



Honoring Heroes: Memorial Day Ceremony in Marietta

The Atlanta Metro Council proudly participated in the Marietta Memorial Day Ceremony, paying tribute to the courageous Veterans who served our nation with honor and made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. This solemn occasion served as a powerful reminder of the valor and dedication that define America's armed forces.

President Will Seippel and CMDCM (Ret.) Rod Rodriguez represented the council in the wreath-laying ceremony, standing shoulder to shoulder with fellow patriots to honor those who gave their all. The event, hosted annually by The National Memorial Day Association of Georgia, remains a cornerstone of remembrance and respect for our fallen heroes.



In this newsletter you can expect:

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Years of Army,
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USPS Honors 250 Years of Army, Navy, and Marine Corps with Commemorative Stamps

In recognition of the 250th anniversaries of the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, the U.S. Postal Service has unveiled a striking set of three commemorative stamps. These Forever Stamps celebrate each service's enduring dedication to defending the nation and highlight their rich history of sacrifice and honor.

Navy Vice Adm. Michael Boyle, director of the Navy staff, emphasized the unique bond between the Navy and the Postal Service, noting the vital role USPS has played in keeping sailors connected to their loved ones while deployed at sea.

"I want to thank the United States Postal Service for honoring this legacy with the release of the Armed Forces 250th Anniversary Forever Stamps," Boyle stated. "I would also like to thank the Postal Service for their partnership with the Navy, a relationship spanning nearly two-and-a-half centuries. You have faithfully delivered mail to ships on the far side of the world, always finding a way to bridge the distance. Letters and care packages from family and friends mean everything to our sailors on deployment."

Designed by Antonio Alcalá, a USPS art director, these military-themed Forever Stamps will always hold their value for sending a 1-ounce first-class letter, regardless of future postage rates — a lasting tribute to the strength and resilience of America's armed forces.

Save the Date!

October 25
250th Navy Anniversary Ball

November 11,
Veterans Day Navy Parade

December 13,
Army Navy Game Toys for Tots

Secure Your Spot at the Navy Birthday Ball

Tickets are still available for the upcoming Navy Birthday Ball, but discounted pricing is ending soon. Don't miss your chance to be part of this distinguished celebration—secure your tickets today!



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

Don Giles, Senior VP for Legislative Affairs

Successful Anchors Aweigh "Fly-in" to Capitol Hill: Council President Will Seippel and Senior VP Legislative Affairs Don Giles flew to Washington D.C. on May 6th to join approximately 60 other Navy League members on May 7th for our annual appointments with Members of Congress. We had a wonderful experience meeting other Navy League members and advocating to our Senators and Representatives the priority requirements of our sea services. The issues covered in our prepared brief are incredibly important. Two Georgia Briefing Teams completed briefings for 14 Georgia Members of Congress. Hearing our Navy League Maritime Policy message directly from our grassroots voices in capitol hill locations added value for our elected Congressional Representatives and their staff members.

Approximately 150 meetings with our Members of Congress positively influenced recent legislation, specifically the FY26 National Defense Authorization Act in the recently passes and signed FY26 Budget Bill.

Constituents needed: We need a council member to be our Council Constituent POC for these four Members of Congress that are assigned to our council: Sanford Bishop (GA-2-D), Lucy McBath (GA-6-D), Austin Scott (GA-8-R), David Scott (GA-13-D). Please advise me or Luke Ott if you are a constituent of one of these Georgia Representatives.

Legislative Affairs Committee: If you have an interest in participating on our Council Legislative Affairs Committee, contact me at dongiles01@comcast.net or Council VP Legislative Affairs Luke Ott at luke.ott21@gmail.com

Half a Century of Service: Honoring CAPT William Wilkerson

Fifty years ago, CAPT William Wilkerson earned his commission as an Ensign through the NROTC program at the University of Mississippi in Oxford (Ole Miss). That moment launched a distinguished naval career marked by multiple ship assignments, numerous deployments, and three successful command tours. His steadfast leadership and commitment to service remain an inspiration to all who follow in his wake. Today, CAPT Wilkerson continues to serve with pride as a dedicated member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Metropolitan Council Navy League.

New Member Spotlight:

We extend a strong and confident “Welcome Aboard” to Larry Hicks!



Navy League Atlanta Marches Proudly in July 4th Parade

Navy League Atlanta, alongside Sailors from the Navy Reserve Center and Navy Talent Acquisition Group Atlanta, proudly participated in the annual Marietta Let Freedom Ring Parade. This event serves as a vibrant celebration of America's independence and a powerful show of unity between the military and the local community.



