



From the Quarterdeck: The Newsletter of The Navy League Atlanta Council 1st Quarter 2022

From The Bridge - Council President- CAPT Chuck McCleskey, USN (ret)

Dear Atlanta Metro Council Shipmates,

First, I would like to thank you all for your generous support of the Navy League and I thank you all for renewing your memberships. Recruiting is our number 1 priority for 2022. You can really help our Council by recruiting friends and neighbors, they can sign up at <https://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/> . Please be sure they select South Atlantic region and indicate that they wish to affiliate with the Atlanta Metropolitan Council.

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Last fall we had our first in-person event since the pandemic started, a dinner outing in August with “Chariots in the Sky” author Larry A. Freeland. It’s always amazing to hear direct stories about combat in Vietnam, in this case helicopter led assaults into enemy territory. The challenges faced by these brave airmen and the infantry they shuttled were daunting indeed. We had another COVID Omicron Spike in Q4 which forced us to cancel the Navy Birthday Dinner. However we have now resumed in-person meetings with the recent Officers Installation Dinner held on February 24th. Our South Atlantic Coast Region President Pat Yovich spoke at the event and everyone enjoyed the evening greatly.

Looking ahead we will have our 29th Annual Youth Awards Banquet on 5 May at the Doubletree Hotel near Windy Hill Rd. and I-75. This is our premier event every year and it is a real pleasure to meet the outstanding youth leaders from our 45 NJROTC/MJROTC and Sea Cadet Units. When I meet these impressive young men and women I know the future of our country is in good hands! Please attend this event- the flyer has been posted to our Website, Facebook site, and LinkedIn page and emailed to members who have email addresses.

We will have more speaker dinners this year and also a Navy Birthday Dinner in October. In the meantime please help us recruit more members so we can continue to serve our Active Duty units, Youth leadership programs, and Legislative Affairs efforts. Thank you for your support in advance.

Fair Winds & Following Seas!

Chuck

Annual Legislative Affairs & “Hill Surge” in 2022 Will Replace Bi-annual “Fly-in” to Capitol Hill

Don Giles, Senior VP for Legislative Affairs

The Navy League Bi-annual “Fly-in” to Capitol Hill will be replaced by an initiative to meet with Members of Congress every year. This new program will be called the Annual “Hill Surge.” We will schedule these legislative issues briefings annually with our Members of Congress to better mesh with the annual appropriations cycle. Assuming a Continuing Resolution is likely again this year, this means that we will have a surge of congressional meetings starting in early March and ending in late April. We anticipate another likely Omnibus Bill to replace the annual Appropriations legislation to fund the government for fiscal year 2022. That legislation could be pushed well into late Spring before it reaches the President’s desk.

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(Legislative Affairs continued)

Effectuated by COVID-19 precautions, the 2021 “Fly-in” last May was conducted very successfully using virtual media. Using lessons learned from those virtual meetings with our Members of Congress, we will use a blend of live and virtual meetings for the 2022 “Hill Surge.” Members of our council will join Navy Leaguers from across the nation to participate in an “all-hands-on-deck” blitz of outreach to schedule appointments with our Members of Congress. We will use ZOOM, Go to Meeting, Web-ex, or other virtual means to ensure that our voices are heard, and our concerns are addressed.

The purpose is to provide a brief on our Navy League purpose to support our Maritime Services, the priority requirements of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine, and to request their support of legislation that supports those requirements. Our trained briefers and constituent members of the Navy League will attend each scheduled appointment. We are building briefing trams now. If you have interest in attending the meeting with your Representative in the House, or either of our Georgia Senators, contact me dongiles01@comcast.net or Council VP for Legislative Affairs Axel Spens axel.spens@gmail.com.

Our success is entirely dependent on the amount of participation we have from our Navy League members. To participate you need only have access to a computer with the ability to log in using the specified virtual meeting application. Training on use of virtual media is available.

If you want to serve on the Council LA Committee, contact Don Giles or Axel Spens.

