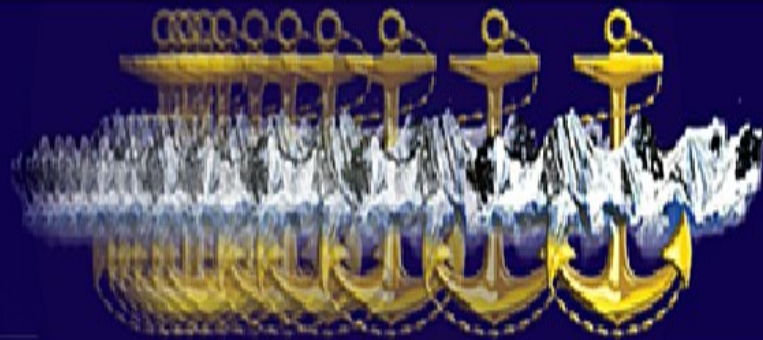




# NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services*



**Denver Council Peak News, 15 (5)**

**November 2025**

## **Denver Council November 21st Holiday Dinner Hosting LT Tatiana Torres, USCG, Executive Officer of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit in Denver and honoring Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Rocky Mountain Top Sailors**

October 13, 2025 marked the 250th birthday of the United States Navy! The Denver Council celebrated this milestone by sponsoring a Navy Ball on October 11th in conjunction with the Naval Element at US NORTH-COM and NORAD. The Ball was held at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. We had a large crowd of over 140 participating in this celebration of 250 years of defending freedom and protecting prosperity. Many thanks to Steve Bethke and Art Cyphers, and to the Naval Element at Colorado Springs for all the work they did to make this event such a huge success.



The final dinner meeting of the year is scheduled for Friday, November 21st. Our guest speaker is Tatiana Torres, USCG who currently serves as the Executive Officer of the Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit in Denver. We will also present awards for the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Rocky Mountain top sailors.

As usual in November, we will hold a toy drive to benefit the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program. **Please don't forget to bring a new, unwrapped toy to the meeting** for donation to this very worthwhile program that seeks to bring the joy of Christmas to less fortunate children in our communities.

The election of the Denver Council's officers and board members is also on the agenda for the November meeting. We are still looking for candidates to fill the **Programs Coordinator, Newsletter Editor, Navy Ball Coordinator** and

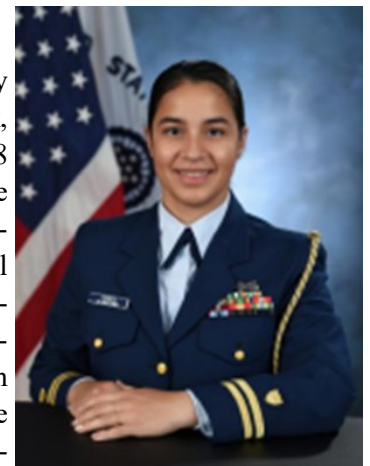
**Meeting Coordinator** positions. If you have any interest or would like further information, please contact me at [fmackin@mackinweb.net](mailto:fmackin@mackinweb.net). I look forward to seeing you all at the November meeting.

*Florence Mackin, President*

### **Lieutenant Tatiana Torres**

#### **U.S. Coast Guard**

Lieutenant Torres is originally from Long Island, New York, and was commissioned in 2018 through Officer Candidate School. She studied Architecture at Florida International University earning her Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture and Certificate in Environmental Science. She later earned her Master of Science and Technology Intelligence at the National Intelligence University.



LT Torres began her career when she enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in 2012. Her previous tours in the Coast Guard include Coast Guard Cryptologic Unit – Colorado, Coast Guard Head Quarters; National Intelligence University; Sector Houston-Galveston Emergency Management; Sector Key West Intelligence Specialist Human Derived Intelligence and Collections Lead; and Special Missions Training Center Boat Forces, Boat Operations.

Her personal decorations include Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal (5), Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation (5).

She is married to Diego Roldan currently serving in reserve status with United States Marine Corps. They have two children. Lucas is 10 years old and Rowan is 5 years old.

