

# Quarterly Newsletter

ATLANTA METROPOLITAN  
NAVY LEAGUE

♦  
March 2025



## Atlanta Metropolitan Council Holds Annual Dinner, Elects Officers

The Atlanta Metropolitan Council held its annual dinner this week, bringing together members to review the past year's activities and conduct official business, including the election of new officers.

William Seippel was re-elected as Council President and will continue in his leadership role for another term. The election was part of the evening's agenda, which focused on formal transitions and setting direction for the year ahead.

The event also served as an opportunity for members to gather in person, exchange updates, and discuss plans for upcoming initiatives. Council members recognized outgoing officers for their service and welcomed those stepping into new roles.

The dinner marks a key point in the Council's yearly calendar, providing a moment to reflect on past progress and reaffirm organizational goals.



In this newsletter  
you can expect:

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U.S. Navy Band  
National Tour  
Honors 250  
Years of Naval  
Service

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Jefferson  
Alexander  
Receives Navy  
League Scroll of  
Honor

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Atlanta Navy  
League Hosts  
32nd Annual  
Youth Awards  
Banquet

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Navy Birthday  
Ball Scheduled  
for October 26 —  
Tickets and  
Sponsorships  
Available

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## U.S. Navy Band National Tour Honors 250 Years of Naval Service

The 2025 National Tour of the U.S. Navy Band marks the ensemble's 100th anniversary and is part of the nationwide celebration of the Navy's 250th anniversary.

The tour honors the Navy's long-standing mission to defend freedom and protect American interests around the world. By performing in communities far from the coast, the Navy Band brings a powerful reminder of the service and sacrifice of over 330,000 active-duty sailors.

A highlight of the Fayetteville concert was the return of MU1 Laura Zitelli, a Fayette County High School alum. Her presence added a special hometown connection to the event. MU1 Zitelli's performance stood out not only for her musical talent but also as a reflection of the Navy's values of honor, courage, and commitment.

The concert provided audiences with more than music—it offered a moving tribute to naval heritage and a chance to connect with those who serve. The Navy Band's ongoing mission to engage the public through music remains a vital part of its outreach, strengthening ties between the military and local communities across the country.

### Save the Date!

May 26,  
Memorial Day  
Marietta, GA

June 4-7  
National Convention  
Jacksonville, Florida

July 4  
Independence Day  
Let Freedom Ring Parade

July 12  
Mail Call

October 26  
250th Navy Anniversary Ball

November 11,  
Veterans Day Navy Parade

December 13,  
Army Navy Game Toys for Tots

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## Chaplain's Corner

Rev. Jim Klynman



Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessing of LIFE that you bestow upon on us each day. Help us to be better guardians of the gift of free will.

Help us move forward to help others less fortunate than us. Guide us in our thoughts, words, and deeds, to act with love towards all of your children.

Lord, unite us to work for unity among all nations that PEACE may prevail. Let us have the strength to be leaders for others to follow in love and kindness.

Lord, watch over and protect all out military servicing around the world so that one day they may return home to their loved ones.

Our daily actions will show others how to be people of action to help everyone move forward peacefully.

Thank you Lord for being there with us daily, to walk with us, talk to us, and be the example for us to follow.

AMEN!

### Legislative Affairs

- The Navy League's Annual Anchors Aweigh "Fly-in" to Capitol Hill is on May 7th when we will meet with hundreds of Members of Congress in their offices throughout the day. The purpose is to highlight the most critical needs of the Sea Services related to the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine/U.S. Flag Fleet, and the need to support the Sea Cadets and Young Marines youth programs.

- 2025 – 2026 maritime strategy released. This biennial report serves as a key resource for policymakers and industry leaders while educating the public on the vital role of our sea services.  
[https://info.navyleague.org/maritime-policy-statement-2025-2026?fbclid=IwY2xjawKL1M5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFIVjF0bXpOYUcxeDJxeUZwAR5y6Hn8tHYkoQ8YpPtTpJiRQ-7kDhal3hk3v8WgN7s04JXYQ4Mb6dZgOu6q0g\\_aem\\_VmDj24EY7\\_gBdDAIfisgHw](https://info.navyleague.org/maritime-policy-statement-2025-2026?fbclid=IwY2xjawKL1M5leHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFIVjF0bXpOYUcxeDJxeUZwAR5y6Hn8tHYkoQ8YpPtTpJiRQ-7kDhal3hk3v8WgN7s04JXYQ4Mb6dZgOu6q0g_aem_VmDj24EY7_gBdDAIfisgHw)

