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winner for
Newsletter and
Social Media

Military Recognition Day

The Pensacola Navy League’s biggest event of the year, Military Recognition Day, honors military members who have demonstrated significant community service. The Pensacola Council will recognize those members during a luncheon and ceremony, held February 20th, 11:30 am at Skopelos-New World Landing. Honorees are nominated by their commands. Each nominee is recognized, with one outstanding military community service leader selected for the prestigious Margaret Flowers Civic Award. Margaret Flowers is a retired civil service employee who left a legacy of service to both the U.S. Navy and her community.

The guest speaker is David Harmer, an attorney from Bountiful, Utah, who is the president and chief executive officer of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Freedoms Foundation, founded in 1949, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, and nonsectarian educational organization that brings students and teachers from all across the nation to its campus in Valley Forge for intensive study of the American Revolution, the Constitution, and their contemporary relevance. Volunteer chapters from coast to coast sponsor the students and teachers, and also identify, recognize, and award acts of exemplary citizenship. In addition, the Foundation hosts the Medal of Honor Memorial Grove in Valley Forge, recognizing those who offered, and often made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms.



Harmer’s background includes a wealth of corporate, nonprofit, and government experience. He was corporate counsel to a number of major financial institutions, including Ally Bank, JP Morgan Chase and Washington Mutual Bank. He was Bradley Resident Fellow at The Heritage Foundation and a Fellow of the College of Public Interest Law at Pacific Legal Foundation. He served as counsel to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, has authored pro-freedoms works published by think tanks, law reviews, and major newspapers, and was a delegate to three national and nine state political party conventions.

Harmer has held numerous leadership roles with various education-focused non-profit organizations including Junior Achievement of Utah, and twice was a candidate for Congress in the San Francisco Bay Area.

For tickets and military or table sponsorship information, please contact the Navy League office at (850) 436-8552 or email pensacolanavyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org



JANUARY-MARCH 2020

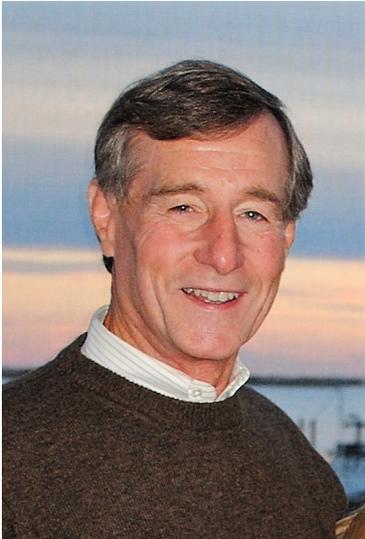
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Newsletter and additional pictures can be found on our webpage
<http://pensacolanavyleague.org/>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Greetings to all from the “Bridge” and welcome to the decade of the “twenties.” Hope that your New Year is off to a great start and that your Christmas and Holidays were joyous.

Following on the heels of a very active 2019, the year ahead has even more in store for our Pensacola Navy League Team. However, before getting into the details of 2020, let me begin by welcoming a couple of new Board members to our Council. Jim Crumlish and Evan Hipsley were both elected to “at large” positions and will serve three year terms. Marc Huff was elected as our new JAG and will equally start by serving a minimum three year term. All three of these new Board members come with terrific qualifications and bring new energy to our Board. We will put them and their talents to work immediately.

While welcoming the three new Board members, we also want to thank the three departing Board members who have served the Board and Council for so long and so well. Happily two of them, Harry White and Bill Cuilik, are essentially just changing titles and will remain heavily engaged as Committee Chairmen and general Committee members for our Board into the foreseeable future. Tom Gonzalez, on the other hand, is going to take a much deserved break. Tom has been our JAG and worked tirelessly for your Board for the last eighteen years straight! Fair Winds and Following Seas, Tom. When rested and ready, we want you back.

