, the wisest way to deal with virus pandemic is to keep avoiding large indoor gatherings a bit longer. No need to push it at this still early date when we have a great alternative. Plus a new way to get together is refreshing! If this succeeds, maybe we'll try something else, sometime!

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# Picnic Place!

**The Wreath of Honor "Fallen Five" Memorial at  
Tennessee Riverpark  
(nearby)**

*the  
president's message*

*Continued from page 1*

dinner meeting. Initially, we had it scheduled for the last week in May, but it was recently discovered that no organization could meet due to the size limit.

Our new goal is to meet on June 25, 2020 at the TN RiverPark by the new Wreath of Honor Memorial. Many of our members have not seen this yet and it would be great to honor our fallen comrades. Our initial guest speaker, LCDR Remillard, the Commanding Officer of NOSC Chattanooga is fortunately still available for our June meeting. Our Council is really hoping to see ALL of you, attend. We want the biggest turnout to our dinner meeting in Council history!

Please note that if the weather should turn for the worse, we will automatically cancel. No reservations nor payments are required as you bring your lawn chairs and food and beverages. We will start at 1800 (6pm) and go to 2000 (8pm).

If we are not able to meet in June, then our next scheduled dinner meeting will be held on August 25, 2020 when we will merge with MOAA and have Congressman Fleischmann as our guest speaker.

I was recently contacted by the Tullahoma MJROTC Unit by their Senior Science Instructor to present their cadets with the Theodore Roosevelt Award. They are featured in this edition.

Thank you all for your continued commitment in supporting our Sea Services and our Youth.

In Kindest Regards,

Stacy Kehoe, Council President  
U S Navy League - Greater Chattanooga Council



## YES !....

**Continued from page 1**

**We have checked it out:** The area near the Wreath of Honor "Fallen Five" Memorial at the Tennessee Riverpark is ideal for getting together. Easy access, plenty of convenient parking, spaced-out tables (though bringing your own lawn chair is advised so you can locate anywhere). Social distancing will be easy. No one will be uncomfortable. Plus the nearby memorial is a fitting place for us. If you haven't already seen it, you can combine the picnic with a visit. You will be glad you did.

Bring your own food and beverage. We'll have some kind of ceremony and sharing of Navy League topic updates. If schedules permit, NOSC CO LCDR P J Remillard will come over as our **Honored Guest**. Still working on those details...Starting at 6 pm.

Getting there early would provide added time to explore the beautiful memorial and view the river park. No reservations needed. If weather is looking bad, we'll cancel but likely will not be able to alert you to that fact if it's a late call. Make your own decision.

**LOCATION:** At the Tennessee Riverpark near the Memorial. Just turn off Amnicola Highway onto the access road that leads past the Navy Reserve Training Center (NOSC). It goes to the parking section. We'll try to have some kind signage, but don't count on it! **6 PM Thursday June 25th**

**Note from the Editor**

You'll notice that this issue is a departure from other issues—The reason: it's been difficult to summon up the juices to produce this issue. With the interruptions caused by the virus's impact, the stories I'd normally cover don't seem so important or relevant. Time slips by and the topics fade. Perhaps the cartoons injected here and there will lift the gloom of or lack of the regular timely news.

But at same time our Navy is still out there on the front lines of the world. The two stories ---about the USS Theodore Roosevelt and the graduation going on at the Naval Academy --are reminders that there are Navy men and women dealing with the real world every day.

You've surely seen them covered elsewhere but

these are "our" stories, particularly relevant to the mission of the Navy League. They are on-going.

The Roosevelt presents the dilemma of leadership. Is it superior leadership for the CO to champion the crew or to quietly follow the dictates of the organization? Not so easy to sort out when all the facts come out. It is turning the Navy upside down. Stunningly, a review board of the Navy's senior commanders overturned the decision by the (then ousted ) Acting SecNav to discharge Capt Crosier. ... Stay tuned.

Meanwhile, the new generation of Navy leaders found a way to celebrate their graduation filled with the exuberance and promise of youth, pack their bags and head off on their new adventures.

The Navy will take them on paths unknown and unimagined.



 The New Yorker

**Major Sponsorship Received**

Once again, Lockheed Martin has stepped up and provided a \$2000 sponsorship in support of our Navy Ball campaign. At the present time, the plan for this years Ball is in limbo due to the uncertainties of the virus pandemic. We know the Ball will live on either this year or next. This gift makes Lockheed our major sponsor and they didn't even insist that we buy an F35!



## June 25th Picnic –Meeting

### *Honored Guest*

#### **LCDR PETER J. REMILLARD**

Lieutenant Commander P J 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 Leaguers in the Community

### Noah Long honored

One of the most exciting events in Chattanooga in late winter, which seems to be such a long time and a world away, was the opening of the long-awaited Medal of Honor Heritage Center way back on February 22nd. Since that time, the news has just been corona virus, corona virus, corona virus. Yet, great things were going on back then .

