



Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



3rd Quarter 2022



USS Minneapolis Saint-Paul Commissions and Begins Sail-Around Transit

ATLANTIC OCEAN

06.15.2022

Courtesy Story - Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO



ATLANTIC OCEAN (June 15, 2022) --

After 17 locks, five Great Lakes, four port visits, and hundreds of miles traveled later, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) at last arrived in the Atlantic Ocean, continuing its voyage to its future homeport, Mayport, Florida.

The road to make it to the Atlantic Ocean included months of preparation from the crew. In less than two months after move aboard in March, the crew certified in



several mission areas required to safely operate and get underway including: Search and Rescue, Navigation, Damage Control, Communications and Cyber, and passed its initial Engineering Light Off Assessment. Each evolution, although involving different departments on the ship, required careful coordination and support from each division and Sailor onboard and was necessary for the crew to be able to set sail from Escanaba, Michigan towards the site of its commissioning ceremony in Duluth, Minnesota.



On May 21, the ship's sponsor, Mrs. Jodi Greene, gave the order for the crew to "man the ship and bring her to life." Amongst hundreds of onlookers, the ship made it's much anticipated transition from pre-commissioned unit to United States Ship.

"It was humbling to be a part of a ceremony that was so important to so many people and to be a small part of the history of this ship is truly an honor," said Lt. Joseph Varello, the ship's Electronics Materials Officer, who was selected as both the Commissioning Coordinator and also the commissioning ceremony ceremonial Officer of the Deck.

After the commissioning festivities concluded, the ship began her transit eastward. Along the way, she stopped in Cleveland, Ohio, Quebec City, Quebec and Halifax, Nova Scotia for refueling, stores replenishment and liberty for the crew.

With only a few stops remaining before the ship arrives in Jacksonville, the crew is eagerly awaiting returning to their families and ready to take on the next challenges that will come their way as the Navy's newest warship.



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A Message from the Minnesota Council President



I want to start by saying how proud I am of the tremendous job done by our LCS21 Commissioning Committee for the commissioning of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul, in particular the Chair Brian Skon. His hard work and dedication ensured we raised enough funding to carry out a first-class commissioning week which included the roll out of a special beer from Bent Paddle, crew picnic, sponsors lunch, mayors' reception, Chairman's reception, platform breakfast, commissioning and the VIP reception after the commissioning as well as a box lunch for all attendees. Additionally, through his efforts, we will be receiving \$200,000 from the State of Minnesota which will help us continue support for our namesake ships. The entire LCS Commissioning team contributed to the events' success and I am grateful to Brian's team and leadership for all their work.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize Tom Wiesen for his leadership on the Top Gun-Behind the Curtain event held June 1. Having the pilots from VX-9 and VX-9 Detachment meet participants to describe their aircraft, what was real and what was cinematic magic was truly amazing and added great context to those who saw the movie that evening. This was an amazing event!!

We have spent the last few years focusing all our efforts on these events. On June 15 the Minnesota Council Board met to discuss where the Council should now focus.

Several years ago, we developed a Strategic Plan to lay out our focus areas. We also recently developed a membership document outlining why one should join the Navy League. Over the next 30-45 days, the Board will be reviewing and updating the focus areas of the strategic plan to determine the things we will concentrate on for the next few years. This will include looking at how we will support our adopted unit Ships, Active-Duty units, Coast Guard, youth programs such as JROTC, ROTC, Sea Cadets, and our corporate fundraising effort to support our programs/projects.

During this review, I expect we will also identify additional board positions that will be necessary in order to implement this vision. Aligning the strategic plan focus areas to why people should join (i.e., Heritage, Educate, Youth Programs, and Comradery) will further strengthen our Council efforts.

We will have several board positions to be filled this year, either because an incumbent has served for a period of time and is stepping down or new board positions that will be created during the strategic plan review. I want to encourage everyone to look at stepping up to serve on the Board of the Minnesota Council. It is only through your efforts our Minnesota Council will be able to continue to provide a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress on the importance of our Sea Services to our nation's defense.

Please enjoy the newsletter and should you have any inputs or suggestions we are always here to listen and digest them for action.

Best regards,
Bill James, President

Other News



Minnesota Navy League Council Wins Two Mackie Awards

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.