Now on to the New Year schedule. Immediately on the horizon is an Admiral’s Club, “Meet the Boss” function on Tuesday, January 28th at the Pensacola Yacht Club. Please join us at 11:30 am to hear from Mayor Grover Robinson, IV as he discusses the Pensacola of today and his vision for Pensacola’s future. February 20th brings our Military Recognition Day (MRD), Margaret Flowers Award Luncheon ably Chaired by Jeri Blankenbeck and held at New World Landing. One of our signature events, this year for MRD, we will be joined by Navy League National’s Senior Manager for Field Services, Qawnana Crockett. If you have not attended an MRD event previously, do not miss this one. A collection of finer Award-ees you will not see.

On the heels of the MRD will be the Enlisted Recognition Breakfast held April 23rd at Heritage Hall in Seville Quarter. Bill Cuilik will ensure that this is another class event recognizing outstanding enlisted talent from the area’s 30 plus com-

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mands. Another “must attend event” and perfect opportunity to sponsor a service member or a table for the event.



Making 2020 a very unique year for the Pensacola Navy League we will be hosting not one but two ship Commissioning's here in Pensacola. First the newest, PCU Tripoli (LHA-7) an America Class LHA on June 13th and followed on August 1st by the PCU St. Louis (LCS-19) a Freedom Class LCS. These two “major events” will keep our Council hopping. You will definitely want to keep abreast of the planning and not miss the opportunity to watch one or both of these ships “come to life.” We are looking for workers,

sponsors and help with both of these Committees. RADM Don Quinn USN (Ret) is the PCU Tripoli Committee Chairman. I am the Pensacola, PCU St. Louis Committee Chairman. Reach out to either of us directly or through the Pensacola Navy League Office if interested in getting involved. On January 31st, we will be hosting the USS St. Louis ship's Sponsor, Barbara Taylor, her husband Andy and their Committee from St. Louis for a site visit to Pensacola. More on these Commissioning's as the information becomes available.

As to 2020, our priorities for this year will remain; 1) to support, recognize and advocate for our Sea Service and military service members and 2) support and recognize our fabulous Sea Cadets. Independence Squadron is in the middle of some terrific STEM and Cyber training programs. Be sure to read the write-up on their activities later in this Newsletter.

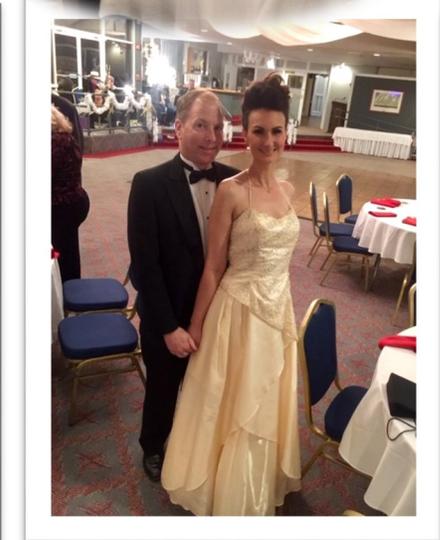
On a bitter sweet note we have to both congratulate CWO-5 Kevin Schneider, the Sea Cadets, Independence Squadron Commanding Officer, for his much deserved promotion but sadly also say farewell at the same time. Kevin's promotion unfortunately for us comes with reassignment away from Pensacola. To say that CWO-5 Schneider will be missed is an understatement. He has led, mentored and counseled our Sea Cadets in a truly outstanding fashion. The programs that he instituted, the role model and leadership that he demonstrated will impact our Sea Cadets for the rest of their lives. We wish “Skipper” Schneider and his family every success. BZ CWO-5 Schneider!

In closing; first a “shout out” to Jeri Blankenbeck for another outstanding Christmas Dinner Dance to end 2019. This was a truly class event handled as always with aplomb and meticulous planning. And second, a huge THANK YOU to our spectacular Sponsor Pen Air Federal Credit Union. Without you, we are dead in the water. We look forward to working with you in 2020 to the benefit of our Sea Service and other military service members. Until next timeMay God Bless!



