



March 2024

# The Ship's Whistle

An occasional e-mail bulletin of newsworthy information for Members of the **Massachusetts Bay Council**, Navy League of the United States and other friends of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. The Navy League is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including elected officials and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.

## Calendar

- May 4 Sea Cadet Awards Luncheon
- July 4 Navy ship visit; special tours
- Sept ? USS Nantucket Commissioning (TBA)

## USS Truxtun (DDG 103) Tour



Pictured are some of the Sea Cadets and families from four units out of over eighty who toured the ship and (top) Some of our Navy League members await boarding for the ship's tour. In the evening, at a reception for Boston community leaders, Tom Hennessey presented a Navy League plaque to the ship's C.O., CMDR Chance Smith, USN. (Photos by Member Ken Foubert, LT Stephen Koopman, NSCC, C.O., Worcester (CL 144) Division and Ivan Samuels)

Truxtun visited Boston over the St. Patrick's Day weekend and special tours were arranged for Navy League Members, Sea Cadets and other guests. In the evening, the ship hosted a reception for Boston community leaders. Ship's crew enjoyed Boston hospitality, particularly participating in the traditional Evacuation Day Parade (otherwise celebrated as St. Patrick's Day) and other events.



Evacuation Day is a holiday observed on March 17 commemorating the evacuation of British forces from the city of Boston following the siege of Boston in 1776, early in the Revolutionary War.



Sailor of the Year, **USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116)**, CS1 Jorge Miranda. He is one of three original Plank Owners still onboard! Award presented on Jan 5, in Mayport by Pres. Tom Hennessey and Bran Miskell.



Sailor of the Year **USS Nantucket (LCS 17)**, ET1 Dane Burr was presented Jan 4 by Tom Hennessey.

## SEA CADET NEWS



**Oulette Division** worked on the Sea Perch Project while unit C.O., LT Robert Pallazolla, NSCC, hugged his friend.

## Navy Ship Names

(SOURCE:U.S. NAVAL INSTITUTE)

Names for Navy ships traditionally have been chosen and announced by the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the President and in accordance with rules prescribed by Congress. Rules for giving certain types of names to certain types of Navy ships have evolved over time. There have been exceptions to the Navy's ship-naming rules, particularly for the purpose of naming a ship for a person when the rule for that type of ship would have called for it to be named for something else. Some observers have perceived a breakdown in, or corruption of, the rules for naming Navy ships.

Names for Navy ship types currently or recently procured for the Navy include the following:

The first and second **SSBN-826 class ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs)** have been named *District of Columbia* and *Wisconsin*.

Until 2020, **Virginia (SSN-774) class attack submarines** were named largely for states, but the most recent seven have been named for four earlier U.S. Navy attack submarines, a former Secretary of the Navy, an island, and a city, suggesting that there is no longer a clear naming rule for the class.

Of the Navy's 15 most recently named **aircraft carriers**, 10 have been named for past U.S. Presidents and 2 for Members of Congress.

**Destroyers** are being named for deceased members of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, including Secretaries of the Navy.

The first three **FFG-62 class frigates** have been named *Constellation*, *Congress*, and *Chesapeake*, in honor of three of the first six U.S. Navy ships authorized by Congress in 1794, and the fourth has been named *Lafayette* in honor of Marquis de Lafayette and his service during the American Revolutionary War.

**Littoral Combat Ships (LCSs)** were named for regionally important U.S. cities and communities.

**Amphibious assault ships (LHAs)** are being named for U.S. Marine Corps battles, early U.S. Navy sailing ships, or aircraft carriers from World War II.

**San Antonio (LPD-17) class amphibious ships** are being named for major U.S. cities and communities and the cities and communities that were attacked on September 11, 2001.

**John Lewis (TAO-205) class oilers** are being named for people who fought for civil rights and human rights.

**Expeditionary Fast Transports (EPFs)** are being named for small U.S. cities.

The first of the Navy's new **Expeditionary Medical Ships (EMSs)** has been named *Bethesda* to honor the history and community of health care professionals of Naval Support Activity Bethesda. The second EMS has been named *Balboa* to honor the legacy and commitment of Navy doctors, nurses, corpsmen, and staff of Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego.

(Cont'd)

**Expeditionary Transport Docks (ESDs) and Expeditionary Sea Bases (ESBs)** are being named for famous names or places of historical significance to U.S. Marines.

**Navajo (TATS-6) class towing, salvage, and rescue ships** are being named for prominent Native Americans or Native American tribes.



USS John L. Canley (ESB-6)

### Did you know?

The Navy now has four ESBs. The 785-foot vessel is the Navy's fourth expeditionary staging base – the others are USS *Lewis B. Puller* (ESB-3), USS *Hershel "Woody" Williams* (ESB-4) and USS *Miguel Keith* (ESB-5). Two more are being built.

The ships can support a wide range of military missions, from combat operations to humanitarian support, and Canley is expected to support airborne mine countermeasures, special operations and unmanned aviation systems. It has a large upper flight deck and expansive hangar and maintenance deck that give it a unique silhouette at sea. *Canley* has a dedicated space that can support up to 250 embarked personnel, the first ship in the class built with it, Carver told the crowd.

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### HOW TO GET A MEMBER? ASK HIM OR HER

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