

# Compass Points

VOL 19

March-April 2021

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

David B Smith –

.Greetings Chattanooga Navy League Members and Families

Since becoming President of the Greater Chattanooga League Council time has rapidly moved events to near the end of the first quarter of 2021. During this time, our council has completed two Board Meetings, one Membership Dinner Meeting, two Navy Ball Committee meetings plus several other accomplishments despite limited conditions associated with the Covid-19 Pandemic virus issues to continue business operations.

At the dinner meeting, Stacy Kehoe turned over the President's Pin and presented me with a gavel. The membership elected Pam Ann Morgan as the

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Member Dinner/Zoom Meeting	Apr 15
Armed Forces Day Parade	May 7
Memorial Day	May 25
Independence Day	July 4
Coast Guard Birthday	Aug 7
Joint Member Meeting with MOAA	Aug 31
Navy Ball	Oct 16

## Income Tax Postponed ! Clears Deck for April 15 Member Dinner

Yes, it's true! The filing date for income taxes has been pushed off to May 17!

So there is no reason you can't attend the upcoming Navy League dinner on April 15—either in person (with appropriate distancing & mask wearing) or by Zoom.

As we did in February, when we get closer to the meeting date, we will send out the details of how to log on to a Zoom session. Though the pre-meeting "social" segment of the evening will begin at 6 pm, we will be starting the official meeting at 6:30. You are encour-

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## Meeting Precautions . . . Yes—these are still the groundrules.....

The situation is getting better with the growing number of vaccinations — though Tennessee is, inexplicitly, near the bottom of the list, nationally, in percent of people who have been vaccinated. ??????

The Walden Club is complying with local (Hamilton County has just extended them until Apr 28) and CDC guidelines which are social distancing plus wearing of masks in social situations, except while dining.

Each person will need to make his/her own decision on whether the health risks to themselves and possible spread to/from others are acceptable. During the mask-off period, diners will be seated at group tables with other Navy Leaguers.

### One more time !

#### Dues are Due

If you haven't already done it, there's no time better than right now to get your local Council dues in. Remember, these are our prime source of support for the most important contribution to the youth of our community— our support of the Howard NJROTC program and the local Sea Cadet division. The Annual Local Council dues are now "due."

They are is \$15 for individuals and \$20 for married couples. **There is nothing preventing you from rounding these amounts up to some higher level!**

This money assists us in supporting our local youth. We already have plans for supporting the Sea Cadets and the NJROTC groups. In hopes of a new year, please plan to support our youth programs by sending in your local dues We count on YOU to assist us. Thank you.

**Mail to Pam Ann Morgan Treasurer Navy League  
at P.O. Box 91104, Chattanooga, TN 37412**

## April 15 Dinner Meeting.....

*Continued from page 1*

aged to log in just before that time – so we can be ready for the meeting kick-off at 6:30.

Guest speaker US Navy Captain Kevin West promises to make the evening memorable. Check bio on page 4.

We realize that there won't be as many attendees as we had in the "old days" due to the not yet vanquished Covid pandemic. At the same time we appreciate how those who attended the February meeting respected the safety limits that were in place. Keeping our tradition of being a social organization alive is important, though difficult, under present circumstances.

This notice is going to read much like the alert put out for the February meeting.

For those attending in person, there will be a "plated" dinner at group tables well separated from each other. During the dining period, masks can be off. People are encouraged to sit closely only to those in their "household" group though, with quite a few members having now gotten vaccinated, it will be safer for everyone. During non-dining periods, masks will need to be on. It's still the new reality for enhancing health safety for others nearby and, if we all do it, ourselves too.





Guest speaker Erin Crane



David Smith presents Stacy Kehoe with some bed time reading:  
"Traditions & Tales of the Navy"

## February Dinner Flawless Pam Ann Morgan Elected

The February dinner at the Walden Club went off without hitch. We are getting better at these combined in-person and Zoom gatherings. The key thing is that we accomplished the election of new Treasurer, Pam Ann Morgan, who was sworn in by Jim Fields, our Judge Advocate and member of Board of Directors.



,.....Pam Ann Morgan our new treasurer

Much appreciation goes out to Shane Pilcher who has been diligently and expertly handling this responsibility for the last couple of years. We are not letting him escape: Shane continues on as our Web-master.

The meeting rapidly moved on to guest speaker Erin Crane's recollections of how Navy service influenced her life path and impacted how she has continued to grow in service to the community.