Atlanta Council adopts NJROTC unit in AL

The NL Atlanta Council recently added Central HS NJROTC, Phenix City, AL, for a new total of 46 high school units under our umbrella. The unit has received several awards in its history and many of their cadets move on to college. Their cadets attend or have attended Yale, West Point, Naval Academy, Air Force, Auburn, Tuskegee, Savannah State and more. The cadets have a number of disciplines to keep them focused, including fitness, air rifle, close order drill and sports.

One of their 202 cadets will soon receive The Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal for Outstanding Performance.

The Red Devil Battalion is under the leadership of SNSI MAJ Nathan Fenell (right), USMC (Ret.), NSI GYSGT Anthony Elder (far right), USMC (Ret.) and SR CHIEF Rico Habersham, USN (Ret.).



Three Sea Cadets Promoted to Chief

On Sunday, March 20, Georgia Division SSGN 729 USNSCC, Cumming held a promotion ceremony for three deserving Sea Cadets. NL Atlanta Council is a unit sponsor.

Chief Petty Officer _____ (USN, Ret.) presented the promotions to Cadet Chief to James Tucker, Katlyn Roberts and Reagan Huff.

The unit is commanded by Lt. Jeremy Roberts, NSCC. The ceremony was witnessed by 30+ cadets, along with friends and family.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps includes nearly 400 units in 46 states, Guam and Puerto Rico, with membership of 12,000.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps and Navy League Cadet Corps programs give motivated boys and girls ages 10 to 17 the opportunity to grow in confidence as they learn about the military traditions of honor, courage, commitment, duty, honor and country.

<https://gadivnsc.org/>



Atlanta Council Board of Directors Installed

Thursday, February 24, the new Board of Directors took the oath of office for 2022, following dinner at Copeland's in Cobb County. All meal and beverage expenses were covered by attendees.

Keynote speaker was Pat Yovich, Regional President, South Atlantic Coast (GA, SC, NC), Navy League. Pat and her husband travelled 270 miles from Savannah to attend our function, and her commitment was sincerely appreciated. Council President Chuck McCleskey presented Pat with an eagle head sculpture to demonstrate our appreciation for her service and sacrifice for Navy League. Also in attendance was Lt. Cdr. William Golden, CO of the Warrior Division, US Naval Sea Cadets.



Board of Directors Installation Dinner (continued)



Hillgrove NJROTC Receives Contribution from NL Atlanta Council

NL Atlanta Council recently approved a \$300 donation for travel costs to help Hillgrove HS NJROTC in Powder Springs, GA, attend the National Orienteering event in California. The photo below shows them with trophies from an earlier area competition.

Orienteering is the art and skill of navigating through woods/terrain to locate markers. Using a list of geographical features, the cadets maneuver their way to their goal. Courses usually range from one to four miles. Success is determined by physical endurance, superb map reading skills and good judgment.



LCVP Restoration Project Under Consideration

Atlanta Council has been approached to help restore a Vietnam era LCVP (Landing Craft Vehicles Personnel), aka Higgins Boat. The LCVP played an integral part in the D-Day invasion and has proved its worth for decades as an all-around workhorse in the fleet.

Once restored, the LCVP would be transported to American Legion/VFW Posts near navigable water. The Posts could raise money by selling rides, which in turn would raise awareness of the value of the Sea Services and its many components. The project is under further study and consideration.

USS Georgia & USS Jimmy Carter

Atlanta Council is proud to support two crown jewels of the submarine fleet. USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) is the fourth TRIDENT Class Nuclear Powered Fleet Ballistic Missile Submarine and the third ship to bear the name of this grand state, one of the thirteen original states of the union. The keel for USS GEORGIA was laid on 7 April 1979 and was presided over by First Lady Rosalynn Carter, wife of President Jimmy Carter, both Georgia natives. Mrs. Carter's initials can still be seen on the ship's keel.

USS JIMMY CARTER (SSN 23) is the third and final SEAWOLF-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, the first ship in the Navy to honor the 39th president of the United States and the only U.S. president to qualify in submarines. As the most advanced submarine in the SEAWOLF class, the JIMMY CARTER has built-in flexibility and an array of new warfighting features that enable her to prevail in any scenario and against any threat – from beneath Arctic ice to shallow water.

