

The Ship's Whistle



March 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.

PLANNED EVENTS:

April 9-11. Sea-Air-Space, National Harbor, D.C.

April 16. Patriots' Day Parade, Lexington/Concord. USNA Drum and Bugle Corps.

April 20. Army-Navy baseball at 6PM. Proceeds will benefit the Home Base program (Red Sox Foundation and Mass. General Hospital which helps veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder). \$10.

May (TBD). Hudner Commissioning event, Fall River

May (TBD). Armed Forces Day Luncheon.

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

July. Probably ship visit for July 4th.

October (TBD) Navy Birthday and Annual Meeting event(s)

December 1. USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioning. To receive an invitation for an invitation go to <http://www.usshudnerddg116.org/commissioning-tickets>

USS CONSTITUTION OPENS THE LOTTERY FOR HARBOR CRUISES IN JUNE AND JULY

To download the official 2018 lottery entry form, visit www.facebook.com/ussconstitutionofficial.

RECENT EVENTS:

USS Cole (DDG 67)* visit was cancelled due to the blizzard and storm at sea. We look forward to another ship visit.

Please Don't Come Luncheon. This non-event helps to support our youth programs.



Medal of Honor. Did you know that the Massachusetts Bay Council has been honored with three Medal of Honor recipients as members? Captain George L. Street, III, USN(Ret), Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., USN(Ret) and Captain Thomas G. Kelley, USN(Ret). (Citations below.) *We thank them for their extraordinary service!*

Sea Cadet News

Naval Sea Cadets participate in STEM/Sea Perch

The Navy League sponsored Naval Sea Cadet Corps is one of the Navy's frontline organizations in fulfilling a critical education initiative for our young people. That initiative, called STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) uses the SeaPerch program to generate interest and enthusiasm for career paths for youth that will strengthen our nation's ability to compete in a technology-driven world. SeaPerch provides an exciting entry to that path, with a creative venture that is driven by problem-solving, discovery, exploratory learning, and a requirement for the Cadet to actively engage a situational problem to find its solution.

Our Sea Cadets and League Cadets actively participate in this STEM education initiative through **SeaPerch**, a hands-on training exercise that produces a simple remotely operated underwater vehicle (ROV), made from PVC pipe and other inexpensive, easily available materials.

The SeaPerch Program, created by the MIT Sea Grant College Program in 2003, is sponsored for the Sea Cadets by the Office of Naval Research (ONR). ONR in turn provides funding for the training program and the SeaPerch "kits" used to build the SeaPerch ROV. Local training is provided by qualified NSCC SeaPerch instructors.

Building a SeaPerch ROV teaches basic skills in ship and submarine design and encourages students to explore naval architecture and marine and ocean engineering concepts. Included in the curriculum are instructions in basic science and engineering concepts, tool safety and technical procedures. Cadets learn important technical and design skills and, in the process, get an introduction to the exciting careers that are possible in robotics, electronics, naval architecture and naval, ocean, and marine sciences and engineering.



The David G. Ouelette Division, NSCC, is one of the many Sea Cadet units around the country which participate. In addition, they recently had their Annual Inspection, conducted by Mass Bay Council V.P., Genevieve Guimond, who also presented the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Petty Officer Ryan Litch.



(Left photo) Volunteer leaders: Phil Strauch, AUX, INST Jeff Litch (ADMIN), LTJG Robert Pallazolla (CO), LCDR Matt Landry (RegDir), INST Mike Mulcahey (OPS), INST Josh Ulrich (MTO), INST Chris Heath (XO)
 (Right photo) Petty Offer Ryan Litch, LPO, Genevieve Guimond, LTJG Robert Pallazolla, NSCC, C.O.



Navy League Cadets (youth ages 10-13), the junior program developed for younger cadets preparing for membership in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. On the right are the Sea Cadets awaiting Inspection. On the right, Gosnold Division and T/S Patriot State at the CG Armory, Joint Base Cape Cod along with SSgt Gordon of the Mass. Army National Guard learning about gun use and safety.

Awards



The Coast Guard Base Boston Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) award was presented to ET2 Patrick J. Muir. (Photo: CAPT J.B. Millican, Krystyna Maksymowicz, Steve Schnitzer, ETC Muir and Tom Hennessey.

Affinity Agreement. Navy League has arranged for a special membership discount on GEICO auto insurance. . Visit <http://www.geico.com/mil/nlus> or call 1-800-368-2734 to complete your free, no-obligation rate quote. Be sure to mention that you are a Navy League member.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATIONS

STREET, GEORGE LEVICK, III

Rank and organization: Commander, U.S. Navy, U.S.S. Tirante. **Place and date:** Harbor of Quelpart Island, off the coast of Korea, 14 April 1945. **Entered service at:** Virginia. **Born:** 27 July 1913, Richmond, Va. **Other Navy awards:** Navy Cross, Silver Star with 1 Gold Star.

