



# Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



4th Quarter 2022

## Minnesota Council Elects New Council Board



The Minnesota Navy League 2023 Board - Pictured from left to right: Bill James, Jeanette Sterner, Bob Dolan, Brandon Montanye, Brian Skon, Joyce Lacey, Mark Stange, Keith Larson, Pat Dolan, Joe Fraser. Missing: Mark Salmen and James Schroebel

On September 28, 2022 at the Bear Cave Brewing Company in Hopkins the Minnesota Council elected 2023 Board positions.

Please join me and welcoming your new board.

- President – Cmdr. (Ret) Joe Fraser
- First VP/Secretary – Lt.Cmdr. (Ret) Brandon Montanye
- VP Communications – Pat Dolan
- VP Membership – Cmdr. (SC-Ret) Bob Dolan
- VP & Treasurer – Capt. (Ret) Mark Stange
- VP Adopted Ships, Active/Reserve Units – Brian Skon
- VP Council Programs/Event Planning – Jeanette Sterner
- VP Community Engagement – Joyce Lacey
- VP Legislative Affairs/Partnerships – Bill James
- Director, Business Development – Brian Skon
- VP Youth Programs – Keith Larson
- Director STEM Programs - Mark Salmen
- JAG – Cmdr. (Ret) James Schroebel

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The Council will focus on our efforts in four strategic areas in 2023:

1. Enhancing the Morale of Sea Service Personnel;
2. Providing a Powerful voice to Educate the public;
3. Supporting Youth Programs and;
4. Membership/Communication/History.

Each of the new Vice Presidents will be responsible for developing an annual plan and budget to support their focus area.

## *A Message from the Minnesota Council Outgoing President*



This will be my last official column as President of the Navy League for Minnesota. It has been my utmost honor to serve as your President of the Minnesota Navy League Council for the past five years. I am so proud of the tremendous caliber of people we have on the Board and the many Leaguers who have stepped up to serve in key roles over the years.

The hard work of the Council was truly evident this year as we took to completion the commissioning of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) in the Port of Duluth this past May. We accomplished all of this while dealing with the unprecedented results of the pandemic, shutdowns, and numerous fits and starts as to whether the commissioning would occur and what size of an event we would have. This was the direct result of many hours invested by thoughtful individuals with Brian Skon, the LCS Commissioning chair leading the efforts.

His team along with the Commissioning Team committee and my other half, Ms. Mary Barnette ensured the events in Duluth were top notch and reflected the honor and class this council is known for.

Our Council is recognized by our National HQ for being one of the “premier” councils due to our hard work, dedication, and excellence in promoting the ideals of the Navy League. With our mission to enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs; we provide a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress of the importance to our nation’s defense, well-being, and economic prosperity; and support of youth through programs which expose young people to the values of our sea services.

Our robust communication efforts led by our VP Communications, Pat Dolan, has put the Minnesota Council on the Nationals radar for our website, quarterly newsletter, press releases and council sponsored events such as the Top Gun – Behind the Curtain and African American Submarine Experience. It is through these vigorous communication efforts that we are effectively getting out the word of how vital the Navy and maritime industry is to the economic prosperity we enjoy as a country. These efforts have garnered us Mackie Awards for our Website (Platinum and Gold) and the Newsletter (Gold).

We continue to support youth programs through our involvement in ROTC at the University of Minnesota, JROTC at Como Park, Harding and Washington Tech and Sea Cadets at Twin Cities, Polaris and Twin Ports. Under the stewardship of Lt. Col Barney Uhlig on our Board, these young people are the future of Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Merchant Marines. We filled an urgent need a couple of years ago for the Sea Cadets when they were lacking winter parkas and will maintain our commitment to them in the years ahead.

I have valued the opportunity given to establish relationships with our Active-duty units including the Naval Talent Acquisition Group, the Naval Reserves, the Coast Guard and adopted ships, USS Minnesota, USS Minneapolis Saint Paul, USCGC Spar. The hard work and dedication of these young men and women is truly inspiring. I am forever in awe and appreciation of them for their service to our country.

Finally, I am thankful for the support our Council has found with the state of Minnesota through our governor and legislature and for the numerous supporters within the Minnesota Business Community. None of our work would have been possible without these partners.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for allowing me to serve as your President. I will still be active in the Minnesota Council as the VP Legislative Affairs and will also be serving as the Area President for the upper Midwest region encompassing North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska.

With sincere gratitude,  
Bill

# *A Message from the Minnesota Council Incoming President*

## *Joe Fraser*



Shipmates,

I am honored and humbled to have been selected to serve as the next President of the Minnesota chapter of the United States Navy League. I want to thank our out-going President, Bill James, for his extraordinary leadership and steady hand on the tiller these past challenging years.

In the 1890's Alfred Thayer Mahon articulated the need for a strong naval presence because he foresaw the important role the world oceans would play in geo-political and economic policies of the United States, its Allies, and its competitors. Over one hundred years later, the stakes could not be higher for the economic stability or national security of the United States.

Recently, the Brookings Institute highlighted that the United States economy relies heavily on the global flow of goods, both consumer and commercial, and energy across the oceans. That fact has been brought to the forefront of American politics and coffee shop conversations by supply chain interruptions in the Suez Canal and the Port of Long Beach, along with their inflationary effects. Additionally, there are vital industries like finance and technology that rely on the flow of data, not goods, and over 90 percent of all data in the world flows through undersea cables that line the ocean floor... There's no part of our Nation that would not be adversely impacted if ocean-based trade were impeded or slowed.

The United States is in the Era of Great Power Competition, where a rival nation seeks to influence or control the critical sea lines of communication to leverage them in order to cast its economic influence and anti-democratic political philosophies on the Nations of the World. The United States Sea Services seek to ensure that does not happen. We can ill afford to allow the public to ignore this critical issue or become complacent of it. Therefore, it is my goal for our Chapter to continue to elevate public awareness and discussions of the key roles the Sea Services play in keeping our economy and our national security protected.

I intend to follow the four elements of the strategic plan laid out by the Council for 2022 and 2023. Those areas are:

- Enhancing the Morale of Sea Service Personnel
- Provide a Powerful Voice to Educate the Public
- Support Youth Programs
- Grow our "Brand" through Expanding Membership

I look forward to serving alongside this team to further raise public awareness and foster interest in the activities of our Nation's sea services.

In Service,  
-Smokin Joe

# Museum Brings Decommissioned Submarine Home to Minnesota

~ *USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul to be permanently on display in Little Falls in Spring 2025* ~

The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is home. The decommissioned nuclear-powered fast attack submarine's towering sail and rudder have been transported to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum in Little Falls from the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Washington.

