



*Navy League of the United States - Minnesota Council*



*The North Star*



## Navy League Minnesota Awards Como Park MCJROTC Award at Minnesota State Fair



The Minnesota Navy League had the great honor of exhibiting at the Minnesota State Fair during Military Appreciation Day on August 29, 2023. This was a tremendous opportunity to highlight what we do as a council and to offer veterans the opportunity to join our organization.

A big highlight of the event was to be able to present the Como Park MCJROTC with an award of \$1000 to recognize their phenomenal program. The Como Park Marine Corps JROTC continues to be

recognized as a Naval Honor School Program due to unit enrollment, volunteer campaigns, cadet citizenship, leadership camps, competitions, grade point averages, extra-curricular activities, public affairs, scholarships, MCJROTC academies, national level competitions and unit camaraderie.

Como Park MCJROTC cadets conduct many fundraisers throughout the year to fund their future events and adventures. They have volunteered for many years at the state fair and provide a valuable service to the State Fair Sanitation Department by helping keep the fair clean. In addition to volunteering to keep the fair clean, they also led the daily parade with their fantastic color guard led by Color Sergeant Rigoberto Flores.

The Minnesota Navy League VP Communications Pat Dolan was on the Dan Patch stage to present the award to the Como Park MCJROTC Cadet First Lieutenant Rigoberto Flores, Cadet First Sergeant Cooper Westrum, Cadet Corporal Soe Thoo, and Cadet Lance Corporal Hsa Lae. The award will be used to set up a Raider Team. Raiders promote esprit de corps, teamwork, self-confidence, self-discipline as well as physical fitness. It provides JROTC cadets a competitive program in five (with the option of additional events) mentally and physically challenging training events which take place outdoors. Each team has 9 members. 8 of which will compete in the various events. There must be at least 1 female as part of the 8. After completion of 4 events, each team will run a 5K which should be in formation and one cadet carrying a guidon.

### President

Joe Fraser  
[joe@fraserhaus.net](mailto:joe@fraserhaus.net)

### VP Communications

Pat Dolan  
[pkdolan37@gmail.com](mailto:pkdolan37@gmail.com)

### VP Membership

Bob Dolan  
[dolanrp@verizon.net](mailto:dolanrp@verizon.net)

Minnesota Council  
10803 Oak Grove Blvd  
Woodbury, MN 55129

## *You are invited to the 248th Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball*

The Minnesota Council will co-host the Navy's 248th Navy and Marine Corps Ball with the University of Minnesota NROTC. This year's theme is "248 Years of Power, Presence, and Protection".

**Saturday, October 28, 5:30-11:30 PM**

Radisson Blu at the Mall of America in Bloomington 2100 Killebrew Dr, Bloomington, MN 55425

**Hotel Reservations:**

<https://book.passkey.com/event/50655798/owner/10695459/home>

Reservation specialists are also able to assist by calling 952-314-5116. Ask for the Navy and Marine Corps Ball room block.

Meal ticket prices are \$65 for E1-E6, \$75 for E-7 and above, \$100 for Officers, \$125 for Civilians.

**To Register: <https://nlumn.ticketspice.com/2023-navy-marine-birthday-ball>**

Menu options include:

Grilled Salmon Fillet: (Gluten Free) Carrot Polenta, Garlic Scented Baby Spinach And Roast Tomato, Watercress Pesto

Chicken Wellington: Fricassee Of Leek And Wild Mushrooms, Thyme-Scented Sugar Snap Peas, Baby Carrots, Sunburnt Squash

Risotto: (Vegetarian) Thyme And Butternut Farro Risotto Grilled Eggplant And Asparagus Quills, Braised Fennel Escarole, Roasted Tomatoes, Shallot Soubise



Featured Speaker: Lt. Cmdr. (Retired) Mike Petersen served 27 years in the Naval Service. He served both as enlisted and as an officer. Seven Years active duty, to include the Navy Seawolf helicopter Squadron in Vietnam, the most decorated squadron in Navy History. He flew 269 combat missions receiving 17 Air medals and the Purple Heart. His other active-duty tours included Helicopter Support Squadron Four, serving the Marine ready reaction force in the Mediterranean. He served as a flight instructor and flight leader at Helicopter Training Squadron 18 training Navy and Marine Corps aviators. Leaving active duty in 1971, he continued to serve in a reserve capacity. Duties included Carrier Air Group Mediterranean 1082 and NAS Alameda 0178. After leaving active-duty he became a home builder and real estate developer in Pensacola Florida. When the real estate industry soured in 1981, he returned home to Minnesota where he opened and continues to operate his insurance agency in Chaska, Minnesota. He is married to his bride Suzan, and they have three children and nine grandchildren. He is a life Member of the Chaska VFW and Chaska American Legion. His passion is teaching young people that: "the price of freedom is not free".

# *A Message from the Minnesota Council President*



Every September, for the past 22 years, I pause and reflect on our Sea Services, the work they perform, and the world in which they perform it. It's not a behavior that comes naturally but one borne from tragedy. Today, I see the Services doing great things, under-resourced, overworked, in a world of growing uncertainty and regional instability.

Our Services have borne the burden of near constant deployments and poor material support driven by fiscal uncertainty over the past 20 years. China has risen from the peasant fields of the 1950's to become a peer threat. Russia marches on with its war against democracy in the Ukraine. Iran is normalizing ties with Middle Eastern nations. North Korea plots. Our alliances are frayed.

As an advocate for the Sea Services, I would be remiss if I did not encourage you to contact your elected representatives and ask them to put partisan politics aside and see the Services can ill-afford budget impasses and diplomatic indifference. A weakened and under-resourced Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Military Sealift Command only embolden those who wish to attack the US. I've lived through that; it doesn't end well.

Like many who were alive on September 11th, 2001, I can remember exactly where I was when the horror of that day unfolded in real time. I watched on live TV the second plane hit the world trade center - I was off watch, living in Germany, on the phone with the Senior Watch Officer asking him what he needed. I heard the Pentagon was hit. I tried calling my friend Darin who worked in the Chief of Naval Operations Intelligence Plot. I sent him an email. In less than an hour, I was on watch again, trying to glue together what happened for the next morning's intelligence briefing. I wouldn't get any sleep for the next three days. I never heard from Darin again.

As an advocate, I would be remiss if I didn't say how important it is to remember and celebrate, even in these uncertain times. Life in the Sea Services is never easy. And from tragedy, we are allowed a rare opportunity to reset our focus on things that bring us joy, as we will need those memories of happiness to bring us through the darkest hours.

As summer has come to a close, we now look forward to opportunities to commemorate and celebrate traditions and honor those brave souls who have gone before us. To toast the victories of our Services from the Revolutionary War to the War on Terror.

Next month, on the 28th of October, we will celebrate the 248th Birthday of the US Navy at the Radisson Blu in Bloomington. Later on this year, there will be the 124th Army/Navy Game, to be held on December 9th. Similar to last year, we will be celebrating this occasion by joining forces with the Association of the US Army.

As in all years past, I will lift a glass in honor and remembrance of those who cannot be there with us, enjoy the camaraderie with those who are present, and with a little luck, celebrate Christmas with an early gift...A Navy WIN and a passed defense budget!

