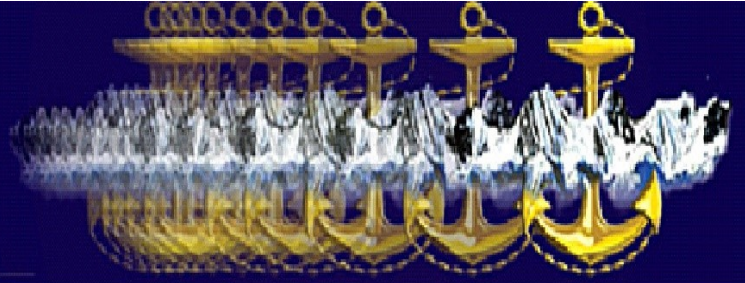




# NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services*



**Denver Council Peak News, 15 (3)**

**May 2025**

## **Denver Council May 16<sup>th</sup> Gala Dinner Meeting Hosting Rear Admiral Tracy Hines and Honoring Top Performers of the U.S. Navy Reserve Center Denver and Region Maritime Service Academy Appointees/NROTC Selectees**

Spring is in the air! I hope that you enjoy the sunshine and warm weather!

Sadly, we have lost our dear friend and Council member retired Navy Captain Richard "Dick" Life who recently passed away. A celebration of life for Dick has been held on Saturday, April 26, 2025 at American Legion, Estes Park, Colorado. I hope you were able to honor the life of our departed friend and shipmate.



At our March meeting we were treated to a very interesting talk by retired Navy Commander and Denver Council member, Chuck Ridgway, who gave us some historical insight into Chinese naval ambitions today as they try to establish a naval presence on the Atlantic coast of Africa to reshape the international order to their own benefit at the expense of other nations, most especially the United States.

Our next dinner meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2025 at the Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport in Aurora.

I am happy to report that Rear Admiral Tracy Hines has agreed to be our guest speaker for the evening. Rear Admiral Hines is the Deputy Director of Global Space Operations, U.S. Space Command Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

As usual in May, we will invite the local area Sea Service Academy appointees, the NROTC scholarship recipients, and their families. We will also honor the top performers at the Naval Reserve Center Denver. I hope that we will have a good turnout for this meeting.

Hope to see you on May 16th.

-Florence Mackin, President

## **Rear Admiral Tracy Hines, USN**

Rear Admiral Hines is a native of Columbus, Ohio. She received her commission through the Limited Duty Officer Program in 1996, graduated from American InterContinental university with a degree in Business Management in 2004, and laterally transferred into the



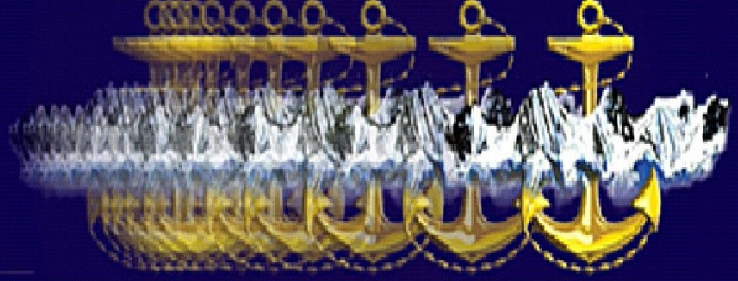
Information Warfare community in 2007. She received a Master's in Information Technology Cyber Forensics from Trident University in 2009.

Her operational assignments include assistant chief of staff for U.S. Seventh Fleet's Information Systems and Networks (N6) directorate aboard USS Blue Ridge (LCC 19); USS Constellation (CV 64), where she completed two deployments to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf; USS Cleveland (LPD 7), where she participated in Operation Enduring Freedom; Naval Special Warfare Group One, as the officer in charge of the Mobile Communications Team; Explosive Ordnance Group One; and Expeditionary Strike Group Three, where she supported Boxer Expeditionary Strike Group deployments to the Western Pacific. Her ashore assignments include Program Executive Office Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (PEO C4I) in San Diego, Calif.; deputy executive assistant for the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2N6) at the Pentagon, and officer community manager for the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS-3) in Millington, Tenn.

Hines completed an individual augmentee tour in Baghdad, Iraq, from May 2006 to June 2007. While assigned to the Multi-National Forces Iraq, she led the International Zone Fiber Optic Network Program.

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From January 2014 to March 2016, Hines served as the commanding officer for Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station San Diego. After this tour, she served as the commanding officer of Hopper Information Services in Suitland, MD, followed by an assignment from April 2021 to April 2022 as the executive assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations.

