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October, 2017

Community Affiliates
AMI International
Evergreen Mayflower
First Command Financial Planning
General Dynamics NASSCO
Kitsap Bank
Navy Federal Credit Union
Navy Museums NW
Olympic College Foundation
Our Place Pub and Eatery
Pacific NW Defense Coalition
Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems
Suquamish Clearwater Casino
Wells Fargo Advisors Financial Network

Happy 242nd Birthday to the United States Navy
October 11, 2017

Our October 10th Luncheon Speaker
Commander, Naval Region Northwest
RDML Gary Mayes

This Month’s luncheon Speaker is RDML Gary Mayes Commander Navy Region Northwest. We are honored to have Rdml Mayes help us celebrate the Navy’s 242th birthday this month.

Commander, Navy Region Northwest provides consolidated base operations support for Navy activities in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming and Alaska. The Commander oversees the assigned shore organization and provides facilities and space management, exercise coordination, and support to homeported and transient ships, submarines, and aircraft as well as afloat and ashore tenants, military and family members.

RDML Mayes was raised in Indianapolis. He graduated from Purdue University with a BS in 1987 and received his commission from Aviation Officer Candidate School in 1988. He was designated a naval aviator in 1989. He also earned a Master of Military Studies from the United States Marine Corps Command and Staff College and graduated from the Joint Forces Staff College.

Mayes’ had operational assignments in the SH-60B/R involved tours with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 48 and 46. He served as the executive officer and commanding officer, HSL 44.

He participated in operations in Haiti, South America, the Mediterranean, Red, and Adriatic Seas and the Persian Gulf. He served as the officer in charge of a combined East and West Coast HSL/HSM detachment of 16 helicopters conducting rescue and humanitarian missions in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Mayes logged over 3,300 flight hours in fixed and rotary wing aircraft.

Ashore assignments include Naval Air Station Guantanamo Bay, Senate Liaison Officer, Naval Aide to the Vice President; Administrative Aide to the Secretary of the Navy, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Coronado; and Deputy Director, Plans and Programs, for Commander, Navy Installations Command. Prior to his promotion to Mayes was Executive Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment.

Luncheons are held on the second Tuesday of the month. The next two luncheons will be on:
October 10th
November 7th
Location for luncheons is the Bangor Conference Center, Trident Ballroom, NBK, Bangor. Doors open at 11:00. Lunch begins at 11:30.
To register, call Reality Station at 360 377-5699.

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President's Corner

There is absolutely no room for rest in this Council! This week most of the Council leadership will be in Norfolk VA the first week in October celebrating the commissioning of the USS Washington (SSN-787). Functioning as the USS Washington Commissioning Committee, our council members have been working for over 4 years to put on a successful commissioning 2500 miles from home. For those members who can’t attend in person we have arranged a Live Screening at McClouds Grillhouse at 9:00 AM PDT Saturday Oct 7, 2017, It will be live streamed on facebook and on http://navylive.dodlive.mil/

Meanwhile other Members lead by Sandra Smith are hard at work preparing for the Kitsap County Veterans Day Ceremony. It will be held at the Kitsap sun Pavilion, Kitsap County Fairgrounds. The doors open at 9:00 AM so that you can view the many displays and visit the 25 booths. Vintage military uniforms and vehicles will be on display. Arrive early so that you can find a place to sit as over 1800 people are expected to attend. The actual program begins at 10:30 am with pomp and circumstance of a very formal Parade of Colors.

USS Buffalo (SSN–715) Tour Photos

Last month we reported on the USS Buffalo tour. Here are some photos from that outstanding event. Thanks again to Commanding Officer CDR Micah D. Maxwell and the entire crew!!!

NOW HEAR THIS online: http://bremolympicnlus.wordpress.com
In September, our scheduled speaker Capt Gregory Huffman, Commanding Officer of the USS John C Stennis, was called away. We hope to have CAPT Huffman come speak soon.

The Speaker for our September Luncheon Was CDR Homer Ring. He graciously agree to speak on short notice. CDR Ring has successfully completed a Shipyard Decommissioning Availability as Commanding Officer USS Houston (SSN-713).

