



*Navy League of the United States - Minnesota Council*



*The North Star*



## Minnesota Navy League Kicks off Speaker Series with Capt. Christopher “Pops” Papaioanu

In January 2023, the Minnesota Navy League Council will start a series of webinars to bring the fleet to Minnesota. The goal of these webinars will be to inform you of the challenges, issues and successes the Navy is experiencing at this time.

Our first speaker is Capt. Christopher “Pops” Papaioanu, former commander of the US Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOP GUN) and current Director of Integration at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center, the Navy’s center of excellence for air combat training and tactics development. The Webinar will be held in January. Specific date and link to the Webinar will be sent after the first of the year.



Capt. Papaioanu was born in Corona, California, received his commission through the University of San Diego NROTC program in 1998 and received his designation as a Naval Aviator in November 2000. His first operational fleet assignment was as a member of the “Tophatters” of VFA-14. During his time with VFA-14, the squadron embarked to the Western Pacific aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in direct support of the opening stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In June 2004, he was selected to attend the Navy Fighter Weapons School, where he remained as a TOPGUN instructor. Upon completion of his tour, he reported to the “Kestrels” of VFA-137 where he served as the Training Officer. The squadron deployed to the Western Pacific aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. During his tour with the “Kestrels,” he was selected for the 2007 Navy and Marine Association Peer Leadership award, an award selected by his peers for persons exhibiting the highest levels of excellence in leadership.

In 2009, he started his Department Head Tour with VFA-14. During this tour, he deployed to the western Pacific aboard USS Nimitz (CVN 68) and USS John T. Stennis (CVN 74) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During this tour, Capt. Papaioanu was selected as the 2010 Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff Attack Aviator of the Year, an award which is presented annually to the top tactical pilot or Naval Flight Officer for exceptional proficiency, professionalism and contributions to carrier-based attack missions.

In June 2011, he received orders to the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Upon graduation in July 2012, he reported to Joint Functional Component Command (JFCC) for Space at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif. As a member of JFCC Space, he established a new branch, serving as the Weapons and Tactics Branch Chief from July 2012 to May 2014.



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## Webinar (Continued)

In May 2014, Capt. Papaioanu reported to VFA-122 for refresher pilot training. Upon completion, he reported to the “Argonauts” of VFA-147 as the Executive Officer. In August 2016, he took command of VFA-147 and led the squadron through work-ups and a combat deployment aboard the USS Nimitz (CVN 68) in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

In January 2018, he reported to the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center as the TOPGUN Commanding Officer. Completing his second tour at TOPGUN in August 2019, he then took command of STRIKE at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center through November 2020. He is currently serving as the Director of Integration at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center.



Capt. Papaioanu is a 1998 graduate of the University of San Diego, receiving a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Mathematics. He also holds a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Strike/Flight Air Medal (6), the Navy Commendation Medal (3), the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various campaign and unit awards.

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## University of Minnesota Hosts “Salute to Veterans” Basketball game



University of Minnesota Men's Basketball team wears warm up jerseys with USS Minnesota logo

VP Adopted Ships, Brian Skon and VP Legislative Affairs/Partnerships attended the University of Minnesota Men’s basketball team “Salute to Veterans” game on Nov. 11, 2022.

A special thanks to the University of Minnesota Men’s Basketball team for engaging with USS Minnesota leadership prior to the game through video conference. Prior to the game, the team wore the official USS Minnesota Ship’s Crest on their warmup shirts. During the game, the University introduced veterans of each branch and the band played a medley of Service songs.



VP's Brian Skon and Bill James at the Salute to Veterans Basketball game with Gopher forward Dawson Garcia

## *A Message from the Minnesota Council President*



Season's Greetings!

As we move to the end of an exciting and very busy 2022, I want to thank the council members who did an extraordinary job putting on the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul and the combined Navy and Marine Corps birthday celebration. Their efforts have garnered national interest in our communities and are a testament to our organizations commitment to celebrating and informing the public of our important role in advocating for the sea services.

On December 10, 2022, we had a fantastic time celebrating the 123rd Army-Navy Football game at the James Ballentine Uptown VFW. Even though the game didn't turn out the way we had hoped, a good time was had by all and a new annual tradition was born here in Minnesota!

December 17, 2022 members of the Minnesota Navy League met at Ft. Snelling to honor those interred at the cemetery by participating with the Wreaths Across America campaign. This was truly an honor and one I hope more members will participate next year.

Looking forward to 2023, we have great things planned to bring value to our organization and community. In addition to our continued support of the Sea Cadets, adopted active/reserve units, ROTC programs, we are looking to expand our participation with the University of Minnesota Scholarship Program, JROTC programs within the State, and take an active role in highlighting our organization at the Duluth air show this summer.



A cold December morning at Ft. Snelling at Wreaths Across America with President Joe Fraser and VPs, Brandon Montanye, Brian Skon and Joyce Lacey.

Lastly, we are most excited about our new speaker series designed to "bring the fleet" to you. Our goal is to bring active duty and civilian decision makers from across the Sea Services to discuss what challenges and successes the Services are experiencing during this era of Great Competition.

Next month we will start off with Capt. Christopher "Pops" Papaioanu, former commander of the US Navy Fighter Weapons School (TOP GUN) and current Director of Integration at the Naval Aviation Warfighting Development Center. Pops was the lead technical advisor to the film crew for TOP GUN: MAVERICK and is currently working Naval Aviation strategy for future maritime campaigns. Keep an eye out for the announcement for the place and time of the event.

As you can see, there are plenty of activities planned next year, and what has been laid out here is just the tip of the iceberg. While we do have a great counsel leadership team to make things happen, we cannot continue to make this organization work without you, our members being actively engaged. So please consider taking on a more active role in our efforts in the coming year.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season and I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

In Your Service,  
Smokin' Joe





# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Community Engagement - Joyce Lacey



The Navy League participated in a couple of Holiday celebrations in Northwest Minnesota in December. On Dec. 3, 2022, VP Community Engagement attended the “Over the River Holiday Festival in Fergus Falls,” which started in the morning and concluded with a tree lighting ceremony

and fireworks. Horse-drawn carriage rides, an art crawl, photos with Santa and kids' activities proved to be a fun filled day for all! Joyce also took part in the Annual Holiday Lights Parade in Fargo Moorhead on the evening of Dec. 3, 2022.

