



April 1, 2017

Volume 8

Dreams Do Come True In The Navy

Glenn Munger's Final Cruise...



The ocean is always prettier from a ship than the shore. Ask any sailor. They love the sea. That is why Glenn Munger, a former member of our Council, wanted to be buried at sea. And he was. It took a loyal shipmate, Norman Bresheer, also a member of our Council, a devoted family, the Navy League of Greater Kansas City and the US Navy dedicating its resources to taking care of its own to make it happen, but we did it.

rode the high seas living the life of a sailor. Later he was an active member of our Council, and served as editor of this newsletter for a number of years. He always carried the thought in his mind and in his heart of having his ashes scattered at sea.

On Sunday, October 16, 2016, just off the coast of San Clemente Island near San Diego with a 21 gun salute and a burial detail wearing their Dress Blue Uniform, Glenn's ashes were

flag, and a letter from the Captain of the ship describing the ceremony. They were thrilled that they could have one of Glenn's wishes fulfilled.

We are pleased as well to have been part of the fulfillment of his dream and proud of the Navy for not forgetting those who served their country and for paying proper respect to their wishes and their

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Ship's Captain accepts Glenn Munger's ashes to be scattered at sea

Glenn enlisted in the navy at age 17 in 1944 as a Seaman Apprentice and after 24 weeks of school became a Radioman, serving on 3 ships before he was mustered out in 1946. He served his country and

scattered at sea by the USS Shoup, a frigate homeported at Bremerton Naval Station.

The family has received pictures, a map showing the location, a



Ceremonial Rifle detail provides a 21 gun salute for Glenn Munger



Kansas City Navy League Visits Shawnee Heights High School

By Mark Rakestraw, LCDR, USN (Ret)

Friday, December 9th dawned clear and cold - a perfect Navy day. CAPT Ron Brooks, USN (Ret) and CTRC(NAC) Matthew E. Seward USN (Ret), of the Kansas City Navy League, made an early drive to Tecumseh, Ks, to be the guest inspectors for the Shawnee Heights High School, Navy Junior ROTC's biennial Off Site Inspection.

CAPT Brooks and Chief Seward were joined by LCDR Mark Rakestraw, USN (Ret) and Mr. Ed West, Principal of Shawnee Heights High School, for the inspection and performance phase of the event. 54 cadets were formed for inspection in two platoons as the official party was welcomed by the traditional quarter-deck honor guard of sideboys, bell and Bosun. The color guard performed their competition uncasing

ceremony and presented and posted the colors under the direction of Cadet Ensign Airica Liberty. The unit, under the command of Cadet Lieutenant Commander Gabriel Horn was presented for inspection. CAPT Brooks and Chief Seward accomplished the task of meeting and inspecting each cadet after which the Armed and Unarmed, Regulation drill teams performed and conducted a "Pass in Review". Following all performances, CAPT Brooks helped award a distinguished marksman award to Cadet Senior Chief Matthew Trusty and then offered general remarks and congratulations to the unit.

Following the whole-group portion of the inspection, CAPT Brooks and Chief Seward were guests of the cadet staff for a unit briefing and conversation. Chief Seward and the unit Supply Officer, Cadet Ensign Noah Snyder, conducted a material inventory inspection of Navy provided instructional equipment. After the real fun was over, CAPT Brooks and LCDR Rakestraw crossed the "T's" and dotted the "I's" and completed the required paperwork.

This was an outstanding event and opportunity for the Shawnee Heights High School NJROTC program to interact with the Kansas City Navy League who generously supports our program with cadet recognitions every year. Although Chief Seward has been involved with the NJROTC program in his past careers, this was a first for CAPT Brooks. We look forward to future opportunities to showcase both of our organizations in an effort to educate our youth and community on the importance and history of the Naval Services.



Above: CAPT Brooks presents the distinguished marksman award to Cadet Senior Chief Matthew Trusty.

Left: Shawnee Heights High School, Navy Junior ROTC's students.

Our Local Fundraising Campaign Begins

Our Annual Membership Meeting in January got our new year off to a great start. The Plaza III provided a delicious dinner and great service and the ladies in attendance added a touch of elegance to our normally boorish masculine appearance. Our two speakers from the KU ROTC Program inspired us with thoughts about our involvement in leadership development in the Navy and the Marine Corps through our support of that program.



Council President Ron Brooks thanks Capt. David Meron, Professor of Naval Science for His presentation

Our Area President, Ward Cook, installed our officers for 2017 and we were off and running for what appears to be another great year for our Council. Our Board of Directors has since met for a Planning Retreat and come up with some creative ideas for

fulfilling our mission to the community, the sea services, their service members and their families. Now it is time to realize the dream and achieve our goals. A letter from our Council President, Ron Brooks, will be in your mailbox soon asking for your 2017 donation to our Council. We have great Directors and Officers, good ideas and we need your support to help us accomplish all we hope to do this year. Be generous with your Council. We are a hard working group that has your best interests at heart.

