



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Imperial Valley

July 2020

Happy 244th Birthday AMERICA!

Upon the signing of our Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote to his wife, Abigail, that the 4th of July "ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

While we will be experiencing Fourth of July differently this year, you can still celebrate the holiday in style with virtual concerts, and televised fireworks. Look up, and you may even catch a military flyover. Such was the case today when visitors to Mount Rushmore "heard the sound of freedom" and looked up to catch this



shot of our U.S. Navy's Blue Angels practicing over this iconic monument in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

However you chose to celebrate your Fourth of July, we hope you will remember all those in our nation's history who fought to make us free -- and those who serve today that continue to fight to make us free.

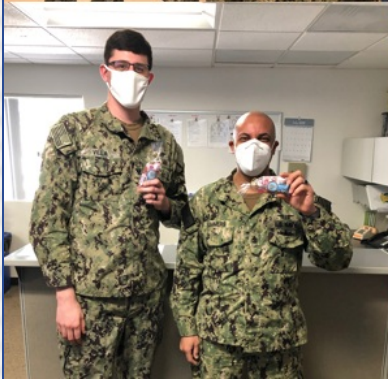
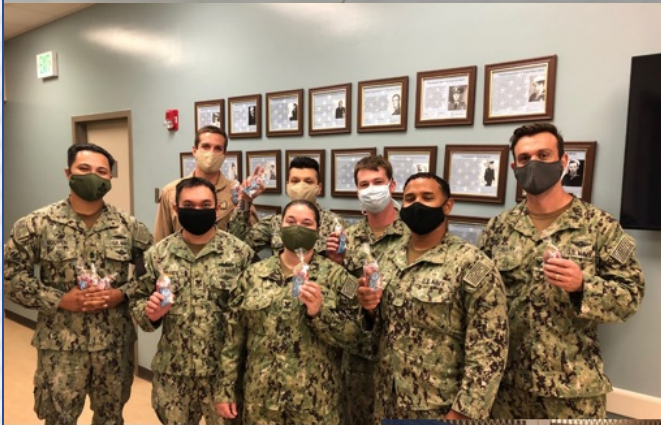
(Photo by Josh Nauman/National Park Service/Mount Rushmore Facebook Fan Page)

Fourth of July Treats for Troops

Because we've been unable to interact with our adopted commands as we us typically do, we still want to show our support to them in small, but important ways to let them know that we're thinking of them, and appreciate their service.

We put together 500 treat bags for all our adopted units and have sent them far and wide to Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen from coast to coast. Pictured here are some of

the local personnel stationed at NAF El Centro, Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit, Weapons, Navy Branch Medical and Navy Region Southwest Security who received their treat bags.



USS FITZGERALD (DDG-62) Returns to San Diego



From Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- The guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) arrived at its homeport in San Diego, July 02, following more than two years of restoration and modernization after the warship was damaged during a collision in 2017.

Throughout the restoration period, the U.S. Navy made it a priority to ensure Fitzgerald returned to a peak state of warfighting readiness to contribute to an agile and dynamic fleet.

“Returning Fitzgerald to the Fleet has truly been a team effort,” said Cmdr. Scott Wilbur, Fitzgerald’s Commanding Officer. “I’m incredibly proud of what this crew has done over the last few years, bringing our ship back to the Fleet. We’re happy to be home in San Diego to continue our training. I’m excited for what lies ahead.”

The Fitzgerald crew completed multiple training and certification events, such as Navigation Assessment and Light Off Assessment (LOA), to ensure the crew was at peak readiness to operate the ship. The crew also completed 140 simulator hours prior to starting Basic Phase. Additionally, Fitzgerald already completed three of the 23 certifications, Search and Rescue, Medical, and Anti-Terrorism, which are required for all naval surface ships prior to operational tasking. While in San Diego, the crew will continue to conduct simulator and at-sea training in order to be ready to operate the ship at sea. The ship will complete extensive training and certification through Basic, Advanced, and Integrated phases of training, in strict adherence to the results and recommendations from the SECNAV Readiness Review (SRR) and the Comprehensive Review (CR).

To restore the impacted spaces to full operations and functionality, various Hull, Mechanical and Electrical (HM&E), Combat System (CS) and Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C5I) repairs were completed. These repairs ranged from partial to complete refurbishment of impacted spaces, to replacement of equipment such as the radar and electronic warfare suite; the ship also received HM&E, Combat System and C5I modernization upgrades.

Due to the extent and complexity of the restoration, both repair and new construction procedures were used to accomplish the restoration and modernization efforts.

"The Huntington Ingalls Team in coordination with Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet and Naval Sea Systems Command has ensured USS Fitzgerald is a repaired, modernized and capable warship," said Capt. Jay Clark, Commander, Destroyer Squadron 1, where Fitzgerald is assigned. "The Fighting Fitz' Crew is resilient, competent and ready to succeed in the extensive system validations, training, and certifications needed for follow on high-end operations."

Prior to departing Pascagoula for San Diego, Fitzgerald's crew began a pre-movement sequester on May 23 in accordance with U.S. Navy pre-deployment guidelines—compliance with Navy and CDC guidance is critical to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Kevin C. Leitner/Released)

Hey, Hey, Hey...it's Faaaaaat Albert!



If you're not "following" our U.S. Navy's Blue Angels on social media, you've likely missed the debut of Fat Albert's new paint scheme.

