

# The Ship's Whistle



April 2018



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.

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## PLANNED EVENTS:

May 17. **USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116)** event, Fall River (See below for invitation)

May 26. **USS MANCHESTER (LCS 14) COMMISSIONING in Portsmouth, NH. For an invitation go to:**

<http://ussmanchester-org.vps-vetventures-org.vps.ezhostingsserver.com/email-form?tickets=1>

May (TBD). Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

June 2018. Navy League Convention, Portland, OR, coincides with Annual Fleet Week and Rose Festival.

July. Probable ship visit for July 4<sup>th</sup>.

To receive an invitation for an invitation go to

<http://www.usshudnerddg116.org/commissioning-tickets>

December 1  . USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioning.

June and July  **USS CONSTITUTION OPENS THE LOTTERY FOR HARBOR CRUISES**

To download the official 2018 lottery entry form, visit [www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial](http://www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial).

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## Navy League Promotional Video

The Navy League video is available for viewing and download. Go to: <http://www.navyleague.org/councils/video.html>.

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## Awards



(photos by PA3 Nicole J. Groll, USCG)



Council VPs Steve Schnitzer and Krystyna Maksymowicz presented the council's award to Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Melitski, First Coast Guard District's Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year and to 1st Class John Joeckel First Coast Guard District's Enlisted Person of the Year.

The Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year Program recognizes exemplary performance by the men and woman from the active and reserve enlisted workforce. Nominees reflect the spirit of pride, professionalism and dedication and have demonstrated exceptional performance in the areas of: leadership, job skills, personal and work ethics, Coast Guard knowledge, uniform appearance, military bearing, and community relations.

Petty Officer 1st Class John Joeckel, a marine science technician assigned to the Incident Management Division at Sector Northern New England, was selected as the First Coast Guard District EPOY for his work during several high-profile pollution investigations; and also volunteering 550 hours at a local food pantry, organized fundraisers which raised \$10,000 and increased the food pantry's ability to serve 800 families.

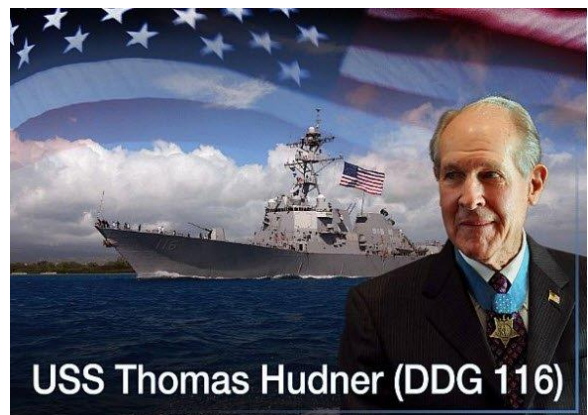
Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeffrey Melitski, a maritime enforcement specialist assigned to the Enforcement Division at Sector New York, was selected at the First Coast Guard District's Reserve EPOY. He was recognized for being among the first reservists to volunteer for Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. During his deployment to the Coast Guard's Seventh District, he used his skills as an EMT to assist in the rescue of a late-term and high-risk pregnant patient and the safe transfer from Puerto Rico to Miami, Florida. In December 2017 and while off duty, Melitski courageously ran into his neighbor's home when he noticed it was on fire and immediately assisted with the safe evacuation of all the residents. He also volunteers coaching youth football and baseball.

"It is always difficult choosing only two members from the large pool of talented and dedicated enlisted personnel here in the First District," said Master Chief Petty Officer Jason Griffin, First Coast Guard District command master chief. "However, Petty Officers Joeckel and Melitski epitomize the spirit of the award."

Each year, the Commandant selects only one active and one reserve Enlisted Person of the Year from all of the regional winners throughout the Coast Guard.

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### ***USS Thomas Hudner (DDG116) event***



***Join us for an evening to remember.*** Battleship Cove and the USS Thomas Hudner Commissioning Committee will host a reception honoring the bravery and memory of a true American hero and Fall River native, Captain Thomas J. Hudner. Fall River's Heritage State Park on Thursday, May 17, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. Keynote speaker, Commander David Kohlen PhD, USN, Director of the John B. Hattendorf Center for Maritime Historical Research at the Naval War College. He will reflect on the legacy of Tom Hudner and Jesse Brown on Naval heritage, history and culture. Tickets are \$35 per person, or \$60 per couple, and can be purchased on the Battleship Cove website, [www.battleshipcove.org](http://www.battleshipcove.org), or by calling 508-678-1100 ext. 101.