



BULLHORN

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Pensacola Navy League Perseveres from Hardship, Hurricanes and Heartbreak

The year 2020 has been especially challenging for the Pensacola Navy League. COVID-19 restrictions prohibited military interaction and canceled many events this year, including the opportunity to host two ship commissionings. Most recently hurricanes, in particular hurricane Sally, added to the fray, severely damaging the building where the Navy League office was housed. Many members, including our President Dan McCort, USN (Ret), sustained significant damage to their homes.

One year ago, the Pensacola Navy League Admirals' Club had the good fortune to have local historian John Appleyard present during a guest speaker series luncheon. Mr. Appleyard, a gifted storyteller, spoke on the history of NAS Pensacola.



CAPT Tim Kinsella, USN, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola and John Appleyard



OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2020

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John Appleyard passed away October 20th at the age of 97. He died just three months after the death of his beloved wife of 75 years, Eleanor.

Mr. Appleyard served in combat during WWII in Germany. In 1959, John and Eleanor founded the Appleyard Agency and he began a stint as the Executive Director of Florida's Quadricentennial. Renowned for his work in Florida history, he had a lifelong fascination with Pensacola's rich history. He authored more than 120 books and was an avid baseball fan. At the age of 95, he received a five year contract as a commentator for Pensacola's Blue Wahoos.

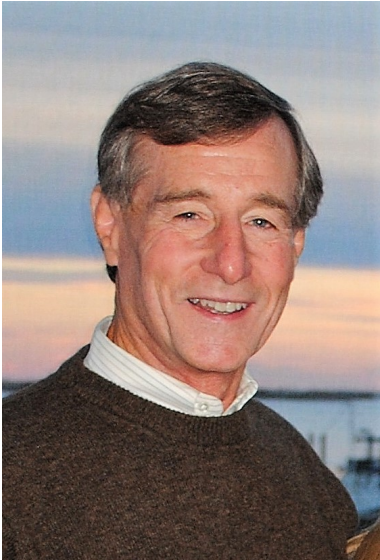
As an accomplished author, World War II veteran, public servant and family man, John Appleyard was a prominent figure in Northwest Florida. He was a friend to anyone and everyone, and he will be sorely missed.

Newsletter and additional pictures can be found on our webpage
<http://pensacolanavyleague.org/>

His stories are shared at the Appleyard Storytelling Cottage in historic downtown Pensacola. Visit <http://historicpensacola.org/plan-your-visit/museums-properties/john-appleyard-cottage/> for more information.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Dan McCort, USN (Ret) President, Pensacola Navy League



Greetings to all. With the heat of summer beginning to fade, the cool refreshing days of Fall at hand and football back on TV, life seems to be almost “normal.” Even better, some of NAS Pensacola’s COVID restrictions are being eased allowing our Sea Service personnel to get off of the base and participate in select activities again.

The past quarter has seen the significantly increased footprint of the United States Coast Guard on board NAS Pensacola. First, the Cutter DILIGENCE arrived, tying up at NAS Pensacola on Monday, July 27th. Skipper Luke Slivinski and his crew were enthusiastically welcomed by a hearty group of Pensacola Navy League members, media, dignitaries and an official party from NAS Pensacola. All of whom braved the elements to greet the good ship and her crew in style. Second the Cutter RELIANCE arrived aboard NAS Pensacola Monday morning, August 31st, to the delight of waiting families, a Navy League contingent, dignitaries and the U.S. Navy official party lead by CAPT Kinsella USN, Commanding Officer of NAS Pensacola. On arrival, Commander Robert Hill, Commanding Officer of the RELIANCE expressed his delight to have Pensacola as their new home and relief to have the Home Port change complete. Both a photo gallery and video for each of the DILIGENCE and RELIANCE arrivals is available on our Website. Simply follow this link: <http://pensacolanavyleague.org/upcoming-events>.

In between those arrivals, the Buoy Tender, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter CYPRESS, Commanded by LCDR Chris Bonner, USCG, departed NAS Pensacola for an extended maintenance period up in Baltimore, Maryland. In an unusual move, the Crew from the CYPRESS returned to Pensacola after delivering their Cutter to Baltimore and will remain here in Pensacola without a ship until spring. The former CYPRESS Crew, now back in Pensacola, is awaiting their replacement Cutter, the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter WALNUT, to finish its own maintenance availability. When that availability is complete this spring, the Crew will travel back to Baltimore to pick up their new “ride” the Cutter WALNUT and return her to NAS Pensacola. This will complete the Homeport change for both Cutters. Having served Pensacola and the Gulf Coast diligently and well for many years, we wish the Cutter CYPRESS and its replacement Crew the best in their new home. When the Cutter WALNUT sails into the port at NAS Pensacola this spring, we hope that you will join us in welcoming her to the Gulf Coast and beautiful Pensacola.

