



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 Nimitz (CVN 68); and, through the personnel exchange program to the German Navy, assistant navigator, FGS Lubeck (F214).



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 Foundation's, Oceans Beyond Piracy and Stable Seas programs, the UN Office of Drugs and Crime's Global Maritime Crime Programme and the 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 2024 Chief of Naval Operations Naval History Essay Contest, Rising History Category.

Reservations on Back of This Page

**March Spring Dinner Meeting
Friday, March 21, 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 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 21, 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.