




# The Ship's Whistle

Aug 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. **Note no July issue.**

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## PLANNED EVENTS:

- ?? Oct Navy Birthday (TBD) and Annual Meeting (TBD)
- 12 Nov The Boston Semper Fidelis Society hosts a luncheon to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. The Commandant of the Marine Corps, Robert B. Neller is the Guest of Honor. \$105. Inquiries: [semperfidelissocietyboston@gmail.com](mailto:semperfidelissocietyboston@gmail.com)
- 1 Dec  . USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioning. For an invitation go to <http://www.usshudnerddg116.org/commissioning-tickets>
- 9 Dec Annual Toys for Tots benefit (TBD)

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## JOB OPPORTUNITY – GET INVOLVED WITH OUR COUNCIL –

Join the Board of Directors. Help plan our programs and activities. Contact President Tom Hennessey at [tvh@alum.mit.edu](mailto:tvh@alum.mit.edu) if you'd like more information and/or to attend a meeting. Also, volunteers needed for a new Treasurer and Ship's Whistle Editor. Next Board meeting Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

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Commander Robert L. 'Bob' Gillen, USN(Ret) passed away on July 6 at the age of 85. A long-time Member of our Navy League council Board and strong supporter of all things "Navy" particularly USS Constitution of which he was the 59<sup>th</sup> Commander. In addition to Navy League, he was a volunteer and active in many other Navy-related organizations as well as Charlestown endeavors. For those who did not know him well, he enlisted in the Navy at age 17, rose to Chief Petty Officer and was commissioned Ensign in 1962. The council will be renaming the education award given to Constitution sailors in his honor.



### Jones Act Update

Despite the negative news promulgated, a new study about the economic effect of the Jones Act on Puerto Rico. since Hurricane Maria struck the island has been released. This fact-based analysis is the first comprehensive report on the subject. The study concludes that the Jones Act has no impact on

either retail prices or the cost of living in Puerto Rico, contrary to allegations that the Jones Act "doubles the cost" of consumer goods. In addition, the report found that the state-of-the-art maritime technology, Puerto-Rico focused investments, and dedicated closed-loop service offered by Jones Act carriers provide a significant positive economic impact to the island, at freight rates lower or comparable to similar services to other Caribbean Islands.

Here is a link to the study:  
<https://www.americanmaritimepartnership.com/puerto-rico-economy/>.

## Sea Cadets. Where do they go?

In 2017 there were 12,594 Sea Cadets in 391 units in 46 states and Guam and Puerto Rico. As reported by 1008 H.S. seniors (probably others not reported), their plans included U.S. Naval Academy (136), Military Academy (5), Air Force Academy (7), Coast Guard Academy (10), Merchant Marine Academy (7), State Merchant Marine Academies (13), NROTC (88), Other ROTC (33). Intend to enlist Navy (263), intend to enlist other services (146); or attend a 2-4 year college or university (300).

According to the Naval Academy, Sea Cadets, Civil Air Patrol, JROTC, and NJROTC comprised 17% of the class of 2021. At the beginning of plebe summer in 2017, USNA confirmed that there were 136 Sea Cadets out of 1,214 plebes in the class of 2021 or 11.2% of the class. There are twice as many former Sea Cadets at USNA than former CAP, JROTC, and NJROTC cadets combined.

**GRANTS:** A total of \$2100 from the Please Don't Come Luncheon was given to our sponsored Sea Cadet units.



LCDR Matt Landry, NSCC, received a Scroll of Honor from the Massachusetts Bay Council recognizing his many years of volunteer leadership. LCDR Landry joined as a Cadet in 1966 and, after college, rejoined as an instructor and, later served as an

Operations/Training Officer and unit Executive Officer. In 2006, he founded the **Massachusetts Bay** Division and was the unit's first Commanding Officer. Under his command, the unit ranked #1 in New England in 2008 and 2010; and in 2011 achieved #3 national ranking. In 2013, he stepped up to be Director, New England Region 1-1, responsible for five Sea Cadet units. (Photo: Krys Maksymowicz, Steve Schnitzer and LCDR Landry) LCDR Landry was relieved by LCDR Christopher Donahue, NSCC, as the Region Director.

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## Council Activity in June and July



Former Navy League Nat'l President Bill Kelley, Jr., representing the Massachusetts Bay Council, presented a Navy sword to Mass Maritime graduate, ENS Malina C. Dang. She was a Marine Engineering major with a top GPA. She has been selected for submarine duty and has orders to the Nuclear Power School in Charleston, SC.

(The council also presented swords at Boston University and College of the Holy Cross.)



**USS Ramage (DDG 61)** visited Boston and the council arranged ship tours and a reception aboard on July 5. Council Pres. Tom Hennessey presented a copy of the 1995 Commissioning Program Book to the C.O.

## Coast Guard events

4 August U.S. Coast Guard Birthday. Founded in 1790 as the Revenue Marine. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!,



18 July USCG Base Boston. CAPT Andrew Brown relieved CAPT James 'Brett' Millican. RADM James Heinz presided. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Christine Cole.)

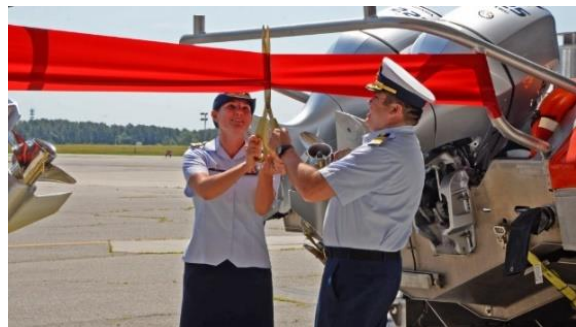


19 July USCG Sector Southeastern New England. CAPT Christian Glander relieved CAPT Richard Schultz. RADM Andrew Tionson, presided.



