



Navy League of the United States Minnesota Council



4th Quarter 2020

Minnesota Navy League Council Commissions USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Watercolor



The Minnesota Navy League Council has commissioned a watercolor of the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS-21) transiting under the iconic Duluth lift bridge. The ship will be commissioned by the Navy in the Port of Duluth in the spring of 2021. This will be the first time a naval ship has been commissioned within the state of Minnesota.

The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) is one of the Navy's newest warships. It is being built in Marinette, Wisconsin and is a Littoral

Combat Ship (LCS) that will operate in waters close to shore. The vessel has a flight deck for helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles. It has an aft ramp for small boat operations and can be used by small assault forces. USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul is the second ship in naval service named after Minnesota's Twin Cities. The first vessel named Minneapolis-Saint Paul was a submarine decommissioned from Naval service in 2008.

The artist, John T. Salminen is a Minnesota native born and raised in St. Paul. He earned his Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota and in Duluth. Mr. Salminen is a signature member of numerous prestigious art societies in the United States including The American Watercolor Society-DF, The National Watercolor Society, The Transparent Watercolor Society of America-DM and Allied Artists. He serves as a board member of the American Watercolor Society and is the President of the International Masters of Watercolour Association centered in Shanghai China. <https://johnsalminen.com/biography/>

The Minnesota Navy League Council will soon be selling prints on our website at <http://navyleaguemn.org>. We will offer both signed prints and copies in various sizes.

You, or your business or your family can support the commissioning of the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS 21) in any dollar amount. Checks can be written to USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Commissioning Committee. Our address is Captain Mark Stange USNR (Ret), 655 Evergreen Circle, Shoreview, MN 55126. Let's make the state of Minnesota proud by supporting this iconic event.

Out of concern for our members and their families due to the Coronavirus (COVID - 19) we are holding all Board Meetings via Zoom on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Also, due to COVID, the October 2020 Navy Ball will not be held. See you next year!!

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A Message from the Minnesota Council President



Navy Leaguer's,

This summer has been like none other in our lifetimes. The Covid19 pandemic has dramatically affected how we do just about everything in our daily lives. Even a simple task such as going to the grocery store or heading off to Costco or Target for essentials has its own checklist; Keys-check, hand sanitizer-check, nitrile gloves-check, and mask-check. We go through a methodical routine every time we move about.

But imagine doing all these things while on duty, manning your station on a Navy DDG, or helping with a distressed ship rescue on Lake Superior as a member of our US Coast Guard team. The ops tempo continues at an unprecedented pace and runs 24/7 continuously regardless of the virus's clock. We've had to make some adjustments going forward also. Our annual signature event, the Navy Birthday Ball, celebrated close to October 13, will not be held this year due to Covid-19 guidelines here within Minnesota and also requirements governing travel and meetings issued by the US Navy and US Marines. As such we will regroup in 2021 hopefully once we have the virus under control and vaccine's being present for all.

We have been busy as you will see in the columns following mine. Our Sea Cadets are back at work, learning and drilling on a monthly basis. Navy Talent Acquisition Group is out pacing their recruiting goals from 2019 levels in the middle of a pandemic, which is amazing. Our NROTC is also back in school at the University of Minnesota and working the challenges of on-campus and virtual learning. NOSC is fully supporting the mission of the Navy with full time and reserve personnel each day and month. Our good shipmates in the Coast Guard in Duluth have had a busy year doing the work to keep our Great Lakes and Rivers open and functioning for transportation and recreation while maintaining high safety standards.

The Navy League has also been supporting local community and outreach efforts and they are detailed in the columns to follow. Remaining connected to the community is one of our core tenants and one we strive to work at constantly.

Our efforts involving the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS21) commissioning program continue to advance towards a May 2021 event in Duluth. We are working closely with the ship builder Fincantieri Marinette Marine, Lockheed Martin, LCS Squadron 2 command in Mayport, FL the home of our future ship and Deputy Undersecretary of the Navy Jodi Greene's office, our ships sponsor, on plans for next year. All details for the event and information are in our website: www.lcs21.org and we encourage everyone to link in, become an advocate and hopefully a donor to our efforts and share the message far and wide.

Finally, members and membership drive everything at the Navy League. We have almost 200 members in the Minnesota Council and more importantly we have learned that 185 members have lapsed. We are going to reach out to all active members first to ensure we get accurate contact information (i.e., email, phone numbers and mailing addresses). We will be sending a letter to your post office box in the coming days. I know in these times of electronic everything, US Postal mail seems like an ancient tool to use, but if that is the only contact information we have with you, this is the best way for us to get the information we are lacking to electronically communicate with you. Getting your email and phone numbers will help us better engage and keep you informed of the Council's efforts in supporting the Navy. After we have updated our active member listing we will turn our focus to lapsed members and determine if we can bring you back to supporting the Navy League.