The disassembled pieces arrived at Camp Ripley, Minnesota on Monday, Aug. 29, and the artifact will be a distinctive feature at the new 32-acre Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum & Library, expected to open in Spring 2025. The "sail" of a submarine is the tower-like portion that protrudes from the hull at the center of the boat, and the rudder is at the rear of the vessel.



Sail and Rudder from USS Minnesota being delivered to the MN Military Museum

"While there is a great deal of restoration to make sure these pieces are ready for display, the addition of the sail and rudder of the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum is an important step in continuing to build a world-class museum," said Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum. "Minnesota is mobilizing to honor the Veterans of all branches of service."

The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul was a nuclear-powered Los Angeles Class submarine in service between 1984 and 2008. It was the first vessel of the United States Navy to be named for the Twin Cities

metropolitan area. Known with the hull classification of SSN-708, the submarine served with distinction in Operation Desert Shield and the First Gulf War. It was the first submarine to carry Tomahawk missiles specifically designated for use in strikes against Iraq.

"Preserving this vital Naval artifact is important to the men who served on her, but also to the history of Minnesota," said Bill James, United States Navy League Minnesota Council President. "The USS Minneapolis Saint Paul admirably served from 1984-2008 and took part in Operation Desert Shield and the Gulf War. The Navy League and submarine Veterans continue to mourn the deaths of two SSN-708 Sailors who died in rough seas on the coast of southwestern England in 2006. Along with the Minnesota Submarine League we look forward to the restoration of the sail and rudder and placement at the new Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum."

Transported by St. Cloud, Minn. based Anderson Trucking Service, and expertly unloaded by Camp Ripley logisticians, the pieces will receive extensive renovation over the next two years. "This project is a great opportunity to show our support for Veterans and military personnel," said Scott Anderson, Executive Vice President and Chief Administration Officer of Anderson Trucking Service. "We are honored to assist with this amazing addition to the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum and can't wait to see it come to fruition. Many of our drivers and employees are Veterans, and this is one way that we can honor their service and show how grateful we are."

In a letter to Navy Program Manager Curtis A. Brown, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz said "The sail and rudder will be a fantastic addition to the museum and serve as a reminder to generations of Minnesotans of the service and sacrifices made by the men and women of the United States Navy to preserve our freedom."



Rendering of what the future Minnesota Military Museum will look like.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) Change of Command

The Minnesota Navy League is pleased to announce that USS Minneapolis Saint Paul conducted a change command on Monday, September 19, 2022.

Cmdr. Hiram Andreu assumed command of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) from Cmdr. Alfonza White. Cmdr. White took command of LCS 21 during its workup phase, visited Minnesota at the State Capitol and the Duluth Airshow in June 2021, and took USS Minneapolis Saint Paul through its workup phase and delivery to the Navy.



Cmdr. White



Cmdr. Andreu

Cmdr. White read his orders and placed USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) in commission on May 21, 2022 in Duluth, MN.

Fair winds and following seas to Cmdr. White. The Minnesota Navy League wishes you well on your next assignment.

Cmdr. Hiram Andreu graduated from Colegio Santiago Apostol, Fajardo PR in 1983. He entered the United States Navy in October 1987.

In 2003, he commissioned under the Limited Duty Officer program and reported onboard USS VICKSBURG (CG 69) to serve as the Electronics Material Officer.

In 2009, he laterally converted to Surface Warfare Officer (1110) and served as the Exchange Officer (PEP) in Cartagena, Colombia. His first Department Head tour was as Combat Systems Officer onboard USS SIMPSON (FFG 56). His second Department Head tour was as Combat Systems Officer onboard USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66). His Executive Officer tour was onboard USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG 58)



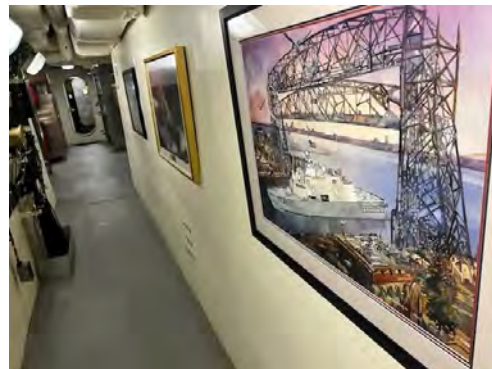
Cmdr. White departing from the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul

Ashore, he served as Executive Officer to the Deputy J3 and Command and Control Officer, United States Central Command in Tampa.

He is a graduate of the Naval War College, Newport RI and has completed JPME I and II.



Items the Minnesota Navy League Council gave the ship on her commissioning displayed on the ship.



Items the Minnesota Navy League Council gave the ship on her commissioning displayed on the ship.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## United State Naval Academy Midshipmen Tour USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul

ANNAPOLIS, MD, UNITED STATES

09.06.2022

Story by Lt. Anthony Junco - Commander, Littoral Combat Ship Squadron TWO

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND (Sept. 6, 2022) – The Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) hosted tours for midshipmen from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Sept. 2-6.

The midshipmen visited various spaces on Minneapolis-Saint Paul, including the airborne and waterborne mission zones, the mess decks, the pilot house, and the forecandle of the ship, while subject matter experts on the ship discussed the multitude of ship capabilities.

“I wasn’t too knowledgeable about the littoral combat ships before coming on board,” said Midshipman 2nd Class Ayush Padhi, a junior at the Naval Academy. “However, after touring the ship, seeing all of the advanced technology and learning how efficient the crew and ship are, I think it’s a really great ship.”



Midshipmen visit the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul.

Prior to the Minneapolis-Saint Paul’s arrival, the USNA midshipmen completed their in-depth summer training, where they learned about basic seamanship, basic damage control, navigation, and the various duties and responsibilities of surface warfare officers.

“It was really cool to see that all of the training we did over the summer translates to the fleet very well,” said Midshipman 4th Class Charlotte Caywood, a freshman at the Naval Academy. “I didn’t come from a Navy family, so this was my first time seeing an actual ship. I never considered the LCS program as an option, and while I still have a long way to go, it will definitely be on my list of options when the time comes.”

While discussing the ship’s capabilities, the crewmembers also talked about daily life on a littoral combat ship, touching on topics like meal quality, crew morale, and the closeness of the crew.

“You hear a lot about the submarine community, how it operates and how close the community is, and I always thought that was exclusive to the sub community,” said Midshipman 3rd Class Jarrod Schad, a sophomore at the Naval Academy. “You don’t hear about that level of closeness in the surface community, so it was great to hear that the LCS community is so tight-knit and unique in that manner.”

