



# Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



1st Quarter 2022

## Navy Accepts Delivery of Future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21)

By PEO Unmanned and Small Combatants (PEO USC) Public Affairs  
MARINETTE, WIS. The Navy accepted delivery of the future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) at the Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM) shipyard Nov. 18.

The future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is the 11th Freedom-variant LCS designed by the Lockheed Martin-led industry team at Fincantieri Marinette Marine, Marinette, Wisconsin. Delivery marks the official transfer of the ship from the shipbuilder, part of a Lockheed-Martin-led team to the Navy.

LCS 21 was accepted after rigorous testing of a combining gear modification that will allow for unrestricted operations, addressing a class-wide flaw that was discovered as the Fleet deployed these ships in greater numbers. LCS 21 is the first Freedom-variant ship to receive the fix.

The future USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is the second naval ship to honor Minnesota's Twin Cities although each city has been honored twice before. The first US Navy warship named Minneapolis-Saint Paul was a Los Angeles-class submarine launched in 1983 who took part in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (SSN 708) was the first submarine to carry Tomahawk missiles specifically designed for use in strikes against Iraq during the Gulf War. Having served for over two decades with distinction, the submarine Minneapolis-Saint Paul was decommissioned in 2007.

Several more Freedom variant ships are under construction at Fincantieri Marinette Marine Corp. in Marinette, Wisconsin. Pending successful at-sea testing of its combining gear modification, Cooperstown (LCS 23) is planned to deliver in January 2022. Additional ships in various stages of construction include Marinette (LCS 25), Nantucket (LCS 27), Beloit (LCS 29) and Cleveland (LCS 31).



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**The Minnesota Council is anxiously awaiting the Navy's final endorsement of the Commissioning date in the spring of 2022. As soon as we have that information we will post to our website!!!!**

# *A Message from the Minnesota Council President*



I wish to personally thank every member of the Minnesota Council of the United States Navy League for your membership and participation in our Council affairs this year. While 2021 was a challenging year, still with COVID, and not being able to gather in person whether for family events, Navy League events or other personal events, the Minnesota Council has kept the “spirit of the Navy” alive in Minnesota despite the headwinds we have endured.

Recapping some of our activity, we hosted the crew of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul at the Duluth Air Show in June, held LCS 21 Engagement briefs with the mayors of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth, held several briefings with LCS Squadron 2 Command, and have solid working lines of communications into Mayport, FL.

Additionally, we actively engaged with our Sea Cadets, and JROTC Units, we awarded various Sea Cadet and JROTC achievement awards. With Joyce Lacey’s lead, we participated in numerous civic parades around the State bringing Navy League branding directly to the public. We increased awareness of our activities statewide through media releases on key events, redesigned and enhanced our website, published quarterly newsletters with stories about the wonderful accomplishments of all the Councils adopted units and established a presence on Facebook. Also, we have established key relationships with other military entities throughout the state including the Minnesota Military Museum, the National Guard, and the Vessey Chapter AUSA where we participated in their golf tournament this year.

As we start 2022, I am heartened by the great news we received in November that the gearing issue plaguing the Freedom class ships has been solved and the Navy has officially accepted delivery of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul!! This sets the stage for the commissioning this spring in Duluth, with May as the target month. We have a lot to accomplish in the next few months, but I am confident our LCS Commissioning Team, led by Brian Skon, will get us across the finish line. For updates, please stay tuned to our site: <https://lcs21.org>.

As we progress beyond the Minneapolis Saint Paul commissioning, I wish to focus the Council’s efforts on recruiting and retention of members to the Navy League. In December, the Navy League expanded membership to include all active-duty military members. This will provide active-duty service members with benefits that serve them at every phase of their career and life, including transition assistance, one-on-one training and resume building assistance. This will be a great addition to the Navy League.

For the Minnesota Council, I would like to focus each of us on how we can convince our fellow Minnesotans to join the Navy League. Bob Dolan, our VP for Membership will be putting together a template for all of us to use when meeting or talking with individuals about membership in our council. This template will address four key reasons to join the Navy League: Education Heritage Camaraderie and Youth Programs. These pillars will enable us to reach out to individuals, chambers of commerce, businesses and local governments supporting the Navy League.

