



Fall 2023

# 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



### COMING SOON

**Our Fifty-first year of supporting the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program will soon be underway. Last year we donated some 418 items which were distributed amongst needy families in Middlesex and Essex Counties. Our Members contributed a large numbers of toys and over \$3600 for our purchases of items. Watch for the notice.**



### New Training Vessel for Mass Maritime Academy

The *Empire State*, the first of five new purpose, modern training vessels for America's state maritime academies was delivered to MARAD and will serve SUNY Maritime College. The new vessel program – known as National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMVs) – was designed to provide world-class training for America's future and to support humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions in times of need. **The next training vessel, NSMV II, is scheduled to be delivered to Mass Maritime in 2024.**

The NSMV program is an important investment in America's shipbuilding industry, which supports nearly 400,000 U.S. jobs. Each NSMV will feature numerous instructional spaces, a full training bridge, and accommodations for up to 600 cadets to train in a first-rate maritime academic environment at sea. State maritime academies graduate officers who manage vessels that help keep cargoes and our economy moving. Many of these merchant mariners also support U.S. national security by crewing military sealift vessels.



**Guided-missile destroyers USS *Thomas Hudner* (DDG-116) and USS *Ramage* (DDG-61) (shown), both commissioned in Boston, are part of the Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group moved to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea as a result of the attacks on Israel.**

### USS Ramage (DDG 61) life extended

Under a plan recently announced, Ramage will see its service life extended to fiscal 2035. Ramage was commissioned in Boston in 1995.

## SEA CADETS

The experience of participation in the Sea Cadet program is of value in many ways, for example:

### Gosnold Division

Charles Kiernan graduated from Gosnold Division and graduated from the Naval Academy in 2020. He's been in flight training and recently received his wings after completion of carrier qualifications.

**Worcester Division** Former cadet Chief Petty Officer Jeffrey Vandenengel from Worcester Division (now Commander, USN), was selected for command of a submarine. Currently stationed at the Pentagon, he is a 2008 graduate from the Naval Academy.

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