Thank you for being an advocate for the Navy League and our Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Merchant Mariner teams. They greatly appreciate the support you lend to helping them with their mission as do we.

Sincerely, Bill James, President



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

USS MINNEAPOLIS SAINT PAUL (LCS-21) COMPLETES ACCEPTANCE TRIALS



The Minnesota Navy League Council is pleased to report that the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) has passed an important milestone, completing Acceptance Trials on Lake Michigan in August.

Acceptance trials included a full-power run, maneuverability testing and surface and air detect-to-engage demonstrations of the ship's combat system. Major systems and operational features were demonstrated, including aviation support, small boat launch handling and recovery and machinery control and automation. The ship is currently at Fincantieri Marinette Marine in Marinette, Wisconsin, where it is being built under contract to the US Navy by the Lockheed Martin-led industry team.

The USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) will be one of the fastest combat ships in the U.S. Navy. The ship is designed for shallow water missions and near-shore combat and to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, ultra-quiet diesel electric submarines and fast surface craft.

Now that on water trials are complete, the ship will undergo final outfitting and fine-tuning before delivery to the U.S. Navy. LCS 21 is the eleventh Freedom-variant LCS designed and built by Lockheed Martin led industry team and is slated for delivery to the Navy early next spring.

The Navy League Minnesota Council is the sponsor organization for the commissioning and is in full swing with planning and fund raising to support the ship commissioning at the Port of Duluth in the spring of 2021. Our plans include a Chairman's Commissioning event on the evening before the commissioning, crew engagements with the general public, tours of the ship, media facing events, veteran's outreach engagement, welcome festivities in Duluth and the creation of a scholarship fund to be used for funding higher educational grants on behalf of the Navy League.

"We look forward to working with the Minnesota legislature, the Governor Tim Walz, Mayor Jacob Frey of Minneapolis, Mayor Melvin Carter of Saint Paul, Mayor Emily Larson of Duluth and the private sector to secure funding to bring this ship to life next year. This is a once in a lifetime historic event as no other Navy ship has been commissioned in Minnesota waters," said Brian Skon, Chair LCS 21 Commissioning Committee.

Additional information can be found on our website at:
<https://navyleaguemn.org/lcs-21>





USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

Update on LCS 21 Commissioning Committee Fundraising Efforts

The Navy, shipyard, and the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning Committee (Minnesota Navy League) continue to track towards a late spring commissioning of future USS Minneapolis Saint Paul LCS 21. Here are some updates:

All US Navy ships commissioned in 2020 were commissioned administratively. The US Navy wants to change that in 2021 and will do everything in their power to provide for public events that do not compromise the safety of the Sailors and participants. The Commissioning committee is confident that we will have an in-person event in late spring in the Port of Duluth in 2021.

The committee is re-launching our fundraising efforts this fall with the goal of raising over \$300,000. This must all come from individual and corporate donations with the shortfall in the state budget.



Minnesota Navy League Council Selects Commissioning Coin for USS Minneapolis-St. Paul (LCS 21)



The Minnesota Navy League Council has selected a coin for the upcoming commissioning of the USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul (LCS-21). The ship will be commissioned by the Navy in the Port of Duluth in the spring of 2021. This will be the first time a naval ship has been commissioned within the state of Minnesota.

The coin will feature the ship's crest and motto "We will Make a Way" on the front. The back side of the coin will show the ship's name, USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21), an image of the ship and the commissioning site, the Port of Duluth. The edge of the coin will be unique, featuring the hull numbers of our previous namesakes, USS Minneapolis (CA 36), USS St Paul (CA 73), and USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (SSN 783). The Minnesota Navy League Council will soon be selling coins on our website at <http://navyleaguemn.org>.

The Navy League of the United States, Minnesota Council is a 501(c)(5) organization whose role is to bring attention to the importance of the naval sea services. The USS Minneapolis-Saint Paul Commissioning Committee is a project of the Navy League of the United States. For more information visit us at <http://navy.league.mn.org> or our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MIGHTYMSP/>



USS Minneapolis - Saint Paul News

USS Minneapolis Saint Paul Commissioning Committee Selects Honorary Chairperson

The Minnesota Navy League Council has selected Greg Coleman as our Honorary Chairperson of the USS Minneapolis Saint Paul (LCS 21) commissioning efforts. This event will occur in the Port of Duluth in the spring of 2021.