The Mackie Awards are a series of three different awards (Website, Newsletter and Social Media) given to Navy League councils for their communications efforts. Each of the awards are judged by a basic set of initial screening criteria and additionally are scored based on criteria that views the quality of work.

Our Council was honored to win the second highest level Mackie award, a gold award for both our Newsletter and Website. These awards recognize the consistent effort to provide quality information to Minnesota council members on what we as a council are doing in our newsletter and to provide timely, visual appealing information on our website.

Congratulations!!

Membership Update

The Minnesota Council is now at 185 members! We have made concerted efforts to increase our membership rolls by reaching out to people who attended our most recent events including the commissioning of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul and the Top Gun – Behind the Curtain event.

Also, we recently developed recruiting material that outline Four Pillars providing reasons why people should join our Council. These Pillars are Heritage, Educate, Youth Programs and Camaraderie. We encourage all members to reach out to their friends and colleagues to let them know about the Minnesota Navy League and help us to increase our presence within the State of Minnesota.

Later this year, we will be exploring offering Corporate memberships/sponsors to develop relationships with the Minnesota business community. We need a strong membership to continue the work being done by the Council. We also need members who are willing to be a part of the Council Board to increase the great work the council is doing.

Membership materials are available on our website at: <https://navyleaguemn.org/why-join>





USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Rescues Mariner

UNITED STATES

06.09.2022

Story by Lt. Anthony Junco

Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO

ST. LAWRENCE RIVER – The Freedom-variant Littoral Combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) provided emergency assistance to a motor vessel in distress while transiting the St. Lawrence River, June 3, 2022.



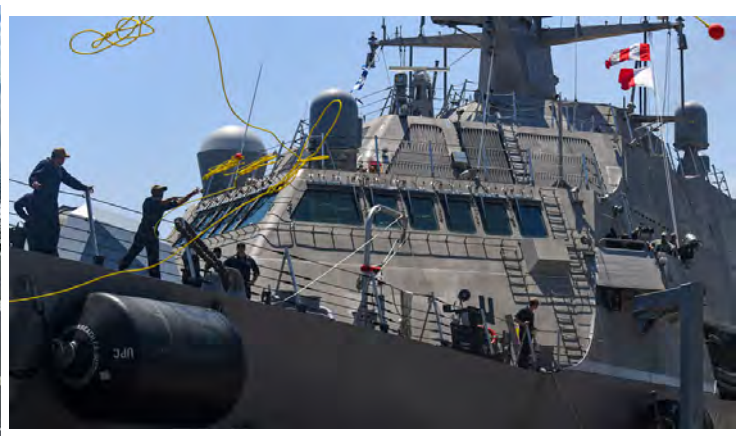
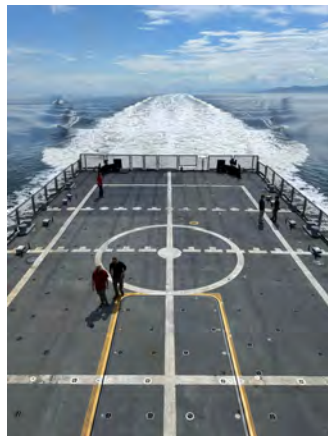
Minneapolis-Saint Paul received notification that a motor vessel was taking on water near the Cat Island Shoals. Diverting course to provide assistance to the vessel, Minneapolis-Saint Paul then deployed their rigid-hull inflatable boat to rescue the stranded mariner. Minneapolis-Saint Paul safely recovered the stranded mariner and transferred them to a Fire Rescue boat.

“I’m happy and thankful that we were prepared and ready to respond in the event of a worst case scenario,” said the ship’s Primary Search and Rescue (SAR) Swimmer, Sonar Technician 2nd Class Camron Bates.

Recently commissioned in Duluth, Minnesota, Minneapolis-Saint Paul is the 11th Freedom-variant LCS and the second naval ship to honor Minnesota’s Twin Cities.

“Our ship’s motto is ‘I will either find a way or make one’,” said Cmdr. Alfonza White, Commanding Officer of Minneapolis-Saint Paul. “I’m incredibly proud of the Sailors aboard Minneapolis-Saint Paul whose actions reflected that ideal today.

The Littoral Combat Ship is a fast, agile, mission-focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, winning against 21st-century coastal threats. The LCS is capable of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control, and deterrence.