Prior to the opening, a celebratory barbecue dinner was held to thank its many contributors and donors. Chickamauga Chapter National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution member, Jane Hill, presented a beautiful Quilt of Valor to Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council member, and principal engineer/architect of the MOH Heritage Center, Rear Admiral Noah Long, USN (RET).

His contribution to this new education and visitor center is visible in every aspect of the project. RADM Long is a lifetime member of the Navy League of the United States and valuable member of our local council.



Jane Hill presents Quilt of Valor to Noah Long at MOH Heritage Center



### Patty Parks .....

#### Veteran Support Award Honoree

CDR Patty Parks, USN (RET) was honored on Friday, February 28, 2020 by the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council with the Milton Thomas Award.

The Milton Thomas Award is presented annually to a person in the community who has shown extraordinary support of the Veteran Community. The award was established in 2003 to honor Milton Thomas who spent a lifetime supporting the Veteran community through physical assistance, volunteer work and financial backing.

CDR Parks also serves on numerous veteran-related organizations and is the Chairman of the Women's Veterans Association. She is a lifetime member of the Navy League of the United States and is a member of the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council.



## Member stories

Those Navy Leaguers who read all of the last *Compass Points* issue probably spotted a new feature: **Member stories**—the purpose being to acquaint fellow members about each other's Navy-oriented experiences. It's not meant to be too serious or lengthy. Just a few questions starting with your first involvement with the Navy (MC, Army, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine). This issue's guinea pigs are **Larson Mick** and **Mark Parks**, long time valued members of our council.

I am hopeful that YOU will volunteer to put YOUR story in. Join us "guinea pigs". Just contact [wkrice@aol.com](mailto:wkrice@aol.com)

### Larson Mick Chattanooga Navy Leaguer

#### How or why did you get into the Navy?

In the early 1960s I had a college deferment from the draft. I was due to graduate from college in 1964, and shortly after graduation I paid a visit to my draft board in Camden, NJ, telling them that I had been accepted to Law School, and if they allowed me to complete law school, I would volunteer for the navy. They granted the extension and in the summer of 1967 I volunteered for the Navy. I arrived at OCS in Newport, RI in September 1967. I was commissioned in early 1968.

#### What was your first assignment?

While at OCS, a Lt. instructor enthusiastically promoted the destroyer navy as the place to be. I followed his suggestion by listing destroyers as my first choice of duty. This was in spite of a history of seasickness. I got my wish and was assigned to DD709, the Hugh Purvis. The

*Continued from adjacent column*

ship was completing an overhaul in Boston when I reported for duty. She then went through training at GITMO in preparation for a deployment to Vietnam in August. Off we sailed, down the East coast, through the Panama Canal, up the West coast to San Diego and San Francisco, then Pearl Harbor, Midway, Guam and finally the Philippines, which was our new home port for six months. (While sailing south towards Norfolk, the corpsman chief gave me a shot of something to ward off seasickness and I never experienced one minute of seasickness for the entire cruise.)

The ship did various operations off the coast of South Vietnam, mostly gunfire support for marine groups on land near the coast. The most exciting activity was participating in the last shore bombardment of a North Vietnamese target (an anti-aircraft gun facility) before Pres. Johnson ceased these activities.

#### And then what?

While we were deployed, we received the notification that the navy was decommissioning a large number of older craft and therefore was over-stocked with personnel. Reservists who did not want to change their status to USN would be getting deactivated between August and November of 1969, and I left in the last wave of early outs.

#### Anything else stick to mind?

I applied for and was accepted into the Judge Advocate General Corps (JAGC) in 1970, and served the remainder of my 20 years of service therein. Although the majority of my drill time was at the Chattanooga reserve center, I spent the last two years affiliated with a JAGC unit in Atlanta. I retired in about 1989.



USS Hugh Purvis DD 709 —Larson's ride

## Member stories....

### Mark Parks

#### Chattanooga Navy Leaguer

##### How or why did you get in the Navy?

I had planned to join the Navy since I was 16 or so. My father and most of my uncles served during WWII and they had a huge impact on my view of the military. I read a lot about WWII and was, and still am, very proud of the men and women who served in that war. Also, in the 1960's and 70's, I watched many movies that told the stories of these great men and women - the battles lost and won, the personal sacrifice and the amazing fortitude of a citizenry determined to overcome the Axis powers and preserve our freedom and way of life.

At the time of my enlistment in the Navy I was working at a Sears Automotive Center installing tires. Minimum wage at that time was \$1.60 per hour. My prospects for college were nil as no scholarship was to be had for an average student and my parents didn't have the money even for a community college. So two months after graduation, I was in the Navy Recruiter's Office signing the papers. I knew this was the best career move for me and there were no second thoughts or hesitation.