Greg Coleman is a former NFL punter, retired business executive and current sideline analyst for the Minnesota Vikings Radio Network. A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Greg is recognized as being the first African American Punter in the NFL. He was selected as a member of the Vikings 40th Anniversary Team, the Florida A&M Hall of Fame, and the Florida Track and Field Hall of Fame. Greg is an ordained minister, and he and his wife Eleanor are committed to numerous philanthropic efforts that promote learning, tutoring, mentoring, life skills and marriage education.

We look forward to working with Mr. Coleman over the next several months as we move to Commissioning in the Spring of 2021.





USS Minnesota (SSN 783) News

USS Minnesota welcomes new skipper

GROTON, CT, UNITED STATES

09.08.2020

Courtesy Story

Naval Submarine Support Center, New London

The USS Minnesota (SSN 783) welcomed Cmdr. Brad Bozin, a native of Jacksonville, Fla., as its new commanding officer at the Flasher World War II Memorial in Groton, Conn. September 8.

Outgoing skipper Cmdr. Thomas Flaherty, a native of Buffalo, N.Y., led the Virginia-class submarine through multiple campaigns and a 2019 deployment that earned the crew a 2019 Battle “E” and prestigious Battenberg Cup.

“It’s all about the crew,” Flaherty insisted. “Our success was due to the hard work they put in every single day, the trust and confidence they put in me, and just never being satisfied to get better every single day.”

Flaherty emphasized the crew’s achievements, but his leadership earned him a Legion of Merit award as the commanding officer of the highest performing submarine in the Atlantic Submarine Force.

During his tenure, the Minnesota crew was recognized for sustained superior combat readiness by “rigorously and flawlessly executing deployed operations in the European Command Theater,” from the Battenberg citation.

Capt. Andrew Miller, commander of Submarine Squadron (SUBRON) 4, presided over the occasion and said it has been, “a lot of fun to watch Team Minnesota do such great work for the nation.”



Cmdr. Brad Bozin, left, incoming commanding officer of the Virginia-class submarine USS Minnesota (SSN 783), salutes Cmdr. Thomas Flaherty, right, during a change of command ceremony at Flasher World War II Memorial in Groton, Conn. September 8. Submarine Squadron (SUBRON) 4 commodore Capt. Andrew Miller, center, presided over the event. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Petty Officer Joshua Karsten/RELEASED)

“It’s great to watch,” Miller said of Minnesota’s achievements. “And now as Cmdr. Bozin takes over, I think he understands the special nature this crew has and he will keep it moving to get better and better.”

Bozin, who recently completed a tour at the Pentagon, praised the crew and outgoing skipper by saying he had big shoes to fill, but is honored to carry on the Viking legacy.

“I couldn’t be more excited, the boat’s in excellent shape,” Bozin said. “Minnesota’s been performing extremely well and doing nothing but great things.”

Minnesota and crew operate under SUBRON 4 one of two SUBRONs based out of Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn. SUBRON 4’s mission is to man, train and equip Sailors assigned to fast attack submarines to ensure that they are combat ready and capable of taking the fight to the enemy. Its submarines are able to bring strength, agility, firepower and endurance to the battle space like no other platform in the U.S. Navy.

Command Updates



NTAG Northern Plains Update, by CDR James Darkenwald

As we know for all aspects of life, the year 2020 has been one for the record books! It has redefined our personal and home lives and it has drastically changed the working environment for almost everyone in the world, even your own military. Across the Nation, base commanders and Navy leadership has re-written the operating procedures, expanded working from home capabilities, enhanced security and safety measures, and responded in a very rapid manner to protect those who serve.



One of the hardest hit sectors though, is of course, recruiting. Gone are the days of recruiters giving presentations in class rooms and attending high school pep rallies. We are no longer setting up shop in auditoriums and cafeterias where we were able to engage and answer any questions people have. We have had to pause our in-person recruiting strategies, we have postponed community engagements and we have postponed our highly visible summer events, such as the Chippewa Valley Air Show, which was set to host the Blue Angels mid-June.



Having said that, I could not be more proud of the effort and focus that our recruiters and support staff have been putting forth! Through this July, 10 months into the fiscal year, we saw 628 applicants join the Navy through our region – up from 575 from the same time period last year – nearly a 10% increase! Our recruiters have streamlined their processes and moved to nearly 100% virtual recruiting with virtual meetings, virtual and in-person interviews, and even virtual trainings through our online delayed entry program meetings. Any in person visit is met with a temperature check and COVID-19 questionnaire and

all safety precautions recommended by the CDC and the DoD, DoN, and CNRC are in place.

