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Council's Founding Father John J. "Jack" Spittler Passes

On March 22, 2018 the principal founder of the Navy League Council of Greater Chattanooga, John J. (Jack) Spittler, passed away. Remembered and revered by Navy League members who were there at the start, Jack will leave a hole in many hearts. Jack surely heard these words many times during his long life when he honored those navy men who "crossed the bar" before him. It is only fitting that we hear them again for him.

Eternal Father, strong to save,

Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,

Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep

It's own appointed limits keep;

O, hear us when we cry to Thee,

For those in peril on the sea!



... The Navy Hymn





President's Message

Mickey McCamish, President

Time marches on as we have set our docks forward with the anticipation of spring being right around the corner. Our Navy League-Greater Chattanooga Council is also marching forward and we're off to a good 2018 start.

One way that we are off to a good 2018 start, is that recently, there was a transfer of members from the Navy League-San Diego council to a Navy League council closest to the member's respective zip code. As result of a banking incentive, these Navy League members, throughout the United States, initially joined the San Diego council but never attended a San Diego council meeting since the distance was so great. As a result of this redistribution of members, we now have 109 new members in our council so now these members will have a better opportunity to enjoy and participate in our Navy League activities and programs. Joe Holloway, Board of Directors-Membership and Retention, is promptly following up with these new members.

Another way that 2018 is becoming a special year is the selection of our Navy League-Greater Chattanooga Council supported Howard High School's NJROTC program as the "Most Improved Unit in Region 9." Region 9 is a six state region covering Tennessee to New Mexico. A special presentation was made at the February 15, 2018 Hamilton County School Board meeting. At the meeting, it was noted by officials "that the participation and accomplishments of the Howard NJORTC were unprecedented." LT CDR Dirk Ames, United States Coast Guard (Retired), is the Senior Naval Science Instructor along with Naval Science Instructor MMC Mike Murphy, United States Navy (Retired).

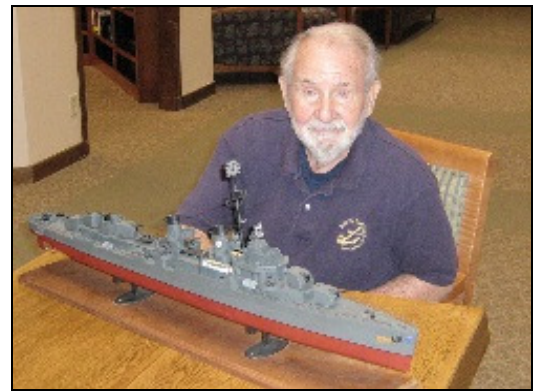
So, yes. let us keep our 2018 momentum going and do things that increase the awareness of our council.

Mickey McCamish, President

John J. (Jack) Spittler "Crosses the Bar"

On Tuesday March 21, the principal founder of the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council died. Being a destroyer man at heart, John J (Jack) Spittler would appreciate the appellation 'plank owner' since he was there at the launching of our Council. Born on the western plains of Nebraska November 8 1918, and armed with a BS from the University of Nebraska Jack joined the Army Air Force flight training program in 1940 and upon completion served with the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Transferring to the U.S. Navy in January 1942, he was assigned as Recognition and Personnel Officer on the staff of the first Fletcher class destroyer squadron commissioned. All nine ships were assigned to the Pacific Theatre of Operations but only three returned.



Jack Spittler with a model of one of the ships he served on.

Participating in 13 major Pacific engagements, his ship, the USS Nicholas (DD449), became one of the most highly deco-

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HOWARD'S NJROTC UNIT EARNS MOST IMPROVED



At the Hamilton County School Board meeting on March 15th COL Tom McConnell, USA (Ret), director of Army Instruction for Hamilton County Schools, and Stacy Kehoe, vice president/secretary, and director of Youth Programs for the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council, presented LT CDR Dirk Ames, USCG (Ret), the Senior Naval Science Instructor at the

Howard High School, with the "Most Improved Unit in Region 9" award. The region spans from Tennessee to New Mexico. Number One out of fifty-one!