##### And then what?

I had to wait 6 months for a "seat" in my chosen school - photography/photo reconnaissance. I was nervous and excited so waiting 6 months before I departed for Boot Camp was interminable. But the day finally came and I was off to Orlando for basic training. 9 weeks of Basic was not really hard if you just kept your head on straight and did what you were told. Guys that failed at that found themselves tasked with trying to catch fish from a puddle of water some other humiliating endeavor. Boot Camp graduation came and included a visit from my parents. My mother said she was proud of me but I knew she thought I was stupid for joining the military. Sometimes you just can't do right by your parents no matter what.

From there I was off to photo school in Pensacola, FL. I

*Continued from adjacent column*

found out there was a lot to learn about the technical aspects of photography. Remember, in 1974 there was no such thing as "automatic" anything on a camera, and you were shooting film so every shot counted. Plus, you didn't know what you had until you got back to the photo lab and the film was developed - and not by machine. There were a lot of things that could go wrong so good photographs and a well documented event were very satisfying.

##### What was your first assignment/duty?

After photo school and a few weeks "leave" I flew to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba for duty. It is considered "isolated duty" so the tour was only a year, but I extended for an additional 6 months. Although personnel couldn't leave the base, there was plenty to do there. Every kind of summer sport was played. I took up golf.

The 18 hole course was the pride of the Caribbean prior to 1961 but Castro shut off the water provided to the base. A desalinization plant was quickly built but it couldn't produce enough water for the golf course so it deteriorated into a dry, rocky landscape. First, except for the greens, there were only sporadic patches of grass so your golf bag included a patch of fake grass to hit your ball from. Many times, your perfectly hit ball would ricochet off a rock ending up out of bounds or in some other hazard such as on a now dented VW bus driving nearby. The driver was not happy. It was all good fun and I got fairly good at golf with the exception that I could no longer hit a golf ball properly if it came to rest in real grass.

##### Anything else stick to mind?

The crabs coming through the sewer lines into the bathroom toilets were a daily concern. The VA has yet to agree to a PTSD disability compensation for that.

The Navy in the news .....

## Naval Academy – finds a way to get underway



From the *Navy Times*...

Much like the rest of the country, each of the U.S. military's service academies has had to make unusual adaptations to longstanding traditions in an effort to stifle the spread of COVID-19.

A time typically reserved for families and personnel to celebrate an influx of new officers has instead centered on social distancing and other measures to ensure individual safety. The graduating midships went off campus March 6 when the academy dismissed its brigade of approximately 4,000 for spring break.

In early May, the U.S. Naval Academy invited the Class of 2020 midshipmen to Annapolis for the commissioning event, albeit in a non-traditional format. The commissioning was held in "the Yard" for five separate groups over a 10-day period, spokeswoman Cmdr. Alana Garas told Navy Times. Each group consisted of about 210 midshipmen who were on campus for a two-day period, the first of which began May 11.





## The Navy in the news .....

### USS Theodore Roosevelt controversy roils the waters

Compiled from the *Navy Times*, the *New York Times* and *SeaPower* magazine

--On Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> the Roosevelt finally left Guam after docking there for nearly two months because of the Covid-19 outbreak. On board were about 3,300 of its crew members, defense officials said. Some remained behind in Guam because of health issues related to the disease, with many staying ashore because the ship's cramped living quarters prevented proper social distancing.

Approximately 1,200 crew members became sick while the ship was docked in Guam and one of the carrier's crew, Chief Petty Officer Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41 died of the virus on April 13. In the week before departure, at least 14 crew members who had reboarded the ship in preparation for its departure from Guam tested positive for the virus. Navy officials said. On June 4, the Roosevelt left Guam to continue its scheduled deployment in the 7th Fleet area of operations in the Indo-Pacific.

The views expressed in a recently released in medical memo summed up an air of urgency aboard the carrier at the onset of the outbreak, in part prompted Capt Brett E. Crozier to write his own memo, sent



**USS Theodore Roosevelt at dock in Guam**

*Continued from adjacent column*

to senior Navy leaders about the same time. Capt. Crozier's memo became the subject of news reports, leading to his removal. The warning that 50 sailors could die was reported nationally in April

The medical team's memo, signed by the ship's chief medical officer and three other doctors aboard the ship was sent to the Navy surgeon general and other naval personnel on March 30.

The then serving Acting Secretary of the Navy, Thomas Modley ordered Capt Crozier off the ship. After a profanity-laced address to the ship's complement, Modley, facing immense criticism both from within the Navy and externally, resigned. A review board of senior Navy officers convened to investigate the events recommended that Capt Crozier be reinstated.

