



**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**  
*Serving the Sea Services since 1902*  
**Newport County Council**



P.O. Box 4213, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

March – July 2014

Edward Webb - Editor

Photographers: George Wardwell & Tony Cercena

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**NAVY LEAGUERS! JOIN IN YOUR COUNCIL'S EVENTS!**

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**President's Column**

At our Military Appreciation Night and Annual Dinner on July 24, my term as President of the Newport County Council of the Navy League will expire after three amazing years.

Never having served on active duty, this privilege has afforded me an opportunity to serve my country in a very special way. And I thank the Newport County Council and the Board for this treasured time. The Board's patient hard work and dedication to the mission, especially the tireless Executive Board and Committee Chairs, has been phenomenal. More than 140 awards were personally presented by a Board Member in 2013 to Naval Station Newport Commands, Coast Guard cutters and stations - awardees throughout Rhode Island and South Eastern Massachusetts. More than 10 activities a year have been organized and run by the Board recognizing the Sea Services, from picnics for incoming international officers and their families attending the Naval Command and Staff Colleges, to our stellar Military Appreciation Night and Annual Dinner, now regarded as a premier civilian sponsored military event in the Northeast. And last but not least, steadfast mentoring and supporting our three Rhode Island Sea Cadet units including hosting a wonderful picnic event at Carr Point for International Sea Cadets.

The quality and quantity of what our Council does for our Sea Services is outstanding – and has been recognized internationally as such. We are again this year one of 16 out of 240 councils to be recognized as Outstanding Council of 2013 - ranking us in the top 5% of all councils!

My gratitude also to the Navy League organization for providing us the exceptional means to fulfill our mission – the diverse array of resources available is tremendous. I stand in awe of our service men and women as I daily saw them performing their duties to keep us safe and secure. Awarding and recognizing the superior performers, listening to their achievements and seeing their humble pride and the patriotic pride of their Commands and families, is truly awesome. Truly I am grateful for the friendship and appreciation shown me by all the Commands and personnel I have served during my term, especially when I was getting my “sea-legs”.

It has also been a joy to see our Community businesses, individuals, elected Federal, State and local officials and other civic organizations coming together with us in paying respect and honoring our Sea Services. Thank you for understanding the mission and your help and friendship.

My only sadness over the last three years, my dear members, is in not seeing more of you at our activities. I cannot emphasize enough how disheartening it is to volunteer twenty hours of my week and still have not met a large portion of you as you have not brought your smiling face to an activity in three years. I know you know your money is well spent on your NLUS membership, it is the right thing to do, but we need your physical citizen's presence at a recognition reception to show our bright men and women WE CARE AND THANKS. I appreciate each and every one of you members whom I have seen, for coming out and supporting your Navy League.

I wish our incoming President and new officers a very successful and happy year.

Get active - look at our website <http://www.newportnavyleague.us/> and see your Council at work, become part of the picture. Get inspired - look at <http://navyleague.org/> . Get members – tell them about what you have read. Get patriotic – help the Newport County Council work their mission.

Anne Huot  
President  
Newport County Council  
Navy League of the United States

*“Sign on, young man, and sail with me. The stature of our home-land is no more than the measure of ourselves. Our job is to keep the torch burning for all. To this solemn purpose we call on the young, the brave, the strong, and the free.  
Come to the sea. Come sail with me.”*

- John Paul Jones

## **SPECIAL HONOR FOR AMBASSADOR J. WILLIAM. MIDDENDORF**

Induction ceremonies into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame were held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on April 26, 2014, for Ambassador J. William Middendorf II, a long-time Newport Council member.

Former Secretary of the Navy and Ambassador J. William Middendorf II is a proud member of the Rhode Island Society of the Sons of the Revolution, and the Navy League National Advisory Council, the Naval Sea Cadet Board of Directors, and the Navy League of the United States. Other of his honors include the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award (1976); U.S. Olympic Committee Gold Shield Award and the State of New York's Distinguished Patriot Award (1976)

During his time as Secretary of the Navy, Middendorf oversaw the establishment of the General Dynamics facility at Quonset Point, now one of Rhode Island's largest employers. He also created the Marine Corps Marathon, and the winner's trophy has been named in his honor. He is a resident of Little Compton, RI. The Newport County Council offers their heartiest Congratulations to the Ambassador for this well-deserved distinction.

Council members seen below include Edna and George Wardwell, Angela Vars, Tony Cercena, and Shirley Hill.



L to R: Ken Dooley, author and playwright who introduced the Guest of Honor; RADM Walter E. "Ted" Carter Jr., President of the U.S. Naval War College; Pat Conley, President of the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame; former SecNav and Ambassador J. William Middendorf II.



