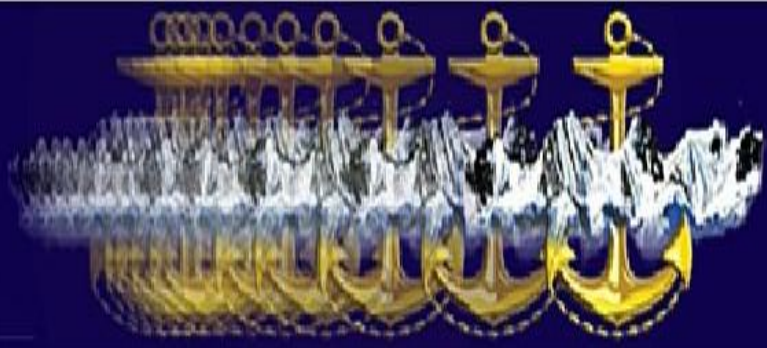




# NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

*Citizens in Support of the Sea Services*



**Denver Council Peak News, 17 (1)**

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## Denver Council September 18th, 2026 Fall Dinner Meeting Hosting Local Career Educator Chris Stofac, MEd and honoring Marine Corps Recruiting Station Denver and our Sea Cadet Unit's Top Performers

Our September meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 18, 2026, at the American Legion Hall located at 6230 W 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Arvada, CO. Our guest speaker is Chris Stofac, a career educator at Peakview Elementary School in Centennial, CO.



Chris will share with us his experience with the Navy's "Educator at Sea" program. We will also honor Marine Corps Recruiting Station Denver and our Sea Cadet unit's Top Performers.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, October 23 for the 2026 Navy Birthday Ball. The Ball will be held at the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs. Registration will open this month.

I look forward to seeing you on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September

*Florence Mackin*

Denver Council President

## NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL

A celebration of the Navy's 251st Birthday will be held on Saturday, October 23rd, 2026, at the Antlers Hotel, 4 Cascade Avenue, Colorado Springs, Colorado. **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!** More information about this GALA event will be found on our Denver Council Navy League website at:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/navy-ball--2026-3>.

## Chris Stofac, Med

Chris Stofac was born in Los Angeles, California in 1968. He spent most of his life living in Colorado, with stints in Missouri, Wisconsin, Maine and Arizona. A 1991 graduate of the University of Colorado, he went back to school in 1995 to earn a teaching degree at Arizona State University and graduated in May 1997 with a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

He began his 28-year teaching career at Peakview Elementary School in Centennial, CO in June 1997 and remained there until his retirement in 2025. After retirement, he briefly worked as a ramp agent for Southwest airlines before going back to the Cherry Creek School District as a substitute in January 2026. This year he will start the school year as a substitute for a former teammate who is taking maternity leave through Fall Break.

Chris currently lives in the Park Hill neighborhood of Denver with his wife, Laura and his stepdaughter, Bella who's a sophomore at CU. As a family they enjoy traveling, golfing and time with their two dogs Gizmo and Ruperto.



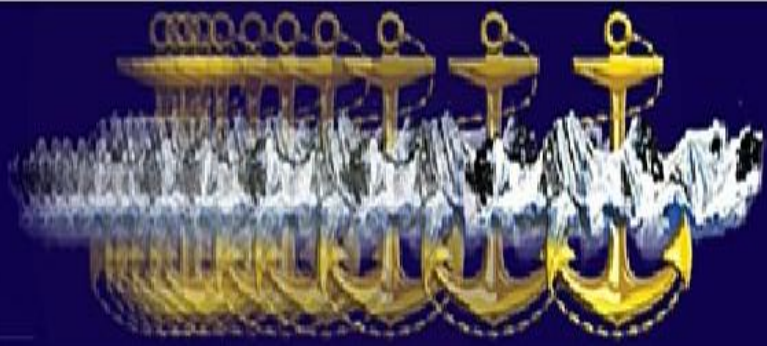
The Navy League runs the Educators at Sea Program to give teachers a 24-hour behind-the-scenes look at life aboard an active-duty U.S. Navy aircraft carrier.

Chris was introduced to "Educators at Sea" in 2022 through a phone call with Pam Quin, the Treasurer of the Denver Council. He was presented with the opportunity to spend time aboard the USS Nimitz with the understanding that he would share his experiences with young people. Of course, he responded with an enthusiastic yes! Since August of 2022 well over one hundred children have seen and heard his presentation and on September 18th, he will share that presentation with the Denver Council.



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## **May Dinner Meeting Hosted Colonel Matthew Zummo, USMC, Commanding Officer NROTC Unit, University of Colorado and Honored Top Performers from the Navy Reserve Center, Denver.**

Col. Zummo's inspiring presentation included sage advice to the NROTC scholarship recipients and sea service academy appointees in attendance about what to expect and how to navigate the challenges they were about to face.