This team is at a very healthy place right now and I am feeling as confident as ever in their future as I prepare to hand the reigns over to my very capable and impressive Executive Officer, CDR James Duvall. CDR Duvall comes to us most recently from the LCS realm where he served as the Executive Officer of none other than USS Freedom (LCS 1). The timing could not be better for what we are looking forward to next year and I have no doubt he will be an incredible resource for the Navy League for the commissioning of USS Minneapolis-St. Paul. He also brings a wealth of knowledge toward the nuclear field, one of the most heavily focused areas of recruiting, as he is a nuclear officer who has served as the reactor electrical assistant aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). We currently have CDR Duvall scheduled to assume command sometime this December.

CDR Duvall is joined by another great officer, CDR John Allen, a career Naval Flight Officer in the E-6B Mercury realm. He comes to us as the prospective executive officer following his tour at the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) at Offutt AFB in Omaha, Nebraska, where he served in the Global Operations Directorate (J3) as the Airborne Command Post (ABNCP) Communications Officer and an Airborne Logistics Planner on the ABNCP battle staff in support of the USSTRATCOM nuclear deterrence mission.

With the level of professionalism that our current recruiters are exhibiting and the great new additions we have to our team, I am extremely confident in our ability to steer this ship forward and meet the recruiting goals that our Nation requires as we prepare for a more robust, more modern, and even more effective Navy. I thank you for all your support during my time here and I know that CDRs Duvall and Allen have a great Navy League team to work with in the future!



Commander James P. Duvall was commissioned through Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. He earned his Master's in Business Administration from the University of California, San Diego while ashore in 2010. Prior to assuming the position of executive officer at Navy Talent Acquisition Group Northern Plains, he most recently completed his assignment as executive officer aboard USS Freedom (LCS 1).

Command Updates



NOSC Update

Some COVID restrictions are being lifted, so the NOSC is beginning to open back up while still observing responsible social distancing and mask use. Funeral honors have resumed in full with no restrictions. However, our teams can decide for themselves whether or not they want to wear masks. If one team member is uncomfortable without the mask, then the whole team will wear them to maintain uniformity. NOSC Commanding Officer, Commander Hunter Thompson was relieved by Commander John Stump on Saturday September 19, 2020.



US Navy Sea Cadet Corps

Headquarters, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps (HQ, USNSCC) has authorized the gradual reopening of actual drills for sea and league cadets. Each Battalion/Squadron must submit drill plans which will be approved by regional directors. Polaris Battalion and Twin Cities Squadron (the two largest units in Subregion 9-7, i.e. Minnesota and North Dakota), are currently working their plans and subject to approval have scheduled their first drill in September.



COVID 19 precautions will greatly change the conduct of drills, e.g. there will be no color guard at drill opening and closing because of continuous social distancing. Also, some military commands will need to be modified to ensure social distancing. For example, there will be no single arm distance between cadets, rather we will have to implement new commands such as "At triple arm interval - dress right - dress!"

Physical Training and any other

sports-like activities are prohibited until further notice. Additionally, each unit must comply with its State health requirements.

The first drill will coincide with the issuance of the new Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type III (green digital), replacing the old NWU Type I (blueberries) work uniform. After adopting this work uniform for the active Navy last year, the Navy authorized and paid for two sets of Type III for each cadet, and one set for each uniformed officer, including all required badges and insignias. It will take several (monthly) drills to order all new name tapes, etc. and get them sewn on the new uniforms.



University of Minnesota Naval ROTC

University of Minnesota Naval ROTC's active duty staff and midshipmen continue to adapt and overcome the challenges of the pandemic. While most summer training was canceled, senior Marine Option students attended and successfully completed Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia. We now face a unique and challenging school year. Our first big hurdle was New Student Orientation (NSO). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year's NSO was a hybrid event with limited physical interactions and a heavy emphasis on remote learning. We welcomed nine new midshipmen to the Battalion while ensuring everyone's safety.

Much like our revised NSO, our fall semester minimizes in person interaction, instead focusing on pushing the boundaries of distance learning. All Naval Science Courses and Leadership Lab will be conducted in virtual ZOOM classrooms. Our goal remains to provide quality training despite the COVID-19 environment.

Command Updates



University of Minnesota Naval ROTC (Continued)

The only in-person activities will be our physical training, which will focus on smaller group exercise allowing for targeted workouts based on ability.