For Darin and the 2,976 fallen.

In your service,

SJ Joseph D. Fraser CDR, USN (ret) President Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council [NavyLeagueMinnesota@gmail.com](mailto:NavyLeagueMinnesota@gmail.com) 703.887.6574 (Mobile) [www.navyleaguemn.org](http://www.navyleaguemn.org)



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul - A Test of the Ship and the Crew.

MAYPORT, Fla. (September 18, 2023) – The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) has completed a productive summer with an extremely busy third quarter. The ship and her crew represented the fleet in Bristol Rhode Island during the annual Independence Day celebration and completed the final milestones of Combat Systems Ship’s Qualification Trials (CSSQT).



Crew from USS Minneapolis Saint Paul in Bristol Independence Day Parade

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul kicked off the quarter in a very patriotic manner. Bristol, RI began the Annual Bristol 4th of July Celebration in 1785 with the Military, Civic and Fireman’s parade. USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul was one of the main attractions during the 238th Annual Celebration. The crew was excited to show off their ship and provided tours to the public and to civic leaders. The town hosted Sailors at several events, reinforcing positive relationships between the U.S. Navy and local citizens. The crew culminated the visit by marching in the Independence Day Parade.

USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul completed a ship-wide evolution known as Combat Systems Ship’s Qualification Trials. CSSQT is a Naval Sea Systems Command requirement for newly commissioned ships. These various trials take months of preparation, repetition and execution to ensure all combat systems are operable to their designed capabilities. In the month of August, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul completed final systems testing successfully from start to finish. The crew was ecstatic for the final test as it was a Live Fire Event (LFE) of the onboard air defense system known as SeaRAM.

As the ship works towards its first deployment, the warfare area leaders are preparing for certifying events with Afloat Training Group Mayport. These events encompass the beginning of the ship’s training phase, commonly known as Basic Phase. The primary focus of this quarter was Antiterrorism, Damage Control, and Fleet Support Operations-Medical (FSO-M) warfare areas.

Most recently and ending our final month for the third quarter, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul supported NASA’s SpaceX Crew-7 spacecraft launch. The ship provided a secondary Search and Rescue platform for Crew-7’s mission to the International Space Station.

The Sailors onboard USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul proudly displayed technical expertise, professionalism and dedication during every evolution and event. The crew will continue to build upon its accomplishments and focus on additional certifications in the final quarter of the year as the ship prepares for more success in 2024 and beyond.



At the end of the day, someone has to conduct maintenance after all of the live fire events. Here, GM2 Coakley performs the maintenance with a smile on his face

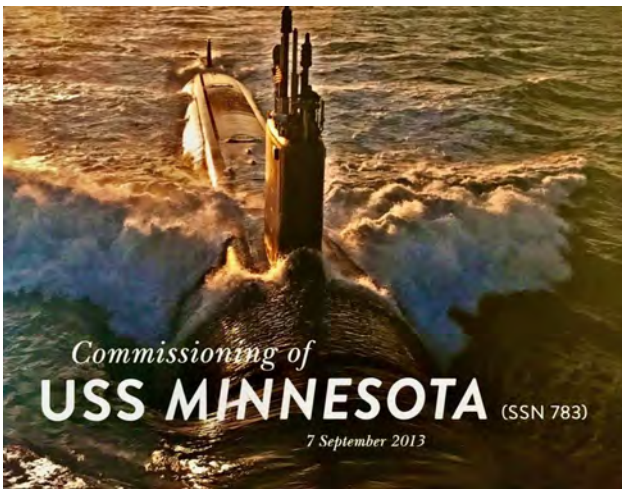


# USS Minnesota News

## USS Minnesota Celebrates 10 years since Commissioning

Vice President Adopted Units, Brian Skon, had the wonderful opportunity on September 12, 2023 to be on the KSTP Minnesota Live show to discuss the USS Minnesota - SSN 783 10-year anniversary.

It was tremendous to share with Minnesotans the proud 10-year history of the boat and to highlight her journey from commissioning to her present status at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. It was wonderful to be featured on KSTP-TV to talk about USS Minnesota and the great work that the Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council does for our Navy. Thank you Brian!!





# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Adopted Units



**USS Minnesota (SSN 78)** Crew members from USS Minnesota, led by Cmdr. Isaac Pelt, commanding officer, arrived in Minnesota for a Namesake visit in July for the Duluth Air Show. Cmdr. Pelt had the opportunity to speak from the

announcing stand to the crowd of 25,000 each day. He shared information on the status of USS Minnesota (SSN 783) and thanked the Minnesota citizens for being so welcoming.

Additionally, the Duluth Air Show organization included the crew and our Navy League members in their Friday evening event which included all of the air show performers. Our crew had the opportunity to mingle with members of the US Navy Blue Angels.



Crew Members from USS Minnesota in Duluth for the Air Show

Multiple Duluth area media affiliates interviewed the crew at the historic Duluth Ship Canal. Our crew enjoyed the opportunity to tour the shops in Canal Park.

USS Minnesota (SSN 783) is in the second year of a maintenance availability that will end in the first half of 2024. Work-ups and training will commence prior to the boat being available for national security tasking out of Pearl Harbor.

## USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21)

USS Minneapolis Saint Paul had a very busy schedule this summer. During their operations they embarked crews from other sister ships for training evolutions while those ships were in various stages of maintenance periods. The ship continues to be based at Naval Station Mayport and we anticipate a post commissioning maintenance period prior to the end of the year. The ship is currently working with their command requesting funds to participate in the 2023 Minnesota Navy and Marine Corps Ball. The Minnesota Navy League has funds to help mitigate their costs, so we hope to see 5-7 members of the crew here this fall.

## VP Council Programs/Event



The Navy League participated with a booth at the State Fair on Tuesday August 29 meeting military members, veterans and other

community members in addition to other military and veteran related organizations.



The Minnesota Council has a busy fall with several events. In October, the Minnesota Council will cohost the Navy's 248th Navy and Marine Corps Ball with the University of Minnesota NROTC. This year's theme is "248 Years of Power, Presence, and Protection". The event will be held Saturday, October 28th from 5:30 to 11:30 PM at the Radisson Blu at the Mall of America in Bloomington, Minnesota. The Navy League encourages early ticket sales. We are hopeful for a great evening filled with traditional ceremonies, a dynamic guest speaker, reconnecting with the broader Navy and Marine Corps community and post program entertainment with music and dancing. The committee is looking forward to jointly celebrating this dual birthday ball with our active duty and reserve commands in addition to veterans and civilians. If there are any questions or comments on this year's birthday ball, please reach out to Jeanette Sterner at 612-751-0263 or [Jeanmjoe@aol.com](mailto:Jeanmjoe@aol.com).



# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Events (Continued)

In November, the Minnesota Council is pleased to support the Naval Academy Glee Club for two concerts at Orchestra Hall on the evening of November 11 and an afternoon concert on November 12. For [additional details and tickets, please use this link: https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/tickets/calendar/live/u-s-naval-academy-glee-club/](https://www.minnesotaorchestra.org/tickets/calendar/live/u-s-naval-academy-glee-club/)

On December 9, 2023 at 2:00pm, we will be hosting a watch party of the Army/Navy Game with the US Naval Academy Alumni Association Upper Midwest Chapter at James Ballentine “Uptown” VFW Post 246, 2916 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408. We hope to see many of you there. It is a wonderful rivalry that has existed since 1890.



## VP Legislative Affairs

You don’t have to look too far and wide to see the challenges underway on the global stage involving the United States. The war in Ukraine now entering its

20th month. Kim Jong Un meeting with Vladimir Putin to discuss arms for oil trading. The US armed forces missing their recruiting numbers across the board, stressing our ops tempo and ability to maintain forces in place for global security. While there is a plethora of news in the press concerning our Navy and Marine teams there is one significant issue on the table before us as a Nation that is of great concern and consternation.

There is one standstill among many on capitol hill which is having a significant impact on our military. US Senator, Tommy Tuberville, (R-AL) the junior senator, is holding up Flag and General Officers promotions with unprecedented firmness. Currently there are approximately 400+ promotions and changes of command on hold by Senator Tuberville. By years end, the Department of Defense expects over 500 active-duty senior commands will have been affected.

## VP Legislative Affairs (Cont)

Recently the Senate was able to confirm a new Marine Commandant Marine Corps Gen. Eric M. Smith; General of the Army, Randy A. George; and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. Still waiting on her confirmation is Navy Adm. Lisa M. Franchetti as Chief of Naval Operations



Bill James and National President Chris Townsend present print of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frye

If you are not familiar with the situation at hand, and it’s hard not to hear about it, the three Secretaries of the Navy, Air Force and Army recently penned an article to the Washington Post on the impacts this is having on the military. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/09/04/army-navy-air-force-secretaries-tuberville-military-hold/>

The result of Senator Tuberville’s action is putting our sailors, seamen, soldiers, and infantry at risk. As a Nation we have been taught to lead from the front. We should not tolerate, nor condone his singular desire to grab the helm and steer the entire DOD ship into the abyss he believes only in his mind it should sail.

I urge you to get familiar with the specifics of what is happening and then take up a pen, or email and drop a note to our elected Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith urging them to work on a solution to this significant national security problem.



# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Legislative Affairs (Cont)

The House of Representatives saw a week of great expectations and dashed hopes. With little time to spare before the September 30th funding deadline, Speaker McCarthy tried everything to push a framework for a Continuing Resolution through his caucus, but to no avail. Despite numerous concessions to GOP hardliners, and significant optimism after a Wednesday evening meeting, by Thursday it was clear that no real progress had been made. Two attempts to advance defense funding legislation also failed amidst the ongoing GOP rebellion.

It is likely Speaker McCarthy will continue attempting to tweak the GOP Continuing Resolution in an attempt to appease the handful of holdouts, but if that fails, he will either need to cut a deal with Democrats or take responsibility for a government shutdown. A bipartisan coalition is already discussing a basic plan for a Continuing Resolution that would fund the government at current levels until January 2024 while also including some border security provisions and Ukraine aid. If McCarthy cannot pass a bill with just the support of his Republican colleagues, he may need to take up the bipartisan legislation. We all hope that clearer minds will prevail in the coming days.

## VP Community Engagement (Continued)



Woodbury Days Ambassadors and Royalty with Joyce Lacey

During this quarter, she spoke with the Woodbury and Columbia Heights Kiwanis Clubs, as well as the New Brighton Rotary Club. She also joined other Minnesota Council board members in speaking with Minnesota State Fair participants at our booth during Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair, providing tickets to two disabled Navy military veterans to attend the Fair.

Additionally, she attended a Veterans Recognition dinner in Edina and had the opportunity to share with veterans and their families about the Navy League. She represented the Minnesota Council at the Annual American Cancer Society Relay for Life and also volunteered for the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans Summer Salute, formerly known as the Summer Stand down event, at the St. Paul Saints' CHS Field and donated items for homeless veterans. She also delivered flowers with American flags to veterans Homes and the Veterans Hospitals in St. Cloud and the Twin Cities for the Fourth of July and continues to send birthday greetings to those who requested birthday drive by Salutes during Covid.



## VP Community Engagement

VP Community Engagement continued to spread the Navy League message this quarter.

She participated in numerous parades across the state, including: The Northwest Water Carnival Parade in Detroit Lakes, the West St. Paul Days Parade in West St. Paul, the Appreciation Days Parade in Ashby, the Fourth of July Parade in Edina, the Kaposia Days Parade in South St. Paul, the Minneapolis Aquatennial Torchlight Parade in Minneapolis, the Stars and Stripes Parade at the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls, the Woodbury Days Parade in Woodbury, the Inver Grove Heights Days Parade in Inver Grove Heights, the Stockyard Days Parade in New Brighton and the Fall Round Up Parade in North St. Paul. Joyce had many opportunities to share with Parade participants and the crowd information on the Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council.





# Minnesota Council VP Updates



## VP Youth Programs

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps (“Sea Cadets”) is the flagship youth development program the Navy League sponsors. Although the Leaguer Cadets (ages 10 – 13) are also part of the program, Sea Cadets is for teenagers 13 years and older. The first accomplishment of a new Sea Cadet is to attend Sea Cadet Recruit Training, an intense 10-day curriculum of physical and mental development in an age-appropriate pseudo-military environment. Here, new Sea Cadets learn discipline, to follow instructions, and to perform as a team.

I had the privilege of attending the Sea Cadet Recruit Training graduation ceremony at Great Lakes Recruit Training Command (RTC) in Illinois on July 2. This event was the real deal, held at the same facility where the US Navy trains its new Sailors. This year’s event was particularly noteworthy in that it was the first time since 2013 that Sea Cadets to be able to train there alongside the Navy’s new Sailors, with training instruction provided by the US Navy’s Recruit Training Company Commanders.

Sea Cadets were not able to train aboard RTC Great Lakes for the previous nine years for various reasons, with alternative training locations including National Guard facilities, college campuses, and retreat centers.

Up through 2013, as many as 400 new male and female Sea Cadets trained at RTC Great Lakes each summer. This year, the Navy agreed to start small by allowing a single company of male Sea Cadets in order to demonstrate the feasibility of our returning to their facility. There were 36 male Sea Cadet recruits, four staff cadets, and several very capable Sea Cadet Officers – unpaid adult volunteers. Every one of the Sea Cadets who began Recruit Training graduated, another impressive accomplishment. Sea Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Maguire Weiland, from Twin Cities Squadron, was one of the four staff cadets.

My official capacity as a guest was as the National Vice Chairman of Sea Cadets. I spoke with Captain Kertreck Brooks, Commanding Officer of RTC Great Lakes, prior to the graduation ceremony. He said that he, his staff, and the US Navy were all impressed with the performance of our Sea Cadets, and that they are able and very willing to support our presence there next year and beyond with the goal of increasing the number of Sea Cadets each year while also adding female cadets, staff cadets, and staff officers in the near future.

