



# THE SEA CHANT

## • GOODBYE 2022 - WELCOME 2023

### Contra Costa Council Navy League of the United States

I WILL START OFF WITH A SINCERE 'THANK You' TO THE REGION FOR PRESENTING ME A LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH THIS COUNCIL. I AM BEYOND PROUD AND THANK ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD, AND MEMBERSHIP FOR SUPPORTING OUR DONATION EFFORTS AND EVENTS THROUGHOUT 2021-2022! I am dedicated to our Council and our

mission and so are many of our members. This is what makes a successful team. I thank you so much and look forward to an even better year as we are now engaged in 2023! So, look for new events and tours, because it is so important to spend time together to create new ideas and bring on new members to join us in our mission. And, here we go again - up for another National Award for our Council's service to our units!



Everyone deserves the credit - without all of you we could not perform at this level to serve our servicemen and women.

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As we said our farewell to the Sharkey's for their service; Bill Sharkey, well known as: "duty driver," passed on this last year who was always supportive of Jeanne, his dedicated wife: A warm and grateful thank you to those who attended, and to Admiral Jody Breckenridge for her comments, and Bill Kinsey, Board Member, for his summary of this great man. Those that have left us, as we continue to always remember their service to this Country and Navy League.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

*USMC Hike - TBA*

*Regional Meeting - YB/, May 6th*

*USCG Birthday Dinner, August 9th - Wed.*

*National Convention- Dallas, TX - June 7 - 11, 2023*

*USN and USMC Birthday Dinner, November 16 - Wed.*

*Pearl Harbor Remembrance Dinner, December 7 - Wed.*

Pam Speka, President  
Frank Wallace, Past President  
P. Speka, Legislative Affairs  
Jeff Hall, Judge Advocate  
Myriam Clark, VP Membership  
William R. Sharkey, Communications Advisor  
Chris Clegg, VP Youth Affairs  
Bruce Clegg, Web Master  
Christie Robinson, Recording Secretary  
Steve Cruikshank, Treasurer  
Bill Kinsey, Recreational Dir., LA Advisor

Please visit the CCCNL website for a complete list of Council Board Members and Liaisons at:  
<http://www.cccnl.org>

#### UNITS WE SUPPORT

U.S. Coast Guard Station Rio Vista • USCG Sector San Francisco • USCG Aids to Navigation Team - San Francisco • USCGC Sea-going Buoy Tender ALDER • USCGC Tern • USMC MCAC B, Reserve Center • USN VQ-3 Unit Travis Air Force Base • USN Strategic-Telecommunications Detachment, Travis AFB • USN Recruiting Station, Golden Hills Zone, P. H • Sea Cadet Diablo Squadron and Training Ship-Lorraine Hughey and USMC Recruiting Station, Pleasant Hill, CA

- Authorized end strength for the Navy of 346,300 active duty.
- Authorized end strength for the Marines of 177,000 active duty.
- Authorized end strength for the Coast Guard of 40,456 active duty.
- Authorized end strength for the Navy Reserve of 57,700.

**Legislative Affairs:** Budget processes have been a huge discussion at our meetings from National. Since budget is such a major concern of citizens, and our military budget especially for our servicemen and women. Housing, Medical benefits, and Leave options - Important to have more available to protect and pay for these items:  
Military Health System will have the manpower it needs.

Family support

1. DOD can pay out a basic needs allowance to servicemembers; however, the most recent bill failed to address the Coast Guard.
2. Authorizes an increase in funding of \$70 million for Defense-wide Operations & Maintenance, Department of Defense Education Activity, for Impact Aid, including \$10 million for military children with severe disabilities.
3. And also created a new category for bereavement leave time.

**Equity Reserves** will receive pay parity for hazard pay and other work when doing the same jobs as active-duty troops. *This is tremendous.*

**Increased support for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps**, the Navy and Marine Corps Junior ROTC, STEM programs, Young Marines, and maritime-related high school programs.

## ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

**Kicked Off the Holiday Season with Cookies for the Navy VQ3 and Nav Comm located at Travis AFB!** MA2 Tillman and MA 1 Brown greeted our group that delivered a massive amount of holiday cookies for their annual holiday luncheon on base. Chief Sean Nall thanked us and said surprises like this help morale since deployed aircrews are staying on base 24/7, 365 days a year on the job!

**REGIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 23, 2022 AT THE MARITIME ACADEMY :** THIS SESSION BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THE IMPORTANCE OF LOOKING AT THE **USCG** AUXILIARY AND A POSSIBLE SHARING OF EFFORTS. **USCG** AUXILIARY SPOKE TO US, DEAN MCFARREN, COMMODORE DISTRICT 11 NORTH SUMMARIZING THEIR MISSION. A NEW CHAIRMAN IN THIS EFFORT IS OUR **OWN**, BILL KINSEY, ASSIGNED BY THE REGION TO ASSIST SINCE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ORGANIZATION IS EXTENSIVE AND CAN SURELY LEAD TO AN ARRANGEMENT THAT WILL BENEFIT BOTH NAVY LEAGUE AND THE USCG AUXILIARY. AS WE BUILD THIS RELATIONSHIP AND DISCUSS OPTIONS, OUR NEWSLETTER WILL KEEP YOU CLOSELY INFORMED. THANK YOU, BILL, FOR YOUR EXTRAORDINARY LEADERSHIP IN THIS EFFORT. PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY, TOM CROPPER, HOSTED OUR EVENT.

- Authorized end strength for the Marine Corps Reserve of 33,000
- Authorized end strength for the Coast Guard Reserve of 8,034
- Action to close the 1,839-merchant mariner shortage in the United States.