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)



U.S. Navy



U.S. Coast Guard

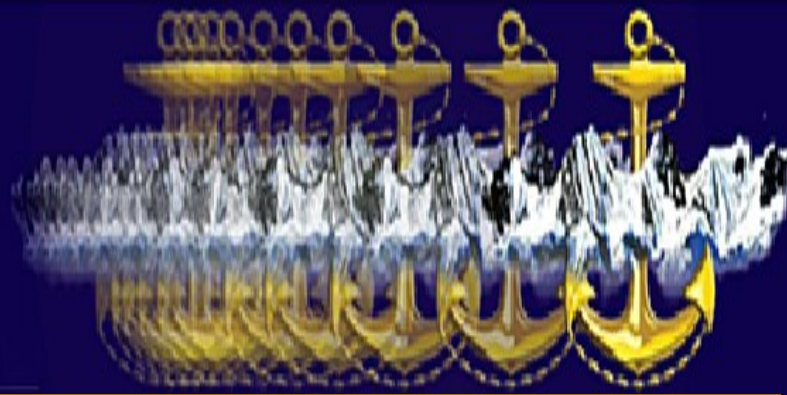


U.S. Flag Merchant Marine



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## Denver Council

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### September Dinner Meeting Hosted Commander Joel McMillan, USN and Honored Top Performers of the U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Center Denver

Cmdr. McMillan presented a very interesting and informative overview of the field of naval logistics, engineering and construction and the requirements to progress in these fields. Awards are discussed in another section.



Please support the Annual Toys For Tots Drive sponsored by the United States Marine Corps Reserve Association by bringing a **NEW, UNWRAPPED TOY** to the November 21st Dinner, where they will be collected by our favorite Marines. **Let's show them how generous we can be!**

### Colorado All Service Academy Ball

The 42nd Colorado All Service Academy Ball will be held on Tuesday December 30th, 2025 at the Omni Hotel, 500 Interlocken Blvd. in Broomfield, Colorado 80021 from 4:30 PM—12:00 AM. For more information and reservations go to <https://Coloradoasab.org/register>. Ticket price increases Nov. 16th. Sales close December 21st.

**Veterans Day** November 11th 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!**

#### 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 Update

*By Don Price, Association  
President*



The boat remains in overhaul at Pearl Harbour Naval Shipyard but has now left drydock and is pierside. The overhaul has not been impacted by the government shutdown with retesting of equipment after refurbishment going well and only a low percentage of equipment needing retest.

The ship is on track to complete overhaul in July of next year and will be the first Block III Virginia Class to complete that milestone.

The Association supported the boat in October by helping procure supplies for a family Halloween Party and facilitating the boat's participation in a Summit County School District Veterans Day celebration.

Also in October LCDR. Evan Parrish relieved CDR. Eric Stromme as XO. CDR. Stromme is headed to PACFLT for his shore tour as Deputy Executive Assistant to Commander, US Pacific Fleet. In promotion news, in August, three of COLORADO's First Class Petty Officers were selected for advancement to Chief Petty Officer.

Finally, there is much speculation as to where COLORADO will go after the overhaul. While the original plan was for the boat to return to Groton, there is a possibility that they could be homeported in Perth, Australia as part of the AUKUS agreement. The current administration is undergoing a review of the AUKUS policy, and nothing will be determined before that review is complete. There is also a possibility that COLORADO will remain at Pearl Harbour.

Time will tell!

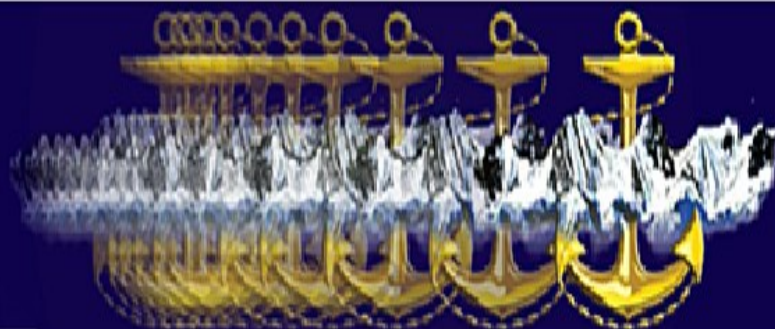
*We have many wonderful photographs taken by our very professional Navy League photographer. His name is Joe Suchman or maybe Joe Scuba. Check out his work at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/131150115@N07/albums/>.*





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## Denver Council News

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### Awards/Honors

During the September 2025 Dinner Meeting, the Council honored top performing recruiters Sergeant Lindsey A. Bond, USMC and Staff Sergeant Wesley C. Whitney, USMC of the U.S. Marine Corps Recruiting Station Denver. Congratulations to the honorees.

