



COMO PARK MCJROTC CADETS ACHIEVE RESOUNDING SUCCESS



MCJROTC Seniors received \$1.5 million in scholarships

The Minnesota Navy League Council supports two Navy JROTC and one Marine Corps ROTC programs in the state.

The JROTC programs emphasize citizenship and leadership development. Como Park has the only Marine Corps JROTC in Minnesota (established in 1995)

under the leadership and inspiration of retired United States Marines. A diverse elective that emphasizes patriotism, community service, and leadership development through leadership curriculum, planning, executing extra-curricular activities and life-changing events. Cadets wear Marine Corps uniforms, sustain military style grooming standards, travel across the United States, compete in drill competitions, improve physical fitness, develop awareness of leadership through practical experiences; Cyber Patriot, Rifle Drill, Marine Corps Birthday Ball, leadership crucibles at military installations, more travel, adventure and much more under the mentorship of two retired United States Marines.

The Council is thrilled to announce the outstanding success the St. Paul Como High School Marine Corps ROTC achieved this year. Sgt Major James Kirkland is the lead instructor at Como and through his efforts and “the village” that supports the cadets, Como Cougar graduates received \$1.5 million in scholarships for the school year!! Specifically,

- Cadet First Lieutenant Alex Le - \$250,000 (Air Force Academy Scholarship)
- Cadet Major Jesiah Mason - \$190,000 (Augsburg Full Tuition Scholarship & Olga B. Hart Scholarship & Wallin Scholarship)
- Cadet First Lieutenant Cindy Thao - \$172,000 (Augsburg Full Tuition Scholarship),
- Cadet First Lieutenant Gay L. Htoo - \$246,500 (Augsburg Full Tuition Scholarship & Wallin Scholarship, Travelers Edge Scholarship & Ray Eva Hope Miller Scholarship)
- Cadet Captain Chong Her - \$48,000 (Travelers Edge Scholarship)
- Cadet Sergeant Ve Shar - \$96,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship, Wallin Scholarship & Bethel University Scholarship)
- Cadet Sergeant Major Sophia Moore- \$10,500 (The North Star Marine Veteran Scholarship, The Le Family Scholarship, The CSP University Scholarship, The CSPPPSEO Scholarship, The SPPACE Alexander Scholarship & The CSP Diversity Scholarship)
- Cadet Corporal Gwenivere Thao - \$1,500 (The North Star Marine Veteran Scholarship & USMC Minnesota Coordinating Council Scholarship)

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Como (Continued)

- Cadet Corporal Pah Meh - \$500 (USMC Major Foley (Ret) Foundation Scholarship)
- Cadet First Lieutenant Dallas Beilke - \$80,000 (United States Navy Scholarship)
- Cadet Second Lieutenant Ju Hei - \$80,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship)
- Cadet Second Lieutenant Paw Htoo - \$80,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship)
- Cadet First Lieutenant Ze Vang - \$80,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship)
- Cadet Lance Corporal Bae Reh - \$80,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship)
- Cadet Lance Corporal Sandar Htway - \$80,000 (Minnesota National Guard Scholarship)



VP Membership Bob Dolan presents TR Award to Cadet GySgt Adam Luchsinger

Also at this auspicious event, VP Membership Cmdr. (SC)(Ret.) Robert Dolan presented the Theodore Roosevelt award to Cadet GySgt Adam Luchsinger.

The Minnesota Navy League is so proud of the new record and a remarkable achievement in HONOR-COURAGE and COMMITMENT from all of the MCJROTC cadet cougar graduates and proud to call them one of our adopted units.



Cadet First Lieutenant Alex Le - \$250,000 (Air Force Academy Scholarship)

MN Navy League helps bolster recruiting numbers at Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains

It's no secret that the Department of Defense has faced many challenges in the recruiting environment over the past couple of years. When it comes down to it, these challenges cannot be taken on by the recruiters of their respective branches alone. Recruiting commands rely on word-of-mouth and engagements from outside organizations to help facilitate information between the military branches and prospective recruits. One of the primary organizations that helps assist the sea-services with meeting their recruiting mission is the Navy League.

The Navy League Council of Minn. has been a staunch supporter of the local area Naval and Coast Guard commands that include: NTAG Northern Plains, Naval Reserve Center, Minneapolis, University of Minnesota ROTC, Maritime Safety Unit Duluth, Coast Guard Cutter Spar, three Sea Cadet Units, and three Junior ROTC units. The Council has engaged in many events including command picnics, an annual Navy Ball, air shows, Navy Weeks, award ceremonies at adopted units, community parades, networking events, with the primary focus to provide education and awareness to the surrounding communities about the importance of the Navy on a world-wide and national security scale.

“The Minnesota Navy League Council is a tremendous asset for us at NTAG Northern Plains,” said Cmdr. Jonny “DOZER” Kane, executive officer of NTAG Northern Plains. “They are able to amplify our reach into the community, and not just from a recruiting standpoint, but as an advocate of the U.S. Navy and their impact on a global scale.”



SAINT PETER, Minn. (April 17, 2023) - Raina Roemhildt, student at Saint Peter High School, left, receives a Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship from Chief Hospital Corpsman Amanda Kelly, NROTC scholarship coordinator with the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains, from Farmington, Minn., at Saint Peter High School, April 17, 2023. NTAG Northern Plains is responsible for the U.S. Navy's enlisted and officer recruiting, covering 393,000 square miles in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Fred Gray IV / released)

On the average day, recruiters in the NTAG Northern Plains area of responsibility are actively seeking to spread Navy awareness and seek new accessions across seven states that include Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and parts of Wisconsin and Illinois. From the beginning of this fiscal year, they have enlisted 360 Future Sailors, processed 90 officer candidate submissions with 41 selected, and had 52 NROTC applications submitted with 32 selected, which is 12% higher than the national average. (Statistics provided by NTAG Northern Plains.)

“The Minnesota Navy League engages with state and local representatives and centers of influence to promote Navy programs and opportunities,” said Joe Fraser, President of the Minnesota Navy League Council. “One of the programs that we are particularly fond of promoting is the scholarship opportunities available through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps.”

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MN Navy League helps bolster recruiting numbers at Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains (Cont.)

NTAG Northern Plains was approved to award four scholarships this year. Raina Elisabeth Roemhildt, graduate of St. Peter High School, will attend University of Washington this fall. She will pursue a major in mechanical engineering and wants to be a surface warfare officer like her retired father. Emmanuel Tallaferno Edwards, graduate of Eden Prairie High School, will attend Harvard University in the fall. He plans to major in economics and wants to enter the surface warfare officer community. Two additional students were awarded ISR scholarships, one from Valley High School (West Des Moines, Iowa) to attend University of Michigan and one from Saint Thomas Academy to attend University of Minnesota, but declined the scholarship offers to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and West Point respectively.

“The NROTC Scholarship Program provides an avenue for students to attend college full time, gain invaluable leadership experience and ultimately pave the way for the future of the U.S. Navy,” said Chief Navy Counselor Lenora Sprague, NROTC scholarship program coordinator assigned to NTAG Northern Plains. “Our student applicants are both exceptional and humble, a testament to the quality education and strong work ethic of which the Midwest is known for.”

It is through teamwork between recruiters and organizations like the Navy League that the Navy is able to achieve recruitment goals.



SAINT PETER, Minn. (April 17, 2023) - Raina Roemhildt, front center, poses with her family and friends after receiving a Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps scholarship from the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Northern Plains at Saint Peter High School April 17, 2023. NTAG Northern Plains is responsible for the U.S. Navy’s enlisted and officer recruiting, covering 393,000 square miles in the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of Illinois, Nebraska and Wisconsin. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Fred Gray IV / released)

“For any student that is remotely interested in applying, I highly recommend taking the leap and logging onto our website today, as fiscal year 2024 applications are open to apply for,” added Sprague.

If interested in applying please visit <https://www.netc.navy.mil/NSTC/NROTC/> for more information.



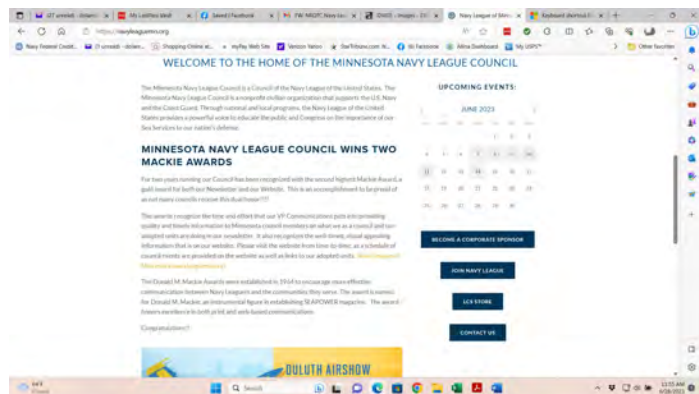
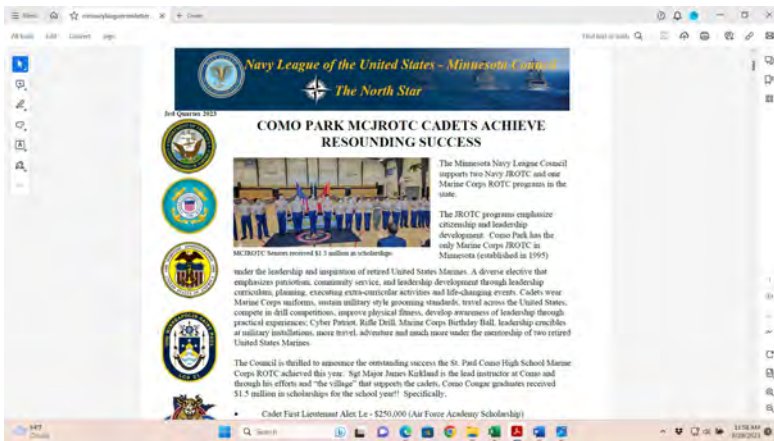
Minnesota Navy League Council Wins Two Mackie Awards

For two years running our Council has been recognized with the second highest Mackie Award, a gold award for both our Newsletter and our Website. This is an accomplishment to be proud of as not many councils receive this dual honor!!!!