The Minnesota Council has kept busy for several years with the commissioning of USS Minnesota (SSN 783) and now with USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS21). With completion of both soon, we will need to determine “what’s next?” I look forward to your suggestions for our priorities into the future as we continue to grow our Council.

Bill James- President

# Other News

The Minnesota Navy League established our Facebook page in October. Please like us and get regular updates on what the council is doing as well as on the future of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning. <https://www.facebook.com/navyleaguemn>



College should never be out of reach for a family member of the sea services. Navy League Foundation scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of veterans or active duty sea service men and women, as well as members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The deadline for submissions is March 11, 2022. Learn More Apply Here: <https://bit.ly/3n0dr4P>

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## Veterans Roll of Honor



Have you ever wanted to reconnect with someone you once served with? Or wanted to find witnesses to events that occurred during a loved one's military service? Together We Served has connected veterans since 2003 and has recently launched their brand new Veteran Finder and Memorial app, Veterans Roll of Honor, making it easier than ever before to find these important connections.

The App allows you to:

Find people you served with, quickly and easily, on the app's comprehensive directory of more than 2 million U.S. Military Veteran Members. The app also includes comprehensive memorials of servicemen and women who died serving their country.

View complete service histories including medals and awards, insignia and badges, basic training unit, unit assignments, combat/non-combat operations, and formal schools and courses. Browse military photos and service memories. Get the App at: [https://www.togetherweserved.com/roh-app?utm\\_source Stars and Stripes Emails utm\\_campaign 71838de15d-TWS Vet Honor Roll App utm\\_medium email utm\\_term 0 0ab8697a7f-71838de15d-296737516](https://www.togetherweserved.com/roh-app?utm_source=Stars%20and%20Stripes%20Emails%20utm_campaign=71838de15d-TWS%20Vet%20Honor%20Roll%20App%20utm_medium=email%20utm_term=0_0ab8697a7f-71838de15d-296737516)





# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

Our Minneapolis Saint Paul crew continues to prepare for their move aboard the ship in January. Sailors from the Engineering Department competed in multiple Damage Control scenarios against Sailors from across the waterfront as a part of Navy Surface Line Week. MSP placed 4th out of all the commands at Naval Station Mayport!

Seven of MSP's own reaffirmed their oaths during a re-enlistment ceremony. BZ to DC1 Jasmine Page, IT1 Adarius Smith, FC1 Chauncey Young, DC2 Bobby Kelly, FC2 John Myers, STG2 Tyler Hammond and STG3 Richard Johnson on their continued commitment to service!

MSP officially kicked off the holiday season with a competition to judge the best sweater! Also, in honor of Native American Heritage Month, Sonar Technician Second Class Anthony Nordwall gave a presentation to the crew about the history of the month and his family's personal connection to it. STG2 Nordwall's grandfather, Stanley Anthony Nordwall, was a member of the Red Lake Nation of the Chippewa Tribe (Ojibwe) and served as an Army Paratrooper during World War II. The Minnesota Navy League looks forward to welcoming the entire Minneapolis Saint Paul crew to Duluth in May 2022!!!!





# USS Minnesota (SSN 783) News

## USS Minnesota arrives home from deployment

USS Minnesota (SSN 783) returned to its homeport at SUBASE New London after a regularly-scheduled deployment Friday, Nov. 26. Though the weather was cold and drizzly, spirits were bright and cheerful as Sailors and their families reunited on the pier. Skol!