Minneapolis-Saint Paul is homeported at Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Florida.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul hosts Maryland Deputy Commerce Secretary during Fleet Week

09.09.2022

Story by Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel Cleary, Naval District Washington

BALTIMORE - U.S. Navy and Maryland Department of Commerce leaders met onboard USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (LCS-21) to discuss and celebrate women leaders in business during Maryland Fleet Week and Flyover Baltimore Friday, September 9.

Rear Adm. Nancy S. Lacore, Commandant, Naval District Washington, opened the meeting by affirming to the members that the Navy is intertwined with the state of Maryland. "It is important to connect with people like you- leaders in the community- to strengthen our relationships through shared experiences, in this case as women in leadership roles," said Lacore to tour members. "Most of our missions take place overseas, where we cannot show the American people the Navy's work, so I hope you will share this experience and anything you learn about your Navy with your family, friends, and co-workers.

The group was comprised of Signe Pringle, Deputy Secretary at Commerce; Tom Riford, Assistant Secretary of Tourism, Film, Arts, Marketing and Communications, Maryland Department of Commerce; Allison Mayer, Deputy Chief of Staff & Infrastructure Director, Maryland Department of Commerce; members of the Naval District Washington and Department of Commerce Staffs; and leadership of USS Minneapolis St. Paul.



Cmdr. White, Rear Adm. Lacore and Allison Mayer, Maryland Department of Commerce.

"Maryland Fleet Week is always exciting because it allows us to welcome the U.S. Navy back to Baltimore in a big way—and to celebrate Baltimore's special connection to naval history through the War of 1812," said Pringle. "The state is thrilled to support Fleet Week, and today we recognize the role of women in leadership and the impact they make across the Navy and Maryland."

As impactful as the tour was for the Women Business Leaders Office leaders, so was the opportunity for the Sailors and officers aboard to meet them. Cmdr. Alfonza White, USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul, Commanding Officer, expressed how it meant much to him to engage with the group as a father of a 15-year-old daughter.

"It means a lot to be able to tell my daughter she can do anything she applies herself to and be able to tell her about other women who have done the same," said White.

Lt. Jeanelle Seals, weapons officer aboard Minneapolis-Saint Paul, echoed that sentiment.

"It was inspiring to see so many women who are leaders in their communities and professional fields," said Seals. "Meeting them and talking about what we've been able to accomplish in our respective careers was the highlight of my trip to Baltimore so far."



A beautiful Baltimore Inner Harbor morning during Maryland Fleet Week.



Cmdr. White shows off USS Minneapolis Saint Paul during Maryland Fleet Week.

# Command Updates

## Marine Safety Unit Duluth

Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Duluth's busy summer is finally slowing down but there is still a lot going on in our community!

MSU Duluth's Change of Command Ceremony was held July 8, 2022. Cmdr. Jarod DeWitz became the new Commanding Officer. He was greeted and congratulated by many port partners from around Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. As Commanding Officer of MSU Duluth, he is responsible for activities on navigable waters all across Western Lake Superior, stretching as far east as just past the Keweenaw Peninsula and as far north as the boundary waters. Cmdr. DeWitz is excited to get out into the community and make a positive impact.



Tall Ships Two Harbors 2022

August 4-8, 2022 was Tall Ships Two Harbors 2022. MSU Duluth, Station Duluth, and Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Duluth worked alongside port partners and other government agencies to make the event safe for the public. The planning for this event started back in January 2022 and everything came together during the 4-day event. This was a safe and memorable event for patrons. MSU Duluth thanks all our port partners that assisted with making the event a success.

On August 16, 2022, MSU Duluth acquired an ROV to utilize for pollution responses. MSU Duluth Pollution Responders can use this critical resource to determine where products may spill under the surface of submerged vessels and locate hazards underwater.

August 26, 2022 they unit had a Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE). The purpose of these exercises is to test facilities response plan notification and response capabilities for an Average Most Probable Discharge (AMPD) at their facility. Coast Guard Pollution Responders and Facility Inspectors observe the exercise and ensure they are following their response plans.



MSU Dragon Boat Team - The Puddle Pirates

August 27, 2022 MSU Duluth competed in the Dragon Boat Festival held at Barkers Island in Superior, Wisconsin. Our team won our first heat with a time of 2 minutes and 11 seconds. In the second heat we came in 2nd with a time of 2 minutes and 10 seconds. Overall, our team placed 30th out of 58 teams. This was an excellent team building exercise for all who participated in the race and great morale for the crew! We are looking at coming back stronger next year!

We also have our inspectors going out and doing exams/inspections all across our Area of Response.

Our office would like to remind readers that if you are planning on taking your boat out at night, make sure you have a float plan, have proper safety equipment, ensure the lights on your boat are operational, and have situational awareness of the boating conditions as well as the aids to navigation in the area you will be boating in.





# Command Updates



## USCGC Spar

### SPAR Sailor of the Quarter

The Minnesota Navy League Council recently provided the SPAR \$250 to recognize their sailor of the quarter. MK3 Adolfo Hernandez. Petty Officer Hernandez serves in the Auxiliary Machinery Division in CUTTER SPAR. During a recent post Midlife Maintenance Availability Petty Officer Hernandez corrected more than 10 discrepancies in the ship's thruster hydraulic oil head tanks, potable water, auxiliary sea water, ship service air, deck hydraulics, and reefer systems.



Lt. Cmdr. Wright presents SOQ to MK3 Adolfo Hernandez

His diligence and attention to detail decreased the likelihood of catastrophic failure in these vital shipboards installed systems. Petty Officer Hernandez, always the shipmate willing to help, crossed divisions to provide his expertise to Main Propulsion and help tune the main diesel engines. His efforts were critical to complete SPAR's mid-life overhaul at Coast Guard Yard early.

### Cutter SPAR partnered with NOAA, Attended CG Festival

The Coast Guard Cutter SPAR returned to homeport in Duluth MN after 26 days away. While underway, the ship conducted aids to navigation (Aton) work on twenty navigational buoys and retrieved one buoy which had begun drifting. In addition, the crew partnered with NOAA and Michigan Maritime Academy to mark twelve deep water shipwrecks at depths of 130 to 300+ feet along the West coast of Lake Huron in the National Marine Sanctuary.

Each wreck was first located using an ROV, allowing SPAR to position itself exactly in relation to the wreck. The ROV was then kept on site throughout the operation as the SPAR lowered a dive buoy positioning within feet of the wreck,

so divers can easily find it without causing any damage to the 100+ year old wrecks. While aboard, NOAA members also had the opportunity to integrate with the crew, sleeping in various berthing areas as available and share meals with the crew.



SPAR conducting aids to navigation work.