The VP Community Engagement continues to provide holiday cheer by delivering poinsettias to Veteran's Hospitals and Homes this holiday season; plus providing warm hats, gloves, scarfs and socks to the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans.



On Veterans Day, she helped prepare and serve a Prime Rib Dinner to Veterans and their families at the Peterson Tripp Post American Legion 357 in Ashby, Minn. with other volunteers. As a member of the Ashby American Legion Auxiliary Unit 357,

Joyce with other volunteers who prepared and served the meal.

Joyce contributed and led a new Turkey Bingo Activity for Veterans and their families on Nov. 20, 2022 at the Peterson Tripp American Legion Post 357 in Ashby, Minn. Since November was Military Family Month, this was a fitting time to support and honor our veterans and to show that we are grateful for the sacrifices made by military families.

Community Engagement attended the Army Navy Game Event at the Ballentine VFW Dec. 10, 2022, where she handed out information to people who were interested in Navy League membership. Additionally, she continues to work on the documentary The African American Submarine Experience, in association with Tom Wiesen.

Community Engagement also had the opportunity to attend Holidazzle this year at Loring Park in Minneapolis and share with attendees' information on the Navy League. Upcoming parades include the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Grande Day Parade and Torchlight Parade.

## VP Adopted Units - Brian Skon



The Minnesota Navy League has adopted the following active duty and reserve units:

- USS Minnesota SSN 783 – Naval Station Pearl Harbor
- USS Minneapolis Saint Paul LCS 21 – Naval Station Mayport
- United States Coast Guard Cutter (USCGC) Spar
- Naval ROTC - University of Minnesota
- Naval Talent & Acquisition Group (NTAG) – Northern Plains
- Naval Reserve Center – Minneapolis

USS Minnesota and USS Minneapolis Saint Paul held Change of Command ceremonies of their respective commanding officers in September, Cmdr. Hiram “Andy” Andreau assumed command of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul and in November. Cmdr. Isaac Pelt assumed command of USS Minnesota. We look forward to working with both of them.

Our adopted ships are keeping busy. USS Minnesota continues her shipyard availability at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard after three deployments in four years. USS Minneapolis Saint Paul will start a post-commissioning maintenance period in early 2023 to prepare for an upcoming deployment. USCGC Spar started an underway period in December for final checks on navigation aids prior to significant ice is on Lake Superior.

The University of Minnesota NROTC will be conducting a small graduation ceremony for Midshipmen in January prior to assignment to active-duty commands.



# Minnesota Council VP Updates

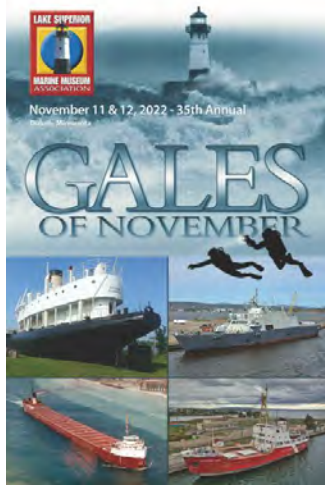
## VP Legislative Affairs - Bill James



Since the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS21) in May 2022, the Navy League Commissioning and Legislative Affairs team has been active in securing State funding from our Minnesota Legislature through a grant extended to us by the State towards commissioning.

Under the leadership of House Representative Jim Nash, Senator Michelle Benson, and Brian Skon, Chair of the Commissioning Committee, the Navy League secured 200,000 in funding to be used towards our commissioning expenses. Along with raising funds in the private sector, we are in great shape financially to help support not only the crew of LCS21, but also continuing to support and leverage our previous investments within our educational scholarship presence at the University of Minnesota Foundation. These funds will help provide us with a solid financial foundation forward; and will help foster further educational scholarship opportunities for University of Minnesota Navy and Marine midshipman.

The Council was invited to participate in the Gales of November event hosted by Duluth based Lake Superior Maritime Museum Association, November 11-12. Bill James gave a presentation on the commissioning of the Minneapolis – Saint Paul this past May to 300 plus attendees at the Duluth Entertainment and Convention Center. The Council donated a framed signed



watercolor print of the ship transitioning the lift bridge in Duluth with proceeds going to support the Duluth Maritime Museum.

Finally, VP Legislative Affairs has been active in supporting our local commands including the Navy and Coast Guard teams in Minnesota and engaging with our legislative officials at the State and National level on the relevance and importance of the Sea Services to protect and defend America’s interests abroad. In the coming first quarter of 2023, VP Legislative Affairs will be participating in the Navy

## VP Legislative Affairs - Bill James (Continued)

League Surge On the Hill in Washington for discussions with our Congressional representatives ensuring our Sea Services teams interests are being supported with a special focus on Minnesota’s needs. Look for updates on this activity in our next quarterly newsletter.

## VP Council Programs/Events - Jeanette Sterner



The Navy League participated in a hiring event on Dec. 7, 2022, sponsored by Lockleed International, a full-scale placement agency that exclusively works in the Military/Veteran community. The event was held at the General John Vessey Readiness Center in Arden Hills, Minn. The event showcased career

opportunities, support organizations and other military affiliated organizations with a variety of missions and support areas.

VP Council Events/Programs, Jeanette Sterner and 1st VP/Secretary, Brandon Montanye attended for the Navy League and shared information with attendees on the Navy League mission. They also were able to meet Navy veterans and encourage them to join the council.



Veterans participate in the Lockleed hiring event on December 7, 2022.





# Minnesota Council VP Updates

## VP Membership - Bob Dolan



The Minnesota Council is now at 200 members! I have made concerted efforts to increase our membership rolls by reaching out to people who attended Navy League events including the Joint

Marine Corps/Navy Birthday Ball and the Army/Navy Game at the Uptown VFW.

I encourage all members to reach out to their friends and colleagues to let them know about the Minnesota Navy League and help us to increase the awareness and presence of the Council within the State of Minnesota. Later this year, the Council will be exploring offering corporate

memberships/sponsors to develop relationships with the Minnesota business community. The Minnesota Council needs a strong membership to continue the work being done. VP Membership will continue to take advantage of outreach to potential new members at events attended or sponsored by the other Vice Presidents on the Council Board.

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



## VP Youth Programs - Keith Larson



I am honored to serve as our council's vice president for youth programs, a position that is primarily involved with our council-supported Naval Sea Cadet units, the Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC units, and the Naval ROTC unit at the University of

Minnesota.

