Distinguished Speaker Program

Thursday September 12, 2013

RADM Patrick D. Hall
Commander Carrier Strike Group NINE

TOPIC: Life aboard a large U. S. Navy Carrier

Rear Adm. Hall is a 1982 graduate of the University of Texas Navy Reserve Officers Training Corps program and was designated a naval aviator in December 1983. His operational sea assignments include service in Fighter Squadron 74, Fighter Squadron 11, and Fighter Squadron 102 flying the F-14A/B. He also served as executive officer of USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69). Hall commanded an F/A-18C squadron, Strike Fighter Squadron 87, a fast combat support ship, USS Seattle (AOE 3), and a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). He assumed command of Carrier Strike Group Nine embarked in USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) in October 2012.

Hall served ashore as an adversary instructor pilot with Fighter Squadron 43 and instructor pilot with Fighter Squadron 101. His first joint tour was as chief of staff, Standing Joint Forces Headquarters (SJFHQ), United States Joint Forces Command. His second joint tour, and first flag officer tour, was as deputy director for Operations, J3, Joint Staff.

He earned a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Affairs from the U.S. Naval War College in 1996, and completed the Navy’s nuclear power training program in 2002.

Hall has more than 4,000 flight hours in nine different military aircraft and has logged

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER PROGRAM RESERVATIONS

Austin Woman’s Club, Chateau Bellevue 8th and San Antonio
(Parking entrance on Nueces between 7th & 8th Streets)
Social 1815 • Dinner 1915 • Program 2015
Members & their Guests - $30 • Military in Uniform & their Guests - $20
Cadets & Midshipmen and their Guests - $15

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
CALL 512-203-4399 OR EMAIL luann@luannreyes.com
ONLINE via PayPal at www.navyleagueaustin.org

PLEASE NOTE: WE CANNOT GUARANTEE YOUR MEAL WITHOUT A RESERVATION

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President’s Message

Summer has flown by and here we are heading back into fall and football season. The Greater Austin Council is pleased to welcome RADM Patrick Hall to our September dinner program. Read all about him elsewhere in this newsletter. We are also looking forward to having a perennial favorite speaker back on October 31…yes that is Halloween…and our speaker will be the indomitable Hans Mark. We’re eagerly awaiting his topic which will be noted in our next newsletter and on our website. He is always an interesting and intriguing guest speaker.

Your Greater Austin Council, like many other service organizations today, is struggling with sagging memberships, which impacts our budgeting and ultimately our ability to support the sea services both locally and nationally. We are looking at several options for fundraisers, one of which is our on-going Adopt-A-Cadet program. This program gives our members an opportunity to help us cover the cost of having cadets at our dinners. We feel strongly about having these students as guests so that they are exposed to our great speakers, to our membership, and all that the Navy League stands for. The color guard and their sponsors’ dinners are always complimentary (up to 10) and any guests they bring over 10, or those schools who send students who are not participating in the color guard, pay a significantly reduced fee which does not fully cover the cost of the dinner. We do our best to recognize the “adopters” during the meeting and will begin doing so in our newsletters. Of course, straight donations to the council are always welcomed. As a part of the Navy League of the United States, we are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are deductible.

Where in the World is the USS Austin?  We began an effort in 2010 to have new Navy ship named for our fair city. There have been three ships so named in the past, the last of which was decommissioned in 2006. In 2011 we obtained a resolution from the City of Austin supporting our efforts and solicited the support of Congressman Mike McCaul at the national level. The Secretary of the Navy makes the final decision on the naming of ships and although a protocol for ship naming has been in place, it has not always been adhered to. We are reinvigorating our efforts and have contacted several members of our Central Texas Congressional delegation as well as our governor soliciting support. We are also seeking bipartisan support of this effort. If you would like to help us we eagerly welcome your assistance. Just let Glenn Looney or myself know and we’ll be in touch with you to see how you can help us.