## CONGRATULATIONS

To the following **MINNESOTA** Sailors who were selected for advancement

- |                                |                           |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ST53(SS) Jacob Bradley         | ITS2 (SS) Kyle Kooiker    |
| ST53(SS) Jacob Clark           | YNS2(SS) Dequarius Nelson |
| ST53(SU) Roland Croft          | ST2(SS)Luis RamirezColin  |
| MMA3(SS) Evan Felsl            | MMN2(SS) Samuel Rodgers   |
| ETV3(SS) Kyle Hodgson          | ETV2(SS) Christian Romero |
| ETV3(SS) Gregory Walker        | CSS1(SS) Zachary Buttimer |
| FT3(SS) Christopher St Andrews | FT2(SS) Mark Douglas      |
| TM2(SS) Michael Chaves         | ITS2(SS) Eric Scott       |

# SKOL!



# Command Updates



## University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion

After operating at flank speed following a return to in-person training, the University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion is ready to enjoy the holidays with family and friends, and take a much-needed break from academics and events.



During Minneapolis Navy Week, we were honored to host a visit from RADM Gene Price, Vice Commander of Naval Information Forces and members of the US Navy Ceremonial Honor Guard. Despite the early wake-up call, RADM Price spoke to the Navy's current situation and its future plans. He fielded many questions on Navy Information and Cyber systems. The Honor Guard was gracious enough to give some instruction and show off their rifle-movement talents to our Color Guard.



The ROTC Joint Honor Guard has been showcased throughout the city this semester, to include multiple events including Veterans Day, the 9/11 ceremony at the State Capitol, and all the Gopher football home games. We are very proud of them.



The fall Field Training Exercise (FT ) was a weekend event held at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS). The cold and rainy night proved a worthy adversary, but was no match for the battalion's steadfast drive and commitment. They were subjected to physically and mentally demanding exercises designed to provoke confident decision making in a stressful environment. These included a 9-line class, a combat lifesaving class, and an endurance course between squads to promote healthy competition and camaraderie. They ended the exercise with a gigantic spaghetti dinner.

Midshipman First Class Lillian Krueger was awarded the Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement Award, one of the military's highest awards for outstanding performance and achievement among midshipmen and cadets.



MIDN Krueger receiving Bronze Cross

Very few earn this award annually and she distinguished herself amongst her peers by demonstrating outstanding military leadership qualities and academic prowess. Midshipman Krueger was the battalion operations officer for the Fall 2021 semester and recently received her service assignment as a Surface Warfare Officer. Look for her in the Fleet next year!

In October, the senior Navy-Option midshipmen received their coveted service assignments. We are glad to report that once again, all received their first choice. Of the class of seven scheduled to graduate in May of 2022, two will be commissioned as Second Lieutenants in the Marine Corps, one was selected for Surface Warfare, one selected Naval Flight Officer, and the remaining three selected Student Naval Aviator. Bravo Zulu Shipmates!



Fall Training Exercise at Arden Hill Army Training Site.

# Command Updates



## University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion (Continued)

We ended this semester with a Joint Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The entire battalion gathered at the University Campus Club to participate in a professional ceremony, coordinated by GySgt Stoker, eat an outstanding meal, and listen to the guest of honor, Mr. Mark Lippert, a former Naval Intelligence Officer and a former U.S Ambassador to South Korea, speak. After inundating him with questions, for which he was grateful, all socialized for the remaining time. Overall, it was a great night celebrating our beloved Navy and Marine Corps.



Joint Navy/Marine Corps Birthday

From the midshipmen, staff, and officers of Naval ROTC Minnesota,  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains

Greetings and Happy New Year to the Navy League of Minnesota!

I am happy to write to you from the other side of our first big snow storm of the year. We have cleared the foot plus of snow from our driveways and are gearing up to burn off the holiday season calories and focus on all the rigors of recruiting in the Midwest.

We wrapped up our fiscal year 2021 as a recruiting force where we made our nationwide goal!

It was a great end of year effort to cross the finish line, and the 26 different NTAGs in Navy Recruiting Command banded together to meet the challenge head on. But as you all know, our job is never done and it's time to focus on 2022.

For this fiscal year we are continuing to see many of the same challenges as the previous year in addition to some new ones. With the increased pay and benefits many of the competing businesses are offering, we continue to look for new and innovative ways to distinguish Navy service as the preferred choice. We are well into our first quarter of FY22 and aiming for a strong second half of the year aided by some big Navy events. Our 2022 is very promising with the upcoming commissioning of LCS-21, the long-awaited release of "Top Gun II: Maverick," and a few airshows and other events to round things out!

