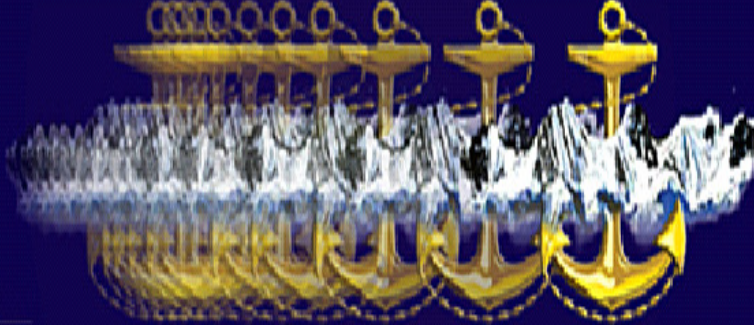




NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



Denver Council Peak News, 15 (1)

JANUARY 2025

Denver Council January 17th Winter Dinner Meeting Hosting Commander Joel McMillan, Civil Engineer Corps, USN and Honoring Top Performers of U.S. Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Colorado

It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of 2024 and are about to begin a new year. The Denver Council ended 2024 with an interesting talk by Dick Life about his experiences in the submarine force off the coast of Vietnam. We are looking forward to our first dinner meeting of the new year on the 17th of January, when we will host Commander Joel McMillan, the Navy Staff Engineer for the Engineering Division in the Directorate of Logistics and Engineering at NORAD and USNORTHCOM. We will also honor the top performers at the U.S. Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Colorado.

Thanks to all of you who donated toys for the Marine Toys for Tots program. I delivered four large bags filled with new toys to their warehouse in Aurora. I appreciate your generous support.



Our site for payment of local dues will be open to take payments through March 31, 2025. Thanks to all who have paid their local dues. For those of you who have not yet done so, I hope that you will consider making this nominal payment to help us continue our support of our Sea Cadet units and local commands and keep the cost of our dinners as low as possible while maintaining our financial viability.

October 13, 2025 will mark the 250th birthday of the United States Navy. The Denver Council, in conjunction with NORAD and USNORTHCOM, plans to host a Navy Ball to commemorate this milestone. Planning will begin in earnest in January. Please stay tuned for more information!

My best wishes to all of you for A Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year! I look forward to seeing you on the 17th of January.

Florence Mackin, President

Commander Joel D. McMillan, USN

CDR McMillan is the Navy Staff Engineer for the Engineering Division (J42) in the Directorate of Logistics and Engineering (J4) at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM). He advocates for military engineering support to NORAD and USNORTHCOM through technical advances and critical infrastructure advisement.

Prior to this assignment, he was the Director of the Navy Contracting Office - Somalia, coordinating life and facility support through contract vehicles to US forces operating in Somalia. After commissioning from Officer Candidate School in 1999, his Navy assignments began with Public Works Center, San Diego where he became the Division Officer for the Point Loma Self-Help.

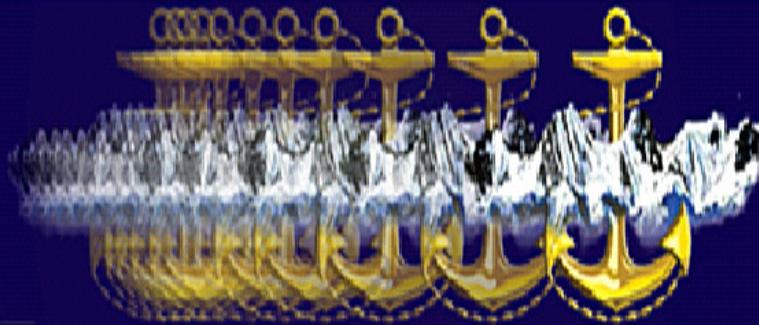
In 2002, he reported to Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic Division as an intern architect. Then serving as a company commander, he deployed with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three to Okinawa, Guam and the Philippines. In 2005, he reported aboard Submarine Base New London as a construction manager and assistant public works officer. While serving in Groton, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, assigned as the Officer in Charge of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers construction office in Camp Taji, Iraq.

In 2007, he relocated to Naples, Italy as NAVFAC's Contingency Engineer Business Line Leader for Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia. After graduate school, he reported to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, serving temporarily as assistant resident officer in charge of construction until he joined the Afghanistan Pakistan Hands program in 2012, deploying to Kabul in 2013 as an advisor to Afghanistan's Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. In 2014, he served as a senior engineer in the U.S. Agency for International Development in the Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad.

In 2015, he deployed again to Kabul, Afghanistan, this time as both the Deputy Engineer for NATO and the Strategic Basing Officer. In June 2017, he assumed the duty as the Public Works Officer of Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Illinois Tech, a Masters in Urban Planning from the University of Washington, and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the US Army War College. He is a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer, a Joint Qualified Officer, a member of the acquisition professional community and a registered architect in Colorado.