The awards recognize the time and effort that our VP Communications puts into providing quality and timely information to Minnesota council members on what we as a council and our adopted units are doing in our newsletter. It also recognizes the well-timed, visual appealing information that is on our website. Please visit the website from time-to-time, as a schedule of council events are provided on the website as well as links to our adopted units. Navy [League of Minnesota \(navyleaguemn.org\)](http://League of Minnesota (navyleaguemn.org))

The Donald M. Mackie Awards were established in 1964 to encourage more effective communication between Navy Leaguers and the communities they serve. The award is named for Donald M. Mackie, an instrumental figure in establishing SEAPOWER magazine. The award honors excellence in both print and web-based communications.

Congratulations!!



A Message from the Minnesota Council President



Recently, I had the honor of being the guest speaker at the Twin Cities Sea Cadet Squadron 097 retirement ceremony for three of their cadets who are moving on to the next phase of their lives. It was an honor to be there to share with those in attendance some insight and advice gathered over the span of my career, in and out of Naval service. In some way, I was hoping that my experiences and advice would help them along their journey. While listening to other speakers I began to reflect upon my own retirement from active service two years ago and the similarities of commitment and service we share.

In discussions with those cadets after the ceremony, I could tell by the words they used and the excitement in their voice, they truly loved the volunteered commitment of time and energy to doing something good. They held true to the core values of the Sea Cadets: Honor, Respect, Commitment, and Service. They valued the Sea Cadet experience and the code of conduct and ethics they learned through training. They cherished the bonds of camaraderie. They believed in service. Service to their community, their families, and to each other. All of them spoke of their continuing desire to pursue opportunities of voluntary service with the US Navy. It was inspiring.

But that inspirational future of the sea services and our communities doesn't come without an investment of time. Currently, formal volunteer support to community programs is declining rapidly. According to the census bureau, only 23% of people over the age of 16 volunteer formally in the United States. There has been an especially sharp drop-in hours donated each year by volunteers during the past two decades, plunging from 52 hours in 2002 to 40 in 2017, and 26 in the pre-pandemic year of 2019. The most recent data puts the number of hours Americans devote annually to formally volunteering at just 25. One bright spot, people ages 16-17 had the highest rate



Twin Cities Squadron graduating seniors

volunteering of all age groups at 28 percent. To see a room full of young people, their families, and the volunteer staff of 097 giving their time and energy to improving the world around them and working collaboratively to build better leaders for the future is a step in the right direction.

As we look forward to the second half of 2023 and beyond, I encourage you to look for opportunities to engage with the Sea Cadets or other activities the Minnesota Council supports. I encourage you to engage with the Minnesota Council. Help us make the commitment to our programs better. It is imperative that we work together, through our investment of time, to continue to support the next generation of Americans who will be entrusted with the preservation of the Constitution and the guaranteed unimpeded flow of commerce above, on, and below the surface of the world's oceans.

In Your Service,
SJ



USS Minnesota News

USS Minnesota (SSN 783) is 10 years old!! Happy birthday!!



Returning to Port in Groton, CT.

USS MINNESOTA (SSN 783) is one of the most technologically advanced submarines in the world and the final Block-II Virginia Class submarine built by the U.S. Navy. MINNESOTA was built to excel in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare as well as strike, special operations, mine warfare, and intelligence/surveillance operations. Since her commissioning on September 7th, 2013, MINNESOTA has conducted all phases of submarine operations. Between September 2013 and May 2016, MINNESOTA finished the initial construction phase of her life which prepared the ship and crew for fleet operations. On May 27th, 2016, MINNESOTA departed Electric Boat for her new homeport of Groton, CT.

While in Groton, MINNESOTA conducted numerous operations in local waters to certify her crew for deployment as well as assist other units in the same certification. Those operations included inspections, exercises, weapons testing events, and Submarine Command Course training, where future Commanding Officers and Executive Officers are trained with a submarine crew while at-sea. During her six years in Groton, CT, MINNESOTA conducted three deployments to the European Theater in support of Chief of Naval Operations maritime strategy and national security interests. The three deployments spanned between September 2017 to March 2018, June to December 2019, and May to November 2021. During each deployment, MINNESOTA completed multiple missions vital to national security. Additionally, MINNESOTA strengthened key strategic alliances throughout the European Theater by visiting Faslane, Scotland; Rota, Spain; and Haakonsværn, Norway.

During the 2019 deployment, MINNESOTA demonstrated her ability to execute combat operations in theater by conducting an expeditionary ordnance onload of a Mk-48 Advance Capability torpedo at Haakonsværn Naval Base in Bergen, Norway. The “Viking Ship” finished its 2019 deployment and her crew was immediately recognized for their efforts in the spring of 2020. MINNESOTA was awarded the 2019 Battenberg Cup, an award presented annually to the best warship in the Atlantic Fleet.

Following MINNESOTA’s final European deployment, MINNESOTA commenced her transit to the Pacific Fleet to begin her first major maintenance availability. The transit started in February 2022 and concluded when MINNESOTA arrived in Pearl Harbor on March 17th, 2022. During the transit, MINNESOTA participated in the first ever anti-submarine warfare training exercise with the Colombian Navy. Participants included MINNESOTA, USS BILLINGS (LCS 15), Colombian Navy Submarine ARC Pijao (SSK 28), frigates ARC Independiente (FM 54) and ARC Almirante Padilla (FM 51), and Colombian helicopters and maritime patrol aircraft. This exercise demonstrated both countries’ capabilities while improving interoperability against emerging threats in the region. Immediately after the exercise, MINNESOTA joined the Pacific Fleet on March 3rd, 2022 via the Panama Canal.



Entering Panama Canal locks



USS Minnesota News

Happy Birthday USS Minnesota (cont)

Once in the Pacific Fleet, MINNESOTA was able to transit south of the equator to conduct the “Shellback Ceremony,” a long standing naval tradition that celebrates the camaraderie and the braveness of all mariners. After arrival in Pearl Harbor, MINNESOTA started preparations for her Extended Dry-Docking Selected Restricted Availability. During this availability, the crew, with assistance from Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, is conducting extensive preservation, system upgrades, and repairs that will ensure MINNESOTA remains ready for tasking throughout her projected lifespan. The Viking Ship has had many successes, including being awarded back-to-back Submarine Squadron Four Battle Efficiency Awards (2019 and 2020), throughout her 10 years of service, all due to the hard work of the crew and their families. We look forward to her continued success in the defense of our great nation!



Crew of USS Minnesota on Kokohead hike

Ex Septentrio, Virtus...From the North, Power



USS Minnesota Torpedo On-Load



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul – A Change of Season and a Change of Command



Change of command Ceremont

MAYPORT, Fla. (June 20, 2023) – The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) has sprung into a new season with an eventful second quarter. This quarter the MSP crew participated in Final Contractor Trials, a Change of Command, and ended the quarter with training fellow LCS crews.

Newly commissioned Naval vessels like Minneapolis-Saint Paul undergo a ship-wide evolution known as Final Contractor Trials (FCT). FCT is a post-delivery event requiring much coordination between the ship's crew,

government assessors, and the program office PMS-501. The event serves as a final in-depth review of the ship, crew, and onboard systems. The crew and systems performed extraordinarily from start to finish. USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul was able to claim this successful completion as the crew pushed one step closer to becoming a deployable asset.

This spring season has brought a new chain of command for the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul crew. On May 12, 2023, Cmdr. Hiram Andreu passed on the ceremonial commanding officer pin to Cmdr. Justin Neff. Neff, Minneapolis-Saint Paul's newest commanding officer, served as the executive officer aboard USS Sioux City (LCS 11) Blue Crew. "I am deeply humbled, honored, and excited to take command of such an outstanding crew and ship," said Neff. "I look forward to continuing to build the relationship with the Navy League Minnesota chapter and appreciate the outstanding support thus far."

Additionally, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul's executive officers turned over as well. A position previously held by Cmdr. Bryan Kemnitz was assumed by Lt. Cmdr. Steven Fresse. Before his arrival, Fresse served as officer-in-charge at Surface Warfare Schools Command (N77) Engineering Learning Site Mayport. "It's an honor and a privilege to be USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul's executive officer," said Fresse. "I look forward to working with each and every Sailor aboard as we continue to refine our skills in preparation for future tasking." The new duo is ready to keep setting the standard of success as Minneapolis-Saint Paul accomplishes their milestones toward deploying.

Finishing the quarter, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul spent the rest of May and the entirety of June training and supporting fellow LCS crews native to Naval Station Mayport.

