



NAVY LEAGUE
of the United States
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"

**GREATER
KANSAS CITY
Council**



December 2018

Volume 14

Council Receives Award

Our Council was presented the Meritorious Council Award by Navy League Headquarters at our Convention in Portland, Oregon in June of this year. There are three levels of awards councils may receive: Outstanding, Meritorious, and Honorable Mention. Out of 220 councils rated there were thirty three receiving the Performance Awards: 12 received the Outstanding Award, 16 received the Meritorious

Council Activities, Youth Support, Sea Service Activities (Active Duty Support for personnel and their families), Public Education Activities, and Legislative Affairs. A committee composed of Navy League members from across the country rated each of the 220 councils on these five types of performance, creating a score for each council.

Throughout the year council activities are recorded in each of these 5 areas and reported in an Annual Report due the end of January each year. This report provides the numbers for the scoring matrix which is used for selecting the winners. A plaque and certificate is provided each of the councils selected.

It takes a lot of work by not only the Officers and Directors, but all members to accumulate the activities that creates the total score.



Award, and 5 received the Honorable Mention Award.

The awards are based on performance in five categories:

Navy Celebrates 243 Years



Navy League President Dick Scharff celebrated the Navy birthday with the Navy Element's Staff & Navy Students at the Armed Forces Command & General Staff College, Ft Leavenworth on Oct 9, 2018.



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Membership Dinner Meeting Next

The Navy League is wrapping up another successful year of activity and member luncheons. It is **important to note that we do not have a membership luncheon in December**. Our next membership event is our Annual Dinner and it is scheduled for the third Thursday in December, January 17, 2019. Member will meet at our new meeting venue the "**The Well Bar & Grill**" located at 7421 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64114 in the Waldo area (75th & Wornell). The evening starts with a social hour at 6 pm followed by dinner at 6:30 pm. The Well Bar & Grill has been a great host to the Navy League for the past several months and we appreciate their great hospitality



A Message from the President

Good day Council members! Whoa, Winter is upon us and time continues to fly by! Nevertheless, in the past several months as your President, I have been honored to represent you all at the swearing-in of the new midshipmen for the KU Navy ROTC Jayhawk Battalion and serving as keynote speaker for Navy Birthday celebrations with the Navy Element of the Armed Forces Command & General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.

I also want to thank you all for your generous response to our annual Funding Letter. Your enthusiastic continued financial support to

our fine Navy League organization is critical, allowing us to pursue the many programs supporting our maritime mission. Additional contributions throughout the year are always welcome.

Your Council Board met at The Well on November 8 and focused primarily on growing our membership. We are going to try some new meeting innovations with individual Board members taking responsibility for a given monthly meeting. For instance, we will repeat the end-of-year schedule from last year, no meeting in December followed by a

holiday dinner meeting Thursday evening 17 January. There will be a follow-on evening meeting scheduled in April. The Board has additional plans to meet this year with local corporations to present the Navy League value proposition. Contact has been made for your President to make just such presentations to the Kansas City Rotary and Kiwanis clubs. Stay tuned for more developments... Looking forward to seeing you all at our coming meetings.

Warm Regards, Haze Gray and Underway...!

s/Dick Scharff

LCS Kansas City Christened

The Navy's newest littoral combat ship, the USS Kansas City, was christened September 22, 2018 in Mobile, Alabama. This Independence-class ship is 418 feet long and capable of operating in excess of 40 knots. It will have a crew of 40 sailors. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II, D-Mo., was the speaker at the christening ceremony.

It's the second ship to be named after Missouri's largest city. The first USS Kansas City was a Wichita-class replenishment ship commissioned in 1970. Throughout its 24-year lifespan, it accrued numerous unit awards from service in Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm before being retired in 1994.

Construction started on another USS Kansas City, which was to have been a heavy cruiser in World War II. The war ended just after its keel was laid.

The ship is a testament to our commitment to our maritime dominance and power projection required by the nation, and to our partnership with industry to build the Navy the nation needs.

U.S.S. KANSAS CITY (LCS-22) is a INDEPENDENCE Variant Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). Its mission is to operate in near-shore environments or the Littorals, and to seek and destroy small crafts, submarines as well as various other small missions for the U.S. Navy. The U.S.S. KANSAS CITY (LCS-22) is designed to function as a multi-mission, easily reconfigurable to meet the mission at hand. It will be a fast, and agile ship with a top speed of over 40 knots. It is made from a strong aluminum alloy, and its trimaran hull is constructed by Austal USA in cooperation with General Dynamics in the Mobile, Alabama, shipyard.

LCS are outfitted with reconfigurable payloads called mission modules (made up of mission systems and support equipment), which can be changed out quickly. These modules combine with crew detachments and aviation assets to become complete mission packages that deploy and aviation assets to become complete mission packages that deploy manned and unmanned vehicles and

sensors in support of mine countermeasures, anti-submarine warfare or surface warfare missions.

Commissioning Committee

The mission of the U.S.S. KANSAS CITY (LCS-22) Commissioning Committee is three-fold. First, is to spread the word about the commissioning efforts and its importance to the community. Second, to host the commissioning ceremony and the events surrounding this event; important to show a strong bond with the ship, her crew, and her namesake city. Finally, and the most important, to support the crew and their families in the mission they have been given — to defend our country and protect our nation's interests at sea.