A report of the dinner would not be complete without noting that the winner of the Valentine contest that Stacy put together was no other than ---- Erin Crane!

If the state of Georgia hadn't exhausted all tolerance for recounts, we might still be trying to overturn that outcome! However she clearly outperformed the rest of us on our Valentine awareness. Need to work on that for next year!

## Navy Ball News - Optimism will help

The news is that there is no new News. This article is just to keep in everyone's mind that we are still aiming to have the Navy Ball Oct 16. The planning Committee has had several planning meetings already. **Contributions to support the Ball are welcome at any time.** Send to Pam Ann Morgan, Chatt NL Treasurer. PO Box 91104 Chatt 37412. As almost every issue of *Navy Times* reports, the US Navy is taking the virus pandemic very seriously and is ensuring not to open up too soon. Our Council is staying optimistic that the doors will open and conditions will make hosting the Ball a great milestone—yet again. Anyone who has attended in the past can testify that the Ball is a treasure for our community .

## On Deck ....Captain Kevin West For April 15 Dinner meeting

A native of Jackson, Michigan, Captain West joined the Navy later in life, getting a congressional waiver to enlist as a journalist at age 35 through the Navy Reserve's Advanced Pay Grade program. He had already been a working civilian journalist for 17 years prior to his enlistment and held a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. He received a direct commission a year-and-a-half after enlisting.

West has operational experience with Commander Naval Forces Europe-Commander Naval Forces Africa-Commander 6<sup>th</sup> Fleet (CNE-CNA-C6F) as Naval Forces Africa Public Affairs Officer for Africa Partnership Station exercises. He deployed in 2016/2017 as deputy public affairs director for Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications at Resolute Support headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan in support of Operation *Resolute Support*.

After receiving his commission, West was assigned to Navy Information Bureau 108 where he served as Division Officer of a unit that provided media training for flag officer selectees and NATO commanders deploying to Afghanistan. He served as public affairs officer for Commander Eastern Atlantic Detachment 108, trained Naval Media Center detachments in Guantanamo Bay, Bahrain, Diego Garcia, and Yokosuka, and created Navy Weeks for the Navy Office of Community Outreach.

He fleted up to deputy director while assigned to Navy Reserve CNE-CNA-C6F. He deployed to Afghanistan during his tour with United States Fleet Forces Command and returned as deputy director for Navy Reserve Navy Information Commander Seventh Fleet, took on a similar role at Navy Public Affairs Support Element-West, then was appointed acting



**Capt Kevin West - Chief of Staff Navy Reserve  
Navy Public Affairs Support Element-HQ**

(Added the 4th stripe since photo since the photo)

Director of Navy Reserve Navy Public Affairs Support Element-Headquarters as a Commander before promoting to Captain and moving into his current assignment as Chief Of Staff.

West has been awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, two Navy Commendation Medals, a Joint Services Achievement Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the NATO ISAF Medal. He is also authorized to wear the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal for his work with United States Fleet Forces Command.

West maintains his civilian radio broadcasting career as the program director for two News/Talk stations and news director for the Cumulus Radio group in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Civilian awards include Best Radio Newscast, Continuing News, General Reporting, Investigative Reporting, and Feature Reporting He has also won three Addy Awards. West lives with his wife and two step-children in Hixson, Tennessee. He has three grown children and five grandchildren.

## “Jelly Roll” Rug - Fund-raiser

No you can't eat it—but you can pamper your toes in the plush cushion of this unique creation!

One special thing that will be going on BEFORE and at the April 15 dinner is an auction- a “silent auction”

It starts right now, as soon as you receive this newsletter.

It is for a “Jelly Roll rug that Stacy Kehoe has created. The proceeds from the auction will go to support our various community service endeavors and, in particular, augment our resources to help our youth programs among others. Starting bid price is to be \$50.



It's 43" by 32"

You can enter the auction by scanning the displayed QR code (with your phone) or going to the Silent Auction Website: <http://bit.ly/SilentAuctionApril2021> Those attending the April 15 dinner in person will be able to bid right there. The auction will close April 16.

Here is note directly from the artist/creator

"Bid on this Jelly Roll Rug made and donated by Stacy Kehoe. The rug is 43 inches wide, and 32 inches tall. It took Stacy 2 ½ weeks to create with the "[Poppy Promenade Shimmer](#)" 100% cotton strips and batting. (Click on that link to see the material content.) When you place your feet on this rug, your toes will squish into the plush fabric. This rug was also sprayed with "Fabric Protect" to prevent dust and dirt build-up. Machine wash on gentle cycle/cold water, only. Lay flat to dry. Stacy will also add a non-slip pad under the rug to prevent it from sliding on wood floors..