*Summary- some items we communicate to our leaders in Congress to keep them up to date and support our Sea Services. Communication is everything to keep our Congress aware of the needs for our military.*



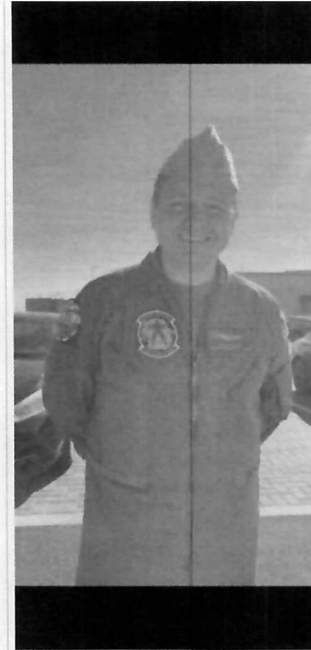
MA2 Tillman and MA 1 Brown-grateful for Holiday Cookies!



More Issues during this Regional meeting were covered especially membership and that we all continue to invite and expose the Navy League opportunities to our "active duty" service members, friends, and family to keep growing. At the close, our President, Pam Speka, received a **Regional Leadership** award for her guidance of our Council!

**Serving Lunch at USCG Sector SF** - kitchen under construction so we pitched in! What fun sharing time and meals with our Coasties. Thanks, team, for all your hard work. Outside picnic in great weather and a hungry bunch. Special regards to Pete Van Putten for all the lugging, and shopping. Even ice cream to top it off!

**USCG BIRTHDAY DINNER ALWAYS A GRAND TIME AND A FEAST TOO!  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> - WE DINED WITH OUR COASTIES CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAY. SO GREAT TO GET OUR DINNERS BACK. COME JOIN US!**



Naval Chief Sean Nall, NavComm says, "thank you Navy League - troops here 24/7, 365 days a year and this is special!"





DEDICATION OF THE NEW BUILDINGS AT USCG STATION VALLEJO ALSO IN SEPTEMBER, ATTENDED BY SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS.

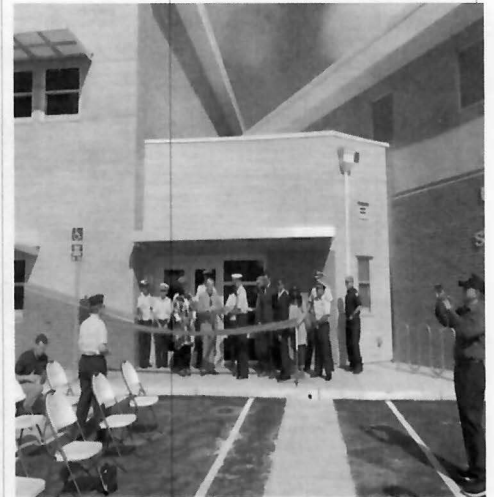
**Awards presented to our units:** Each Liaison for all of our units got awards and the Congressional Certificate to present to the selected Awardee at a ceremony on site.

**Installation of Officers Dinner and Ceremony Feb. 22nd-** Regional Area President, Carrie Barnecut installed all officers and enjoyed dining with us. Our President, Pam, and Trevor Hall, our zoom expert, attended via zoom and showed up on the screen! Thanks to all for again being part of the leaders for this wonderful council. Thank you for your extraordinary leadership year after year. Always on Duty!



Then came September 16<sup>th</sup> to welcome the Grand Opening of our Naval Base at Travis AFB - Navy League sponsored the reception and greeted many families and guests that attended!

**Naval Base GRAND OPENING at Travis AFB!** Another fun Event for all.

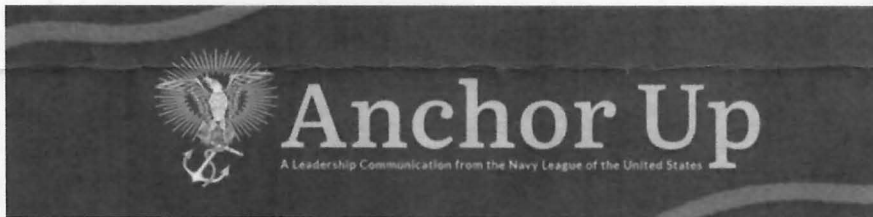


So happy for our USCG Station Vallejo with a new building, and then we transferred Station to Vallejo Council.

## Marine of the Year Award Ceremony Marine Corps Advisor Company B - Concord. CA

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, The Navy League Marine of the Year Award was presented to **Corporal Anthony A. Nguyen** at a ceremony conducted by LtCol Joshua B Simpson, Inspector-Instructor and attended by members of the I&I Staff. Pete Gates, Liaison to the unit, represented the Navy League. 1stSgt Jonathan D Feliz read the Navy League Certificate aloud. In addition, a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from the office of Congressman Mark DeSaulnier was presented to Cpl Nguyen.

LtCol Simpson provided the background for the selection. Corporal Nguyen is the MCAC B Maintenance Management Specialist, responsible for managing the maintenance of the weapons, equipment and supplies for a company consisting of senior and experienced Foreign Security Force Advisor. He stated that Cpl Nguyen has done an exceptional job and really helped prepare the unit for a very successful Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office Inspection in February.  
Congratulations Corporal!



**From our National Newsletter Updates: So much happening we are not aware of on a daily basis.**



*A military working dog prepares to fly on a Marine Corps CH-53E at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J., Oct. 16, 2022. The joint training allowed military working dogs to become familiar with traveling by helicopter, a skillset required for bomb detection in deployed environments only accessible by air transportation.*

