



The Bosun's Pipe

Newsletter of the Navy League of the United States – Annapolis Council, Annapolis, Maryland

Volume 3 – Issue 2

Summer 2016 | July August September

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President's Letter



Navy League Annapolis Council has had many activities over the summer months. You will read about them within these pages. Proudly pictured are our Navy League cadets, trained by the best officers and supported by the best parents.

Changes come in the Navy and in our League Cadet program. The *Change of Command Ceremony* is very poignant. Our council is saying farewell to an outstanding leader within our cadet program. *Cathy Coble* has been a leader and Commanding Officer to hundreds of young men and women as LCDR of *Training Ship Reina Mercedes*. When her now grown cadets attended her Change of Command Ceremony, it was with gratitude and pride for this outstanding leader.

Where are most moms every other Saturday throughout the year? Home with their families. Not so for Cathy. In summer heat and winter cold, Cathy is with her "troops", her cadets. Sacrifice, commitment, service, patriotism, citizenship, resilience are all part of who she is to her cadets. Add her pride, love for the kids, her guidance, her skills, her success, her striving to be the best and maintain that ranking for her cadets, and you have a small sprinkling of her many gifts and her generous sharing of herself. You will be missed, LCDR Coble. A woman like you does not walk our way too often. Our

council salutes you and thanks you. We are blessed for knowing you as a leader and friend. God go with you.

Outstanding women, like Cathy, have made history for taking the lead, for being the first and for being the best. Mary Walker, in 1866, was the first Woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Sacred Twenty, in 1908, were the first women to serve in the US Navy as nurses. First woman to enlist in the Marines was Opha May Johnson in 1918 and twin sisters Genevieve and Lucille Baker were the first uniformed women to serve in the Coast Guard. In 1942, Anna Leah Fox was the first woman awarded the Purple Heart in the attacks on Pearl Harbor.



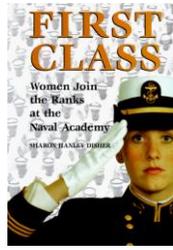
And in 1976, women first began to attend the service academies. Sorry to say their names are not listed. However, these leaders, these first women, deserve to be named and honored. There were thirty fellow female midshipmen who honored one of the First Class at USNA on 21 September at Navy Club. *Sharon Disher* spoke to these current plebes, youngsters, second class and firsties of the challenges and the courage and the grit of that Class of

1980. Sharon was one of the first women to attend, to pave the way, to do it. Her name was not listed in the notice of firsts in 1976. That warm September evening cast a glow on her, lit a path that connected her soundly and lovingly with those that followed in her footsteps. Navy honors its own.

Serving your Navy League,

Helen Fitzgerald,
Annapolis Council Navy League President
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40 YEARS LATER
WE CELEBRATE
THE WOMEN OF
THE CLASS OF
1980!



Navy League Annapolis Council Dinner Meeting



Photo: Left to Right – Seated: Dale Lumme-USNA '80, MIDN 2/C Emily Peterson-Benediction, Treasurer Joy Bright Hancock Organization, Sharon Hanley Disher-USNA '80 – Standing: MIDN 4/C Julia Kalshoven-JBHO, Helen Fitzgerald-President NLUS Annapolis Council, MIDN 3/C Kennedy Bingham-Invocation, Natanya Levioff-Travis Manion Foundation, Caroline Phillips-Navy League U.S. League Cadet

On **September 21st**, members and guests including 28 current U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen, Navy League U.S. Sea & League Cadet women met at the historic Naval Academy Club for the Annapolis Council's first glimpse into the First Class of female midshipmen with guest speaker, Sharon Hanley Disher, USNA '80.

In 1998, Mrs. Disher published her book entitled *First Class – Women Join the Ranks at the Naval Academy*, a story about the first class with both women and men at the Naval Academy. She currently is the owner of Annapolis Redesigns, LLC and founder and director of Y.E.S. – Young Engineers and Scientists: an after school engineering and science program for underserved elementary school children in Annapolis, Maryland.