### Legislative Affairs *by Chris Schutzenberger*

#### ***Support the Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5401)!***

#### **THE ISSUE**

During a government shutdown, members of the Armed Service are required to report for duty, but remain unpaid until Congress passes a budget and the government reopens. The Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5401) ensures that members of the military receive pay and benefits during a shutdown. The bill protects members of the military, including the Coast Guard, as well as U.S. Department of Defense civilian employees and contractors who directly support the Armed Services, until regular appropriations are enacted or until January 1, 2027.

#### **THE SOLUTION**

On September 16th, 2025, Congresswoman Jen Kiggans (VA-02) reintroduced the Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5401) to address the need for assured pay, allowances, and benefits for the Armed Forces including Coast Guard personnel, during a lapse in government funding. The Navy League of the United States, on behalf of our 30,000 members across the country, ask Members of Congress to support this bill.

#### **WHY YOU SHOULD TAKE ACTION**

"The men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our country should never go without a paycheck," says Congresswoman Jen Kiggans, a Navy veteran and member of the House Armed Services Committee. "Our servicemembers should never have to worry about missing a paycheck because Washington can't do its job. As we continue working to keep the government open, my bill will give our troops the financial certainty they deserve."

#### **TAKE ACTION**

To send letters to your members of Congress, you may do so through the following Navy League webpage: Hold down the ctrl key and click the link.

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/payourtroops/> .

### Sea Cadet Update

Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado cadets continue to exemplify leadership, service, and resilience through hands-on training and community engagement. From field operations to public event support, cadets are developing essential life and leadership skills that reflect the Navy's core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

In August, the cadets were at the Condie Farm in Longmont for an immersive field operations weekend. Cadets participated in a comprehensive safety briefing before setting up camp and engaging in hands-on exercises, including medical training, controlled access simulations, radio communications, and night missions. Between field games and mission drills, cadets demonstrated teamwork, adaptability, and hard work—embracing tent life with enthusiasm, enjoying hearty chow, and maintaining high morale throughout the demanding weekend.

In September, the cadets proudly volunteered at the Loveland Air Show, supporting the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds and The Airshow Network. Over two full days, more than 40 cadets and 10 adult volunteers contributed a total of 665 service hours, assisting with ticket scanning, credentialing, and guest escorting in the corporate chalets, box seats and VIP flightline areas. Despite the hot weather and long hours, the cadets persevered and earned the respect of event organizers. The Airshow Network made a generous donation to the unit in recognition of their exemplary service.

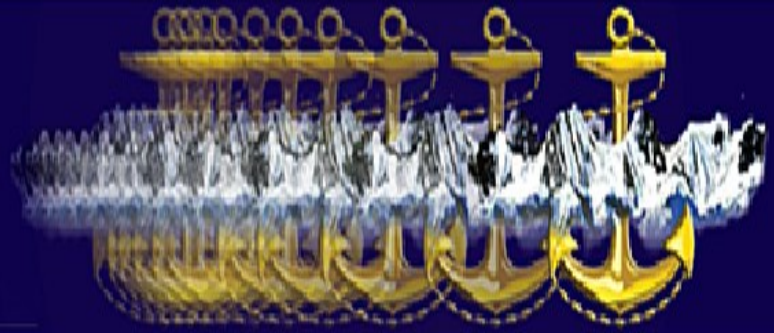


October brought the cadets back to home base at Buckley Space Force Base, and we also got back to basics. Cadets were placed in squads and focused on drilling, radio operations, rope tying, and land navigation. The squads competed against each other, earning points in each area.. Sea Cadets also enjoyed a spirited game of Jeopardy, with squad



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## Denver Council

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### (Sea Cadets continued)

three betting everything in the Final Jeopardy round. They ended up winning when they knew that RADM. Andrew Lennon (Ret.) is the Executive Director of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

Also very special in October was a visit with CDR . Len Deemer, USN (Ret). He brought some Lexington Division memorabilia for us to keep and he visited with our cadets. He was impressed with the size of our unit and the number of staff who volunteer. We were able to thank him for his generous support of our program and he was presented with a challenge coin. We look forward to his next visit.