USS Minneapolis Saint Paul transited 17 locks, five Great Lakes, four port visits, and hundreds of miles to reach the Atlantic Ocean. Now transiting the Atlantic and on the way to Mayport, the ship stopped at Naval Submarine Base New London.

Command Updates



NTAG Northern Plains

Hello Navy League of Minnesota!

I hope this finds you in good health while you're enjoying a beautiful Minnesota summer.



I am Cmdr. John "Knox" Allen, the newly appointed Commanding Officer of NTAG Northern Plains. I am incredibly excited and honored to be taking on the challenge of leading our great NTAG Northern Plains team and continuing on with our recruiting mission efforts of spreading positive Navy awareness throughout the Midwest.



(June 24, 2022) Minneapolis, Minn. – Newly assumed Commanding Officer, Cmdr. John Allen, posing for a command photo with his NTAG Northern Plains sailors following the Northern Plains' Change of Command Ceremony.



On June 24th, we held our Change of Command Ceremony at the Minnesota State capital building. Cmdr. Jim Duvall, our previous Skipper, is moving on to be the Assistant Reactor Officer onboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN-72). We wish him the best of luck at his new command! We also would like to welcome Cmdr. Jonny "DOZER" Kane who has taken over as the new Executive Officer. He is coming to us from the Pentagon where he worked in OPNAV N81 after attending the Naval War College in Rhode Island.

We are doing our best to get out and about amongst our communities and take advantage of the summer weather, while also working hard in our recruiting stations focused on our mission of manning the fleet. While the entire recruiting enterprise across all services has been experiencing tremendous challenges, I am confident in our Northern Plains sailors and hopeful that our level of effort towards spreading Navy education and career opportunities will make a lasting impact in the great state of Minnesota and beyond.



(APR 8, 2022) MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. – NTAG Northern Plains command personnel pose for picture at their command wide training.

This summer has already been a busy one for us! The Navy's Blue Angels held two events within our AOR that our sailors were in attendance for at Fort Ellsworth in Rapid City, SD and the Chippewa Regional Airport in Chippewa Falls, WI. You will also see us out and about at local county/state fairs, festivals and other city events.

As for command morale, we are coming up on our command picnics in July! These picnics will be an opportunity for us as a command to take a step away from the mission and be together while enjoying a little fun in the sun outside of the rigorous efforts of a recruiting tour.

Very respectfully,

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



(June 24, 2022) Minneapolis, Minn. – Cmdr. John Allen presents Cmdr. James Duvall with a departing gift at NTAG Northern Plains' Change of Command Ceremony.

Command Updates



Marine Safety Unit - Duluth

MSU Duluth has been involved in a lot of events this spring and will continue this summer! Members of MSU Duluth, USCG Auxiliary, and Station Duluth went up to the northern portion of MSU Duluth's Area of Response (AOR) to attend the Lake of the Woods Resort Owner Meeting in Baudette, MN. USCG discussed their roles and educated resort owners, stakeholders, and other government agencies in Lake of the Woods about the Coast Guard missions, jurisdiction, Merchant Mariner Credentials, and Uninspected Passenger Vessel Exams.

MSU Duluth played a small role in the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Commissioning behind the scenes coordinating with other government agencies to try and ensure Navy Public Affairs and the LCS had the point of contacts necessary to have a safe commissioning.

Cruise ships have arrived in MSU Duluth's AOR. Duluth received their first cruise ship this past month. Prior to the cruise ships arriving, MSU Duluth played a vital role in working with Duluth, Bayfield, and Houghton's local government, port stakeholders, and Customs and Border Protection to ensure that the new cruise ship facilities are safe and meet Maritime Transportation Security Act regulations for security.

Our container inspectors recently conducted the first container inspections done by MSU Duluth. Our container inspectors work diligently to ensure that there is no structural damage to the container as well as checking paperwork to ensure that it matches the contents in the container and the container is the appropriate type.



MST2 Davis inspecting Container

We have been and are continuing to work with the public, port stakeholders, and other government agencies to keep our waterways safe. Looking ahead, there is Tall Ships Two Harbors August 4-7 which MSU Duluth reminds folks to keep at least 100-yard distance from any Tall Ship moving and 25 yards away when they are moored at the pier. We have been working with organizations to ensure this event from the waterfront will be safe for patrons and the Tall Ships. Our Waterways division approved 15 Marine Event Permits this season so far, which include firework shows, boat parades, and ski shows across the AOR.