The USS Indianapolis Blue Crew came aboard in May to show off their skills and complete their Advanced Phase certification events. Advanced Phase is the final large pre-requisite for a crew to deploy. For June, the Minneapolis-Saint Paul supported USS Saint Louis Blue and Gold crews as the crews conducted their Basic Phase certifying events.

The Minneapolis-Saint Paul crew is ready to continue their development towards deployment and is always excited to help fellow crews prepare.



USS Minneapolis Saint Paul conducts helicopter landings at sea.



Minnesota Council VP Updates

VP Adopted Ships



Our adopted units continue to do great things in the Fleet to maintain, train and equip combat-ready naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintaining freedom of the seas.

USS Minnesota (SSN 783) is currently in a maintenance period at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The Minnesota Navy League has invited them to come to Minnesota for their first Namesake visit in four years. This Namesake visit will include community relations events to include the Duluth Air Show on July 15 and 16. We are waiting on final approvals from their associated command. USS Minnesota is 10 years old this year, having been commissioned in September 2013. Their history includes three deployments in four years, plus a surge underway. They have earned multiple Battle E awards and the top award in 2019 for the entire Navy, the Battenberg Cup. They have had five commanding officers, including their current Commanding Officer, Cmdr. Isaac Pelt. Capt. John Fancher, USN Ret., is the only one who's retired. The others are still serving in various locations. Capt. Brian Tanaka (2nd) is just leaving the submarine training command in Pearl Harbor, moving to commanding the NROTC unit at the University of North Carolina this fall. Capt. Thomas Flaherty (3rd) is currently serving at the Naval Academy as the primary contact with the submarine community. Capt. Brad Bozin (4th) is the Deputy Commodore of the SSGN squadron in Kings Bay, GA.

USS Minneapolis Saint Paul LCS 21 celebrated their one-year anniversary this May. The Minnesota Navy League is sponsoring their command and family picnic to honor this event which is being held in June 2023. USS Minneapolis Saint Paul hosted their Change of Command Ceremony on the flight deck on May 12, 2023. Cmdr. Jason Neff relieved Cmdr. Hiram Andreu as Commanding Officer. Cmdr. Neff is the third CO of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul. MSP will now begin a very busy summer of underways in support of their squadron.

USCGC Spar, a buoy tender based in Duluth, had 'ice liberty' near the Madeline Island Ferry Route on March 30. Since that time, they've been underway multiple times fixing and maintaining navigational aids around the upper Great Lakes. On May 16 they were in Sturgeon Bay, Wisc. for a buoy on-load.

Navy Recruiting is gearing up for a major effort during the Duluth Air Show. They will be participating in community relations events in Duluth including an outdoor viewing of TopGun Maverick on Friday, July 14 that's free and open to the public.

The Minnesota Navy League is pleased to welcome the US Navy Blue Angels to Duluth on July 15 and 16. We are a sponsor of the Duluth Air Show. We are pleased to welcome Minnesota native Lt. Amanda Lee, BA #3, the first female demonstration pilot in the history of the Blue Angels.





Minnesota Council VP Updates

VP Council Programs/Events



For this second quarter, the Navy League hosted 2 Happy Hours for networking and building community and attended a Career and Resource Fair. The first happy hour was held at Orale in South Minneapolis, which is a USMC owned and operated restaurant. We enjoyed catching up with existing Navy League members and other

members of the Minnesota Military Community. The second happy hour was held at Fulton Brewing Company right by Target Field. Most of the group was able to continue the evening and watch the Twins take on the San Diego Padres and win an exciting game in the 11th inning!

The Navy League participated in the VetConnect event hosted at Camp Ripley on Friday June 9, 2023 which was organized by LockLeed International for all Veterans, Active Military Members, and spouses.



Navy League members meet at Fulton and enjoy a Twins game.

Organizations were present offering both jobs to attendees as well as various organizations such as the Navy League and other service providers who were there to help with employment-related needs and provide information and referrals to non-work-related services for Veterans. This event was also held in December in Arden Hills and those interested can connect with Lockleed International for future events. The Navy League may be present at some of the other organizations events in the future to continue to network and share resources.

Coming up, look for the Navy League at the Duluth Airshow July 15 and 16 and for happy hours and other socializing events to continue in the Fall in addition to a joint Navy and Marine Corps Ball in October.

VP Membership



The Navy League of the United States, founded in 1902 with the support of President Theodore Roosevelt, is a nonprofit civilian, educational and advocacy organization that supports America's sea services: the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S. flag Merchant Marine.

When you become a member of the Navy League, you are ensuring that your time in uniform is not the only time in your life where your drive to serve a greater purpose is met. Enrolling prior to your retirement will create a seamless transition, where you and your family will have strong community ties anywhere, with 200 councils ready to help. Through national and local programs, the Navy League of the United States provides a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress on the importance of our sea services to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity. Additionally, the Navy League provides support to our sea services personnel and their families and youth programs, such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC and Young Marines, that expose young people to the values of our sea services, Coast Guard and U.S. Merchant Marines.

Your membership, support, and participation are essential to supporting both our grassroots and national-level programs. So, what are you waiting for, become part of our team by going to www.navyleague.org and become a member of the Minnesota Council





Minnesota Council VP Updates

VP Legislative Affairs

Greetings Navy Leaguer's!



There has been some significant work underway with our Legislative affairs team at the National and Regional level. Part of that work is to advocate on behalf of the Sea Services through legislative outreach via virtual

briefings with our elected officials. I briefed three key members of Congress including Rep. Brad Finstad who sits on House Appropriations, Rep. Betty McCollum who is Vice Chair of House Armed Services and Senator Amy Klobuchar.

As many of you know, the recent raising of the Federal debt ceiling averted a melt-down in our financial standing in the world. Also, on March 9, 2023, the President submitted to Congress a proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget request of \$842 billion for the Department of Defense (DoD), an increase of \$26 billion over FY 2023 levels and \$100 billion more than FY 2022.

To achieve budget priorities, the budget request links strategy to resources to continue executing our 2022 National Defense Strategy (NDS), which aligns with the President's National Security Strategy. These guiding documents determine the vision and direction of the Department of Defense in what the President has called the "decisive decade."

The priorities for the Navy include 9 new ships including 3-Arleigh Burke destroyers, 2-Virginia Class Subs, 2-FFG62 Frigates, 1-Fleet Replenishment Oiler, and 1-Submarine Tender. The FY 2024 budget also continues incremental funding for three GERALD R. FORD Class nuclear aircraft carriers: USS KENNEDY (CVN 79), USS ENTERPRISE (CVN 80) and the USS DORIS MILLER (CVN 81)

For the Coast Guard team, they are earmarked for a new Polar Security Cutter, currently scheduled for build and delivery in FY2027. This \$1.0B+ cutter will help to ensure we close the gap on maintaining our edge in the Arctic region versus Russia. Additionally, they have been earmarked for \$700M in much needed shore infrastructure improvements.

For Marine Corps' procurement of 80 Amphibious Combat Vehicles to replace the Amphibious Assault Vehicle and provide an armored personnel carrier with an appropriate balance in performance, protection, and payload.

Additionally, procurement of 396 Joint Light Tactical Vehicles and trailers that will increase survivability, mobility, and reliability over the current aging fleet.

I attended the commissioning of 12 new Naval and Marine Officers graduating from the University of Minnesota this June. Nine are headed into the Navy and three are heading to the Marines. It was a pleasure to see these fresh, young, smart men and women embarking on what I am sure will be an amazing career.

I also had the pleasure to attend the recent Navy League National Conference last week in Dallas, TX and was elected a National Delegate for the Navy League. This affords us here on the Minnesota Council a voice in Navy League National affairs and gives us a direct channel to the executive team. A new National President was also elected, Chris Townsend; former Naval Aviator and currently an Airbus A350 pilot for Delta Airlines. Chris is a top shelf leader, pilot and naval officer who will do a great job as steward for the Navy League the next 2 years.

The highlight of the conference was twofold, first a joint panel of the three Master Chief Petty Officers of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, hosted by Admiral Jamie Fogo who leads the efforts of the Center for Maritime



With Admiral John Richardson

Strategy, it was a fascinating and informative look into the services who share similar challenges as well as success.

Finally, our keynote talk on Saturday evening was delivered by Admiral John Richardson the 31st Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Richardson now retired, shared his experience, sea stories and great perspective of his 4 years as CNO. He is optimistic for the future of our Sea Services and knows we have the best people tasked to do the job.



Minnesota Council VP Updates

VP Community Engagement



Vice President of Community Engagement, Joyce Lacey, spent the Easter weekend, April 8-9 delivering Easter lilies to Veterans Homes and Hospitals. She also made sure the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans had necessities for homeless Veterans the week prior.

The Minnesota Navy League Council Community Engagement sponsored a booth at the Wheels, Tracks and Wings Event Honoring the Month of the Military Child on April 22nd at the Elbow Lake Airport where we offered hourly door prizes and provided information on joining the Navy League. The event was well attended and featured a craft table where children could make pictures of Dandelions, the official flower of the Military Child, for just like dandelions, Military children can grow and bloom anywhere. The Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Drill Team performed and Young Eagle Flights by EAA Chapter 1174 offered free flights for ages 8 to 17.

Also, in April and May, Community engagement spoke with Kiwanis groups, Senior Citizen groups and the VFW about the Navy League.



Lacey represented the Navy League as a volunteer for the Annual MS Walk May 7, MS Twin Cities Bike Ride May 13 and the MS 150 Bike Ride June 12. All events provided an excellent opportunity to share information about the Navy League with fellow volunteers and participants.