In keeping with our Theme of reviewing the War in the Pacific portion of the 75th Anniversary of WW II. CDR Ring Related the Second War patrol of the USS Trout SS 202.

It was January 1942 and the US Army in the Philippines was running out of Anti Aircraft ammunition. The USS Trout was stripped of all of unessential gear and loaded with 3,500 rounds of mechanically-fuzed, high altitude ammunition for the defenders of Corregidor. A submarine was needed to elude the Japanese forces. After the shells were delivered Trout needed to take on ballast to allow it to submerge. Trout's request for Sandbags was denied, but a compromise was reached. The Army needed to evacuate the Philippine Gold supply to ensure it wouldn't be captured. So USS Trout took on 20 tons of gold as ballast.

Read more: The Golden Patrol of USS Trout (SS-202) http://corregidor.org/chs_trident/
This week we celebrate the Commissioning of the USS Washington (SSN-787). Washington is the fourteenth Virginia Class Submarine. It will be Commissioned at 8:00 AM PDT on October 7, 2017 at Pier 12 Norfolk Naval Station, Norfolk VA.

We have arranged a large screen viewing at McClouds Grillhouse in East Bremerton. The Ceremony will be streamed live on http://navylive.dodlive.mil/

The USS Washington SSN-787, is the latest in a long line of ships bearing that name, the first being a 1775 schooner and the most recent before the SSN=787 was a World War II era North Carolina Class Battle ship, BB-56

The USS Washington SSN-787 crest contains images including Mount Rainier, the Seattle skyline, evergreen trees, and silhouettes of the previous two USS Washington’s.

The central image is of the submarine, coming forth from the waters of the Puget Sound. The paint scheme is of local Native American art depicting an orca whale, the state’s official marine mammal. Along the top of the state border, 6 hollow stars represent previous naval vessels named for George Washington with 2 solid gold stars representing the previous ships named for the state. At the bottom, silver and gold submarine dolphins, represent the enlisted and officer warfare insignia respectively, sit atop a block of battleship armor plating.

The motto, “Preserving Peace, Prepared for War,” is derived from a quote from George Washington, “To be prepared for war is one of the most effective means of preserving peace.”

Set behind the state is a ring adorned with the official state tartan colored green (for the evergreen forests), blue (for the lakes, rivers, and ocean), white (for the snow-capped mountains), red (for the apple and cherry crops), yellow (for the wheat and grain crops), and black (for the eruption of Mount St. Helens).
Many Submarines have a display case onboard to display the submarine dolphins that each crew member will earn when they qualify in submarines. The crew of the Washington has adopted a ship’s crest with a Northwest Indian Motif. It has also taken to calling itself the blackfish after the indigenous Orca Whales. In order to establish a connection with the Northwest Natives of the Salish Sea, the Commissioning Committee solicited the design and construction of a presentation case crafted by master carver Samuel L White of the Lower Elwa S’Kallam Tribe located on the Strait of Juan De Fuca in the entrance to Puget Sound. The Orca whale is the Totem for the S’Kallum Tribe.

Included in the design is a Northwest Native rendition of Submarine Dolphins. The design illustrates the story of a legendary hunter of the deep, Natsilane, and alludes to the submarine’s mission of Anti Submarine Warfare.

Samuel White is a Lower Elwha S’Klallam Tribal member located in the Pacific Northwest of Washington State. Sam’s native name is phonetically pronounced “kooa–kowa–day” which means little bull head. Unfortunately, many of his names left to him by Dave Forlines where lost when a tape recording was stolen from him. He is a direct descendant of the Chicka–saw tribe in Oklahoma through his father. Sam is a father of 11 children. Sam is the Chief of Police for Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe which is a sister Tribe to his own.