We recently lost a good friend who was a past president and one of our current officers. Phil Darby, (Vice President Administration) a long-time member of the Greater Austin Council lost his battle with cancer on August 27, 2013. He was originally diagnosed about three years ago and the prognosis was not good at that time. However, he stood up to the challenge, completed his chemotherapy and it looked like he was in remission. However, the disease reared its ugly head again about two months ago and this time it showed no mercy. Phil faced his challenge with optimism, courage, and determination. Despite the prognosis he didn’t let it get him down. He successfully ran for a leadership position with the GAC last fall and eagerly jumped into the administrative role, updating all our membership records and making strides toward recruiting when his health took control of his ambitions. Our hearts go out to his lovely wife Renna and his children Todd and Janna. The Council will be making a donation to the Jones Scholarship Fund in Phil’s honor.

Kathy

In Memoriam

~ 2013~

Horace Eldon Johnson
Jim Hanen
Ella Ruth Looney Skirvin
Jackson W. Bosley
Philip Alan Darby

The Greater Austin Council has made a $100 donation to the George T. Jones Scholarship Fund in honor of each of the above individuals.
Hall, continued from page 1

more than 900 carrier-arrested landings. His personal awards include Defense Superior Service medals, Legion of Merit medals, a Bronze Star and other personal, unit and campaign awards.

Carrier Strike Group NINE, abbreviated CSG-9 or CAR-STRKGRU 9 is currently assigned to the U.S. Pacific Fleet. The 2011-2012 Deployment consists of flagship USS Abraham Lincoln, embarked Carrier Air Wing 2, San Diego-based guided-missile cruiser USS Cape St. George (CG 71), and the embarked Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 9, which includes the Everett-based destroyers Momsen (DDG 92) and Shoup (DDG 86), as well as the San Diego-based destroyers USS Halsey (DDG 97) and USS Sterett (DDG 104.)

Carrier strike groups are employed in a variety of roles, all of which involve gaining and maintaining sea control as well as projecting power ashore.

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The Greater Austin Council is seeking individuals who are interested in serving the Council in a leadership capacity. No qualifications required other than a Navy League membership and a desire to serve. Contact Randy Patterson at 512-257-3464 or rapatterson.57@alum.dartmouth.org

New Veterans Outpatient Clinic Consolidates Numerous Services Under One Roof

The Central Texas Veterans Health Care System (TVHCS) cut the ribbon on a beautiful new state-of-the-art Austin VA Outpatient Clinic (picture below) on August 22, 2013. The new 184,000+ sq. ft facility makes it possible for the TVHCS to consolidate many of its services that were being housed in locations around the city and to add services that could not be accommodated at the old facility on Montopolis Dr. The new clinic is located at 7901 Metropolis Drive which is being changed to Veterans Way to lessen confusion between the old and new clinic locations. Another plus for the new location is the enormous parking lot that serves the clinic.

In 2012 the TVHCS served 23,700 patients at the old clinic. By 2025 the projected number of patients is expected to increase to more than 30,000 in keeping with metropolitan Austin’s projected rate of growth.

The clinic provides a myriad of services to veterans including some expanded services such as a CT scanner, and MRI and mammography suites. Additional services to be implemented over the next year include gastroenterology/endoscopy; ear, nose and throat; and oncology including chemotherapy. For a complete list of services go online to www.centraltexas.va.gov
Snapshots from the May 23, 2013

Distinguished Speaker Program & Dinner

Capt. William G. Schubert, guest speaker for the May 23 dinner, receives a USS Texas Cookbook as a token of the Council’s appreciation.

Veronica Sanchez, a Travis High School graduate and member of the Travis HS NJROTC enlisted in the Marine Corps and was scheduled to depart after graduation. We wished her the best. Hoo-rah!

Council Chair Glenn Looney (right) and President Kathy Pillmore presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Travis High School Sr. Science Officer Rick Hamblet and Cadet Garcia.

Council V.P. for Finance LuAnn Reyes received a Scroll of Honor for her contributions to the Navy League. Each Council may present only one Scroll of Honor per year.

Raffle Winners!

Travis High School Navy JROTC presented the colors and a lot of enthusiasm at the dinner.
ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICIES LEAD TO A RISK-AVERSE NAVY THAT WE CAN ILL AFFORD

By John Lehman Special To The U-T 12:01 a.m. July 7, 2013

John Lehman was secretary of the Navy under President Ronald Reagan, and a member of the 9/11 Commission.