The Colorado Sea Cadets thank the Navy League of Denver for their continued support in helping develop the next generation of leaders.

*Sonja Asper*



Navy Ball. Bring on the Steaks and Tiramisu!

*And smile nice for Joe Suchman's camera.*

### Proposed Slate of Candidates for November Council Election

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

#### Council Officers

President, Florence Mackin

Secretary, Gray Buckley

Treasurer, Pam Quin

#### Executive Board

Membership Recruiting, Kathleen Branch

Council Contact, Youth Programs, David Fong

Social Media, Florence Mackin

Media and Public Relations, Joe Suchman

Council Chaplain, Gray Buckley

Legislative Affairs, Chris Schutzenberger

Council Awards, Joe Mahaffey, Art Cyphers

Membership Retention, **OPEN**

Newsletter, **OPEN**

Navy Ball, **OPEN**

Meeting Coordinator, **OPEN**

Programs, **OPEN**

Member-at-Large, Ed Duffett

The Council is seeking volunteers for the **OPEN** positions. Those interested in any position should email David Fong at [dfong@lexdiv.org](mailto:dfong@lexdiv.org). Board Members must be active members in good standing with the Denver Council of the Navy League.

#### 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 2025 and are a key element in supporting Council initiatives.



## November Holiday Dinner Meeting

**FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21st, 2025**

Your reservations may be made online no later than **Thursday, November 13th, 5 PM** via our Navy League RSVP Site:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/denver-council-dinner-friday-november-21--2025>

(Hold down ctrl and click on link)

If you prefer to RSVP by ground mail, please print this page, complete the form and send it to arrive **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY NOVEMBER 13th 5 PM** 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)

fmackin@mackinweb.net

NLUS Denver Council November Holiday Dinner

Friday, November 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**

**DIRECTIONS TO MEETING PLACE:**

**Hilton Garden Inn Denver Airport**

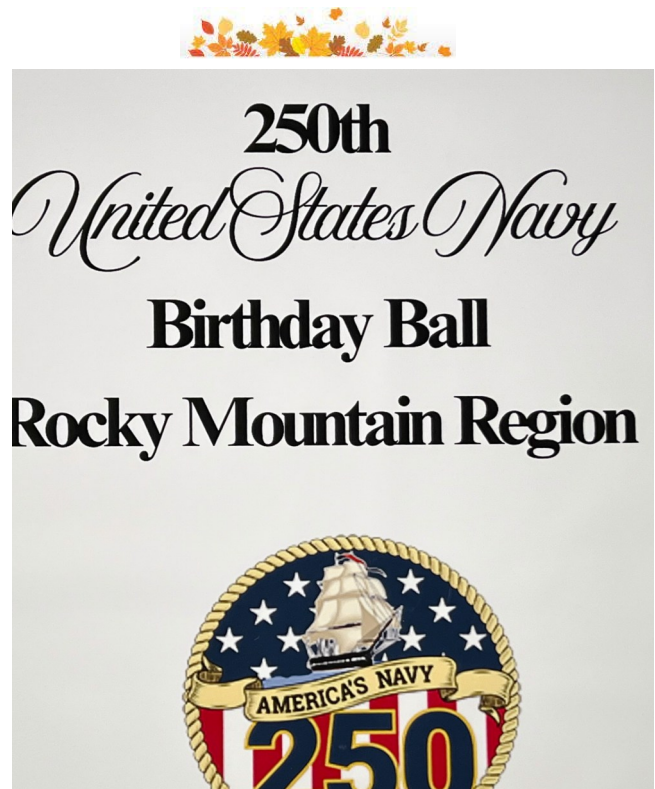
**16475 East 40th Circle**

**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**

The GALA Celebration of the United States Navy's 250th birthday (discussed on page one of the newsletter) included a beautiful setting, a delicious dinner, traditional toasts, a ceremony honoring our POW's and MIA's, music, dancing and the customary cutting of the cake by the oldest and youngest sailors present.

*Photos by Joe Suchman*



Here we have the case of the oldest and the youngest, cutting the beautiful big ole sheet cake, with the handsome master of ceremonies. Not enough room to show the cake, too bad. Joe got them to smile very nicely.