This accomplishment of returning our Sea Cadets to RTC Great Lakes was facilitated by Captain Bill Radomski, USN (Ret.), our Sea Cadets Area Commander for the Midwest Area (one of six geographic areas within our national program). This summer’s experience demonstrates the dedication and energy that our dedicated adult Sea Cadets volunteers provide, and the talent of our very small Headquarters Staff, who all keep the Sea Cadets the best youth development program in America.

A video of short interviews I conducted following the graduation ceremony is available on our Council’s website.

<https://youtu.be/6Nwut15Qg9EQg9E>



RT Great Lakes

# Command Updates



## Naval Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly update

Hello Navy League of Minnesota!

It is almost surreal that only a few weeks ago we were hiding indoors to get away from the 95+ degree heat and taking part to the all of the local and state-wide events that the summer had to offer. As the crisp Autumn air begins to wisp through the trees and the leaves begin to change color for their annual refresh; we also begin to prepare anew with the upcoming fiscal year.

Your Sailors within Northern Plains dedication led to maximize Navy awareness this summer by representing the Navy in multiple events throughout our area. We saw participation from our Sailors in two Navy Blue Angels air shows, both the Iowa and Minnesota state fairs, several local and county fairs, an IndyCar race, and the first Navy Office of Community Outreach Navy Week in Lincoln, Nebraska, where we had tremendous success with over 9.5 million impressions.



Rear Adm. Robert Wirth, deputy director, strategic targeting and nuclear mission planning, U.S. Strategic Command, poses for a photo with Future Sailors before swearing them in at the Lincoln Saltdogs baseball game during Lincoln Navy week in the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Northern Plains area of responsibility August 24, 2023.

Through these high visibility events we were able to get out there and engage the communities that we serve and continue to educate the public about our Navy and share exciting opportunities that we have available that qualified people can benefit from if they decide a career in naval service.

Although the Navy, as a whole, may fall short this fiscal year of our overall recruiting goals we are continuing to remain optimistic for the beginning of the new fiscal year to reap the rewards from all of the engagements and community outreach events that were held over the summer. Additionally, with schools now open we are remaining active in our efforts to engage the next generation of Future Sailors by providing presentations and awareness materials to critical centers of influences.

As we begin to step forward to begin anew, myself along with several other NTAG commanding officers will be meeting with Navy Recruiting Command leadership to discuss further strategies to help facilitate better prospecting opportunities and discuss current challenges we have in Navy recruiting.

Rest assured that we will continue to charge forward into these challenging times and we will continue to rely on the steadfast support of our friends in the Minnesota Navy League to continue this path with us.

We look forward to the upcoming Navy/Marine Corps Ball in October, and are continuously grateful for all the support you have, and continue to provide to us and as the Navy.

With Respect,  
CDR John "Knox" Allen,  
Commanding Officer, NTAG Northern Plains

# Command Updates

## NRC Minneapolis holds Change of Command



### Commander Christopher M. Schmid

CDR Christopher Schmid is a native of Inlet, NY. He enlisted in 1997 as a Machinist Mate and completed his first enlistment on board the submarine USS Scranton where he screened for Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training program. He graduated from Jacksonville University with a Bachelor's of Science in Computer Information Systems and received his commission through the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

In June 2005, he reported to the USS Vicksburg (CG-69) as the Main Propulsion Assistant and completed his follow-on tour on the USS Wasp (LHD-1) as the Fire Control Officer.

After leaving the USS Wasp, he deployed to Jalalabad, Afghanistan on a Global War on Terrorism Support Assignment as an Embedded Training Team member where he mentored Afghanistan National Army Officers.

Reported in January 2010 to the Naval Postgraduate School and graduated with a Master's degree in Business Administration focusing on Government Financial Management and completed the Joint Professional Military Education (Phase I) as well as the Certified Defense Financial Manager with Acquisition certification.

Reported in June 2011 to Command Navy Reserve Forces Command for duties in the N8 where he rotated within the department working for the Reserve Personnel Navy appropriation director, the Program Objective Memorandum director, and the Operations and Maintenance Navy Reserve appropriation director.

Reported in June 2011 to Special Operations Command (SOCOM) as a Joint Strength Manager within J1 where he was responsible for managing SOCOM's Joint Duty Assignment List well as all Reserve augmentation requests across the enterprise. During his tour, he completed the Joint Professional Military Education (Phase II)

Reported in August 2017 to Navy Operational Support Center Schenectady as the Commanding Officer where he provided training, support, guidance and administrative oversight to 7 Reserve Units and 12 FTS personnel supporting a drilling population of 185 Reservists and a \$107K OPTAR budget. During this tour, he completed the Professional Human Resources certification.

Reported in July 2019 to Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command as the Operations, Mobilizations, and Training Officer providing oversight to 14 FTS staff members.

Managed training, travel, Armed watch stander and mobilization programs for the region while executing \$1.5M ADT funding, \$300K training support, and \$1.7M travel funding annually.

Reported in July 2021 to U.S. Fleet Forces Command and is currently the Executive Assistant to Director, Fleet Personnel Development and Allocation (N1).

Currently, CDR Schmid has deployed five times and surged seven times. Personal decorations include the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2 awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

# Command Updates



## MSU Duluth

Quarter 4 consisted of a busy summer for MSU Duluth. At MSU Duluth we work hard and play hard!



Aside from our usual facility and vessel inspections, we had USCG Academy Cadets come and check out our field of work at MSU Duluth. Each summer cadets from the USCG Academy leave New London, Conn. and go to different units around the country to learn different USCG Career paths prior to joining the fleet after graduation. Pictured are our inspectors and some USCG Academy Cadets inspecting the hull of the FEDERAL MONTREAL. When foreign vessels enter US waters and are due for an examination, Port State Control Examiners in the US will examine these vessels to ensure they are held to international laws and regulation as well as applicable US regulations. These exams ensure that these vessels are safe to transit US waters. Our Port State Control Examiners demonstrated to the Cadets how to conduct a Port State Control Exam.



For morale this quarter, our unit along with others celebrated USCG day on the official date, August 4th. August 4 is celebrated as Coast Guard Day to honor the establishment on that day in 1790 of the Revenue Cutter Service. On that date, Congress, guided by Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton along with President George Washington signed into law the 1790 Tariff Act. This authorized the building of a fleet of ten cutters, whose responsibility would be enforcement of the first tariff laws enacted by Congress under the Constitution. MSU Duluth

celebrated with Station Duluth, ANT Duluth, United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) SPAR, and our auxiliaries. We had over 150 attendees participate. Some of MSU Duluth's members also entered the Dragon Boat races this year. We had a great time, made new friends, and raced hard out on the water! Congratulations to those that raced! Along with these events, MSU Duluth members volunteered with the Lake Superior Hiking Trail, by helping maintaining a section of trail with gravel and moving lumber to a new section of trail.

We would like to welcome aboard our newest members that joined us this summer, MST1 Corbin Spies, Lt.j.g. Ryan Shaver, MSTC Mike Ryan, MST3 Landen Ludolph, CWO Donald Munk, YN2 Jordan Hale, SKC Erica Loveland, and MSTC Kyle Weitzell.

A friendly reminder to wear your lifejacket on the water, follow the navigation rules of the road when getting underway, and make sure to inform someone where you are boating. Always exercise a float plan!