This year, NSO only had one in-person day for instruction. Here, the incoming freshman form up before the swearing in ceremony.

This summer the Gopher Battalion had five new unit staff members join the Unit. The new Executive Officer is Commander Andrew Behlke. CDR Behlke is coming to the Unit from USS NIMITZ (CVN-68). The new Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) is Lieutenant Macian Campbell. LT Campbell is coming to us from USS OAK HILL (LSD) and will be the class advisor to the Navy 4/Cs. A new position at the unit is the Surface Warfare Officer-Nuclear (SWO-N) held by Lieutenant Adam Thom. LT Thom is coming to the Unit from USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72) and will be the class advisor for the Navy 2/Cs and 3/Cs.



The New Marine Officer Instructor is Captain Austin Duke. Capt Duke is coming to the Unit from 3d Battalion 3d Marines and will be the advisor to the Unit's Marine Options. Last but certainly not least is the Unit's new Assistant Marine Officer Instructor (AMOI), Staff Sergeant Joseph Stoker. SSgt Stoker will assist the MOI, will spearhead the Unit's drill teams, and will be a senior enlisted presence for all the Midshipman in Gopher Battalion. SSgt Stoker was recently selected for promotion to GySgt.



In October, the Professor of Naval Science and Commanding Officer, CAPT Nikki Bufkin will be departing and turning over to CAPT Blake Tornga. CAPT Tornga enlisted in 1990 and served as an Aviation Electronics Technician and P-3 Orion Enlisted Aircrewman with VP-92. After graduation from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln in 1996, he earned Naval Flight Officer wings and later qualified as an Electronic Counter Measures Officer in the EA-6B Prowler. CAPT Tornga commanded VAQ-133, deploying to the Western Pacific aboard USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) in 2016, the squadron's first deployment flying the EA-18G Growler. Other sea tours include: VAQ-136, stationed at NAF Atsugi, Japan and VAQ-134, deploying twice to Bagram, Afghanistan in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. CAPT Tornga's shore assignments include: Electronic Attack Weapons School, U.S. Navy War College, European Command, and the U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa and US SIXTH FLEET combined staff in Naples, Italy, where he was Deputy Director for Strategy and Policy. Most recently CAPT Tornga is coming from Command of Navy Support Facility Diego Garcia.

With the University shifting to virtual classes and cancelling on-campus activities, this fall is shaping up to be dynamic and complex. The midshipmen and staff here at University of Minnesota's Naval ROTC are meeting these challenges head-on, embracing the opportunity to excel & learn and training our midshipmen to be adept and versatile officers the Navy and Marine Corps Team can be proud of.

Command Updates



USCG Station Duluth Update

As the summer months come to a close, the seasonal transfer of outgoing and incoming Coast Guard personnel nears its end as well. Coast Guard members spend anywhere from two to five years at a unit during their tours of duty, depending on the member's rank, job description, and needs of the service. This year brought a large rotation of personnel in Duluth, MN with some key leadership changes. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit welcomed aboard their new Executive Officer, Lieutenant Commander Patrick Lammersen who was previously stationed in Alameda, CA; Station Duluth welcomed their new Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Master Chief Christopher Zahn who was previously stationed in South Portland, ME; and Aids to Navigation Duluth welcomed their new OIC, Chief William Peebles, who was previously the Executive Petty Officer on the USCGC MUSKINGUM, a river tender out of Oklahoma. Despite high personnel turnovers during this transfer season, Coast Guard units continue to charge forward with maritime operations during the unprecedented and dynamic operational environment with which COVID-19 presents.



Members from Station Duluth and Marine Safety Unit Duluth coordinate the towing and mooring of a vessel which experienced engine failure while underway. The vessel was safely returned to dock thanks to the expert boat handling of Coast Guard operators. (Photo courtesy of Ensign Gabe Saturnino, USCG)

Twin Ports Sea Cadets Continue with Area Blood Drives

Twin Ports Division has continued to be very busy during these past few months. They have resumed drilling and have much to catch up on in regards to work ups. During drill stand downs from March to June, Twin Ports Division saw the biggest single increase in new recruits.



They received seven new recruits during this period and saw an addition three during the drill weekend of August 22, 2020. Twin Ports Division command's growth is happening faster now than before the pandemic. Twin Ports sailors continue volunteering with the Red Cross to screen donors for COVID symptoms, registering donors and sanitizing equipment during area blood drives. Some of Twin Ports Sailors donated blood themselves while on duty. With a national shortage of blood during these times, Twin Ports is proud to be a medical unit on the front lines, with this critical task to help save lives. Twin Ports also established a working relationship with a local bank that will be providing scholarships for college tuition for our sailors that are entering or are currently in college. This adds to the many benefits members earn while serving, which is an important part of recruiting and retention.