## **CHANGES OF COMMAND**

Several Changes of Command occurred recently. Among Newport Council members attending were Anne Huot, Tom Feeney, Mike Slein, Shirley Hill and George Wardwell.

On 12 May, at Kay Hall, CAPT Vern Kemper was relieved by CAPT Kevin McGowan as Commanding Officer, Officer Training Command Newport OTC (N). Guest speaker was CAPT Bob Fink, Acting Commander, Naval Surface Training Command. OTC (N) prepares students to lead as officers in the fleet and is comprised of five Officer Accession programs training more than 3,000 students per year.

RDML (sel) Richard A. Brown was relieved by CAPT David Welsh as Commanding Officer Surface Officer Warfare School (SWOS) Command on 16 May. Guest speaker was VADM (sel) Thomas S. Rowden. SWOS has been preparing Officers for the fleet for over fifty years building upon the tradition of academic excellence. It's use of classrooms, training, and unique feedback mechanisms through Fleet engagement ensures a current relevant curriculum to ensure the best training available for Naval Officers.

ADM James Hogg, long-time Newport Council member, was replaced by VADM James P. "Phil" Wisecup as Director, Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group located at the Naval War College. VADM Wisecup is returning to the NWC having been the 52<sup>nd</sup> President Naval War College prior to his appointment as Inspector General of the Navy.

## NAVAL SEA CADETS

The Davisville Officer's Club at Quonset Point RI, was the setting for the traditional Change of Command ceremony for Naval Sea Cadets in Rhode Island. Warrant Officer David Kerwood relinquished command of NCBC Battalion to Lieutenant Junior Grade José Taboada, with about eighty family members, friends and Cadets in attendance. RMC George Wardwell (ret) of the Newport County Council of the U.S. Navy League served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event; LT Walter Boll, NSCC, representing LCDR George Dimock, the Director of NSCC Region 1-4 in southeast New England, was the officiating officer. A presentation of the colors by the NCBC Battalion Color Guard opened the ceremony; special guests included Captain Shirley Hill, NC USN Ret and a NL National Director for the NSCC. Ms. Diane Elswick, an Instructor in NCBC Battalion, served as Chaplain for the event. In her invocation INST Elswick made special mention of LTJG Matt Roias, the CO of NSCC FALCON Division in nearby Providence RI; LTJG Roias was unable to attend due to serious illness. The outgoing CO and incoming CO addressed the audience and presentations were made, the ceremony ended with WO Kerwood and LTJG Taboada reading their orders. Everyone was then invited to partake in a sumptuous buffet furnished by Dave's Market; Allie's Donut shop provided two specially designed Donut Cakes, a Rhode Island original. Warrant Officer Kerwood has left an outstanding legacy at NCBC BATTALION that will be difficult to follow, but LTJG Taboada stated that he is up to the challenge. Thank you Dave Kerwood for everything you have done for the Sea Cadets in Rhode Island, and the Newport County Council of the Navy League. Welcome aboard LTJG Taboada – we pledge to continue our support for your fine Battalion.



LT Walter Boll, LTJG Jose Taboada, CAPT Carter Dorzbacher presenting his personal sword to LTJG Taboada, ENS Robert Badessa, Diane Elswick, WO Dave Kerwood.



LT Boll, LTJG Jose Taboada, WO Dave Kerwood addressing audience, ENS Bob Badessa, Diane Elswick



Outgoing Commanding Officer, WO Dave Kerwood, and incoming Commanding Officer, LTJG Jose Taboada inspect the Cadets prior to relief of Command

### FORMER SEA CADET ONGOING SUCCESS STORY

If you have supported, attended, participated, endorse, or take pride in the Naval Sea Cadets, read on. For many years the Newport Council has had the pleasure of knowing one of the Sea Cadets quite well. She grew up as a member of the NCBC BATTALION was promoted to Chief Petty Officer. She participated in the first all-female Navy Seal training program in Michigan. Several Council Board members made certain she got to Michigan for that opportunity. She was appointed to NAPS and graduated the year before last and is now at the Naval Academy having finished her plebe year. Below is Andie Coutoulakis's personal summary message sent to G. Wardwell. BZ!

From: Andie Coutoulakis

Subject: Update

The day has finally come...Plebe no More! It has been one heck of a year; it seems like yesterday I was swearing in on I-Day and running around during plebe summer. Now, I have my first stripe and many more adventures ahead.

