



NAVY LEAGUE

OF THE UNITED STATES
"GREATER KANSAS CITY COUNCIL"



June 2020

Volume 16

Navy Commissions USS Kansas City



The Navy commissioned the littoral combat ship USS Kansas City on Saturday in a virtual ceremony at its new home port of San Diego.

The commissioning of the 11th littoral ship to be stationed at Naval Base San Diego was acknowledged in an official statement because of restrictions on large public gatherings amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vice Adm. Richard A. Brown, commander of naval surface forces in the Pacific, welcomed the ship into the fleet, noting that the Kansas City brings capabilities to counter submarines, mines, and fast surface craft that can threaten the Navy's larger warships.

"Like other littoral combat ships, Kansas City brings speed and agility to the fleet," said Brown. "Congratulations to Kansas City's captain and crew for all of your hard work to reach this milestone."

Mrs. Tracy Davidson, the ship's sponsor, offered her congratulations to everyone who played a role in delivering the warship to service.

"I am privileged to be a part of this ship honoring Kansas City and look forward

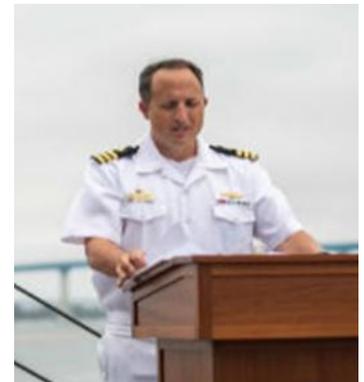
ward to remaining connected to USS Kansas City as her legacy grows, wherever she may sail," Davidson said.

Kansas City's commanding officer, Cmdr. R.J. Zamberlan, reported the ship ready, saying, "This crew has exceeded expectations in unprecedented times and I could not be prouder to be their captain."

Our USS Kansas City Commissioning Committee, after a year of fund raising and friend raising successfully established an extensive list of improved quality of life gifts and created a significant scholarship fund for the crew. Although the ship was brought to life on June 20th, it was done so without the usual fanfare and celebration that had been carefully planned by the Commissioning Committee. The Navy is looking at a future opportunity to commemorate the

commissioning with the ship's sponsor, crew, and commissioning committee.

Littoral combat ships are fast, agile and networked surface combatants armed with missiles, a main gun and helicopters. They are being built in two versions, with the trimaran Independence-variants all based in San Diego.



Cmdr. R.J. Zamberlan of the USS Kansas City reads his orders during the ship's virtual commissioning ceremony. Navy photo



USS Kansas City prepares to dock at Naval Base San Diego. Navy photo

Membership Info:
Bob Culler

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**NAVY LEAGUE
OF THE
UNITED STATES**
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A Message from the President

Greetings Greater Kansas City Council members. The COVID-19 virus has been first on the minds of our council members, your board members, your leadership, and all citizens in the Greater Kansas City Area since March of this year.

And just this last week we have seen a second wave or just a resurgence in the first wave of new infections. All of us have had enough of quarantines, sheltering in place, sanitizers, social distancing, and face masks. Unfortunately, the virus remains, and it will likely continue to be an unwelcome guest until an ef

fective and available vaccine is made available.

This war against the virus reminds us all just how much we appreciate and give thanks to the men and women of the sea services who, by the thousands, have stepped up and provided services, care and materials to those effected by COVID-19. Many of these in our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine are doctors, nurses, and first responders. Even more are those who hold the myriad of jobs/MOSSs' that make up the ranks that the Navy League advocates for and supports in time of need.

As for the Greater KC Council, we are adapting to the "new normal" by adjusting on the fly to continue our support for our adopted afloat and shore units as well as our sponsored youth programs.

Finally, we are striving to continue to make your Navy League Council a vibrant and meaningful place for you to spend your time, energy, and resources. Tune into our virtual Zoom meetings, volunteer a couple hours a month to be a liaison to one of our adopted/sponsored units. (we need about 10 more!)

Call/write/text us, let us know what you are thinking!

Chuck

June Meeting Provided insight on Women in the Navy

For our June virtual meeting we had as our speaker, LT Sarah Wood, USN, who is currently an Instructor of Naval Science at the Kansas University.

Lieutenant Wood graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of South Florida and holds a B.S. in Secondary Science Education. She earned her commission as a Surface Warfare Officer from the University of South Florida's NROTC Unit in December 2012.

During her presentation she talked about her experiences as a Division Officer on deployment aboard the USS New Orleans (LPD-18) out of San Diego, California and on the USS Anzio (CG-68) out of Norfolk, Virginia. She discussed her concerns over protection of the am-

phibious forces while on board the USS New Orleans. Lt. Wood also discussed what it was like today to be a woman officer in the fleet and gave us her view of the current opportunities and challenges that women faced in the Navy.

LT Wood is also a Department of Defense credentialed Sexual Assault Victim Advocate (VA) and has over 440 hours of training and direct support in this program.

While at the University of Kansas she pursuing her Master's degree in Social Work at KU. Several of our members were part of the virtual meeting and the all asked questions.