See Reservations on p. 4



Sea Cadet Activities Update

November drill

The November drill was shortened to just one day due to a record-breaking snowstorm. While the cadets were disappointed to spend only one day at Camp Timberline, they always enjoy closing the camp for the winter. The cadets arrived on Sunday morning and began with their annual START, STOP, CONTINUE exercise, where they share activities they'd like to start, stop, and continue. The staff takes this feedback and uses it to plan for the upcoming year. Afterward, the cadets spent the day moving furniture inside buildings, deep cleaning all areas, and removing trash. As a thank you for their hard work, the Timberline staff provided a delicious lunch. Though this year's trip to Camp Timberline was brief, the cadets still had a great time.

December drill

The December drill kicked off with a festive holiday party on Friday evening, filled with laughter and a spirited gift exchange that brought together both parents and cadets. The evening also included the December muster, where cadets were recognized for their achievements, including award recipients and those advancing in rank.

Saturday morning began early as cadets gathered at the hallowed grounds of Fort Logan National Cemetery to lead the Color Guard in a moving ceremony alongside the Civil Air Patrol. The unit felt deeply honored to be invited to participate. Those not in the Color Guard had the privilege of guarding the wreaths before they were distributed to the public.

After the ceremony, cadets assisted in distributing wreaths and had the opportunity to lay several personally. Following the Wreaths Across America ceremony, the cadets returned to base for a well-deserved lunch and an intense Physical Readiness Training (PRT) session. The day concluded with camaraderie, reflection, and a renewed sense of determination.



Wreaths Across America-It's Not Too Late!

Although the unit worked tirelessly, they fell short of their goal, securing 347 wreaths instead of the targeted 400. However, Wreaths Across America is currently offering a matching program, where every wreath sponsored between December 14, 2024, and January 17, 2025, will be matched. We encourage you to consider sponsoring a wreath during this time to help reach our goal. Please note that matching wreaths are not eligible for the \$5 back program—only wreaths directly purchased are. To contribute, simply use the QR code below.



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



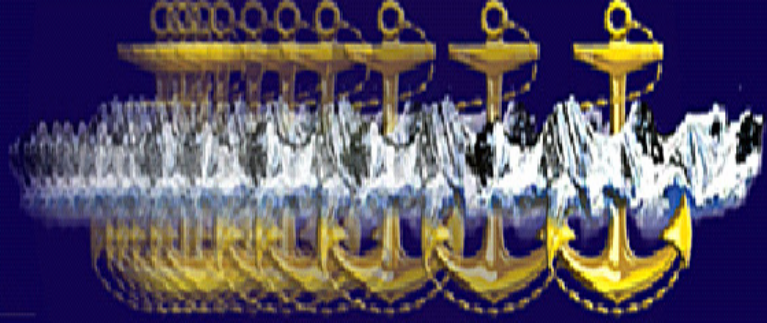
U.S. Flag Merchant Marine





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Awards/Honors

During the November 16th Dinner Meeting the Council presented Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Awards to Lexington Division’s PO2 Silas Wenzel, NSCC, who earned the Naval Sea Cadet of the Year Award and to PO1 Logan Wuestefeld, NLCC, Training Ship Colorado’s Navy League Cadet of the Year. Congratulations to both honorees.

Also during the November meeting, the Council honored the following Navy Talent Acquisition Group Colorado sailors who earned the Denver Council Navy League Recruiter of the Year Awards: ABE1 Jacinta Woods, PS1 Gerard Joseph Portez, AWS2 William Perry, FCA1 Cesar Diaz and FCA1 Devyn Paddock.



King Soopers Support of Sea Cadets

The Council has been made aware of a great fund-raising opportunity for the Sea Cadets using the King Soopers Community Rewards Program and how members of the Navy League Denver Council can help. With each King Soopers purchase, the sea cadets will receive a percentage of the sales. Here are the directions for signing up for the Community Rewards Program.

Get the King Soopers Reward Card (the one that is tied to your phone number and you scan it when you shop. It gives you store savings and fuel savings)

Go to www.kingsoopers.com and create an account or install the King Sooper app on your phone.

If on a desktop computer, go to your account, click on Community Rewards, and enroll. The organization’s name is U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Lexington Division.

If using the app, select Rewards, Community Rewards, and then enroll. The organization’s name is U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Lexington Division.

Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado very much appreciate the support from the Navy League and its members. Thank You!