I'd like to provide a brief introduction about myself. I have been a Navy League member since 1995, joining shortly after my retirement from the Navy. I served a career in submarines, holding both enlisted and officer ranks, while spending a considerable amount of time under the water leading up to the end of the Cold War. I was the president of our council for a few years back in the mid-2000's, after which I became a Navy League national director representing our upper Midwest area.

This title was recently renamed as national delegate, in which I continue to serve. I was previously the president of our upper Midwest area for three years. This "area" is comprised of councils in the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska. Notably, our immediate past council president Bill James is currently our upper Midwest area president.

I have supported Navy League youth activities since 1999. I started as a Sea Cadet officer with Twin Cities Squadron and served as her commanding officer for six years concluding at the end of 2008. Following this, I joined the Sea Cadets national board of directors where I currently serve as a Vice President. As a Sea Cadet officer I staffed numerous local, national, and international training events for our Sea Cadets, while being very much aware of the program's mission, needs, and activities.

As the VP Youth Programs, I will liaise with each of our supported units, being aware of their events and activities at which our council should have a presence. Each supported unit has an annual awards ceremony at which we attend and present the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Award to cadets/trainees/midshipmen that are selected by their respective commands. The Navy League Council also provide financial support to these units based on need and other considerations. One of my first tasks will be to review and establish the optimum method of determining the various monetary grants that our council provides.

Upcoming events are the Polaris Battalion's Sea Cadet Military Ball on January 14, 2023, at the Braham Event Center, 655 8th St SW, Braham, Minnesota 55006. The Council, President Joe Fraser and myself, will be presenting the NLUS Theodore Roosevelt medal to their Sea Cadet of the year, and the NLUS Theodore Roosevelt ribbon to their Leaguer Cadet of the year. President Fraser and myself will also be attending the Twin Cities Squadron's Sea Cadet Dining Out January 22, 2023, at the VFW Post 1296, 311 West 84th Street, Bloomington, MN 55420 where we will also present the Theodore Roosevelt medal to their Sea Cadet of the year, and the Theodore Roosevelt ribbon to their Leaguer Cadet of the year.



# USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

## USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul First Months of Commissioned Life

MAYPORT Fla. (December 13, 2022) – Having commissioned on May 21, the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul crew hit the ground running. This quarter was packed with visits that promoted the growth of international relations, a short notice hurricane avoidance sortie, and ship-wide events focused around the combat systems and engineering teams.

While the state of Florida was preparing for Hurricane Nicole to make landfall, the crew made preparations for getting underway. Once at sea, the ship showed its interoperability by sailing with four other ships in company. All assets returned to port following the hurricane without incident. Shortly thereafter, a second hurricane made landfall which did not require the ship to sortie.

Throughout this quarter, the combat systems team has been preparing themselves for Combat Systems Ships Qualification Trials (CSSQT). CSSQT is used to verify and validate combat systems performance in selected mission areas through actual demonstration and operational performance testing. So far, the ship has successfully completed the Combat Systems Alignment Verification (CSAV), and the Gun Systems Alignment Verification (GSAV). These two events ensure that the ship has the proper means of supporting forward presence, maritime security, sea control,

and deterrence. Minneapolis Saint Paul looks forward to continuing these trials by testing their sensor accuracies, anti-ship missile defense, and conducting non-firing events for their weapons systems.

During the month of November, the engineering team supported Navy cyber security by helping to identify potential threats and risks to their engineering systems. The cyber team will then define the strategy for minimizing or eliminating potential risks.

Commissioning USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul for service was certainly a highlight for the year; however, the crew is looking forward to ringing in the New Year. The upcoming year will be filled with events as the crew brings the ships through its maintenance phase to a deployable status.



Electronics Technician 1st Class Chase Wonnell and Boatswain's mate 2nd Class Kyle Jayroe handle mooring lines for storm preparation in advance of hurricane Ian aboard Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21). USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is assigned to Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 2.



MAYPORT, Fla. – Sailors assigned to the Freedom-variant littoral combat ship USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) conduct Tactical Combat Casualty Care training aboard Minneapolis-Saint Paul. USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) is assigned to Littoral Combat Ship Squadron 2.





# USS Minnesota News

## USS Minnesota Changes Command

PEARL HARBOR, HI, UNITED STATES  
11.10.2022

Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Molly Crawford  
Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet

PEARL HARBOR (November 10, 2022) Cmdr. Isaac Pelt, commanding officer of the Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Minnesota (SSN 783), assumed command from Cmdr. Brad Bozin during the change of command ceremony for the USS Minnesota (SSN 783) which was held on the fantail of the Battleship Missouri Memorial, November 10.



Cmdr. Isaac Pelt relieves Cmdr. Brad Bozin



A touch of Minnesota with a Gjallarhorn



Cmdr. Bozin presented with award during the change of command



Cmdr. Isaac Pelt speaks to crew from the deck of USS Missouri at the change of command.



# Command Updates

## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly Update



Hello Navy League of Minnesota!

Tom Allen once said, “While I relish our warm months, winter forms our character and brings out our best.” As the temperature drops, and drops and drops, this quote comes to mind as I look over the resilience and effort everyone at NTAG Northern Plains has shown over the last few months.

We started out fiscal year 2023 with the most NTAG recruiter contribution nation-wide for the months of October and November and we closed out December going green across the board in all categories of our recruiting mission! Finding complete success in attaining our December new contracts, to include Nuclear Field, Warrior Challenge, Reserve and high-quality areas, allowed us the opportunity to ring the command’s mission bell for the first time in well over a year. We were one of only eight NTAGs to achieve this status of success across the recruiting nation and plan to use this taste of victory to build upon our momentum in the New Year! The command’s achievement would not be possible without our recruiters and support staff working as hard as they do each and every day. It feels like we have finally hit a stride of focus and consistency that will continue to grow into a great deal of success and I couldn’t be prouder of everyone involved.

To continue on with ending the year on a high note, please help me in congratulating the following NTAG Northern Plains Sailors and Civilians who displayed an extraordinary effort to our FY22 mission!



Commander Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Admiral Lex Walker (left) and Commander John Allen (right) pose with Hull Technician First Class Jasonnae Harris after announcing her win as Junior Sailor of the Year.



