



May 2021

# 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 unique among military-oriented associations in that it 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.

## **FLASH! Navy League to welcome Active Duty Military as Members**

On May 19, the Navy League Board of Directors voted to change the long-standing Bylaw which precluded membership for Active Duty Military. Military may now join any category, Individual Member or Life Member with paper copies of SEAPOWER magazine or as an E-Member with on-line access. Go to [navyleague.org/become-a-member/](http://navyleague.org/become-a-member/).

### *USS Thomas Hudner (DDG-116) News*



The Thomas Hudner recently departed the Black Sea after conducting presence operations and participating in a multinational naval exercise hosted by Romania, Sea Shield 21, which included ships from nine different nations conducting operations across the entire spectrum of naval warfare. "Our trip to the Black Sea was very productive," said Cmdr. Bo Mancuso, commanding officer, "We are excited to have been part of a continual integration of air and maritime units operating across the U.S. European Command area of responsibility for establishing air and maritime superiority and to continue enabling freedom of navigation in all international waters."



**The traveling Vietnam Veterans memorial wall** will visit Nahant July 14-18, thanks to the American Legion Post 215. Operated by the Veterans Memorial Fund, the wall — a replica three-fourths the size of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. — allows visitors to do rubbings of individual service members' names, which are listed by day of casualty on the monument's surface. It also doubles as a mobile education center that includes photos of service members and a display of items representative of those left at the larger version of the wall in Washington in remembrance of servicemen lost.

### **New England Region Meeting and Nominating Committee**

On 27 April, the New England Region held a meeting of Council leaders and its Nominating Committee. Delegates and Nat'l Officers will be elected at the Nat'l Convention in June. With no other candidates stepping up and Region Pres. David Samuels completing the maximum three years in office, the Nominating Committee put forth James Robertson (Casco Bay Council), Eleanor Samuels and Ivan Samuels (both Mass. Bay Council) for National Delegates; and Eleanor for Region President and Ivan for Area President South. (In order to be elected, candidates for Nat'l Delegate **MUST** attend the Convention).



### **PLEASE DON'T COME LUNCHEON**

Our thanks to those members who have contributed toward supporting our youth programs. Those who chose to not attend didn't miss the non-meal but missed the opportunity to help support and make awards to outstanding Naval Sea Cadets, League Cadets, Navy and Marine JROTC cadets and NROTC Midshipmen. We hope that they will not attend next year's annual event.

## AWARDS

**Honor Graduate and Book Awards** were presented at **M.I.T.** by Past Council President Tom Hennessey to: Midshipman 4/C Vishakk Rajendran, Midshipman 3/C Elisabeth Aigeldinger, and Midshipman 2/C Alassia Lang; and a **Navy sword** to Midshipman 1/C Nicholas Waggoner from **Boston College**. On June 25 at **Mass Maritime**, Past National President Bill Kelley will present the **sword** to ENS Alex J Celestin who will going to USS CHOSIN CG-65 on active duty. CDR John Benda, Commanding Officer, USS CONSTITUTION, presented a **sword** from the Mass. Bay Council, to ENS Victoria Taylor from **Worcester Polytech**. She is aiming to be a helo pilot. (CDR Benda is also a WPI grad.)

**Navy League Youth Medals** were presented at several Navy and Marine Corps JROTCs in area high schools. For example, at Lynn English, recipient Cadet Lance Corporal Joslyn G. Robles is an active member in the Lynn English High School community. She is very active in helping the teachers in the City of Lynn with translation for the Spanish speaking parents. She is an active member of the MCJROTC drill team and is always there to perform numerous presentations for the veterans in the city of Lynn. She is one of the true leaders, who is always lending a helping hand. She is a second year cadet - a natural leader.

## For Active Duty, The Massachusetts Bay Council recognizes outstanding enlisted personnel with a certificate and a cash stipend.



**Coast Guard District One Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) award** was presented 4 May, 2021 at Station Southwest Harbor, Maine to MK2 Christine Hemphill by prior SWH OIC BMCS James Meadows (now OIC at So. Portland). Following the award presentation MK2 Hemphill was advanced to MK1. Selected from among

all the unit EPOYS in the District, Her selection was based on the following:

*“She mentored and trained active duty personnel and those certified under her direction included two Officers of the Day, four Coxswains, four boat crew members, three Boarding Team Members and six Communication Watchstanders. She directed six Search and Rescue cases, which resulted in seven lives and over \$500,000 in property saved/assisted. She also spearheaded the Cultural Climate initiative and led a contingent of Coast Guard members in order to educate the local community on issues affecting under-represented members of our society. Her initiative grew to include people from local schools, police, fire and emergency management entities in the surrounding area”.*



**CG Base Boston EPOY MK1 Steven Signori** was presented a Certificate of Recognition and cash stipend on 13 May at CG Base Boston All Hands assembly.