Sharon graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1980 in the first class with women and men. She served in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps for ten years including her last tour of duty as the Officer in Charge of Construction Battalion Unit 414 in New London, Connecticut, where she was the second woman in the navy to ever hold such a position.

She is married to Tim Disher, a retired naval submariner. Her twins, Alison and Brett, are 2010 graduates of the Naval Academy serving in the Navy and Marine Corps respectively, and her youngest son, Matthew, is a Naval Academy member of the Class of 2013.

The first female midshipmen arrived with the Class of 1980 on Induction Day July 6, 1976. Four years later, 55 women from that class graduated. Since then, more than 4,600 women have graduated from the Naval Academy. The most recent graduating class included 204 women, and the current plebe class boasts the largest number of women in any service academy's history with 324!



At the close of our evening together, Mrs. Disher's book, *First Class*, was available for purchase and personal autograph. It was a SELLOUT!

Photo: LEFT - Sharon Disher with MIDN 4/C Julia Kalshoven RIGHT – Sharon Disher with Cadets Baublitz, Phillips and MIDN 3/C Kennedy Bingham



NAVAL HISTORY & TRADITIONS: CHANGE OF COMMAND



The line officer of today's US Navy looks forward to the time when – with added years and varied experience in the sea service – he or she will be ordered to command a ship. The orders will be issued by the Chief of Naval Personnel in approximately these words:

“Proceed to the port in which Training Ship *Reina Mercedes* may be and upon arrival, report to your immediate superior in command, if present, otherwise by message, for duty as commanding officer

of Training Ship *Reina Mercedes*.”

At this point the new CO [commanding officer] will be participating, for the first time actively, in the “change of command” ceremony. What is the tradition of the change of command?

Very little has been written on the subject. The basic sources, outside of custom and tradition are Navy regulations. The first mention of the ceremony in Navy regulations occurs during the Civil War; there has been little change in the procedures of the change of command since then.

The 1865 edition of *Regulations for the Government of the United States Navy* in Article 3, Section 1, no.72, says: When a Commodore, Captain, or any other officer is appointed to the command of a single vessel, he will, if she be at a navy yard and ready to be transferred to him, make, in company with the Commanding Officer of the yard, or some other proper officer or officers appointed by such Commanding Officer for the purpose, a thorough personal examination of her, and inform himself as to all her arrangements and preparations of equipment; after which the transfer is to be formally made in the presence of as many of her officers and crew as can be assembled, before whom his appointment is to be read; and then the vessel is to be placed in commission by hoisting her ensign and pendant. If the vessel is already in commission, he is, nevertheless to examine her and inform himself as stated above, and to read to her officers and crew his appointment.

The 1990 edition of *United States Navy Regulations* in Article 0807, says that a “commanding officer about to be relieved of his command will: (a) inspect the command in company with the relieving officer, (b) In the case of a ship, and within other commands where appropriate, cause the crew to be exercised in the presence of both the commanding officer and the relieving officer at general quarters and general drills, unless conditions render it impracticable or inadvisable.”

Relating specifically to the change of command ceremony is the regulation that at the time of turning over command the outgoing CO will “call all hands to muster, read the order of detachment and turn over command to his or her relief, who will read the orders of relief and assume command. At shore activities, this procedure may be modified as appropriate.”

The change of command ceremony itself is under way when all hands are called to Quarters at the appointed hour. Sufficient room is left for the guests. The uniform is normally service dress with the official party in full dress uniform with medals and swords.

When the executive officer (XO) reports the crew at Quarters, the outgoing CO and his relief proceed to the ceremonial area together. The ceremony routine will generally include an honor guard to parade the national ensign, the singing or playing of the national anthem, and an invocation and benediction. After a brief speech, the outgoing officer reads the orders of detachment to the officers and crew, then turns to his relief and reports "I am ready to be relieved." The relieving officer steps forward and reads his or her orders to command, after which he salutes the outgoing officer and says, “I relieve you sir/ma'am.”

