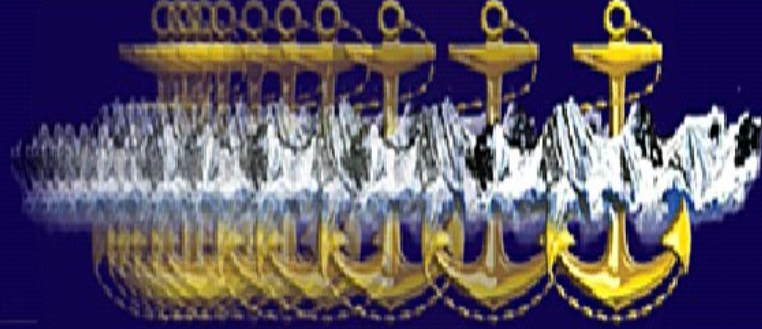




NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



Denver Council Peak News, 15 (2),

March 2025

Denver Council March 21st Spring Dinner Meeting Hosting Commander Charles Ridgway Jr. USN (Ret.) and Honoring Top Performers of U.S. Navy Information Operations Command Colorado

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our January dinner meeting due to weather conditions. I hope that we will be able to reschedule a presentation on the Civil Engineer Corps by Commander Joel McMillan, USN later this year.



I am looking forward to our March meeting when we will welcome retired Navy Commander Chuck Ridgway, who was awarded first prize in the CNO's Naval History Essay Contest in the Rising Historian Category for his essay entitled, "From Distant Shores: How the Experience of the Imperial German Navy's East Asia Squadron Can Help Understand Chinese Overseas Naval Ambitions" – certainly a pertinent topic today.

We will also honor top performers of U.S. Navy Information Operations Command Colorado.

We are working to nail down the location and date of the 2025 Navy Ball very soon. We will let our members know as soon as that information is confirmed. This year we will celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States Navy! I hope that we will put on a celebration worthy of this milestone.

I hope to see you on the 21st of March!

-Florence Mackin, President

Cmdr. Charles P. Ridgway JR. USN (Ret.)

Chuck Ridgway is a retired, nuclear trained, U.S. Navy surface warfare and reserve Africa foreign area officer. A native of Eagle, Colorado, he is a graduate of Carnegie-Melon University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the University of Colorado at Denver and was awarded the Command and Staff Diploma from the U.S. Naval War College at Newport, RI.

Ridgway served as communications officer USS Monterey (CG 61); main propulsion division officer, USS USS Nimitz (CVN 68); and, through the personnel



exchange program to the German Navy, assistant navigator, FGS Lubeck (F 214).

From 2003 to 2022, Ridgway served as a navy reserve officer with billets in a variety of units supporting U.S. Naval Forces Africa and U.S. Africa Command.

He deployed to Africa on numerous occasions in support of the Africa Partnership Station initiative and exercises. In 2014 he performed the assessment of the African Maritime Law Enforcement Partnership with Ghana while embarked in USNS Spearhead (JHSV-1). He also acted as U.S. Naval Forces Africa Liaison Officer embarked in Belgian Navy Ship, Godetia during her 2016 West Africa Maritime Capacity Building deployment. He retired from the Navy with the rank of Commander in June 2022.

In civilian employment Ridgway was a NATO official for ten years working in operational analysis at NATO's Joint Analysis and Lessons Learned Centre in Lisbon, Portugal. Since 2016 he has worked as a consultant for a number of international development organizations such as Africa Development Promise, Engineers Without Borders USA, Scope International, One Earth Future Foundations, Oceans Beyond Piracy and Stable Seas programs, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime's Global Maritime Crime Programme and Defense Security Cooperation Agency's Governance. He has also taught graduate-level summer courses on Monitoring & Evaluation for Regis University's International Development Practice program. In his spare time, he is a substitute teacher in the Denver Public Schools.

A fluent speaker of German, French and Portuguese, Ridgway is the winner of the Chief of Naval Operations Naval History Essay Contest, Rising History Category.

USS Colorado Submarine

Association Update -

On Thursday January 30th the USS Colorado's Commanding Officer, Commander Justin Reeves, and Chief of the Boat, Master Chief Chris Goss, held a zoom call with members of the 1 Submarine Association to provide an update on the boat. COLORADO arrived in Pearl Harbor in April 2024 from Groton, Connecticut and went into dry dock in June at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard for the routine Extended



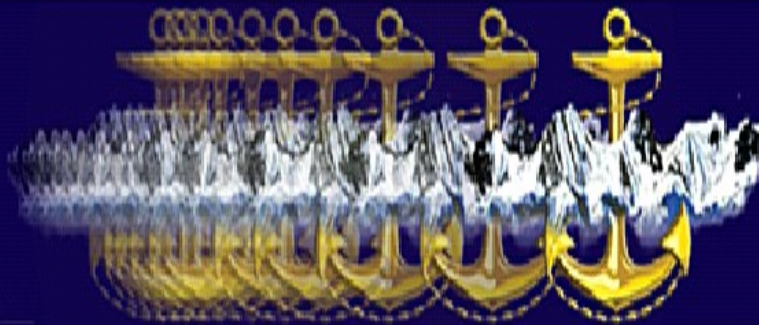
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(Continued from page 1)

Docking Selected Restricted Availability. They are currently in dry dock along with another Virginia class submarine, USS Illinois. The overhaul work package is proceeding smoothly and they are expected to be out of dry dock by the end of the year and complete overhaul by mid-2026. Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard has a good record of getting their ships out on time so hopefully this schedule will hold.

