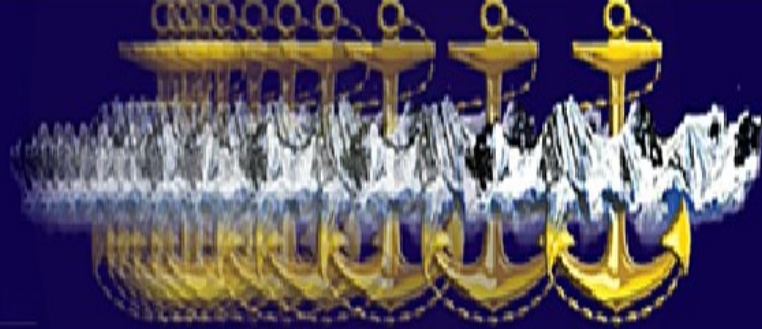




# NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



Denver Council Peak News, 12 (5),

November 2022

## Denver Council November 18<sup>th</sup> Dinner Hosting National Security Consultant Captain Richard “Dick” Life, USN (Ret.)

Our November 18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Dinner Meeting will host a long-time member of the Denver Council and a widely recognized lecturer and consultant on national security issues. Dick will share with us highlights of his career in naval intelligence including his assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the 1970’s.

At the November meeting we will also honor the Sailor of the Year and Recruiter of the Year from NTAG Rocky Mountain.

### Captain Richard “Dick” Life, USN (Ret.)

A 1962 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Capt. Life’s early assignments were aboard surface ships and diesel submarines later becoming an intelligence officer who focused on the overt collection of human intelligence and all-source analysis. Trained by the Defense Intelligence Agency and CIA he earned an MA in Russian Area Studies at Georgetown University and as a senior officer, graduated from the U.S. Army War College.

He was involved in some 50 countries, including three tours of duty in Vietnam, Assistant Naval Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Moscow 1974-76 and led intelligence collection operations from offices in Europe and the Middle East during the fall of the Berlin Wall, melt-down of the USSR and Desert Storm/Shield campaigns. He has debriefed Soviet defectors and emigres, testified before Congress, and delivered presentations to audiences including some 60 universities, the FBI and CIA, on TV and radio talk shows, and in several Allied countries from Norway to Australia.. He also co-authored the highly classified “doomsday” scenario—how the USSR would fight WWII with nuclear weapons—upon which Strategic Defense Initiative research was conducted.



1975 Moscow May Day Parade: 12-year-old Rick Life with LCDR Dick Life, US Navy, at Lenin’s Tomb. Leonid Brezhnev and the entire Soviet Politburo are on the Tomb behind them.

Since retiring from the Navy in 1991, Dick continues involvement in international activities, lectures at universities across the U.S., serves as an observer of elections in Russia and other former communist countries, consults on foreign affairs and national security issues and volunteers in support of Northern Colorado Honor Flight activities.

Dick and his wife, Sandra reside in Estes Park and all five of their adult children and 10 grandchildren also live in Colorado.

## September Dinner Featured Rear Admiral John Watkins, USN, Deputy for Information Warfare, U.S. Space Command, and Honored Sea Cadets and U.S. Marine Corps District Top Recruiter

Rear Adm. Watkins presented an informative, sobering overview of U.S. Space Command organization and functions, stressing their importance to our national security. Sea Cadet Commanding Officer David Gilfillan presented a captivating review of summer training activities and accomplishments. Sea Cadet and Marine Corps Recruiter Awards are discussed in the awards section of this newsletter.

## Council Officer and Executive Board Member Elections

The Board of Directors has developed a slate of candidates for Council Officer and Executive Board Member positions to be voted on during the NOVEMBER meeting. These positions and preliminary candidates are:

- President– Florence Mackin
- Past President & Membership Retention– Jim Quin
- Secretary– Steve Bethke
- Treasurer, Council Contact, & Social Media– David Fong
- Membership Recruiting– Kathleen Branch
- Legislative Affairs– Chris Schutzenberger
- Photographer & Public Relations– Joe Suchman
- Newsletter Editor & Council Awards– Joe Mahaffey
- Meeting Coordination– Pam Quin
- Council Chaplain– Gray Buckley
- Navy Ball– OPEN
- Programs– OPEN
- Member-at-Large – OPEN

THE COUNCIL IS SEEKING VOLUNTEERS for the OPEN positions. Those interested in running for ANY position should email Council Contact David Fong at [dfong@lexdiv.org](mailto:dfong@lexdiv.org). Nominations will be taken from the floor at the November meeting.