The new skipper typically will give a brief talk to the personnel of his or her new command and may include a statement that standing orders will remain in effect. He then turns to the executive officer and orders the XO to continue with ship's routine.

The ceremony is over and he or she is now CO of Training Ship *Reina Mercedes*. Navy regulations also specify that "the officer relieved, though without authority after turning over the command, is, until final departure, entitled to all ceremonies and distinctions accorded a commanding officer.”

Adapted from: “How Did It Start: Change of Command Ceremony.” *All Hands* 451 (September 1954): 57.

NAVAL HISTORY & TRADITIONS: CHANGE OF COMMAND

Navy League U.S. Training Ship Reina Mercedes Change of Command Ceremony!

On *September 17th*, the Navy League U.S. Annapolis Council Board, Cadets, Officers, Instructors and Staff of Training Ship Reina Mercedes gathered at the Old Navy Exchange for the Change of Command Ceremony where Lieutenant Commander Cathy Coble, NSCC was relieved by LTJG Emilio Balay, NSCC. Coble Commander Coble received the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps Distinguished Service Award and the Recognition of Community Service Award from Mayor's office and the Navy League U. S.



Photo: ENS Purnell sings our National Anthem! Cadets Baublitz, Phillips and Ognissanti present Colors! LTJG Balay, Commander Coble, Commander Franklin salute!



Photo: Left to Right – Cadets Parsons, Jackson, T. Kang, E. Kang, Baublitz, Phillips, Ognissanti, ENS Purnell



Photo: LCDR Cathy Coble with USNSCC Presenter, Region 052 Director LCDR Rolanda Franklin



Photo: CMDR Coble and LTJG Balay

NAVY LEAGUE ANNAPOLIS COUNCIL MEMBERS: REPRESENT!

NLUS Annapolis Council Host Spanish Naval Academy Cadet!

On **July 20th**, Navy League Annapolis Council Board of Directors welcomed Antonio DuFlo, the #1 ranked member of the Spanish Naval Academy Class of 2016 at a Pot Luck dinner at the home of NLUS Board Members Jerry & Jan Rapkin. Navy League U.S. Annapolis Council hosted Cadet DuFlo for his 4-day stay from 19-22 July.



Photo – Left: MIDN 1C Jared Gillie, USNA Host with Spanish Naval Academy Cadet Antonio DuFlo

NAVY LEAGUE ANNAPOLIS COUNCIL COMMUNITY IN ACTION!

Bowie Baysox Baseball!

On **August 5th**, Navy League U.S. Annapolis Council and MOAH enjoyed Navy Night with the Bowie Baysox with “special guests” U.S. Naval Academy Class of 2020 Midshipmen-Candidate Plebes.

*Photo: Left to Right – Top: Marla and Jeff Miles
Bottom: Phil and Linda Ferrera*



Photo: Bette & Darryl Christian and granddaughters



NAVY LEAGUE TRAINING SHIP REINA MERCEDES CADETS: REPRESENT!

Travis Manion 911 Heroes Run

On *September 11th*, the Color Guard represented the Training Ship Reina Mercedes Color Guard at the annual 911 Heroes Run at Navy Marine Corp Stadium.



Photo: Left to Right – Cadets McGrath, Snidow, Phillips, Governor Hogan, Cadets E.Kang, T. Kang, Ognissanti

Greenbelt Labor Day Parade

On *September 5th*, under the leadership of SLPO Balay, the TS Reina Mercedes Color Guards performed with "Tip-Top" professionalism from beginning to end of the Greenbelt Labor Day Parade.



Photo: Left to Right – Cadets E. Kang, Baublitz, Phillips, Volcy, T. Kang

Bowie Baysox Game

On *August 26th*, TS Reina Mercedes Color Guard presents colors for Bowie BaySox Game to honor Veterans.