Other News

MINNESOTA NAVY LEAGUE CANCELS OCTOBER 2020 NAVY BALL

The United States Navy League as well as the Minnesota Council has canceled all in person events, including the 245th Navy Ball. Navy League will host virtual celebrations of Navy Heritage Week and the Navy's 245th birthday and will post and distribute that information when it becomes available.

For future planning, the date for the 246th Navy Birthday Ball is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 16, 2021.

The Minnesota Council has requested the bridge the Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue in St. Louis Park to shine "Blue" on October 13, 2020 to mark the 245th anniversary of the United States Navy, which was established on Oct. 13, 1775, by the Continental Congress. Go out and see this auspicious event and post pictures on social media to commemorate the Navy's Birthday.



THE NAVY BIRTHDAY IS OCTOBER 13, 2020



A 13 October 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with "a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible despatch, for a cruise of three months..." After the American War of Independence, the U.S.

Constitution empowered the new Congress "to provide and maintain a navy." Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on 30 April 1798.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of 13 October as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navy-wide celebration of this occasion "to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service."

13 October 2020 will mark the Navy's 245th Birthday. The central theme of this year's 245th birthday and heritage week will be "Victory at Sea," which encompasses the Navy's efforts in battle during World War II in the Pacific Theater.

Victory at Sea, commemorates the 75th anniversary of World War II and recognized 245 years of warfighting excellence. The Navy's Birthday celebration; albeit a virtual one this year will encompass the traditions of honor, courage, and commitment; the value of being second to none; and the Sailors who are the very foundation upon which we have built the world's greatest Navy.

With thousands of ships and aircraft serving worldwide, the U.S. Navy is a force to be reckoned with. Below are just some of the Navy's notable accomplishments over the past two centuries:

Other News

Navy Birthday (Continued)

First use of submarines: While the Navy's first commissioned designs for a submarine were handed over in 1875, it wasn't until 1898 that the first Holland submarine launched successfully.

First use of modern battleships: While America had battleships before the 1908 South Carolina class dreadnought, which started with the USS Michigan and was based on British ships, these were the first in the new era of battleships.

First use of Naval aircraft: In 1911, the U.S. Navy bought its first airplane, the Curtiss A-1 Triad.

First aircraft carrier: The first flight from the deck of a U.S. Navy cruiser in 1910 led to the 1927 Lexington-class aircraft carriers, the first operational aircraft carriers in the U.S. Navy.

First use of Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat: Introduced in 1992, these rubber boats were originally meant for life boats in the 1960s, but the Navy now uses them for SEALs due to their lightweight, high speed, all-weather specifications.

Specific information for commemorating the Navy Birthday can be found at the Naval History and Heritage Command website at: <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/commemorations-toolkits/navy-birthday.html>



Minnesota Navy League Honors World War II Veteran



Mr. Iver J. Anderson, father of Minnesota Navy League member David E. Anderson, celebrated his 98th birthday September 9, 2020. Mr. Anderson is a WWII Coast Guard Veteran and a Korean War Navy Veteran.

A Drive by birthday celebration was held September 12, 2020, in his honor, at Newton Manor a Presbyterian Homes facility in Bloomington, Minnesota. Members of the Minnesota Navy League, the United States Submarine Veterans Incorporated, Minnesota Submarine League, United States Naval Academy Alumni Association, former crew of the USS Sproston (DDE 577), United States Coast Guard Reserve, Bloomington Police and Woodbury American Legion Post 501 participated in the parade.

Iver is a WWII, United States Coast Guard veteran and served as a Courier to the Commandant of the Coast Guard in Washington D.C. and in the Coast Guard horse patrol in South Carolina during World War II. After his discharge from the Coast Guard, he married a Navy yeoman, the love of his life, who he fondly says was really the Captain of the family. Mr. Anderson was recalled during the Korean War by the Navy where he served as a Sonarman 2nd Class and was stationed aboard the USS Sproston (DDE 577) and was on the bridge during Operation Greenhouse, which tested atmospheric conditions of A and H bomb tests on Eniwetok Island.

Mr. Anderson was touched by the loving gesture of all who attended this birthday celebration and was thankful for his years of military service and the great care he receives at Newton Manor a Presbyterian Homes facility.

Other News

US Naval Academy Information Program Update

Much has transpired at the United States Naval Academy this year and the Corona Virus has certainly had its impact on programs and policies.