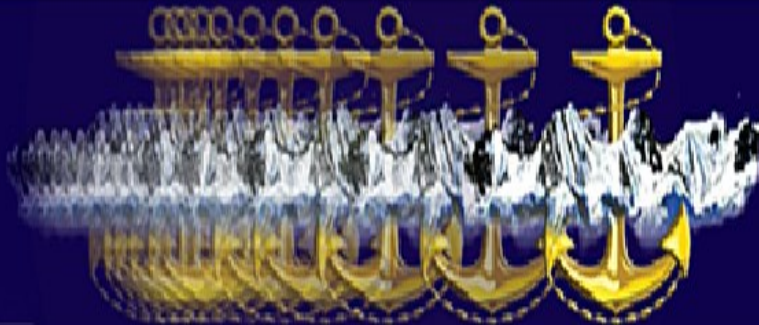
Please support the annual Toys for Tots drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve by bringing a NEW, UNWRAPPED toy to the November 18<sup>th</sup> Dinner. Toys will be collected at the door.





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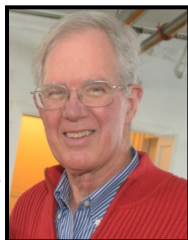
Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



### Presidents Column

Happy Fall. I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful colors.

Thanks to all who attended our September meeting and heard Rear Adm. John Watkins educate us on the work of the U.S. Space Command.



The Navy Birthday Ball, celebrating 247 years of service, was held on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. We enjoyed a great mix of junior and senior sailors, officers and civilians, great food and music. Special thanks to Steve Bethke, Art Cyphers and their planning team for spearheading this event.

Our November 18th Holiday Dinner Meeting will host a long-time member of the Denver Council and a widely recognized lecturer and consultant on national security issues. Retired Navy Captain Dick Life will share with us highlights of his career in naval intelligence including his assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the 1970's.

At the November meeting we will also honor the Sailor of the Year and Recruiter of the Year from NTAG Rocky Mountain and the Training Ship Colorado's Navy League Cadet of the Year.

This dinner will include a vote of the membership for the 2023 slate of officers.

Lastly, please support our TOYS FOR TOTS drive at this dinner. We ask that you bring a new unwrapped toy for the Marines to distribute to less-fortunate children this holiday season.

Please join us on November 18th at the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport, 6 PM Social Hour, 7 PM Dinner.

*Jim Quin, Council President*

#### Online Resources:

Navy League National:  
<https://www.navyleague.org/>

Denver Council Navy League:  
[www.navyleague-denvercouncil.org/](http://www.navyleague-denvercouncil.org/)

Denver Council Flickr photo albums:  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/131150115@N07/albums/>

Denver Council Facebook:  
<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCouncil/>

USS Colorado (SSN-788) Submarine Association  
<https://usscoloradosubassoc.org>

### USS Colorado Submarine Association

USS COLORADO has been underway for much of the time since the last update in the September Navy League newsletter. Most recently, the boat deployed to sea on one mission and the next day received an urgent communication that they needed to fill in for another submarine that had had a material issue. COLORADO's Commanding Officer, Commander David Beam, said COLORADO was the obvious choice to fill in.



Cmdr. Beam also reports that the boat's FRG (Family Readiness Group) just won the Submarine Base "Trunk or Treat" event (with a Colorado theme). This is a Base-wide event where families decorate their car trunks, usually in Halloween or harvest themes, park in a designated lot, and their kids walk from car trunk to trunk collecting candy and other gifts usually donated by the Morale Welfare and Recreation Group or Navy Exchange. Awards are given for the best-decorated trunks. Congratulations!

The Association is working with Cmdr. Beam to schedule a Zoom virtual session in late November between Association members and COLORADO leadership. Past sessions have proven a great vehicle for members to be briefed on the boat's activities and to interact with the boat's leadership.

**SENDING HOLIDAY GREETINGS** (e.g., a card with a short note) to USS COLORADO is always appreciated. They will be posted in the Crew's Mess for all to read. That address is... USS COLORADO (SSN 788), UNIT 100493 BOX 1, FPO AE 09594.

*Don Price, USS Colorado Submarine Assn President*

#### National and Local Dues

Please remember to keep up with your Navy League national dues (and keep Sea Power magazine coming to you) and our local Council annual dues of \$15 per individual or \$25 per couple. These local dues became mandatory in January 2019 and are a key element in supporting Council initiatives.