On Friday, August 7th, we had the bittersweet opportunity to say farewell to both Mr. Stu Ramsey of Pen Air Federal Credit Union and CMDCM Mario Rivers USN, the Command Master Chief for NAS Pensacola. Stu Ramsey, the former CEO for Pen Air Federal Credit Union was retiring after decades of extraordinary service and

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**Pensacola Council
Navy League of the
United States**

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leadership. Command Master Chief Rivers was being reassigned to Honolulu, Hawaii as the Area Command Master Chief. We wish them both “Fair Winds and Following Seas.” They will be sorely missed. A video and photo gallery of the event is available on our Website: <http://pensacolanavyleague.org/upcoming-events>

On Wednesday, September 23rd, we had the good fortune to welcome back to Pensacola CAPT Kevin Meyers, USN. CAPT Meyers you will recall was the Commanding Officer of the new USS Tripoli, LHA-7 on the occasion of her Commissioning into active Naval service. CAPT Meyers, after successfully seeing the USS Tripoli through her Commissioning and transit to San Diego, CA, the Tripoli’s new homeport, was enroute to his new duty station. Happily CAPT Meyers path brought him back to Pensacola and afforded everyone an opportunity for some interaction. CAPT Meyers, during a dinner presentation, enlightened the audience with stories of the Commissioning challenges that he faced and his crew’s incredible journey along the southern tip of South America through the Straits of Magellan. CAPT Meyers will take Command of the combined NROTC unit at George Washington University. We wish CAPT Meyers every success in his new Command.

On Friday, October 23rd, we were able to hold our delayed joint Pensacola Navy League and Marine Corps League Golf Tournament. CAPT Dean-o Fournier USN (Ret) did a spectacular job assembling a crew and executing a flawless Tournament to generate funds for both “Leagues” and the Navy Birthday Ball Committee. Of note here, the folks over at the NAS Pensacola golf course did a fabulous job getting the course back into shape, following the devastation to the course caused by hurricane Sally. See more on the Tournament later in this Newsletter.

Coming soon we have two of the Pensacola Navy League’s most significant events. First, on Wednesday, November 4th, we will hold the annual Pensacola Navy League Chicken BBQ at the Pensacola Yacht Club. This will be one of the first events in months that our active duty Sea Service personnel will be authorized to attend. So grab a prospective new member or friend and come out to support our Sea Service personnel and enjoy some terrific BBQ. Second, on Tuesday evening, December 8th, we will hold the Annual Pensacola Navy League Christmas Dinner/Dance. As our final event for the year, we will close out 2020 in style while formally installing our new Board of Directors. I certainly hope that you will come and join us.

In closing I want to express my personal thanks to our hard working Committee Chairs and their committee members. To say this has been a challenging year is an understatement. Few of our events were able to be conducted under “normal conditions.” Our Committee Chairs have done a tremendous job on behalf of our valiant Sea Service personnel and you, our membership, in finding creative ways to conduct meaningful and safe events. They are the backbone of our organization. Please thank them at your next opportunity. And as always a very special THANKS to our invaluable Sponsors. They have stayed the course with us this year in spite of all the challenges. Without them we would have been up the proverbial creek without a paddle.

Until next time. May God Bless.....



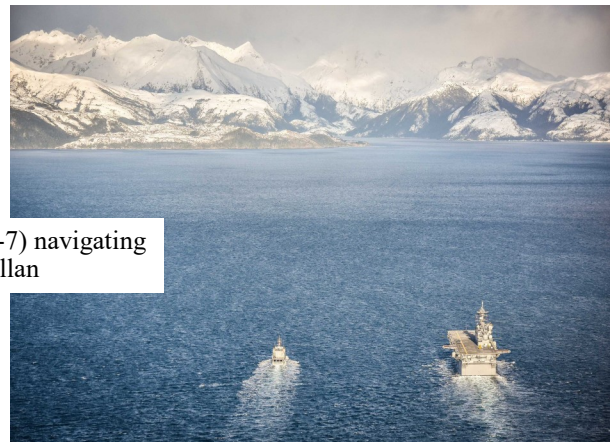
Fair Winds and Following Seas

During a dinner event held at the District Steakhouse on September 23rd, the Pensacola Navy League celebrated the brief return of CAPT Kevin Meyers, USN, the former Commanding Officer of the newly commissioned USS Tripoli, LHA-7. CAPT Meyers made a stop in Pensacola while enroute to his new duty station in Washington D.C., where he assumed Command of the combined NROTC unit at George Washington University.