As a flag officer, Hines has served as the Director of Enterprise Networks and Cybersecurity, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations for Information Warfare (OPNAV N2N6) at the Pentagon from May 2022-July 2023. In August 2023, she assumed her current position as the Deputy Director of Global Space Operations (J3) at United States Space Command, Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado.

Her qualifications include information warfare officer, surface warfare officer, tactical action officer, officer of the deck underway, conning alongside officer, junior officer of the deck and surface warfare information center officer.

Hines' personal awards include the Legion of Merit (3), Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (5), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (4), and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4)

**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/>

## Navy Birthday Ball

A ball celebrating the U.S. Navy's 250th birthday and sponsored by the Denver Council, Navy League will be held on Saturday, October 11th, starting at 5:30 PM at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. This GALA event will include a guest speaker, music, dinner and dancing. More information on details and reservations will be available as planning progresses.

## In Memoriam Richard "Dick" Life

The Council mourns the loss of long-time member and retired Navy Captain Richard "Dick" Life who recently passed away at age 84.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy Dick embarked upon a truly remarkable career in service to his country involving, among many others, highlights such as surface ship and submarine operations, naval intelligence analysis and oversight and serving as the Assistant Attache at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

During retirement, he consulted on foreign affairs and national security operations and led and mentored groups of young people such as the sea cadet units who are supported by the Denver Council.

A celebration of life and reception was held at the American Legion in Estes Park, Colorado on April 26<sup>th</sup> 2025.

The Council sends deepest condolences to the Life Family and all his friends and shipmates. Rest in Peace, Dear Friend.



### Denver Council Local Dues 2025

Denver Council dues for 2025 are \$15.00 for an individual member and \$25.00 for a couple, payable from December 2024 to March 2025. We now have the option to pay your local dues for 2025 online at the following link:

<https://www.navyleague-denvercouncil.org/event-5507479>

If you prefer to pay by check or cash, you can do so at the January or March meetings. Or you can mail your check made payable to NLUS Denver Council to Mrs. Pam Quin, 1000 Green Oaks Drive, Greenwood Village, Colorado 80121-1325.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard



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## Sea Cadets Update by Sonja Asper

In February, Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado hosted Regional Director, LCDR Jeanette Hernandez, for the annual inspection. Both units are proud to report their 2024 inspection scores.

Lexington Division scored 90.23, up from 86.90 last year, and the Training Ship scored 94.14, up from 91.20 in the previous year. We are excited to see where we stand in comparison to the other units throughout the country.



In addition to working hard to look amazing and demonstrate their knowledge, cadets had fun indoor rock climbing. G1 Climbing + Fitness boasts some of the tallest climbing walls in Colorado and cadets learned safety tips and climbing techniques to conquer these tall walls.



They learned that climbing requires strength and endurance and even involves knot tying.

March drill brought dining and social etiquette training from The Cotillion Academy. Some cadets learned for the first time about a proper table setting and how to use a fork and knife together. For those needing a little more adventure, cadets enjoyed a sunny morning at the Family Shooting Center where many earned their sharpshooter ribbon and some even earned their "Expert" and "Sharpshooter" appurtenances.



The cadets' new and improved manners were on display during April's formal dinner honoring four seniors who are graduating. Staff and cadet parents decorated the fellowship hall at the Buckley Chapel and cadets enjoyed a mocktail hour with special drinks named after the seniors.



"Slow Jog James" and "Glamorous Gaskins" were just two of the fun, sugary drinks. An incredible dinner of mixed greens, smoked ribs, pulled pork, twice-baked potatoes, creamy mac 'n cheese, jalapeno cornbread, and brownie sundaes seemed to please even the pickiest cadet. All of the food was prepared and provided by parents and staff. The fun continued with a slideshow honoring the seniors and skits poking a little more fun. The blow-up dinosaur, representing one of the slower runners of the group (Slow Jog James) had many in tears from laughing so hard! The dinner also included a somber moment learning about the



Fallen Comrade Table and a serious moment learning the tradition of military toasts.

The following morning, cadets worked off the dinner and drinks while practicing elements of the Marine Corps CFT. April's final muster began with a cadet color guard and singing of The National Anthem, by our own Color Guard Commander, PO3 Kaylen Carlisle. The senior discharge ceremony always includes some tears representing the sad farewell, but also the reassurance that Colorado's Sea Cadets are well prepared for the future. Thank you for supporting the program as we prepare the future leaders of our country.