Over Memorial Day weekend, Community Engagement spoke to a group of veterans at the Northwest Minnesota Veterans Memorial. The group was very active in Support Our Countries Military decades earlier and Lacey had planned Rally's in Morris and Fergus Falls as men and women, who had served their country, returned home from

Navy League table at Elbow Lake Month of the Military Child Event

the Persian Gulf War. Additionally, on Memorial Day, Community Engagement helped serve a Community Meal at the Peterson Tripp American Legion Post in Ashby.

On June 9, Community Engagement represented the Navy League volunteering for the Annual Tapemark Minnesota PGA Pro-Am Charity Golf Tournament.

The Navy League took part in the Explore West St. Paul Days Parade on June 10 and had the opportunity to speak and share information about the Navy League at St. Stephens Church and at Harmon Park.

Upcoming Parades include:

- Stars & Stripes Parade at the Veteran's Home in Fergus Falls June 24
- Barrett Old Settlers Parade June 24
- Edina 4th of July Parade on July 4
- Ashby Appreciation Days Parade July 15
- Lacey will be representing the Navy League serving as a Parade Marshall for the Minneapolis Aquatennial Torchlight Parade July 19
- Parade of the Northwest at the Northwest Water Carnival in Detroit Lakes July 23
- Stock Yard Days Parade presented by the New Brighton Lions Aug 12
- Woodbury Days Parade Aug 21
- North St. Paul Fall Round Up Parade Sept 14



Joyce Lacey and Mark Stange at MS150 Bike Ride



Minnesota Council VP Updates

VP Youth Programs



As you read this newsletter, Sea Cadets and League Cadets from the nearly 400 Sea Cadet units around the nation are attending various training contingents throughout the country. Summer training is one of the most exciting parts about being a Sea Cadet, with a sample of advanced training activities including sailing training, field operations and land navigation training, aviation training, submarine training, SEAL training, and SCUBA training. Most of these training contingents are 7 – 10 days in length. All new Sea Cadets attend Recruit Training before being able to attend advanced training, with the purpose being substantially similar to that of military Recruit Training but at an age-appropriate level of activity.

Great Lakes Naval Station, on the shore of Lake Michigan in northern Illinois, is again allowing Sea Cadets to attend Recruit Training at the Navy's Recruit Training Center where they will be led by actual US Navy Recruit Company Commanders. Many of our local Minnesota Sea Cadets will attend this premier Recruit Training at Great Lakes beginning on June 23. I will be there for the graduation ceremony on July 2.

Our youth programs experienced several exciting activities over these past two months. Harding High School's Navy JROTC Unit had their Spring Awards Ceremony on May 16, and Como Park's Marine Corps JROTC Unit had their Spring Awards Ceremony on May 18. Pat and Bob Dolan represented Minnesota Council in presenting the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to the top cadet at each unit.

The Navy ROTC Unit, University of Minnesota, had their Spring Commissioning Ceremony on May 21 at the Armory Building on the University of Minnesota's Minneapolis campus. Seven new Ensigns were commissioned into the US Navy and three new Second Lieutenants were commissioned onto the US Marine Corps. As a former Navy Nuclear Submariner, I was delighted to note that two of these newly commissioned Ensigns have volunteered for the Navy's elite Submarine Service. They will soon embark on their Navy Nuclear Power training experience in Goose Creek, South Carolina.

The Twin Cities Squadron of the US Naval Sea Cadets had their annual Senior Farewell Ceremony on June 4 at the Arden Hills Army Training Site where they drill monthly, honoring three Sea Cadets who were graduating seniors. Petty Officer Third Class Avery Mortenson will attend the University of Colorado on a full Navy ROTC scholarship. Airman Christopher Schroer is still finalizing his post high school plans. Airman Apprentice Caden Houge will attend Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona. The guest speaker was Joseph Fraser, our Council President.



Twin Cities Squadron Overnighter

As a related item, I attended the Navy League's National Convention in Dallas, Texas June 7 – 12. The national Sea Cadet, Leaguer Cadet, Officer, and Instructor of the year were honored at the general meeting of Navy League Members on June 11.

Approximately 30 Sea Cadets from three Sea Cadet units near Dallas were present throughout the several days of meetings, where they visited and interacted with both Navy League Members and the members of the Sea Cadets Board of Directors. It was particularly impressive seeing numerous Sea Cadets provide the Color Guard for our National Anthem at the beginning of six different Navy League meetings, with the local five-piece Sea Cadet band performing our National Anthem live each time. This was the finest and best-organized National Convention of the past 21 that I have attended, with the members of the Dallas Council providing a warm Texas welcome to all visitors.

Command Updates



Naval Reserve Center Minneapolis

NRC Flag Mentor Visit

Radm. Charles “Mike” Brown, Reserve Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare, and the NRC Flag Mentor, visited NRC Minneapolis during the NRC’s June Drill Weekend. The Radm. Brown took time to hold several group discussions with various ranks, and specific units to learn about their mission set, and to elaborate on the Naval Reserve’s guiding principles. Radm. Brown’s focus was discussing warfighting readiness and the responsibility of the Reserve and TAR Sailors in ensuring mobilization readiness, and billet training.



USS Oklahoma Sailor Re-Patriotization

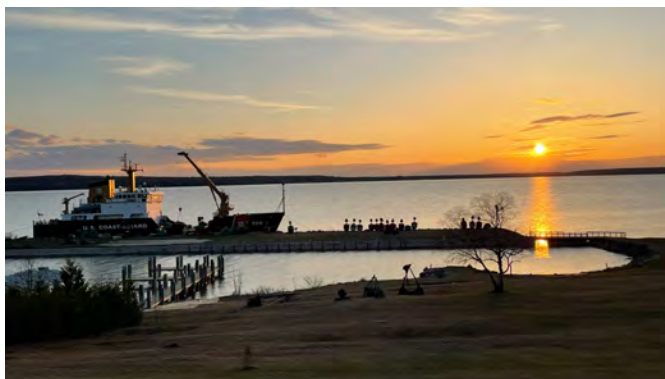
On June 9th, several Reserve Sailors and NRC staff members participated in providing funeral honors for SK2 Glenn Cyriack. SK2 Cyriack was stationed onboard the battleship USS Oklahoma during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency was finally able to identify SK2 Cyriack’s remains and started the process of returning them to his next of kin. The funeral service for SK2 Cyriack was held on Friday, June 9, 2023 in rural Lake Benton, Minnesota. Completing an 81-year journey since the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor, SK2 Cyriack was finally home.



The family stood for the military honors during the funeral service for Glenn Cyriack at St. John’s Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery on Friday, June 9, 2023 in rural Lake Benton, Minn. Navy Storekeeper 2nd Class Glenn Cyriack, a native of Lake Benton, was killed in action while aboard the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and his remains were recently identified. Credit. Star Tribune



USCGC Spar



Currently underway getting all of our aids to navigation (Aton) ready for the summer months. A few photos from pulling into Lime Island to pick up pre staged buoys as the sun sets. Photos provided by BM2 Ackerman



After a morning breaking out the Madeline Island ferry route, crew members enjoy ice liberty.

Command Updates



MSU Duluth

This quarter MSU Duluth has been involved with community involvement and public outreach. Cmdr. DeWitz and Lt. McGinnis participated in the First Saltie of the Season Ceremony. Cmdr. DeWitz gave the Captain of the Federal Dart a unit challenge coin and appreciated the safety maintained on board the vessel. MST3 Michael Chupp and MST3 Bradley Harms participated in River Quest where they engaged with community members and educated them on oil pollution.



MSU Duluth briefs resort owners meeting

The USCG MN Northern Lakes Campaign started early in May, taking place on Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, Rainy River, and the Namaken Basin. The Coast Guard will be on those waterways, conducting boating safety exams on Uninspected Passenger Vessel (UPV) owners who have 6 passenger or less for hire on their boats. Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Duluth will also be conducting Aids to Navigation verifications and discrepancy checks. That is when buoys and day boards are inspected by ANT Duluth to ensure they are in good working condition.



The main goal of this campaign is for the USCG, alongside our partners, to ensure the safety and security of the Minnesota Northern Lakes along the US and Canada border with an emphasis on promoting recreational boating safety and boater education. Some MSU Duluth personnel, STA Duluth personnel, USCG Auxiliary, and the Response Department Head from Sector Sault Ste. Marie were in Baudette for the annual Resort Owners Meeting and International Falls for a MN Northern Lakes Campaign town hall to raise awareness of the campaign. There was a good turnout from the community as members came to talk to USCG members to ask them questions about UPV exams and what the Coast Guard is trying to accomplish this summer along the US-Canada Border. For questions about the campaign, you can contact Lt. Joe McGinnis at 218-725-3818.



MSU Duluth sent out a News Release to media outlets about laser pointers and how it is a crime to point them at vessels operating on the waters of the United States. There was a report of a laser light being directed towards the wheelhouse of a Laker. The USCG followed up with the News Release reminding the community of the dangers of pointing laser pointers at vessels and the potential \$25,000 fine. If anyone sees someone directing a laser at a vessel, please contact United States Coast Guard Investigation Services (CGIS) at 503-247-4002.