After July 8th, USCG MSU Duluth will have a new Commanding Officer Cmdr. Jason DeWitz, who is reporting from Sector Honolulu in Honolulu, HI where he was the Chief of Prevention overseeing vessel inspections, facility inspections, aids to navigation, waterways, and investigations in his area of response. Cmdr. Smith is reporting to Training Center Yorktown Virginia as the Training Division Chief.

Our office would like to remind folks reading this newsletter to always wear a lifejacket and have a float plan prior to getting underway in your boat. You can find more information on safe boating practices at www.paddlesafetwinports.org/safety.php



MSU Duluth presentation to Lake of the Woods mariners

Command Updates



SPAR

After traveling the 3500 nautical mile journey back into the Great Lakes in March SPAR is closing out a three-month stint away from home. The crew of the SPAR has earned some much-needed time at home with their families. This time with family is critically important especially for new member's who's loved ones had just been through their first Duluth winter.



SPAR hosted Senator Klobuchar as she visited the cutter to officially welcome the new hull to Duluth, MN. Senator Klobuchar expressed her gratitude for the Coast Guard's continued commitment to maintaining the Great Lakes Maritime Transportation System. Lt. Cmdr. Wright and Senator Klobuchar also discussed the significance of the name SPAR and its commemoration of the women who served in vital roles during WWII.



After the break, SPAR lost no time in jumping in to participate in the Coast Guard ice breaking mission. The cutter took over responsibility for Duluth Harbor ensuring open shipping channels and allowing for the release of other Coast Guard assets to much needed maintenance periods. SPAR also was able to fit in two weeks of Aids to Navigation operations prior to starting it's required scheduled maintenance period making Isle Royal and the Apostle Islands ready for summer navigation.



The Minnesota Navy League presented YN2 Kosich as SPAR Sailor of the Quarter in late May and is working to establish a meaningful relationship with the ship and crew.

University of Minnesota ROTC



Newest Navy Ensigns and Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants from the University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota Naval ROTC had an eventful spring semester, culminating in the commissioning of new Navy Ensigns and Marine Corps 2nd Lieutenants. Their four-year journey was celebrated in front of family, friends, and the Battalion. We thank and appreciate Rear Admiral Ver Hage, Commander, Navy Regional Maintenance Center and Director, Surface Ship Maintenance, Modernization, and Sustainment, for traveling to Minnesota to be their Commissioning Officer. Each one of these new officers has put in an overwhelming amount of time and effort to finally start their military career. Please join us in welcoming them to the fleet!

Additionally, this semester, we were able to find a unique hands-on naval training opportunity in Duluth, MN, aboard the SS William Irvin. MIDN Andrew Harris coordinated with LT Davan Scott, OIC of Twin Ports Navy Cadets, to provide ship familiarization, knot tying, and line handling training.



Midshipman participate in training aboard SS William I Irvin in Duluth

Command Updates

University of Minnesota ROTC (Continued)



The Duluth shipyard provided a true naval training environment with the 15-knot wind blowing near freezing rain while both Navy option and a handful of dedicated Marine option Midshipmen heaved lines to ensure the SS Irvin was properly moored at the pier. This event was extremely useful and we thank the staff of the SS William A. Irvin and the Twin Ports Navy Cadet Corps for the opportunity.



On the same day Navy option Midshipmen were aboard SS Irvin, the Marine options of Alpha Company had the honor of touring the Presidential Helicopter VH-3, (known as Marine-1 when the President is embarked). The Midshipmen had the opportunity to speak to the Marines who fly the aircraft, helping us gain new insight into the Marine aviation community and rotary wing aviation across the fleet.



The spring weather offered several outdoor physical training opportunities including our biannual three-mile cadence run to the “Witch’s Hat” water tower at the south end of campus. Members of both Alpha and Charlie companies brought motivating cadences to encourage and inspire the Battalion on the road.

