



# The Ship's Whistle

Oct 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 SEPT ISSUE

=====

## PLANNED EVENTS:

- 29 Oct Board Meeting and proposed Bylaws amendments
- 12 Nov The Boston Semper Fidelis Society hosts a luncheon to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday. GEN Robert B. Neller, USMC, Commandant, is the Guest of Honor. \$105. Inquiries: [semperfidelissocietyboston@gmail.com](mailto:semperfidelissocietyboston@gmail.com)
- 19 Nov Annual Meeting (in lieu of Board Meeting). Election of officers.
- 1 Dec . USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioning.
- 2 Dec USS Constitution Tree Lighting (4 PM)
- 9 Dec Annual Toys for Tots benefit
- 30 Dec Annual All Service Academies Holly Ball (contact: [president@usna-pccne.org](mailto:president@usna-pccne.org))

=====

## 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 Oct. 29.

=====

## Navy Birthday/Navy Day Dinner



On 18 October, we celebrated the Navy's 243<sup>rd</sup> birthday as well as Navy Day\* at the Coast Guard All Hands Club. Our speaker was Captain James P. McGrath, USN, Military Professor, Joint Military Operations, Naval War College, who spoke comparing our current building a 355 ship Navy with the rebuilding of the Navy in the 1930s; both following a period of downsizing and lack of funding ship construction despite our security needs. (Photos: George Ripsom giving the Invocation from a historical perspective; President Hennessey present the book "Devotion" as our gift to the speaker, CAPT McGrath; and cutting the traditional birthday cake by 94 year old WWII Navy veteran Bob Young, USS Constitution sailor SN Wright, CAPT McGrath, and NROTC Mid'n Barry who attends Boston College.)

\*Not to be confused with the Navy's Birthday, which is celebrated on October 13, Navy Day was established on October 27, 1922 by the Navy League. It received special attention from President Warren Harding who wrote to the SECNAV Edwin Denby: *"Thank you for your note which brings assurance of the notable success which seems certain to attend the celebration of Navy Day on Friday, October 27, in commemoration of past and present services of the Navy. From our earliest national beginnings, the Navy has always been, and deserved to be, an object of special pride to the American people. Its record is indeed one to inspire such sentiments, and I am very sure that such a commemoration as is planned will be a timely reminder." "It is well for us to have in mind that under a program of lessening naval armaments there is a greater reason for maintaining the highest efficiency, fitness and morale in this branch of the national defensive service. I know how earnestly the Navy personnel are devoted to this idea and want you to be assured of my hearty concurrence."*

October 27 was suggested by the Navy League to recognize Theodore Roosevelt's birthday. He had been an Assistant SECNAV and supported a strong Navy as well as the idea of Navy Day. Also, October 27 was the anniversary of a 1775 report issued by a special committee of the Continental Congress favoring the purchase of merchant ships as the foundation of an American Navy. Navy Day was last observed on Oct. 27, 1949, when Armed Forces Day was established. As Navy League is a civilian organization we continued to organize Navy Day events as before.



**June C. Couture** passed away Sunday, Sept. 9. A Navy League Life Member and long-time member of our council Board, and wife of RADM Raymond R. Couture, USN(Ret), she was instrumental in starting our annual Toys for Tots Brunch, served many years as a volunteer guide at the Commandant's House and provided much background and interesting information to the Park Service. She was a key Committeeperson for the annual Constitution Balls, two Navy League Conventions in Boston and many other Navy and council sponsored events.



### USS THOMAS HUDNER (DDG 116) NEWS



Underway from Bath on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Farewell to Bath Iron Works.

On Friday, October 19, Mayor Martin J. Walsh hosted a press conference with Thomas J. Hudner, III, CAPT Thomas G. Kelley, USN (Ret.), Medal of Honor recipient, and members of the Commissioning Committee to announce the commissioning ceremony of USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) in Boston on Saturday, December 1 at Flynn Cruiseport, South Boston.

[Invitations for tickets and the tickets to the commissioning are already in the mail.]

## SEA CADET NEWS



**David G. Oullette Div.** sail training aboard schooner Langston; 9/11 Remembrance ceremony; Cadet Callahan White holds memorial flag at the Glen Doherty 5K fundraiser in Winchester, MA. Doherty, a Navy SEAL, was killed in the attack on the Benghazi Embassy The David G. Ouellet Division out of Gloucester presented a Color Guard for the Opening Ceremony.

### Squadron Seven Zulu

Ensign Peter Gelsthorpe, USN, a former Sea Cadet in Squadron Seven Zulu, was commissioned in June aboard USS Constitution and is now in SWO training before reporting to his ship, USS James E. Williams (DDG 95), in Norfolk. He attended Union College and participated in the RPI NROTC unit in Troy, NY. Of particular interest for his commissioning is that he wore the cover (hat) which his grandfather wore in WWII on the bridge of a destroyer escort, USS Acree (DE 167) in the Pacific and participated in 22 engagements and 9 major battles. His father, Seth, also was a Sea Cadet in the same unit for three years in the mid 1970s. Both Seth and Peter are members of our council.

---



**DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?** Earn money for our council by selecting “Navy League of the United States Massachusetts Bay Council”. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). We will get .05% at no cost to you.



**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.