The Captain described the conditions on the boat during overhaul: many spaces have temporary power, and use temporary lighting for illumination; bulkheads are covered to protect the surfaces beneath which is especially important in the crew's mess to protect the pictures of Colorado which were donated by the late artist John Fielder to decorate the boat; artifacts, plaques and other items that were donated to the boat for Commissioning have been removed for safekeeping.

During the holidays, the boat's leadership was able to grant over two weeks of leave to all the crew members so they could visit families, some of whom are still back in Connecticut. Now that all the sailors are back from leave, the boat is planning a belated holiday party in February/March.

The Captain also described submarine operations in the Pacific. He mentioned that the operational tempo is high. USS Montana recently arrived in Hawaii while USS Minnesota, which completed overhaul last summer, has changed its home port to Guam and is the first Virginia class submarine to join the four 688 class boats there currently. COLORADO is currently targeting early May for a namesake visit to our state by three to four sailors, but details have not yet been confirmed. The Association will be developing a schedule to support this visit.

We greatly appreciate the CO and COB (Chief of the Boat) taking time from their busy schedules to talk to our Association members. *Don Price, President*

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/>

Sea Cadet Update

With temperatures in the teens and backpacks full of gear, the cadets snowshoed one mile into the winter survival camp. They learned to cook stew on single-burner backpacking stove. The snow conditions were perfect and for many cadets, this was their first experience snowshoeing. The staff was impressed with the cadets' efforts on this adventure, and were fortunate to have Cy Younger, a former Sea Cadet officer, join us to plan the training and guide the cadets to the fishing camp.

Back at the Naval Reserve Center at Buckley Space Force Base, the cadets began a four-part series on drug awareness training. This is a requirement of the program. Cadets were interested in learning and expressed that many of their schools no longer provide this training.



During 2024, our recruiting officer, INST Kristen Jones, did a phenomenal job of representing our unit at the Pikes Peak Regional Airshow, the Air Force Academy, and at several parades. As a result, we added eight Sea Cadets and 16 League Cadets to the program. We are managing this growth by separating the Sea and League Cadets a little more. The logistics have been a little challenging, but this separation provides more challenge for the Sea Cadets and also makes the program more age-appropriate for the League Cadets.

During February, the unit has sea cadet regional director, LCDR Jeannette Hernandez here for the annual inspection. Staff has been busy preparing the audit, that each cadet has a budget and budget and other documentation to be reviewed. Supply Staff has been making sure that each cadet has a perfect uniform. Now, here's hoping that the cadets arrive at drill with regulation haircuts. If not, there will be a guaranteed trip to the base barber! *Sonja Asper*



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard

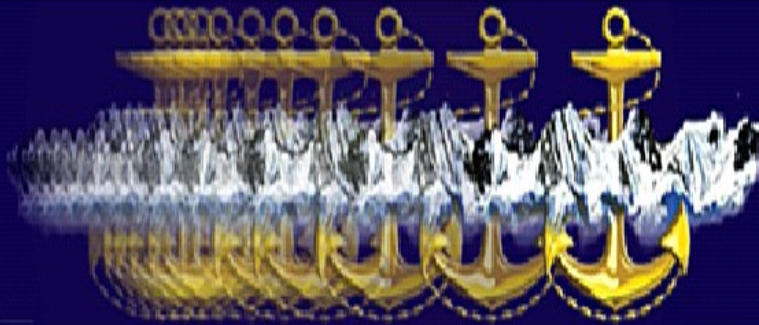


U.S. Flag Merchant Marine



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Awards/ Honors

On Saturday Febuary 22nd the council awarded The Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Young Marine Winston Schumacher of the Rocky Mountain Young Marines of Liberty Commons School, Fort Collins Colorado.



Legislative Affairs

This month Denver Council Legislative Affairs Vice President invited new members of Congress from the Rocky Mountain Region to a Navy League event in Washington, D.C. to familiarize newly elected members of Congress with the importance of the Navy League and its mission in support of the Maritime Services.

The annual Capital Hill Surge is scheduled for May 7th, where Navy League members will brief members of congress and their staffs on the Navy League, its activities, and legislative requests for this session of Congress. Anyone interested in participating in Legislative Affairs briefing or activities, even if only to listen and observe, contact Chris Schutzenberger at teamschutz@yahoo.com

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.

March Spring Dinner Meeting Friday, March 21st, 2025, 7PM

Your reservations may be made online no later than **Thursday, March 13th, 5 PM** via our Navy League RSVP site:
<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/denver-council-dinner-march-21-2025>

If you prefer to RSVP by ground mail, please print this page, complete the form and send it to arrive **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, March 13th** with a 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 March Spring Dinner Friday, March 21st, 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 E 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



U.S. Flag Merchant Marine