The spring weather also allowed us to share Navy and Marine Corps physical fitness with the Minneapolis community in the form of our

HMX Tour of Presidential Helicopter VX-3



annual Battalion Eagle and Anchor 5K Run and Walk at Lake Phalen. MIDN Nathan Van Zuilen and MIDN Jenna Bjella led the Mother’s Day run and friends and family members of the Battalion turned out in support of the event and the Unit. The Eagle and Anchor 5K is one of our biggest and most enjoyable yearly fundraisers. If you missed the 5K this spring and want to get involved, find our Facebook page and stay tuned for information about next year's race and other events throughout the year.



Witches Hat Run



Eagle and Anchor 5K run

Command Updates

Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Update

The Como Park MCJROTC is under a new regime now as we bid our farewell to the graduating seniors and welcome the incoming rising seniors for School Year (SY) 22-23. Cadet Major Jesiah Mason is the new Commanding Officer and Cadet Sergeant Major Sophia Moore is the new Cadet Sergeant Major.



SY 2022-2023 Staff

Several JROTC cadets/students closed out SY21-22 at Valley Fair Amusement Park. A beautiful sunny day in the park was just the sendoff needed amongst good friends. Semper fidelis.

Additionally, weekly physical fitness weekly remains a critical part of the Como MCJROTC curriculum and allows each and every cadet the ability to do the best that they can with the body they have.



Cadets participate in a plant sale at St. Anthony Park Elementary School.



Several JROTC cadets/students closed out SY21-22 at Valley Fair Amusement Park.

Other News

Top Gun: Behind the Curtain – June 1, 2022

Top Gun: Behind the Curtain was the Minnesota Navy League’s event to celebrate the movie’s portrayal of Naval aviation and to supplement the movie with presentations by Naval Fighter pilots to give attendees the backstory of the jet aircraft, the Top Gun program, and Naval Aviation.

The event required the collaboration between seven entities, including the Minnesota Navy League, University of Minnesota NROTC, Minneapolis St. Paul Joint Air Reserve Station, 934th Air Lift Wing, Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC), Air Test and Evaluation Squadron VX-9/VX-9 Detachment, and CMX Odyssey Cinema.

The NROTC unit arranged with VX-9/VX-9 Det to have four Navy Fighter jets at the Minneapolis St. Paul Joint Air Reserve Station. VX-9 F/A 18 E/F Superhornet, an EA-18G Growler, and two F35C fighter jets arrived at the Joint Air Reserve Station on May 31.



Participants were able to tour F-35C jets and talk with the pilots

On June 1st, Cmdr. Tom “White Tiger” Herrold, Executive Officer VX-9, led a team of two F-35C pilots, two F/A-18E/F/EA-18G Pilots, two F/A-18E/F Radar Intercept Officers (RIOs), and six enlisted maintainers. During a presentation in the NOSC Auditorium, pilots discussed the jets capabilities and Lt. Cmdr. Dylan "Spatch" Aaker (TOPGUN Graduate and TOPGUN Adversary Course Graduate) spoke about the realities of the Top Gun program and the movie. Enlisted maintainers also discussed their critical roles in maintaining the aircraft. Participants were also provided a close-up look at the jets as pilots walked participants around the aircraft and described features and

functions of the aircraft and fielded questions. Before the public presentation, the Navy League sponsored Navy youth (i.e., JROTC unites, Sea Cadets and NROTC Midshipmen) to visit the jets and talk with the pilots/maintainers.

At the CMX Odyssey theater, participants viewed the movie and immediately following the movie were able to ask questions of the pilots about the parts of the movie that were real and those that were embellished for cinematic drama.



Tom Wiesen and Joyce Lacey pose with LT Garcia at the NOSC Auditorium.



Cmdr. Tom “White Tiger” Herrold, Executive Officer VX-9 addressed the media on May 31.

Other News

Naval Academy Induction Program

The United States Naval Academy Class of 2026 has been filled. Prospective Midshipmen have been issued their permit to report. This year has been exceptional for Minnesota applicants. Minnesota boasts 19 new prospective Midshipmen including 2 prospective Midshipmen who successfully completed the course of study and professional training at the Naval Academy Preparatory School located in Newport, Rhode Island. This year all of Minnesota's 8 Congressional Districts plus both Senate offices are represented in this new reporting class.