This last quarter we had two members retire and are looking at some new folks coming to our unit! Bravo Zulu to CWO Scott Harroun and MSTC Michelle Houston. Thank you for your service and good luck in the civilian sector! Fair winds and Following Seas to MST1 Zach Cote, MST2 Jeremy Davis, Lt. Liam Bacon, and YN2 Uliasz. Good luck at your next units!

As a reminder to readers, if you are getting underway in your boats this summer season, make sure you have a float plan! A float plan is as simple as you want it to be, just ensure someone knows where you will be going, check out the weather in the area you are boating, and ensure you have the proper safety equipment for your activities on the water. Have a great summer from your Coasties at Marine Safety Unit Duluth!

Command Updates

NTAG Northern Plains

Hello Navy League of Minnesota!

As I dig around my house in search of that half-used bottle of sunscreen from last year, I can't help but have an overwhelming feeling of excitement and eagerness for the opportunities that await us over the next few months. It's the small things in life, especially when you get older that hold special meanings to us as the seasons change. This is especially true in the seasons of spring and summer where new life and opportunities begin to bloom and there is a chance to start fresh.

This holds true for almost everyone, and everything within our Northern Plains area of responsibility. Families begin to open their windows and emerge into their yards for much needed cleaning and maintenance. While the younger generations prepare summer plans in between the school years, and for some, ready themselves to begin a career, college, or military service.

A recent article by U.S. Naval Institute reported that the Navy is on track for exceeding retention goals from the last fiscal year, according to data from the Office of Chief of Naval Personnel. While recruiting efforts are still an ongoing challenge with an environment unseen by the DoD in almost five decades, we are continuing to plan and coordinate efforts to bolster our numbers and engage with potential Future Sailors.

Luckily summer time is prime time for big events to hit our area, and for our recruiters to make a positive impact through navy awareness. NTAG Northern Plains will be supporting numerous events across our territory, to include the Blue Angels and Leap Frogs slated to make an appearance at the Duluth Air Expo (July 15-16), participation at the Hy-Vee INDYCAR race weekend at Iowa Speedway (July 21-23),



NTAG New Command Master Chief James Beadle

Navy Community Outreach sponsoring a Navy week in Lincoln, Nebraska (Aug. 21-25), followed by another Blue Angels demonstration at the Lincoln Airshow (Aug. 26-27). We will also have the Navy "Nimitz" virtual reality experience coming to the Iowa State Fair (Aug. 17-20) and the Minnesota State Fair (Aug. 28 – Sep 3). With these upcoming high visibility events we are poised to make a significant showing of our U.S. Navy presence in an area of the U.S. that has a fairly small footprint.

Even with these events happening throughout the summer we will continue to rely on the support of our steadfast Navy League members, along with our Navy Reserve Commands, NROTC units, Sea Cadet corps and the rest of our Navy friends and family. I cannot thank you all enough for your continued support of NTAG Northern Plains and our critical mission of finding the nation's best and brightest future sailors!

With Respect,
CDR John R. Allen,
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains



Lt. David Lee, operations officer at NTAG Northern Plains, was able to assist our brothers in the Air Force with a reenlistment of an Airman at the Armed Forces Career Center in Burnsville, Minn.

Command Updates

University of Minnesota ROTC



It's been a busy finish to the Spring 2023 semester here at the University of Minnesota NROTC Battalion. The Battalion hosted the 64th Annual Reserve Officers Training Corps Joint Service Review, a time-honored ceremony showcasing the students' hard work and achievements. It recognized the outstanding Midshipmen and Cadets who excelled professionally and academically during the year. RADM. Eric Ver Hage was the reviewing officer and guest speaker. Midshipman 1/C Garret Hintze was the Commander of Troops. In case you missed it, a link can be found on the UMN NROTC Facebook page.

We have very competitive midshipmen who love a challenge. A select few competed in the Bataan Memorial Death March, a 26.2-mile race held in New Mexico (Ens. Van Dyke and Midshipmen Clausen, Murray, and Groh) and the Norwegian Foot March, an 18.6-mile race with a 25 lbs. ruck at Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) (Ens. Van Dyke, MIDN Murray, and MIDN Bjella. Ens. Van Dyke finished first in the men's division of the Norwegian trail run, and MIDN Bjella finished third in the heavy division for females. Bravo Zulu to all for completing these grueling races!



Cadets competing in the Bataan Memorial Death March

Time honored traditions of the Navy and Marine Corps continued with the annual Dining In (referred to as "Mess Night" in the Marine Corps). An evening of formal tradition, solemn remembrance, and shenanigans was enjoyed at Jameson's Irish Bar in Saint Paul.

In April, Alpha Company (Navy Options) traveled to Duluth to conduct live-burn training. Midshipmen worked on fire extinguisher familiarity, hose team operations, practiced forceful entry, and used self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) gear in smoked out buildings. Every Sailor is a firefighter!

While Alpha Company was in Duluth, Charlie Company (Marine Options) traveled to AHATS where they practiced leadership and technical skills that will prepare them for Officer Candidate School. They trained for calls-for-fire, striking and grappling, land navigation, and Small Unit Leadership Evaluation. These skills build their confidence and prepare them for the challenges they will face in the Fleet.



Duluth Firefighting

The annual Eagle & Anchor 5k fundraiser was held at Lake Phalen. Over 50 runners joined the battalion in running the beautiful trails around the lake. Following the race, there was an award ceremony and barbecue for all attendees. Thank you to all who came out to support the unit!

Command Updates

University of Minnesota ROTC (Continued)



Commissioning 2023

On May 21st, the University of Minnesota Naval ROTC commissioned 10 new Ensigns and Second Lieutenants into the Navy and Marine Corps. These outstanding young men and women worked extremely hard over the past four years to earn their commission and we could not be prouder of them. Congratulations and Bravo Zulu to Ensigns Benson, Engelson, Erickson, Harris, Jacobs, Nelson, and Van Zuilen, and 2nd Lieutenants Bjella, Hintze, and Hughlett. We cannot wait to see where your bright futures in the Navy and Marine Corps take you! A recording of the ceremony is available on the UMN NROTC Facebook page.

Finally, we welcome almost an entire new staff; Capt. Abigail Hutchins (CO), Cmdr. Jason Richter (XO), 1stLt Ryan Siddall (Marine Officer Instructor), and Gunnery Sergeant Eric Desroches (Assistant Marine Officer Instructor). Welcome aboard!



2023 Dining In

Command Updates



Como MCJROTC

The Como Park MCJROTC Unit had a fabulous quarter culminating in eighteen seniors graduating. This tremendous group achieved \$1.5 million in scholarships for higher level education, including one full ride scholarship to the Air Force Academy, three full tuition scholarships to Augsburg, six Minnesota National Guard scholarships, and one U.S. Navy Scholarship. The discipline shown by these cadets is amazing and will help them as they navigate their futures.



Additionally, the cadets gave back to the community through events such as Merriam Park Community Center Dust Egg Hunt, the Armed Exhibition team performance at Elbow Lake, Minnesota to honor the month of a military child, working the lunch room at Murray Middle school, Warrior night, food drive event at the Serenity Village Church in Crystal, Minnesota, annual MCJROTC Battle of the Company Competition, fun at Valley fair, and support of the 2-day MS 150-mile race. It is activities such as these that help build the character of cadets of honor, courage and commitment to their fellow cadets and to our neighbors in the community.

The Como Park MCJROTC will not shut down this summer. During the summer months, cadets will be working hard doing several camps, community service events and fundraising for school year 23-24. We will need maximum participation from our cadets to make it all happen.

Congratulations to the (16) cadets selected to travel to various leadership camps in July. These cadets will have some vast experience at camps that include drill, leadership, aviation STEM, and Cyber STEM.

- National MCJROTC Drill Camp: Soe Thoo (10) & Sumalee Reh (10)
- Senior Leadership Camp Outdoors: Cooper Westrum (11) & Paw Hser Yui "Chi" Say (11)
- Raider Competition Instructor Training Course: Sergeant Major James C. Kirkland
- Senior Leadership Camp One: Adam Luchsinger (11) and Alex Sandoval Soto (11)
- Senior Leadership Camp Two: Anthony Landaverde Guillen (11), Rigoberto Flores (11) and Soe Thoo (10)
- Aviation STEM Camp: Olga Tetevi (9) and Rihanna Said (9)
- Cyber STEM Camp (Kmwe Paw (11), Say K. Why (11), Providence Mwakana (11) and Davis Thaug (9)

Additionally, cadets will participate in fundraising and community events over the summer months. Already, they have participated in a community food drive, a battle of the company sports competition. Upcoming events include:

- Back to the Fifties Car Show in June (23-25 June 2023)
- Minnesota State Fair Fundraiser (Thursday Aug 24, 2023 - Monday, Sep 4, 2023).



Como Park Cadets volunteer in the local community

Command Updates



Harding JROTC

VP Membership Bob Dolan and VP Communications, Pat Dolan were privileged to attend the Harding High School Navy JROTC Annual Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2023. What a fantastic group of young cadets. They have a fantastic program led by LCDR Don Wisneski and CPO Geoffrey Taylor. Great job cadets.



Lt. Cmdr. Don Wisneski congratulates cadet at awards ceremony



Washington Tech NJROTC

New NJROTC instructors for Washington.

August 1st Major Scott Kiger, USMC (retired), will transfer from Como Park MCJROTC to take the helm of Washington NJROTC.

Joining him will be newly retired LNCM David Marchetti, USNR (retired).

Kiger and Marchetti are relieving Lt. Cmdr. Byron Toole, USN (retired) and YNCS Rick Bailey, USN (retired).

