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President's Message

Mickey McCamish, President

Fellow Navy Leaguers,

As we experience the summer temperatures of late May/early June, that's a signal that the Riverbend Festival is coming quickly. As matter-of-fact, the date for 2018 is June 8-16 and this marks the 37th year of the Festival that has become known in many circles as "The Tennessee Family Reunion."

The reason that I mention Riverbend is that during a part of Riverbend, the **June 11-16** time period, the U. S. Navy will celebrate "**Navy Week in Chattanooga**" and will use Riverbend as a platform to celebrate the Navy throughout our community. Chattanooga is one of fourteen cities to have been selected as a "Navy Week City." Plans to date include, the U. S. Navy Fleet Forces Band greeting and performing for those early arrivals attending Riverbend, starting Sunday, June 10, 2018, 5:00 pm, at the main entrance (Chestnut Street and Aquarium Way) and continuing through Wednesday, June 13, 2018. Additionally, the U. S. Navy Brass Band will perform on the Unum Stage starting Thursday, June 14, through Saturday, June 16, at 5:00 pm. Plans also include participation in "The Strut" on Monday, June 11.

Again, this year, Riverbend will include a Military Appreciation Night at Riverbend, which will be on Wednesday, June 13, commencing at 8:30 pm just prior to the headline artist, Dustin Lynch. The program will include the Fleet Forces Band, service hymns of all branches of our military, a World War I remembrance as 2018 is the 100th anniversary and a massive reenlistment ceremony. A highlight of the evening will be the recognition of the crew members of USS TENNESSEE to which this Council has paid two visits and adopted the TENNESSEE as our boat. With the TENNESSEE crew in town,

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Navy Week in Chattanooga is June 11-16 and coincides with the Riverbend Festival. This week-long co-celebration is designed to give everyone an opportunity to learn more about the Navy, its personnel, and its importance to national security and prosperity while, incidentally, enjoying Riverbend. Some of the events are "inside" Riverbend, some external. As Chattanooga Navy League President Mickey McCamish has highlighted in his accompanying letter, there will be multiple Navy hosted events.

In addition to the exciting "naval" events that are to be within the Riverbend venue (suggest a careful read of the letter to get the details), there will be several interesting nautical activities at the nearby Aquarium and IMAX Theatre:

- On Monday, June 11th, representatives from the **Navy's Meteorology and Oceanography Command** will set up research equipment and

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It's quite a way off, but the wheels are turning for the Navy Ball. Our Navy League Council is once again the sponsor of the Ball. After the great success achieved last year, the committee of Navy Leaguers and NOSC active duty and reserve personnel are enthused about getting this year's event organized.

They are working on the plans with the only "hitch" so far is that the date is not yet confirmable. It depends on the Navy deciding which weekend their October reserve drill is to be. That won't be nailed down for another month or so but you can be sure the committee headed by Navy League Director Billy Hewitt will put all the pieces together. Meanwhile, pencil in October 13 as the most likely date (with the 20th a possible alternate). Once the date is known, we'll get that word out to all.

the president's message

Continued from page 1

tentative plans include an informal gathering with the crew and our Council.

Also, I would like to mention that the 69th Armed Forces Parade was a tremendous success with our Council and the Sea Cadets-Chattanooga Division and the Howard High School NROTC units participating. Our Council strongly supports both of these youth programs. The Sea Cadets assisted with the Memorial Day Program at Chattanooga National Cemetery on May 28th.

Thanks so very much for your membership in our Greater Chattanooga Chapter of the Navy League of the United States.

With much appreciation,

Mickey McCamish, President



Possible June Social With Gold Crew of USS Tennessee

As part of the flurry of Navy activities in June, there **possibly, repeat "possibly,"** will be an informal get-together with members of Gold Crew of the **USS Tennessee** at the Walden Club on the evening of June 21st. Quite a few of our Council members have gone on one or the other of the field trips to the USS Tennessee in Kings Bay, most recently in 2016.

We've issued an invitation for a reverse visit to us..and this may just work out. These guys definitely have day jobs, night jobs, weekend jobs, all-the-time jobs so, if Ron Galante, our point man on this can pull this off, it will be a miracle. Put a pencil mark on your calendar. We'll communicate with you again if and when this gets firmed up.



displays in the IMAX Great Hall. They'll discuss marine science with guests coming to see the BBC Earth IMAX film, "Oceans 3D: Our Blue Planet."

- On Thursday, June 14th, a special dive show by **Navy SCUBA divers** will be held in the Aquarium's Secret Reel at 10:30 a.m. Navy divers will be at the Ocean Journey and kids can try on dive gear.
- On Saturday, June 16th, the Navy Band "Pride" will perform hit music from the past 50 years on the Aquarium Plaza during the Chattanooga River Market.

And while you are at Riverbend, the beer tent to patronize is the beer tent on the main plaza. This year, our local US Marine Corp Reserve unit will be staffing the booth with the goal of raising funds for their annual ball. As readers of **Compass Points** surely recall, last year, the Navy League ably assisted by Navy Reservists and Sea Cadet supporters, put our annual Navy Ball on a solid foundation through the profits generated by the beer tent endeavor. We wish a thirsty crowd on the Marines.