As one of the region's largest Independence Day celebrations, the parade featured 110 entries, 2,000 participants, and drew an estimated 30,000 spectators. The strong presence of the Sea Services reminded everyone of the enduring spirit of freedom and the dedication of those who serve.

Insights and Operations: A Day with the Sea Services

During the national convention of the Navy League of the United States, our members participated in an engaging three-member panel discussion featuring representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Coast Guard. The session, expertly moderated by Admiral Sinclair M. Harris, provided valuable insights into current operations, challenges, and the future direction of the Sea Services.

In the afternoon, attendees traveled to NAS Jacksonville for an exclusive tour of a Squadron Ten P-8 aircraft. Known primarily for its role as a submarine hunter, the P-8 also executes a range of critical missions, showcasing the versatility and cutting-edge capabilities of today's naval aviation fleet.



Atlanta Council Earns Triple Honors at National Convention

The Atlanta Council proudly received three prestigious awards during the National Convention, a testament to its dedication, excellence, and strong community presence within the Navy League.

Among the honors were the Meritorious Council Award, the Mackie Award for Social Media (Gold), and the Mackie Award for Newsletter (Gold). These achievements reflect the council's unwavering commitment to communication, outreach, and the promotion of Sea Service support.



CAPT Larry Salter Elected 53rd National President of the Navy League

The Navy League of the United States proudly announced the election of CAPT Larry Salter, USN (Ret.), as its 53rd National President during the Navy League Annual Convention held in Jacksonville. With more than two decades of dedicated service to the organization, Salter steps into this role with a proven record of leadership, both in uniform and in civilian life. His extensive experience includes guiding national and local Navy League initiatives while driving partnerships across the private sector.

Salter currently serves on the Navy League's Board of Directors and has steadily advanced through key leadership roles, including National President Elect (2024–2025), National Senior Vice President (2022–2024), National Vice President (2021–2022), and Region President (2019–2021). From 2003 to 2024, he provided unwavering support as a board member and officer for his home council, the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council. His election signals a strong future for the Navy League under his command.



Rally for Maritime Strength: Support the SHIPS for America Act

Although 80% of goods imported to the United States arrive by sea, less than 2% of the ships carrying these goods sail under the American flag. The nation's shipbuilding industry has dwindled to a critical point, with only a handful of shipbuilders remaining. In 2023, they collectively received just five orders for oceangoing vessels—a stark reminder of how far our maritime capabilities have fallen.

Even if the federal government were to launch a full-scale effort to correct this shortfall today, the current state of American shipbuilding means that it would take years before meaningful progress could be achieved. The infrastructure, workforce, and resources required to compete on the global stage have eroded and must be rebuilt with urgency.

Expanding production of U.S.-flagged ships is not simply an economic initiative—it is a matter of national security. To safeguard the country's maritime interests, the federal government must invest strategically across all sectors of the shipbuilding industry, from workforce training to modern shipyard facilities and advanced manufacturing technologies.

We call on you to take action. Urge your members of Congress to cosponsor the SHIPS for America Act. Use the link below to send a prewritten letter to your representatives and help ensure America's maritime future remains strong, secure, and self-reliant.



Cobb County's Daniel Silva Earns Appointment to U.S. Naval Academy

With a direct nomination to the Class of 2029, along with a nomination from U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff, Cobb County's Daniel Silva has secured a place at one of the most prestigious institutions in the nation — the United States Naval Academy. This honor marks the beginning of an extraordinary journey, one that will test his discipline, leadership, and commitment to service.

Cmdr. Axel Spens, Sprayberry High School's NJROTC instructor and FCA sponsor, praised Silva's character and determination. "The Naval Academy needs more people like Silva — young men who appreciate their community and can make things happen," Spens said. His words reflect the high expectations and trust placed in Silva as he joins the ranks of the academy's future leaders.

As Silva prepares for plebe summer — a rigorous, multi-week boot camp that introduces incoming midshipmen to the challenges of military life — he carries with him a deep sense of gratitude. This demanding initiation will sharpen his mental and physical strength, laying the foundation for the years of training and study that lie ahead.

Looking back, Silva expressed that he will miss his friends and teachers the most, acknowledging the support system that helped him reach this milestone. His journey to the Naval Academy is both a personal triumph and a source of pride for Cobb County, inspiring others to aim high and serve with honor.



Atlanta Metropolitan Council Navy League Of The United States

U S Navy 250th Birthday Celebration



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 25 — 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 25, 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.

Big thanks to our Sponsors!



Atlanta Gladiators



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