U.S. Navy

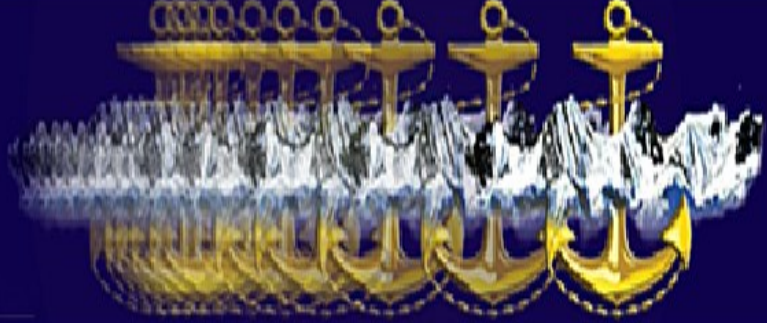


U.S. Coast Guard



U.S. Flag Merchant Marine





### Sea Cadets Update

The Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado Sea Cadet units were very busy training during the past two months. During the September drill at Buckley Air Force Base in Aurora, the cadets, under the guidance of Marine Corps instructors, toured artillery batteries where they learned what it takes to provide artillery fire support. This was followed by an introduction to field operations where they learned squad maneuvers, radio communications, first aid and combat casualty care. The training culminated in a nighttime exercise involving a simulated downed aircraft pilot who was injured and required urgent medical treatment and rescue. The cadets successfully used their training to accomplish the treatment and rescue.

The October drill was a unique experience as the cadets traveled to Colorado Springs and the grounds of the U.S. Air Force Academy for the Air Force – Navy football game. There they spent the night in Air Force cadet facilities, supported the U.S. Naval Academy Parents Club tailgate breakfast, enjoyed the game, despite Navy’s loss, and raised funds by selling “Beat Air Force” buttons. Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro purchased a button and made a generous donation to the Sea Cadet program. After the game the cadets enjoyed a thorough behind-the-scenes tour of the Academy’s state of the art equipment and facilities courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Raymond Reyes, USAF, a Sea Cadet parent and foreign language professor at the academy.

On drill weekend Sunday a promotion (pinning) ceremony was held for recently promoted Lexington Division Cadet Chief Petty Officer Emily Asper at the beautiful Academy outdoor amphitheater. Guests included former cadet CPOs from Lexington Division, a Chief Petty Officer visiting from California and Chief Asper’s Special Warfare Training instructor traveled to attend the ceremony. Indeed a testament to the esteem held by these guests for CPO Asper and her significant accomplishments.



During the final event of drill weekend, cadets challenged the obstacle course where they used teamwork and squad camaraderie to successfully overcome the obstacles.

*LCDR David Gilfillan, NSCC Commanding Officer*

### Awards/Honors

During the September Membership meeting, the Council awarded Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Medals to Lexington Division Sea Cadet of the Year PO1 Emily Asper, NSCC. Also honored was Staff Sergeant Kenneth Sharp, USMC of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station, Denver, who earned the Denver Council Navy League Recruiter of the Year award.

During April and May this year, the Council awarded \$1000 scholarships to four Navy and one Marine Corps JROTC unit cadets at Colorado high schools. Following are the cadets’ names, high schools and universities where the scholarships were paid and they are now attending:

Cadet Logan Hassell, NJROTC Doherty HS, Colorado Springs, CO – Norwich University, Northfield, Vt; Cadet Rebecca Jim, NJROTC Widefield HS, Colorado Springs, CO - Northern Colorado University, Greeley; Cadet Sean Guthrie, NJROTC Widefield HS, Colorado Springs, CO - Rockford University, Rockford, Ill; Cadet Dory Schmidt, NJROTC Montrose HS, Montrose - Colorado State University, Ft. Collins; Cadet Jovana Meraz-Ruiz, MCJROTC Adams City HS, Commerce City - New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM. These scholarships were planned and funded by the Colorado Springs Council prior to merging with the Denver Council and were executed after the merger was finalized.

During the upcoming November Membership meeting, the Council will honor the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain’s Sailor of the Year, STG1(SW/AW) Amy Adair, USN, and Recruiter of the Year, STS2(SS) Anthony Beck, USN. Additional honors will be presented to Sea Cadet Unit Training Ship USS Colorado’s Navy League Cadet of the Year, PO2 Andrew Carr, NLCC, and Young Marine Staff Sergeant Jacob Wilkinson of the Rocky Mountain Young Marines of Fort Collins.