To complete her voyage, the SPAR participated in the Coast Guard Festival at Grand Haven MI, entered in procession with her sister ship the Hollyhock and the 140' icebreaking tug Neah Bay. During the festival, all Coast Guard ships were opened to the public for tours, SPAR provided nearly 8,000 tours. Additionally, the crew participated in numerous morale and public events. Most notably participation in the annual memorial service ceremony for the crew of USCGC Escanaba (Hull #77) sunk by a German U-boat during WWII.



### Gales of November

The Gales of November is a 2-day event that features fascinating speaker programs on maritime history, industry, and photography, Exhibitors, Luncheons, silent auction, a Cruise of a Lifetime raffle, and more! President Bill James will be a featured speaker, discussing the 'The Navy's First Ship Commissioning in Duluth: The Role of US Maritime Services in the 2022 Commissioning of the USS Minneapolis St Paul' on Saturday, November 12, 2022 at the DECC's Harborside Ballroom: [https://www.lsmma.com/content.aspx?page\\_id=4002&club\\_id=605134&item\\_id=1763343&event\\_date\\_id=255](https://www.lsmma.com/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=605134&item_id=1763343&event_date_id=255)

# Command Updates



## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains

Navy League of Minnesota - Hello!

It's that time of year again! The leaves are changing, the school year is starting, and pumpkin spice has taken over the market. As everyone begins to enjoy this gorgeous Minnesota fall weather, we are re-engaging with our local schools, coordinating and planning events and spending more time within the community.



While closing out the final month of our fiscal year mission, it's hard not to reflect on our recruiting efforts over the past year. I am incredibly proud of the energy and perseverance that our NTAG Northern Plains team has displayed. While this summer definitely provided many challenges for recruiting across all services, August proved to be a GREAT month of activity for the NTAG Northern Plains Buffalos! Our primary focus is on finding quality applicants and top-notch prospects within our community to ensure the fleet is provided with the best and brightest future sailors it has to offer and we maintain our status as the strongest and most powerful Naval Force in the world. We will continue to look at the Navy League for your experience and expertise in spreading the Navy's message across the state of Minnesota while we build off of our current momentum and finish the fiscal year out strong!



NTAG PRT

In command news, this summer brought on some great events. We successfully took a break from the rigors of recruiting in July to conduct our MWR picnics in Minn., Neb. and Iowa. We also said goodbye to two vital members of our recruiting family, NCCS Michael Moen and HT1 Chris Wilson, who retired in August after a combined 40 years of naval service. Fair Winds and Following Seas to them both! August also brought about our annual requirement to complete our command Physical Readiness Test (PRT). Between Minn., Neb. and Iowa we successfully completed our PRT consisting of push-ups, cardio, and the newly implemented abdominal planks.



Cmdr. Allen conducting Oath of Enlistment with group of future sailors

The month of August also provided a new opportunity for our Future Sailors. As those in the Navy recruiting world know, Future Sailors have, and always will be, one of our driving forces. Their passion to join and spread their own excitement to others is something we strive for from the very start of their initial commitment into the Delayed Entry Program (DEP). This summer we were able to show off our Future Sailors in a couple of fun events. We organized Future Sailors across Minn., Iowa and Omaha for our first annual DEP Olympics! Numerous friends, family, and future sailors in each location came out on a beautiful Saturday morning to watch and participate in the competition. All five of our divisions were represented and provided a motivating display of team work, physical fitness and mental acuity.

# Command Updates



## NTAG (Cont).

September provided another exciting community event where our color guard presented the colors and I was able to conduct a ceremonial Oath of Enlistment to a group of Future Sailors as part of the opening ceremonies for the Minnesota Softball Military Appreciation (MSMA) Tournament on September 9th in Coon Rapids. Despite the opening night weather being a bit rainy, we still saw hundreds of participants and spectators showing their support to the Future Sailors that will be starting their Navy journey over the next year.



Lastly, I would like to congratulate our newest Chief Petty Officer Selects! Best of luck to NCC (Sel) Cardona, HMC (Sel) Hinrichs, and HMC (Sel) Skorcz during the upcoming Chief Season and I look forward to their pinning on 21OCT22.



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



## Naval Reserve Center - Minneapolis

NRC Minneapolis is participating in the Navy Reserve Force (RESFOR) mobilization exercise MASS-EX 22-2 throughout the month of September. The purpose of the exercise is to flex the Navy Readiness and Mobilization Commands (REDCOM) as well as their subordinate Navy Reserve Centers in their ability to activate 20 percent of their drilling Sailors, identify best practices and capability shortfalls.



NRC participates in RESFOR mobilization exercise.

In the exercise, the NRC is activating NR 477th Marine Wing Support Squadron (the Navy element of our local USMC reserve command), NR SUBPAC OPS, NR C10F/NIOC TX Det Minneapolis, and NMCB 25 Det Minneapolis, totaling approximately 120 Sailors. This is more than the combined total of mobilizations processed at the NRC over the last 4 years. The exercise was led by the NRC’s mobilization officer, Personnel Specialist First Class Jacqueline Smith and Hospital Corpsmen Second Class Victoria Van Esselstine and included each department at the NRC as well as medical providers sent to us by BUMED to provide medical and dental screening. They created and coordinated a plan to transform the drill deck to a mobilization processing site, creating stations for medical, dental, training/GTCC, personnel records and pay, and IT.

RESFOR’s mobilization exercises support the “Mobilize the Force” pillar, one of four pillars contained in Vice Adm. Mustin’s Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions. Navy Reserve Fighting Instructions are CNR’s plan to shift the Reserve Force’s focus from operational support in the form of individual augmentee mobilizations supporting overseas contingency operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, to providing necessary strategic depth as warfighting ready units to support high end conflict.

The other pillars, “Design the Force, Train the Force, and Develop the Force” work in concert to take the approximately 60,000 TAR and Drilling Sailors of the Navy Reserve and create the necessary units, with trained personnel who will be able to promptly provide combat power and combat support when called upon by national leadership.

Mobilize the Force is the pillar that NRC Minneapolis mostly supports, the goal is to be able to mobilize the entire Reserve Force within 30 days of notification. This month’s exercise is the fourth of 2022 each focusing on different aspects of the Force, either specific to REDCOMs or specific active commands’ reserve organization in a mobilize to billet, which included Littoral Combat Squadron Two last July that coincided with reserve support of the commissioning ceremony of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21).

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota NROTC

The University of Minnesota NROTC Golden Gopher Battalion was busy this summer. From Marine Option midshipmen rucking at OCS to Navy Option midshipmen manning the conn onboard surface ships, everyone had something to do, learn, or see out in the fleet.