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota NROTC



It was a busy summer for the University of Minnesota NROTC Program! We sent Midshipmen all over the country to participate in summer training programs. Our rising 3/Cs attended Career Orientation Training for Midshipmen (CORTRAMID) in San Diego and Norfolk. There, they spent time with Aviators, Surface Warfare Officers, Submariners, SEALs, EOD Techs, and Marines, establishing a better understanding of what each community entails.



MIDN Caleb Otto graduated on July 1st from Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. He spent six grueling weeks being put through various physical and mental tests to help him earn the title of "United States Marine." MIDN Otto will graduate and commission in May 2024.



Nine MIDN candidates attended New Student Indoctrination (NSI) at Great Lakes. MIDN Dominic Kraus and Jacob Kuhlman participated as instructors. Candidates spent 17 days at Recruit Training Center marching, fighting fires, handling small arms, and learning customs and courtesies as they prepare for careers as Naval officers. MIDN Kuhlman stated, "It was an honor and a privilege to help train future officers that I will one day serve alongside. I was extremely proud of the progress I saw in all 60 candidates that I had the opportunity to lead and mentor."



Others spent their summer cruise on nuclear-powered submarines. MIDN Templin spent one week in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii aboard USS North Carolina (SSN-777). Her favorite parts of the cruise included emergency drills, swim call, and standing watch. "I really



enjoyed the people and the mission. I am looking forward to joining the submarine fleet!" she reported. While not as tropical, MIDN Blankenship still had a blast in Norfolk aboard the USS Pasadena (SSN-752).

Three prospective aviators—MIDN Sam Reed, Michael Mullhall, and Steven Bowman—spent three weeks with the Titans of VRM-30, an Osprey squadron based in San Diego, Calif. MIDN Mulhall said, "While with VRM-30, we got to see what Naval Aviation looks like, how a squadron functions, and what role junior officers play in that." He went on to say, "In my previous summer cruises, most of what I saw of Naval Aviation was an overview of different platforms and questions from active duty asking which platform I wanted, but this summer I was able to get a day-in-the-life experience with lessons that I can take with me."



# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota NROTC (Cont)



Captain Blake Tornga was relieved by Captain Abigail Hutchins at a Change of Command Ceremony on Tuesday, August 15th. Captain Tornga's new assignment is at the Navy War College in Newport, Rhode Island. For those unable to attend in person, a recording can be found on our Facebook page! As the Battalion looks forward to the upcoming school year, we welcome both old and new faces to the Unit, including our Executive Assistant



Sarah Stadtherr and Human Resources Assistant Margo Fitzgerald. We bid fair winds and following seas to the Executive Officer, Commander Andrew Behlke, who retires September 5th and begins his second career as a pilot with Sun Country airlines here in Minneapolis. Semper Fi and Go, Navy!



## Como Park MCJROTC

Congratulations Ol' Cadet Dallas Beilke who was inducted officially into the ranks of the United States Navy after graduating basic training in Great Lakes Naval Training Center north of Chicago, Illinois. He will now work towards his MOS as a machinist / mechanic. Ooh Rah Sailor!



Cadet Color Sergeants Sumalee Reh and Rigoberto Flores stand tall on the Como Park Football field at 9:11am on the morning of 11 September 2023 to honor the many souls who perished on the frightful day. 9/11 made our country more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom and it was the worst day we have ever seen, but it brought out the best in all of us. One of the worst days in America's history saw some of the bravest acts in Americans' history. Semper Fidelis.



CPSHS stands up a Raider Team! Pictured is Como Parks MCJROTC introduction to the one-rope bridge and our future RAIDER team. OOH - RAH ! Thanks to the leadership of the first ever Como Park High School Raider Team Captain, Cadet Sergeant Major Alex Sandoval has stood up a RAIDER team for Como Park's MCJROTC. Although we have much work ahead of us to prepare the mixed team (8 boys and 4 girls), they will travel to their first competition on October 13-14 in Peoria, Illinois to compete in many grueling physical fitness challenges and the challenging one-rope bridge over a creek of water. Good luck Como Park Raiders!!!

# Command Updates

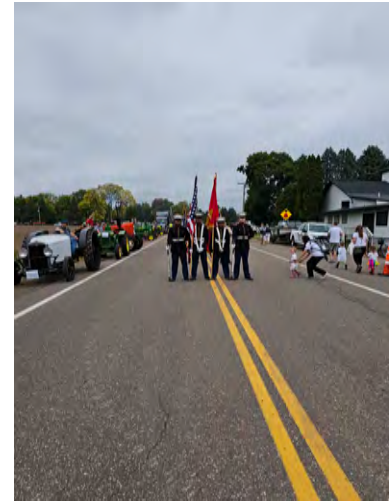


## Como Park MCJROTC (Continued)



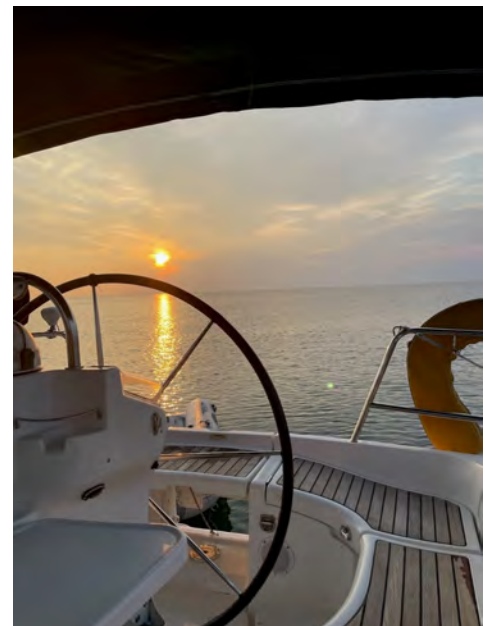
A really great group of new CPSHS MCJROTC cadets turned out today for our Mini Boot Camp. All of them were led by Senior Drill Master Cadet First Sergeant Cooper Westrum. Introduction to Color Guard, Unarmed Drill, Armed Drill, Physical Fitness and yummy MRE's. We continue to sail our ship forward to stand up our SY23-24 (LE1 Teams). OOH RAH!!!

Great Color Guard support to the Winslow Farm Tractor and Car Show Parade near the farmlands of Stillwater Minnesota. Patrons were astonished that Como Park's cadets led by Cadet First Lieutenant Flores were cadets from Como Park High School and not real U.S. Marines. Ooh RaH.



## Washington Tech JROTC

August 1st Major Scott Kiger, USMC (retired) and LNCM David Marchetti (retired) assumed the helm at Washington Tech NJROTC. One returning Cadet, Jamie Thao, completed Army National Guard Boot Camp over the summer. Additionally, two graduating students started their service and attended boot camp. CCR Toole is enjoying his retirement and literally sailing off into the sunset.



