

BULLHORN

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

VOLUME 56 ISSUE 3

NEWS FROM THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES PENSACOLA COUNCIL



Meet the Boss **COL A.W. "COUGAR" KELLNER** **DEP COMMODORE, TRNG WING FIVE**

Col A. W. "Cougar" Kellner, Deputy Commodore, Training Wing FIVE, spoke at the July 24th "Meet the Boss" Luncheon held at the Pensacola Yacht Club. He discussed Marine Corps Aviation and how it is ready to respond to crises any time or place. He stressed that they are focused on maintaining current aircraft as well as modernizing the fleet. The mission of Marine Aviation is to train the world's best pilots and develop young officers.

USCG Cutter Reliance Returns



Small boat crew conducts operations in the Gulf of America July 15, 2025.



Seaman Alan Rodts smiles during public tours of the Cutter in Galveston, Texas, July 4, 2025.



Petty Officer 1st Class Cody Scott, a storekeeper assigned to the Reliance was formally recognized by Master Chief Petty Officer Michael Koch as the Coast Guard District Heartland Enlisted Person of the Year and awarded the Coast Guard Commendation Medal for his superior performance. (photos credit: Ensign Sarah Kaleta)

After a 60-day patrol in the Gulf of America Coast Guard Cutter Reliance (WMEC 615) returned to Pensacola following a 60-day maritime border security patrol in the Gulf of America. While at sea, the crew worked to deter illegal migration, fishing and smuggling while increasing awareness of all maritime activity in the region of Coast Guard Heartland District.

Navy Welcomes New Officers

Ensigns Andrew Hartaway and Serenity Williams U.S. Navy, became the newest active-duty members of the Navy on August 1st commissioned by guest speaker, Captain Tom Daniel, for the Florida A & M NROTC summer commissioning program. The ceremony was held in the Senate Chambers at the Florida State Capitol. CAPT Daniel had previously commissioned Ensign Williams' mother, CDR Sheree Williams, 23 years ago when he served as the Professor of Naval Science at the Florida A & M NROTC Unit.

Ensign Hartaway will be reporting to USS RALPH JOHNSON (DDG-114) HOMEPORTED IN Yokosuka, Japan and Ensign Williams will be reporting aboard USS BULKELEY (DDG-84) in Rota, Spain.



Left to Right CDR Sheree Williams, USN, CAPT Tom Daniel, USN (Ret) and ENS Serenity Williams, USN



Ensign Serenity Williams, USN. and Ensign Andrew Hartaway, USN

New Board Director – Updated

Meet our new Board Director, Mike Harbison. Due to having two sons serve in the Navy (one for 37 years and who was an XO of NAS Pensacola), I feel very strongly about promoting pride in our military, not only for our youth but in the community as a whole as part of the Navy League Pensacola Council. Whether it is for Sea Cadet support, helping out with the Enlisted breakfast, Spouse Appreciation luncheon, Navy Days, welcoming Coast Guard Cutters return to port activities, Thanksgiving turkey delivery or whatever, I'm happy to lend my time and participation.



Heroes Among Us

As part of the Marine Corps League's Annual Heroes Among Us Speaker Series, Pensacola Council Navy League Vice President and retired USCG CAPT Matthew Meilstrup, (Ret.) spoke about Team Coast Guard-Marine Corps on July 31, 2025, before a packed house at Seville Quarter. The witty, fun, and informative presentation was well-received by veterans and family members from all of the services and helped commemorate the Marine Corps' 250th anniversary.



PNL Adopts Area CPO Association

“In order to promote the rapport and understanding between Navy League of the United States and the Sea Services, as well as enhance the well-being of Sea Service members and their families, the Pensacola Council of the Navy League of the United States, as our personal responsibility to enhance the above-mentioned rapport and understanding, desire to adopt the Pensacola Area Chief Petty Officer’s Association, effective July 23, 2025.” (Certificate of Adoption)



PFC DEWAYNE T. WILLIAMS





CAPT Matt Meilstrup, USCG (Ret), Captain Scott Kreger, the Master of the PFC Dewayne T. Williams, and CDR Evan Hipsley, USN (Ret) and President of the Pensacola Navy League aboard the PFC Dewayne T. Williams.

We had a great opportunity to bring in the Military Sealift Command's ship, PFC Dewayne T. Williams. Pensacola Navy League Council President, Evan Hipsley Jr. and Board member Ben Van Der Like sailed along to welcome the Master and crew to Pensacola.