Sam has been carving for near 30 years. Sam mostly has carved small carving for friends and family as gifts such as combs, rattles, masks, miniature canoes, full size paddles (functional and decorative) and plaques. Sam tries to keep as true to traditional carving as possible with a slight integration of modern contemporary native art. He tries to freehand the designs with nothing being exact or symmetrical. He was taught to if you carve good enough, no sandpaper would be needed. Sam feels he is improving every time but has lots to learn with each carving.

Sam has a family history of military service and is a proud father of his eldest son joining the Marines. That is why he is proud to be part of this project for the U.S.S. Washington.
KEYPORT, Wash (NNS) – Commander, Submarine Development Squadron 5 (DEVRON 5), held a combined change of command and squadron establishment ceremony at Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Sept. 26.

Capt. Stephen Mack, from Silver Spring, Maryland, relieved Capt. Robert Gaucher, from Pittsfield, Massachusetts, as commodore during the ceremony held at Barb Hall.

In addition to welcoming a new commodore, the Unmanned Undersea Vehicle Squadron (UUVRON) 1 was established, with Cmdr. Scott Smith, from Hartford, South Dakota, becoming its new commanding officer.

“It’s very important to note that today is not only a very important day for Capt. Steve Mack and me, but it is a historical day for the Navy, Submarine Force and DEVRON 5,” said Gaucher. “Today we are transitioning our UUV Detachment into the first UUV Squadron. Why is this historical? It’s because in standing up UUVRON 1, it shows our Navy’s commitment to the future of unmanned systems and undersea combat.”

Gaucher assumed command of DEVRON 5 March 23, 2016. During his leadership, Gaucher supported the development and launched the Navy’s first Unmanned Undersea Vehicle squadron, oversaw the successful deployments of the Seawolf-class fast attack submarines USS Connecticut (SSN 22) and USS Jimmy Carter (SSN 23), and provided Immediate Superior in Charge-level oversight of all three Seawolf-class submarines during major shipyard maintenance periods.

“I have truly enjoyed this tour and hate to turn over the reins, but if you read Steve Mack’s biography, you’ll see he has an exceptional resume and I know that he’ll do great as commodore,” said Gaucher. “To the team of DEVRON 5, it has been an honor to be your commodore.”

Gaucher’s next assignment will be in Norfolk, Virginia, where he will serve as the Chief of Staff for Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic.

“We have a strong group of devoted leaders in our commanding officers, officers-in-charge, and staff here on the DEVRON 5 team,” said Mack. “I am excited to be here serving with you and will endeavor to do my best every day to mentor, motivate, lead, drive, and work with you best to achieve your full personal and professional potential while we strive to reach our team goals in support of the submarine force and our great nation.”

Mack comes to DEVRON 5 from U.S. Pacific Command, where he served with the current operations division.

DEVRON 5 is charged with multiple submarine warfare mission areas to include submarine rescue operations and the activities of its three Seawolf-Class submarines. DEVRON 5 is responsible for developing and testing new submarine warfare capabilities, including the use of Unmanned Undersea Vehicles.
Upcoming Tours

January 2018 – So far, the plan involves 3 days & several commands. In order to accommodate our Luncheon, there are Alaska Airlines flights from Seattle to San Diego in the afternoon after our luncheon at 4 o'clock and 5:30.

Jan 10
Morning 2 hour harbor tour
Afternoon USS Midway

Jan 11
Morning harbor tour for those who couldn't get down on the 9th
Lunch at the Hotel Del Coronado
Noon or 1 PM – Navy Base Coronado
3 or 4 PM – Navy Seal training command Coronado

Jan 12
Morning Navy Base San Diego tour
Lunch at Anchors
Afternoon Miramar Marine Corps Air Station (being planned)

For more information or to sign up for tours, go to our web page https://bremolympicnlus.wordpress.com/2017/04/17/tour-planning-2/ or contact Byron at Email: byfaber@centurytel.net
Home: 360–638–1235
Cell: 360–434–1144

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Navy League of the United States
Mission Statement and Goals

A civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that it’s national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and the United States Merchant Marine.

Navy League Goals
1. Educate national leaders and the nation.
2. Support the men and women of the sea services.
3. Provide assistance to the sea service families.
4. Support the youth program.