Commander Navy Recruiting Command, Rear Admiral Lex Walker (left) and Commander John Allen (right) pose with Navy Counselor First Class Whitney Price after announcing her win as Senior Sailor of the Year.

### FY22 NTAG Northern Plains End of Year Award Winners

Senior Sailor of the Year: NC1 Whitney Price

Junior Sailor of the Year: HT1 Jasonnae Harris

E-Talent Scout of the Year: FC1 Edward Bentall

Recruiter of the Year: STS1 Austin Peterson

Rookie Recruiter of the Year: ETN1 Anthony Blansett

Classifier of the Year: DC1 Bryce Webb

Leading Petty Officer of the Year: NC1 Jeremy Myers

Small Station of the Year: Navy Recruiting Station Duluth

Medium Station of the Year: Navy Recruiting Station Lincoln

# Command Updates



## Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains Quarterly Update (Continued)

General Officer Recruiter of the Year: Lt. Jesus Vasallo  
Nuclear Propulsion Officer Recruiter of the Year: CT11 Sean Steffen  
Prior Service Recruiter of the Year: BU2 Trevor Swanson  
Support Person of the Year: ADCS Clinton Burns  
Support Civil Servant of the Year: Mr. Mike Brindel  
Production Civil Servant of the Year: Mr. Mike Buchert  
Chief Petty Officer Leadership Award: ABF1 Adam Sethre  
Chief Petty Officer Rising Star Award: HT1 Jasonnae Harris



Lastly, I would like to congratulate Petty Officers Jasonnae Harris and Andrew Tomlinson on their promotion to First Class Petty Officer! Very well deserved and we are all extremely excited to see the impact they have as they continue to grow and become leaders within NTAG Northern Plains and the Navy!



I hope you all had a great holiday season filled with family and friends and I wish you all a Happy New Year, we look forward to seeing you soon!



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



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## NRC Minneapolis

NRC Minneapolis served as the eastern hub for Navy Reserve Region Northwest for the 2022 Chief Season.

The NRC spearheaded the coordination between Fargo, Sioux Falls, and Des Moines. Combining over 180 Chiefs from both Active and Reserve components, to provide 12 weeks of training to Chief Selects in critical categories such as; Naval Heritage, professional development, physical fitness, and Teaching to the Creed. The culmination resulted was the first in-person Final Week since 2019 that took place at Camp Ripley, in northern Minnesota over four days.



Ten selectees exhibited their personal growth through a variety of physical challenges, mentoring sessions, professional development boards, and knowledge of Chief Heritage. NRC Minneapolis was honored to host the Chief's Pinning on October 22, 2022, to recognize and welcome these newly minted Chiefs into the Mess.

NRC Minneapolis hosted 180 Chiefs in area for Chief's pinning ceremony held October 22, 2022 at Camp Ripley.



# Command Updates



## Maritime Safety Unit - Duluth

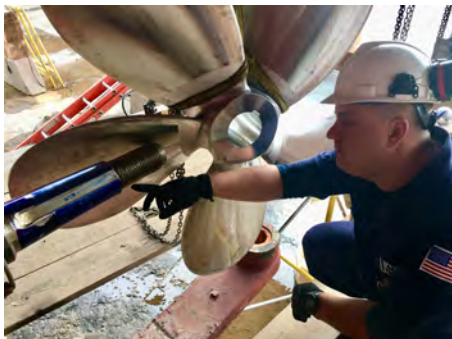
Our facility inspectors finished off their annual facility inspections with all facilities under our jurisdiction November 13th but our folks here will still be meeting with facilities on a case by case basis for meetings throughout the winter season.



Our marine inspectors went out throughout the season to continue vessel exams. Most of the boats inspected were Small Passenger vessels who received an annual inspection or a Certificate of Inspection (COI) renewal depending on their COI's issue date. Now the inspectors are gearing up for winter layup season right around the corner. There will be a variety of Lakers here this winter that will be examined by our inspections division.



MSU Duluth and some members from Station Duluth had a rewarding opportunity to volunteer their time to help out at the CHUM shelter in Duluth. Members of the USCG took the time to help repair holes, paint, and move furniture to assist in the overall renovation project the shelter will be undergoing. Our team will be helping the shelter through the end of the holidays where needed.



MST1 Cote examining a blue fit on a shaft.

As a reminder to those going out on the ice this season to partake in ice fishing, please be cognizant of your surrounding and of the environment. Just because other people are on the ice, does not mean that it is safe. Make sure the ice is thick enough to go on and watch the weather to ensure there are no drastic changes during your time on the ice. Always let someone else know where you will be and give them an idea of when you should be home safe. Keep that emergency contact aware of your plan and be safe out there!

## USCGC Spar

As winter approaches USCGC SPAR gears up to transition the Great Lakes Maritime Transportation System into its winter posture. This busy season, named Operation Fall Retrieve, involves decommissioning many larger summer Aids to Navigation (AtoN) or swapping out larger radar reflective, bell, or lit AtoN for smaller ice capable buoys.



SPAR entering Duluth Harbor just before Christmas

This process is essential to ensuring that waterways remain clearly marked in the midst of significant ice formation and movement throughout the winter. It also saves the Coast Guard and the American tax payer tens of thousands of dollars in buoys lost and damaged by the winter ice flows. USCGC SPAR's crew will service more than 70 AtoN before Christmas when they will immediately transition into ice breaking operations in Duluth Harbor.

With the support of the Minnesota Navy League USCGC SPAR recognized Electronics Technician First Class Cameron Morris as sailor of the quarter. ET1 Morris is responsible for installing, maintaining and repairing shipboard electronics equipment including both the computers that the crew use to get their work done and the computers that control the machinery and navigation systems. In August he oversaw a major upgrade to the navigation system and just one week later had to troubleshoot and repair that same system. His diligent work and technical expertise allowed the cutter to get underway on time for the start of Operation Fall Retrieve. In addition to his primary responsibilities ET1 Morris volunteers as a unit Victim's Advocate, which is a critical piece of the Coast Guards Sexual assault awareness and prevention strategy.

# Command Updates



## Twin Ports Sea Cadets

Sailors in Twin Ports Division continued their medical workups before their final inspection in May and mobilization in June. This quarter saw qualifications earned in body substance isolation (BSI), nasopharyngeal (NPA) and oropharyngeal (OPA) insertions, pulse oximetry analysis, oxygen therapy via cannulas, NRB's, and BVM's.