She is set to be Commissioned sometime in 2020



Navy League Luncheons & Special Programs

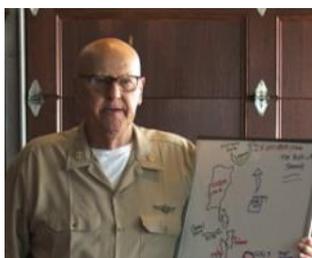
Ron Brooks kicked off festivities at the **July Luncheon** at The Well Bar & Grill by presenting CDR Sheldon Vasquez a plaque recognizing CDR Vasquez' long service as leader and instructor of the NJROTC at Shawnee



Ron Brooks, CDR Sheldon Vasquez and Walter Schley. Scroll of Honor presentation at July Luncheon

Mission East High School.

Our speaker was our council president, Dick Scharff, who provided an overview of the Battle of Midway from the first person perspective of Chief Aviation Pilot Bill Esders, who was assigned to Torpedo Squadron 3 (VT-3) aboard *USS Yorktown (CV-3)*. Chief Esders, a native of St. Joseph, Missouri, joined the Navy, entered the flight program, and earned his pilot's wings that were pinned on by Captain Bill Halsey, later to be Fleet Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey.



Dick Scharff briefs members on Battle of Midway

The Battle of Midway was significant because, in gaining victory, the U.S. Navy decimated the Imperial Japanese Navy by sinking their four mainline carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor only 6 months earlier. In so doing, the battle prevented Japan's eastward movement to further conquests most probably including the capture of

In **September** the Council shifted to a special breakfast meeting in order to meet with the Skipper and selected crew members from the *USS MISSOURI (SSN 780)* at the Council's new home, The Well Bar & Grill in Waldo. Members were able to visit with the crew during a buffet breakfast prior to a presentation by CDR George A. Howell, Captain of the *USS Missouri*.

The *USS Missouri* was commissioned in Groton, Connecticut in 2010 and several of our members were there for the ceremony. It was a great day for the state of Missouri. Recently the *USS Missouri* changed its homeport from there to Pearl Harbor. The Captain and select members of his crew (usually one from the Kansas City Area) were with us for this special opportunity to hear the latest news from the boat.



Our guests from the *USS Missouri*: LT Nathaniel (Nate) R. Perisho, FTC (Chief) Justin S. Owney, ETN1 (1st CPO) Anthony S Helmrich, MMA3 (3rd CPO) Jarrett L. Bedynek, ETR2 Darryl Baukman and CDR George A Howell, Captain.

Our October luncheon meeting featured a presentation by MEC R. Charles Scott, USCG Recruiter In Charge, USCG Recruiting Office, Kansas City. He provided an overview of the Coast Guard and its mission.



Volunteers Needed...

We need members to step up and assume leadership positions in our award winning Navy League Council. We are seeking members to fill both officer and director positions for 2019. If you are interested please contact our nominating committee of Jack Rush, Deb Shultz, Ward Cook, or Dick Scharff to express your desire to serve the council. We all have to step up at one time or another, here is your opportunity! A good way to start is as a member of the Board of Directors.

Our Community Affiliate

[Grantham University](#) is proud to become a community affiliate of the Navy League of the United States, Greater Kansas City Council. GU has a proud tradition of serving military-related students, which comprise about half of the university's enrollment. For yet another year, Grantham, a 100 percent online university, has been recognized for its service to the military community by Military Times Best: Colleges 2018, Military Friendly®, and Military Advanced Education & Transition.

The university offers several initiatives designed to make obtaining a degree easier for military-related students including scholarships, support services, and flexible course schedules. In addition, Grantham provides resources to teach military-minded student. For example, GU is partnering in the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education ([NCPACE](#)). The program enables U.S. Sailors to further their education while on sea duty, using U.S. Navy-approved distance learning funding.

The Career Services team at GU is equipped to help military personnel apply their education in service, or transition into a civilian career. Grantham is a thought leader in veteran employment with programs like "Hiring Veterans is Good Business". Faculty and staff also understand the demanding nature of service and have designed courses, degrees and policies to assist military-related students in completing their course of study.

As part of that commitment, Grantham awards a number of [scholarships](#) for military members, veterans and their families, in addition to reduced tuition rates and textbook and software grant programs. Recognized for its high value and low tuition, Grantham also has a dedicated Veteran Support Team versed in navigating military and veteran education benefits.



Sea, Air, Space Exposition



In my brief 19 July presentation about our Sea, Air, Space Exposition, I spoke about meeting Vice Admiral D. Wettewa, the naval attache at the Washington, D. C. embassy of Sri Lanka, a small island nation off the east coast of India. He was part of a panel, "Maritime Security Mission Threats...." He did not mention, and no one asked about, the port in Hambantota, Sri Lanka.

The port is expected to play a key role in China's Belt and Road initiative, which will link ports and roads between China and Europe. The initiative is explained in a 21-22 July piece in [The Wall Street Journal](#), page C3, "Xi's Assertive Su-

per Power Plans." "In 2013 and 2014, he outlined a grand-scale trade and investment plan to revitalize the ancient Silk Road and maritime spice routes, linking China to countries throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and Africa. The Belt and Road initiative, as it is called, has the potential to help meet the \$3 trillion annual deficit in global infrastructure spending: Railroads, ports, pipelines, and highways built by Chinese workers and funded by Chinese loans already connecting countries across six global corridors."

According to the exposition program, Sri Lanka borrowed \$1.5 billion from China to build the port.

The situation in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, gets a passing mention in the 23 July [Wall Street Journal](#), pages A1 and A9, "China's Global Building Spree Hits Trouble In Pakistan." "Sri Lanka's government, unable to repay a Chinese loan for a port in Hambantota city, last year granted a Chinese state company a 99-year lease on the facility. U. S. and Indian officials have long thought China wants a naval outpost there, which China denies."

This is one of the reasons I went to this year's Sea, Air, Space exposition and why I intend to go again 6-9 May 2019.

George Beard