Christmas Dinner Dance

The Pensacola Navy League celebrated a busy year at the Annual Christmas Dinner Dance held December 11th at the Pensacola Yacht Club. The President, CAPT Dan McCort, USN (Ret) welcomed the guests and summarized a very productive 2019. The year in review was followed by recognitions for three Board members. Tom Gonzalez is taking a hiatus after serving 18 years as an Officer and Judge Advocate of the Board. He was recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Plaque for his dedicated service. Harry White and Carol Monroe were also recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding service. VADM Jerry Unruh, USN (Ret) swore in the new Board of Directors for 2020. Guests enjoyed music from Joe Occhipinti and the Jazzabouts. Very special thanks to Jeri Blankenbeck and her committee for organizing this event. Special thanks also to Pen Air Federal Credit Union for their sponsorship.





Carol Monroe receives a Certificate of Appreciation presented by President Dan McCort.



VADM Unruh swears in the 2020 Board of Directors.



Harry White is recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation.



Tom Gonzalez is recognized with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Plaque for 18 years of service as Judge Advocate to the Board .



PCU TRIPOLI NEARS COMMISSIONING

By Sandra Averhart, WUWF, 88.1 FM.

In Part II of Sandra Averhart's three part report, she joins members of the Pensacola commissioning committee and the Pensacola Navy League for a tour of the future USS Tripoli, now dry docked at Ingalls Shipyard in Mississippi.

The future USS Tripoli is in the homestretch of construction at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi; about six months out from its commissioning ceremony in Pensacola.

Members of the Pensacola group putting on the festivities, including the commissioning committee and Navy League, recently got a brief tour of the ship. In

this segment installment, we learn more details about the ship, her crew and efforts to be more environmental and health-conscious.



PCU Tripoli (LHA-7), now referred to as a Pre-Commissioning Unit, is 845 feet long and weighs 45,000 tons.

As part of the tour, Commanding Officer, Capt. Kevin Meyers, USN and select members of his crew, lead the Pensacola group from the flight deck down ladder wells and through narrow passageways. “Oops, up this way,” said Capt. Meyers, still learning his way around the brand new ship. “Yeah, we’re going to “skin” back around. We took you down a detour.”

This brief detour results in a quick peek at sleeping quarters, specifically this is a United States Marine Corps berthing area, designated so with red paint. Capt. Meyers says the berthing areas are designed to accommodate three or four Marine officers, with two or three Navy officers to a space, “And, for our junior officers, it’ll be four. Four is the most for officers.” For the enlisted personnel, there could be 40 to 50 sharing sleeping quarters.

The Navy’s newest amphibious assault ship, Tripoli is like a small carrier, designed to support Marine Corps operations and aircraft and host as many as 1,800 Marines. This is the third U.S. warship to carry the historic name and it’s the third new construction vessel for Capt. Meyers, who took time out to conduct the tour.

We learned a lot from the ship’s wardroom, which is a reference to how the space was used dating

back to colonial days. “If you go back to the three-masted ships, you know you were engaged in close order battle, and if you had injuries and where were you going to take the injured people that was quiet and somewhere out of the way and safe,” the captain said, explaining how the medical ward became the wardroom.

The tables are still about six to six and a half feet long, as they were centuries ago, to accommodate a body for medical treatment or even surgery. But, Capt. Meyers points out that the Navy has come a long way since then, “Our surgical capability on this ship is pretty robust; it’s essentially a miniature hospital.”

As to her medical capabilities, Tripoli has two operating rooms, three intensive care units, a 12-bed medical ward, X-ray facilities, pharmacy and lab.



Capt. Kevin Meyers leads the Pensacola contingent on a tour of PCU Tripoli (LHA-7) .

That leaves the wardroom to function as a dining and meeting space for Navy and Marine officers aboard the ship. “Eventually, we’ll load up television sets for PowerPoint briefings and other briefings in there, and then there are wardroom lounges around,” added the captain.

While in the wardroom, a member of the Pensacola group points to a feature known as a compartment bullseye, painted in the shape of a square on the back wall. It’s a series of letters and numbers, designed to glow in the dark, that yield essential information about the location, size, and function of the space.