CSSR Carter conducts O2 therapy

Personnel were also trained in blood glucose analysis and diabetic emergencies. November drill kicked off 3M where all personnel begin their long process of earning their active-duty 3M qualifications. Items covered involved zone inspections, spot checks, and tag-outs. Things will be winding down in December when the command will be beginning Christmas/Safety Standdown. After standdown secures, Twin Ports Division's operational calendar 2023 will commence in January.

## Twin Cities Squadron - Sea Cadets

As we fully emerge from pandemic operations, the Twin Cities Squadron is coming to life. The unit has been focused on re-invigorating our community service efforts, and impressing upon the cadets a sense of civic responsibility. In September, our female cadets supported the Girls in Aviation Day at Flying Cloud Airport. It was an opportunity to recruit and gain valuable exposure to opportunities in aviation, and pathways towards earning a pilot's license.

The male cadets enjoyed a 4-mile endurance march, working in small squads to develop teamwork. Each squad was responsible for carrying their individual load-out, and a few mission critical items chosen by the Commanding Officer.

## Twin Cities Squadron - Sea Cadets (Cont)

PO3 Schantzen, PO3 Weiland and AN Jirik maintained unit morale with some spirited cadences. The month was capped off with a training evolution in quarterdeck procedures and automotive/small engine maintenance. Cadets learned the importance of preventative maintenance, and tire and battery replacement.

October was a busy month for the cadets. The unit completed their semi-annual physical readiness test (PRT) in preparation for winter trainings. That same weekend, the cadets supported the Arden Hills Parks and Recreation Department removing buckthorn and other invasive species from Hazelnut Park. Working with nothing but a few hand tools, the cadets cleared several acres of buckthorn, much to the surprise and appreciation of city officials. After completing a hard day's work, the cadets still had enough energy to play GaGa – a form of dodgeball.



Twin Cities Squadron cadets clearing Buckthorn at Hazelnut Park

The following weekend, nearly half of the unit donned their dress blues and attended the Navy and Marine Corps Ball celebrating the Navy's 247th birthday. PO3 Weiland and AN Schroer had the distinct honor of being selected to participate in a joint USNSCC/NROTC color guard for the event. Their long hours of practice were evident with a very spirited and sharp open ceremony. Some of the highlights of the evening included AN Jirik getting the honor of being seated among the crew of USS Minneapolis Saint Paul, who were in attendance, and some words of wisdom from the commanding officer Cmdr. Hiram Andreu. A special thanks to the Navy League for their generous support of the TCS attendance at the event.



# Command Updates



## Twin Cities Squadron - Sea Cadets (Continued)

Once the celebration was over it was back to work. The TCS was up early the next morning to run the Navy Mile at Bde Maka Ska in Minneapolis. This year, the cadets ran in honor of SWO1 Patrick Feeks, a Navy Seal killed in action in 2012. In true sea cadet fashion, one mile was not enough for these cadets. They chose to double back and forego a warm car ride back to the muster point. Bravo zulu!



The cadets wrapped up the fall with more community service. The Magnus Veterans Foundation hosted their annual Trunk or Treat event on 29 October. The TCS provided venue support including staffing the various games for the kids, handing out food and clean-up. In addition to supporting the event, the cadets showed off their rifle drill skills and musical talent with spirited renditions of the National Anthem, God Bless America and the Anchor's Aweigh with a kazoo! Rumor has it you can find some clandestine video of on the TCS Facebook page.



In November we resumed our normal drill activities with a "Can Do" attitude and some support from a few Seabees on loan from Navy Talent Acquisition Group – Great Plains (NTAG). Chief Weinstein and CM2 Sosa regaled the cadets with their Seabee duties and humanitarian efforts while deployed. The cadets learned about construction ratings in the Navy.



The training theme for November drill was construction. The unit started small, building knot tying and marlinspike training aides. The following day, with the support of a couple unit "dads" the cadets built walls, plumbed a sink line, and wired switches and lights. They also learned to sweat copper and run water supply lines with PEX tubing. For many of the cadets, this was their first time ever using hand tools. INST Anderson, the unit PAO put together a great video of this event which is also available on our Facebook page.

Cadets learn plumbing and other SeaBee skills during November drill.



We closed out 2022 with a visit to the U of MN – Naval ROTC unit, and the Army-Navy game. The cadets heard presentations on opportunities that ROTC programs have to offer, and then experienced some hands-on activities including a ship simulator, flight suit and simulation tables. I think we have a few unresolved battles on the simulation tables yet to be decided. Thanks to MIDN Passang and Captain Tornga for the invitation.

The final drill of the year kicked off our communications training theme. INST Anderson, a former naval intelligence specialist provided instruction on cryptology, codes and small electronics. The cadets learned to build morse code keys from simple components, including wiring and soldering.

The TCS is looking ahead to 2023. We will start the year off in January with our annual dining out where we will honor several cadets with awards, including the NLUS Sea Cadet and League Cadet of the Year.

In closing, the Twin Cities Squadron would like to extend our best wishes and season's greeting to all the units in the NLUS family, and those who provide support to our mission. We are truly grateful for the for your support and dedication to the mission.



Cadets had the opportunity to learn about simulation tables from Naval ROTC Cadets

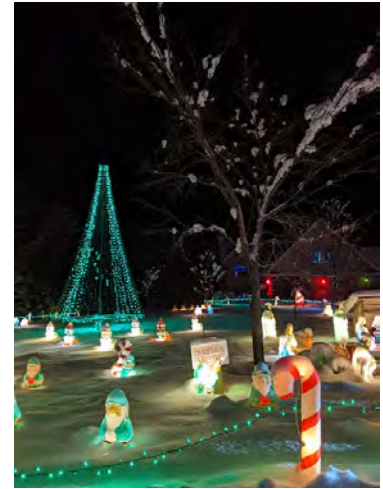
# Command Updates

## Polaris Battalion Update



Polaris Battalion and TS Trident have been very busy. Following our big drill in August with the Rock Climbing and Canoeing adventure, we held our Annual Camp Out in October. The Units started on Friday evening by allowing any of the cadet aged youth to participate in a Flag Retirement Ceremony. The cadets had spent time the prior months helping the Isanti VFW Post 2735, fold the flags to prepare for the ceremony. Saturday was spent doing team building exercises using an obstacle course and a visit from a former cadet turned Archeologist, who helped the cadets learn about battlefield archeology. One cadet participated in his rocket launch so it was a very busy drill.