Toole and Bailey, long time NJROTC instructors in St Paul, are looking forward to retiring and spending more time with family and friends.



YNCS Rick Bailey and Lt. Cmdr. Byron Toole at spring award ceremony

Command Updates



Twin Ports Division Sea Cadets

Twin Ports has been extremely busy this quarter. ENFR Ethan Heskin completed his enlistment with Twin Ports Division in June. Over the past three years, ENFR Heskin served as a vital part of the command. Duties included being the Work Center Supervisor for Machinery Division (M-DIV) and serving as the unit's Leading Petty Officer. Taking charge and leading by example, from the main space to shore, ENFR Heskin will be missed. ENFR Heskin plans on sticking with Twin Ports Div as an Auxiliarist moving forward to pass on his knowledge to his junior sailors.



Opioid Training

In May, members from Twin Ports Division trained around 20 Midshipmen from the University of Minnesota's ROTC in shipboard damage control operations at ERTC in Duluth. This was an action-packed day that covered many areas of damage control. Midshipmen were instructed through classroom sessions involving powerpoints, gear issuance, SCBA familiarization and use, dress-out drills, live hose handling, and then it all came together in live-firefighting evolutions with fire extinguishers and fire party fire attacks while on air. This training is crucial as the Navy's newest officers now have this experience and knowledge to take with them to the fleet.

During May drill weekend, the command was certified in Narcan administration and opiate-related medical emergencies by physicians that work in the medical field. This not only assisted the command in its medical workups for mobilization

in June but also aided in drug reduction knowledge that can save a life. The doctor giving the course was very impressed by the medical knowledge the command already had, which reflects greatly on each individual serving within Twin Ports Division and the hard work the unit has undertaken over the last several months. At the end of the training, the command received Narcan kits for med bag inventory and individual issuance if interested. These partnerships within the medical fields in the community ensure quality opportunities exist for our sailors to keep their skills sharp and expose them to career fields, being that our personnel are already in the workforce.

Twin Ports Division mobilized in June in medical support of Grandma's Marathon in Duluth. Twin Ports Division was stationed at mile marker 23, affectionately known as the "Meat Grinder" by unit personnel due to the high number of race casualties at this site on the backside of Lemondrop Hill. The command staffed three medical teams and one tactical medical (TAC/MED) team for the race. Teams would patrol a few miles north and south of mile marker 23 to cover runners not near aid stations. Our forces augmented the Army Reserve 477th Medical Company along the course. Our command treated around nine minor casualties that ranged from heat exhaustion, overexertion, dehydration, vomiting, and cramps. All casualties treated by our command were able to complete the race after treatment.



Twin Ports cadets participate in Grandmas Marathon providing medical aid at Mile Marker 23.

Command Updates



Polaris Division Sea Cadets

This quarter, a new level of dedication to the core values of honor, respect, commitment, and service were established around the community by the Polaris Battalion and Training Ship (TS) Trident Battalion. The selfless time commitment to organizations in the area were boundless. Closer to home, while some cadets were readying themselves for upcoming summer training opportunities, we wished five other graduating seniors Fair Winds and Following Seas as they prepared for their next chapter in life.

The Polaris and TS Trident Battalions were invited by the Isanti County Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR) to assist with the organization's annual fundraiser. The cadets were given the responsibility to help prepare meals and serve over 100 guests, assist the auctioneer with showcasing items that were up for bid, and help clean up the facility after the dinner and dancing concluded. Their efforts contributed to the BTYR's continued mission of supporting veterans and their families in the area with education scholarships and emergency financial assistance during times of need.

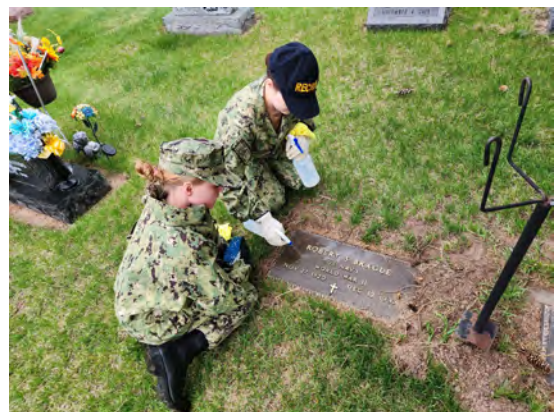


Polaris assists at North Branch Lions Club dinner

Assisting the North Branch Lions Club with their fundraising breakfast was another opportunity the cadets eagerly volunteered for. Polaris and TS Trident managed the kitchen, served the guests, and cleaned up the room; however, their efforts contributed well beyond the space they were responsible for that morning. The Lions Club primary focus is assisting those with hearing and sight challenges receive care and support, such as seeing eye dogs and hearing aids. They also fight hunger, diabetes, and childhood cancer while conserving the environment. The cadet's time volunteering ensured the Lions Club could continue to help those overcoming these challenges.

Not all selfless acts performed this quarter were nationally or community-wide impacting, some were quiet, individualized, and reverent. One of these events was the cleaning of veteran's headstones at the Isanti Union Cemetery. Alongside members of the Isanti VFW Post 2735, cadets spent the day cleaning and scrubbing headstones, sometimes after having to remove grass and mud that had covered the markers of those who have defended this great nation.

The cadets continued to pay their respects and honor the fallen during Memorial Day. They presented the Colors, carried the wreaths representing major U.S. conflicts, and stood in formation alongside members of the Isanti VFW Post 2735 at the Cambridge Veteran's Memorial Park. Additionally, the cadets stood in formation and assisted with the memorial service later that day at the Isanti Union Cemetery. Furthermore, during the same weekend, Polaris and TS Trident presented the Colors at Morningside Memorial Gardens in Coon Rapids and raised the flag at Bunker Hills.



Cadets clean headstones at Isanti Union Cemetery

Command Updates



Polaris Division (continued)

Between supporting the community and paying their respects, the cadets were honing their skills, while learning new ones. Should anyone have questions about how to use woodworking tools such as the miter saw or router, and repairing sheetrock, they are more than able to walk you through the processes. Rope tying and how to use your uniform as a floatation device is another topic each of the cadets could coach someone on. How to properly fold a flag, food sanitation practices and progressive cooking, and basic car maintenance are also on the list, should anyone need further information. Since public speaking and calling commands is part of a normal drill, the cadets have the confidence to professionally speak on any of these topics to anyone whom should ask.



Cadets learn basic car maintenance

Lastly, while June is the beginning of the summer, it is also the end of Sea Cadet program for the graduating seniors. This year, the class of 2023 comprised of CPO Abbott, CPO Felton, CPO Floding, PO1 Jorgenson, and PO3 Olson. Each of these individuals contributed so much to the Polaris and TS Trident Battalions. Their professionalism, enthusiasm, and leadership skills will be greatly missed. CPO Abbott, CPO Felton, PO1 Jorgenson, and PO3 Olson all have basic training reporting dates to the Naval Station Great Lakes by end of summer. CPO Floding is staying on as a midshipman and will be attending college to study childhood education. There is no doubt all of these (now former) cadets will be successful men and women. To CPO Abbott, CPO Felton, CPO Floding, PO1 Jorgenson, and PO3 Olson, thank you for everything, this program is truly better because of you. Fair Winds and Following Seas.

As always, we want to thank the parents, volunteers, and Council for making all these opportunities made possible for the cadets. We would also like to mention how much we appreciate the support of the Isanti Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, VFW Post 2735, North Branch Lions Club, and the Isanti County Sportsmen's Club.



The cadets continued to pay their respects and honor the fallen during Memorial Day. They presented the Colors, carried the wreaths representing major U.S. conflicts, and stood in formation alongside members of the Isanti VFW Post 2735 at the Cambridge Veteran's Memorial Park.

Command Updates



Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets

It's graduation season! Congratulations to all of the cadets, midshipman and sailors being recognized for their years of service, and future opportunities.



The Twin Cities Squadron has been getting after it this spring. In March, the unit had our annual inspection. The cadets put in the work brushing up on knowledge, prepared uniforms and shined shoes. They were certainly looking sharp. The inspection was performed WO5 Matthew Uveges USMC (ret) who proved once again to be particular - as any Marine would - but fair. Overall, the unit scored higher than last year, but the results left some room for improvement. We are working on restoring that rich TCS tradition of being among the top-rated USNSCC units. The highlight of event was the 2nd annual chili and pie cook off. The competition was fierce, but at the end of the day everyone left satisfied.



After inspection, the unit transitioned into flight themed training evolutions. AAT Paloma Pena, AR Langston Pena and AR Ajaya King prepared a mortar simulation exercise to teach basic laws of flight and trajectory. PO2 Weiland taught basic flight operations of aircraft carriers in preparation for virtual reality flight simulator training in APR. Continuing the aviation theme, TCS cadets went on a behind the scenes tour of the MSP International Airport. They learned about airside operations, airfield maintenance and damage control.



The unit found time to give back on Easter weekend. The cadets supported the city of Arden Hills Parks and Rec department for their annual easter egg hunt. Thanks to the snow-covered ground, the opportunity for training was not lost. The cadets received just in time training on performing line searches and backtracking for an easter egg search and recovery mission.



May was all about preparation for summer trainings. On 20-21 MAY the unit conducted an overnight bivouac on the grounds at Magnus Veterans Foundation.