Midshipman I/C Nelson is named Midshipman Instructor Honor Graduate at Naval Station Great Lakes

The midshipmen candidates learned about damage control, firearms, the chain of command, and how to be a military professional. "NSI was one of the most mentally challenging but rewarding 2.5 weeks of my life," explained Midshipman 3/C Desai. Midshipman Nelson and Midshipman Van Zuilen were named NSI Honor Midshipman Instructors for iterations II and III. Bravo Zulu!

In the freshman/sophomore class, the following midshipmen candidates attend NSI: Ethan Blankenship, Chancellor Desai, Tenzin Passang, Adam Groh, Jacob Kuhlman, Jeremy Murray, Aaron Clausen, Joseph Kingsriter, Maren Merrick-Melberg, Christian Merren, Dylan Sonmore, Alix Gifford, Sammy Renning, Thomas Samit, Amber Kelly, and Issac Mederson. We would also like to welcome to the Golden Gopher Battalion Edward Winkler, Robert Le, and Max Derosier who have joined as College Program students.

All Marine Option midshipmen from NROTC programs across the Nation are required to go to Officer Candidate School (OCS), in Quantico, Virginia, before their final year of college. Midshipmen I/C Bjella and Hintze represented the Golden Gopher Battalion this year. "I have never done anything like OCS before and have learned so much about myself through constant failure and tribulation. I am incredibly grateful to have gone through this experience with the ladies of Lima Company and our motivating staff who worked tirelessly to train us!" Midshipman Bjella described the program. Midshipman Hintze was awarded the Leadership Award and named Honor Graduate. Bravo Zulu!



Midshipman I/C Bjella runs alongside an Officer Candidate School classmate

There was no lack of opportunities for our Navy options. Several of them spent their summer with the surface fleet. Three second-class midshipmen spent time in the bowels of various aircraft carriers with Reactor Department. Midshipman 2/C Mulhall flew across the Atlantic Ocean to meet USS Harry S. Truman (CVN-75) on their deployment. They all had the opportunity to conn the ship, watch flight deck operations from the Landing Signal Officer platform, and speak with Sailors from many different warfare communities. Midshipman 1/C Engelson saw a familiar face while on cruise.

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota NROTC (Continued)



Midshipman 1/C Engelson and UMN NROTC graduate ENS Szondy

Ensign Szondy, a 2021 graduate of the Minnesota NROTC program, was her running mate onboard USS Essex (LHD-2) where she serves as a Deck Division Officer.

Some midshipmen were fortunate enough to explore special-mission communities outside of the surface fleet. Midshipmen 1/C Erickson and 2/C Reed spent their summer cruise on US nuclear submarines. “The opportunity to spend time onboard the USS Michigan (SSGN-727) was a great experience. I was able to experience submarine life with strike and evasion drills, reactor SCRAMs, real fires, and the greatest culinary specialists in the Navy,” said Midshipmen Reed. Joining him on the west coast, Midshipmen 1/C Benson, van Dyke, and Van Zuilen spent their summer in San Diego learning to dive and blow things up on a live demolitions range with the professional operators of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD).

The Gopher Battalion is excited and ready for the new school year and the challenges it will bring.



## Veterans Day Basketball Game

The Minnesota Navy League is proud to announce a special event in partnership with the University of Minnesota Athletic Department.

The University of Minnesota Men’s Basketball team, the University of Minnesota Naval ROTC unit, USS Minnesota, and the Minnesota Navy League will come together to recognize veterans of all services on November 11, 2022 at

Williams Arena. The University of Minnesota Men’s Gopher basketball team will be playing St. Francis Brooklyn Terriers during this Veteran’s Day event.

Prior to the game, the Men’s Basketball team will hold an online meeting with crewmembers of the USS Minnesota to discuss and recognize the USS Minnesota and their mission in service to our country.

The Gopher Men’s basketball team will wear special Veteran’s Day warmup shirts that will include the USS Minnesota Ship’s Crest. Each crewmember of USS Minnesota will receive this same shirt. During halftime the University of Minnesota Band will play a medley of each service song. Veterans in attendance will be asked to stand and be recognized when their service song is played.

A Veteran’s Day shirt and coin will be sold at the game to recognize this special day. Discounted tickets for veterans for this game will be offered by the University Athletic Department. Tickets can be obtained at: <https://gophersports.com/sports/2019/9/19/mens-basketball-tickets>

# Command Updates



## Polaris Battalion TS Trident Sea Cadets

This summer was very busy for the cadets of Polaris Battalion and TS Trident. The summer started with a Chief Pinning for CPO Floding at the June drill. Chief Floding became the 11th Chief and only the third female to hold this rank within Polaris Battalion. June drill closed out on Sunday with the 3rd annual Cars Cadets and Vets car show. The weather did not cooperate as it rained off and on most of the day, but the dedicated car show enthusiasts who support the cadets and vets still showed up having an attendance of just behind last year by about 8 cars for a total of around 60 cars.



CPO Floding

Although the Units did not drill in July, the cadets were busier than any other month. The cadets participated in three parades and a fourth one in August. In the hometown parade the USS Polaris-Trident, A destroyer built by the cadets, won the Mayors Choice Award. The unit will proudly display the trophy in the display case that the cadets will build this fall.



Polaris Battalion won Mayors Choice Award for the float they built of a Destroyer in the Isanti parade.

In two of the four parades, the Units led the parade with the Color Guard and each parade included the USS Polaris-Trident float.

This was a great feature to help draw attention to the Sea Cadets. In July the cadets also helped out at the county fair in the Veterans Food Booth. The cadets that worked that event accounted for 280 hours in five days. They were a stellar group that worked incredibly hard.

Also, during July two cadets were able to participate in launching the rockets they built during the winter and spring drills. These rockets can only be launched in an area with special clearance from the FAA. Each cadet was required to take a test. Once they passed the test, they were cleared to launch their rockets. They now have the ability to keep working towards larger rockets and more powerful motors. The altitude ceiling for the cadet launches were 3000 feet. We watched rockets from others that went as high as 15000 feet.

August is always a drill month that is lower in attendance as cadets finish trainings or are on family vacations. However, this August almost every cadet was in attendance. The Units were able to participate in Rock Climbing and Repelling at Taylors Falls. With the assistance of a generous donation, each cadet was able to do this event for free. Midwest Mountain Guides led the cadets through the adventure. Some cadets pushed through their fears, others just climbed up and repelled down without a second thought. It was incredible to watch the cadets support each other no matter what their skills were. The next day using the same donation, the cadets went canoeing down the Rum River and worked on water safety while building some great friendships just hanging out.