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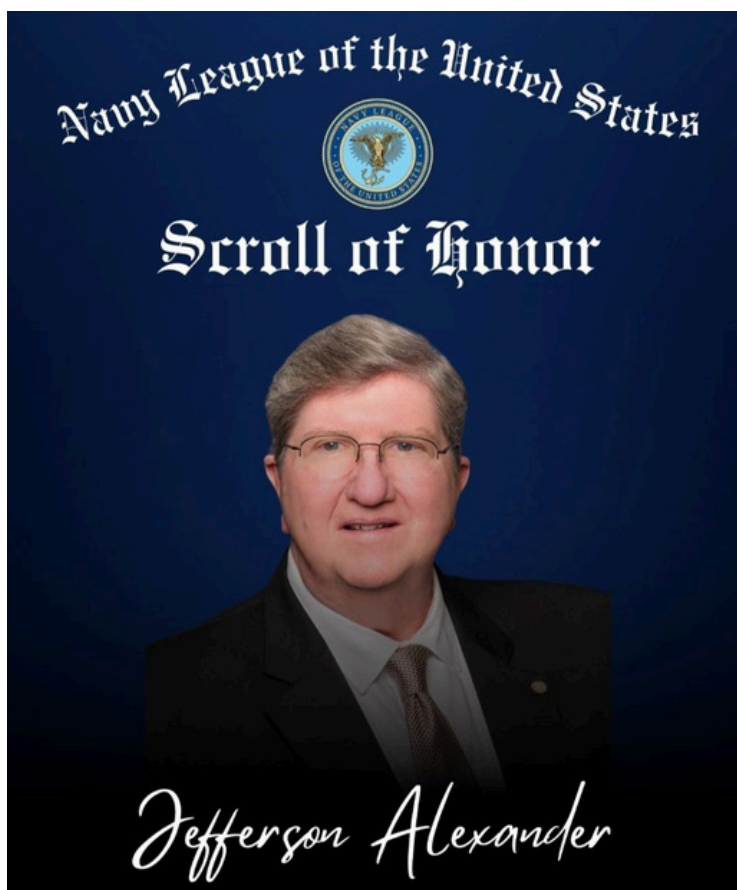
## Jefferson Alexander Receives Navy League Scroll of Honor

Jefferson Alexander has been awarded the Navy League of the United States Scroll of Honor, the highest recognition presented in the Region. The award acknowledges his long-standing service and contributions to the Navy League and the sea services.

Alexander has held several leadership positions within the organization, including president of the Atlanta Metropolitan Council, region president, and national director. His leadership has been instrumental at both the local and national levels.

During his tenure as region president, Alexander played a key role in organizing the National Convention in Charleston, South Carolina. He also led fundraising efforts that generated thousands of dollars for the new Fisher House in the area.

Most recently, as part of the Atlanta Metropolitan Council, Alexander led the adoption of the USS Gladiator. He also coordinated a partnership with the Atlanta Gladiators hockey team, securing their sponsorship and arranging a ship visit to one of their games, strengthening ties between the military and local community. The Scroll of Honor tribute recognized Alexander's dedication, leadership, and the lasting impact of his efforts in support of the Navy League's mission to educate, advocate, and support the sea services.





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## CAPT Chuck McCleskey Nominated for Second Term as Region President

CAPT Charles (Chuck) McCleskey, USN (Ret.), was officially nominated on March 8 for a second term as President of the Navy League's South Atlantic Coast Region. McCleskey has played an active role in advancing the League's mission of supporting the sea services through advocacy and community engagement. His leadership during his first term has been recognized across the region, earning him strong support for continued service. As region president, he has worked closely with local councils to strengthen programs and initiatives. His nomination signals confidence in his ability to lead the region through another successful term.



## Cadet Caleb Williams Promoted to Chief Petty Officer

Congratulations to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Caleb Williams of the Spartan Squadron on his recent promotion. Williams was formally pinned during a ceremony held at East Coweta High School, marking a significant milestone in his Sea Cadet career.

The promotion to Cadet Chief Petty Officer is a notable achievement and follows a long-standing U.S. Navy tradition dating back to 1893, when the rank of Chief Petty Officer was first established. It reflects not only leadership ability but also dedication, professionalism, and a strong commitment to the values of the Sea Cadet program.

The pinning ceremony was attended by fellow cadets, family members, and mentors who have supported Williams throughout his training. His promotion highlights the hard work and perseverance required to reach the highest cadet enlisted rank.

Bravo Zulu to Cadet Chief Petty Officer Caleb Williams!





