

"The Sea Chant," Contra Costa Council

November/December, 2012

Volume 35, No. 6



NAVY LEAGUE of the UNITED STATES



Presidents Message

As we enter the fall season, I would like to express my appreciation for the continued support of our Council members at the various activities and dinner events the Council has hosted to date in 2012. By the time you read this we will have concluded another successful birthday celebration for the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps. My thanks to all who attended. We still have two significant events to be held in December. They are: The Pearl Harbor Remembrance dinner to be held on December 7th; and the Christmas Brunch (Toys for Tots drive) on December 15th. Please mark your calendar and send in your RSVP as soon as you receive the flyer announcing the event.

I would like to bring your attention to two items of interest this Fall. First is the Annual Sea Cadet Drawing. This is the 38th year in which the Sea Cadets have had a drawing and the prizes are exceptional. By now you have all received a sheet format for the tickets. For each \$20.00 contributed our Council will receive \$10.00 for support of the Sea Cadet unit we sponsor. I urge all of you to make a contribution and send in your donation to Lorraine Hughey, 1650 Candelero Ct, Walnut Creek, 94598 before December 10th. If you can't find your ticket sheet, please call Lorraine at 925-938-5664.

Secondly, there is the matter of the Budget Control Act and its negative impact, called "sequestration" will have on every aspect of Defense Dept. Funding. Testifying before the House Armed Services Committee recently, Comptroller Hale stated that:

Sequestration will devastate every aspect of Defense Dept spending from fighting in Afghanistan and supporting troop health and morale to training, maintenance and modernization, and carrying out the defense strategic guidance.

Funding for overseas contingency operations

Reducing training which will affect our Nation's ability to respond to a new war fighting contingency should one occur.

This would double reductions already imposed by the Budget Control Act and accounted for by the Defense Dept.

Admiral Mark E. Ferguson III, Vice Chief of Naval Operations stated that, "sequestration over time would translate to a smaller force with less presence, longer response times and reduced ability to provide surge forces in support of major operational plans and other emerging needs."

General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., Marine Corps Assistant Commandant said, "sequestration would have a chaotic effect on the Force during a time of extraordinary challenges to our Nation."

Not a pretty picture. Well, folks, we as citizens have a powerful voice. We need to contact our Senators and House members and tell them that we do not support these cuts to the Defense Department. Please join me in making our voices heard; we have significant influence on our elected members to Congress

Jim Harbuck

Jim Harbuck, President
27 Lynwood Place, Moraga
Moraga, CA 94566-1336
Tel (925) 963-1748
jharbuck118@gmail.com

First Vice President VACANT

George C. Knies, Editor/Publisher
2x
Wx
TexFax
mx

Bruce Clegg, Web Master
Tel. (925) 698-4831
Fax (925) 634-4899
Bruce.Clegg@yahoo.com
Web site: www.ccnlus.org

Lorraine Hughey, Youth Affairs
1xWx
Tx
Ix

Sea Chant Delivery Crew
Posting: Betty Wyrick
Courier: Pete Van Putten

Sunshine Committee Chair
Gynithe LaSalle

Vice Presidents
Communications: Bill Sharkey
Youth Affairs: Lorraine Hughey
Membership: Jack & Gynithe LaSalle
Secretary: Pam Speka
Treasurer: Stephen Cruikshank
Corr. Sec.: Bill Sharkey

Immediate Past President
Jeanne Sharkey

Telephone numbers and addresses of members are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. As a matter of policy, rosters of names, addresses and telephone numbers shall not be made available to the general public or any outside organization. Privacy of all rosters shall be safeguarded and the page clearly labeled. The publication of these rosters addresses and telephone numbers on any computer on-line service including the Internet is prohibited by the 1974 Privacy Act.

Welcome New Members

Members

Glen & Tiffany Martin, Walnut Creek

John Denham, Richard Fohrenbach & Salvador Romo...Transferees

Hoagie Harguth

Sponsors

Gynithe LaSalle

Gynithe LaSalle

Welcome to the Contra Costa Council! The mission of the Navy League of the United States is to inform the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that it's national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services — The United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and the United States Merchant Marine. **Our Goals are:**

- Educate National Leaders and the Nation
- Support the Men and Women of the Sea Services
- Provide Assistance to the Sea Services
- Support Youth Programs

Photographers

Al Romine, CCCNLUS

George Knies, CCCNLUS

US Sailing Association



Editor's Musing: Two weeks ago I attended the annual "Wheechair Regatta" that is put on by the PICYA. This event provides Veterans from our local facilities a day On-the-Bay, a lunch and entertainment at the Encinal Yacht Club. Volunteers from local Fire Departments and the Coast Guard hoist these Vets in wheelchairs on and off the many yachts for their excursion on the water. For many of these Vets this is the only event away from their home for the entire year. This year for the first time I noticed Sea Cadets assisting on the chow line, they looked sharp and provided another plus to the dimension of the occasion.