After successfully seeing the USS Tripoli through her Commissioning and transit to San Diego, CA, the Tripoli's new homeport, CAPT Meyers shared stories of the Commissioning challenges and his crew's incredible journey along the southern tip of South America through the Straits of



USS Tripoli (LHA-7) navigating the Straits of Magellan



Magellan. Coincidentally, Tripoli's voyage occurred exactly 500 years after Ferdinand Magellan and his fleet discovered a passage to the Pacific in October 1520, now known as the Straits of Magellan. Juan Sebastián de Elcano took command following Magellan's death in 1522 and completed the fleet's circumnavigation of the earth. The Spanish Royal Navy tall ship Juan Sebastián de Elcano, which was named in his honor and is used to train Spanish Naval Academy Midshipmen, has visited Pensacola many times, most recently in 2015 and in 2019.

The USS Tripoli Commissioning Committee led by RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret) presented plankowner plaques and coins for each crew member of the Tripoli and for each member of the Admirals' Circle, the top fundraising supporters of the Tripoli Commissioning. The USS Tripoli was originally scheduled to be commissioned in Pensacola, before COVID-19 restrictions precluded that opportunity. The plaques and coins were presented to the crew, while at sea, by CAPT Meyers.

Jennifer Kensler of Naval Federal Credit Union is the artist who designed the beautiful artwork for the Tripoli Commissioning plaques and coins.



CAPT Kevin Meyers, USN, Jennifer Kensler and RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret)



Top left: CAPT Meyers with District Steakhouse co-owner and Pensacola Navy League past President Buck Mitchell.

Top right: Joe Gilchrist, Admiral's Circle and Pensacola Navy League supporter with CAPT Meyers, Jennifer Kensler and Dan McCort



Bottom left: Jennifer Kensler, Ray Kensler and Pensacola Navy League Secretary and Board Member Patty Veal



Farewell to Friends of the Navy League



On Friday, August 7th, the Pensacola Navy League bid farewell to two long time friends during a luncheon held at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Recognized were Mr. Stuart “Stu” Ramsey, former President and Chief Executive Officer of Pen Air Federal Credit Union and CMDCM Mario Rivers USN, the Command Master Chief for NAS Pensacola.

Stu Ramsey retired after decades of extraordinary service and leadership. He served as President and CEO of Pen Air since July 2012.

A native of Pensacola, CMDCM Rivers reported to duty at NAS Pensacola in May 2018. He has been reassigned to Honolulu, Hawaii as the Area Command Master Chief.

Both men have been tremendous supporters of the Navy League’s mission. Fair Winds and Following Seas to two great leaders. A video of the event is available on our Website at <http://pensacolanavyleague.org/upcoming-events>



President Dan McCort and CMDCM Mario Rivers, USN



Nan Harper, former President of the Pensacola Navy League and Russell Lentz, Council Treasurer



Dan McCort and Stu Ramsey



Golf Tournament

On a beautiful Friday morning, October 23rd, aboard NAS Pensacola, the Pensacola Navy League and Marine Corps League held their highly anticipated Golf Tournament at A.C. Read Golf Course. The tournament was delayed previously due to hurricane Sally. CAPT Dean-o Fournier USN (Ret) spearheaded the event, assembling more than 70 players and leading a tournament that generated funds for the Pensacola Navy League, the Pensacola Marine Corps League and the Navy Birthday Ball Committee. The winning team received a “Traveling Trophy” courtesy of Pen Air Federal Credit Union.



Overall 1st place winners, L-r: Darren Markwick, Kristen Ray, Dave Torranca, Brad Mathis and Stevie Ray.



Thank you to Hellcat Productions, LLC for creating a fabulous video of the tournament, which can be viewed here or on our webpage. <https://vimeo.com/471940130/e5f8b7cb5f>

Big thank you to all of our sponsors and supporters. Please see the list of sponsors on the following page.