### **Awards/Honors**

During the May 2026 Dinner Meeting the Council honored the following top performing personnel of the second quarter FY 2026 from the Navy Reserve Center Denver: Blue Jacket Yeoman Seaman D'Maria Graves, Junior Sailor Logistic Specialist Second Class Andres Quiroz and Senior Sailor Hospital Corpsman First Class Robert Davis III. During the upcoming September Dinner Meeting the Council will honor top performing recruiter from the Marine Corps Recruiting Station Denver. Congratulations to all honorees.

### **Sea Cadet Update**

**May-July 2026: Lexington Division and Training Ship Colorado (LEX 151)** advanced through a busy early summer training cycle marked by outdoor skills, maritime readiness and community service. Cadets demonstrated resilience and professionalism across three distinct evolutions: mountain-environment field training, small-craft sailing, and Independence Day parade support.

**May Drill (16-17 May): Buena Vista Field Training:** Cadets conducted a full overnight field-training evolution in Buena Vista, beginning with muster and departure from Woolly Mammoth Park-N-Ride. The weekend emphasized outdoor leadership, physical conditioning, and teamwork as the unit transitioned from travel to a structured training environment. Upon arrival at Arrowhead Point Campground, cadets set up camp, completed a unit hike through the surrounding terrain, and participated in evening chow, hygiene routines, and accountability checks that reinforced discipline and readiness.

Sunday began with reveille and morning chow before cadets broke down camp and prepared for the day's water based evolution. The Unit moved to the rafting site, where cadets executed a controlled rafting run under instructor supervision. The evolution strengthened water-safety fundamentals, teamwork, and confidence in dynamic outdoor conditions. After completing the rafting rotation, the unit returned to Golden for final muster, accountability, and dismissal.

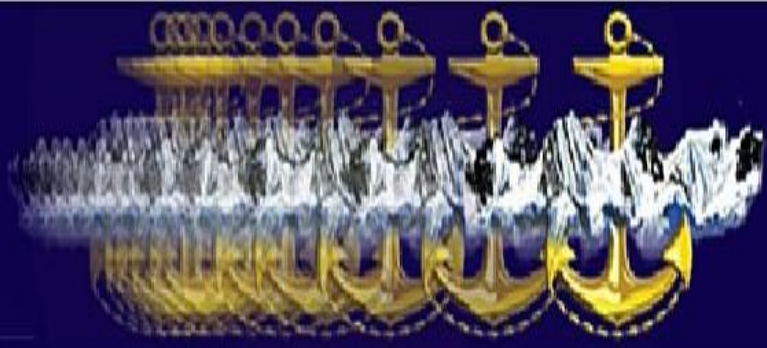
**June Drill (06 June): Supply Day & Sailing Day (Chatfield Reservoir):** LEX-151 conducted a focused one-day maritime training evolution at Chatfield Reservoir, giving cadets practical exposure to small-craft handling and on-water seamanship.





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Cadets were divided into two sailing groups, allowing instructors to work closely with each team and ensure everyone received meaningful time on the water. After arrival and accountability, each group completed a safety briefing covering lifejacket procedures, shoreline emergency actions, and basic sailing hazards. Once underway, cadets practiced steering, balance, sail trim, and coordinated crew communication while navigating shifting wind conditions. Instructors demonstrated controlled turns and course corrections, and cadets applied these skills directly during their rotations. The evolution strengthened water confidence, teamwork, and situational awareness—key competencies for future maritime training. The unit funded more than \$1,000 of the event costs to ensure broad cadet participation and maintain high-quality training opportunities.

**July Community Service (4 July): Greeley Stampede Parade:** LEX-151 proudly marched in the 104th Greeley Stampede Independence Day Parade, joining one of Colorado's largest July 4th celebrations. Cadets mustered at 0830 at staging Location #82 Blue and stepped off alongside more than a hundred parade en-tries and thousands of spectators lining 10th Avenue. Wearing **Dress Whites**, cadets presented sharp military bearing throughout the route, reflecting the professionalism of the unit during this historic America 250 Colorado 150 celebration. Adult staff supported the formation in Dress Whites or Khakis, maintaining a cohesive appearance. The parade concluded at Lincoln Park, where cadets were safely released to families following established accountability procedures.

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)

**LTJG Jason Chunhsing Chen.MBA/MS**

## **USS COLORADO UPDATE**



In June USS Colorado finished a nearly two-year overhaul at the Pearl Harbor, Hawaii Naval shipyard 29 days early and has been returned to the Navy's operational forces. To help celebrate this significant accomplishment several Association members traveled to Hawaii on June 29th for a visit to the boat hosted by the Colorado's crew.