# Command Updates



## Twin Ports Sea Cadets



This quarter saw a lot of time shipboard and underway time for Twin Ports Division. With the successful completion of workups and mobilization in June for medical support of Grandma's Marathon, operations resumed to get all new officers and enlisted that have been in the command less than a year qualified in shipboard operations. These personnel were sent to the local pilot boat for training. This included watch standing, P.M.S., rate-specific core requirement sign-off, live man overboard/abandon ship drill in survival suits,

P.M.S., shipboard preservation, and helm quals underway. Basic seamanship and navigation training will continue for the remainder of FY2023. The command has also begun Anti-Terrorism and Protection (ATFP) training involving watch standing, deadly force, and weapons qualifications. The command gun shoot for qualification will be taking place later this fall.

Personnel from Twin Ports Division earlier this past month, provided medical stand-by and security for the Northland Epilepsy Walk. The President of the local office came in to conduct and certify Twin Ports Division in seizure identification and treatment. While the commands' medical workups are done for the year, Lisa has worked with Twin Ports Division for years and is always happy to come in and re-certify.



QMSA-T Aili Fenlason renders honors during UMD's military appreciation game during halftime on September 16th while the marching band played all 5 branches' songs. Fenlason is one of the newest members to enlist and join Twin Ports Division. She has just been promoted to E-2T and is a welcomed addition to the command. Members from Twin Ports Division spent the afternoon manning their recruiting booth while having interactive things for the public to do, for all ages.



# Command Updates



## Polaris/Team Trident Battalion



Summer may have been a break from school, but for the cadets of Polaris and Trident Battalions, the time offered opportunities to travel the country attending training, support the surrounding communities, and embark on challenges they once thought were too difficult to overcome. The plethora of trainings offered enabled the cadets to not only hone skills they already had, but also learn about subjects they had little previous knowledge about. SA/AA Zach Bergman, SA/AA Dexter Floding, SA/AA Jonathon Steiskal, and SA/AA Connor Wood journeyed to Illinois for recruit training, while SA/AA Max Erickson went to Florida. CPO Remijia Challander and PO2 Mason Hoff attended master-at-arms training in Wisconsin and Kentucky respectively. Honing their leadership skills, CPO Joseph Larkin, PO3 Mason Eklund, and

PO2 Kharis Lund took part in the Petty Officers Leadership Academy hosted in Wisconsin. PO1 Aiden Larkin went to Texas for NLCC Orientation and PO2 Hunter Packa attended the same training in Wisconsin. PO2 Ethan Walsh headed east to Kentucky for music and band, SA/AA Gavin Wetterling went west to Utah for aviation training. Of course, Trident Battalion did not stay local their entire summer either, but rather all headed over to Wisconsin where PO2 Robert Packa and PO3 Nicholas Challander attended NLCC Coast Guard training, SLPO Taylor Larkin refined his skills at STEM/Seaperch, Robotics/Cyber training, and ABC Oriana Challander advanced her cooking abilities through a culinary arts program.

Never passing up a chance to build something with power tools, PO1 Aiden Larkin, PO2 Hunter Packa, PO2 Mason Hoff, SA/AA Hannah Tierney, SA/AA Gavin Wetterling, SA/AA Max Erickson, and SA/AA Dexter Floding not only attended Seabee training. They donated their projects to The Association Retreat Center (ARC). The ARC, located along the St Croix River and on the grounds of a former U.S. Air Force Radar Base in Wisconsin, welcomed the cadets to use their facilities during the week-long Seabee course. During this time, the cadets built picnic tables and park benches, among several other projects, for their generous hosts. These furnishings were placed around the property to be used by the thousands of guests The ARC accommodates each year.

Closer to home, the VFW received support from the battalions when the cadets joined them at their booth during the Isanti County Fair. Proceeds were donated to the VFW's program helping local veterans receive much needed supplies and housing accommodations. Additionally, the battalions proudly presented the Colors during the Braham, Andover, Pine City, and Isanti Rodeo Days Parades, as well as the Cambridge-Isanti High School football game. Furthermore, they also assisted vendors and other non-profits with setting up their tents and displays during the Isanti Kids Day, which was attended by thousands from around the area.



# Command Updates



## Polaris/Team Trident (Continued)

All that work was accomplished before volunteering with the North Branch Lion's Club annual summer fundraiser. In support of Flag Day, the cadets worked alongside the Cambridge American Legion to properly fold the American flags collected from drop off locations and then they presented the Colors during the Flag Day ceremony.



When cadets who champion for each other are given only a few simple parameters to work within and tools to use, they conquer challenges head-on. One example being, Polaris and Trident Battalions were divided into small teams, handed rolls of duct tape, offered their choice of boxes from a significant pile, and instructed to build a boat that must float over the finish line. Although no two groups employed the same concept, it did not stop them doing opposition research on their competition.



While some "boats" lasted less than a minute after touching water, other vessels floated around the lake for the rest of the day. From lake level to over 40 feet off the ground and using different problem-solving techniques, cadets challenged themselves and encouraged each other through multiple Aerial Challenge Courses at Trollhaugen. The course consisted of, but not limited to, ziplining, rope swings, floating bridges, and tightropes, all suspended in the air. Cadets worked together to figure out the order of operations at each obstacle and cheered when the task was accomplished.



During drill weekends, cadets were faced with even more problem-solving opportunities. The Cambridge Fire Department instructed the cadets on how to hook-up and use a fire hose after explaining fire safety. They also gave the cadets a tour of the fire truck before each cadet sprayed down the parking lot. The cadets also learned how to repair a broken water main as well as firearm safety. In preparation for those who will be soon getting their driver's licenses, some cadets were taught how to change a tire on a vehicle, jump a dead battery, and perform routine preventative maintenance.



Polaris and Trident would like to recognize our new staff members: Ginny Packa, Jamie Seering, and MIDN Allyson Floding, formally addressed as CPO Floding. Additionally, we would like to thank the parents, volunteers, and Council for making these opportunities possible. Furthermore, we would also like to recognize VFW Post 2735, Cambridge American Legion, North Branch Lion's Club, The ARC, the Cambridge Volunteer Fire Department, and Trollhaugen.

# Command Updates



## Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets

It's hard to believe a full year has passed since I took the helm as the CO of the Twin Cities Squadron, and I enter my fourth year in the program. This month US Naval Sea Cadet Corps celebrated its 61th birthday, 51 of which the Twin Cities Squadron has been a part of. We continue to carry the sword of such a rich legacy.



It has been a busy summer for the Twin Cities Squadron cadets and staff. We bid fair winds and following seas to our seniors in June, but never took our foot off the gas. The end of school meant the kick-off of the advanced training (AT) season. The new recruits onboarded during spring attended Recruit Training, the sea cadet version of boot camp. One of the highlights for the program was a return to Great Lakes Naval Station where 2 divisions of sea cadets from across the country completed RT, and one of the TCS Petty Officers – PO2 Maguire Weiland - served as a staff cadet. Unit LPO, and chief select, PO1 Max Schantzen attended Chief Petty Officer Academy (CPOA) and commented that it was “one of the best experiences of his sea cadet career.” Overall, 18 TCS cadets attended a total of 34 advanced trainings, across 12 different states, and touching all three coasts. Of those cadets, 50% attended multiple trainings, including AN Lillian Hartman (4), AN McKinley Helland (4), PO2 Maguire Weiland (4) and PO3 Alex Tiaden (3). AN Hartman was named “honor cadet” in two of her advanced trainings, which is an extraordinary accomplishment. AN Helland was selected to attend both the USNA and USAF summer seminar programs. In addition to the cadets, TCS Officers Instructor Anderson, Ensign Pena and Lt. Cmdr. Parrish and Ensign Wilson escorted trainings in Ky., Wis., N.H. and Ore. In total the Twin Cities Squadron amassed a whopping 350+ training days this summer!