Pensacola Navy League Golf Tournament



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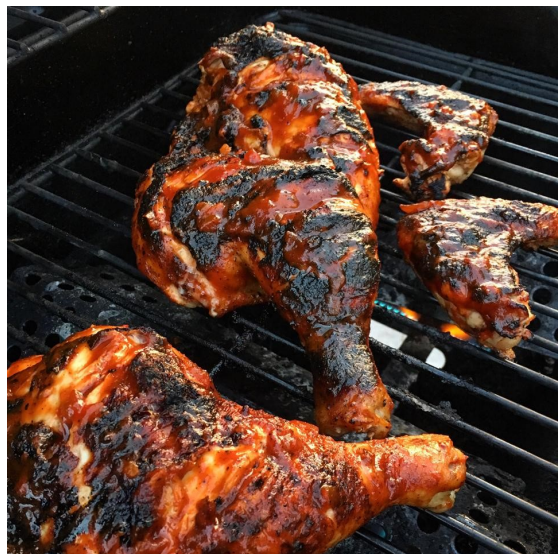
CHICKEN BARBECUE



The annual Pensacola Navy League Chicken Barbecue will be held November 4th, 5:30 pm at Pensacola Yacht Club. After a long year of cancellations and quarantine, this event, a favorite among members, is an opportunity to relax and celebrate the success of the council and committee members who work hard in support of our sea services.

The guests can enjoy a beautiful view and sunset during cocktail hour and feast on chicken grilled by our Pensacola Navy League chefs: Buck Mitchell, Bobby Riggs, Harry White, Bob Anderson and a few other "sous chefs." Please bring a prospective member as your guest.

The cost is \$16.00 per person. Please email pensacola-navyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org for more information.





Christmas Dinner Dance

The Pensacola Council closes another great year of events with our grand finale, the Christmas Dinner and Dance!

This year's formal holiday celebration will be held Wednesday, December 8th, 6:00 pm at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Enjoy a cocktail hour and an elegant dinner with live music.

The evening will conclude with a recap of the year by President Dan McCort, the swearing in of the new President and the Board of Directors and more music and dancing.

The cost is \$35.00 per person. Invitations will follow.



Remember and honor the sacrifices of our veterans by purchasing a wreath through Wreaths Across America
<https://www.barrancaswreaths.com/sponsor-a-wreath.html>

Deadline for orders is December 1st

Individual (1) Wreath - \$15

Family (5 Wreaths) - \$75

Bronze Sponsor (10 Wreaths) - \$150

Silver Sponsor (50 Wreaths) - \$750

Gold Sponsor (100 Wreaths) - \$1,500

Platinum Sponsor (200 Wreaths) - \$3,750

Diamond Sponsor (500 Wreaths) - \$7,500



Ceremony will be held at 11:00 am on December 19th

Bronze, silver, gold, platinum and diamond sponsors
 will be recognized in the ceremony program.



USCGC DAUNTLESS SEIZES MORE THAN \$59 MILLION IN COCAINE

Source: WEAR TV/WPMI STAFF

The Coast Guard Cutter DAUNTLESS and crew returned to their homeport in Pensacola after a 56 day patrol where they intercepted and seized more than \$59 million in cocaine.

The Coast Guard says after the DAUNTLESS crew helped in relief efforts near Lake Charles, Louisiana following Hurricane Laura, they passed through the Panama Canal and helped in combating the transport of illegal drugs.

While working with interagency assets, the DAUNTLESS crew interdicted and seized approximately 3,500 pounds of cocaine.

"Every DAUNTLESS shipmate put forth an astounding amount of effort to overcome challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as hurricanes Marco and Laura to ready themselves and the cutter for the counter-narcotics mission," said CDR Paul S. McConnell, USCG, DAUNTLESS' Commanding Officer. "Their preparation and effort resulted in the successful execution of multiple interdictions. I am proud of the crew's accomplishments, and grateful for the sacrifices of my shipmates and their families back home, who have been enduring the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Sally, which made landfall near Pensacola, Florida, while DAUNTLESS was underway."

The Coast Guard, Navy, Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, along with allied and international partner agencies, play a role in counter-drug operations.

This patrol marks DAUNTLESS' second operational patrol during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter DAUNTLESS (WMEC-624) offloads bales of cocaine weighing 2290 kilograms at Sector St. Petersburg on October 7th, 2020. Federal law enforcement agents received custody of the \$86.6 million drug shipment and 10 male suspected-smugglers were apprehended. Photo credit: Petty Officer 1st Class Ayla Hudson, USCG .

Cpl. J.R. Spears, USMC Remembered on 15th Anniversary of his Death



On Saturday, October 24th, the CPL J.R. Spears Detachment 066 of the Marine Corps League, the Military Order of the Purple Heart 566 and the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation held a remembrance ceremony in honor of the life and legacy of Lance Cpl. J.R. Spears, USMC.

