



# Newsletter

Happy Holidays and a Safe, Healthy and Prosperous New Year  
from your Newport County Board of Directors



L-R Back Row Walt Wasowski, Treasurer; Rich Rainer; Jasminka Otton; Matt Griffin, Vice-President; Jon Wolstenholme; Mike Slein, Peg Murray, Secretary; Rob Winnig, Acting President; Len DiLorenzo, Asst. Secretary & Membership Chair; L-R Front Row Tony Cercena National NLUUS Director (Emeritus); Pat Burke, Asst. Treasurer; Jean Peterson; Anne Huot, Marketing Chair and Newsletter; Tom Feeny; Roy Callahan. Missing are Alex Abatecola, Brandi Bansemer, Sea Cadet Coordinator, and Jose Taboada.

## Newport Navy League Website Changes Coming

New website coming soon! The Newport County Council of the Navy League is collaborating with Moonbird Studios in Newport to develop a new website. This exciting redesign is an effort to improve appearance, functionality, and security for all visitors of the site. The new website is being developed in phases. This spiral approach will allow us to add features incrementally throughout the development process to ensure the site is tailored to our specific needs and remains user-friendly. The first phase of the design will list our community affiliate members and business associate members who have been tremendous supporters of the Navy League. Other sections on the site will include the council's history, its board members, the units we support, and other general information. Also included in the initial roll out of the site will be our quarterly newsletter, a calendar of events, and a photo album where visitors can see photos from all the events we support! We'll let you know as soon as the new site is up and running!



VP Commander  
Matthew Griffin  
USN (Ret.)

Editor's Note: We thank Walt Wasowski for his continued work to maintain the functioning of our current one in the meantime and Roy Callahan, who with Walt were the original designers of the website. Thank you both, and Matt looking forward to the new era.

## Our Officers, Board of Directors and Members

**Acting President:**

Rob Winneg

**Vice President:**

Matt Griffin

**Secretary:**

Peg Murray

**Asst. Secretary:**

Len DiLorenzo

**Treasurer:**

Walt Wasowski

**Asst. Treasurer:**

Pat Burke

**Membership:**

Len DiLorenzo

**Directors Emeritus:**

Robert Belenger

James Hogg, ADM USN (Ret.)

Anne Huot

Ed Webb

**Marketing:**

Anne Huot

**Members:**

Alex Abatecola

Brandi Bansemer

Roy Callahan

Tony Cercena

Tom Feeny

Matt Griffin

Jasminka Otton

Jean Peterson

Rich Rainer

Mike Slein

Jose Taboada

Mark Turner

Jon Wolstenholme

*“Citizens in Support of the Sea Services”*



# Newsletter

## Prof. Genest Speaks on Ukraine at Navy League Military Appreciation Night

Marc A Genest, Ph. D, the Forrest Sherman Professor of Public Diplomacy in the Strategy and Policy Department at the US Naval War College gave the principal address at the Sixty-fifth Annual Newport County Council Military Appreciation Night and Annual Meeting held recently. His specialty is insurgency and terrorism, serving two tours as a civilian advisor in Afghanistan. He is the founding Director of the Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups at the NWC and is now their Area Study Coordinator.

He focused on the Russia/Ukraine conflict, Putin, his hard-liner followers and future turmoil in the region influenced by oil revenue and the global economic effects on Russian empire-building.

Opening ceremonies included the Trooping of the Colors by the Naval Construction Battalion U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Division, followed by CDR Robert Fasnacht's, CHC, USN thoughtful invocation and music by Navy Band Northeast Trident Brass Quartet. Guests for the evening were invited active-duty area service members honored by the Council for their service. Included were several international officers attending the Naval War College.



Marc A. Genest Ph. D

From the International Program at the Surface Warfare Schools Command were the Latvian Naval Officer, Lieutenant Sergeant Strazdins and Lieutenant Madalina, the Romanian Naval Officer, both with special national interests in the region.

The Newport County Council has been Meritorious NLUS Council for 19 of the last 20 years placing in the top 10% of all councils worldwide. The organization is a nonprofit membership organization of around 200 members locally, open to active duty and civilians supporting area Sea Service commands and service members through various activities such as the Military Appreciation Night.

The lively evening activities included the presentation of "The Navy League Service Award for 50 Years as a Life Member" to Guest of Honor, Ambassador J. William Middendorf II, by Acting President CAPT Rob Winneg USN (Ret.), President of the Newport County Council of the Navy League. Present also was RADM Shoshana Chatfield, President, Naval War College, who led the standing ovation for the Ambassador, a former secretary of the Navy from 1974-1977.