COL Tom McConnell

Together with Naval Science Instructor MMC Mike Murphy, USN (Ret) Ames provides instruction and guidance to the 126 members of the Howard High NJROTC unit. "Their participation and accomplishments are unprecedented," said officials. They have accomplished eight academic, orientation, and training visitation trips; a leadership training summer camp; 10 academic and athletic scholarships; a first-time Girls State scholarship; fielded competitive teams in Drill, Color Guard, Marksmanship, and started a Raider Team and Robotics' Team.

Joining LT CDR Ames, COL McConnell, and Ms. Kehoe at the award ceremony were Assistant Principal Ronald Davis from Howard High School and Hamilton County Education Superintendent Dr. Bryan Johnson.

LT CDR Ames said in an email, "Our current plan is to continue working toward strengthening our program and increasing both participation and numbers. My short term goal is to stabilize unit enrollment and hire a third instructor. This would bring our program on par with Hamilton County Department of Education Army units."

Walden Club

Next Meeting: April 19, 2018



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

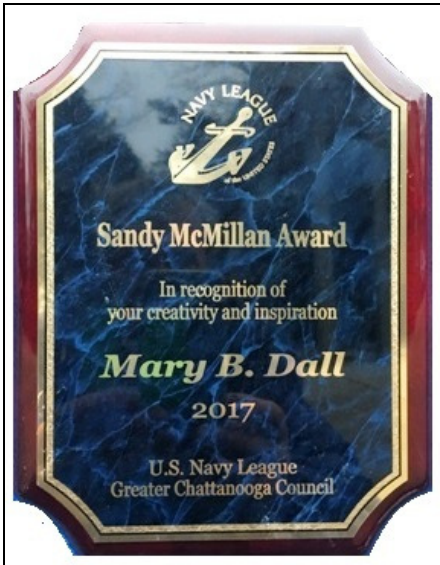
It's that time again ... Time to plan for attending the next Chattanooga Navy League dinner which is on **Thursday, April 19th** at our new meeting place: **The Walden Club**. If you didn't get to the February dinner, don't make that mistake again! As the article on a following page details, our inaugural dinner at The Walden Club was a hit on every aspect.

The April dinner will have several highlights. Our speaker will be LT CDR Dirk Ames, the Senior Instructor for NJROTC at Howard School. He will be telling us all about what goes on in the NJROTC program and how it is making a measurable difference in the lives of 126 cadets there. Their engagement certainly benefits the community at large. Your Navy League Council has provided support for the NJROTC program for many years. As another article details, our local unit was recently identified as the "Most Improved" in the southern region ... out of 51 units!

The April dinner is also a time for awards ... for the Sea Cadets and for the NJROTC cadets plus we will be announcing the 2018 Sandy McMillan Award. This most prestigious award – initiated this past year in honor of the late Sandy McMillan who supported the Navy League and the community in so many ways - is to be the highlight of our evening.



McMillan Award Finds Its Home



Readers of the February **Compass Points** issue and/or attendees at our December dinner meeting at the Choo - Choo know that, at that dinner, we announced that the first-ever recipient of our Council's "Sandy McMillan Award" was Mary B Dall. Only problem was that Mary couldn't be at the dinner to personally receive the award which we wanted to

present before the year was out.

Fortunately, that has been remedied. A small group of us hosted a lunch where we were able to present Mary with a

handsome plaque denoting her selection. Best of all, Kitty McMillan was able to attend making this a very special occasion connecting



(L/R): Mary Dall and Kitty McMillan.

Kitty and Mary who, for many years, had worked closely with Sandy McMillan in publishing **Compass Points**. Also, at the lunch were Peter Dall, Dan & Stacy Kehoe and Willard Rice.

February Dinner at The Walden Club ~ A Hit

Those Navy Leaguers whose calendars enabled them to attend our first (well not really our first since some members recalled meeting there a few years back) dinner meeting at the Walden Club on February 16th came away with praise for the delightful event. The dinner was delicious, the serving gracious, the setting elegant and the evening's presentation invigorating and informative. Did I mention the parking? It was convenient, close and ... free. What could be better overall!