Rumor flies that the Navy will be overturned by further political involvement. At press time, the story still unfolds. Stay tuned.



*"I can't wait to get home, run around outside, and finally eat some fresh food."*

## Navy League in the “greater” area

# Greater Chattanooga Council Helps Tullahoma Marine Corps Junior ROTC unit

*Continued from adjacent column*

We in Chattanooga— even “greater” Chattanooga don’t think much about what goes on beyond our own personal conception of “greater” Chattanooga ..is it the surrounding county or counties? But, the fact is, Navy League—wise, we extend outward hundreds of miles westward into northern Alabama, beyond Nashville into middle Tennessee and into northeast Tennessee. We are the only active Navy League Council in a very broad area. We welcome those outlying members that the national Navy League has connected us with.

We realize it is a remote possibility that you will be able to participate in our “social” events, but you are welcome, anytime. Also, by paying our local dues of just \$15 you provide support for some of our activity with the NJROTC unit at the Chattanooga Howard High School. Think broadly: these boys and girls, (soon to be young men and women ) are the future of the country. Whether they ever join the Navy or any other service their participation

in NJROTC (or MJROTC as in Tullahoma) gives many of them one of their most important esteem building activities . You can help them regardless of where you live.

We hope that the appearance of our Compass Points newsletter is not just “spam” to you but that you find some items of interest that help you stay connected to the sea services.

Here is another ‘angle on the aspect of the Greater in our name: The **Tullahoma TN high school MCJROTC contacted us!** To ask if we could lend some credence/ authority/recognition to their presenting of awards to their leading MJROTC cadets. What an honor to be asked.! Made us realize that there is interest out there in the Navy We were more than happy and gratified to lend a hand



Tullahoma High School cadets Colleen McCullough (on left) and Zachary Wirth (on right) receive Theodore Roosevelt Awards signed by Stacy Kehoe, President of the Navy League of Greater Chattanooga (Uniforms already turned in April)

## Navy Leaguers at Howard NJROTC Event

**Note:** An expanded version of this story appeared in the Chattanooga.com on March 16

The Howard High NJROTC Tiger Battalion conducted its annual area level inspection on March 10. Mervin Dial, Commander USN (RET) conducted the inspection as the Navy's designated representative. Numerous proud parents were on hand to support and encourage the cadets while to Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council President, Mrs. Stacy Kehoe and Military Officers Association President, CAPT Mickey McCamish USN (RET) t and Immediate Past President of the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council addressed the assembled group.

CDR Dial praised the cadets for their pursuit of excellence noting that the unit has grown from 88 cadets to 264 in a five years. They were chosen the Navy Area "Most Improved Unit" Award and were selected for top level visit by Navy's Chief of Personnel, Rear Admiral Hughes, this past September, Active in the community, they supported the opening ceremony of the National Medal of Honor Heritage Center.

School Principal Dr. Le Andrea Ware, Mrs. Kehoe and CAPT McCamish provided encouragement for the cadets rigorous pursuit of academic growth and acknowledged the cadets' commitment to the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

Cadet Company Alpha was led by Cadet Lieutenant Com-



**The Howard School NJROTC unit holds inspection**

*Continued from adjacent column*

mander Alex Perez and Company Bravo was led by Cadet Lieutenant Commander Bryan Calderon, both juniors.

Cadets recognized for performance excellence were: Rosalio Ambrocio, Nayeli Gabriel Juarez, Makala Phillips, Yunion Lopez, Casey Braulio, Juana Ramirez, Francisco Molina, Isabella Loarca, Mauricio Francisco, Rosaro Juan Andres, Rudy Godinez, Juan Tercero, David Vargas, Emily Perez, Malik Mcknab, Delmar Velasquez, Brandon Morales Bravo.

The Howard Schools NJROTC teaching staff includes Senior Naval Science Instructor, LCDR Dirk Ames, USCR (Ret), CPO Anthony Murphy, USN (RET) and new to the team this school year, 1st SGT William Conner, USMC (RET). Both Ames and Conner are members of the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council with Conner being Director-Youth Activities on the Council's board.



**L to R: 1<sup>st</sup> SGT Myers USMC, 1<sup>st</sup> SGT William Conner USM C (RET), Stacy Kehoe – President of Navy League Chattanooga, SGT Wolfe USMC**

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

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 Picnic

**Thursday June 25th 2020**

**6 pm at**

**Tennessee Riverpark**

**Just off Amnicola Highway near Navy Operational Support Center, the "NOSC"**

**Bring your own edibles, beverage and lawn chair**

*(so you can position anywhere best for you)*

**If weather looks bad, we'll cancel but may not be able to alert you if same day**



If you need a koozie or two or a few, we'll have them available for a small "donation".

Good time to put to use!