“We’re above the main decks, you know, two decks above, 01 then 02,” said Meyers in reference to what the first numbers in the sequence mean. Such data can be crucial in times of emergency. “Every space is designated with a bullseye that goes into a thing called the Repair Party Manual, which if we went down at the damage control central, the damage control assistant can open that up,” he continued.



The manual will include the dimensions of the space, and will provide information on whether it can be flooded to help stabilize the ship.

Getting back to the function of the wardroom, as a dining facility for officers, there’s also a Chiefs Mess and separate mess for enlisted personnel. “When we have the full complement, our crew is about a thousand, give or take. And, if we embark, Marines will be 1,800 or so, give or take; so, 2,800 people, at least three-and-a-half times a day,” Meyers said. –Cont.

Capacity is about 12,000 meals a day aboard ship.

According to the captain, the supply crew, cooks and attendants are almost always in, either cutting, carving, shaving, baking or cleaning.

To get a different view, we head from the wardroom down to one of the crew dining areas, which is capable of serving up to 120 individuals per sitting.

“In the wardroom you can pull a chair out and sit down in a gentlemanly fashion,” said Meyers, pointing out that the chairs have been welded to the tables in the enlisted mess.

Additionally, officers get regular plates and flatware, while enlisted crewmembers get their food on trays. However, efforts are being made to improve the overall quality of the food, by providing healthier options.

“We all run what we call 21-day, pre-formatted meals” Meyers noted. “We used to have deep fat fryers, but all that’s gone away. Now, you can have some baked fries, tater tots, whatever.”

When it comes to clean up, the captain is proud to highlight the new, more environmentally-friendly method of handling plastic waste. “You shred it up and then you throw it in a “melter,” where it comes out in little pieces that are about a quarter inch thick and about this big around. And, you spray some deodorant on them so they don’t smell, you throw them in bags and then when you come back into port, you dispose of them,” he explained of their determination to be more conscience of sea life, such as turtles and dolphins. “So, we don’t throw the plastics overboard anymore.” After hanging out in the enlisted mess for a bit, we’re ready to embark on the final leg of our tour.



Photo Credit: MC1 Julian Moorefield, USN

Along the way, we walk through a very noisy, but important space, according to the ship’s Mass Communications Specialist Julian Moorefield, “Right now we’re in the hangar bay; that’s where all the aircraft will be worked on.” Before long, we’re back in the elevator and back on the dock, underneath the ship. “If the ship falls off the blocks, your hard hat and your steel toes will protect you. You’ll be fine. Safety first,” joked the captain.

Here, looking up at the ship’s huge port side propeller, we’re reminded that there’s a bit more work to be done before future USS Tripoli is ready to go. “Working on what we call fit and finish, making sure paint and everything is exactly the way it should be. Then the crew will move aboard, then we’ll start our training cycle and then we’ll come over to Pensacola to get commissioned.”

Currently, the commissioning ceremony is scheduled for June, although no final date has been set.

To read Part I and III of Sandra Averhart’s report, visit: <https://www.wuwf.org/post/pensacola-group-tours-new-uss-tripoli-ahead-2020-commissioning> and <https://www.wuwf.org/post/crew-members-prepare-serve-aboard-new-uss-tripoli>.



MEET THE BOSS

Each year, the Admirals' Club hosts a speaker series luncheon. The year's 1st event will be held at 11:30 am on Tuesday, January 28th, at the Pensacola Yacht Club.

The guest speaker will be Grover C. Robinson IV, a real estate developer and the current Mayor of Pensacola, serving in that role since 2018. Prior to his election as mayor, Robinson served as the County Commissioner for Escambia County District 4 from 2006 to 2018.



A seventh generation Pensacolian, Mayor Robinson received a bachelor's degree in economics from Birmingham Southern College and worked as a commercial lender for AmSouth Bank, returning to Pensacola in 1995. He joined Grover Robinson & Associates in 1997 and became broker and president following the loss of his father in 2000.