Here is our upcoming major event schedule:

February 2022 - Minneapolis, MN - Navy League Submariner Event

14/15 May 2022 - Ellsworth AFB, SD - Ellsworth AFB Air Show Blue Angels

May 2022 (TBD) - Duluth, MN USS Minneapolis-St. Paul Commissioning

May 27, 2022 - Nationwide, USA - Top Gun II release

4/5 June 2022 - Eau Claire, WI - Chippewa Valley Air Show Blue Angels



NTAG Chief Pinning Ceremony



# Command Updates



## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains (Continued)

Additionally, we just recently completed our FY21 Chief's season on Nov. 19th, adding a few great new Chief Petty Officers to our ranks at a command pinning ceremony held at our headquarters in the Whipple Federal Building. We are proud to announce BMC George Brefo, NCC Jerry Provost and NCC Marvin Manlapaz as our newest chiefs! All three of these Sailors are very deserving and I am happy to have them on our leadership team!



NCC Marvin Manlapaz

I hope you had a great holiday season filled with family and friends and we look forward to seeing you soon in 2022!

With Respect,  
CDR James Duvall,  
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains

## Marine Safety Unit Duluth - Coast Guard

Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Duluth participated in a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) workshop on November 18, 2021 at MSU Duluth with just personnel at the unit. The workshop helps the unit prepare for any scenario when we cannot access our office or have to evacuate and continue our essential missions elsewhere.

The Waterways Analysis and Management System Survey (WAMS) is currently

## Marine Safety Unit Duluth - Coast Guard (Continued)

underway asking mariners around the Apostle Islands and Chequamegon Bay to participate in filling out the survey on our Homeport Page to give the Coast Guard an idea if there are any concerns about the waterways in this area. The survey will end November 22, 2021 which will be followed by data analysis, and phone calls to mariners asking for potential further input. The data will be reviewed and sent to Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie to then be routed to District which will make the final findings report after it is reviewed and items are addressed.



CWO Harroun presenting BPA and PIA

MSU is looking forward to a busy spring/summer season. Tall Ships of America will be held in Two Harbors, MN August 4-7, 2022 LCS Minneapolis-St Paul commissioning will be May 2022 Cruise Ships will be coming to Duluth May 2022 there will be more MN DNR Pollution Response Division sponsored dredging projects for sediment remediation around primary/secondary waterways around Duluth throughout the spring and summer the same Marine Events that occur annually with potentially some new ones. A lot of planning will be going into these events and our unit will be busy starting January with meetings. More details should be available for the Spring Newsletter.



# Command Updates



## Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Update

More than 140 MCJROTC Cadets past and present celebrated the United States Marines Corps Birthday on November 12th, in first class style, at the Saint Paul Hotel with several Como Park Staff Members and members of the community in attendance. The event included the official ceremony, cake cutting tradition and speeches followed by dinner, dancing, and general revelry to celebrate the most loyal, feared, revered, and professional fighting force the world has ever known. The cadet's camaraderie, morale, and teamwork made the event special for all who attended. OOH RAH!



Como Cadets enjoy Marine Corps birthday at St. Paul Hotel

The Como Park MCJROTC cadets volunteered at the 2021 Minnesota State Fair for seven days helping the State Fair Sanitation Department keep the entire grounds clean and orderly. Roughly 35 cadets per day pushed and pulled trash carts, emptied 55-gallon trash cans, and picked trash and garbage from the grounds. The Como Park MCJROTC cadets have a twenty-year proud relationship with the Minnesota State Fair keeping it spotless for the many patrons who pass through its gates. They will never quit or give up their loyalty to themselves or the State Fair mission. Semper fi.



## Harding High School JROTC

On Tuesday, December 14, the “Knight Navy” Harding High School’s Naval Junior ROTC unit, completed its annual comprehensive unit inspection.

