

BULLHORN

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NEWS FROM THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES PENSACOLA COUNCIL



**JULY - SEPTEMBER
2024**

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Photo from Pensacola Navy League Facebook Page

Welcome to the third edition of our quarterly newsletter for 2024! Although Navy League events tend to slow down in the summer months, we still have plenty to review from this summer! This newsletter features: a letter from our President, CDR Evan Hipsley, Jr., USN (Ret), recaps of events including the USS McCool Commissioning, our POW/MIA Luncheon, highlights from our Board and lots of information on upcoming events through the end of the year!

As always, thank you for your continued support and participation in shaping our council of the Pensacola Navy League. Because of you and your contributions, Pensacola Navy League has the opportunity to provide support to our local military community.



PENSACOLA NAVY LEAGUE

"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"

POST OFFICE BOX 17486
PENSACOLA, FL 32522-7486
(850) 436- 8552

pensacolanavyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org
www.pensacolanavyleague.org



September 30, 2024

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Welcome to *Fall* and Greetings. It seems like summer rolled in without hesitation and now we're transitioning into the fourth quarter from a full to a flank bell. Since my last note, we have continued to set the pace keeping the baton tight!

Without a doubt, the major highlight of our council activities centered around the commissioning of the *USS RICHARD M. MCCOOL, JR.* (LPD-29). For those not aware, it has been quite a few years, 2006 I believe was the last commissioning here, that Pensacola has hosted a ship's commissioning – there are MANY factors that contribute to that decision and execution. There were a plethora of major muscle movers and many behind-the-scenes activities to welcome her in true Pensacola fashion and to see her brought to life. We had the distinct pleasure to have both the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations, the Deputy Commandant of the Marine Corps, elected officials, and several thousand Pensacolians and those from afar that attended the 10-day activities culminating in hoisting the Secretary of the Navy's Flag, the commissioning pennant, the Officer's and Crew manning the rails after a resounding one prolonged ship's whistle blast. Great job everyone! And I'd be remiss if I didn't call out Board Member RADM Don Quinn, USN, Ret. for his leadership and the camaraderie and synergy of all who helped throughout the process- HooYah!

Blues Air Show aboard the *USCGC WALNUT*. The *WALNUT* hosted several days of Navy League and other guests to accompany them to Pensacola Beach while they fulfilled the center point reference for the Blues. A Steel Beach BBQ, beautiful weather, and seeing the beach and fishing pier from the decks of the *WALNUT* was spectacular. We also were on hand for the *RELIANCE* change of command as outgoing Skipper CDR Brian Chapman was relieved by CDR Aaron Kowalczyk.

On tap: The Blue Angels homecoming air show, our famous chicken BBQ and on the heels of that our annual golf tournament, birthday balls, and right into the Holiday Season. For those interested, your Board is always seeking volunteers that wish to assist in the council leadership as well as event chairs. Stay tuned for ballot nominations and elections.

Navy League Goals: 1) Educate the public and elected officials on the importance of a strong maritime component for our National Security, and 2) Support and advocate for members of the Sea Services including: U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Merchant Marine, and the U.S. Navy.

In closing, **THANKS** for all you do: *Citizens in support of our Sea Services.*

Very Respectfully,
CDR Evan A. Hipsley, Jr., 1813, USN, Ret., **President**

USS RICHARD M. MCCOOL COMMISSIONING IN PENSACOLA A HUGE SUCCESS!

Thanks to the efforts of the Greater Pensacola Area Commissioning Committee, and Commissioning Committee Chairman RADM Don Quinn, USN (Ret.), our community was able to welcome and commission the USS Richard M. McCool Jr. (LPD 29) to Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) at Allegheny Pier.

The USS Richard M. McCool Jr., an amphibious transport dock, is named in honor of U.S. Navy Captain Richard M. McCool Jr., who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1945 for the heroism he displayed after his ship was attacked by kamikaze aircraft in the Battle of Okinawa. This was the Navy's 13th San Antonio-class amphibious transport dock ship.

These ships transport and land Marines, their equipment, and supplies by using two embarked Ship to Shore Connector Crafts called Landing Craft Air Cushions (LCACs) – often referred to as hovercrafts, or other support vehicles such as helicopters or vertical take-off and landing aircraft (MV22). These ships support missions and serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious operations.