How do you like Bert's new look? You'll notice the flight surfaces now have yellow tips, similar to the F/A-18 jets, and two stripes run down the length of the fuselage, and the white top has been changed to a teardrop design.

Fat Albert's C-130 pilot and crew are currently in Cambridge, United Kingdom as they conduct maintenance testing and check flights prior to making the transatlantic flight to the United States to bring the new Bert to join the Blue Angels family.

Check out the paint scheme revealed in this time-lapse [video](#).

(U.S. Navy Blue Angels photo)

Navy League National News

National Convention Postponed to 2021

The convention was previously postponed to October 2020 in Scottsdale, Arizona; however, due to safety concerns, the executive committee passed a motion that states that a convention date will not occur until after Jan. 1, 2021.

Highlighting Our Heroes on the Navy League Blog

Continuing with our Highlighting our Heroes blog posts, we shine the spotlight on Doris Miller, the first ever African-America to receive the Navy Cross, the Navy's highest medal. The Navy also plans to name a ship after Doris Miller in honor of his heroism. Read more about this American hero's journey: <https://blog.navyleague.org/blog/highlighting-our-heroes-doris-miller>.

Join the Navy League Advocates Team

Interested in helping the Navy League support the sea services in Congress? Last year our Navy League advocates completed more than 80 meetings nationwide, and over 250 during our biennial November Fly-In. Join our Grassroots Legislative Initiative training on the Navy Budget Monday, June 29 at 2:00 p.m. ET by emailing Director of Government Affairs Ryan Simon at rsimon@navyleague.org. You'll receive everything you need to become a fully prepared advocate and build and capitalize on strong relationships with your members of Congress and their staff to support our Sailors, Marines, Coasties and Mariners!

Watch the Battle of Midway Webinar

Thanks to everyone who attended our Battle of Midway virtual webinar, co-hosted by the Sea Cadets. If you missed the event or want to rewatch it, please [visit the Navy League site](#). Be sure to share with others who might be interested in learning more about the Battle of Midway.

Imperial Valley Council Receives Top Honors

A message from our National President William Stevenson, III:

"Our individual councils are the core reason the Navy League is the premier sea service support organization in the world. It's once again the time of year where out of all our outstanding efforts, it's our honor to recognize our councils that have risen above and beyond the core of our mission and exemplify the excellence our organization strives for.

While we are normally able to announce these winners in person at our national convention, and still hope to recognize them this fall, they are no less deserving of a year's worth of recognition.

So today, we are honoring our winners of the Council Performance Awards, the Donald M. Mackie Awards and the Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards.

The top-tier winners of each of these awards are:

Council Performance Awards, Outstanding Councils

Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula

Honolulu

Imperial Valley

Pensacola

Placer County

Savannah

Seattle

Treasure Coast
Singapore (Overseas)

Donald M. Mackie Awards
Newsletter
Imperial Valley

Website

Platinum: Minnesota
Gold: New York
Silver: Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula, Central Florida, Imperial Valley

Communications (Social Media)

Platinum: Central Florida
Gold: Imperial Valley, New York, Yuma
Silver: Savannah
Bronze: Atlanta Metropolitan, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula, Greater Chattanooga

President's Message

We're now halfway through 2020, and while we are reading about a great deal of turmoil across our nation, there is much that hasn't change -- and that's the mission of the brave men and women who serve our nation, and our Navy League mission.

For as long as there are Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen who are defending our shores, we will be here to support them.

Despite our inability to meet, we are still working behind the scenes to let them know we appreciate them through our 4th of July Treats for Troops campaign. It felt good to be doing something for our "troops", some of whom are currently deployed. Our Marines have been deployed since May, and are expected to return stateside soon, and we'll share more news of that when we are able.

We are excited to see the return of the "Fighting Fitz" to San Diego this week. We have not been able to support the crew of the USS FITZGERALD to our usual levels while they were homeported in Yokosuka, Japan and during the ship's repair. We look forward to engaging their new crew, and know you'll be seeing more of them in the future.

I am proud of the work our Board of Directors does to keep programs operating, and our members who support our efforts -- in both financial and in sweat equity when called upon. As you'll have read in this newsletter, Imperial Valley was recognized again for the support we provided to our adopted units, and the message we carry to our communities, and our advocacy to members of Congress. We received "Outstanding Council" status, and were recognized for this publication -- our Newsletter, website, and social media communications. I am proud of the continued excellence our council puts forth.

Thank you to each of you who contributes to each of these efforts. It doesn't go unnoticed by us, or those on a national level. YOU are making a difference!



I know I speak for not just myself, but many of you -- I am missing you, and I am missing a big, old juicy T-bone steak right about now. I'm hoping that when the summer's heat is over, we will be in a position to meet again and share a meal together. In the meantime, I wish you all good health.

Until we meet again.

Ted

Ted Gallinat, President
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Upcoming T-Bone Dinners and Events

NOTICE: All T-Bone dinner meetings have been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions



Besides being a part of a great organization that serves others.
You receive benefits too!

Become A Member

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USCGC PETREL
WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC
MAINTENANCE UNIT EL CENTRO



NAVAL BRANCH MEDICAL
EL CENTRO



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



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ESCONDIDO BATTALION
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



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Sailor Award Sponsors

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USCGC PETREL
VMA-214**

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Navy Munitions Command (Weapons) Detachment El Centro**

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The Official Publication of the Navy League

In print since 1902, Seapower provides Navy League members, sea service chiefs and members of Congress with the most relevant news affecting the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

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Imperial Valley Council

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