My first adventure begins next Wednesday. I am reporting aboard the USS Harpers Ferry (LSD-49) in San Diego. I will spend 3 weeks on the ship, learning about the jobs of the enlisted men and women and gaining some deck plate knowledge. After that, I'll be back in RI and will join the Sea Cadets for two weeks on the International Exchange team. I am so excited that I will be working with the team and our international guests! I will have a couple more weeks off before I head back to Annapolis for voluntary summer school (I never thought I would volunteer to go to school). This should help me get ahead of my credits.

I declared English as my major which is something that I love. My required courses will be Calculus 3 and physics. Those will be the most difficult, but hopefully not as bad as calc 2 and chemistry! I finished this year with a 3.0 GPA. It was a challenging year academically, and I do have to say that NAPS helped tremendously.

Besides school, I am still active with my hockey team. I will be goalie this season which should be great. I am also involved with the Academy's SHAPE program (Sexual Harassment Assault Prevention Education) as a peer educator. Basically, I am a part of a team that is responsible for educating the Brigade about preventing sexual assault. It's something I am passionate about and know will make a difference for the Brigade and hopefully the Fleet. I have a role within my company as the Drill Corporal. I will be responsible for teaching the new plebe guide-on and learning what it will be like to be the Drill Sergeant come junior year. A lot on my plate, but I like keeping busy! Attached is a picture of me getting my first stripe after the hat toss on Graduation Day. The other two women are upperclass from my company. Took a lot to get here, but I made it!



Andie



## U.S. COAST GUARD NEWS

**ABOARD USCGC WILLOW (WLB 202) for JUNIOR OFFICER OF THE YEAR, SECTOR SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**  
Newport Council Board members were aboard USCGC Willow for an all hands award ceremony honoring the ship's Junior Officer of the Year, SSNE, LTJG Natalie J. Shuntich. Mike Slein, CDR USN (Ret) NCC VP, presented a memory book to LTJG Shuntich containing RI State Congressional congratulatory letters as well of those of her home state Pennsylvania. The moment was most special to her Mother, Kathy Shuntich, who attended the ceremony. Other Board members attending were Ray Perry, CAPT USCG (Ret) NCC VP; George Wardwell, MCPO USN (Ret) NLUS VP; Tom Feeney, NCC VP.



R.Perry, T.Feeney, M.Slein, LTJG Shuntich, K.Shuntich



Tom Feeney, LTJG Shuntich, Kathy Shuntich

**USCG STATION POINT JUDITH, SENIOR ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR, SECTOR SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND**  
MK1 Michael F. Fambro, USCG, was selected as Senior Enlisted Person of the year at Station Point Judith; a perfect setting for an all hands gathering as members of the Council gathered to celebrate his accomplishments. Ray Perry, Mike Slein, George Wardwell, Tom Feeney, and Suresh Ramamurthy were on hand to present accumulated gifts to Petty Officer Fambro for his Exceptional Professional Performance, Inspirational Leadership, and Community Involvement while stationed at Station Point Judith. PO Fambro will be transferring soon and we wish him fair winds and following seas and thank him for his continued service to our Country.



### **COAST GUARD PERSONS OF THE YEAR RECEPTION AT ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB**

As is the tradition, and in conjunction with the previous two articles, a well-attended reception was held at The Atlantic Beach Club, a long-standing Corporate Affiliate of the Newport Council. The luncheon gives the Council, co-sponsor Rotary Club, and family members, a more formal setting to recognize and honor those Coast Guard recipients selected as Persons of the Year. Presentations were made by Council members Anne Huot and George Wardwell.



### **ERRORS AND OMISSIONS**

In the previous issue of the Newsletter, an article stated that a generous contribution was made to the Naval Sea Cadets by the MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) and AUSA (Association of the United States Army). This was in error. In fact, the contribution was made by the Rhode Island Department Reserve Officers Association (RIROA) and the Rhode Island Chapter Association of the U.S. Army (RIAUSA). We make every effort to publish correct and accurate information and regret this error.

### NEWPORT NAVY CHORISTERS “PROUDLY WE SING” CONCERT

Newport Navy Choristers gave a fabulous concert at St. Lucy's Church on 16 May and the reviews were most excellent. The Newport Council, along with many volunteers from the Community and St. Lucy's Church, made the event possible. The NCBC Sea Cadets were present and opened the program with the Presentation of Colors. Space considerations do not allow the naming of all individuals who participated but the photos below certainly include many of them. Clearly, a good time was had by all. Newport Council President Anne Huot expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all those who attended, participated and supported this event and suggests if you have never attended this signature event, do so next time. You will enjoy very much!