PO Jorgenson reaches the top during Rock climbing at Taylors Falls.

# Command Updates



## Polaris Battalion TS Trident Sea Cadets (Continued)

Looking ahead, the Units are starting new opportunities in welding, carpentry, medical and land navigation. The League cadets will continue working on various STEM projects and learning the skills needed for an easy transition to the cadets.

It's been a fast and fun summer. We look forward to a successful fall and winter.



Female Safety training at the Pentagon.

## Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets

It has been a busy summer for the Twin Cities Squadron cadets and staff. The unit kicked off the summer with the distinguished honor of supporting the Minnesota Navy League Council at the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) in Duluth, Minn. The color guard performed for the Chairman's Gala and the commissioning. The highlight of the event for the cadets was the guided tour of the ship and the LCS 21 swag. A special thanks to the Minnesota Navy League Council for the invitation and accommodations in Duluth.



Twin Cities Squadron Memorial Day Event at Fort Snelling with Gov. Walz

## Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets (Cont)

The following weekend, the color guard and a cadet cadre were back in action supporting Memorial Day events at historic Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Despite some early morning showers, the rain held off for the parade and ceremony. The TCS provided a uniformed presence, and cadets held positions of honor beside the colors at the front of the stage. June drill capped off with the Farewell for our seniors who are going ashore, or "retiring" from the Sea Cadet Corps. Distinguished guests in attendance included Cmdr. James Duvall - Navy Talent Acquisition Group Great Plains, CWO5 Matthew Uveges - USMC (ret), LtCol Barney Uhlig - Navy League Minnesota Council. The keynote speech was provided by Capt. Blake Tornga, Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC University of Minnesota. This year we graduated both our Leading Petty Officer, PO2 Conner Howe and Assistant Leading Petty Officer, PO2 Austin Kou. LPO Howe is continuing his service in the Cadet Corps at Norwich University, Senior Military College this fall.



Field Ops Training.

June also marked the kick-off of the advanced training season. The new recruits onboarded during spring attended Recruit Training (RT) in N.Y., Utah, Ky., Fla., and Wis. NSCC and NLCC cadets attended a wide range of training opportunities in DC, Fla., Texas, Ind. and Wis. The training topics included maritime interdiction, marksmanship, field operations, intelligence, and veterinary care. Aspiring petty officers attended the Petty Officer Leadership Academy, a course focused on developing leadership qualities. The TCS is proud to recognize LC Leiter, AN Mortenson, PO3 Pfeifer, PO3 Schantzen and PO3 Weiland all of whom attended two or more advanced trainings this summer.

# Command Updates

## Twin Cities Squadron Sea Cadets (Cont)



TCS cadets supported Air Expo at Flying Cloud airport in July.

In July, when not attending advanced training, the TCS cadets remained active in community service supporting the Air Expo flight line at Flying Cloud Airport. More than a few future flight deck shooters and Top Gun pilots in training!

In August, the TCS resumed monthly drill activities at the Arden Hills Army Training Site (AHATS) in Arden Hills, Minn. After a long summer of recruiting, we welcomed a handful of new recruits and installed new cadet leadership. PO3 Max Schantzen was made LPO. His ALPO is PO3 Maguire Weiland. NSCC Section Leads were awarded to AN Schroer, PO3 Sanovoung and AN Mortenson. This is a very young leadership cadre, but we have no doubt they will rise to challenge.

This month US Naval Sea Cadet Corps celebrated its 60th birthday. Twin Cities Squadron is proud to have served 50 years. Supply Officers Weiland and Howe will be focused on the changeover to winter dress uniforms, just in time for the upcoming Navy Ball. A good number of TCS cadets will be in attendance for the event, including our Color Guard members who will be performing a joint presentation of the colors with the Midshipmen from the University of Minnesota ROTC unit.



The TCS also welcomed a new Executive Officer, LtCmdr. Phillip Parrish USN (ret). His attention to detail and knowledge of drill instruction will be an asset to the unit, and the cadet leaders.

Lastly, it is with great appreciation we report the retirement – for the second time – of Ltjg Dirk Holman, Commanding Officer. Ltjg Holman served the TCS previously as the Executive Officer and was lured out of retirement in February 2020 to become the Commanding Officer. Under his watch, the unit persevered through the pandemic shutdown, resumed community service and outreach programs, and implemented a robust recruit indoctrination program. The staff, cadets, and families of the Twin Cities Squadron will miss his steadfast leadership and commitment to the program. Fair winds and following seas.

Ens. Shawn Wilson was appointed to assume command of the Twin Cities Squadron on September 9, 2022. He has been with the unit since 2019, previously serving in the recruiting, Public Affairs Officer and most recently NSCC DIVO billets.

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### SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!

Army-Navy Football Game Official Viewing Party  
2:00 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10th 2022

Navy League Council of Minnesota in conjunction with Minnesota's Vessey Chapter of the Association of the US Army and The Minnesota Military & Veteran's Museum



Where: Uptown Minneapolis VFW  
James Ballentine Post 246  
2916 Lyndale AVE S  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!



# Command Updates



## Twin Ports Sea Cadets Update

Our command has been busy since the snow and ice melted in late spring. With new recruits joining our ranks, and seasoned sailors from our command completing their enlistment, we have seen many changes.

Starting in March, our evolutions began quickly, beginning with small boat operations. "Roughrider" took its first sonar patrol of 2022's navigable season on Lake Superior. The boat crew was comprised of four personnel who braved the cold and elements for four hours covering many miles.



University of Minnesota Midshipmen train aboard S.S. Irvin with Twin Ports Sailors

Also in March, a handful of sailors from Twin Ports Division trained around 30 midshipmen from the University of Minnesota in basic seamanship onboard the S.S. William A. Irvin. The Commanding Officer Captain Blake Tornga of the Navy ROTC and Executive Officer Commander Andrew Behlke, along with other command staff were in attendance. The weather was in the low to mid 40's with heavy winds and sideways rain. The Midshipmen were trained and conducted live mooring evolutions on deck. The Midshipmen performed exceptionally and endured quite the realistic experience on deck in the elements.

In early summer, Twin Ports Division was gainfully employed during the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul commissioning ceremony. This was a VERY LONG week for TPD! Twin Ports Division was very busy behind the scenes for the entire duration of the ship's visit from LCS-21 mooring, to the ship departing after the commissioning. TPD's sailors assisted crewing the harbor pilot boat to transfer pilots to and from the Minneapolis Saint Paul while underway and both vessels still moving at around six knots,



TPD Cadets supported USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning with Harbor Patrol.

coordinating with LCS-21's command/operations staff for logistics in supply stores, fueling, and food acquisition for the ship during its week in port. TPD's boat crew deployed the pollution and security perimeter booms around LCS-21 along with solar marker lights on the security boom. TPD also escorted LCS-21 out of the harbor for pilot retrieval during an underway PAX transfer.

