



Atlanta named Outstanding Council! (pg. 5)

**From the Quarterdeck:
The Newsletter of The Navy League Atlanta Council
2nd Quarter 2022**

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

Dear Atlanta Metro Council Shipmates,

Thank you for your membership and support of the Navy League and the Maritime Services. Without you we would not be able to support 46 NJROTC/MJROTC unit and 7 Sea Cadet Units, plus the NTAG, NOSC, USS GEORGIA (SSGN-729) and USS JIMMY CARTER (SSN-23).

I have great news! Your Atlanta Council was named an Outstanding Council for 2021- a great honor! Very few councils achieve this rating. This is a reflection of the hard work of your very dedicated Board of Directors and your support. Thanks to all who contributed!

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(From the Bridge continued)

We also won Gold level Mackie PR awards for Communications and Social Media! Thank you to all who contributed to those efforts. I am so honored to lead a council that works so hard and achieves so much in support of the Sea Services.

Our Youth Awards Banquet was held May 5th. As usual, I was humbled to interview some of the finest young people in our country. No matter what problems we face, I realize when I meet these young people that there is hope for our country! See details on the awardees elsewhere in this newsletter.

I recently attended the Navy League National Convention. I was pleased to see my friend Chris “Towny” Townsend elected to Navy League National President. Towny is a ball of fire and full of energy. I believe he will really invigorate the Navy League. He replaces Dave Reilly who did a wonderful job as National President. Thank you, Dave, for all you have done for the Navy League!

Our current focus is on recruiting. We will put most of our efforts in recruiting for the next 12 months. We hope to grow the Atlanta Metro Council and attract younger members to make us sustainable. Young people are the future of the Navy League! Please help me by recruiting 5 of your friends. Without new members, we cannot achieve our mission and support all of the commands listed above- so thank you for recruiting new members!

Fair Winds & Following Seas!

Chuck

2022 Navy League "Sea Services Hill Surge" a Great Success

Don Giles, Senior VP for Legislative Affairs

The Annual "Hill Surge" concluded in May. Fourteen (14) Georgia Members of Congress (MOC) received our Navy League presentation via live virtual meetings, primarily via the Zoom platform. VP Legislative Affairs Don Giles and Axel Spens initiated appointment requests starting in mid-April. Supporting our South Atlantic Coast Region, 14 of 16 Georgia MOCs, including both Senators, were scheduled and briefed.

We also assisted the Southern Region by scheduling and briefing all nine Members of Congress in neighboring Alabama. The Navy League presentation reminded our MOCs of our Navy League purpose, our national and local initiatives to support our Maritime Services, and the priority requirements that need immediate legislative actions in the 2023 Budget to address important national security issues. (Continued on page 3)



(Legislative Affairs continued)

Our support for Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine priority requirements also included a request for continued funding to augment Sea Cadet training at \$4.3B in the Navy Budget, and a request to restore funding in the Homeland Defense Budget to augment training needs for the Young Marines at \$4.0B.

We expect to continue these meetings with our Members of Congress annually. The “Hill Surge” is scheduled around the annual budget authorizations and appropriations cycle. Avoiding a need for damaging and costly inefficiencies caused by Continuing Resolutions is a constant objective of our legislative affairs message.

Our trained Navy League briefers and constituent members across the country have achieved 137 Congressional briefings through May 31. Our Atlanta Metropolitan Council LA Team completed 23 of those MOC briefs.

Remember that our core purpose is the education of our fellow citizens. The purpose of our Legislative Affairs Program is to educate our MOCs regarding our support of our Maritime Services, not just through the annual surge, but continually as new issues emerge with legislative implications. If you have interest in participating or just attending our next meeting with your Representative in the House, or either of our Georgia Senators, contact me at dongiles01@comcast.net.

Atlanta Metropolitan Council wins Outstanding Council + 2 Mackie Awards

Thanks to the hard work of many board members, the Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League was awarded Outstanding Council for 2021, the highest level of recognition for a Council. The Council also received Gold Mackie Awards for both Communications and Social Media. Photo (L-R): Mike Stevens, CEO of the Navy League and the 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON), CAPT Chuck McCleskey, USN (Ret) Atlanta Metropolitan Council President, Pat Yovich South Atlantic Region President, and Dave Reilly, President of the Navy League.



29th Annual Atlanta Metro Area Youth Awards Banquet

5 May, 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.

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).

Guest Speaker was RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret), Navy League National Vice- President.



(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. She was the top award winner among the 46 NJROTC/MCJROTC Units supported by the Atlanta Council. Cadet Gabriel also received a \$1500 scholarship award.

Awards Banquet (continued)



(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.

Awards Banquet (continued)



(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.

Awards Banquet (continued)



(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.

Awards Banquet (continued)



(L-R) RADM Sinclair Harris, USN (Ret) receives a token of appreciation from Atlanta Metropolitan Council President CAPT Chuck McCleskey, USN (Ret) at the Atlanta Metro Council 29th Annual Youth Awards Banquet held in Atlanta. Admiral Harris was keynote speaker at the banquet.



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.

Admiral Harris Bio (continued)

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-combat 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 and Navy League National Vice-President.

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.

Deserving Cadets Receive Awards



Harley Jones has been busy handing out more awards to Georgia NJROTC Cadets. (Left) 5 May - Presenting the Theodore Roosevelt Award to Cadet LCDR Brittany Harvey, Peachtree Ridge HS NJROTC, Suwanee, GA. CDR Jimmy Melton-SNSI, Senior Chief Benson- Asst. SNSI. 21 April - Presenting Roosevelt Awards at Gainesville HS to Cadet Jackson Weber for 2020-21 (center) and to Cadet Caleb Paxtor for school year 2021-22 (right). Senior Chief Scott Thomson - SNSI.