With Memorial Day approaching in May, you can honor a loved one with their memory or give it as a gift to someone else that has lost a special veteran."



QR Code - - scan it with your phone to enter auction

## **Newest Navy League Member Rob Eldridge**

Now this is going to be a little complicated ! Our newest Chattanooga Navy League member is Rob Eldridge who just joined a couple weeks ago. But it's the whole package Rob has brought along that is news-breaking. On March 15, **Rob's wife Susan at 49 years old joined the Navy Reserve as a Lieutenant in the medical corps!**

Meanwhile, their 18 year old daughter is an E5 procurement specialist on the USS Sterritt DDG 104 and their son is in cryptology training at the Navy base in Pensacola. And, if that is not enough of a Navy connection, consider this: Susan's father was a navy fighter pilot in WW II.

And now back to "late-bloomer" Susan. Rob relates this story. "While we were getting Susan's son into the Navy, she was approached by the recruiter about serving herself. Susan shared that she had desired to join the Navy out of college but, due to circumstances at the time, was unable to pursue that dream." Life goes on and, currently, Susan is the lead pediatric nurse practitioner at the Ringgold pediatric clinic where she has been for 7 years. But at 49, would it be possible?

After much conversation, they decided to try and see if she could possibly make that Navy dream come true. Following an approval process that took over a year, a Naval officer came to their home in Ringgold Georgia on Sunday March 15th and swore Susan into the Naval Reserves. **Now Lt Susan Eldridge is in the Navy and Rob is in the Navy League!**



**Newly aboard Naval Reservist Lt Susan Eldridge with Navy recruiter who came to her home to swear her in. How's that for service!**



**Susan and Ron Eldridge  
Ron is our newest Council member**

## Navy League in the community

### Helping the Chattanooga Homeless Task Force

One important thing we did back in January that we didn't report in the last issue was his event that we did in combination with the local US Navy and Marine Corps groups.

Our Council co-sponsored a community service event on January 9 at the Chattanooga Furniture Bank in collaboration with the City of Chattanooga's Homeless Task Force. Council members David Smith and Stacy Kehoe, along with NOSC Chattanooga Navy and Marine Corps members, organized the Homeless Division's space at the Chattanooga Furniture Bank.

Together, we spent 3 hours cleaning up piles of discarded waste, reorganized the shelves, unpacked boxes of new sleeping bags and tents and put them on the shelves, organized the clothes onto clothing racks, and other tasks that need to be accomplished. Afterwards, the entire crew were to lunch donated by Mission BBQ. It was great to have the NOSC Chattanooga team pitching in



**At the Chattanooga Furniture Bank with the Chattanooga Homeless Task Force and US Navy and Marine Corp members. That's Stacy Kehoe and David Smith in there - - - plus one huge dog!**



**Tote that barge,  
lift that bale, David**



**That's Stacy, once again,  
behind that mask  
--- pitching in**

### MLK Day - Day of Service

And another In recognition of Martin Luther King Jr Day of Service, the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council, in collaboration **with the USCG station** and the City's Homeless Task Force, we sorted and hung clothes, filled hand sanitizer bottles, moved mounds of trash, and safely move furniture to make room for future donations. Afterwards, the CG were given a tour of the facility, and then, treated to Mission BBQ, who donated lunch to our military personnel. A big round of applause to all those involved.

new Treasurer. Our guest speaker Erin Crane talked about her background and involvement in community affairs. Stacy Kehoe presented Erin a Letter of Appreciation and a small present. As President, I presented Stacy a new Navy League ball cap and a book entitled "Tradition of the Navy". Thereafter, Stacy conducted the membership in a Valentine's Day Game which everyone enjoyed playing with our guest speaker winning the game prize. At the end of the meeting our Speaker Erin Crane joined the Council as a new member.

If you recall, in the January-February Compass Point the Council set fifteen goals to complete in 2021. To date, the Council has completed eight of the goals and six will be ongoing throughout 2021. The one goal still outstanding is to reestablish communication with the current Commanding Officers of the Blue and Gold Crew of the USS Tennessee (SSBN 734) Submarine.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, our council will need to limit its Board Meeting and Membership Dinner Meeting to conduct business via zoom media sessions. For those attending the next April 15 dinner meeting at the Walden Club in person the wearing of masks and social distancing will still be necessary. Hopefully by mid-year everyone will have the opportunity to schedule the vaccine injection shot(s) where more of our members will feel safe to attend Council events.