## MMN1 Brown Named Atlanta Metropolitan Council Sailor of the Year

MMN1 Brown, a member of the crew of USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), was honored with the Atlanta Metropolitan Council's Sailor of the Year award. The award was presented by Commanding Officer CDR Joseph A. Campbell in recognition of Brown's outstanding performance and dedication to duty.

Each year, the Atlanta Metropolitan Council selects a Sailor of the Year to recognize exceptional service, leadership, and commitment to the Navy's core values.

MMN1 Brown's professionalism and contributions aboard USS Jimmy Carter stood out among his peers, earning him this prestigious recognition.

The Sailor of the Year award reflects the Council's continued support for active-duty personnel and its mission to highlight excellence within the sea services. Bravo Zulu to MMN1 Brown on this well-deserved honor. His achievements serve as an example of the dedication and excellence found throughout the U.S. Navy.

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## Atlanta Navy League Hosts 32nd Annual Youth Awards Banquet

The Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League of the United States hosted its 32nd Annual Youth Awards Banquet on May 1, 2025. The event recognized outstanding cadets from area Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC and U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps programs. The evening's guest speaker was CAPT Charles (Chuck) McCleskey, USN (Ret.), who currently serves as South Atlantic Coast Region President.

The banquet highlighted the achievements of cadets who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and commitment to service. Three major awards were presented during the ceremony: the Wells-Pratt Award for Excellence, given to the top

Navy or Marine Corps JROTC cadet; the Schwendler Award, honoring the most outstanding Sea Cadet; and the Jason E. Lawson Trophy, awarded to the top-performing Sea Cadet unit.

These annual awards reflect the Council's commitment to supporting youth development and fostering future leaders within the sea services. Family members, instructors, and Council representatives attended the event to celebrate the accomplishments of these young cadets.

The ceremony underscored the Navy League's ongoing mission to recognize excellence and encourage continued growth and service among the next generation of maritime leaders.

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## Cadets Honored with Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal

Several outstanding cadets were recently awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal, a recognition given to those who best embody the values of President Theodore Roosevelt—leadership, patriotism, and dedication to service. The medal is awarded to cadets who stand out in their respective JROTC or Sea Cadet units through their exceptional conduct and commitment.

These young leaders have demonstrated the character and drive that reflect Roosevelt's legacy and the mission of the Navy League.

Their accomplishments are a testament to their hard work and the support of their instructors, families, and communities.

Bravo Zulu to all the cadets who received this honor. The Atlanta Metropolitan Council is proud to recognize their achievements and contributions. As they continue to grow in their leadership journeys, the Council remains committed to supporting their development and celebrating their success.

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## Atlanta Metropolitan Council Navy League Of The United States

### U S Navy 250th Birthday Celebration

Oct  
26

Sunday, October 26  
7:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Atlanta Marriott Northwest at Galleria 200 Interstate North Parkway  
SE, Atlanta, GA 30339

Join the Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League of the United States as we celebrate the 250th birthday of the U S Navy!

**Keynote Speakers include:**

TBD

**Dinner will be Served, your choice of chicken or salmon (please indicate your choice on the next page). Dinner will be followed by the traditional cake-cutting ceremony.**

Atlanta Marriott Northwest at Galleria  
200 Interstate North Parkway, SE, Atlanta, GA 30339

Reception at 6:00 PM (Cash Bar) followed by Dinner at 7:00 pm.

Military Uniform: Dinner Dress Blue or Service Dress Blue

Civilian Dress Code: Coat & Tie

## Navy Birthday Ball Scheduled for October 26 — Tickets and Sponsorships Available

The Atlanta Metropolitan Council of the Navy League has announced that tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available for the annual Navy Birthday Ball, set for October 26, 2025. This event celebrates the Navy's heritage and promotes pride and professionalism within the naval service.

Since 1972, each Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) has encouraged a Navy-wide birthday celebration to honor the Navy's history and foster a strong sense of tradition among sailors and supporters. The Navy League is proud to continue this tradition by hosting the official Navy Birthday Ball in the Atlanta Metropolitan Area.

The event offers a chance for service members, veterans, families, and the community to come together in celebration. Attendees can enjoy a formal evening with dinner, speeches, and entertainment that highlight the Navy's values and achievements.

Tickets are available now, and sponsorships offer businesses and organizations an opportunity to support the event and show their commitment to the Navy community. [Visit the Atlanta Navy League website](#) for more details and to secure your place at this important celebration.

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Big thanks to our Sponsors!



Atlanta Gladiators



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