



NAVY LEAGUE

OF THE UNITED STATES
"GREATER KANSAS CITY COUNCIL"
NAVYLEAGUEKANSASCITY.ORG



April 2021

Volume 18

April & May Speaker Programs



Join us April 15, 2021
at 11:30 am for our next
VIRTUAL ZOOM Meeting
with Guest Speaker

Commander Kirk
Lippold, United



States Navy, (Ret.)

AL QAEDA'S ATTACK ON THE USS COLE

distinguished themselves by saving the American war ship from sinking. This event is widely recognized as one of the most brazen acts of terrorism by al Qaeda prior to September 11, 2001.

In his book, FRONT BURNER: AL QAEDA'S ATTACK ON THE USS COLE, Commander Lippold reveals the details of his harrowing experience leading a crew of valiant sailors through the deadliest terrorist attack on an American warship in history.

Zoom computer link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8382839118>

Meeting ID: 838 283 9118

Join by Phone Option: +1 312 626 6799



USS COLE

Commander Kirk Lippold, USN (Ret.) was the Commanding Officer of the USS Cole when it came under a suicide terrorist attack by al Qaeda in the port of Aden, Yemen on October 12, 2000. During his command, he and his crew

Coming

May 20, 2021

at 11:30 am our next **VIRTUAL ZOOM Meeting**
with Guest Speaker

LtCol Wade C. Reaves
U. S. Marine Corps



Changes are Underway

The U.S. Marine Corps is on the verge of its first major reorganization in a century, one that will position America's premier amphibious force to land on China's doorstep.

The Marines will organize into smaller units capable of operating across vast distances, seizing China's network of artificial island bases in the South China Sea. The revamp will see the Marines [trade in their tanks](#), artillery, and even some [F-35s](#) in return for long-range missiles, unmanned boats, and anti-ship weapons.

Membership Info:
Bob Culler
bculler@sbcglobal.net
(913) 488-6319

Meeting Info:
Jerry Lechtenberg
@sbcglobal.net
(913) 649-2020

NAVY LEAGUE
OF THE
UNITED STATES
P. O. Box 411361
Kansas City, MO
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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, our upcoming luncheon meetings will be online using the ZOOM app until further notice.

A Message from the President

Greetings! Like many of you, we are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel on the COVID-19 pandemic as we receive our vaccinations and begin to return to more normal routines.

Even though we look forward to getting back together in person for our future monthly luncheons & dinners, the Zoom virtual meeting technology has allowed us to host several speakers this past 15 months that we ordinarily would not have been able to enjoy because of distance.

Your Greater KC Council Officers and Board members are continuing to set an advanced

pace this first quarter as we strive to meet our mission. We have formally “adopted” the Navy Operational Support Center – Kansas City and have already recognized the superior performance of their Sailors of the Year for 2020 and Sailors of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2021.

Additionally, the Greater KC Council has “adopted” the Navy Talent Acquisition & Onboarding Center – Kansas City and we look forward to recognizing their superior performers and supporting their efforts in recruiting the Navy of the future.

Navy Park at New Century Airport

Naval Air Station Olathe opened on 1 October 1942. It was used by the Naval Air Transport Service (NATS) and Naval Air Primary Training Command (NAPTC).

After World War II, NAS Olathe was used by the Naval Air Reserve and Marine Air Reserve, as well as a Naval Air Technical Training Center Olathe (NATTC Olathe), a training center for active duty USN and USMC enlisted personnel.

For over 20 years, Naval Air Reservists and Marine Air Reservists from across the Midwest maintained their readiness with squadrons and support units at NAS Olathe. However, budgetary pressures of the Vietnam War forced NAS Olathe to close. The base was decommissioned on 29 October 1969 and it was officially closed in July 1970.

The airport was acquired by Johnson County in 1973 and renamed Johnson County Industrial Airport. On 28 September 1994 the name was changed to New Century Air Center so as not to

minimize its aviation component.

As a reminder of the Navy’s presence a small portion of the Airport is designated **NAVY PARK**. Included in Navy Park is the display of an A-4 Skyhawk and 2 A-7 Corsair II’s.



The A-4 and one of the A-7 was provided by the Naval Aviation Mu-

seum in Pensacola, FL. Recently the Naval History Heritage Command conducted an inspection of loaned aircraft. Needless to say, the aircraft at the New Century Airport’s Navy Park are in need of serious repairs and Paint. The Johnson County Airport Commission has approached the Navy League for help with this situation. We are talking with other aviation organizations hoping to find a solution to keep our presence at the airport.



Finally, we need your help! We are looking for Council Liaisons for the Navy Element at the CGSC in Ft. Leavenworth, Marine Corps Recruiting Kansas City and the NROTC unit at Kansas University. Also, we need people with skills in Social Media, Websites, Email marketing and Printed Material like this Newsletter. Please consider “Stepping Up!” Finally, please remember to volunteer and support our efforts to sponsor the Blue Angles Friends & Family Tent at the KC Air Show at New Century on July 2-4, 2021. This is truly an “all hands” event. Chuck

Navy Operational Support Center Adoption Certificate Presentation

Members of the Navy League visited the Naval Operation Support Center to officially present the units Navy League Certificate of Adoption to its Commanding Officer CDR Ronald Fauntleroy. The NOSC was adopted on January 21, 2021, during a virtual meeting of the Kansas City Council. During the visit they also presented several awards.



Council President Chuck Stevens and Charles Farris present the NOSC Certificate of Adoption to CDR Fauntleroy



Shown here is Charles Farris and Dave Miller congratulating QM2

Motaherrera who was Selected as the Reserve Junior Sailor of the Quarter.

Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center Cadet Asten Dejarnette named KC Navy League Cadet of the Year

By Commander Mark Rakestraw

Commander Rakestraw presents Asten Dejarnette with Navy League's Cadet of the Year Award 2021

It was a brisk, Good Friday, morning, the 2nd of April. Asten Dejarnette, a Job Corps student and Navy JROTC cadet, was scheduled to depart for National Guard, Basic Training, on Monday, April 5.



Commander Mark Rakestraw, the NJROTC unit Commander of Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center, asked if he could drop something by before she left.

Asten had no idea what it was to be. After enlisting Asten's mom to take pictures, Commander Rakestraw opened the box and revealed the engraved plaque from the Kansas City Navy League. Asten got a huge grin on her face – you could see the grin all the way to her eyes above her mask.

"Asten once said to me that she wasn't a leader –that she wasn't comfortable being 'in charge,' "Commander Rakestraw said. "I told her then that I didn't believe it. With several younger siblings at home, I was confident she took charge all the time."

After 47 weeks of virtual instruction, Rakestraw informed Asten she was the only cadet who participated every week.

"That," he said, "is why you are a leader and have earned the 2021 Kansas City Navy League, NJROTC Cadet of the Year, for the Excelsior Springs Job Corps Center."

Asten studied Security and Protective Services as a trade at Job Corps and intends to continue that as a career in the Army National Guard as a Military Police Officer.

From everyone at Excelsior Springs Job Corps, congratulations Asten, or as they say in the Navy, "Bravo Zulu!"

\$\$ DONATIONS \$\$

Do you want to help us with our work on behalf of our local youth but are unable to volunteer your time, **consider a donation to the Greater KC Council** at our **NEW and IMPROVED Greater KC Council website: <https://navyleaguekansascity.org>**

Harry S Truman Sea Cadet Squadron Awards and Advancements

An awards ceremony was held at the Naval Operational Support Center for members of the Harry S. Truman Sea Cadet Squadron on March 28, 2021. The following Sea Cadets were recognized for their accomplishments. *(Left to Right)*



Seaman Apprentice **Ben Santy** was named the 2020 Harry S Truman Sea Cadet of the Year and promoted to Seaman.

Seaman Recruit **Rob Shrestha** was promoted to Seaman Apprentice.

Apprentice Cadet **Luke Rastorfer** was named the 2020 Harry S Truman League Cadet and promoted to Able Cadet.

Recruit Cadet **Grant Rastorfer** was promoted to Seaman Recruit.

STAY CURRENT

Please keep your membership information up to date. That is best accomplished at the Navy League Hdq website: <https://www.navyleague.org/member-resources/login>. You can access this by clicking the ***TAKE ACTION*** button on our website ***NavyLeagueKansasCity.org***



Your 2021 Council Officers

<u>Position</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Name</u>
President		Chuck Stevens
Treasurer		George Bukaty
Secretary		Walt Schley
Chaplain		George Beard
First Vice President	Youth Programs	Charlie Farris
Second Vice President	Unit Adoptions	Dave Miller
Vice President	At-Large	Jim Malouff
Vice President	Communications	Tom Holden
Vice President	Community Outreach	Ward Cook
Vice President	Council Programs	Jerry Lechtenberg
Vice President	Legislative Affairs	Victor Hurlbert
Vice President	Membership	Bob Culler

USS KANSAS CITY LCS-22 CREW VISIT

The Commanding Office and nine members of the crew of the USS KANSAS CITY LCS-22 plan to visit Kansas City from June 30TH -July 4TH. A number of activities are in the planning stages, but require final approval of the Navy. There will be opportunities for Council members to meet the visiting crew. More information will be provided as it become available.

USS KANSAS CITY LCS-22 MODEL - UPDATE

The construction of a model of the USS Kansas City is complete. A transport/storage case is currently under construction. The ship model is approximately 55" long, 15" across the beam, and 17" high. Plans are to have it permanently displayed at Kansas City's Union Station. Plans are underway for a public unveiling ceremony possibly during a planned visit, to Kansas City, by the Commanding Officer and crew members of the USS Kansas City in June/July. More information will be provided as they become available.

Virtual Meetings with our Members of Congress

"Durng the first three weeks of May, the Midwest Regional Legislative Affairs team will be conducting virtual meetings with our Members of Congress (MOCs) to advocate on behalf of the Navy League. Appointments are already set for legislators in Minnesota, Oklahoma, and North Dakota, among others. Here at home in Missouri and Kansas, we currently have set up times with the offices of Senator Josh Hawley and Representative Vicky Hartzler. We are further working on Representative Sam Graves along with Representative Sharice Davids. Main asks include a \$30 billion Navy shipbuilding and conversion budget, adapting the Marine Corps to be able to contest larger foes, a 5% increase to Coast Guard operations and support, as well as many important maritime transportation topics. We are focusing on those MOCs who sit on committees affecting these respective budgets."

Victor Hurlbert
GKC Council VP Legislative Affairs
Midwest Regional VP Legislative Affairs

BLUE ANGELS 75TH ANNIVERSARY!

The world's most famous jet demonstration team, the Navy's Blue Angels - return to the KC Air Show presented by Garmin on July 2nd, 3rd, & 4th, 2021 at the New Century Air Center in Olathe, Kansas. The Blue Angels will celebrate their 75th anniversary as they transition from the legacy F/A-18 Hornets to the much more capable and more powerful F/A-18E/F Super Hornets.

Be sure you and your guests are the first to see the Blue Angels tear up the sky in their new Super Hornets from the Greater Kansas City Council Sponsored Tent and Seating Area. Please mark you Greater Kansas City Council Navy

Affiliate Members / Sponsors

We appreciate their commitment to strengthen our Sea Services and especially their support for our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.



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