

The Ship's Whistle



Oct 2019 (rev)

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:

- Nov 15-16 NLUS Directors' Mtg, Arlington, VA
 - Nov 28 Board Meeting & Annual Meeting
 - Dec 8 Toys for Tots Brunch
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NAVY BIRTHDAY & NAVY DAY

The Massachusetts Bay Council celebrated the Navy's 244th Birthday and Navy Day at a luncheon on 19 October. Of note, also, is USS Constitution's 222nd anniversary of her launching on 20 October. Guest Speaker was Commander Nathaniel R. Shick, USN, 75th Commanding Officer, USS Constitution, who addressed several issues concerning the Navy, the ship and plans for the (former) Boston Navy Yard. Among the attendees were the new Executive Officer, CDR Andrew Broyles, USN, former Navy League National President Bill Kelley and New England Region President, David Samuels.

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be Monday, 25 November, 7:30 PM, 495 Summer Street, Boston

Agenda will include an annual report and election of officers. Members are invited to attend but, due to the building 'security', your name is needed in advance. Contact 1smschnitzer@gmail.com. Also, you are invited to express interest in serving on the council Board of Directors. The Board will meet at 7:00 PM.

ATTENTION VETERANS

All Honorably discharged veterans, Active or Reserve, are now eligible to shop military exchanges online, tax free. (Online but NOT base access.) You must first verify your eligibility at ShopMyExchange.com/Vets





USS Nantucket (LCS 27) construction started. (Photos similar to design.)

The Mass Bay Council is looking ahead to commissioning the ship somewhere in Massachusetts. A Committee is being formed with an Acting Chairman, Tom Hennessey, who very successfully Chaired the USS Thomas Hudner (DDG 116) Commissioning Committee. The ship is Freedom Class, mono-hull, 378 ft. long and is being built in Marinette, WI, with commissioning expected in 2021.

The focused-mission LCS is designed to support mine countermeasures, anti-submarine and surface warfare missions today and is easily adapted to serve future and evolving missions tomorrow.

LCS 27 is the first U.S. Navy ship to be named after Nantucket, Massachusetts, in more than 150 years. Nantucket has a deep connection to sailing and maritime traditions, serving as a whaling hub in the 1800s and as the home of generations of American Sailors since the town's beginning. The previous USS Nantucket, the first to be named after the island, was commissioned in 1862 to serve during the Civil War. LCS 27 will be the 14th Freedom-variant LCS and will join a class of more than 30 ships.

Other commissionings a few years ahead are USS Massachusetts (SSN 798), USS John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) and several Coast Guard cutters, the 154 ft Sentinel-Class Fast Response Cutters (FRC).