When not attending advanced training, TCS cadets and officers remained active in community service bravely the extreme summer heat to support the AirExpo flight line at Flying Cloud Airport, and the Magnus Veterans Foundation Friends and Family Festival.



With AT in the books, and start of the new school year the TCS will return to regular drill weekend in Sept. We are looking forward to the sea stories and the upcoming awards and promotions ceremony where we will recognize the efforts of our cadets this summer. Our cadet leadership has done a fantastic job this past year after taking the helm as relatively inexperienced Petty Officers and Airmen last fall. This year, they will be joined by new Squad Leaders PO3 Tiaden, AN Helland, and AN Dexter Paasch. The TCS also promoted AN William Parrish (Asst Color Guard Captain), AA Shyann Freiermuth (Asst Master at Arms), and AN Hartman (Fitness PO) and AN Parker Leiter (Asst Fitness PO). All have demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, and we have no doubt they will rise to challenge.



# Command Updates



## Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets (Cont)



SEP drill will be a quick lesson in teamwork and leadership for the new staff cadets. The TCS will be hosting a shadow day for prospective recruits, and learning self-defense tactics. Supply will be conducting sea bag inspection and the cadets will be leading field operations practicing bounding, building entry and room clearing tactics.

In closing, the Twin Cities Squadron wishes to thank the Minnesota Council for the continued support and dedication to the USNSCC mission.

Check out our Facebook page for more NSCC Twin Cities Squadron videos and content.

Commanding Officer, Ensign Shawn Wilson



The Dr. Harold C. Deutsch  
**World War II  
History Round Table**



## 2023-24 Program Schedule

7 PM • SELECT TUESDAYS, SEP - MAY • MINNESOTA HISTORY CENTER, ST. PAUL

Round Table admission is free • Parking \$6/\$4 MNHS members  
The Minnesota History Center's Market House Grab-n-Go will be open from 4-7 pm on Round Table evenings. Join us for a quick sandwich, snack, or beverage before the programs start.

5:45 PM - STUDENT OUTREACH:

Participate in informal conversations with the authors and veterans on the program topic.

Check out the World War II History Round Table Program for 2023-2024.

- 2023
- SEP 12 CAPTURE OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS**  
James Hallas, author of *Saipan* will discuss how the capture of the Mariana Islands of Guam, Tinian, and Saipan provided much needed basing for the B-29s used to bomb Japan and ensure ultimate Allied Victory.
- OCT 10 BOMBING STRATEGY OF GENERAL CURTIS LEMAY**  
Join us as James Scott, author of *Black Snow* will present the bombing strategy of General Curtis LeMay against Japan that led to the dropping of the Atomic Bomb.
- OCT 24 THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE 3RD INFANTRY**  
Author of *Against All Odds*, Alex Hershaw, will follow the campaigns of the 3rd Infantry Division from Africa to Bavaria, as well as highlight some of the Veterans who showed great heroism in combat.
- WEDNESDAY
- NOV 15 THE DR. HAROLD C. DEUTSCH LECTURE NAZI PROPAGANDA OF THE 1930S**  
Author of *Blending Spines*, Randall Bytwerk, will discuss the Propaganda used by the Nazis to gain power in 1930s Germany and disseminate the ideology of Hitler's regime.
- DEC 12 AIR BATTLES OVER PEARL HARBOR**  
Michael Wiegner, author of *A Pitiful Unholy Mess*, will discuss the air battles between the Americans and Japanese during the attack on December 7, 1941, while exploring the early use of radar in its primitive state.

### TOUR NORMANDY FOR THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION AT OMAHA BEACH CEMETERY

Amsterdam, Bruges, Dieppe, Normandy, Mont-Saint-Michel, Paris

For more information, call Don Patton at 612-867-5144.

- 2024
- JAN 9 THE CASABLANCA CONFERENCE AND THE GRAND STRATEGY**  
Begin the new year with James Conroy, author of *The Devils Will Get No Rest*, who will discuss the Casablanca Conference of January 1943, where a clash of military perspectives lead to the Grand Strategy for the Allied victory in both theaters.
- FEB 13 THE VIKING BATTALION**  
Join us for a very special evening as authors and collaborators of *The Viking Battalion*, Erik Brun, Kyle Ward, and Olaf Minge, share a collection of biographies of the Veterans from the 99th Battalion. The battalion was formed by Norwegian-Americans for ground operations in Norway, which was later reconsidered. They showed great valor in the battles of Europe.
- MAR 12 SELLING THE WAR**  
James Kimble, author of *Mobilizing the Home Front* will examine the efforts to rally patriotic support of the public on the domestic front. Todd DePastino, author of *Bill Mauldin* will show how the cartoons of Willie and Joe in *Stars and Stripes* were used to boost the morale of the troops on the battlefields.
- MAR 26 THE COAST WATCHERS**  
Karen Moore, author of *Grace* and *The Radar Girls* will tell the story of the Coast Watchers in Hawaii, whose mission was to prevent a repeat of the December 7th attack on Pearl Harbor. Mary Berg will share her interview with Beryl Retinger, who served as a Coast Watcher in England, tasked with alerting the Allies of Nazi Air Attacks.
- APR 9 WAR OF SUPPLY**  
Author of *War of Supply*, David Dworak, will discuss the logistic efforts that took place in the Mediterranean during early conflicts in the European Theater.
- MAY 14 DIEPPE RAID**  
Year 37 ends with author David O'Keefe's *One Day in August* as he reflects upon the tragic failure of the 1942 assault on Dieppe, and how the lessons learned led to the success of D-Day on June 6, 1944.



[mn-ww2roundtable.org](http://mn-ww2roundtable.org) or find us on Facebook

# Other News

## NAIP Navy League Newsletter Input-September 2023

It's been another busy quarter for the United States Naval Academy Information Program (NAIP). In July, NAIP teamed up with NTAG Northern Plains and the Minnesota Council at the Duluth Airshow which featured the Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels. Blue and Gold Officers (BGOs) provided information to many visitors throughout the three days of the airshow. Of particular interest to visitors was not only information on applying to compete for Naval Academy admission, but also for information on USNA summer programs such as the summer STEM camps, summer sports camps and the Naval Academy Summer Seminar. Applications for the 2024 summer programs will be available in January 2024 at [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu). Interviews have begun for applicants for USNA's class of 2028. Individual Blue and Gold Officer interviews are conducted as potential Midshipmen open a USNA application and are evaluated as competitive candidates for admission. Congressional interviews require a separate application for each office. Congressional interviews will take place from early October to early December 2023. Most Congressional applications are due in October or early November. Candidates should check the individual Congressional websites for details. Senate interviews are scheduled for November 18, 2023.