Investing In Our Youth & The Future of the Navy



(Left) 28 April - Atlanta Council Recruiting Director Dale Mastley presented the Theodore Roosevelt Award to NJROTC Cadet Ensign Dayana A Costaneda at East Hall HS. LT. Lawrence McPherson USN (RET) is SNSI, and the Science Instructor is 1st Sgt. David Leach USMC (RET).
(Right) 5 May - Sprayberry HS NJROTC Cadets enjoyed speaking with Admiral Harris at the Youth Awards Banquet.



Navy League Member Honors WW2 Navy Hero

In 1945, the War in the Pacific was at its peak. Lt. John Bostian was serving as Engineering Officer aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Benjamin Franklin. On March 19, "Big Ben" was attacked by Japanese bombers and sustained serious damage. Bostian survived the attack and was one of 106 officers and 604 enlisted who, in the finest Navy tradition, "never gave up the ship." They remained onboard to keep her successfully afloat. The attack killed 796 and wounded 265 Americans.

In May, Bostian's valor was honored by having the gazebo at the Johns Creek Veterans Memorial Walk named in his honor. The gazebo was built by the Father Joseph T. O'Callahan Council, Knights of Columbus, St. Brigid Catholic Church. Coincidentally Fr. O'Callahan had reported aboard the Franklin as her chaplain 17 days prior to the attack. His courage under fire was recognized with the Medal of Honor. Bostian was a longtime member of that same K of C Council. He passed away in 2020 at age 101.

Navy League life member Captain Wayne Radloff, USN (Ret.), was keynote speaker at the ceremony. His comments on WW2 still apply to the ongoing necessity of maintaining a strong Navy and the mission of the Navy League.

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WW2 Hero Honored (continued)

In his remarks, Radloff summarized the growth of the Navy following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

“In 1939, the US Navy had 15 battleships, 5 aircraft carriers, 18 heavy cruisers and 19 light cruisers. The Navy also operated specialized carrier aircraft such as the Grumman Hellcat and Douglas SBD-3. Since the 1920’s, the US Navy held the view that the Japanese Navy posed the main threat to the United States. As a result, the US Navy was the only country capable of rivaling Japan in naval aviation.”

“After entering the Second World War, Congress passed an emergency war building program. Sixteen large aircraft carriers such as *Franklin* and known as the *Essex* class were ordered. So, also, were fifteen new battleships and nine smaller *Independence* class aircraft carriers. Destroyers, escort carriers and other anti-submarine vessels were built to meet the twin threat of U-Boats in the Atlantic and Japanese submarines in the Pacific. New naval aircraft such as the Grumman Hellcat, the Chance-Vought Corsair were also ordered.”

“The United States Fleet grew rapidly and within three years surpassed the combined strength of all other navies in the conflict. This included 5,788 warships and 66,000 landing craft. In December 1941, the Navy had a combined strength of just over 330,000 officers and enlisted; by 1945, there were 3.4 million personnel of whom 1.6 million served afloat.”

“There were three basic components to our Navy’s success in the Pacific. First, the carrier fleet, with 27 new carriers completed before the end of the war, and over 75,000 new aircraft. Second, the development of amphibious landing doctrine. Third, the submarine war, which destroyed Japan economically with the most effective submarine blockade in history.”

Cobb County To Break Ground for New Veterans Memorial Park



The park will be located at 502 Fairground St., SE, in Marietta. Plans include a 142-foot “Star Tower” monument and honor walls listing names of veterans from each of the county’s military branches. It will also feature a plaza for events, two reflection pools and a service hub providing information to veterans and their families. Construction is expected to be completed in 2024.

You are invited to attend the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, 7 July, 10:00 AM. Park in the Civic Center lot. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. RSVP: Kendra Michonet, 770-951-7058, kmichonet@cobbvmf.com



Every veteran has a story to tell. The Veterans History Project at the Atlanta History Center is actively looking for veterans willing to be talk about their experiences while in military service. The project is designed for all veterans. No matter what your experiences were, the Veterans History Project wants to record them.

The contact at the Atlanta History Center is Sue VerHoef, Director of Oral History and Genealogy, 404-814-4042. The AHC is the founding partner with the Library of Congress for interviews in the Atlanta area. Complete a form on the link below, submit it, and you'll be called to schedule an interview.

<https://www.atlantahistorycenter.com/learning-and-research/projects-initiatives/veterans-history-project/>

Recruiting - Our Life Blood.



Nationally the Navy League is counting approximately 28,000 members and the Atlanta council is holding at 175 members. These numbers are down primarily due to attrition with the average age around 70 years of age. There are around 19,000 Navy veterans in the Atlanta area who are not aware of the Navy League and what we do. We are attempting to locate these veterans through Social Media and other means. If you have any contacts with these veterans please give them the following information and encourage them to check out the national and local web sites. Navyleague.org and Atlantanavyleague.org.

The Navy League is the only civilian organization where you have the power to make a significant difference in the lives of those in the sea services. The Navy League depends on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services .Local councils adopt ships and shore commands, Sea Cadet units, reward enlisted personnel, host dinners and celebrations for military personnel and support family members left behind when spouses and parents are deployed.

Your dues are what allow our council to perform these services. We need your help to spread the word to veterans you know or come in contact with and remember it is a civilian organization so we welcome and appreciate non-veterans who would like to help also.

Very Respectfully,

Dale Mastley, VP Recruiting, Atlanta Metropolitan Council

Navy League of the United States, 770-855-3367

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.