Our dinner speaker, US Marine Corps Captain Patrick Sansbury gave us insight into how our local USMC Artillery Reserve unit fits into the big picture of the Reserves and how it meshes its activities into the national and international role of the Marine Corps. We learned some of the Corps' lingo: Just like submariners bridle at their vessels being called, "ships"



Chattanooga Navy League President Mickey McCamish with CAPT Patrick Sansbury, USMC.

instead of "boats," the Marines don't refer to those large devices they shoot as "guns" or "artillery": they call them "cannons" as if they were just like those antiques scattered on Missionary Ridge.

By the way, the bad news is that standard shells those cannons hurl cost \$900 each and the GPS guided ones that can land in a teacup 10 miles out cost \$30,000 apiece. The good news is they don't shoot them around here: they fire them in Alabama for practice. Average age in the Marine Corps is 21. What other organization lets you burn that kind of money unless you count parents sending kids to college at that age?



John J. (Jack) Spittler “Crosses the Bar”

Continued from page 2

rated fighting ships in naval history and was granted by Admiral "Bull" Halsey the high honor of transferring Japanese dignitaries to the battleship Missouri for signing of the peace treaty ending World War II.

Jack held numerous awards and commendations including the Bronze Star for Valor, Commendation Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic Pacific Theatre ribbon with two silver and three bronze stars, Philippine Liberation Combat Action Ribbon with 13 battle stars, Meritorious and Distinguished Navy Public Service awards and the Coast Guard Meritorious Public Service Award.

Upon his Navy discharge in November 1945, Jack enrolled at Ohio State University where he earned a Bachelor of Law degree and a Juris Doctor degree. He became a loyal Ohio Buckeye but never lost his love for the Navy.

Navy League to the core, Jack helped found and became president of the Columbus Ohio Council of the Navy League which grew to more than 800 members. Later he became state president, regional president and national vice-president. During 1979-1981 he was National President of the Navy League of the United States.

At age 85 he founded the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council (also known as the John J. Spittler Council) spurring its membership to more than 200 within three years. Knowing that Jack was always behind us has given our Navy League group the spirit and ambition to continue his vision onward. He will be missed.



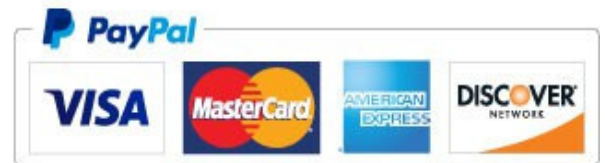
Riverbend 2018 ...

JUNE 9-16

Navy League will not be managing the beer tents or organizing the volunteer staffing as we did last year at Riverbend, RiverFront Nights and several other summer events. The Marine Corps Battalion reservists at the NOSC have stepped forward to take on that massive responsibility. They may call for volunteer help from Navy reservists, Navy League members and Sea Cadets and provide a proportionate share of proceeds for the Navy Ball, thereby. Standby for more information on this as it develops.



- 19 April** Navy League Dinner
- 4 May** Armed Forces Parade, 10:30 AM, Market Street at MLK Downtown Chattanooga
- 4 May** Armed Forces Day Luncheon - By Reservation Only - Noon, Chattanooga Convention Center, 1150 Carter Drive, Chattanooga, TN. For reservations contact Patrick Neel, patrick-neel@outlook.com or (423) 362-3494,.



PayPal Payment Possible

We have set up a PayPal account so that payment for dinners, among other charges, can be done on-line: no need to mail a check. Make a payment by going to the Navy League Council website - www.chattanooganavyleague.org - click on the PayPal tab on the extreme right end of the blue banner, click on "Donate", then fill in the information fields as indicated. A PayPal account is not required to make a payment - all that's needed is a valid credit card or debit card. If you have a PayPal account you can also make a PayPal payment through the website. After your payment has been processed you will receive a receipt at the email address that was submitted with your payment. If you have any questions, contact Treasurer Mark Parks for assistance at parks8192@gmail.com.



(L/R): Brainard Cooper and Vance Frye.