The Class of 2024 has completed Plebe Summer after a unique start. The new Plebes reported in waves over a 4-day period. They and their upper-class Midshipman chain of command were then quarantined for 14 days before beginning modified Plebe Summer activities. COVID-19 testing took place both pre- and post-quarantine. A variety of changes were made to the traditional Plebe Summer in order to maintain Midshipman safety and yet accomplish an orderly transition to a new way of life for many. Plebes remained in small groups throughout the summer. They utilized both virtual technologies and in-person training to ensure a thorough Plebe Summer training experience.

The return of the full Brigade from summer training activities brought additional challenges to the academic year due to state, local and Department of Defense safety guidelines associated with COVID-19. The fall semester is incorporating both in-person and virtual learning. In addition, approximately 375 Midshipmen are being housed at Saint John's University, just outside the academy gates. This will allow the maintenance of social distancing and other COVID-19 related issues.

The Naval Academy's traditional summer programs, including STEM camp and Naval Academy Summer Seminar were transformed to virtual camps this past summer. Fall programs, including USNA's nationwide information forums, Candidate visit weekends and Centers of Influence conferences have been postponed. There has not yet been a decision regarding the Naval Academy's early winter activities such as the Operation Information presentations normally made by Midshipmen during the Thanksgiving week. The Naval Academy Admissions brief remains available on U-Tube. Admissions information and material remains available at www.usna.edu. Specific questions or concerns from Minnesota candidates can be addressed to the Minnesota Area Coordinator, Captain Mark Salmen via e-mail at mark.salmen@1973.usna.com.

New Blue and Gold Officers continue to be sought throughout the state, but particularly outside the greater Twin Cities area. Prior military service or graduation from the Naval Academy are not prerequisites to becoming a Blue and Gold Officer. The primary requirements for a Blue and Gold Officer are to have an interest and desire to both provide counseling and information to candidates and applicants and to encourage and guide exceptional individuals to seek a Naval career through the United States Naval Academy. Persons seeking more information on the training and responsibilities of a Blue and Gold Officer are asked to contact Minnesota's Area Coordinator, Captain Mark Salmen, via e-mail at mark.salmen@1973.usna.com.



Other News

Minnesota Council Outreach North

This spring, summer and fall have been and continue to be busy for the Navy League, Minnesota Council as we have participated in virtual parades, drive-by parades (honoring veterans) and veteran's donations.

While several of our scheduled parade engagements went virtual, whereby we submitted either a photo or video of our patriotically decorated Navy League, Minnesota Council unit with photographs promoting the upcoming commissioning of LCS 21 USS Minneapolis St. Paul; yet others were dedicated to honoring our WWII Veterans.



Although the Annual Flekkefest Parade in Elbow Lake was postponed to 2021, the three Grand Marshals (all WWII Veterans) were honored with a drive-by thank you parade, as they sat outside the Grant County Historical Society in Elbow Lake! The three Grand Marshals are:

- Ardell Bergrud was drafted into the Army in 1944 and then served as Grant County Veterans Services officer for 22 years.
- Irvin Amundson enlisted in Naval Aviation in 1943 and continued in the Naval Reserve until 1956.
- Harvey Huseth enlisted in the Coast Guard in 1945, was assigned to guard Ellis Island and played trombone in the Coast Guard Band.

Food and necessities, on behalf of the Navy League, Minnesota Council, in conjunction with the June Lynne Lacey Foundation, have been made to homebound Veteran's, their families, Veteran's Hospitals and Veteran's Homes during the pandemic.

Mike Lindell, of My Pillow, has donated pillows for our veterans and their dogs.

The Boots on the Ground Motorcycle event in Fergus Falls is still on for September 19th, which raises money for the local Veterans Home. Everyone is welcome, with masks and social distancing measures in place.

Other News

Minnesota Sea Cadets Win Prestigious Awards



Polaris Battalion has a weld shop that allows them to teach up to six cadets at a time how to appropriately weld. seamanship and leadership. Polaris Battalion consists of both the senior cadet program and the junior program through the Trident Training Ship.

Polaris Battalion, a Sea Cadet unit, from Cambridge, Minnesota has been selected for a number of impressive awards from the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

These annual awards are given to U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (USNSCC) and U.S. Naval League Cadet Corps (USNLCC) units who have excelled in required annual inspections and exemplify the top units in the Nation. NSSC is the senior cadet program for young men and women ages 13-17 who are interested in developing their skills in leadership, basic seamanship, courage, self-reliance and discipline. NLCC is the junior program for the NSCC. The NLCC introduces boys and girls ages 10-13 to naval life through instruction in basic

Polaris Battalion was selected as the top combined NSCC/NLCC Unit in Region 9 and fifth nationwide for the George S. Halas Award as a result of an annual inspection score of 91.4, meeting the required number of sea and league cadets and submission of the units audit/budget report. Additionally, Polaris Battalion won sixteenth place in the 2019 John Bergen award out of 396 units nationwide.