On Saturday, June 11, 2022, the United States Naval Academy Parents Association of Minnesota hosted an informational seminar for parents and perspective Midshipmen. The seminar was facilitated by the parents' association co-presidents Edmundo and Lydia Lijo and Ken and Monica Wagner. A variety of topics were discussed including USNA reporting

procedures, physical physical preparations and a general overview of academy life. The general session was closed out by Minnesota's NAIP Area Coordinator Captain Mark Salmen, USN (Ret.), who is a member of USNA's Class of 1973. He commented on the selection process and the tools available at USNA to help every Midshipman succeed in the 4-year course of academic and professional studies.

Another first for Minnesota's Blue and Gold Officers was the awarding of the Secretary of the Navy Meritorious Public Service Award to Commander Dwain "Pete" Petersen, USN (Ret.). Commander Petersen was recognized for his 70 years of combined active, reserve and volunteer service and in particular, was recognized for outstanding service while serving as a Naval Academy Information Officer. Congratulations to Commander Petersen as he continues in his volunteer duties as a Naval Academy Information Officer.

Outreach North



The cast and crew working on the African American Submarine Experience documentary

The Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council, Vice President of Outreach North, Joyce Lacey, has been very busy this past quarter working on the documentary "The African American Submarine Experience", helping out at the Commissioning of the USS Minneapolis St. Paul LCS21, working with the Top Gun Event, delivering necessities to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, VA Homes and Hospitals, serving lunch at the Peterson Tripp Post American Legion following the Memorial Day Program.

Other News

Did You Know...

By: Brandon Montanye

The Forgotten Star Brew Company, located at 38 Northern Stacks Dr, Fridley, MN opened their doors in 2019 to brew and serve beer. Their event center hosts everything from business meetings to weddings. The team at the brewing company are “Focused on providing award winning beer with five-star hospitality.”

But did you know that the building which now houses the brewery was once the location of one of the most efficient naval guns manufacturers of WWII? The Northern Pump Company started out in 1929 manufacturing high pressure heavy duty positive displacement rotary gear pumps that were used for firefighting. The company produced pumps in that building through 1941, until the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred. After the U.S. entry into WWII, the plant was able to completely change from manufacturing pumps to manufacturing guns for Navy ships and was called Northern Ordnance.



Forgotten Star Brewery once produced guns for Navy Ships

The manufacturing facility expanded and earned the reputation for excellence in manufacturing. The War Department and the Navy Department agreed to make a single award to individual plants that achieved outstanding performance on war production. It was called the Army-Navy “E” award for excellence in production of war equipment. The criteria were as follows.

Quality and quantity of production in the light of available facilities were given the greatest weight in selecting recipients of the award. Other factors included:

Overcoming of production obstacles, avoidance of stoppages, maintenance of fair labor standard, training of additional labor forces, effective management, record on accidents, health sanitation, and plant protection and lastly, utilization of subcontracting facilities.

Plants which maintained an outstanding record of performance for six months after receiving the original Army-Navy “E” Award were granted a Star Award, indicated by a white star on their “E” flag. Additional stars could be won for continued outstanding performance for succeeding six-month periods until the flag carried four stars, after which the interval was increased to one year. During WWII the Northern Ordnance plant earned seven Navy “E” awards, which are still visible on the brewery’s North stack. Of the 4,283 plants which were granted the award, Northern Ordnance was one of eight that had won six Star Awards total when the program ended.

Today the brewery sits in what was once the boiler room for the massive manufacturing facility that produced guns for the United States Navy and the ships that won the war. And now you know.



Forgotten Star Brewing Co. opening at the former Northern Pump Company in Fridley // Photo by Tj Turner. Note the six Star Awards on the North Stack.



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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 3rd CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

July

Independence Day	July 4
AirExpo 2021 Flying Cloud Airport	July 23-24
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day	July 27
National Buffalo Soldiers Day	July 28
Army Chaplain Corps Anniversary	July 29



August

Anti-Terrorism Awareness Month	Entire Month
Air Force Day	August 1
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 25 – September 5
Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	August 29
AUSA Vessey Golf Tournament- Mendakota Golf Club	August 29



September

National Suicide Prevention Month	Entire Month
V-J Day	September 2
Labor Day	September 5
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 16
Air Force Birthday	September 18
Air National Guard Birthday	September 18
Gold Star Mother's Day	September 26
VFW Day	September 29