Coast Guard Captain Eric Doucette relieves Captain Claudia Gelzer as the commander of **Coast Guard Sector Boston**, Massachusetts during a change of command ceremony, Friday, July 6, 2018. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Hayden Hunt).

Sector Boston is comprised of nearly 350 active duty and civilian personnel, 120 Reservists and 1,000 Auxiliary members. The sector's sub-units include four small boat stations, a 110-foot and 87-foot patrol boat, a 65-foot icebreaking tug and one aids to navigation team.



On 13 July, **USCG Marine Safety and Security Team** moved from Base Boston to Joint Base Cape Cod. Lt. Cmdr. Anna Hart, commanding officer of MSST Cape Cod, and Captain Mark Walsh cut a ribbon during a ceremony that officially recognized the move and name change as part of a reorganization initiative to improve

accommodations and logistical support to several Coast Guard units in Massachusetts while also realizing long-term cost savings. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Auxiliarist Wes Baden)

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### **THREE BOOKS WRITTEN BY COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

All are Available on Amazon from which these descriptions are copied.

**“The Siren’s Call and Second Chances”**. Authors: Medal of Honor recipient CAPT Thomas Kelley, USN(Ret) and Joan Kelley. Tom nearly dies while saving his men in war, resulting in the loss of his eye. Although he's awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions, he has to fight to stay in the Navy. Joan overcomes childhood insecurities to reach her own Navy career goals and as a wife and mother. Later, these two meet and, in a unique twist of fate, become soulmates. This book differs from the ordinary military memoir in that it gives a woman’s perspective on service, while sharing the journey these two make over their lives, traveling on separate but parallel paths in their quests for meaning outside themselves. The overarching theme guiding them toward their destiny is perseverance. Separately, then together, they learn how to overcome obstacles and move on from adversity while taking the high road. A unique aspect of this book is that while the authors give both points of view, the story is unified by common experiences of two similar individuals who become a strong team due to their bonds of service and faith. Told with humility, humor and honesty, the authors inspire readers to hold onto their hopes and dreams even in the darkest hours. All proceeds will go to a veterans’ charity.

**“Overrun – The Battle for Firebase 14”**. Author: Dr. Jeffrey H. Ahlin, DDS. This novel is a dramatization of many of CDR Jeff Ahlin's experiences on the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) in Vietnam and South East Asia between the summer of 1969 and the summer of 1971. The story details experiences of a dental officer assigned to forward based Marines. (It reads as if you were there!) during some very difficult circumstances, logistical problems and abject terror that permeated the jungle warfare. During time aboard Kitty Hawk, then Lt. Ahlin became friendly with one of the Navy Pilots from Squadron VA-192, The Golden Dragons. Lt. Dennis Pike flew the A7-E Corsair II and was a trombone player in the ships band with Lt. Ahlin, who played the banjo. The Army Rangers and Marines were subjected to many difficult battles in the Central Highlands, A Chau Valley, and near the borders of Cambodia, Laos, and the 17th Parallel, the border of North Vietnam. LCDR Pike was lost over Laos in the spring of 1972. There were unconfirmed reports of him being held in a prison camp in Laos in the summer of 1972. In the fall of 2011 his helmet was found by a farmer in a stream in Laos. There were reports the Russians and Chinese took pieces of downed aircraft and six of our pilots as POWs; but all those pilots were released after the war. The question remains, “What happened to LCDR Dennis Pike?”

**“The Boston Marine Barracks: A History, 1799-1974”**. Author: LTCOL John R. Yates, USMC(Ret). The Boston Marine Barracks is one of the oldest in the United States: Lt. Col. John R. Yates, Jr., the last commanding officer of the Barracks when it closed in 1974, researched the hundreds of letters left behind by previous Barracks commanders, their superiors and many others. They reveal the life and times of the Marines billeted at the Barracks from the early 19th century until World War II. Often, of course, the Marines were deployed to far-off events and places. This book also tells the story of the Barracks Marines' participation in the Seminole Wars, the action in Samoa, the Boer Wars, the Philippine Insurrection, Panama, the Boxer Rebellion, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish American War and World War I. This book reveals a naval prison's existence on the shipyard for which the Marines were responsible for many years.

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**NAVY LEAGUE PORTAL.** Did you know that you can edit your personal information, see minutes of Navy League National meetings, reports, council support materials and much more. If you have not already signed up, go to <https://portal.navyleague.org/login> and "JOIN". You'll receive a temporary password which you may change after entering the Portal.

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## Cybersecurity at Naval and Coast Guard Academies



The U.S. Naval Academy has seen a big increase in cyber operations majors, and a U.S. senator said Monday that midshipmen could be useful in working on cyber challenges before they graduate. A new cybersecurity building is due to open in 2020.

The plebe class has 110 cyber operations majors, or nearly 10 percent of the class. That's up from 22 cyber majors in the class of 2018. The first cyber majors graduated in 2016. All midshipmen are required to take two semesters of cyber studies. The academy already partners with the National Security Agency on summer internships



The U.S. [Coast Guard Academy](#) is now offering an academic program in cyber systems, its first new major in a quarter century. The program beginning this fall reflects the maritime service's evolution toward conducting operations in cyberspace as it does at sea and by air, said Capt. Lee Petty, chief of the Coast Guard's Office of Cyberspace Forces in Washington. "This is a new domain and we're approaching it in a similar vein as we do in these physical domains," Petty said.

The academy is opening a cyber lab with dedicated servers, a new laboratory and a specially designed classroom to support the program. Kurt Colella, the academy's dean of academics, said the program will incorporate elements of fields including policy, law, ethics, operating systems, software design and intelligence.

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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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