CAPT Blake Tornga, the Professor of Naval Science at the University of Minnesota’s Navy ROTC battalion, accompanied by nine Midshipmen, conducted what is referred to as an “Off-Site” inspection of Harding NJROTC unit. Every other year the Area Manager travels from Great Lakes Naval Station in Illinois to conduct an all-day “On-Site” Area Manager’s Inspection, and an Off-Site inspection is conducted on the in-between years by a visiting senior officer.



Each Harding cadet was given a personnel inspection, the drill and color guard teams performed, and the unit’s spaces, equipment, curriculum, record keeping and uniforms were all evaluated by CAPT Tornga. The final results were grades of Outstanding or Excellent across the board. For the past sixteen years the Knight Navy cadets have earned either Distinguished Unit (12 times) or Unit Achievement (4 times) distinction by the Area Manager. The positive results of this inspection will hopefully continue this impressive streak of accomplishment.

Como Park MCJROTC cadets clean State Fair grounds during 2021 State Fair

# Command Updates



## Washington Technical NJROTC

Washington Technical Magnet School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) held an inspection ceremony for Area 3 NJROTC manager Commander (Ret) Joe Hankins on October 28, 2021 in the high school gymnasium. The official party for the ceremony included Cmdr. Hankins, Vice Principal, Cmdr. (Ret) Bob Dolan, Vice President of Membership Minnesota Navy League Council, Patricia Dolan, Vice President of Communication Minnesota Navy League Council and LtCmdr. Byron Toole, Senior Naval Science Instructor.



Navy League VP Membership Bob Dolan presents Theodore Roosevelt award to Cadet Commander Ly

Area Commanders perform annual inspections of all NJROTC units. The Cadet Performance portion of the inspection consists of a personnel inspection, drill and color guard demonstrations, award presentations, a pass-in-review, and a cadet brief. The inspection also looks at the Administration of the Program, School System Program Support, the Academic Program, and Reports and Records. During the ceremony, Cmdr. Hankins presented Appearance awards to recognize the most outstanding cadets.

Additionally, Cadet Commander Ly was presented the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth certificate, medal and ribbon by Cmdr. (Ret) Bob Dolan for her outstanding performance of duty in the Washington Tech NJROTC program. The ceremony was concluded with a pass in review by the cadets with a salute to the official party.

## Sea Cadets - Polaris Battalion / Training Ship Trident

Polaris Battalion had the opportunity to hold an October camp out. Cadets set up a base, put up a flag pole where they carried out Colors, dug fire pits and gathered wood to keep warm.

Cadets cooked lunch over the fire and a culinary team was deployed to cook the rest of the meals. An obstacle course was set up and ran, trails were used to complete a capture the flag type mission. This has been the first time in 4 years we have been able to have this camp out and the cadets loved it.



Polaris Battalion camp out



Polaris Battalion participate in Snowflake parade



# Command Updates



## Twin Ports Sea Cadet Update

During the time frame of 4th quarter, our command has continued work ups in Anti-Terrorism Force Protection (ATFP) leading up towards our command gun shoot this spring. Damage Control evolutions have also continued. This includes DC P.Q.S. sign-offs for qualification, equipment familiarization, and DC fire drills for class alpha, bravo and Charlie fires.

We are also pleased to announce that one of our sailors, Instructor Jessica McMahan, age 25, is nearing completion of her HM A-school. She is due back from her training in San Antonio Texas in January.



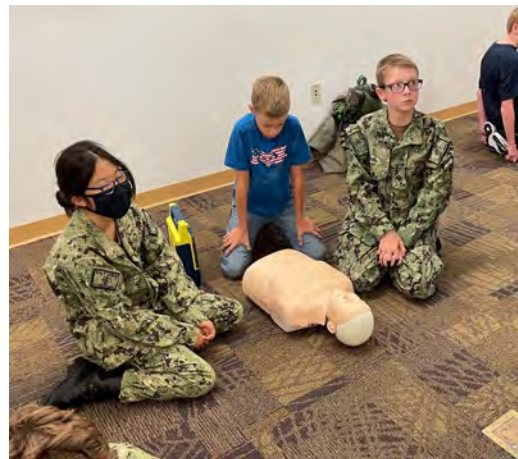
Instructor Jessica McMahan

## Sea Cadets – Twin Cities Squadron Update

The change of season ushered in a shift in training themes and preparation for winter in the Twin Cities Squadron (TCS). In our last update we reported the squadron was doing battlefield training evolutions, including radio communications procedures, and requesting 9-Line medevacs. A series of special guests representing military and civilian medical services provided advanced training on wound packing, tourniquet placement and CPR.