## SEA CADET NEWS

Master Chief Barry Crawford, USN (Ret), Commanding Officer, Squadron 7-Zulu, also heads up the **Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA)** which is an advanced training opportunity for Sea Cadet promotion to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Petty Officer. POLA educates and trains Cadets in advanced leadership concepts, problem solving, critical thinking, communications, leading themselves and others, and builds self-confidence. There are 25 modules of instructions over 40hrs of training and led by experienced Sea Cadets and active military leaders from the US Army, Marines, and Navy. In a long year of COVID, youth program enrollment is down and in-person opportunities are fewer, so congratulations go out to the New England Sea Cadet program leaders from Squadron 7 Zulu, MassBay, Barque Eagle, Nautilus, Worcester, Falcon, Dan Healy, and NCBC who stepped up to invest in our country's youth who have had a tough year. [Nationally, virtual POLA trainings events are credited with graduating 200 Cadets from 120 different units since December.]



**Narrah Kearney**

**Cadet of the Year, Gosnold Division, and William Harding League Cadet of the Year, Training Ship Patriot State, received their awards from LCDR Jim McLoughlin, NSCC, Commanding Officer of the units and a council Vice President.**

**David G. Oullette Division reported awardees: League Cadet of the year: SLPO Michael Salafia; Sea Cadet of the year: PO3 Brogan Chambers; and Officer of the Year: ENS Michael Mulcahey**



**Squadron Seven Zulu**

**awards: League Cadet Daniel Desmarais; Cadet of the Year CPO Roche; Instructor of the Year Bill Desmarais.**



**Squadron Seven Zulu's Command Chief Petty Officer received an appointment and will attend the Naval Academy.**



**Did you know that wood from USS Constitution was used to build the U.S. Vice President' desk, similar to that of the Resolute desk, built from the oak timbers of the British Arctic exploration vessel HMS Resolute which has been a fixture in the Oval office almost continuously since it was given to president Rutherford Hayes in 1880, by Queen Victoria.**

Navy Seabees built a desk for Vice President Kamala Harris made from wood, copper and nails taken off USS Constitution. The desk, which was delivered in February, features carvings of an eagle and stars reminiscent of the Constitution's stern decorations, said Paul Taylor, a spokesman for Naval History and Heritage Command, which oversaw the project which was approved while President Donald Trump was still in office. Sailors also built a desk for the Navy Secretary that includes materials from Constitution, the frigate Chesapeake; battleships Texas, New Jersey and Arizona; and sloop of war Constellation as well.

***Did you know that you can generate donations while shopping at Amazon at no extra cost? Simply start your shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2783171](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/04-2783171) to confirm "Navy League Of The United States Massachusetts Bay***

The Ship's Whistle is published by The Massachusetts Bay Council, Navy League of the U.S., 25 Dorchester Ave., P.O. Box 51662, Boston, MA 02205. To be removed from this mailing list, contact: Editor: Ivan Samuels at [go2navy@verizon.net](mailto:go2navy@verizon.net).

## Massachusetts Bay Council Sword Presentation aboard USS Constitution

On Friday May 21, a warm and beautiful evening on board USS Constitution, members of the Massachusetts Bay Council and CDR John Benda CO of USS Constitution presented the council's sword award for outstanding leadership performance to Worcester Polytechnic Institute MIDN Victoria Kahler of the Holy Cross Crusader Battalion. The presentation was unique in that MIDN Kahler is a 2021 graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute and CDR Benda is a 2001 graduate of WPI and was also a member of the Crusader Battalion of the NROTC at the College of the Holy Cross. A first for this award, which the Mass Bay Council has presented to NROTC Units in the area for over three decades. In addition, the awardee's grandfather, Mr. Andrew Card, Chief of Staff to President George W. Bush (43), addressed family members, USS Constitution crew, Navy, Coast Guard, and other guests with positively heartwarming and patriotic remarks as to the significance to "all those that serve" in the defense and well-being of America! Not a day can pass without recalling informing the world of the 9- 11 attack and the repercussions. Massachusetts Bay Council President Mr. Stephen Schnitzer and his wife, Iris, provided refreshments for the event in behalf of the council. In addition to family members, also present were Capt. Marvin Carlin, Commanding Officer, NROTCU College of the Holy Cross. Capt. Eric Doucette, USCG, Captain of the Port of Boston and his second in command, CDR Elisa Garret. Capt. Mary Jo Majors, USNR(Ret), President, Wardroom Club, CDR John Tata, USNR(Ret), Executive Committee member O'Callahan Society, College of the Holy Cross, LTC David Anderson, USA(Ret), Military Order of the World Wars, Worcester Chapter President, Sergeant David Joy, USA, Fmr., Vietnam Veteran's Association Post 116, Director, Mr. Robert Avakian of First Command Challenge coins were distributed by CDR Benda and VVA Post 116. Evening colors were observed as the award recipient fired the ship's saluting battery and the huge 13 star ensign was lowered. The on board ceremony was the culmination to a perfect day; Constitution's first harbor cruise in 18 months (morning crew training) and the long awaited afternoon opening to public visitors. A big thank you to MBC VP CDR John Tata USNR(Ret) and CDR John Benda for arranging this special presentation.

(photos by MC2 Grant Grady, USN)