The USS McCool docked at NASP the morning of August 30th from Panama City, FL. The cruise to Pensacola hosted our young Sea Cadets, JROTC, and College ROTC representatives from our local area. This is a phenomenal experience for these young men and women who have interest in joining the ranks of our armed services.

The ship offered free public tours from September 2nd-4th in which over 100 persons per day were accommodated. The U. S. Navy commissioned the ship on September 7th , 2024, at NASP Pier at 10 a.m. where nearly 4,000 persons were in attendance and over 40,000 viewed via streaming link. In attendance were US Representative Matt Gaetz and also the US Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, who served as Special Guest Speaker.

While in Pensacola, the ship crew enjoyed our local Blue Wahoo baseball games, local activities, and being hosted by the Pensacola Navy League at a Crew Reception at Seville Quarter. The crew also participated in a memorial ceremony for fallen Medal of Honor recipients interred at Barrancas National Cemetery.

The ship departed for Norfolk, Virginia on September 9th where the ship will be outfitted with other equipment before being deployed on their mission.

Thank you to all the Commissioning Committee members and Chairman Don Quinn for a job well done!



Photo Credit: SECNAV Aide



Photos from Pensacola Navy League Facebook Page

USS MCCOOL CREW EVENT SPONSORS

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POW/MIA LUNCHEON SEPTEMBER 4, 2024



The Annual POW/MIA luncheon, hosted jointly by the Founding Forward Foundation and the Pensacola Navy League, is a compelling speaker series luncheon, typically featuring a former Prisoner of War veteran or family member. The POW/MIA luncheon is held in the Fall at the Pensacola Yacht Club.

This year our guest speaker was Dina G. Linn, a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and proud daughter of a Marine. Dina Linn is the Supervisory Museum Curator for the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola, FL. Dina's love of history was fostered by her grandparents, three of whom emigrated from Italy following World War II, bringing with them their rich oral history, traditions and their own harrowing experiences of the war. Her Grandfather was a WWII POW, so remembering those held in captivity and missing is very important to her.

For over 18 years, Dina has worked to preserve military history and heritage at various museums, including the National Museum of the Marine Corps, U.S. Army Transportation Museum, and Senator John Heinz History Center. In 2019, Dina was one of 20 Navy employees worldwide, selected for the Department of Defense Civilian Emerging Leader Program. She is a subject matter expert on military history research, heritage asset management, and artifact photography.



Scotty Mills plays TAPS in honor of Fallen & Missing POW Military Heroes



Patriotic Music by The Blue Anchor Belles



CAPT Bill Cuilik, USN (Ret) Emcee



POW CAPT Bill Franke, USN (Ret)



Founding Forward Pensacola Chapter President Betty Williams and John Meko Founding Forward Natl. President



L to R: Carla Cuilik, John Meko, Betty Williams, Dina G. Linn (speaker), CDR Evan A. Hipsley Jr., USN (Ret), Mark Vanderhaden Jr., PenAir Board Representative



USCG Q3 2024 NEWS

JULY 24, 2024 - USCG RELIANCE CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SERVICE AT THE HELLCAT HANGAR



Photos provided by Pensacola Navy League Facebook Page and CDR Evan A. Hipsley Jr., USN (Ret)

JULY 25, 2024 - USCG RELIANCE CHANGE OF COMMAND



Photos from United States Coast Guard News

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 - USCG DILIGENCE RETURNS TO PENSACOLA

After a 41-day homeland security and counter-drug patrol in the Florida Straits and Windward Passage, the Diligence's crew is back in Pensacola! The crew was deployed in support of Homeland Security Task Force – Southeast (HSTF-SE) and Operation Vigilant Sentry (OVS). While underway, crew members conducted maritime safety and security missions.