The cadets used bovine specimens with simulated blood to locate and pack an actively bleeding wound site. The evolution culminated with a battlefield simulation and assault. The units took casualties, executed a 9-line request to a base of operations and evacuated wounded shipmates to a collection point.

This theme concluded with a real bang thanks to the FBI- Minneapolis and a field trip to Airport Police Department training facility. The Airport SWAT unit trained the cadets on squad level maneuvers, breaching and clearing buildings, and shoot/no-shoot exercises with 9mm training weapons. The cadets demonstrated their firearm safety, marksmanship skills and team bonding. At the end of the day, LPO Connor Howe was tasked with deploying a live flash bang grenade.



TCS learns CPR



Twin Cities Squadron

# Command Updates

## Sea Cadets – Twin Cities Squadron Update (Continued)

In the wake of the deaths of the 13 service members in Afghanistan, TCS took inspiration to conduct drill and ceremony exercises, focusing on rifle drill, color guard movements and casket flag folding. The 8 rifles used by the cadets were M1 Garand's which were salvaged and restored to white glove parade condition by AA-T Maguire Weiland. His efforts earned the admiration and appreciation of his shipmates and officers. The flags were donated by two local funeral homes.

One of the challenges of being a part of a uniformed organization, particularly dealing with youth, is keeping cadets properly outfitted. Just as the big Navy transitions to winter blues, so too does the Twin Cities Squadron. As the cadets' character and leadership skills grow, so too does their stature. Our logistics officers are busy sizing and issuing dress blues, the cadets are tailoring and affixing new rate tabs. Nothing better than seeing the cadets all squared away, and looking smart for the holidays. In addition to the dress uniforms, the unit issued new NWU Type III winter parkas and liners to the cadets and officers. Thank you to the NLUS MN Council for the generous donation that allowed for the provision of these essential uniform items.



Parka Issue

Unfortunately, for the second year in a row the Twin Cities Squadron was unable to participate in the Toys for Tots campaign and other community service engagements due to COVID restrictions. We are looking forward to 2022 and getting the cadets out in the community. Lt. Col. Barney Uhlig, TCS Operations Officer, was able to attend recruiting events at Chaska and Chanhassen high schools over Veterans Day generating several potential new recruits.

The Twin City Squadron ended 2021 drills completing swim qualifications at Lifetime Fitness in Plymouth, MN which graciously donated pool time. Overall, 21 cadets competed with 4 achieving the level of first-class swimmer. With PRT and swim quals down, the cadets are ready for the winter training cycle. Orders have been cut for Navy Leaguer Orientation (1), Recruit Training (2), Petty Officer Leadership Academy (1) and Culinary (1). In November we also recognized a number of advancements including the

promotion of Petty Officer's Austin Kou and Conner Howe, and appointment of two new Ensign's Alex Duval and Shawn Wilson. The units annual Dining Out event is scheduled January when we celebrate our version of the Navy Ball, including a silent auction fundraiser and unit awards. A number of VIP guest will be attendance and help deliver awards to some very deserving cadets. More come on this in our next update!



Swim Quals



Breaching with MSP Airport SWAT



Service Dress Blue Review



# Other News

## Outreach North

The Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council Vice President for Outreach North, Joyce Lacey, has been very busy this past quarter.

She has delivered poinsettias to the Twin Cities, St. Cloud and Fargo Veteran's Hospitals and Minneapolis, Fergus Falls and Hastings Veteran's Homes. Additionally, she delivered gloves, hats, socks, scarfs and hand sanitizer to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and Wounded Warrior Project.



Delivering Poinsettias

a pre-Christmas meal and delivering groceries to homebound Veterans and their families.