The Sandy McMillan Award Goes To:



The April dinner meeting was the scene of our Council's most prestigious award: the 2018 "Sandy McMillan Award" which was presented to Mark and Patty Parks.

The "Sandy McMillan" is in memory of CDR George "Sandy" McMillan, who gave freely of his time and talents to the Navy League of the United States, the Greater Chattanooga Navy League Council and to the larger Chattanooga community. This is the 2nd time we have presented this award and it could not have gone to more deserving recipients.

In making the award, Council President Mickey McCamish said, "The Parks, for a number of years, have served both the Navy League and veterans throughout our community. The Parks have clearly demonstrated the spirit of the Sandy McMillan through extensive service to the Navy League of Greater Chattanooga."

Mr. Parks, retired Navy Chief Petty Officer and wife, Patty Parks, retired Navy Commander, have devoted countless hours of service over many years not only to the Navy League but also to many military/veteran organizations. Tangible evidence of their over-the-top contributions include Mark's herculean efforts to organize and manage every aspect of the tremendously successful Riverbend and River Front nights fund raisers for the Navy Ball last year.

Patty has served in multiple roles for our Council while being an enthusiastic supporter of women's roles in the military (which means Navy, too!) both locally and nationally. And lest we skip over it, every issue of *Compass Points* is uplifted by Patty's stellar photography.



(L/R): Mark and Patty Parks with Mickey McCamish.



- 8-16 June** Riverbend
- 11-16 June** Navy Week
- 14 June** Flag Day
- 14 June** A special dive show by Navy SCUBA divers, Aquarium's Secret Reel at 10:30 a.m.
- 16 June** The Navy Band "Pride" will perform hit music from the past 50 years on the Aquarium Plaza during the Chattanooga River Market.
- 21 June** TENTATIVE - Informal Gathering USS Tennessee Gold Crew (Watch for Updates).



Walden Club

Informal Gathering: June 21, 2018

USS Tennessee Gold Crew

(Tentative - Watch for Updates)



Republic Center

633 Chestnut Street

Suite 2100

Chattanooga, TN 37450

Theodore Roosevelt Recipients

Every April, our Navy League Council holds an awards night for the youth programs it sponsors: The United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Naval Junior Reserves Officers Training Corps. The Navy League **Theodore Roosevelt Medal** is awarded to a cadet who demonstrates superior traits of honor, courage, and commitment within their home unit and is recommended by their commanding officer.

For the Sea Cadets, Petty Officer John Waters, a member of the Sea Cadet Chattanooga Division, was awarded the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon. NJROTC Cadet Channel Lockett, a member of the Howard High School's Naval JROTC program, was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon. League Director/Vice President/Youth Program Director Stacy Kehoe presented the awards.

Rounding out the youthful participation in our meeting, two cadets from each unit presented the colors at the beginning of the awards dinner meeting.

LCDR Dirk Ames, USCG, (Ret) was the guest speaker for the evening. He did a presentation on the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. Lcdr Ames' unit at Howard High School recently was awarded the "Most Improved Unit in Area 9" award. This is a six-state region covering Tennessee to New Mexico. LT CDR Ames has taken this NJROTC unit to its highest level in over 24 years.

Another distinguished guest for the evening was FMF1 Sam Johnson. He was named "Military Times Sailor of the Year" in 2016. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. His special connection to us is that he is the grandson of Brainard Cooper, a long-time, revered member of our Navy League Council!



Sea Cadet John Waters receiving Theodore Roosevelt Award from Navy League VP Stacy Kehoe.



(L/R:) NJROTC Cadet Channel Lockett receiving Theodore Roosevelt Award from NJROTC Senior Instructor Dirk Ames and Stacy Kehoe.



Awards Ceremony Highlights



(L/R): Billy Hewitt and Dan Saieed.



(L/R): Louise Cash, Brainard Cooper and Dan Williams..



(L/R): NJROTC Cadets Jose Jaurez-Gomez, Dirk Ames, and Channel Lockett.



(L/R): Active duty sailor and grandson of Brainard Cooper, Sam Johnson and his mom, Lori Neal.

Awards Ceremony Highlights

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(L-R back row): John Neimeyer, Vince Patterson and Ron Galante. (L/R - front row): Laurel Neimeyer, Nancy Patterson and Sue Galante.



(L-R): Nick Bayman, Tom McGrath, Kitty Bayman, Pat McGrath, Ed Shropshire.



(L/R:) John & Pam Waters, proud parents of Sea Cadet John Waters.



(L/R): Super Sea Cadet supporter Leigh Ann Beesley and Mark Parks.

Awards Ceremony Highlights

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Navy Leaguers Mickey McCamish and Stacy Kehoe congratulating Howard High School Senior NJROTC Instructor Dirk Ames after his great presentation .



League President Mickey McCamish and VP 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 •

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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: 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



May 4, 2018
Chattanooga, TN

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE



Patty Parks (on right) one of the recipients of this year's Sandy McMillan Award, is shown with friend, Michelle Lorino Air Force veteran, at the Armed Forces Day Parade with the "TriState Women Veteran's Unit 157 of Military Women Across the Nation." We'll forgive her for the Air Force connection and claim she was marching for the Navy.