TPD saw the end of active obligated service of three of the unit's most senior personnel. Ranging from 3-6 years of service each, we said goodbye to QM3 Ethan Rentschler, QM3 Solomon Martin, and ENFN Andrew Truscott. QM3 Rentschler has worked on a local harbor tug boat for a few years and now sails in the Merchant Marine full time as a Wiper in the engine room onboard the ore carrier S.S. Wilfred Sykes, one of the last operating American steamships operating on the great lakes. Truscott and Martin are now Midshipmen/Aux and still drill with the command as they move over to the officer side. Recently TPD has begun workups for mobilization in June for Grandma's Marathon. Being that the command has had a high turnover due to member completing their enlistments, much work lies ahead to train in our new incoming recruits. These last few drill weekends have seen basic patient assessments, body substance isolation sizing and familiarization, and oxygen therapy with O<sub>2</sub>, pulse/ox, nasal cannulas, and non-rebreather masks. Next drill will cover airway adjuncts and suctioning.

# Command Updates



## MCJROTC Como Park

The Como Park's High School MCJROTC embarked on a 4-day (3,300 mile) road trip for their annual Cadet Leadership Orientation Camp for SY21-22. With the intent of developing the new cadet staff in logistics and planning and ensuring all 29 cadets were developed progressively through increased stress, responsibility, teamwork, and sacrifice during the entire adventure. Excellence in their leadership attacked the Chicago Science and Industry Museum, Chicago Naval Pier, Gettysburg National Park, Constitutional Hall, the Liberty Bell, Tun Tavern (Birthplace of the Marine Corps) hollow grounds, NYC Statue of Liberty, NYC Ellis Island, NYC Financial District, NYC 9/11 Museum, NYC Subway System, NYC Times Square, NYC Central Park, NYC Museum, and finally the Cedar Point Amusement Park in Northern Ohio. A grateful shout out to our Como Park Administration, the Northstar Marine Veterans Corp, and the guardians of the cadets that entrust them to our care for helping our program always making it all happen. OOH RAH!



Como MCJROTC Summer road trip to Gettysburg

On August 4th, the Keewaydin Chapter of the daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) held a ceremony to rededicate the restoration of a historical marker that had been placed on the Gideon and Agnes Pond House in Bloomington, Minnesota in 1934. Samuel and Gideon Pond were missionaries to the Dakota Indians of Minnesota from 1834 until 1853. One of their greatest accomplishments was developing the first alphabet for the Dakota language, which had never previously been written down. Once the alphabet was established, with collaboration of others, they developed a Dakota dictionary, as well as a grammar and hymnal. They also translated the Bible into Dakota; that effort took 40 years to complete.

The ceremony included the Presentation of Colors which was beautifully performed by Color Sergeant Cadet Corporal Samuel Hunt and the rest of the Color Guard team from Como Park Sr. High School Marine Corps Jr. ROTC. Three great-great-grandsons of Gideon Pond attended the ceremony.

The SY22-23 CPSHS MCJROTC Cadet Staff Corps spends the day together Sunday 8-7-2023. Day included Commanding Officer Leadership Philosophies, Road Trip, Donuts, Trollhaugen's Aerial Adventure Park Training, Reverse Zip Lining, Patriotic Luncheon, Swimming, and King of the Mountain on an Inflatable Hotdog at Square Lake. Future sure looks right. Ooh Rah. Jesiah Mason, Chong Her, Gay Htoo, Pah Meh, Ze Vang, Hser Hser Gay, Alex Le, Eh Say, Paw Htoo, and Sophia Moore.



Gideon and Agnes Pond House re-dedication with Como Color Guard

The MCJROTC Cadets worked their annual fundraiser at the Minnesota State Fair for seven days. Keeping the great Minnesota get together clean from end to end. The leadership of all those involved was noteworthy. They have managed to raise enough money again for their travel and adventures for SY22-23. OOH RAH!



Como Cadets working cleanup at the Minnesota State Fair.

# Other News

## Lt. Amanda “Stalin” Lee makes Blue Angels history as the first woman to fly in a demo F/A-18E/F Super Hornet with the team.



Lt. Amanda “Stalin” Lee makes Blue Angels history as the first woman to fly in a demo F/A-18E/F Super Hornet with the team.

On Jul. 18, 2020 the US Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron announced six new officers to join the team for the 2023 air show season. The squadron selected two F/A-18E/F Super Hornet pilots, an events coordinator, a C-130J Super Hercules pilot, an aviation maintenance officer and a flight surgeon to replace outgoing team members.

Lt. Amanda Lee, of Mounds View, Minnesota, will be the first woman to serve as a demonstration pilot.

LT Amanda “Stalin” Lee grew up in Mounds View, Minnesota. While attending the University of Minnesota in Duluth and working at UPS, she decided to enlist in the Navy, graduating from Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois in 2007. Her successful enlisted career as an Aviation Electronics Technician led to her selection into the Seaman-to-Admiral (STA-21) Commissioning Program. LT Lee received a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry at Old Dominion University, and earned her commission in August 2013. She was designated a Naval Aviator in April 2016 and recently completed a deployment aboard the USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75), in support of Dynamic Force Employment (DFE), Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR), as well as numerous exercises with NATO Allies.

In 2019, Lee was part of the first ever all-female flyover as part of the funeral service for retired Navy Capt. Rosemary Mariner, one of the first female Navy jet pilots and the first woman to command an operational naval aviation squadron.

While Lee is the first woman who will fly an F/A-18E/F for the squadron, she isn’t the first woman to take to the skies with the Blue Angels. That honor goes to Marine Maj. Katie Higgins, who flew the team’s C-130 Fat Albert transport plane 2014 to 2016.



## NAVY AND MARINE CORPS 247TH BIRTHDAY BALL CELEBRATION

The Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council is proud to host a joint U.S. Navy/Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The Ball will be held at Mystic Lake Center in the Minnetonka Ballroom on October 15th, 2022.

This will be the first combined Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Ball being attended by Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, The University of Minnesota

Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains, and the Naval Reserve Center (NRC) Minneapolis.

Since 1972, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide birthday celebration to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service. The Navy League is honored to host this celebration of the Navy’s birthday in Minnesota. Please join us as we honor 247 years of Naval service to our country. ***This year’s theme is “On Watch 24/7 for 247 Years”***

For tickets, please visit our website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/navy-marine-corps-birthday-ball-2022-tickets-398634856587>

# Other News

## Naval Academy Information Program

As summer yields to the fall season, the United States Naval Academy is back in academic mode. The upperclassmen have returned from leave and summer professional training. The Class of 2026 has successfully completed Plebe Summer training and become official members of the Brigade of Midshipmen.