Joyce continues to take part in community parades, recently participating in the Holiday Lights Parade in Moorhead on December 4th. She will represent the Minnesota Council at the St. Paul Winter Carnival Grande Day Parade Saturday, January 29th and the Torchlight Parade February 5th, both in downtown St. Paul. She is also planning on participating in the St. Patrick's Day Parades in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.



Preparing Thanksgiving Dinner at Peterson Trip American Legion in Ashby

The Minnesota Council on Disability 2022 Virtual Legislative Forum, sponsored by the Minnesota Council on Disability, will be January 13th. This is an opportunity for the disability community to share what they want the Legislature to accomplish in this session. It is also an opportunity for legislators to share how they plan to promote this legislative agenda. Joyce will be addressing issues of Disabled American Veterans. The Governor and Lt. Governor will be giving opening remarks and the Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader will also be speaking.



Delivering Poinsettias to Veterans Home



Delivering gloves and other supplies to MACV

# Other News

## NAIP Update

The United States Naval Academy continues in its efforts to restore normalcy to its operations. Most recently, one of the academy's premier outreach programs, Operation Information (OPINFO) was restored to an in-person program. In 2021, 8 Midshipmen, all hailing from Minnesota, returned home prior to Thanksgiving. Their purpose was to conduct information sessions with students interested in the United States Naval Academy. These Midshipmen represent the future leadership of our United States Navy and United States Marine Corps.

Minnesota has always been a strong volunteer state, interested in service to country. On this, the 80th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Midshipmen paid their respects to the officers and crew of the USS Ward (DD-139). The Ward, manned mostly by Naval Reservists from St. Paul, Minnesota, fired the first shots of World War II. On December 7, 1941, while on patrol outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor, a periscope was sighted as a Japanese submarine attempted to enter the harbor. At 6:45 AM, the Ward fired on the submarine, sinking it. Years later, on Minnesota's statehood centennial, the Ward's salvaged gun mount was presented to the state and is now on display near the Minnesota state capital building.



United States Naval Academy Midshipmen from Minnesota paying their respects to the officers and crew of USS Ward (DD-139). Most of the crew of USS Ward were Naval Reservists from St. Paul, Minnesota. From Left to right: Midn 3/c Dani Baldwin, Midn 1/c Joey Cavalli, Midn 1/c Adam Nygaard, Midn 2/c Alanna Julius, Midn 3/c Cade Spreiter, Midn 1/c Anna Sawyer, Midn 3/c Mary McDonald and Midn 2/c Ethan Wagner.

Minnesota's visiting Midshipmen spent time at the display, learning of a previous generation of Minnesota sailors who stepped forward as Naval Reservists in support of our Navy and the United States.

In other Naval Academy news, applications for the summer programs at the academy will become available in January 2022. Check [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu) for applications and information.

Service academy nomination interviews for Minnesota's congressional delegation are now completed. The interviews took place between early November and mid-December. Those candidates receiving nominations to the U.S. service academies will be notified of their nominations by the nominating congressional office.



The gun mount from USS Ward (DD-139) that fired the first shots of World War II, sinking a Japanese mini-sub outside the entrance to Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.



# Other News



HMCS(SS) Mosely



VADM (SS) (Ret)  
Bruce Grooms



EMCM (SS)  
Early Vincent



STCM(SS)  
Ronald Ross



LT (SS)  
Nsombi Roberts

## African American Submarine Experience

The Minnesota Navy League Council is sponsoring a series of events to highlight the profound and personal experiences of five distinguished African Americans in the Naval submarine service. We are bringing together a once in a lifetime cohort of accomplished African American Submariners who have set a high bar for their fellow submariners, as well as paved the way toward a more inclusive submarine force and inclusive Navy. They include men and women, officer and enlisted, active duty and retired, from multiple generations and include speakers with experiences that span over seventy years of service covering conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War and various conflicts in the Middle East.