In November the Units helped Minnesota Senator (32 R) Mark Koran set up his holiday display. Every year, the Senator sets up a terrific display open to the public (located in North Branch) and gives all the donations he collects from people who stop and see the display to support the youth programs including Polaris Battalion and TS Trident. This opportunity is a fantastic way for our youth to help offer the community a beautiful light show, while connecting with a local Senator who is interested in the programs the cadets partake in. As a way to say thank you to Senator Koran and an opportunity for the cadets to weld, during our past couple of drills the cadets made spool holders that will help the Senator keep all the miles of extension cords coiled. That evening, after helping at the Senator's home, the Units led the annual Snowflake parade in Cambridge. We hold the honor of marching as the Color Guard to open the parade. It was cold, but they did a fabulous job.



Cadets set up public light display at Mn, State Senator Koran's for the holidays.

The Units have continued doing their specialties and during the past few months in the Seabee specialty, besides the spool holders they made, they also created a beautiful cabinet to house pictures, awards and history of the Units. This cabinet was placed at the Armed Forces Reserve Community Center at the location where Polaris and Trident drill. This cabinet will recruit 365 days a year, as the building is open to the community. This project was the final project the outgoing Commanding Officer wanted to see finished before he turned over the helm.

The medical specialty finished learning about blunt force trauma and how to care for someone who is hurt due to blunt force. The Cadets who are a part of this specialty are learning significant skills by another former Cadet/Chief who is now an EMT.



Polaris Cadets and Leaguers with outgoing Commanding Officer Brent VanHees and Ltjg Dawn Van Hees



# Command Updates

## Polaris Battalion Update (Cont)

The culinary specialty is making new foods for the Units each drill. Some of the delicious food includes homemade chicken noodle soup, Hoover Stew, homemade pizza sauce for homemade pizza, cookies and cupcakes, plus many more items. The League cadets continue to work on STEM projects and plan to move into building Sea Perches. In December they took a field trip to My Jungle Gym in Isanti and participated in team relay events, and tried new things like Ninja style PT. The completion of December Drill closed the end of 2022, and the service of Lt. Brent van Hees who commanded the Units for 8 years and served in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps for over 10 years, and Lt.jg. Dawn van Hees who was the longest member of Polaris Battalion serving for over 10 years (one month longer than Brent). The Units are being left with excellent leadership now at the helm. Lt. William Pearson will officially take command in January and the changing of command will commence at the Polaris Battalion Annual Ball.



Cabinet created by Polaris Battalion to house pictures, awards and history of the Units



Cadet participated in rocket launch at October Drill

It has been a pleasure to serve this fantastic program and we will continue to support from afar.

Very Respectfully  
Lt.jg. Dawn van Hees

# Command Updates

## University of Minnesota Naval ROTC Update

By Midshipman Second Class Brenna Templin

Happy Holidays from the Golden Gopher Battalion! This semester was a busy one, from field training exercises to meeting the Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

The academic year kicked off with New Student Orientation (NSO) where we introduced new students were introduced to the ROTC program with uniform instruction, Marine Corps drill, military knowledge, and lots of physical training. Those who completed NSO were welcomed into the Battalion as Fourth-Class Midshipmen.

The Unit continued the semester at a breakneck pace, with travel to Camp Ripley for the annual Battalion Field Training Exercise (FTX). There the unit worked on combat conditioning and critical thinking. In coordination with the U of M Army ROTC, the Unit completed tower rappelling and rode a CH-47 to practice in-fil/ex-fil maneuvers.



Fall Training for Midshipmen

Ensign Emma Gooding was finally commissioned! She will be heading to Pensacola in the spring to become a Naval Aviator. Until then, she is filling a vacant, but critical staff position.

Our seven Navy-option seniors will commission as follows: two will commission as Submarine Officers, two as Naval Aviators, two as Explosive Ordnance Disposal Officers, and one as a Surface Warfare Officer. Bravo Zulu Shipmates!

Captain Tornga awarded GySgt Evan Hughlett the Navy/ Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his diligent work organizing and running the Minnesota Joint Navy-Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Thanks to his hard work, the ball was a resounding success. It was the first of its kind in the state and served over seven hundred people. Bravo Zulu, GySgt Hughlett!

1/C Midshipman Garret Hintze was recognized for his outstanding performance at Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, over the summer. In front of a packed football stadium, he was awarded the Commandant's Trophy for being the Honor Graduate out of 250 Officer Candidates.

Over the semester, Midshipmen were able to meet professionals from different communities around the Fleet. Captain Delaney briefed about life as a Submarine Officer and Submarine Operations. The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Troy E. Black, spoke about his experiences during a visit to MWSS-471. Lt.Cmdr. (Ret.) Brandon Montanye, First Vice President/ Secretary, Minnesota Navy League, gave a presentation on the history of the Navy in Minnesota.



Ensign Emma Gooding



1/C Midshipman Garret Hintze receives Commandant's Trophy for being Honor Graduate.



# Command Updates



## University of Minnesota Naval ROTC Update (Cont.)

In cooperation with the Army ROTC, we hosted interested high school students at our first Joint “Night At the Armory” event where prospective candidates had an opportunity to ask questions and learn skills necessary to be a successful Naval Officer.

We look forward to another successful new year at the University of Minnesota!

Wishing you a Happy Holiday Season from the entire University of Minnesota Navy ROTC Unit!



## Washington Tech Magnet School JROTC Update

Washington Tech NJROTC recently hosted Como Park MCJROTC, Johnson AFJROTC, Harding NJROTC and North Branch AFJROTC for a combination Volleyball Tournament, Drone Racing Tournament and Quiz Bowl. The Minnesota National Guard sponsored the event and provided pizza for all attendees. North Branch AFJROTC won the Drone and Quiz Bowl events and Harding NJROTC won the Volleyball event.

Washington Tech NJROTC also presented the colors at Allianz field for the St. Paul Cup. Washington NJROTC's Navy Ball will be held Saturday, December 17th at IDEAL Hall in St. Paul.



Washington Tech JROTC hosted event with other JROTC programs.

Washington Tech NJROTC also presented the colors at Allianz field for the St. Paul Cup.

