

The Ship's Whistle



Sept 2019

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.

PLANNED EVENTS:

- Sept 30 Board Meeting
- Oct (TBA) Navy Birthday event
- Dec (TBA) Toys for Tots Brunch



NAVY BIRTHDAY

A 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with "a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months...." After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798. (Source: *Naval History and Heritage Command*.)

[Note: While 13 October is the Navy Birthday, 27 October is Navy Day. The Navy League, working with the Navy, established Navy Day, on which the people of the country would be reminded of the Navy and its value to them." The first Navy Day celebration was on October 27, 1922, the birthday of former President Theodore Roosevelt.]



USS Thomas Hudner Change of Command

On 23 Aug. CDR Nathan Scherry was relieved by CDR Richard Litchfield (shown above) in a ceremony at Mayport, FL. Tom Hennessey, past Council Pres and Chairman of the Hudner Commissioning Committee was a Guest Speaker. His remarks follow:

"Good Morning Mrs. Hudner, Mrs Miller, Commodore Roberts, Commanders Scherry and Litchfield the crew and families of the USS THOMAS HUDNER and friends I am delighted to represent the USS THOMAS HUDNER Commissioning Committee from Boston. It was an honor to assist in the Commissioning of this outstanding ship. Many committee members had the privilege of knowing Capt. Hudner during his long, distinguished, career in Massachusetts after retiring from the Navy, and we were excited that this great American hero and Medal of Honor Recipient was being honored for his selfless sacrifice and service.

The committee which formed in early 2015 made its first of several visits to the ship in May 2016 as her rudders and propeller shafts were being installed, 600,000 feet of cabling were yet to be pulled through the ship, the sonar dome was upside down in a building being assembled and wired; and CDR Scherry and Senior Chief Van Hemel were the Pre-Commissioning Unit at Bath.

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[USS Thomas Hudner cont'd]



From the outset, it was evident that this was no ordinary ship being built, section by section, system by system, person by person. More than just a ship's company, this crew of talented and dedicated individuals resembled a family -- everyone committed to a single mission, bonded by their determination to live up to the ship's motto "Above All Others" and to honor the ship's namesake, an American hero, they had come to know personally, to admire and respect.

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[USS Thomas Hudner cont'd]

How unusual, unique really, that this crew led by CDR Scherry's vision, expertise and leadership, had the opportunity to meet Capt. Hudner several times in his Concord, Massachusetts, home. How extraordinary that each crewmember had a chance to sit down individually with Captain Hudner, talk about their responsibilities on the ship, and respond to his interest in their backgrounds and career aspirations.

No surprise then, that a most willing crew accompanied CDR Scherry to Concord to celebrate Capt. Hudner's birthday, and to participate in his funeral in November of 2017, and interment at Arlington National Cemetery in April 2018.

As shipbuilding progressed over four years, the committee watched in admiration as CDR Scherry skillfully trained and organized a new crew and built a team that worked with partners at Bath Iron Works, Sup Ships Bath and NAVSEA.

Despite schedule changes and challenging Maine weather, CDR Scherry and the crew somehow on April 1, 2017 executed a spectacular Christening Ceremony, complete with a raging nor'easter, a thrilled and grateful Capt. Hudner and hundreds of admiring drenched guests.

As the next phase of shipbuilding began, the committee witnessed CDR Scherry and his exceptional crew's impressive accomplishments; successful completion of

system tests, qualifications, sea trials, delivery, move aboard, missile tests and an INSURV inspection. The crew's focus on excellence assured delivery of THE finest ship to the fleet.

The highly anticipated Commissioning on December 1, 2018 reflected the excitement, energy and dedication CDR Scherry instilled when he encouraged Capt. Hudner's active participation in bringing alive the spirit and legacy of this great ship. The committee extends their sincerest gratitude to CDR Scherry who inspires all who have the honor of working with him.

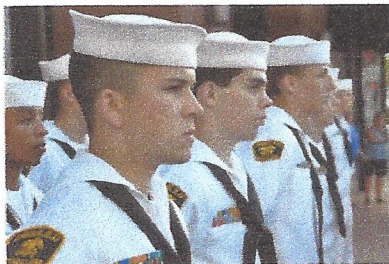
CDR Litchfield, the Committee has been privileged to come to know you and to observe your success as Executive Officer. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and know how very fortunate USS THOMAS HUDNER is to have such a talented, competent and experienced professional assume command. Boston eagerly awaits a port visit should the schedule permit.

In conclusion, The Commissioning Committee would like to thank CDR Scherry for the great honor it has been to be a part of bringing USS THOMAS HUDNER alive. We wish you, Rosa and family every success during your Pacific adventure.

CDR Litchfield, Krista and family we wish you continued success and ask God's blessing on this ship, it's crew and all who will follow.

Thank You.!

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets



Did you know that the Massachusetts Bay Council sponsors or co-sponsors the following units and, with your generous support, our Annual "Please Don't Come" Luncheon helps to fund them.

**Constitution Division*, Haverhill
Gosnold Division*/TS Patriot State*, Buzzards Bay
Joseph P. Kennedy Division*, Fall River, MA
Squadron Seven Zulu* - NOSC and USS Salem,
Quincy**

**Worcester (CL 144) Division*, Worcester
David G. Oullette Division*, Coast Guard Base,
Gloucester
Massachusetts Bay Division*, USCG Base Boston**

Naval Sea Cadets

Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA)

[Edited and condensed from a report by LCDR James McLaughlin, NSCC, Commanding Officer of the Training Contingent. He is also C.O., Gosnold Division, NSCC, one of our sponsored units and a member of the Mass. Bay Council's Board of Directors.]

For the 9th consecutive year, Sea Cadets from throughout the nation, met at Mass. Maritime Academy for 7 days of leadership training. One of several "Petty Officer Leadership Academies" (POLAs), this 7-day curriculum is total immersion into leadership training.

Topics covered are "Leadership Fundamentals," "Motivation," "Authority, Accountability and Responsibility," "Values and Overcoming Biases," "Counseling Fundamentals" and the "Roles and Responsibilities of a Petty Officer." Unlike other Leadership Academies, at Mass. Maritime Academy the experience is by practical, hands-on leadership applications, not by PowerPoint as most others do. The bedrock foundation principles of "Know Yourself" and "Know Your People" form the basis of what is offered at Mass. Maritime, and the classroom topics are enhanced by Classes taught by Naval Sea Cadet Corps officers and active duty Coast Guard personnel from Sector Southeast New England in Woods Hole.

The emphasis is to prepare the graduates for any leadership role, whether in or out of the Sea Cadet Corps, in school, athletics or in the community; to be able to serve as leaders no matter where they may hold their respective responsibilities.

Offered are a variety of practical experiences wherein the cadets can practice and hone their leadership skills, such as the 12-person Monomoy rowing boats, the Army's Leadership Reaction Course at Joint Base Cape Cod and the climbing walls at "Carabiner's" in New Bedford, as well as multiple team exercises throughout the week; and daily athletics. Each cadet is also afforded the opportunity to serve as a Company or Battalion Commander during the week.

When the cadets look back upon the week, they will have spent less time in the classroom than they did in practical, leadership application; and they will have learned much about themselves and their shipmates. They graduate with a leadership toolbox of skills which will serve them well into their respective futures.

