

29th Annual Atlanta Metro Area Youth Awards Banquet

On May 5th, 2022 the Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League of the United States held its 29th Annual Youth Awards banquet, which recognizes the top cadets at the 46 NJROTC/MCJROTC Units and the 7 Sea cadet units supported by the Council. The banquet was held at the Doubletree Hotel by Hilton Atlanta -Marietta near Windy Hill Rd. in Marietta.

The awards presented included the Wells-Pratt Award for Excellence (outstanding N/MC-JROTC cadet), the Schwendler Award (outstanding Sea Cadet), and the Jason E. Lawson Trophy (top sea cadet unit).

The Guest Speaker for this year's banquet was RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret), Navy League National Vice President (*see biography at the end of this article*).

Here are the 2022 Award Winners:

NAVY/Marine Corps JROTC Awards

Wells-Pratt Award Winner:

C/ENS Alexis Gabriel of Hillgrove High School was the top JROTC Cadet for 2022, and she received a cash Scholarship award of \$1500.

First runner up for JROTC cadet of the year was C/LCDR Sade Sewell of Chapel Hill NJROTC, who received a cash scholarship award of \$750.

Honorable Mention for Cadet of the Year was a tie between C/ENS Sarah Ball of Lassiter NJROTC and C/LCDR Brittany Harvey of Peachtree Ridge NJROTC. Each received a cash scholarship of \$250.

Sea Cadet Awards

Schwendler Award Winner:

C/PO1 Tyler Sun of Firehawk Squadron 2745 was the top Sea Cadet for 2022 and he received a cash scholarship award of \$1500.

First Runner Up for Sea Cadet of the Year was C/PO1 Nikolos Pagsisihan of Pathfinder Squadron. He received a cash scholarship award of \$750.

Honorable Mention for Sea Cadet of the Year was C/SN Alexander Martinez of GA Division SSGN-729. He received a cash scholarship award of \$250.

Jason E. Lawson Award Winner:

The Jason E. Lawson Award is given annually to the Outstanding Sea Cadet Unit was won this year by the GA Division SSGN-729, commanded by Lt Jeremy Roberts, USNSCC.

Photo Gallery:



(L-R) Jeff Alexander, VP Leadership Fund, Atlanta Metro Council of the Navy League presents Cadet ENS Alexis Gabriel of Hillgrove High School with the Wells-Pratt award Trophy for the Cadet of the Year award winner among the 46 NJROTC/MCJROTC Units supported by the Atlanta Council.



(L-R) RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) congratulates Cadet LCDR Sade Sewell of Chapel Hill NJROTC, First Runner Up for NJROTC/MCJROTC Cadet of the Year.



(L-R) RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) with Cadet LCDR Brittany Harvey of Peachtree Ridge NJROTC and Cadet ENS Sarah Ball of Lassiter NJROTC, who tied for Honorable Mention for JROTC Cadet of the Year.



(L-R) Cadet PO1 Tyler Sun of Firehawk Squadron 2745 receives the Schwendler Award Trophy for Outstanding Sea Cadet of the Year from CAPT Harley Jones USN (Ret), VP Operations, Atlanta Council.



(L-R) Cadet PO1 Nikolos Pagsisihan of Pathfinder Squadron receives congratulations for being First Runner Up for Outstanding Sea Cadet of the Year from CAPT Harley Jones USN (Ret), VP Operations, Atlanta Council.



(L-R) RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) with Cadet SN Alexander Martinez of GA Division SSGN-729, who received Honorable Mention for Sea Cadet of the Year.



(L-R) CAPT Harley Jones, USN (Ret) VP Operations, Atlanta Metro Council, presents the Jason E. Lawson Trophy for Outstanding Sea Cadet Unit to the GA Division SSGN-729 CO, LT Jeremy Roberts.



RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) speaks to the attendees at the Atlanta Metro Council 2⁹^h Annual Youth Awards Banquet held in Atlanta, GA. On May 5th, 2022.



(L-R) RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) with Atlanta Metropolitan Council President CAPT Chuck McCleskey, USN(Ret) at the Atlanta Metro Council 2⁹^h Annual Youth Awards Banquet held in Atlanta.

Biography

Rear Admiral Sinclair Harris

Retired



Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris is a native of Washington D.C. He is a 1981 graduate of James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Economics. Harris earned a Master of Science in Operations Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School in 1989 and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, Virginia. He also earned a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Madras, India's Defense Services Staff College in Tamilnadu, India.

His early sea assignments include tours aboard USS Long Beach (CGN 9), USS Vincennes (CG 49), USS Jarrett (FFG 33), USS Coronado (AGF 11), and as commissioning executive officer in USS Benfold (DDG 65). He commanded USS Comstock (LSD 45) during Operation Enduring Freedom and Amphibious Squadron 4/Iwo Jima Strike Group during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief - Hurricanes Katrina/Rita in 2005 and non-combatative evacuation operation of Lebanon in 2006.

Ashore, Harris' assignments include tours in the Washington-area at the Institute for National Strategic Studies in the National Defense University; the Navy staff in the Assessment Division (OPNAV N81) Campaign Analysis, Modeling and Simulation branch; and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (J-5) Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate as the Global Security Affairs Division chief for Security Assistance. He was a senior fellow in the Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group (SSG XXVI). In May 2008, Harris returned to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations as the deputy director, Expeditionary Warfare Division (OPNAV N85B). He was assigned as the commander, Expeditionary Strike Group 5 from 2009 to 2010 providing Foreign Disaster Relief during the Pakistan Floods of 2010. Harris then served on the Chief of Naval Operations staff as the director, Navy Irregular Warfare Office/Future Concepts from 2010 to 2012. Harris' most previous assignment was as Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command and U.S. 4th Fleet. He now serves as vice director for operations on the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Harris' decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various other unit and campaign awards