Ron Galante, John Niemeyer, and Vince Patterson.



(L/R): Kitty Bayman, Linda and Willard Rice, Nick Bayman, Trudy and Tom Trivers.



(L/R): CAPT Patrick Sansbury, USMC, MMC Mike Murphy USN, (Ret), Mickey McCamish, President, and Dan Saied.



(L/R): Joan Williams, Louise Cooper.



(L/R): Dave Smith and Billy Hewitt.



Kermit and Joyce Mock.



(L/R): Stacy Kehoe and Ed Shropshire.



(L/R): Patty and Mark Parks.



Frank Kirbus.



(L/R) Mickey McCamish and Dan Saied.

A Fond Memory of "Jack"



Members of the Greater Chattanooga Council NLUS recently recognized three past Presidents in a cake-cutting ceremony. Featured, left to right, officiating and using the sword presented to him by King Juan Carlos of Spain is the late Jack Spittler; past Presidents include RADM Robert Crates, USNR (Ret); VADM Ron Eytchison, USN (Ret); and CDR Will Zimmerman, USN (Ret).

"Fair Winds & Following Seas"



(L/R): Larson Mick, Ray Hall, Don Hdalik, and Earl Hereford.



(L/R): COL Tom McConnell, LT CDR Dirk Ames, and Stacy Kehoe. (To view the Pass and Review Annual Inspection video of Howard NJROTC, log on to <https://youtube/W9bkMkP472s>).



(L/R): Sue Galante, Laurel Niemeyer, Vince & Nancy Patterson.

Photographs on pages 5 through 8 courtesy of Patty Parks and Stacy Kehoe.

Compass Points is the bimonthly publication of the Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spitter Council of the Navy League US.

Editor ~ Willard K. Rice, Jr.

Publisher ~ Mary B. Dall

Photographer ~ Patty Parks

• MACKIE AWARD WINNER •

STAY CONNECTED

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Chattanooga Navy League

- OUR MISSION -



Educate community leaders about the importance of Sea Power to our nation's survival and continued prosperity

Directly support the men and women serving in the Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine

Support Sea Service family members: The parents, spouses, children, and other relatives of service members

Support the youth of our communities by giving time, talent and money to the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Naval & Marine Corps Junior ROTC units



OUR ADOPTED COMMAND AND UNITS

Make Plans Now to Join Us

COUNCIL DINNER MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2018



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

Buffet featuring 2 Entrée selections, sides, rolls, dessert, tea and coffee.

Social Time (Cash Bar in adjacent lounge)	6:00 PM
Welcome (Members & Guests please take seats)	6:30 PM
Colors - Howard High NJROTC	6:35 PM
Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation	6:40 PM
Buffet Dinner	6:45 PM
Presentation - Update on JROTC - LT CDR Dirk Ames	7:30 PM
Awards: Sea Cadets and NJROTC	8:00 PM
Sandy McMillan Award	8:15 PM
50/50 Drawing and Announcements	8:25 PM
Retire Colors and Adjournment	8:30 PM

Please complete and return the dinner reservation form, below, to arrive no later than Tuesday, April 17, 2018.

RESERVATION FORM

COUNCIL DINNER MEETING

Thursday, April 19, 2018

NLUS Members:	_____ X	\$30.00 =	\$____.00
Non-Member Guests	_____ X	\$40.00 =	\$____.00

Please **print** the names of all guests and members:

Reservations may be **phoned** in to Mark Parks: 423-326-0839, **no later than NOON, Thursday, April 19th**. Mark may also be reached at mparks@epbf.com. Reservations and/or cancellations should **reach us NO LATER THAN NOON, TUESDAY, April 17, 2018**. Mail reservation form along with your check, made payable to *Chattanooga Navy League*, to:

Mark Parks
6920 Sawtooth Drive
Ooltewah, TN 37363-6894



Or pay, via *PayPal*, by logging on to our website:

www.chattanoogaNAVYleague.org

NOTE: Pay-at-the-door without Advance Reservations is \$45.00 per person. Regrettably, no shows will be charged the full amount for dinner.