Our speakers include:

HMCS (SS) retired, James Mosely, (First African American Nuke , Author of Life under the Microscope as an African American)

EMCM (SS) retired Early Vincent (one of the first African American nuclear trained Electrician's Mates)

VADM (SS) retired, Bruce Grooms (member of the "Centennial Seven")

STCM (SS) retired, Ronald Ross (First African American to qualify as an Acoustic Intelligence (ACINT) Specialist and earned the NEC ST-0416)

Lieutenant (SS) Nsombi Roberts (First African American woman selected for submarine service from NROTC)

The goal of the speaker series is to educate and inspire people on the journey African Americans have lived as the military desegregated and included African Americans in all career fields in the United States Navy.

The speaker series will cover three days in the Twin Cities and will include recording for a documentary.

**The Keynote event will be the Minnesota Navy League Speaking event on February 3rd at the Crown Plaza AiRE MSP Airport Mall of America Hotel in Bloomington, MN. There will be a social hour with Cash Bar from 18:00 to 19:00 and program from 19:00 to 20:30. Tickets will be \$30 and will be able to be purchased Event Brite. The Minnesota Council will send an email in January with details to all members**

There will be several other public and private engagements including stops at University of Minnesota NROTC, Veterans groups, and a military youth event aimed at our JROTC and Sea Cadets at the University of Minnesota.

# Other News

## Did You Know?

By: Brandon Montanye

According to Cargill's website their company's mission is *"Our purpose is to nourish the world in a safe, responsible and sustainable way. Every day, we connect farmers with markets, customers with ingredients, and people and animals with the food they need to thrive. We combine our experience with new technologies and insights to serve as a trusted partner for food, agriculture, financial and industrial customers in more than 125 countries."* However, during WWII, they had a completely different mission.

Did you know, Cargill built ships for the U.S. Navy in Minnesota during WWII?



Port Cargill Shipbuilding Workforce

The Navy recognized the company's success in building ships and barges for the transportation of grain. The Navy selected a site in Savage to establish a shipyard. The primary reason was because of its location on the river and the availability of a large work force. The site became Port Cargill. Before the company started building ships, the Navy had to invest \$250,000 to dredge 14 miles of the Minnesota River. The river was dredged from 3.5 feet to 9 feet deep to accommodate the draft of the newly built ships.

The company built eighteen ships and four tugboats in

total. The eighteen ships built were Patapsco class auxiliary oil and gas carriers (AOG). Cargill was originally contracted to only build six of these ships. They were 310 feet long, 48 feet at the beam with a loaded draft of 15 feet. The first of these ships to be launched was the USS Agawam (AOG-6) on May 6, 1943. One of the eighteen ships built by Cargill remained in the U.S. Navy until 2005!

The USS Nemasket (AOG-10) was decommissioned 22 September 1959 but remained in the reserve fleet until June 1971 when she was converted to a Fleet Utility Craft (FB-64). She was mothballed in the Suisun Bay Reserve Fleet in California until 2005. In January of 2006 the ship was towed to the breakers in Brownsville, Texas, where she was dismantled in June of that year. Several of the Cargill built AOGs were transferred to foreign navies after they were decommissioned. The USS Pecatonica (AOG-6) and the USS Elkorn (AOG-7) went on to serve in the Taiwanese Navy until 2008.

Following the war, Cargill discontinued shipbuilding for the Navy, but remained in Savage. The port was converted to a grain-handling facility. The name also changed from Port Cargill to the Port of Savage. Today the port is still being used and approximately six percent of the nation's grain is shipped from there.

And now you know.



Launching of the Genesee at Port Cargill in September 1943





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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January**

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther Kings Birthday	January 17



**February**

Black History Month	Entire Month
Ground Hog Day	February 2
Four Chaplains Day	February 3
African American Submarine Navy League Event (Crown Plaza MSP)	February 3
USO Birthday	February 4
National Salute to Veterans Patients	Week of 14 February
Valentine's Day	February 14
President's Day	February 21
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	February 19



**March**

Women's History	Entire Month
Navy Reserve Birthday	March 3
Mardi Gras	March 1
SeaBee Birthday	March 5
K9 Veterans Day	March 13
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 13
American Legion Birthday	March 15
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Rosie the Riveter Day	March 21
Medal of Honor Day	March 25
Passover	April 15-23
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	March 29