Congressional Offices are again sponsoring service academy information nights at various locations throughout each Congressional District. Currently, Minnesota's Congressional District 3 Information session is scheduled for October 4th at Providence Academy. Congressional Districts 2 and 6 are scheduled for the evening of October 11, 2023. Each information session will provide an overview of each of the United States service academies and also give guidance on applying to each academy. Check each district website for details. The Naval Academy's Operation Information (OPINFO) is currently in the planning stages. A Navy specific officer programs presentation is again being planned for the week of Thanksgiving. This program will take place at Saint Thomas Academy on Tuesday, November 21, 2023 and will provide information from USNA, NTAG and NROTC on various Navy and Marine Corps officer programs available. This event also provides the opportunity to compare life in the various programs from the perspective of current Midshipmen who are enrolled in each officer program.

Congressional Districts that are considered as under represented at USNA are an annual concern. This October 1-6, Ensign Wagner, a recent Naval Academy graduate from Minnesota, will be visiting schools in Minnesota's 5th Congressional District. Ensign Wagner is currently assigned to the USNA Office of Admissions. He will be discussing the various aspects of USNA, personal qualifications for an academy appointment and the USNA admissions process with interested students.

As always, new BGOs are being sought throughout Minnesota. There is a particular need for BGO representation in southern Minnesota. Persons interested in finding out more about becoming a Blue and Gold Officer are asked to contact Captain Mark Salmen, the BGO Area Coordinator for Minnesota, at [mark.salmen@1973.usna.com](mailto:mark.salmen@1973.usna.com).



# Other News

## DID YOU KNOW?

By **Brandon Montanye**

September marked the 10th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Minnesota (SSN-783). She is the third ship to bear the name Minnesota. The second was the battleship Minnesota (BB-22), both ships were named after the state. The first was named after the Minnesota River. She was a steam frigate launched in 1855.

Did you know that the Steam frigate Minnesota took part in one of the most significant naval battles in world history?

March 8-9, 1862 the Battle of Hampton Roads took place where the James, Nansemond, and Elizabeth rivers converge before entering the Chesapeake Bay. This battle was significant in that it was the first engagement between ironclad warships, the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia. Sometimes referred to as the Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack (rebuilt and renamed CSS Virginia) or the Battle of the Ironclads. These ships were steam powered and plated with iron or steel, an innovative design for warships of the time.

The battle was an effort by the Confederacy to break the Union blockade that was cutting off Norfolk and Richmond, the Confederacy's major industrial centers. The morning of the 8th, the CSS Virginia got underway from the Gosport Navy Yard in Portsmouth, VA. She advanced at a speed of 8 knots, and it took her 3 hours to make contact with the Union ships.

The CSS Virginia initially engaged and destroyed the Unions ships USS Cumberland and USS Congress, both wooden vessels. Even though both ships fired repeatedly at the ironclad, the ship sustained no major damage. Her next target was the USS Minnesota, that had run aground in an effort to join the battle. Due to darkness and the falling tide, Virginia suspended her attack until the morning.

Meanwhile, during the night, the USS Monitor was rushed to Hampton Roads to protect the Union Fleet from the CSS Virginia. The Monitor received orders that their primary mission was to protect Minnesota.



Upon arrival, the Monitor positioned herself near the grounded Minnesota and waited for the impending battle. Initially the Virginia's crew thought the Monitor was a boiler being towed by the Minnesota. They realized that it was not a boiler and commenced firing. Virginia's first round hit Minnesota and she returned fire with a broadside shot. After fighting for several hours neither ironclad could overcome the other. Monitor received a hit to her turret and had to maneuver away from the engagement, but later turned back towards the fight. Virginia thought Monitor was retreating, and with the tides going out, returned to Norfolk. Monitor thought Virginia was retreating. Since the tasking was to protect Minnesota, they did not pursue. Due to confusion, both sides thought they had won the battle.

This battle had a major impact on naval warfare because the world took notice of the innovative use of armor in the design of warships. Which would eventually evolve into battleships. The USS Minnesota was the catalyst for the first engagement between ironclads. USS Minnesota's bell still exists and is housed at the Minnesota History Center in Saint Paul. And now you know.

# Other News

**Naval Academy Glee Club will perform with the Minnesota Orchestra  
November 11 and 12.**



The internationally-acclaimed U.S. Naval Academy Glee Club will appear as Guest Artists with the Minnesota Orchestra for an inspiring and uplifting salute to America's Armed Forces over Veterans Day Weekend. Performances are scheduled for Saturday November 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm and Sunday November 12, 2023 at 2:00 pm in Orchestra Hall in downtown Minneapolis. The program will feature a selection of patriotic music, music from Broadway, and choral classics.



Tickets are available through the Orchestra Box Office at 612-371-5656 or online at [minnesotaorchestra.org](http://minnesotaorchestra.org).



**Navy League of the United States  
Minnesota Council  
2023 Officers**

President	Joe Fraser	<a href="mailto:joe@fraserhaus.net">joe@fraserhaus.net</a>
1st VP/Secretary	Brandon Montanye	<a href="mailto:brandon_montanye@hotmail.com">brandon_montanye@hotmail.com</a>
Vice President Communications	Pat Dolan	<a href="mailto:pkdolan37@gmail.com">pkdolan37@gmail.com</a>
Vice President Membership	Bob Dolan	<a href="mailto:dolanrp@verizon.net">dolanrp@verizon.net</a>
Treasurer	Mark Stange	<a href="mailto:mark1stange@gmail.com">mark1stange@gmail.com</a>
VP Adopted Ships, Active/Reserve	Brian Skon	<a href="mailto:bdskon@gmail.com">bdskon@gmail.com</a>
VP Council Programs/Events	Jeanette Sterner	<a href="mailto:jeanjoe@aol.com">jeanjoe@aol.com</a>
VP Youth Programs	Keith Larson	<a href="mailto:larson_keith@yahoo.com">larson_keith@yahoo.com</a>
Director STEM Programs	Mark Salmen	<a href="mailto:mjsalmen@aol.com">mjsalmen@aol.com</a>
VP Community Engagement	Joyce Lacey	<a href="mailto:usnavyleague.mn.outreach@gmail.com">usnavyleague.mn.outreach@gmail.com</a>
VP Legislative Affairs/Partnerships	Bill James	<a href="mailto:williamljames3@gmail.com">williamljames3@gmail.com</a>
Director Business Dev	Brian Skon	<a href="mailto:bdskon@gmail.com">bdskon@gmail.com</a>

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**October**

Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Entire Month
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday	October 13
Joint Navy/Marine Corps Birthday – Mystic Lake	October 28
Day of the Deployed	October 26
Navy Day	October 27
Halloween	October 31



**November**

National Veterans & Military Family Month	Entire Month
Warrior Care Month	Entire Month
National Family Caregivers Month	Entire Month
Daylight Savings Time Ends	November 5
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	November 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November



**December**

Giving Tuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
Army Navy Game	December 9
U.S. National Guard Birthday	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 16
Hanukkah Begins	December 7-15
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	December 26 – January 1
New Year's Eve	December 31