Based on information received from National headquarters our membership numbers have dropped due to a few of our members letting their annual membership lapse. Mickey McCamish, Membership & Retention Director, is presently working to contact those members to request the member to renew their membership. Another issue is several of our members still need to send in their local dues (\$15 individual and \$5 for spouse) to the Council Treasurer. The Local dues are important since the money is used to support the Howard High School Navy Jrotc Program and Chattanooga Division Navy Sea Cadet Program. Also, donations to the General Fund are requested to support our Sea Services organizations. Additionally, our Council is involved in raising funds to support the Navy Ball scheduled in October 2021.

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Fair winds and following seas .....

David Smith

## **From the archives.....Where did that word come from?**

**Porthole** originally a hole in ship side to poke cannons out —from French "porte" meaning door

**Painter**—a line to the bow for towing or securing —from French "pentoir " meaning rope

**Starboard** -from the Norse word for "steering oar" or "star oar" on the right side of Viking vessels

**Mate**—from the French word "matelot" for sailor



# Armed Forces Day Parade – May 7th

An event that is surely to be of interest to many Navy Leaguers is the Armed Forces Day Parade which is to be held **Friday May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am** on Market Street in downtown Chattanooga. This annual May event had to be pushed to October last year but the Chattanooga Area Veterans Council (CAVC) has it on the calendar just about a month from now.

Quoting from CAVC's invitational letter "Each year our celebration focuses on one of the Armed Services. **This year we highlight the United States Navy** under the theme "**Forged by the Sea**". So this year is the "Navy year" and, if all goes as planned, Admiral Michael M Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), will be the parade reviewing officer and the speaker at the luncheon following the parade. Navy Leaguer Captain Mickey McCamish USN (Ret) is Co-Chairman of the Parade.

That lunch will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center at 12:00 pm. Those who would like to attend the lunch should contact Commander Patrick L Neel USN (ret) who is the CAVC Lunch Chairman for reservations and payment details. His phone # is 423 362 3494. Reservations are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Commander Neel's invitation also cites the following: "We recognize that the possibility exists that evolving Covid restrictions could prevent the luncheon from taking place as scheduled. Should that occur, checks will be returned..... Right now, we are encouraged that we will all be able to safely come together this year and show support for the members of our Armed Services once again in true Chattanooga Strong Fashion."



Much appreciation from Navy League of Greater Chattanooga Council goes out to our corporate sponsors . . . . .



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# February member dinner



**Navy Leaguers Larson Mick, Pam & Jim Fields, and Ed Shropshire - looks like they finished off that fabulous dinner**



**Navy Leaguers Pam Ann Morgan, Shane Pilcher, David Smith, Stacy Kehoe, Billy Hewitt & Mickey McCamish—looking pleased**



**Stacy Kehoe thanking Erin Crane for her presentation and awarding her Valentine prize .... And Erin joined the Navy League!**



**Erin Crane (center, back) with her "posse"**

**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



**You are invited to**

## Annual Member Meeting

**6 PM Thursday, April 15, 2021**

Walden Club

Republic Center, 633 Chestnut Street, Suite 2100

Chattanooga, Tennessee 37450

*Plated dinner with 2 sides rolls dessert, tea and coffee*

Social Time .....	6:00 PM
Welcome (Members & Guests please take seats)....	6:30 PM
Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance .....	6:35 PM
Announcements.....	6:40 PM
Plated Dinner .....	6:50 PM
Guest Speaker—Capt Kevin West.....	7:30PM
Adjournment.....	8:30 PM

### Reservation Form

*Council Dinner Meeting- Thursday April 15, 2021*

Please print names of all guests and members

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

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

Dinner Meeting price is \$35 for Members and their guests

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

RSVP with payment **NO LATER THAN Monday April 12.**

Make check payable *Chattanooga Navy League*

Mail Payment/Reservation to Pam Ann Morgan, Navy League Treasurer

P.O. Box 91104, Chattanooga TN 37412

Reservation questions: E-Mail & phone contact;

423-504-0955 and [PMorgan@All-TradeCo.com](mailto:PMorgan@All-TradeCo.com)

Optional PayPal Payment

Log on to website [www.chattanooganavyleague.com/paypal.html](http://www.chattanooganavyleague.com/paypal.html)

—No walk-ins—

**If you paid for the cancelled Feb 2020 dinner, note that on reservation for credit**