Denver Council Navy League Peak Newsletter is an official publication of the Denver Council, serving the members and community of Colorado. This publication does not necessarily reflect the official views of the National Navy League or Department of Defense.

Stories and artwork may be submitted via email to the editor at [mahaffey10@aol.com](mailto:mahaffey10@aol.com)

Electronic versions available upon request.

Find out more on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DenverCouncil/>



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



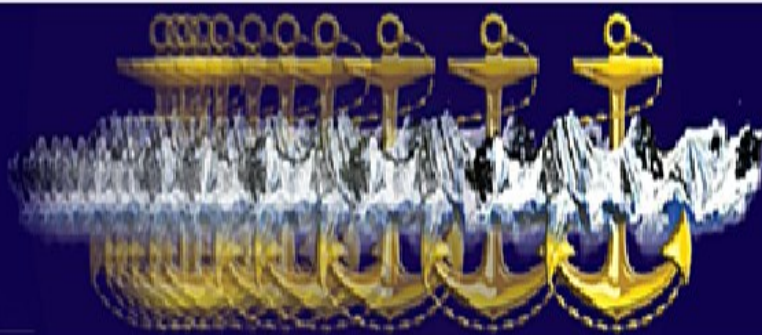
U.S. Flag Merchant Marine





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## Navy Birthday Ball

The Denver Council partnered with Sailors from NORAD and USNORTHCOM, USSPACECOM and the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) FT Carson to celebrate the United States Navy's 247<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. The theme of the event was "On Watch 24/7 for 247 Years", and Rear Admiral Daniel Cheever, the Chief of Staff from NORAD/USNORTHCOM served as the guest speaker. Contributing sponsors included ENT Credit Union, Northrop Grumman, and Lockheed Martin.



The evening included a social hour and a traditional ceremony with arrival honors, toasts, and a birthday cake-cutting ceremony. In that event, the youngest and oldest sailors cut the cake and the elder passes a slice to the youngest in a symbolic gesture of passing wisdom. After dinner, a DJ played a wide variety of music for dancing and the entertainment of all.

This was the first such event since 2019 and all attendees were pleased to celebrate again. Traditionally, the proceeds from the ball are used to provide scholarship opportunities to college-bound JROTC students across Colorado. Although the celebration took a two year COVID hiatus, the scholarships continued as more than \$12,000 has gone to some very deserving future leaders.

## Veterans Day

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day, a national holiday and day of remembrance during which we honor all U.S. military who have served our country in war and peace. The Denver Council Navy League salutes you.



## Holiday Dinner Meeting Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7 PM

Your reservations may be made on line no later than 5:00 PM, **THURSDAY, NOV 10<sup>th</sup>**, via our Navy League RSVP site: [https://spotlightcolorado.com/online\\_sales/rsvp\\_ticket\\_purchasebt.cfm?rsvpid=18527](https://spotlightcolorado.com/online_sales/rsvp_ticket_purchasebt.cfm?rsvpid=18527)

Go to SPOTLIGHTCOLORADO.COM. Or click the link above. Choose CHECK THE CALENDAR. Under go to November 2022.

Choose November 18<sup>th</sup> Denver Council Dinner. Fill in form. If you prefer to RSVP by ground mail, please print this page, complete the form, and send the form to arrive **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, November 10<sup>th</sup>**, with check payable to NLUS Denver Council to:

Mrs. Florence Mackin  
2137 Night Sky Lane  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
(720) 291-9771  
fmackin@mackinweb.net

**RESERVATION REQUEST for  
NLUS Denver Council Holiday Dinner  
Friday – November 18th, 2022  
6:00 PM Social Hour  
7:00 PM Dinner**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
 GUEST(S): \_\_\_\_\_  
 # MEALS:  
     Chicken Marsala \_\_\_\_\_  
     Veggie Tortellini w Pesto Sauce \_\_\_\_\_  
     Salmon w/lemon butter sauce \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$37.50 per plate.

### DIRECTIONS TO MEETING PLACE

Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport  
16475 East 40th Circle, Aurora, CO 80011

I-70 east to North Chambers Road, turn Right (East) on East 40th Avenue. Turn Right (South) on the second East 40th Circle. Hilton Garden Inn is on the Right behind Applebee's Restaurant.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S. Flag Merchant Marine