Jonathan Ross "J.R." Spears, age 21, was killed October 23rd, 2005 in Ramadi, Iraq, by a single gunshot wound as he scrambled toward a buddy wounded by a grenade. Corporal Spears was the first-born and only son of Marie and Tim Spears of Molino, FL.

The ceremony, held graveside at Barrancas National Cemetery and Veteran's Memorial

Park was attended by Cpl. Spears' family and fellow Marines and friends. Lt. Col Andrew Del Gaudio, USMC (Ret) served as speaker.

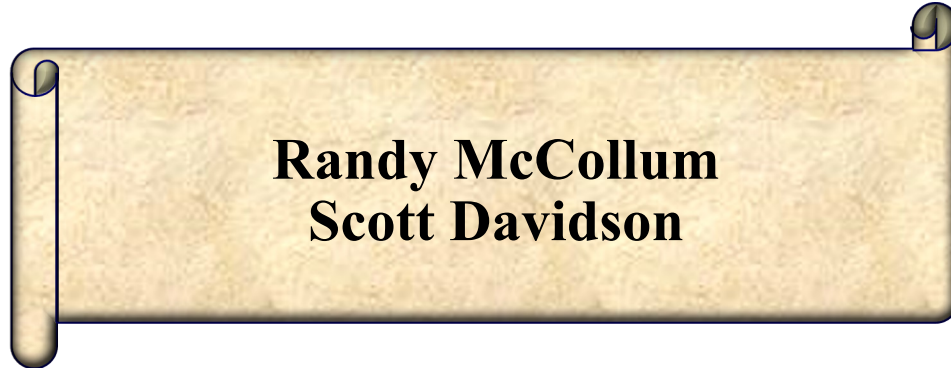


"What has kept me going these 15 years is the fact that I know you were doing what you loved. I know you loved the Marine Corps and I know you loved being a Marine. I love you son with all my heart." -Tim Spears





AHOY NEW MEMBERS



**Randy McCollum
Scott Davidson**

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

July 2020

Kenneth J. Densmore
Joe Dillard
Joe Gilchrist
Nan Harper
Bryan Hendricks
Hans H. Krucke
Frederick W. Levin
C.F. Logan
Ronald S. McCuiston
Gerald A. McGill
Timothy M. McGuire
David Morgan
William L. Nyland

John Pinzino

Jeffrey Tharp
Mark Thompson
John P. Wrynn

August 2020

Robert C. Balink
Frederick J. Dollen
William Dunn
George M. Furlong
James Hagy
Caroline Kelly
Robert Kelly

September 2020

Jeri Blankenbeck
Stacy J. Brown
Lacey A. Collier
Dave L. Gibson
Thomas F. Gonzalez
Marcus Huff
Rock Penfold
Lynne Tobin

**Welcome aboard to CMDCM Craig Forehand
Command Master Chief, NAS Pensacola!**



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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Pensacola-Council-of-the-Navy-League-of-the-United-States/>

2020 Officers/Board of Directors Pensacola Navy League of the United States

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3rd Vice President	Mr. Tom Pace, Jr.
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Chaplain	CDR Dave Gibson, USN (Ret)
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Secretary	Ms. Patty Veal
Past President	Ms. Nan Harper

- FORCM Robert Anderson, USN (Ret)
- Mr. Jim Crumlish
- Dr. Robert Dillard
- CAPT Dean-o Fournier, USN (Ret)
- CAPT A.J. Gallardo, USN (Ret)
- Ms. Pamela Hatt
- CDR Evan Hipsley, USN (Ret)
- Ms. Tiffany Joyner
- Mr. Stephen Luongo
- CAPT Kevin Miller, USN (Ret)
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- RADM Donald P. Quinn, USN (Ret)
- Mr. Bobby Riggs
- Mr. Harry White

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- CDR Mark McDonald , USN (Ret)
- President, Gulf Coast East Area**
- CCMDCM Michael Dollen, USN (Ret)
- National and Pensacola Council, Director Emeritus**
- CAPT Hans Krucke, USNR (Ret)



★ CALENDAR OF EVENTS ★

November 4
Chicken Barbecue
Pensacola Yacht Club

December 8
Christmas Dinner and Dance
Pensacola Yacht Club

January 2021 (TBA)
Admirals' Club Speaker Series
Pensacola Yacht Club

February 25, 2021
Military Recognition Day Luncheon
New World Landing

EVENT DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE



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