Throughout Minnesota, service academy information seminars are being conducted. These seminars, sponsored by Minnesota's U.S. Congressional delegation, provide opportunities for students and parents to gain an overview of each service academy and provide insights into the appointment and nomination processes. Detailed information on these seminars, including times, dates and locations, are provided on the websites of each participating member of Congress.



Lt. Sarah Howard addresses local Minnesota schools to provide information on the Academy

In addition to Congressional information seminars, the Naval Academy is sponsoring multiple school and community events throughout September and October. Several of these seminars were recently conducted by Lt. Sarah Howard, USN. Lt. Howard is a candidate guidance officer currently assigned to the Office of Admissions at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Lt. Howard's school visits and information seminars focused primarily on Minnesota's rural Congressional districts. She will be returning in October 2022 to conduct additional information seminars and school visits.

Minnesota will once again participate in the Naval Academy's Operation Information (OPINFO) program this fall.

In this program, representatives from the U.S. Naval Academy, Navy ROTC (both Navy and Marine Corps options) and the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) will present information on various Navy and Marine Corps officer programs. Additionally, both Naval Academy and NROTC Midshipmen will present their perspectives on each officer program. Midshipmen, Blue and Gold Officers, NROTC representatives, officer programs recruiters and others will be present and available to answer specific questions and to meet individually with interested parents and students. More information will be posted as details of the 2022 OPINFO program are finalized. Questions may be referred to the NAIP Area Coordinator for Minnesota, Captain Mark Salmen, USN (Ret.) at [mark.salmen@1973.usna.com](mailto:mark.salmen@1973.usna.com)



Outreach North participated in the Woodbury Days parade. Pictured are Woodbury Days Coordinator, Paul Huffman, Woodbury Mayor Anne Burt and Joyce Lacey

### Outreach North

This quarter, Outreach North Vice President, Joyce Lacey has participated in parades in Woodbury, Inver Grove Heights, and North Saint Paul. She also spoke with attendees at the Minnesota State Fair, volunteered at the AUSA 23rd Annual General John W. Vessey Jr. Golf Tournament where she was on their committee and got door prizes to give away at the event.

Outreach North continues working with the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans, Veterans Homes and Hospitals to deliver socks, hand cleanser and other necessities. She also spoke briefly at the monthly meetings for Ashby American Legion, VFW and Lions Club informing them of the benefits of joining the Navy League.

She also volunteered for the Gold Star Foundation Motorcycle Ride that raises money and awareness for Gold Star families and the Boots on the Ground Veterans Motorcycle Fun Run Fundraiser for the Veterans Home in Fergus Falls.

# Other News

## DID YOU KNOW?

By Brandon Montanye

In May of 1986 the movie Top Gun was released in theaters. It gave the world a glimpse into Naval Aviation and made a movie star out of the F-14 Tomcat. Sadly, the F-14 was phased out of the Navy's inventory in 2006, with a sunseting ceremony on the 22nd of September of that year. The Tomcat was replaced by the newer F/A-18 Hornet, an aircraft that was seen as more cost effective in production and maintenance. With the recent release of Top Gun: Maverick, we saw the venerable F-14 Tomcat in action again. But did you know that you can see an F-14 Tomcat right here in Minnesota?

F-14A Tomcat BUNO 160914 is located at the Wilmar Municipal Airport (BDH / KBDH) and is proudly on display. She started her life with the Navy being assigned to the "Gunfighters" of VF-124. This was the Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) for the West Coast. They trained newly winged Aviators how to operate the F-14. In June 1981 she was transferred to VF-211 the "Fighting Checkmates" where she was designated as the Carrier Air Group/Carrier Air Wing Commanders (CAG) aircraft. Her last operational squadron assignment was with the "Black Lions" of VF-213. She was then sent to VF-101 the "Grim Reapers," the East Coast FRS. In August of 1999 she was flown to the Naval Air Reserve Center, at the Minneapolis International Airport. She was stricken from the list and was to be used as a training asset for the Reserve unit.



F-14A Tomcat BUNO 160914 at the Wilmar Airport

The Reserve Unit did use the aircraft for training but had issues obtaining the ground support equipment and specialty tools designed for the Tomcat. According to the former Commanding Officer of the Unit, Captain Chip Scharratt, USNR (Ret), the plan was to have a dedicated space in the current Reserve Center building to house the Tomcat.

Because the decision was made by Commander, Naval Reserve Force to no longer keep BUNO 160914 in their inventory before the building was constructed, that space was reutilized when it was built.

In May of 2007 She was moved to Wilmar Municipal Airport. The instruments and two engines were removed prior to the transport by the Navy, but the two seats were kept in the aircraft. Her flight control surfaces were removed for transport, and she was escorted by the Minnesota State Patrol between Midnight and Five A.M. Pat Curry, a former Airport Commission member, was the lead on raising public and private funds to get the fighter jet to Wilmar.

Out of the 712 F-14s that were built, only 88 remain on public display. Tomcats were literally put on the chopping block after they were no longer used by the Navy. The primary reason was to prevent Iran from obtaining spare parts. Iran is the only country in the world that still operates the F-14.

She proudly sits on display at the Wilmar Airport. One side of the aircraft has the livery of VF-101 and the other side the logo for the decommissioned Naval Air Reserve unit of Minneapolis. And now you know.



Tail of Wilmar F-14A displays the logo of former Naval Air Reserve unit of Minneapolis



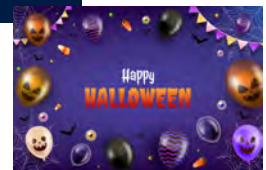
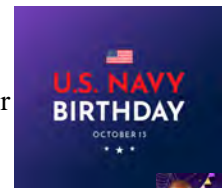
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Minnesota Council  
2023 Officers**

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Treasurer	Mark Stange	<a href="mailto:mark1stange@gmail.com">mark1stange@gmail.com</a>
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JAG	James Schoeberl	<a href="mailto:james.schoeberle@gmail.com">james.schoeberle@gmail.com</a>

**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2022**

**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 15
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 6
Election Day	November 8
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	November 10
Gales of November – Duluth	November 11-12
Veterans Day	November 11
U of M Salute to Veterans Basketball Game	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 10
U.S. National Guard Birthday	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 17
Hanukkah Begins	December 18-26
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	December 26 – January 1
New Year's Eve	December 31