Citation.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as commanding officer of the U.S.S. Tirante during the first war patrol of that vessel against enemy Japanese surface forces in the harbor of Quelpart Island, off the coast of Korea, on 14 April 1945. With the crew at surface battle stations, Comdr. (then Lt. Comdr.) Street approached the hostile anchorage from the south within 1,200 yards of the coast to complete a reconnoitering circuit of the island. Leaving the 10-fathom curve far behind he penetrated the mined and shoal-obstructed waters of the restricted harbor despite numerous patrolling vessels and in defiance of 5 shore-based radar stations and menacing aircraft. Prepared to fight it out on the surface if attacked, Comdr. Street went into action, sending 2 torpedoes with deadly accuracy into a large Japanese ammunition ship and exploding the target in a mountainous and blinding glare of white flames. With the Tirante instantly spotted by the enemy as she stood out plainly in the flare of light, he ordered the torpedo data computer set up while retiring and fired his last 2 torpedoes to disintegrate in quick succession the leading frigate and a similar flanking vessel. Clearing the gutted harbor at emergency full speed ahead, he slipped undetected along the shoreline, diving deep as a pursuing patrol dropped a pattern of depth charges at the point of submergence. His illustrious record of combat achievement during the first war patrol of the Tirante characterizes Comdr. Street as a daring and skilled leader and reflects the highest credit upon himself, his valiant command, and the U.S. Naval Service.

HUDNER, THOMAS JEROME, JR.

Rank and organization: Lieutenant (j.g.) U.S. Navy, pilot in Fighter Squadron 32, attached to U.S.S. Leyte. *Place and date:* Chosin Reservoir area of Korea, 4 December 1950. *Entered service at:* Fall River, Mass. *Born:* 31 August 1924, Fall River, Mass.

Citation.

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a pilot in Fighter Squadron 32, while attempting to rescue a squadron mate whose plane struck by antiaircraft fire and trailing smoke, was forced down behind enemy lines. Quickly maneuvering to circle the downed pilot and protect him from enemy troops infesting the area, Lt. (j.g.) Hudner risked his life to save the injured flier who was trapped alive in the burning wreckage. Fully aware of the extreme danger in landing on the rough mountainous terrain and the scant hope of escape or survival in subzero temperature, he put his plane down skillfully in a deliberate wheels-up landing in the presence of enemy troops. With his bare hands, he packed the fuselage with snow to keep the flames away from the pilot and struggled to pull him free. Unsuccessful in this, he returned to his crashed aircraft and radioed other airborne planes, requesting that a helicopter be dispatched with an ax and fire extinguisher. He then remained on the spot despite the continuing danger from enemy action and, with the assistance of the rescue pilot, renewed a desperate but unavailing battle against time, cold, and flames. Lt. (j.g.) Hudner's exceptionally valiant action and selfless devotion to a shipmate sustain and enhance the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.

KELLEY, THOMAS G.

Rank and organization: Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy, River Assault Division 152. *Place and date:* Ong Muong Canal, Kien Hoa province, Republic of Vietnam, 15 June 1969. *Entered service at:* Boston, Mass. *Born:* 13 May 1939, Boston, Mass.

Citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in the afternoon while serving as commander of River Assault Division 152 during combat operations against enemy aggressor forces. Lt. Comdr. (then Lt.) Kelley was in charge of a column of 8 river assault craft which were extracting 1 company of U.S. Army infantry troops on the east bank of the Ong Muong Canal in Kien Hoa province, when 1 of the armored troop carriers reported a mechanical failure of a loading ramp. At approximately the same time, Viet Cong forces opened fire from the opposite bank of the canal. After issuing orders for the crippled troop carrier to raise its ramp manually, and for the remaining boats to form a protective cordon around the disabled craft, Lt. Comdr. Kelley realizing the extreme danger to his column and its inability to clear the ambush site until the crippled unit was repaired, boldly maneuvered the monitor in which he was embarked to the exposed side of the protective cordon in direct line with the enemy's fire, and ordered the monitor to commence firing. Suddenly, an enemy rocket scored a direct hit on the coxswain's flat, the shell penetrating the thick armor plate, and the explosion spraying shrapnel in all directions. Sustaining serious head wounds from the blast, which hurled him to the deck of the monitor, Lt. Comdr. Kelley disregarded his severe injuries and attempted to continue directing the other boats. Although unable to move from the deck or to speak clearly into the radio, he succeeded in relaying his commands through 1 of his men until the enemy attack was silenced and the boats were able to move to an area of safety. Lt. Comdr. Kelley's brilliant leadership, bold initiative, and resolute determination served to inspire his men and provide the impetus needed to carry out the mission

after he was medically evacuated by helicopter. His extraordinary courage under fire, and his selfless devotion to duty sustain and enhance the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.