Polaris Battalion, Training Ship Trident which is composed of NLCC boys and girls ages 10-13 won fifth place out of 75 Training Ships nationwide in the 2019 Morgan L. Fitch, Jr. award.

Polaris Battalion has 43 NSCC cadets, while Training Ship Trident has 17 NLCC cadets. The Battalion is led by Lieutenant Brent van Hees, USNSCC. He is supported by nineteen staff. Polaris Battalion is one of the Minnesota Sea Cadet units supported by the Minnesota Navy League Council. Minnesota Council supports four Sea Cadet programs throughout the state.

For more information visit us at <https://navyleaguemn.org/>.



Combined Unit Picture of Polaris Battalion with most of cadets and staff



Training Ship Trident provides students with training on basic building/construction as well as wiring assistance of a professional framer/carpenter instructor.

Other News

MINNESOTA NAVY LEAGUE SELECTS NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

In June 2020, the Minnesota Navy League selected several new Members to fill vacancies on the Board. The following personnel were added to the Board.

Bob Dolan - Vice President Membership

Joyce Lacey - Vice President Community Outreach (North)

Jeanette Sterner - Vice President Community Outreach (South)

Lynn Wegner, Vice President and Vice Chair LCS 21 Commissioning

Please join in welcoming these volunteers to your Minnesota Navy League Board.

DID YOU KNOW?

USS SAINT PAUL (CA-73) was commissioned February 17, 1945 and had an illustrious career that spanned three wars, WWII, Korea and Vietnam. She holds the distinction of firing the final shots of WWII and the Korean War. She was at Tokyo Bay September 2, 1945 for the Japanese surrender and holds the record for firing more rounds of ammunition than any other cruiser in US Navy History. Among her awards are one battle star for World War II service, eight battle stars for Korean service, and eight battle stars for Vietnam service. SAINT PAUL was decommissioned April 30, 1971, stricken from the Naval Vessel Register July 31, 1978 and scrapped December 13, 1979.

But, did you know that in late 1963, early 1964, USS SAINT PAUL (CA-73) was used in the filming of the iconic Otto Preminger/John Wayne film *In Harm's Way*? During that time, there were a limited amount of active U.S. Navy ships that maintained their WWII configurations. SAINT PAUL was the only heavy cruiser that still did. For that reason she was selected to appear in the film. She played the part of "Old Swayback." A battle hardened cruiser with John Wayne's character, Rockwell "Rock" Torrey, as her Captain.



Did you also know that you can still view SAINT PAUL's anchor and bell right here in Minnesota? Her anchor is located at the Harriet Island Regional Park, alongside the Mississippi River near downtown Saint Paul. Her bell is located at St. Paul's City Hall on the 3rd floor. So, if you're ever in Saint Paul, take the time to go see a piece of history.



*Navy League of the United States
Minnesota Council
2021 Officers*

President	William James
Vice President Communications	Pat Dolan
Vice President Membership	Bob Dolan
Vice President - Outreach North	Joyce Lacey
Vice President - Outreach South	Jeanette Sterner
Vice President - Events and LCS 21	Brian Skon
Vice President and Vice Chair LCS	Lynn Wegner
Secretary	Brandon Montanye
Treasurer	Mark Stange
JAG	James Schoeberl

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

October

Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Entire Month
Columbus Day	Second Monday in October
U.S. Navy (USN) Birthday	October 13
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	October 17
Day of the Deployed	October 26
Navy Day	October 27



November

National Veterans & Military Family Month	Entire Month
Warrior Care Month	Entire Month
National Family Caregivers Month	Entire Month
Daylight Savings Time Ends	November 1, 2020
Marine Corps Day/Birthday	November 10
Veterans Day	November 11
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	November 21
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November



December

Giving Tuesday	Tuesday after Thanksgiving
National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	December 7
Army Navy Game	December 12
U.S. National Guard Birthday	December 13
National Wreaths Across America	December 14
Hanukkah Begins	December 10, Ends December 18
Minnesota Navy League Council Meeting	December 19
Christmas Day	December 25
Kwanzaa	December 26 – January 1
New Year's Eve	Tuesday, December 31