Mortar Simulation

The rolling terrain and woods provided an ideal opportunity to practice land navigation, survival skills and some team building. The cadets also performed a flag retirement ceremony during which an estimated 6000+ flags were burned in a fire that lasted 13 hours. The cadet's set-up camp on the lakeside, and indulged in MRE's. The overnight was highlighted by unprovoked attack from an enemy combatant, leaving some cadets in a state of confusion and the others unsure of whether they should leave the relative safety of their tent. Safe to say they have some work to do in the areas of camp security, and counterattack operations.

A tired and weary squadron was up at 0600 for ruck march, followed by some SEAL inspired PT, a meal prepared over an open flame and ending the event with a community service project. This evolution tested both the mental and physical fortitude of the squadron. They returned home tired, hungry and sore.

Command Updates



Twin Cities Squadron (Continued)



Twin Cities Squadron participates in Memorial Day ceremonies at Ft. Snelling. Pictured with Sen. Klobacher



Memorial Day marked a day of service and reflection. The Twin Cities Squadron has supported the Remembrance Ceremony at Fort Snelling National Ceremony for more than decade. The color guard led the parade while cadets lined the route, and stood honor guard at the stage. The day finished with a Taps Across America event held at the Fleet Farm – Blaine.

June drill was all about our shipmates going ashore and celebrating. SN Alex Tiaden and his mother (Chef Kathleen Tiaden) put together a two-day culinary training, culminating with the cadets serving lunch to their parents to kick-off for our Senior

Farewell ceremony. The event was attended by NLUS - Minnesota Council President and keynote speaker Joe Fraser, and Director of Youth Programs Keith Larson.

The Twin Cities Squadron bids fair winds and following seas to three senior cadets in 2023. Combined they have over 16 years of service in the USNSCC. PO3 Avery Mortenson is headed to the NROTC program at University of Colorado. She retired from the TCS as Bravo squad leader, Asst. Master at Arms and was widely respected among her shipmates and officers. AN Christopher Schroer is continuing his education with hopes of securing a future spot in the NROTC program at University of MN. AN Schroer retired from the TCS as Alpha squad leader, Asst. Color Guard Captain, and unit



Twin Cities Squadron inspection

Corpsman. AA Caden Hogue is headed to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to study aerospace engineering with aspirations of becoming a test pilot.

In closing, the Twin Cities Squadron wishes to thank the Minnesota Council for the continued support and dedication to the USNSCC mission. As our cadets embark on trainings throughout the summer, the command staff will continue preparation for the fall. We can't wait to see what other supported units are doing. Check out our Facebook page for more NSCC Twin Cities Squadron videos and content.

Other News

US Navy – Distinguished Visitor Program

By Ensign Shawn Wilson, Commanding Officer, Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets

Who doesn't want to be Maverick in Top Gun? For most of us, this is a dream we can realize only through Hollywood movies and video games. The idea of a setting foot on an underway navy warship is equally unrealistic, so we settle for spending a few bucks to visit decommissioned museum pieces.

But is that the whole story? The answer is no. The US Navy – Distinguished Visitor (DV) Program exists to provide muggles (civilians) a once in lifetime opportunity and glimpse into the world of naval aviation, up close and personal. The program is designed for leaders in local, civic, education and business communities to foster awareness and understanding of the role of naval aviation in meeting the nation's needs.

DV's embark from one of several naval stations (Norfolk, Jacksonville, San Diego, Pearl Harbor) to an aircraft carrier conducting training operations at sea. I was fortunate enough to be nominated by the NLUS-Minnesota Council and selected to participate in this program. Here is my Top Gun story.



On the way to USS Theodore Roosevelt

I arrived at Naval Air Station – North Island, the birthplace of naval aviation and home to the Pacific Command Naval Air Force. Moored at the piers were gigantic hulks bearing the hull numbers CVN 72 and CVN 70, the USS Abraham Lincoln and Carl Vinson respectively. My intended destination, USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) was already underway and operating some 150-175 nautical miles off the coast in the North Pacific Ocean. Following a brief tour, photo ops and the obligatory safety briefing it was time to fly.

A group of 12 DV's, mostly academics, a sea cadet Commanding Officer and a rock n roll drummer boarded a CMV-22B Osprey. Seriously, she played the drums on the Top Gun soundtrack! After an exhilarating 1.5 hour flight cruising at 6,000 ft with the rear cargo hatch open, exposing the blue waters below, we arrived. I successfully completed my first tiltrotor landing as sea! And I have the patch to prove it!

Once aboard, the organized chaos of the flight deck hits you as fast as the rotor wash and smell of jet fuel.

The array of colors, like a bag of skittles, adds to the sensory overload. The airboss and miniboss extended a welcome aboard wave from tower control. So focused on each step to avoid tripping on the no skid surface on the weather deck, I hardly appreciated the MH-60 Seahawks, E-2 Hawkeyes and F-18 Hornets and Super hornets preparing for daily flight operations.

After a quick introductory meeting with the Skipper and XO, the DV's were ushered below decks to get prepared for the flight deck. I made a mental note, the CO's foreword cabin was way nicer than anything I had seen on those old WW2 ships. Preparing for the flight deck, Kenny Loggins Danger Zone began to play in my head. This was it, I got to don a white float coat with DV on the back and its array of salt water activated life saving devices in the event I fell (or was blown) overboard. Then the white "cranial" helmet with integrated hearing protection and goggles. At this point all efforts to communicate required hand signals. Up two decks and onto a catwalk. This was the first time I realized the ship was moving, and it was fast. Looking down through the holes, 70 feet below the water rushed by and created gentle swells as it rolled off the hull. What a magnificent shade of blue.

Rounding a corner past the island our guide, a freshly minted Ens., welcomed us to the flight deck by walking us directly through the jet wash from an F-18. The heat and smell alone were reminders to avoid that in the future – a safety lesson in real time.

Other News

US Navy – Distinguished Visitor Program (Continued)

We approached the Shooter (yellow jersey) or Flight Deck Officer and toe up to the foul line of catapult number 2. The symphony begins. The blast shield raises behind an F-18 Super Hornet. Green jerseys move in to secure the aircraft to the shuttle and restraining bar. White jersey's (Safety Officers) give the thumbs up when the flaps are tested. The shooter gives the pilot the signal to throttle up, in this case full combat thrust (aka afterburners). The pilot gives a final salute and grabs the cockpit, or "oh shit", handle. The shooter drops to one knee, final checks and a tap of the flight deck pointing downrange. The catapult control station releases the steam operated catapult and in 2 seconds that F-18 is travelling 180+ knots launching off the bow. No time to contemplate what I just witnessed. The deafening roar, shaking of the deck and heat from the afterburners roaring past me, a mere 30 feet away. Time to move! We toe up to the opposite foul line, and another F-18 launches barely a minute later. Rinse and repeat, the symphony continued until the mission set was launched.

About 75 minutes later it was time to recover those aircraft. They move into approach, 2 miles out. Damage control teams (red jerseys) stand at the ready to jump into action in the event of a catastrophe. The goal is not to hit a wire, but the third wire every time. And to do it while travelling 150 knots. To low you risk hitting the fantail, to high and you miss the wires. The Landing Signal Officer (LSO) guides them in with the Fresnel lens optical landing system, aka the meatball. The pilot gracefully passes over the stern and with a violent thud, and sudden rush of power drags the arresting gear wire some 350 feet, coming to a rest a precariously short distance from the edge of the deck at the end of catapults 3 and 4. The arresting gear quickly recoils, the green jerseys guide the F-18 away from the landing zone. A minute later, the next F-18 completes the landing, this time catching the second wire. Each pilot is graded on every approach and landing, and so the friendly competition between these Top Guns begins. Admittedly, nothing can beat watching flight operations on the weather deck. That evening, we mingled with the officers in the wardroom, learning their



stories. Up to the flag bridge and vultures' row for night flight operations. The evening wound down with a walk through the hangar, and getting oriented to the various decks, and differences between enlisted and officer country.

Fortunately, we were treated to officers' quarters for berthing, but even then, it was directly below the number 2 catapult. It was not the high seas that keep me up most of the night, but the repetitive sound of the launch system and sailors on night watch passing through passageways talking shop and life.

Up at 0600 and morning chow with the enlisted. No complaints here, the chow was fantastic and sailors eager to talk to someone other than ships company. For the rest of the morning, we toured the various departments and shops, learning about what it took to keep this floating city alive and functioning at peak performance. Of course, military secrets and all we were not allowed in some areas and photography was restricted or prohibited. The ordinance magazines housing sidewinder missiles, bunker busters and an array of highly classified things that go boom!

Other News

US Navy – Distinguished Visitor Program (Continued)

Afternoon chow was a real treat, the Chief Mess. Arguably the most sacred space on the ship. The Chief's are widely considered the backbone of ship, and they work hard and long hours. But get them in a relaxed atmosphere and you can see they are a special breed with a personality that is very different from the enlisted ranks and officers.

To round out our tours, we got to visit the Navigation Bridge where the responsibility levels seem to ratchet up a notch, and the tension level was higher. The constant chorus of bearing, range, and time marks filled the air. Everyone had a job, and they did it with a no-nonsense precision. The ships captain sat calmly overseeing the operation from what can only be described as a throne overlooking the deck.