The Council recognized the 98-year-old WW II Navy veteran as he completes 50 years as a Life Member of the Navy League on 4/1/2023. He also received the Arleigh Burke Award from the Navy League in 1998. View his accomplishments at [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J.\\_William\\_Middendorf](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._William_Middendorf). In 2020 his book 'The Great Nightfall. How We Win The New Cold War' was cited as "An extraordinary overview of the challenges facing America" by the Daily Signal Book Review.

Gratefully recognized at the event were major sponsors of the event Raytheon Missiles and Defense, SEACORP, USAA and WNH and for their support, Corrigan Financial, Inc. MIKEL, Rite Solutions, The HomePort Team, Realtors; Mclaughlin Research Corporation (MRC), Portsmouth/Tiverton Rotary Club, Progeny Systems, PURVIS Systems, Sardella's Italian Restaurant and Senedia. Sea services supported by the Navy League U.S. includes the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine and youth programs such as the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets.



**50 YEARS**  
LIFE MEMBER  
NAVY LEAGUE  
NEWPORT COUNTY  
COUNCIL  
John William Middendorf II  
SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
US AMBASSADOR TO:  
EUROPEAN UNION  
ORGANIZATION OF  
AMERICAN STATES  
THE NETHERLANDS



The 50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY LIFETIME MEMBER AWARD honors a Navy League member's commitment. A Life Membership is a one-time fee of \$1,000 up to age 55, \$750 ages 56-75 and \$500 Membership ages 76+ and includes a print subscription to Seapower magazine and discounts to vendors. For a list of benefits go to National's website [www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/](http://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/)



# Newsletter

## Ambassador John William Middendorf II Presented with 50 Year Navy League Life Member Award

AMB J. William Middendorf II, who was the Guest of Honor recently at the Military Appreciation Night and 56th Annual Meeting of the Newport County Council of the Navy League, received "The Navy League Service Award for 50 Years as a Life Member" presented by CAPT Rob Winneg USN (Ret.), Acting President of the Newport County Council of the Navy League.

The Council recognized the 98-year-old WW II Navy veteran as he completes 50 years as a Life Member of the Navy League.

Present also was RADM Shoshana Chatfield, President, Naval War College, who led the standing ovation for the Ambassador, a former secretary of the Navy from 1974-1977. He received the Arleigh Burke Award from the Navy League in 1998 also. In 2020 the Ambassador's book 'The Great Nightfall. How We Win The New Cold War' was cited as "An extraordinary overview of the challenges facing America" by the Daily Signal Book Review.



Acting President Captain Rob Winneg (Ret.) (Left)  
AMB J. William Middendorf II



AMB J. William Middendorf II



Marc A. Genst Ph. D

Prof. Marc Genest, Ph. D., the Forrest Sherman Professor of Public Diplomacy in the Strategy and Policy Department and area study coordinator for the insurgency and terrorism electives program at the U.S. Naval War College, speaks to the audience at the Military Appreciation Night Dinner on Vladimir Putin's long-term ambitions in the Ukraine.



Captain Rob Winneg (Ret.)

CAPT Rob Winneg USN (Ret.), President, prepares to give the Award to the Ambassador at the Dinner.



Gloria Cerena, AMB J. William Middendorf II and Tony Cerena

NLUS National Board Member Emeritus Tony Cercena and his wife Gloria, congratulate the Ambassador on his Award.



# Newsletter

## Commissioning of USCGC William Chadwick (WPC 1150)

Newport County Council Board Members Jon Wolstenholme, who is active duty Coast Guard, Mike Slein and Pat Burke attended the Commissioning ceremony of the FRC Chadwick on 10 November, 2022 at “a standard ceremony except for the gleaming white presence of the most squared away ship I have seen in my career” in the words of Len DiLorenzo, CAPT, USN (Ret.) who also attended.



© SeaPower Magazine

Of note, was the attendance of the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Steve Poulin and the District One Commander, Rear Admiral John Mauger. They were in attendance since this was the first new FRC assigned to Boston with four to follow. The Attendees were under a tent on the pier. The ceremony was about an hour long. It included a presentation of a \$5,000 check to the ship's welfare and recreation fund by the Coast Guard Foundation. This is a standard practice and will be done for the Jester. There was a plaque for the Cutter's Sponsors, an eight-page glossy commissioning brochure, and plank owner recognition gifts all provided by defense contractors.

After the ceremony, attendees were invited to a Sandwich Lunch in the Coast Guard building about 500 yards from the pier.