The ship will be moored at the Port of Pensacola until late spring to undergo an array of maintenance projects with local company, Offshore Inland Marine, and will employ as many as 60-70 skilled workers throughout the project. This project further reinforces Pensacola's vital role in to our country's national security and maritime services.

The ship is named for a U.S. Marine Corps Medal of Honor winner who sacrificed himself to save his squad during the Vietnam War. Military Sealift Command plays a crucial role supplying our military. The Merchant Mariners and the ship's crew are excited to be in Pensacola.



POW/MIA Luncheon

Founding Forward Pensacola Chapter and Pensacola Navy League held the 26th Annual POW/MIA Luncheon on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, at the Pensacola Yacht Club at 11:30 am. The Guest Speaker was CAPT Tim Kinsella Jr., USN (Ret).



PNL Presents Check to NASP Rec

Pensacola Navy League presented a check to the Naval Air Station Pensacola Recreation Committee to assist in offsetting expenses for their upcoming Holiday Base party.



Spotlight on Michelle Sweeney

Michelle became the Treasurer for Pensacola Navy League in December of 2024. She has 25 years of accounting experience, working at Warren Averett, Sandy Sansing and now independently. She has served as the Chairman for St. Paul Catholic School Finance Council, a member of the St. Paul Parish Finance Council, Chairman for Pensacola Catholic High School Finance Council and a member of the ship commissioning committee for the USS McCool. Michelle currently serves on the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee Finance Council in addition to the Navy League.



A Word From Our President



Greetings everyone, Welcome to Fall, and our gradual transition to the fourth quarter, a time for reflection. A year ago we brought to life and commissioned the USS RICHARD M. MCCOOL, JR. (LPD-29) that departed shortly thereafter for Norfolk, VA. In keeping with our Citizens in Support of Sea Services mission, this too was a busy quarter. A few highlights include:

- The Blue Angels Airshow kicked off the summer, albeit the rising temps showed up first. We were on hand for the USCGC WALNUT (WLB-205) Change of Command bidding farewell to CDR Torrey Jacobsen and his family and welcomed aboard LCDR Ryan Montvydas and his family to Pensacola.
- Our Admirals Club "Meet the Boss" Luncheon guest speaker, COL Andrew Kellner, USMC, Deputy Commodore of Training Air Wing FIVE, brought us information on the mission and scope of MATSG-21 – OORAH! Shortly thereafter, several of us joined the Pensacola Area Chief Petty Officer's Association at Lighthouse Point for an adoption ceremony and presented a donation in general support of their operations. HOORAH Navy Chiefs!!
- CAPT Matt Meilstrup, USCG, Ret., our Council Third Vice President, was the guest speaker for the Marine Corps League Heroes Among Us circuit speaking about USCG and USMC integration. Thanks Matt, it was great! Continuing the USCG theme, our Council provided USCG members and families a memorable night at Wahoo's Park.
- As if those events weren't memorable, we celebrated and embraced the 26th Annual POW/MIA Luncheon in partnership with the Founding Forward Pensacola Chapter. Many exemplars were highlighted and honored how we are "Standing for those who've Stood for All" - REMEMBER! Thanks to all our volunteers that make our Council events unforgettable.
- 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.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Evan

CDR Evan A. Hipsley, Jr., 1813, USN, Ret., President

Upcoming Events

- Friday, October 3, 2025, PNL Golf Tournament at NAS AC Read, 12:30 pm
- Thursday, October 9, 2025, Chicken BBQ, Pensacola Yacht Club, 5:30 pm
- Friday, October 10, 2025, Navy Ball
- Wednesday, October 15, 2025, BOD Meeting, USCG 8 Bells Ceremony, location to be determine; approve Board Nominations for 2026
- Thursday, October 30, 2025, “Meet the Boss” Admirals’ Club Luncheon, 11:30 am Pensacola Yacht Club, Speaker, RADM Greg “Capo” Huffman Commander, NETC
- Monday, November 10, 2025, US Marine Corps Birthday
- November 14-15, Blue Angels Air Show NAS Pensacola
- Thursday, November 20, BOD meeting, Approve Board of Officers for 2026
- Wednesday, November 26, 2025, Operation Turkey Drop
- Tuesday, December 2, 2025, PNL Christmas Party & Officer Installation
- TBD Wreaths Across America

Bullhorn Newsletter Published Quarterly

Pensacola Council Navy League of the United States

Pensacola, FL 32522-7486
(850) 436-8552
Editor: Jeanne Keeley