To complete the Top Gun experience, nothing can beat a trip through the Air Department. Home Air Wing Groups are assigned to the ship. We had the Checkmates, Jokers, Titans and my personal favorite the Black Nights. Each with cadre of support staff combing through flight data, maintenance reports and landing evaluations. Then through a highly decorated hatch, often adorned with some version of KEEP OUT, was the pilots ready room. A floating pad adorned with big screen TV's, surround sound, chairs that resemble cockpits, mood lighting and any number of caricatures depicting the squadrons colors and logo. Aviators comparing notes on landings, and the blue board chalked full of call signs and otherwise uninterpretable data on upcoming flight plans and mission sets. Be careful to avoid the heavy bolt hanging precariously at head-level knocking height over one pilot's chair – the last in the squadron to miss a wire. Merely touching it is sure to bring bad luck. Being the proud owner is not good thing. Moving through the squadron spaces, we visit the equipment rooms where technicians tend to flight suits and helmets with head up display systems worth more than some homes on the mainland. I deferred the opportunity to suit up, I don't need the memory of dropping Mavericks helmet on the deck. I would be awarded the bolt for sure! Or the washer!



Our visit concluded with a return trip aboard another Osprey, earning my patch for my first tiltrotor takeoff at sea. It wasn't the "cat shot" of my Top Gun dreams, but it sure checked off a bucket list item or maybe ten items.

A special thanks to the sailors and airmen of the USS Theodore Roosevelt for giving this muggle a view into your world, and the sacrifices you make everyday to protect the freedom we all enjoy. I am honored to say I have embarked with the best – the US Navy! Hooyah!

Ensign Shawn Wilson is the Commanding Officer of Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets located in Arden Hills, Minnesota. Twin Cities Squadron is the largest of three Sea Cadet units in Minnesota and has both League Cadets (Ages 10-12) and Sea Cadets (Ages 13-18). The Twin Cities Squadron is part of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

Other News

Naval Academy Induction Program

It's been a very busy period for the Naval Academy Information Program and the associated Blue and Gold Officers. June 3rd marked the annual welcome aboard picnic for the United States Naval Academy Class of 2027 Midshipmen candidates and their parents. This event is sponsored by the United States Naval Academy Parents Association of Minnesota (PAMN).

At the event, presentations were made to parents and Midshipmen candidates on a variety of topics including the value of involvement in the PAMN by NAIP Deputy Area Coordinator Captain Brad Gawboy, USN (Ret.). Additionally, NAIP Area Coordinator Captain Mark Salmen, USN (Ret.) briefed parents and Midshipmen Candidates on the NAIP and the path to becoming a Naval Academy Blue and Gold Officer (BGO). He also discussed the Naval Academy's summer programs including sports camps, STEM camps and the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS). After the general briefings, the group split into 2 groups: parents and Midshipmen Candidates. Captain Salmen discussed the rigors of Plebe year at the Naval Academy and also discussed the tools made available to Midshipmen to help them to achieve the highest levels of success throughout the academic program at USNA.

The United States Naval Academy boasts a 90% graduation success rate over a rigorous 4-year course of study. All graduates of the Naval Academy earn a Bachelor of Science degree in 1 of 26 available majors. In addition to the academic success required for graduation, Midshipmen also receive 4 years of military professional training, focusing on future duty in the United States Navy or United States Marine Corps. Added to an already full schedule of activities is Midshipmen participation in varsity, club or intramural sports and other extracurricular activities. A minimum 2.0 grade point average is required for graduation and commissioning, Minnesota's 4th Congressional District also held a recognition ceremony for the Midshipmen and Cadet candidates who will be entering our nation's service academies this summer. Congresswoman Betty McCollum hosted a gathering to recognize each of these outstanding students. She provided those in attendance with a background on each successful candidate and presented each candidate with an American flag that had been flown over the U.S. capital.

Several Navy League board members attended the commissioning ceremonies for graduating seniors at the University of Minnesota. These graduating seniors had been active in NROTC throughout their college careers and were commissioned as Ensigns in the United States Navy or 2nd Lieutenants in the United States Marine Corps. The ceremony was conducted in an impressive and professional manner. It was noted that 2 NROTC Midshipmen had taken advantage of the opportunity to apply to USNA while in college and are now part of the Naval Academy Class of 2027. It is not unusual for college students to apply to our nation's service academies. Data shows that approximately 1/3 of every class entering USNA has successfully completed at least 1 year of college prior to entering the Naval Academy.

The NAIP BGOs will be participating in several recruiting and informational activities in the coming months. BGOs are teaming up with Navy Recruiting personnel in the coming months in order to provide information on USNA and the sea services to interested students. Planned events include the Duluth, Minnesota Airshow featuring the Navy's Flight Demonstration team, the Blue Angels. This event takes place Saturday, July 15 and Sunday, July 16, 2023.

Recently the D-Day landing at Normandy, June 6, 1944, was recognized, with tribute being paid to those who served during World War II and "gave their all" so that others may live in freedom. This date also has more recent significance in that it marked an important milestone in the Navy career of Captain Mark Salmen, USN (Ret.). June 6, 1973 marked his graduation from the United States Naval Academy and commissioning as an Ensign in the United States Navy. Captain Salmen currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota chapter of the Navy League and is currently serving his 20th year as the NAIP Area Coordinator for the State of Minnesota.

Other News

Minnesota Military Museum Update Major Milestone Reached

With strong, bipartisan support, the Minnesota state legislature provided more than \$30,000,000 for construction of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum at Camp Ripley.

The ceremonial groundbreaking for this new facility will take place on Sunday, September 17, 2023.

The Museum board of directors has been eager to gather input and share updates at every turn. The on-going fundraising drive to outfit the facility with the finest collections, classrooms and galleries now takes on a special urgency.

Projected Completion Date: Summer of 2025

For more information: MN Vet Museum or rdietrich@mnmilitarymuseum.org



Did You Know... By Brandon Montanye

Minnesota has had several ships named after the state and locations within the state. Two of which were the battleship USS Minnesota (BB-22) and the heavy cruiser USS Minneapolis (CA-36). Although these two ships no longer exist, they both had renowned service lives. But did you know that you can still see both ship's bells right here in Minnesota?

USS Minnesota (BB-22) was built at the Newport News shipyard in Virginia and commissioned in March 1907. From December 1907 to February 1909, Minnesota steamed around the World with President Roosevelt's "Great White Fleet", in one of the most impressive demonstrations of naval power projection at the time. Later in 1912 she would go on to support operations to put down an insurrection in Cuba. In 1913 to 1914 she patrolled the coast of Mexico during the Mexican Revolution. Later during WWI, she served as a training ship. In September of 1918 she struck a mine off the coast of Fenwick Island (Delaware–Maryland), laid by a German U-boat.

Other News

Did You Know...

By Brandon Montanye (Cont.)



USS Minnesota (BB 22)



USS Minneapolis (CA-36)

Due to the severe damage, she did not participate in the rest of the war. After her repairs she was used as a transport ship to return American soldiers from Europe in 1919. From 1920 to 1921 she resumed duties as a training ship.

In 1921, USS Minnesota was decommissioned. She was stricken from the Navy registry in December of 1922. The ship was dismantled at the Philadelphia Navy Yard, and her remains were sold for scrap in January 1924. Her bell was presented to the City of Minneapolis for display in December 1990, by the Navy League of the United States, Twin Cities Council.

The second ship to be named USS Minneapolis (CA-36) was laid down 27 June 1921 by the Philadelphia Navy Yard; launched 6 September 1933 and commissioned 19 May 1934. She would go on to fight in WWII. Minneapolis fought in over 25 major combat engagements, for which she earned 17 battle stars, which include the battles at Coral Sea, Midway, Guadalcanal, Tassafaronga, Wake, Kwajalein, the Marshalls, Hollandia, the Marianas, Leyte Gulf, the Philippines Invasion, and Okinawa. She was torpedoed by Japanese destroyers during the Battle of Tassafaronga, off Guadalcanal on 30 November 1942, but she was repaired and returned to fight until war's end. Minneapolis ended her distinguished career on 10 February 1947 when she was decommissioned. Later the ship was sold for scrapping on 14 August 1959 to Union Metals and Alloys Corp. The USS Minneapolis (CA-16) bell was presented to the City of Minneapolis by the US Navy in early 1960 and has been in the procession of the Hennepin County Historical Society since.



You can see both bells displayed at the Minneapolis convention center located at 1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN. They are located across the street from the main entrance.



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Minnesota Council
2023 Officers*

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|--|
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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July

| | |
|--|---------|
| Independence Day | July 4 |
| National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day | July 27 |
| National Buffalo Soldiers Day | July 28 |
| Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary | July 29 |



August

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Anti-Terrorism Awareness Month | Entire Month |
| Coast Guard Day | August 4 |
| Purple Heart Day | August 7 |
| U.S. Department of Defense Birthday | August 10 |
| Navajo Code Talkers Day | August 14 |
| National Airborne Day | August 16 |
| Minnesota State Fair | August 24 – September 4 |
| Marine Corps Reserve Birthday | August 29 |



September

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| National Suicide Prevention Month | Entire Month |
| V-J Day | September 2 |
| Labor Day | September 4 |
| Patriot Day | September 11 |
| Constitution Week | September 17-23 |
| Hispanic Heritage Month | Sept 15 – October 15 |
| Constitution Day/Citizenship Day | September 17 |
| National POW Recognition Day | September 15 |
| Air Force Birthday | September 18 |
| Air National Guard Birthday | September 18 |
| Gold Star Mother's Day | September 24 |
| VPW Day | September 29 |