Mayor Robinson has won awards for his community involvement and service including the Joe Oldmixon Service Award from the Center of Independent Living and the Presidential Advocate Award from Leadership Pensacola. He has served in several statewide capacities, including the President of the Florida Association of Counties and the Chairman of the Florida Gulf Consortium.



All Admirals' Club members and guests are invited to attend. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Please email pensacolanavyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org or call 850-436-8552.

The Pensacola Navy League supported the **Gold Star Family Memorial Monument Foundation** with a generous donation. Donors were offered an opportunity to attend a private dinner hosted by the Pensacola Marine Corps League and featuring Medal of Honor recipient Herschel "Woody" Williams as the guest of honor. Herschel Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient of Iwo Jima.

During the dinner held December 19th at Seville Quarter, President Dan McCort was presented with a commemorative Herschel "Woody" Williams plaque.



To donate to the Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, Visit:
<http://hwwmohf.org/monument-overview.html>
<http://hwwmohf.org/monument-overview.html>





SEA CADETS

INDEPENDENCE SQUADRON



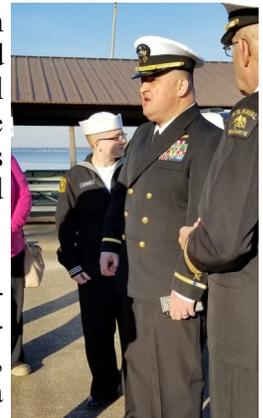
Jim Crumlish, Community Liaison for the Sea Cadets

The October Sea Cadet drill period was cancelled due to excessively bad weather. In November, the Independence Squadron Sea Cadets supported the Blue Angel's Homecoming Air Show and lined up for photo ops with several other Sea Cadet units, some from as far away as Georgia.

The tragic events involving the deaths of an officer and two sailors aboard NAS Pensacola, resulted in the cancellation of the December Sea Cadet Drill and special hands-on activities, e.g., drone and cyber training, introduction to aircraft maintenance, and a simulator for virtual cyber/drone attack operations. Firm scheduling of Sea Cadet plans are held in abeyance, pending the U. S. Defense Department's forthcoming announcement of new security protocols for military bases.

The next Sea Cadet drill period is tentatively planned for Saturday, January 25th, at which time the drone/cybersecurity project may be resumed. A meeting of the industry/university planning team: General Dynamics IT, Pelican Drones, UWF Cybersecurity and Navy League Community Liaison, revealed development being finalized to provide updated training, demonstrations and competitions of a drone/cybersecurity scenario. The training will involve drones, equipped with a cyber-component, flying around a small cardboard village to search for keys to unlock an encrypted message. This first-of-a-kind experience can be an exciting challenge for cadets of all ages.

The advancement of Independence Squadron's Commanding Officer, Kevin Schneider, to CWO5, has led to his reassignment to 10th Fleet Cyber Command in Maryland. His last day will be Friday, January 31st, at 2:00 pm in the Chapel at Corry Field. The Pensacola Navy League will present awards of a certificate and a plaque celebrating Kevin's two years of excellent leadership for the cadets and the squadron's success. Navy League members are welcome to attend and encouraged to show appreciation for his service to our youth.



CWO4 Kevin Schneider, USN

Great News! After a considerable search for a new Commanding Officer, CWO4 Schneider found an excellent replacement for the vacant Executive Officer position. CRT-1 Marshall Shortman, a 9 year Navy veteran, stationed at Corry Field, had previously been Executive Officer of a Maryland Sea Cadet unit. He has a good knowledge of that role and is quickly coming up to speed for this unit.

More Great News! The Command Master Chief of NAS Pensacola, CMDMCM Mario Rivers, USN, offered his candidacy for Commanding Officer of the Independence Squadron. CMDMCM Rivers has often responded to requests for base support of Navy League and Sea Cadet needs. His rapport with top leaders, military and civilian, can be an important asset to the growth of the squadron and the success of the cadets. At the Navy League January Board of Directors meeting, members unanimously voted their endorsement for recommendation of CMDMCM Rivers to serve as the CO.