Miracle in Milwaukee

We are headed to Milwaukee June 20 for our Annual National Convention and some magic!! We will tour the shipyard where USS Milwaukee, one of the new LCS hulls, is under construction. These new ships are like magic! At our National Director's meeting this winter in Baltimore, we made some magic ourselves. We approved for the third year in a row a batch of By Law updates that we started at the Long Beach Convention. The goal is to increase their consistency and reduce conflicts. We also made some major staff changes, including a new Executive Director, Cari Thomas, who just retired from the Coast Guard as a Rear Admiral and whose last command was the Coast Guard District of Hawaii. Two other new faces on the staff, Jennifer Thompson, VP, Membership and Jeanne Ellinport, VP of Strategy, Integration and Development. We also voted David Todd from the Portland Council to be President Elect and to take over from Skip Witunsk as National President in Milwaukee. Skip instigated many of these changes, including another one, which is maybe the biggest, a new IT system provided by Blackbaud. It includes a new member management module (Raiser's Edge), an integrated communications, fundraising and marketing tool and a new service portal for members to use in keeping up with our connected community (this includes rosters, retention data and documents). It will look familiar but actually work. It is partially working now and will be fully operational soon. It's already like magic to get what you want. This is part of the magic of Milwaukee. Not since early 2015 when we experienced catastrophic system and data failures which lost much of our data and corrupted the rest have we been able to retrieve what we need to operate effectively. We now have 229 Councils with the newest being South Dakota where our Area President, our own Jack Rush, attended and installed its officers. It is truly a magical time for the Navy League. We continue to be a trusted source of support for the Sea Services and our community as we work in our councils internationally.

Outstanding Performance by University of Kansas ROTC Drill Team

The KU NROTC Drill Team recently traveled to the University of Colorado to participate in a NROTC Drill team competition. NROTC Drill teams from USC, UCLA, Cal, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Colorado, Kansas, and Minnesota participated in the competition. The KU Jayhawk Battalion team finished the competition in 2nd place, losing to Colorado by

1.5pts. The KU teams scored as follows: Drill Team - 1st Place; Rifle Team - 2nd Place; Pistol Team - 2nd Place; and the Color Guard - 3rd Place

The Jayhawk Battalion Endurance team placed 5th, a great accomplishment and they improved their overall time by 1.5 hrs. on a grueling course.

The success of the KU NROTC Program is a strong testament to the superb leadership and mentorship provided by the USN & USMC Staff. CAPT David J. Meron, CO of the KU ROTC unit extended his special thanks to GySgt Brody Goldthwaite and his superb leadership.

Here Come The Awards

Get ready for the long list of awards our Council will be presenting to our Youth programs this spring. All the hard work and achievements of the year will be recognized in ceremonies over the next few months. We are happy to be part of four JROTC programs in the metropolitan area, one in the Ozarks near Branson and one in Kansas near Topeka. Three are Marine Programs and three are Navy Programs. Each year we present a Medal and a Certificate of Honor to the two cadets they nominate from their unit. We are receiving the dates and names for those ceremonies now. Our Harry S. Truman Sea Cadet Squadron will have ceremony on Sunday, April 30 at 4 pm at Wyandotte County Lake Beach Shelter. The KU ROTC Awards Ceremony will be on April 26 at 4 pm in the Ballroom at the Kansas Union. We will be presenting an Officer's Sword and a Scholarship to two outstanding students there. This year for the first time we are sponsoring and presenting the Top Maritime Student Award to the outstanding graduate of the Navy Element at the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth on June 6 at 10 am. Our Navy League Council will be there assisting in the honors at each of these events supporting America's young people. Join us whenever you can. For more information contact the Council President, Ron Brooks.

Next Navy League Meeting

Thursday, **April 20, 2017** @ 11:30 a.m. - Speaker: RADM Jeffrey R. Penfield, USN, (Ret.)

"The more things change, the more they stay the same"

Thursday, **May 18, 2017** @ 11:30 a.m.— Speaker: Col. G. Michael Denning, USMC, (Ret.)

Dir, Graduate Military Programs—The University of Kansas

LOCATION: Plaza III, 4749 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO 64112 **COST:** \$20.00

The President's Gavel

Last Fall our Council took a Field Trip to Fort Leavenworth to and visited the Navy Element at the Army General Command and Staff College. The photo of some of our Council members with the Lamp of Learning depicts the mission of the command in leadership education and development. We learned the history of the post from one of the faculty members, toured the post in a bus provided by the command and

were briefed by both the Director and Deputy of the command. The interaction with them and other staff members really solidified our relationship with this active duty command. We will go back in June to present an award to the Top Maritime Student in the program for this year.

We have a date set to go to the KU ROTC Command for a BBQ to interact with Midshipmen, staff and parents of new students during their orientation in the summer. The CO, Captain David Meron and last year's-

Navy League Scholarship recipient, MIDN Mark Kersey, spoke at our Annual Membership Dinner in January where our Council Officers and Director's were installed for 2017. We will be on campus again in April and May to be present at this year's Award and Commissioning Ceremonies.

Last winter our Directors approved a plan for sending cases of BBQ Sauce with familiar Kansas City labels to the ships we have adopted as a message from home to say "We are thinking of you." We are working on that plan now with our ships to see how to ship it.

Our Council is forever seeking ways to provide support to active duty commands and their families. Being landlocked doesn't prevent us from interacting with local commands or from reaching out to our ships that are homeported along the coast. The Navy League is active not only with educating the civilian members of our society about the Sea Services, but is working to support those active duty commands that are part of us.