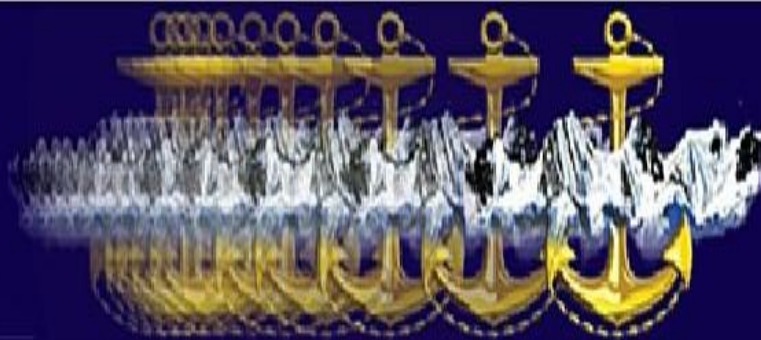
The visit included tours of the submarine and submarine base training facilities, exposure to historical artifacts, an invitation to dine with the boat's leadership team at a local restaurant with gorgeous views, attendance at celebratory gatherings of the crew, and the honor of chipping in and preparing a noon meal for crew members. Additionally, after attending a picnic and awards ceremony on the pier, Association members presented special challenge coins to each crewman commemorating the overhaul completion.

**Please remember to keep up with your Navy League National and Local 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 are a key element in supporting Council initiatives.**



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Overall, Association members were thrilled and inspired by the visit and expressed their thanks and appreciation to Colorado's crew members, especially Commanding Officer Justin Reeves and wife Marci Reeves, Executive Officer LCDR Evan Parrish and Chief of the Boat FTCS(SS) James Kaler for their outstanding hospitality they showed to us during our visit.

The boat has a heavy operational schedule ahead of them for the rest of the year. We wish them Godspeed.



**The group, escorted by Marci Reeves (at right)**



**Diamondhead in the Distance**

September 18<sup>th</sup>, Fall Dinner Meeting  
5 pm Social Hour 6 pm Dinner

Your reservations may be made online no later than Sunday, September 13, 6 pm via our Navy League RSVP site:

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/denver-council-dinner-september--2026>

If you need to RSVP by ground mail, please print this page, complete the form and send it to arrive **NO LATER THAN SATURDAY September 12th**, with a check for \$35.00 per plate payable to NLUS Denver Council

**OR Call the phone number below to make your reservation and PAY AT THE DOOR if there isn't time for the mail.**

Mrs. Florence Mackin  
2137 Night Sky Lane  
Lafayette, CO 80026  
720-291-9771 [fmackin@mackinweb.net](mailto:fmackin@mackinweb.net)

**RESERVATION REQUEST for NLUS Denver Council May 2026 Gala Dinner, Thursday, May 21, 2026**  
**5:00PM Social Hour      6:00PM Dinner**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Guests(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Dinners \_\_\_\_\_

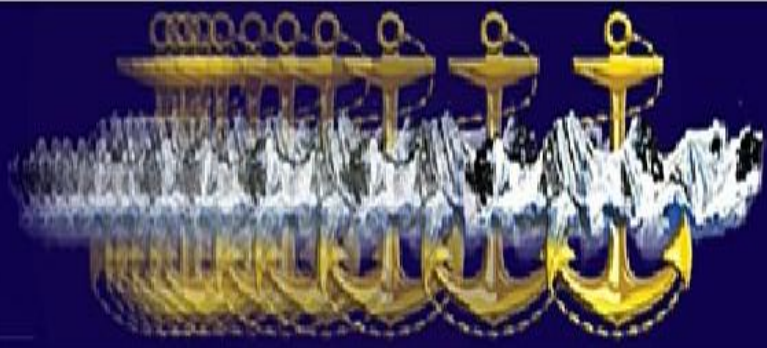
**MEETING PLACE:**

**American Legion Hall Post 161  
6230 West 60th Avenue  
Arvada, CO. 80003**



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## Proposed Slate of Candidates for November 2026 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 preliminary candidates are:

### Council Officers:

- President, OPEN
- Secretary, Gray Buckley
- Treasurer, OPEN

### Executive Board:

- Membership, Kathleen Branch
- Council Contact, Florence Mackin
- Youth Programs, David Fong
- Social Media, OPEN
- Media and Public Relations, Joe Suchman
- Council Chaplain, Gray Buckley
- Legislative Affairs, Chris Schutzenberger
- Council Awards, OPEN
- Newsletter Editor, OPEN
- Navy Ball, OPEN
- Programs, OPEN
- Member-At-Large, Art Cyphers

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.



**Rafting Evolution**



**Greeley Stampede, July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade**

### Other Online Resources:

Control + Click to follow link

#### Navy League National:

<https://www.navyleague.org/>

#### Denver Council Navy League:

[www.navyleague-denvercouncil.org/](http://www.navyleague-denvercouncil.org/)

#### Denver Council Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DenverCouncil/>

#### USS Colorado (SSN-788) Submarine Association

<https://usscoloradosubassoc.org>