On a personal note: CMDMCM Rivers and his wife are expecting their third child, a baby girl, during the last week of January.



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VETERANS TREATMENT COURT**

~
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Please Join Us

**Wed, 29 January 2020
5:30pm – 7:30pm**



Artel Gallery

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**Helping justice-involved
Veterans who struggle
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result of trauma
experienced while
serving in the military**



***There are some things a group of Veterans
experience together that only they can appreciate.
A bond is created that goes beyond anything
experienced with family, friends or lovers. We
can't explain it to those who haven't lived it. We
know it will be there deep inside of us forever.***

**To learn more, contact:
Carol Henry
Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator
Carol.Henry@flcourts1.gov
850.595.4388**



AHOY NEW MEMBERS

Ann Adams
 Larry G. Adams
 Scott Brumfield
 Philip Davis
 Janice Heflin
 Stephen Luongo
 Ben Van Der Like
 David Van Der Like
 Harry Wilkes

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

October 2019

John C. Adams
 Jeri Blankenbeck
 W. Troy Bouk
 Stacy J. Brown
 Mickie Cameron
 Brucie Glassell
 Russell F. Lentz
 Ashley D. Pace
 Wanda L. Riley
 Kenneth Ruber

November 2019

Susan K. Cerovsky
 John M. Denkler
 Kathy Denkler
 Albert J. Gallardo
 Anne M. Hargis
 Evan A. Hipsley
 Reldon Leininger
 Diane E. Livingston
 Dennis I. Mills
 John F. O'Hara
 Peggy Pilcher

Doni C. Rankin

Hugh Rankin
 Jerry L. Unruh

December 2019

Carla Cuilik
 William P. Cuilik
 Larissa Dennis
 Kevin P. Miller
 Jesse P. Penico



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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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2nd Vice President	Mr. Edward Rouse	Admirals' Club	Ms. Jeri Blankenbeck
3rd Vice President	Mr. Tom Pace, Jr.	Executive Secretary	Ms. Carla Cuilik
Judge Advocate	Mr. Marc Huff	Bullhorn Editor	Ms. Carol Monroe
Chaplain	CDR Dave Gibson, USN (Ret)	USCG Representative	Mr. Gerry McGill
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FORCM Robert Anderson, USN (Ret)
 Mr. Troy Bouk
 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
 CAPT Kevin Miller, USN (Ret)
 Mr. Buck Mitchell
 Ms. Carol Monroe
 RADM Donald P. Quinn, USN (Ret)
 Mr. Bobby Riggs

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President, Southern Region

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 ★

January 28

Admirals' Club

"Meet the Boss" Luncheon

Pensacola Yacht Club

January 31

St. Louis Commissioning Committee

NAS Pensacola

February 19

Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

February 20

Military Recognition Day

Margaret Flowers Civic Award Ceremony

Skopelos -New World Landing

April 17 & 18

Navy League Region South Meeting

National Flight Academy

April 23

Enlisted Appreciation Breakfast

Heritage Hall - Seville Quarter





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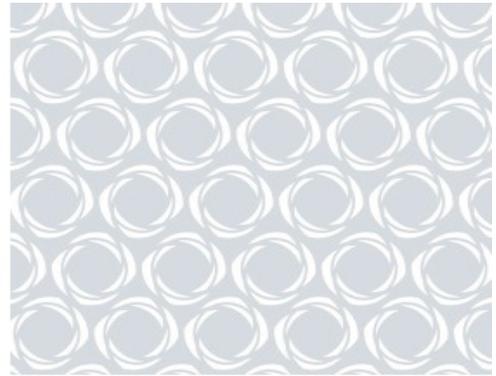
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At Pen Air Federal Credit Union respect is a guiding principle. We began in 1936 on board Naval Air Station Pensacola and have since expanded to Southeast Alabama and Northwest Florida. Combined with Online and Mobile Banking, we provide worldwide reach to serve all of our members wherever life may take them. Thank you for your service.

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