Photos from United States Coast Guard News

KNOW SOMEONE INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Pensacola Council Navy League Application



Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Current National Member No. (if known/applicable):

Please return this ENTIRE page with payment. Pensacola Council Collects Local and National Dues. *Current National Membership is required of all Local Members*.*

Section 1 – Mandatory - Membership Dues: Please select one applicable category below:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Member Category	Dues Breakdown	Sub total
Individual 1-year membership	Local \$50.00 + National \$55.00	\$105.00
Individual 2-year membership	Local \$100.00 + National \$100.00	\$200.00
Individual 3-year membership	Local \$150.00 + National \$130.00	\$280.00
Local Only – National Life Members*	Local \$50.00 EACH [National is Paid]	\$50.00
E-membership - 1-year membership (<i>receives only electronic issues of Sea Power Magazine</i>)	Local \$50.00 + National \$25.00	\$75.00

*****Please send my quarterly issue of the Pensacola Council Bullhorn by (circle one):**

Email

U.S. Postal Service

Both

Section 2 – Optional - Admirals Club

Please join the **Admirals' Club** if you wish to enjoy the numerous benefits and give extra support and leadership to the Council's local programs.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sub total
Admirals Club - \$60.00 individual 1-year membership per person	\$60.00

Section 3 – Optional - Donation

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sub total
I wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation to the Pensacola Council	\$

Section 4 – Total – Add amounts from the sub total columns of Sections 1, 2 and 3 above.

Section 1 - Dues	\$
Section 2 - Admirals Club	\$
Section 3 - Donations	\$
Total Payment Amount	\$

Make all checks payable to: "Pensacola Council Navy League"

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For COUNCIL SPONSORSHIPS or AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIPS, please call (850) 436-8552 or email pensacolanavyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org.

Please consider including the Pensacola Council in your end of life charitable giving.

2024 QUARTER 3 HIGHLIGHTS

Hellcat Productions presents check to CDR Evan Hipsley Jr., USN (Ret), President of the Pensacola Council of the Navy League. These proceeds were from a Hawaiian shirt fundraiser in conjunction with the Pensacola Beach Airshow.



Photos from Pensacola Navy League Facebook Page

Many members of the Pensacola Navy League Council attended the First Annual Texan Rendezvous! Pictured: CDR Evan Hipsley Jr., USN (Ret), Jill and David Van Der Like, "DJ", Susan Fournier, Dean-o Fournier, Colin and Ben.



2024 Q4 EVENTS

October 2024

- October 18th (Rescheduled from October 4th) - Annual Golf Tournament at A.C. Read Golf Course
- October 13th - U.S. Navy Birthday
- October 16th - Monthly Board Meeting
- October 17th - Admiral's Club "Meet the Boss" Luncheon at Pensacola Yacht Club

November 2024

- November 1st-2nd Blue Angels Homecoming Air Show
- November 7th - 249th Marine Corps Birthday Ball Hosted by MATSG-21 at the National Naval Aviation Museum
- November 10th - U.s. Marine Corps Birthday
- November 20th - Monthly Board Meeting
- November 27th - Operation Turkey Drop

December 2024

- December 3rd - Annual Christmas Party & New Officer Installation at Pensacola Yacht Club
- December 14th - Wreaths Across America
- December 24th - Operation Santa Drop

MEET YOUR 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Nan Harper
CMSGT Harry White, USAF (Ret)



Mark Vanderhaden Jr.

Assistant Vice President of Project Management
at PenAir Credit Union

Served in the U.S. Navy from 2008-2018 as a First Class Petty Officer, Naval Aircrewman Tactical Helicopter Romeo. Served in HSL-42/HSM-72, HSM 40, and conducted two deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Hometown: Fulton, NY



Lori Carpenter Landrum

Lori has been a member of National and the Pensacola Council of Navy League for 10 years and was elected to the Board of Directors in 2024. While Lori has not served in the military, she participates in Navy League as a way to support the Pensacola community along with the Navy, Coast Guard, and other sea services. Lori recently served on the Commissioning Committee for the USS Richard M. McCool, Jr.

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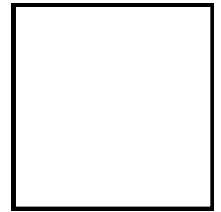


**Pensacola Council
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**P.O. Box 17486
Pensacola, FL 32522-7486
(850) 436-8552**

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Editor: Donelle Hall

pensacolanavyleague@pensacolanavyleague.org

