



# NAVY LEAGUE

OF THE UNITED STATES  
"GREATER KANSAS CITY COUNCIL"



April 2020

Volume 16

## New Officers & Directors Installed at the Council's Dinner Annual Meeting



Navy League members and guests started the year with an evening dinner to recognize the newly elected Officers and Directors that will



lead our Council in 2020. Dick Sharrff administered the oath of Office to the new officers.

During the dinner the Council presented out going President Dick Scharff with the Navy League's Scroll of



Honor.

Once the official business of the Council was complete the members listen to a special presentation by two U.S. Army Colonels, Dr. Jerry Jaxx and Nancy Jaxx, both U. S. Army Veterinarians who took on the Ebola scare.

They shared their experiences from the frontlines of the alarming appearance of the virus in a Virginia Lab. Nancy Jaxx, a veterinary pathologist played a key role in managing the situation, which inspired the 1994 book, Hot Zone which is now adapted into a six-part miniseries on National Geographic. During an appointment as consultant to the Army Surgeon General, she was the Department of Defense's principal expert in the pathology of high hazard hemorrhagic fevers, with particular expertise in the Marburg and Ebola viruses. She is a recognized international expert on emerging zoonotic disease

issues, particularly in hemorrhagic fever viruses.

Dr. Jerry Jaxx has published and lectured nationally on bioterrorism, agroterrorism, emerging infectious disease issues, emergency response and research compliance. He also was heavily involved in the successful effort to build K-State's Biosecurity Research Institute and bring the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility to Manhattan, KS.

Both Jerry and Nancy Jaxx answered a number of questions following their presentation.



Dr. Jerry Jaxx

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**Out of concern for our members and their families due to the Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and after consultation with our Board, we will cancel upcoming luncheon meetings until further notice.**

# A Message from the President

First, I would like to offer my thanks to CAPT Dick Scharff, USN (Ret) for his tremendous leadership over the past two years and his friendship, and to the Board and the Membership for their confidence in me to assume the watch.

Overall, the Council has experienced tremendous success over the past years due to the work of our Council Presidents and other leaders who care so much about the Greater Kansas City Council and our mission to support the sea services.

I am pleased to report that our Council is on solid financial ground. I have introduced several strategic initiatives to the Board in the form of a Strategic Plan for 2020-2024 to continue building the Council through strength in membership, development and reputation

- Enhance the morale of sea service personnel and their families through council level programs.
- Provide a powerful voice to educate the public and Congress on the importance of our Sea

Services to our nation’s defense, well-being and economic prosperity.

- Support youth through programs such as the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Naval and Marine Corps JROTC that expose young people for the values of our Sea Services.

Your Board will work on raising the visibility of the Greater Kansas City Council by raising friends and raising funds this year. I have heard it said that “the Navy League is one of the oldest non-profits in the country that no one has ever heard of.” We will work to change this.

I look forward to working with the Board, the Council’s leadership and you, our members, to continue to make the Greater Kansas City Council even better.

Finally, our country is going through extraordinary times as we battle the COVID 19 virus. The Officers and Board of the Greater Kansas City Council wish you good health and offer our assistance. Please let any of us know if we can help.

Chuck

## LCS Kansas City in miniature

Our Council is participating in the commissioning of a model of the USS Kansas City (LCS 22). The model is currently under construction by five master ship model builders. When completed the model will be 52” long, 12.75” wide, and 19” high. Plans



are for the model to be publicly displayed at

the Kansas City Union Station. Discussions are underway with the Union Station regarding the displaying of the model and an unveiling event. Initial



plans were for the model to be completed in May and a tentative unveiling in June.

Due to the current corona virus situation there will now be a delay in the completion and the unveiling. More information will be forthcoming when available.

Model Sponsors, in addition to our Council are: Benny Lee, Jim Malouff, and Chapter 115, Military Order of the Purple Heart.

I have met with the some of the master model builders on a couple of occasions. Prior to beginning construction of the model they researched what drawings they could find of an Independence Class LCS, acquired photos, researched various details of the ship, then did a number of drawings. Their goal is to build a model that replicates the ship in all details possible.



The master model builders are: Ralph L Martin, John Zaiger, Larry Todd, and Ted Berard. The photos illustrate the detailed nature of their work.

By Jim Malouff



## Luncheons & Special Programs

The Corona virus has really upset our well laid plans for 2020 Council activities. This is something we will have to deal with in the coming months.

We have been checking to see if the Navy League Headquarters had issued some guidance on “social distancing” as it may pertain to the local councils. Clearly the demographics of the Greater Kansas City Council, with approximately 75% of those members who attend our events in the most vulnerable group of 65+, we believe it prudent to proceed with great caution in scheduling luncheon meetings. Thank you for your understanding.