Americas Cup 34, Worlds Series, San Francisco, Oct. 2012

For decades America's Cup event promoters have been trying to think of ways to make high-end international yacht racing more appealing to the general public. Eye-popping flips such as Spithill's were guaranteed to make it onto evening sports reports all over the world — as do dramatic NASCAR wipeouts.

Luckily, Spithill and crew were not badly injured when their bows bit into the choppy Bay during a downwind leg of a fleet race, and despite the fact that they were racing in extremely close quarters, their out-of-control boat was not hit or damaged during the incident.





Annual Awards Luncheon Coast Guard Station Alameda, 24 August.

Rear Admiral, Karl L. Schultz, USCG, District 11 NR, Captain Cyndi Stowe USCG Sector San Francisco and Rear Admiral (Ret.) Bonnie Parker Region President US Navy League.



His ashes are committed to the deep by his wife



What to do When Aground *by George C. Knles*

I can speak with some authority on this subject recalling 65 years sailing and fishing experiences. I have been aground or collided with submerged objects in Florida, California, Philippines, Jamaica Cuba, Puerto Rico and New York (Long Island)



There are two kinds of boaters; those who have run aground and those who refuse to admit it. The facts are, navigational aids can, and do, drift off-station; every sounding on every chart isn't accurate; and we have all suffered distractions. Here's what to do if your boat's draft should suddenly exceed the water's depth.

1. Check out the bilge and all hull penetrations (transducers, engine mounting bolts, pod flange rings, rudder posts, shaft logs and any fitting that penetrates the hull below the waterline) before trying to dislodge and, as a result, possibly exacerbating a bad situation. You might have penetrated the hull, ruptured a through-hull-fitting or bent an outboard or stern-drive mounting bolt. Aground is better than sunk.
2. Should no leaks be revealed, make sure the engine's water intake won't suck up mud, sand and oyster shells. Many an engine overheats when the operator attempts to power off a grounding and clogs the intake. Raise the drives, shift weight to raise a through-hull off the bottom, and proceed slowly to stir up as little muck as possible.
3. Once off, go easy on the throttle. A bent shaft or propeller can cause more damage in operation than most groundings will.
4. If there is current, you may be able to get off by rocking the boat. Have the crew move from port to starboard. Each time the boat leans, the draft decreases, hopefully allowing the current to move the boat a few feet. Repeat until afloat.

“Hard aground” means you are high and dry, with little chance of getting off unless the tide rises. “soft grounding” usually results in little more than scraped paint and gelcoat...otherwise \$\$\$\$\$\$

Report on Ship Naming Process

The Navy Department has issued a lengthy "Report on Policies and Practices of the U.S. Navy for Naming the Vessels of the Navy"

While there have been some stray objections to 32 of these 37 choices by current Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, only five of them have sparked more pointed criticisms from Orthodox Traditionalists or others: T-AKE 13, named in honor of slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers; LPD 26, named in honor of the late Congressman John P. "Jack" Murtha; T-AKE 14, named in honor of civil and worker rights leader Cesar Chavez; and LCS 10, named in honor of former and still living Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, and DDG-1002, named in honor of former naval officer, Congressman, Senator, Vice President, and President Lyndon B. Johnson. Nevertheless, the criticism surrounding these five choices have given rise to the charge in some quarters that current Navy ship-naming practices are inconsistent with historical policies and practices and/or Navy customs and traditions, and because of this, some sort of intervention is required to protect Naval customs and traditions.

Because of the aforementioned high interest in and scrutiny of Navy ship naming policies, every name chosen by a sitting Secretary has the potential to touch off criticisms from one party or another. However, when one considers Secretary Mabus's entire body of work, a historical review demonstrates his ship naming choices are altogether consistent with both ship naming policy and tradition.

As a nationally-recognized leader in civil rights, Medgar Evers fell right in line with the famous American trailblazers and pioneers already honored with T-AKE ship names—those who "strike out on a new path or break new ground, either literally or symbolically, using skills of innovation or brave constitutions to conduct their lives off the beaten path."

As Secretary Mabus said at the official naming announcement for T-AKE 13, Evers "fought in a principled and non violent way...In a real sense, he set us all free. His life was a mighty blow against the chains of racism that bound us all for too, too long." His choice was thus consistent with the T-AKE naming convention and ship naming policy and practices.