### SENIOR ENLISTED ACADEMY GRADUATIONS

Two graduations took place at the Senior Enlisted Academy on May 16 & 17. The first was graduation of Blended Class 52, Active duty and Naval Reserve, took place at Tomich Hall at the Naval War College. The second graduation of Class 180 took place at the Officer's Club. Council member and NLUS National Vice President George Wardwell presented the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and Navy League certificates to honor graduates of the classes as well as the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association Admiral Grace Hopper Award.



### RHODE ISLAND VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Veterans, including Council members and active duty military, from American wars and conflicts including World War I visited East Greenwich High School at the invitation of Prof. Sean Henseler, President of the Suzanne M. Henseler Foundation ([www.HenselerFoundation.org](http://www.HenselerFoundation.org)). The purpose of the event is to link students with veterans to increase understanding and appreciation of military service. Students from several schools alternated interviews with each Veteran several times to insure all had a chance to talk with the Veterans.





# **MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT AND DINNER MEETING**

Newport Council will host the Annual Military Appreciation Night and Dinner at the Atlantic Beach Club on Thursday night, July 24<sup>th</sup>. This is the event of the year for the Newport Council and all are extended invitations for this outstanding event. Contact information is included below and members are encouraged to join for one night to show our appreciation and gratitude to those in the Sea Services whom we call Patriot and Friend.



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
*"Serving the Sea Services since 1902"*

*NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL*

*On Thursday, 24 July 2014  
The Newport County Council Navy League will host its  
Annual Military Appreciation Night and Dinner Meeting  
The Atlantic Beach Club,  
53 Purgatory Road, Middletown, RI.  
Social Hour is 5:30 PM followed by Dinner at 6:30 PM.*

*Guest Speaker  
RDML David M. Duryea, USN  
Commander, Naval Undersea Weapons Center*

*Honored guests for the dinner are the local leaders and members of the  
U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Merchant Marine.  
Businesses are invited to sponsor  
one or two military members at their table.*

*Sponsor (Full Table) who will be noted in the program - \$500.00  
Eight (8) company seats and two military guests*

*Patron (Half Table) who will be noted in the program - \$250.00  
Four (4) company seats and one military guest*

*Individual tickets: \$40.00 per person*

*Please remit checks and names of  
attendees on the enclosed card NLT Tuesday 15 July*

*Treasurer, Newport County Council Navy League,  
P.O. Box 4213, Middletown, RI 02842.*

*Checks payable to: "NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL NLUS"*

*Questions:  
Patrick Burke (401-864-4028) / e-mail: [milappnight2014@newportnavyleague.us](mailto:milappnight2014@newportnavyleague.us)*

*Attire: Evening Informal (Coat & Tie)*



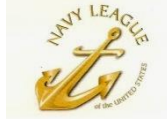
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**"I think there is one higher office than president and I would call that Patriot." ~ Gary Hart**

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## **COMMUNITY AFFILIATES**

*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services*



Community Affiliate Membership demonstrates a company's commitment to the local Navy League council and a desire to support and advance the objective and purpose of the Navy League and support young people through the council's special youth programs and scholarships. They are, in a major part, what makes the Newport County Council successful.

***SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AFFILIATES BECAUSE THEY SUPPORT OUR GOALS!***

*Raytheon Integrated Defense System*

*Atlantic Beach Club & Pavilion*

*International Tennis Hall of Fame*

*Bank Newport*

*Hyundai of Newport*

*Navy Federal Credit Union*

*Newport Fed*

*Newport Grand*

*Northrop Grumman*

*SEA CORP*

*Newport Harbor Hotel & Marina*

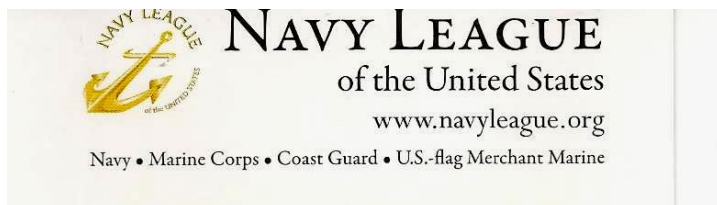
*Newport Chamber of Commerce*

*Rite Solution*

*Forty 1<sup>0</sup> North Marina Resort*

*USS Massachusetts Memorial Committee*

**"THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT"**



**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
NEWPORT COUNTY COUNCIL  
P.O. BOX 4213  
MIDDLETOWN, RI 02842**

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**NAVY LEAGUE**  
*of the United States*



**COUNCIL OFFICERS 2013-2014**

**President: Anne Huot**

**Secretary: Shirley Hill**

**First Vice President: Thomas F Feeney**

**Second Vice President: Mike Slein**

**Treasurer: Pat Burke**

**"ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS AT 4:00PM THE 1<sup>st</sup> MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE BEST WESTERN MAINSTAY INN."**