Washington NJROTC's Navy Ball will be held Saturday, December 17th at IDEAL Hall in St. Paul.



Washington Tech JROTC presents colors at Allianz field for the St. Paul cup.

# Command Updates



## Como Park Marine Corps JROTC Program Update

The Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Como has been recognized again as a Naval Honor School Program for school year 21-22. The award is reserved for the top 20 percent of all MCJROTC programs across the nation and overseas posts. This is the seventh time they have been recognized.



The Naval Honor School Award and ranking is based on several factors including 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.



“Each year we feel the pressure to uphold the highest of standards and proficiency for our program passed down from the last pack of seniors,” said Cadet Commanding Officer Major Jesiah Mason. “It’s normal to fill those big shoes of what they helped us accomplish and drive on with increased economic stress and still meet or exceed the pressure of past year’s statistics. The cadets are always hungry for action and the cadet senior leadership will again prove the wolf is only as strong as its pack. Teamwork!”



The diverse highlights of Como’s program started well before the school year started with many cadets involved in the summer Cyber STEM Camp, summer National Drill Camp, summer Senior Leadership Camp, summer Cadet Leadership Camp, summer orienteering, summer JLAB nationals, summer physical fitness sessions, multiple community service events, and our annual Minnesota State Fair Fundraiser which generated double the programs fundraising amounts.



Cadets give back to the community and help 96-year-old Deloris Noltman in the local Como neighborhood

“There remains a steadfast level of pride, maturity and discipline built into each school year in which the littlest of things really matter, and the ‘take charge’ attitude of all the cadets with high motivation is just kind of refreshing during these post pandemic years. Semper fi – we’re staying alive” said Marine Instructor, Sergeant Major James C. Kirkland.

Como Park's MCJROTC cadets again volunteered this school year to collect, sort, and distribute NEW and unwrapped toys as Christmas gifts to those children less fortunate for Minneapolis & St. Paul area. For the last 75 years, the United States Marine Corps has distributed over 627 million toys to more than 281 million children. This success stems from great partners, sponsors and volunteers such as the Como Park cadets that help raise funds, toy donations, and massive amounts of sorting. Without their help this program would not be as successful as it is! This year the many cadets that volunteered were led by Junior Cadet Tetevi (11).



Como cadets contributed to Toys for Tots,





# Other News

## Armistice Day 104th Anniversary Commemorated at Brit's Pub

The commemoration of the 104th anniversary of the Armistice Treaty that went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 was held on the evening of November 11th at Brit's Pub in Minneapolis. This is an event that Shane Higgins, general manager of Brit's Pub, has been hosting annually since the mid-2000's. Armistice Day was established in 1919, one year following the Armistice Treaty implementation, to honor Americans who died during World War I. Other nations observed similar remembrance days. Following World War II, "Armistice Day" was changed to "Veterans Day" in the United States by an act of Congress, with the change ultimately taking effect in 1954, thereby creating a national holiday that would honor American veterans of all wars.



Navy League members, Andy Whitman, Thomas Leavey and Keith Larson participate in event.

Despite the current use of the name "Veterans Day" in the United States, the Partners for Peace organization that is comprised of Alliance Française and local and international organizations in the Twin Cities communities continue to observe the anniversary of the original holiday. Partners for Peace were the primary organizers of the event, with additional sponsorship provided by Brit's Pub, the Consulate General of Canada in Minneapolis, Vets for Peace, Minnesota Vikings, and the French American Heritage Foundation.

This year's program began at 7:00 pm with master of ceremonies, the Honorable Mark Ritchie. A bagpiper led the ceremony, followed by the University of Minnesota's Navy ROTC unit providing the color guard that carried and posted the flags of the represented nations. Each country's national anthem was sung in order: Canada, France, Poland, The United Kingdom, and the United States of America.



University of Minnesota ROTC presented colors at the event.

## Wreaths Across America held at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery

Several hardy members of the Minnesota Navy League including President Joe Fraser, 1st VP/ Secretary Brandon Montanye, VP Communications, Pat Dolan, VP Membership, Bob Dolan, VP Adopted Units, Brian Skon and VP Community Engagement, Joyce Lacey braved the cold and snow on Saturday Dec. 17, 2022 to honor veterans laid to rest at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery and participate in the annual Wreaths Across America Day.



# Other News

## Wreaths Across America held at Ft. Snelling National Cemetery (Continued)



Navy League members, VP Membership, Bob Dolan, President Joe Fraser, VP Community Engagement, Joyce Lacey and VP Communications, Pat Dolan honored veterans at Ft. Snelling for Wreaths across America,

National Wreaths Across America Day is a free, non-political event, that honors and remembers our nation's veterans who are laid to rest in 3,500 plus participating locations nationwide.

This year, National Wreaths Across America Day took place on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022. The ceremony started at the Ft. Snelling Flag poles where Minnesota Wing Civil Air Patrol Cadets presented colors. This was followed by a short ceremony honoring each military service by placing a wreath at each service flagpole. At the conclusion of the ceremony, volunteers dispersed to trucks throughout the cemetery to get boxes of wreaths to place on veteran's gravesites.

The solemn tradition is to lay remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes and say the name of each and every veteran aloud where wreaths are placed. The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those that serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom is year-round!

## Army/Navy Game 2022 Watch event held at the Uptown VFW

A crowd of 250 cheered on the service academies at the Army Navy game on Dec. 10, 2022 at the Uptown Minneapolis VFW.

The event was co-sponsored by the Navy League of Minnesota, the Vessey Chapter of the Association of the US Army, and the Minnesota Military & Veterans Museum.



Navy and Army supporters watch the game at the Uptown VFW

"It was great to see you such passionate and patriotic fans coming to this event," said Kevin Olson, Navy League member and event coordinator.

"The turnout of so many Navy-connected people was encouraging," said Joe Fraser, President of the Navy League of Minnesota. "This event showcased how our community truly supports our sailors, veterans and military families."

The event concluded with a performance by the rock band The Resilient, a band comprised of severely injured US combat veterans.