A similar story can be told about Secretary Mabus's later decision to name T-AKE 14 in honor of civil rights activist Cesar Chavez, which again sparked criticism from those who believed his choice was inconsistent with established ship naming policies, practices, and tradition. Once again, however, a Pragmatic Traditionalist like Secretary Mabus has a much different view, and ship naming custom and tradition is on his side.

LPDs going back to the *USS Raleigh (LPD1)* have been named for cities. Secretary Mabus chose to change the procedure got the 26yh ship, naming it for the late U.S. Rep. John P. Murtha, D-Pa., a former Marine and the first Vietnam veteran to be elected to congress. Mr. Murtha had been cruising the Iraq War and had publically called U.S. Marines "cold blooded killers" for the deaths of 24 unarmed Iraqi men, women and children in Haditha, Iraq, in 2005.

Guided by this modified convention, Secretary Mabus named seven of eight LCSs in honor of the regionally important cities of Milwaukee, Wisconsin (largest city in the state); Jackson, Mississippi (first); Detroit, Michigan (first); Mont-

gomery, Alabama (second); Little Rock, Arkansas (first); Sioux City, Iowa (fourth); and Omaha, Nebraska (first). All are thus consistent with the modified naming convention. However, when it came time to name LCS 10, Secretary Mabus decided to make an exception to convention and name the ship in honor of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who had been severely wounded by gunfire at a Congressional event in her district of Tucson, Arizona.

As Orthodox Traditionalists rightly point out, the more "traditional" choice would have been to name LCS 10 *USS Tucson*, in honor of the city and all those killed or injured on the terrible day when Congresswoman Giffords was herself shot, and to name the Congresswoman as sponsor of the ship. However, this approach was unavailable to the Secretary as SSN 770 already bore the proud name *USS Tucson*. As a result, once Secretary Mabus decided to honor Congresswoman Giffords, the only path forward was to make an exception to an established type naming convention. With names of former members of Congress already gracing the sterns of aircraft carriers, attack submarines, ballistic missile submarines, and LPDs, he believed it appropriate to name a Littoral Combat Ship in her honor.

The Secretary's choice to name LCS 1 *USS Gabrielle Giffords* sparked some criticism. Some people objected to the Secretary's naming a ship after a living person; a few took fault with it being named after a woman. Others argue that if the Secretary was going to violate the LCS naming convention and name the ship after a person, he should have chosen a posthumous recipient of the Medal of Honor or Navy Cross.

Still others point out that Congresswoman Giffords's career was relatively short and had little impact on the Department of the Navy, and therefore she should not have been so honored. Finally, while some acknowledge Giffords' spirit and determination in overcoming her terrible injuries, they feel it would have been far more appropriate to acknowledge a Sailor or Marine who suffered and overcame wounds received in battle.

Some of these objections reflect either Orthodox Traditionalist thinking or simple ignorance of Navy ship-naming tradition and practice. As discussed, while naming ships after living persons is relatively rare, it is now a well-established, four-decade old practice.

Secretary Mabus was well aware that Congresswoman Giffords is much younger than those Members of Congress previously so honored and, as a result, her record does not equal theirs in numbers of years served or in the general level of attention applied to military or naval matters. He also knows from many visits to hospitals that hundreds of young service men and women have received wounds as grievous as Ms. Giffords's, and agrees they all rightfully deserve respect and recognition. However, given the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this case, he felt it both fitting and appropriate to exercise his discretion—established by the very first Secretary of the Navy over 210 years ago—to make an exception to a ship naming convention to honor Congresswoman Giffords.

*SeaPower Article Sept. & Oct. Issues—
Compilation G. Knies*

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Navy League Members: Sponsor a new Navy League membership between October 1st and December 31 2012, and be entered into a monthly drawing for an Apple® iPad™ 2, and also have an opportunity to win the Grand Prize of \$1000! Contest description and rules can be found on the front page of the Navy League website.



GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

PLEASE ACCEPT MY PAYMENT FOR _____
 FIRST MIDDLE LAST
 TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS APPLICATION FOR _____
 FIRST MIDDLE LAST
 TO BECOME A NEW MEMBER OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PREFERRED COUNCIL _____

THE NEW MEMBER'S CONTACT INFORMATION IS:

ADDRESS _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- \$30 ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSE
- \$50 1-YEAR
- \$90 2-YEAR SAVE \$10!
- \$125 3-YEAR SAVE \$25!
- \$85 1-YEAR HUSBAND/WIFE SPOUSE

 FIRST MIDDLE LAST

BILLING INFO:

CHECK ENCLOSED

PLEASE BILL MY:

VISA MASTER CARD AMEX

CARD NUMBER _____

NAME ON CARD _____

EXP. DATE BILLING ZIP PHONE NUMBER _____

I AM A CURRENT NAVY LEAGUE MEMBER AND THEREFORE ELIGIBLE FOR ENTRY INTO THE MEMBER GET A MEMBER CONTEST.

SPONSOR'S MEMBER # _____

SPONSOR'S NAME _____

 FIRST MIDDLE LAST

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO:
 NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
 MEMBERSHIPS
 2300 WILSON BLVD. SUITE 200
 ARLINGTON, VA 22201-5434

FAX: (703) 528-2333

MEMBERS CAN ALSO SIGN UP A MEMBER ONLINE BY GOING TO WWW.NAVYLEAGUE.ORG/JOIN_RENEW. YOU MUST ENTER THE PRIORITY CODE BELOW AND ENTER YOUR SPONSOR INFORMATION TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE CONTEST.

PRIORITY CODE: PAD2012

- Nov. 05 Council Board Meeting—USMC Reserve Training Center—Concord
- Dec. NO COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
- 07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Event
- 15 Toys for Tots— Christmas Brunch

Activity to be scheduled 2013

Visit to Naval Air Station—Fallon Nevada

October 15th-18th --- Fall Meeting and National Executive Committee (N.F.C.) Meeting Indianapolis, Indiana

Trivia Question. . . .How many ships that were built as battleships were sunk at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1942?

Answer: The most common answer to the question is eight. The trick part of the question is “built as battleships.” The “eight” battleships may, or may not, include USS Pennsylvania, which was in dry dock, or USS Utah, which was a training ship at the time. Pennsylvania was damaged and Utah was destroyed.

- The others were:** USS Arizona (destroyed)
- USS Nevada (only battleship underway, damaged and beached at mouth of harbor)
 - USS Oklahoma (capsized)
 - USS Tennessee (heavily damaged)
 - USS California (settled to the bottom)
 - USS Maryland (lightly damaged, by comparison)
 - USS West Virginia (settled to the bottom)

The real Trivia answer to the question is that none of them were “sunk.” To be sunk, a ship must completely disappear below the surface of the water. Because Pear Harbor is so shallow, none of the ships completely disappeared. Certainly, a number of them would have sunk in deeper water.

According to one report, “Officially (according to the Navy) there were 3 battleships that were sunk that day - the Arizona, Utah, and Okalahoma.” Such is the nature of history.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 4 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Nov. 6 Election Day
- Nov. 8 First All-Jet Combat in History (1950)
- Nov. 10 U.S. Marine Corps Birthday (1775)
- Nov. 11 Armistice/Veterans Day (1918)
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Dec. 9 Hanukkah
- Operation Restore Hope
- America’s Intervention in Somalia Began (1992)
- Dec. 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec. 15 Bill of Rights Day
- Dec. 16 Battle of the Bulge Began (1944)
- Dec. 20 Operation Just Cause (1989)
- Dec. 21 First Day of Winter
- Dec. 24 USAF Began Strikes on Laos (1964)
- Dec. 25 Christmas
- Dec. 31 ►

**Contra Costa Council of the
Navy League of the U.S.
4551 Alhambra Way
Martinez, CA 94553-4405**

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today!

I am not a U.S. Citizen *I am a U.S. Citizen*

Name(s) (Mr., Mrs., Dr. etc.) First Name Middle Initial Last Name		
Name of Spouse: (Mr., Mrs., etc.) First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name		
Address: Number, Street Name, (Apt., Ste., P.O. Box)		Date of birth
City	State	Zip code (+4)
Home Phone	Business Phone	E-Mail
Sponsor's Last Name	Sponsor's Membership #	New Member in Council
<u>MAIL APPLICATION TO:</u> James B. Harbuck		
27 Lynwood Place, Moraga, CA 94556-1336		

Type of Membership (Please Check One):	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual One Year Membership.....\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Husband/Wife One Year \$85.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Two Year Membership.....\$90.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual three Year Membership.....\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Life Membership.....\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Joint Husband/Wife Life Membership....\$750.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Active Duty Military Spouse.....\$30.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Associate One Year (non US citizen).....\$50.00
<u>Method of payment:</u>	
Check enclosed (Made payable to: NLUS) or	
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> AMEX	
Card #	Exp. Date
Signature	