U.S. Navy

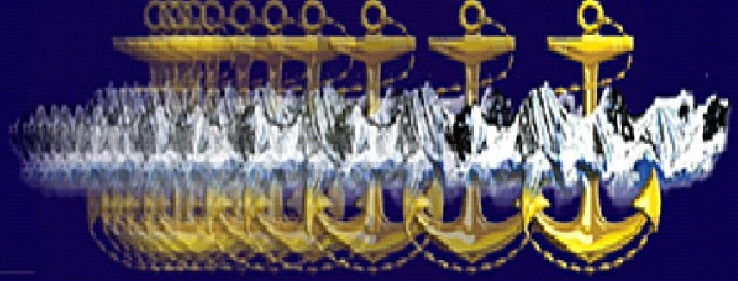


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**USS Colorado Submarine Association  
April '25 Update - Don Price, President**



While the boat remains in overhaul in Pearl Harbour Naval Shipyard, four members of the crew will visit our

state for what is called a Namesake Visit from Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> through Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Navy is funding two of the crew and the Association is funding the other two. The four visitors are the Commanding Officer, Commander Justin Reeves, the Chief of the Boat, STSCM (SS/IW) Chris Goss, ITE1 Andy Fisher, a native of Longmont, and MMN2 Thomas Pickett, the boat's 2024 Junior Sailor of the Year.

We have been working hard to develop an itinerary for the visit that will be meaningful for the visiting crew and citizens of our state. Some of the highlights of the visit will be:

A day in Fort Collins visiting three high schools, a radio station (for an interview), and the Rotary Club of Fort Collins.

A day in Colorado Springs visiting Cogitic, a company that manufactures parts for submarines, the Colorado Springs Rotary Club, and the Pikes Peak summit.

Two days in Denver visiting an elementary school, Barber-Nichols, an Arvada company that manufactures parts for submarines, Broncos Stadium for a tour, the USS Grayling SS-209 Memorial, the Adams County Veterans Memorial, the State Capitol, Governor Polis, and History Colorado.

There will also be time spent at several restaurants and local breweries from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs.

Association members will be invited to some of the events and a few events will also be open to the



general public. For more information about the visit and the events open to the general public, sign up for our free newsletter, or better yet, become a member! Information about the newsletter and membership is

available on our website at: <https://ucsa.wildapricot.org/about>.

In addition to the Namesake Visit, we have also been working with the boat's FRG (Family Readiness Group) to support their annual family spring picnic on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the crew and their families. The FRG has set up a Wishlist, on Amazon, of items needed for the event. If anyone is interested in contributing to the wish list the link for contributions is:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/34BHUAC AFLVDA/...&>

For anyone making a contribution (and ALL are appreciated) be sure that the selected delivery address, which should be preloaded for all orders, is: USS Colorado FRG c/o Tiffany Hatfield, Honolulu, HI, Gift Registry Address.

**March Dinner Meeting Hosted Cmdr Charles Ridgway JR. USN (Ret.) and Honored Top Performers of the Navy Information Operations Command Colorado**

Cmdr. Ridgway provided keen insight into how his work at NATO in operational analysis helped his understanding of current Chinese naval ambitions related to the African Continent.

Awards are discussed in another section of the newsletter.



U.S. Navy

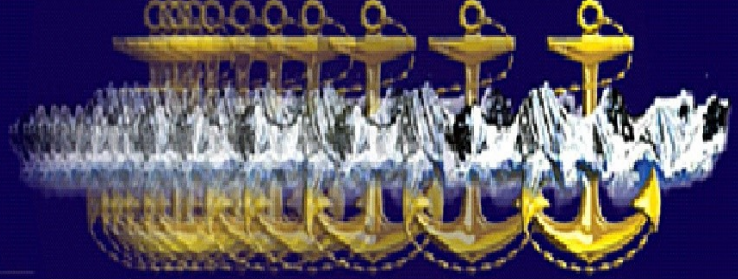


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## Awards/Honors



During the March 21st Dinner Meeting, the Council honored Navy Information Operations Command Colorado's Sailor of the Year CTR1 (IW/SG) Ryan Hartman; Junior Sailor of the Year

CWT2 (IW) Preston Burk and Blue Jacket of the Year CTR3 (IW) Anthony Bowers.

On April 21st the Council awarded the Navy League Exemplary Leadership Award to Cadet Midshipman First Class Adam Albritton during an award ceremony at the Naval ROTC Unit at University of Colorado, Boulder.