The Resilient Rock band, comprised of severely injured combat veterans

Olson continued: "While the Naval Academy lost in a close overtime game, it did not dampen the crowd's enthusiasm, and we are excited to go put on an even larger event next year. "





# Other News

## Naval Academy Information Program Update

This has been a very busy quarter for the Naval Academy Information Program (NAIP). Blue and Gold Officer (BGO) interviews of prospective Midshipmen are almost completed. All applications must be completed and received by the United States Naval Academy Admissions Office by Jan. 31, 2023. Congressional nomination interviews have been completed. BGOs served on the interview committees for Minnesota's U.S. Congressional districts and both U.S. Senate offices. Nominations awarded by Minnesota's U.S. Congressional delegation will be announced by Jan. 31, 2023.

The annual Naval Academy program entitled Operation Information (OPINFO) took place again this fall. Seven Midshipmen returned home over an extended Thanksgiving leave period to help promote the U.S. Naval Academy program plus the academy sponsored summer programs – the Naval Academy Summer Seminar (NASS) wherein rising high school seniors experience a week of life at USNA; USNA STEM camps for rising 9th, 10th and 11th graders where they work on a STEM oriented project utilizing USNA labs and equipment under the guidance of select upper class Midshipmen and USNA professors; and, USNA sponsored summer sports camps staffed by USNA and celebrity coaches and athletes. Applications for these programs are available at [www.usna.edu](http://www.usna.edu) after Jan. 4, 2023. The OPINFO program included a Navy open house held at St. Thomas Academy. At this event, program information was presented by NAIP BGOs, NROTC representatives and Navy Recruiting representatives. All discussed their specific programs of education and routes to a commission in the United States Navy or United States Marine Corps. Midshipmen from USNA and local universities were present. They made group presentations on their personal education and career path choices. The Midshipmen and BGOs also participated in one or two discussions with prospective officer candidates, parents and educators.

On Dec. 7, 2022, Captain Mark Salmen, USN (Ret.) made a presentation to the Saint Paul Club. The club consists of a group of over 100 metropolitan area businessmen who meet weekly at noon on Wednesdays for friendship, camaraderie and to hear a guest speaker. Captain Salmen's presentation centered around the USS Ward (DD-139) and her relationship to St. Paul, Minnesota. The USS Ward was manned primarily by young Naval Reservists from St. Paul, Minnesota. The vast majority of these young men, ranging in age from 18 to 20 years old, had never been to sea. They gained their experience on the Mississippi River or in Lake Superior. In January 1941, these young men were ordered to the USS Ward. The USS Ward was deployed to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and ordered to patrol the outer entrance to the harbor and U.S. Naval Base. Early the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, lookouts on the repair ship USS Antares and minesweeper USS Condor reported the sighting of a periscope suspected to be from a Japanese submarine. It appeared that the sub was approaching the entrance to the harbor. The USS Ward took up pursuit of the submarine. Just prior to 0700, the Ward made positive contact and fired 2 shots at the submarine. The 2nd shot hit the submarine, sinking it. At 0653, Dec. 7, 1941 a message was sent from the USS Ward to the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. The message reached the desk of Admiral Kimmel, Commander in Chief, Pacific Fleet at 0730. No immediate action was taken by the United States. At 0755 that day, the Japanese air and naval attack on the U.S. Armed Forces at Pearl Harbor commenced, costing the lives of over 2000 persons. The USS Ward continued on duty in the Pacific until she was sunk by a Kamikaze attack in 1944. The sinking of the Japanese mini-submarine was not confirmed until 2002.

Today, one of the gun mounts from the USS Ward stands near the far end of the State Capital Mall as a tribute to those young Minnesota sailors who manned the USS Ward and fired the first shots of World War II in the Pacific.



# Other News

## Did You Know...

By Brandon Montanye

If you have ever seen a picture of WWII Navy fighter pilots, bomber and transport crews, chances are they were wearing an iconic B-4 yellow life vest. The B-4 life vest was nicknamed the “Mae West” by the aircrews that wore them. This was in reference to the buxom physique of the film star of the time. The aircrews felt they resembled her when the vest was inflated. The B-4 is credited with saving thousands of lives.

But did you know that the B-4 was invented in Minnesota? Peter Markus was a merchant that was also an avid fisherman and boater. He noticed that people were not wearing life jackets because they were big and bulky, which hindered movement while fishing or boating. At the time, the common makeup of a life jacket was canvas and cork. He noted several drownings that could have been prevented had life jackets been worn.



B-4 Life vest worn by Navy Pilot

Markus worked on a solution to the problem. He started with a design based on a man’s suite vest. It was designed to be donned over the wearer’s head and secured with straps that went around the back. He used a rubberized cloth with built in air pockets. To inflate the vest a liquid CO2 cartridge was used. Two knotted cords were attached to the cartridge and pulled to release the CO2 into the air pockets. This would keep the wearers head above water. It weighed less than two pounds.

He filed his patent application for his “Inflatable Preserver” on July 15, 1927. After he filed his patent application, Markus started to attend boating and sports equipment shows to demonstrate his invention. He caught the attention of a Navy Captain that invited him to Washington D.C. to demonstrate his invention. The Navy quickly accepted the life vest and began purchasing them.

The Navy made one immediate adjustment to the life vest; they changed the color to bright yellow. Later minor modifications were made to Markus’s original design, such as adding a manual inflation tube if the CO2 cartridge should fail. They were quickly put into service with the Navy. A testament to the life vests value was shown on February 12, 1935. The Navy rigid airship USS Macon (ZRS-5) was caught in a storm and crashed into the Pacific Ocean. Out of the 100 personnel on board, 98 survived. Those survivors were wearing Markus’s invention.

This style of vest created by Minnesotan Peter Markus is still in use today by military aircrews and in the commercial airline industry. After almost one hundred years the design has withstood the test of time and continues to save lives. And now you know.



B-4 life vests used by Naval pilots and aviators





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Minnesota Council  
2023 Officers**

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**2023 CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**First Quarter 2023**

**January**

New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King's Birthday	January 16



**February**

Black History Month	Entire Month
Ground Hog Day	February 2
Four Chaplains Day	February 3
USO Birthday	February 4
National Salute to Veterans Patients	February 13-19
Valentine's Day	February 14
Coast Guard Reserve Birthday	February 19
President's Day	February 20
Mardi Gras	February 21



**March**

Women's History	Entire Month
Navy Reserve Birthday	March 3
SeaBee Birthday	March 5
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 12
K9 Veterans Day	March 13
American Legion Birthday	March 15
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Rosie the Riveter Day	March 21
Medal of Honor Day	March 25
National Vietnam War Veterans Day	March 29



Time to  
Spring Ahead