Special July Program

Kera Torkelson - Fort Hood Terrorism Attack Survivor, is our guest speaker

On November 5, 2009, a terrorist mass shooting took place at Fort Hood, near Killeen, Texas. Nidal Hasan, a U.S. Army major and psychiatrist, fatally shot 14 people and injured more than 30 others. It was the



deadliest mass shooting on an American military base. While preparing for deployment to Iraq our speaker sustained wounds to the head and back, our speaker, Kera Torkelson, relates her story of that event, her recovery, and her current activities to help veterans overcome PTSD.

Thursday, July 16, 2020. Watch your e-mail for meeting announcement with time and place

May's *Virtual* Meeting was a Panel Discussion on the outbreak of the Corona-Virus on CVN-71

Because of the Corona-Virus the Navy League's monthly luncheon program remains on hold until it is safe to gather as a group again. In the mean time the Council has developed the ability to conduct virtual meetings using the ZOOM computer app.

In May the Council held a special program online that featured a panel discussion regarding the removal of Capt. Crozier, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71). Capt. Crozier, was the embattled skipper on the first U.S. Navy warship to suffer the novel corona-virus outbreak at sea. When faced with the COVID 19 virus sweeping through his 5,000-sailor crew, CAPT Crozier reached out to his chain of command and requested permission to abort his assigned mission patrolling the Pacific and South China Sea, and come to all stop at Guam, disembark most of the crew and disinfect his ship. When not granted permission, he released a letter arguing that since the ship was not at war, there was a higher calling to protect the Roosevelt's sailors from the virus.

The panel discussion centered on whether Capt. Crozier should have been relieved for his actions. CAPT Jim Campbell, USN (Ret), currently the Distinguished Professor of Ethics and Character Development at the US Naval Academy was the panel moderator and the two panel members were VADM Tom Kilcline USN (Ret), former Commander Naval Air Forces and RADM Jeff Penfield USN (Ret), former Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force.

This inter-active discussion attracted 30 Navy League members on ZOOM to hear the panel express their thoughts on the difficulty faced by Capt. Crozier and how he handled the situation. Capt Campbell allowed time for council members to weigh in with their questions and opinions and it was a lively and informative discussion.



VADM Tom Kilcline
USN (Ret)



RADM Jeff Penfield
USN (Ret)



CAPT Jim Campbell,
USN (Ret)

Council Ready to Launch a New Website

Early this year the board of directors made a decision to redo the Council's online web presence and develop a new business platform (website). We needed a new website that is responsive to our members needs, while increasing our visibility within the local community.

The new website will be a great resource. It will keep our members informed as to what is happening in the Council by providing a calendar that lists upcoming events. It will also highlight our adopted Navy ships/units and sponsored commands. Everyone will be notified in a few weeks when it goes live.

JROTC Youth Awards

The Navy League continues to sponsor the JROTC programs in our local high schools. The Council provides awards and medals that recognize a cadets superior performance. Two awards were presented thus far:

Shawnee Mission North HS
Outstanding Cadet: **Carlee O'Neill**
Theodore Roosevelt JROTC Leadership Medal: **Sam Seckar**

Shawnee Mission West HS
Outstanding Cadet: **Cody Marlow**
Theodore Roosevelt JROTC Leadership Medal: **Jordan Thurber**

Out of concern for our members and their families due to the Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and after consultation with our Board, our upcoming luncheon meetings will be online using the ZOOM app until further notice.



Navy League of the United States

Greater Kansas City Council

2020 Officers (Revised)

Title

President
 First Vice President – Youth Programs
 Second Vice President – Morale & Outreach
 Vice President – Membership
 Vice President – Communications
 Vice President – Council Activities
 Vice President - At Large (Governance/Special Projects)
 Vice President - Legislative Affairs and Partnerships
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Chaplain

Name

Chuck Stevens
 Charlie Farris
 Dave Miller
 Bob Culler
 Tom Holden
 Jerry Lechtenberg
 Jim Malouff
 Ward Cook
 Walt Schley
 George Bukaty
 George Beard

Kansas City Council Administrative Action

In May your leadership put out the call to help us fill the newly created role of “Liaison” with our Adopted ships and shore units, sponsored youth programs and legislative affairs. And you responded! Thank you for those who have stepped up take up these new and important roles.

Additionally, your Board has just approved the appointment of Dave Miller as Vice President of Unit Adoptions. Dave will oversee the work of our liaisons to our ships and shore units and compliment the work of Charlie Farris, our Vice President of Youth Programs, .

Additionally, as the work of our Legislative Affairs team takes on new importance, your board as approved the appointment of Ward Cook as our new Vice President of Legislative

Affairs and Partnerships.

Finally, we filled a recent vacancy of a critical importance to the Council, that of Vice President of Membership. The Board has appointed Bob Culler as our new Vice President of Membership..

We wish all these new officers the absolute best in their new roles.

Dave Miller as 2nd Vice President - Unit Adoptions

Bob Culler as Vice President of Membership

Ward Cook as Vice President Legislative Affairs

Jim Malouff as Vice President-at Large (Governance and special projects)



Community Affiliate Members