The following Marine Corps JROTC Cadets earned Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals:

- Cadet Major Timothy Longacre and Lance Corporal Izaiah Cervantes, Northridge High School, Greeley, Colorado.
- Cadet First Lieutenant Dianna Lamas-Ochoa and Cadet First Sergeant Luis Solis, Adams City High School, Commerce City, Colorado.
- Cadet Skyson Jiminez, Kelly Walsh High School, Casper, Wyoming.

The following Navy JROTC Cadets earned Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals:

- Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Emmanuel Santiago Garcia Zavala and
- Cadet Seaman Luz Valentina Banelos Vielagrana, Prairie View High School, Henderson, Colorado.
- Cadet Juan Hoder, Doherty High School, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Cadet Hunter Ray, Mesa Ridge High School, Colorado Springs, Colorado.
- Cadet Anthony Huntington, Widefield High School, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

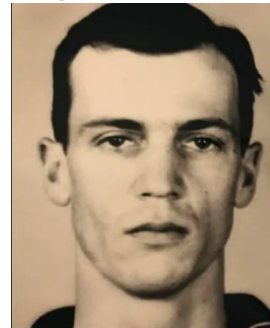
Congratulations to all honorees.

## Navy League National Convention

The 2025 Navy League National Convention will be held June 4-7 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Hotel in Jacksonville, Florida.

For information and reservations go to <https://www.navyleague.org/meetings-and-events/national-convention/>

## Legislative Affairs April 2025



On April 10, Navy League Legislative Affairs Vice President Chris Schutzenberger attended a session of the Colorado Senate as the guest of State Senator Larry Liston to support a proclamation naming a Colorado Springs bridge after a naval aviator killed at Pearl Harbor.

According to Senate Resolution SJR25-017, "Petty Officer First Class Daniel T. Griffin was a resident of Colorado Springs, attended Colorado Springs High School prior to his enlistment in the United States Navy, and served as a naval enlisted pilot assigned to Kaneohe Naval Air Station, Hawaii, in 1941, flying the Consolidated PBY Catalina... On the morning of Sunday, December 7, 1941, Daniel T. Griffin was on duty with his PBY Catalina aircraft, and upon recognition of the ongoing Japanese attack, he attempted to take off, but was shot down by enemy aircraft. After making an emergency exit into the water, and while swimming to shore, Griffin was fatally wounded by enemy gunfire... Petty Officer First Class Griffin is known to be the first Coloradan killed and believed to be the first American serviceman killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor."

The resolution proposes that the North Academy Bridge spanning Interstate 25 in Colorado Springs be designated as the "Naval Aviation Pilot and Aviation Machinist Mate Petty Officer First Class Daniel T. Griffin Bridge."

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U.S. Navy



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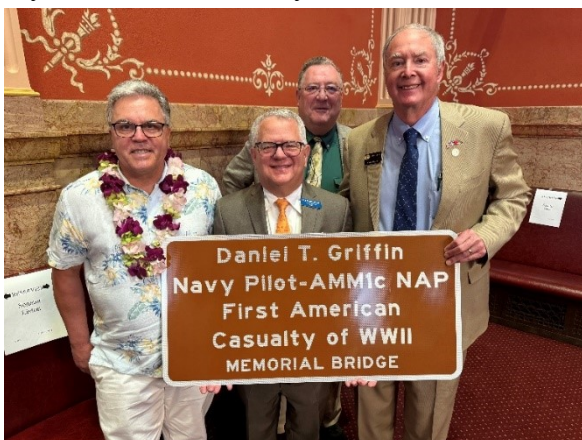
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The resolution passed the Senate unanimously, and its next stop is the Colorado House. Once the resolution passes there, it will go to the Governor for signature. Sen. Liston expects the process to conclude in the June-July timeframe.

Top photo left to right: David Griffin, grandson of Daniel T. Griffin; Chris Schutzenberger, VP Legislative Affairs, Navy League; State Sen. Marc Snyder, State Sen. Larry Liston.



Additional group of supporting officials.



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)

[mahaffey10@aol.com](mailto:mahaffey10@aol.com)

Electronic versions available upon request.

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

## May Gala Dinner Meeting Friday May 16th, 2025, 7PM

Your reservations may be made online no later than Thursday, May 8th, 5 PM via our Navy League RSVP Site:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/denver-council-dinner-may-16--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 May 8th 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 May Gala Dinner Friday, May 16th, 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



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