During the January 17th Dinner Meeting, the Council will honor the Top Performers of U.S. Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit Colorado.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



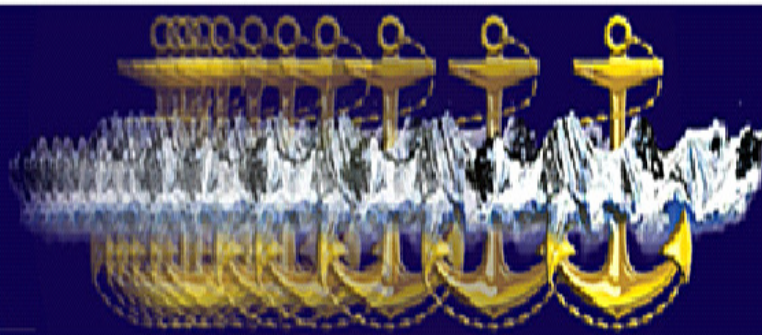
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Veterans Memorial Ceremony

Several members of the Denver Council attended the annual Veterans Day remembrance event at the University of Colorado, Boulder. This year’s guest speaker was Eugene “Geno” Paluso, a retired Navy Captain and former Navy SEAL, who is currently Chief Executive Officer of Sagent, focused on operationalizing the \$14 trillion mortgage-servicing industry’s first and only cloud-native software platform in 2024.

USS Colorado Submarine Association December ‘24 Update

The Association elected a new slate of Board Members in December. Congratulations to all the newly elected members! Their term begins on 1 January.

The Board Members are:

Don Price, President

Rick Riessen, Vice President

Florence Mackin, Treasurer

Mark Nelson, Secretary

Alan Buck, At Large Board Member

Bruce Marsden, At Large Board Member

Kristin Thorburn, At Large Board Member

Jared Veteto, At Large Board Member. In addition, JJ Mackin, Past President, USS Colorado Commissioning Committee, continues as an ex-officio member of the Board.

The USS Colorado continues her overhaul at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard. The crew was granted liberal leave during the Thanksgiving through New Years holiday season therefore contact has been limited. The Association sent a large number of holiday cards to the boat from Colorado citizens (including Navy League members, thank you very much!) hopefully received before most of the crew departed on leave.



January Winter Dinner Meeting Friday, January 17, 2025, 7PM

Your reservations may be made online no later than **Thursday, January 9th, 5 PM** via our Navy League Home Page : [Denver Council Navy League - Home](#)

If you prefer to RSVP by ground mail, please print this page, complete the form and send it to arrive **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY January 9th** with check for \$40.00 per plate payable to NLUS Denver Council to:

Mrs. Florence Mackin
2137 Night Sky Lane
Lafayette, CO 80026
(720-292-9772)

**RESERVATION REQUEST for NLUS Denver Council
January Winter Dinner Friday, January 17, 2025
6:00 PM Social Hour
7:00 PM Dinner**

NAME(S): _____

GUEST(S): _____

MEALS:

Chicken _____

Salmon _____

Vegetarian Plate _____

Cost remains at \$40.00 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 left, North), then turn right (East) on East 40th Avenue. Turn right (South) on the second East 40th Circle. Hilton Garden Inn is on the right just behind Applebee’s Restaurant.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



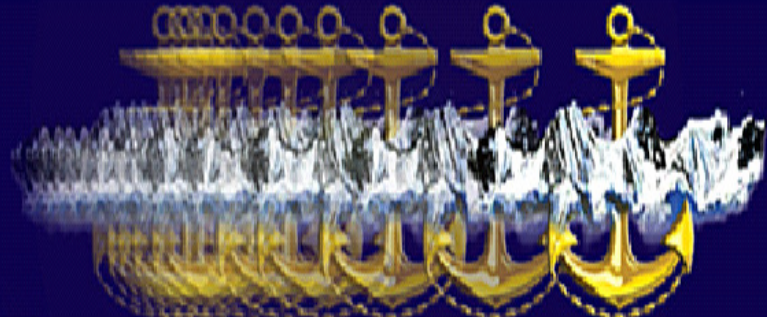
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Legislative Affairs

At the November National Legislative Affairs meeting, the national leadership requested that in the new year we contact all newly elected Members of Congress to provide an introductory briefing on the Navy League. With them we will discuss the Navy League, what it is, what we do and the Navy League’s legislative requests for the next session of Congress. Our region will reach out to the new Members from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, and Wyoming. Anyone interested in participating, even if just to listen and observe, contact Chris Schutzenberger at teamschutz@yahoo.com

Online Resources:

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

Denver Council Navy League:
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/>

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

Electronic versions available upon request.

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

Council Officer & Executive Board Member Elections

The following are Officers and Executive Board Members elected during the 2024 November meeting who will be inducted at the January 17th meeting to lead the Council through 2025:

Council Officers

Florence Mackin, President, Meeting Coordination & Social Media

Gray Buckley, Secretary & Council Chaplin

Pam Quin, Treasurer

Executive Board

Kathleen Branch, Membership Recruiting

David Fong, Council Contact, Youth Programs

Joe Suchman, Media & Public Relations

Chris Schutzenberger, Legislative Affairs

Joe Mahaffey, Newsletter Editor & Council Awards

Jim Quin, Past President & Membership Retention

Open, Navy Ball

Open, Programs

Art Cyphers, Member-at-Large

The council is seeking volunteers for the open positions. Those interested in filling any position should email Council Contact David Fong at dfong@lexdiv.org. Board members must be active members in good standing with the Denver Council Navy League.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S. Flag Merchant Marine