Tom Hennessey, President of the Mass Bay Council, introduced Council Members to Lieutenant Drew Ferraro who is stationed at the First District and is in charge of coordinating the District's commissionings. He said the Jester's crew will go aboard about six month's prior to commissioning. The Council will begin talks directly with the Prospective CO, Lieutenant Terry Netusel for commissioning details but in the meantime, Council Member Jon Wolstenholme has already contacted her and will keep in touch as she completes the training workup prior to commissioning which we anticipate will be in Bristol, but is not formally announced at this time.

## The Eagle Landed in Newport in September

The United States Coast Guard Barque EAGLE, a 295-foot Tall Ship stopped at Naval Station Newport, Friday, September 23 through Sunday, departing for New London on Monday, September 25, and arrived back there on Saturday, October 1, completing several exercises on the way as part of the OCS “Fall Cruise” Training Program.

On June 24, 2022, CAPT Jessica Rozzi-Ochs had become the 30th skipper of EAGLE, the first woman to take the helm, according to a Facebook post.

The EAGLE serves as a training vessel for cadets at the Coast Guard Academy and candidates from the Officer Candidate School. The EAGLE is the only active-duty sailing vessel in America's military, and one of only two commissioned sailing vessels, along with the USS Constitution.

© USCG



It is also most notably, the flagship of the U.S. Coast Guard, and is of course maintained in impeccable condition.





# Newsletter

## Newport County Council hosted its Business Members to a President's Reception

Held at The Wyndham Resort recently was an opportunity for Newport County Council company members to meet and greet Naval Station Newport CO Captain James McIver who gave a very hearty update of how busy the Base is.

Captain McIver's service includes Commanding Officer of submarine USS NEVADA, with additional notable assignments ashore as a Battalion Officer at the Naval Academy and as the Operational Test Director at Operational Test & Evaluation Force in Norfolk, Virginia.

At the start of his command of the Newport Naval Base, he was challenged by COVID restrictions, while attempting to get the base back to normal operations. In a review of the current status of the base, Captain McIver explained that each of the individual tenant commands are growing. Operationally, in addition to the three black hull [buoy tenders], the Coast Guard has re-homeported two white hull, medium endurance cutters with up to six additional Offshore Patrol Cutters (OPCs) to come in the future.

NOAA is also looking to expand their fleet with a third ship in production to be homeported in Newport. On the academic side, a renewed emphasis in professional development within the Navy will bring more students to the base in the near future, the Naval War College expects to be filling all available quotas within each program. The Officer Training Command, Surface Warfare Officers School Command, Naval Justice School, Naval Chaplaincy School, and Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) are all continuing instruction on the facility.

With growth of the commands the base infrastructure will be taxed. Both the Coast Guard and NOAA have plans to build new piers on the waterfront. The Coast Guard plans to demolish pier 1 and build a new pier in support of the six OPCs. NOAA has plans to construct a new pier that will support four NOAA ships with additional shore side support facilities. Although housing currently has vacancy, there is an expected increase on required military housing with the increase of students and particularly in the future when the new OPCs arrive in approximately 3 to 5 years. However, Captain McIver believes that local economy and the Navy's Public-Private Venture, Balfour Beatty, will be able to support and have the ability to increase inventory when necessary.

Finally, Captain McIver touched on partnerships within the community. Beginning with utility partnership's such as solar fields that have been constructed both the housing PPV in Melville on West Main Road, the former McAllister Point landfill and the Navy Tank Farms. He also discussed evaluating other opportunities to work with the community such as snow removal and open base public events. He highlighted the annual "Salute to Summer" with its excellent firework show and the MWR car show.

Captain McIver answered several questions from the attendees throughout his presentation. They were pleased to hear his overview of the current status of the Newport Naval Base and a look into its future.



Mike Lyga accepted the Navy League Community Affiliate Plaque on behalf of Saccucci Honda presented by Acting President Rob Winneg



NCC Secretary Peg Murray (left), the new Mayor of Newport, Xaykham "Xay" Kham-syvovavong and NCCNLUS Acting President Rob Winneg



Len DiLorenzo, Board Member and CAPT James McIver, CO Naval Station Newport and Guest Speaker



# Newsletter

Thanks to the following businesses for their membership.  
Please support them!

Regular Corporate Member



Community Affiliate



Local Business Associates



Community Affiliate Members



Morgan Stanley



## The Newport County Council Welcomes New Individual Members

1-Year: \$55    2-Year: \$100    3-Year: \$130    4-Year: \$180    5-Year: \$225  
Includes a hard copy subscription to Seapower magazine

1-Year E-subscription to Seapower Magazine: \$25