Members who attended our last Luncheon in February Listened to a presentation by FBI Special Agent Jarrett Muck. Muck, who was born in Liberty, Missouri, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in 2010. He served on active duty for five years as a radio operator and repairman, earning the rank of Sergeant.

Following the Marine Corps he joined the FBI as a technician and completed a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Columbia College in 2019. Jarrett was promoted to Special Agent the same year and assigned to the Public Corruption Squad in the Kansas City Field Office.



## Financial Support Needed

For the Navy League Council to be successful in its mission we need your support. It is the generous financial contributions from our members that ensure our ability to accomplish our mission and continue our support for the sea services.

***We don't charge local Council dues.*** However, we do solicit donations from our members. This year our February 15, 2020, letter requesting financial support from our members did not generate the financial the resources received in previous years. Perhaps the letter focused too much on planned events, a survey and donations to support Sea Cadet travel to the commissioning of the USS Kansas City in San Diego. Unfortunately, the request for general financial donations in support our other activities may have been overlooked.

You know what we do for the youth and young adults of our community through our award winning Sea Cadets Squadron, the Navy/Marine JROTC programs located in 6 area high schools and the NROTC program at the University of Kansas. (*See awards on Page 4 of this newsletter*) We also support our sea service uniformed personnel and their active duty commands, whether at sea and ashore. We are also busy educating the public and their government officials that America is a maritime nation, whose national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong naval forces.

If you did not respond to the initial fundraising letter with a donation, it's not to late to write your check and make a donation to the Navy League of Greater Kansas City. Some of you have already done so and several did it before receiving the letter. For those of you who haven't made a financial contribution in support of the Navy League in 2020 please do so now. You can mail your donation to: Navy League, PO Box 411361, Kansas City, MO. 64141

## USS Kansas City Commissioning Update

It appears that the Commissioning of the USS Kansas City, LCS 22, on June 20, 2020, in San Diego, CA is still on as planned. Several courses of action, however, are under consideration and a Go or No-Go decision time line for the next three months was established based upon financial commitments and contracts like hotel, food & beverage, etc. Three scenarios are possible, commissioning ceremony as scheduled, commissioning ceremony postponed, commissioning ceremony cancelled. We hope to learn more from decisions made about other Navy ship commissioning ceremonies that are scheduled between now and June 20<sup>th</sup>. Because of COVID-19 decisions involving events with crowds are not in our control.

RADM Penfield, Ret., Chairman of the Commissioning Committee, promised to keep us updated. Decisions on attendance are ultimately yours of course and should be based upon personal health and safety considerations.



## Navy League of the United States Greater Kansas City Council 2020 Officers

### Title

President  
First Vice President – Youth Activities  
Second Vice President – Morale & Outreach  
Vice President – Communications  
Vice President – Council Activities  
Vice President – Membership  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Chaplain  
Parliamentarian

### Name

Chuck Stevens  
Charlie Farris  
Jack Rush  
Tom Holden  
Jerry Lechtenberg  
Debra Shultz  
Walt Schley  
George Bukaty  
George Beard  
Jim Malouff

## KU-ROTC 2020 Award Recipients

While The Corona Virus (COVID-19) may have interrupted our ability to assemble, it has not stopped us from recognizing two outstanding cadets at the KU-Naval ROTC. This year the RADM Harold B. Miller Memorial Sword and the Navy Leagues \$1,000 monetary award went to two very deserving Midshipmen.

While we were not able to make the award presentations in person this year, due to the cancellation of the April 29th awards ceremony, we did provide the awards to the University for the cadets.

The Navy League's financial award was presented to MIDN

2/C Cole Sherrell. MIDN Sherrell is a junior majoring in Chemistry with a 3.77 cumulative GPA. He is hoping to qualify for Aviation. MIDN Sherrell has held billets such as Platoon Commander and Physical Training Instructor. He is ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in his NROTC class.

The Greater Kansas City Council of the United States Navy League presented the RADM Harold B. Miller Memorial Sword to MIDN 1/C Alyssa Sharp. MIDN Sharp is dual majoring in Economics and African and African-American Studies with a 3.66 cumulative GPA. She has chosen to pursue a commission as a Surface War-

fare Officer (Intelligence Option). She served as the Battalion Executive Officer for the Fall 2019 semester. She is ranked top of her NROTC class.

We regret that the Navy League of Greater Kansas City was unable to participate in the awards presentation due to the "social distancing" mandated by COVID-19 pandemic.