Photo: Left to Right - Cadets McGrath, Purnell, Baublitz, Phillips, Ognissanti

Nationals Baseball Game

On *August 9th*, Training Ship Reina Mercedes Color Guard presents colors for pre-game ceremony for Nationals vs Cleveland Indians for a crowd of +30,000 fans!



Photo: Left to Right – Cadets E. Kang, Purnell, Balay, Baublitz, Phillips, T. Kang

NAVY LEAGUE TRAINING
SHIP REINA MERCEDES
CADETS: IN ACTION!

Fleet & Family Fun Day!

On **August 21st**, Training Ship Reina Mercedes Cadets were welcomed to Fleet & Family Fun Day by Orioles mascot “The Oriole Bird”!



Photos: Left to Right – Cadets Snidow and Ocasio



Cadets Balay and Purnell

Pipe Out! Cadet Ocasio

On **August 21st**, Training Ship Reina Mercedes Cadet Ocasio was Piped Out!



Photo: Left to Right – Cadets, Camfield, Smedley, E.Kang, Purnell, Ocasio, McGrath, Balay, Snidow, Ognissanti, Baublitz, Glover, T. Kang, Crawford



Cadet Ognissanti



Cadet Phillips



The Bosun's Pipe

Training!

On **July 17th through July 23rd**, Training Ship Reina Mercedes Cadets attended training at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Cape May.



*Standing: Cadets Jackson, Baublitz, Phillips
Kneeling: Cadets Burson, Glover, Parsons*

Sailing!

On **July 11th**, The National Sailing Center Hall of Fame provided the Training Ship Reina Mercedes Cadets the opportunity to sail the 1860's replica sloops "Bull" and "Bear" on the Severn River/Chesapeake Bay.



Leadership Training!

On **July 10th**, Training Ship Reina Mercedes Cadets attended – and successfully graduated from – League Cadet Corps Leadership Academy Advanced Training at Fort Indiantown Gap Combined Training Command, NSCC.



*Cadets M. Russo, Snidow, Volcy, E. Kang, Brown, Balay,
Purnell, Kim, LTJG Balay, T. Kang, Meekins, Mia Russo*

NLUS ANNAPOLIS COUNCIL

2016 ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER!

ZUMWALT (DDG 1000)



The Council's primary focus in October will be the Commissioning of USS ZUMWALT (DDG 1000) on October 15th in the Port of Baltimore.

For more information on how you can support this event, please see: <http://usszumwalt.org/commissioning-2016/>

This event coincides with 2016 Baltimore Fleet Week - for more information go to:

<http://www.visitmaryland.org/list/maryland-fleet-week-air-show-baltimore-events>

HALLOWEEN AT FISHER

HOUSE



For years the Council has prepared and distributed Halloween Candy Baskets to five different Fisher Houses at Walter Reed National Medical Center at

Bethesda. This always anticipated event is wonderfully received by those at Fisher House and once again this all volunteer effort will be headed up by Janet Bouvier.

In order to provide five "cauldrons" of candy the Council appreciates your generous contributions of candy treats. Candy treats may be dropped off at the home of our Council President, Helen Fitzgerald no later than October 20th.

Trick or Treat?

528 Francis Nicholson Way
Annapolis, MD 21401

NOVEMBER!

MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY - TRAVIS MANION FOUNDATION



Save the date! Wednesday, November 9th

While this event is still in the planning stages - please save Wednesday, November 9th for a celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday and to welcome The Travis Manion Foundation as our guests. We anticipate this will be a seated dinner at the Naval Academy Club beginning at 6:00 p.m.

<http://www.travismanion.org/>

<http://aroundmainline.com/living/if-not-me-then-who-the-travis-manion-story.html>

DECEMBER!

CHRISTMAS IN ANNAPOLIS



Save the date! Wednesday, December 14th

Please save the evening of December 14th for a special event being planned - Christmas in Annapolis!