Some naval leaders are born great (Nelson), some achieve greatness (Nimitz) and some have greatness thrust upon them (Forrestal). But what they all have in common is the most valuable of leadership talents, a willingness to be decisive under pressure based on a refined sense of the calculus of risk and reward.

All great leaders have made bad decisions and miscalculated risk at times in their careers. A leader cannot achieve success without failures along the way; Nelson at Boulogne, Nimitz grounding his first command, Forrestal trusting Symington — but they learn from them.

But the advice of Gilbert and Sullivan has nonetheless proved all too valid in peacetime:

“Stick close to your desks and never go to sea, And you all may be Rulers of the Queen’s Navy.” Peacetime navies tend to be risk averse, and those who tend to rise to the top are those who are noncontroversial consensus decision-makers and above all, risk avoiders.

But not in modern memory has risk avoidance been carried to such extremes as it is in today’s Navy along with the other armed services. Political correctness is increasingly enforced with a religious zeal. “Zero tolerance” is proudly hailed. One strike and you are out. Year after year as the fleet shrinks, records are set in removing commanders for cause. Other senior officers who attempt to protect their subordinates from unjust persecution are themselves embroiled.

A perfect example in the news is the current case of Air Force Lt. Gen. Susan Helms, highest ranking female astronaut, whose career is blocked by Sen. Claire McCaskel, because Helms intervened to prevent a gross railroading of a young captain for alleged sexual harassment. As in China, to be accused of political incorrectness is to be found guilty, and there is no career recourse.

To all this is now added the high risk of a career-ending anonymous hot-line call made by a disgruntled subordinate claiming sexual harassment, or any other of the myriad impieties of political incorrectness. To be accused is to be ruined.

After years of flawless service, of family sacrifice, hardship and valor, careers now can come to an abrupt end.

Of course there are many journalists, armchair strategists and think-tankers who applaud the victory of those like Rep. Pat Schroeder who vowed to “break the culture” after Tailhook ’91.

They herald the arrival of unmanned aerial, surface and undersea vehicles as eliminating the need for naval sea dogs and their warrior culture, since future naval warfare will be done from unified bases in Nevada, with operators requiring a culture rather closer to computer geeks.

As the old naval culture, best described by Napoleon as “L’audace, l’audace, toujours l’audace!” (audacity, audacity, always audacity!) disappears, what is being lost?

Those old attributes of naval leaders — willingness to take intelligent calculated risk, self-confidence, even a certain swagger — that are invaluable in wartime are the very ones that make them particularly vulnerable in today’s zero-tolerance Navy. The political correctness thought-police, like Inspector Javert in “Les Misérables,” are out to get them and are relentless.

A new naval culture of risk aversion has been created. Men and women with the potential of great naval leadership are not the type to accept such an environment, and they are leaving in numbers that will set records when the economy recovers.

Service bureaucrats will be quick to refute with statistics to show that retention of the best is at an all-time high.

Ironically, the new culture’s measures of excellence reward the most risk averse. It is inconceivable that Jones, Decatur, Farragut, Halsey, King, any of the McCains, Zumwalt or Holloway, could have made it past lieutenant commander in today’s Navy.

We will only find out what has been lost when our naval weakness ends our ability to deter, and once again we find ourselves in an unnecessary war.

On 22 December 2010, the President signed into law legislation that set conditions for the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654, known as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell (DADT).

Training was given to all active duty, selected reserve, and civilians who supervise military personnel using a tiered approach. Effective 20 September 2011, United States Code, Section 654 was officially repealed. (http://www.dadtrepeal.navymil.) The repeal of DADT creates a dilemma for chaplains of many Christian denominations since these denominations consider homosexual behavior to be a sin. For example, the discipline of the Methodist Church states that “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and consider this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.” The Catholic official who oversees chaplains, Archbishop Timothy Broglio of the Archdiocese for the Military Services said “This archdiocese remains resolved in the belief that no Catholic chaplain will ever be compelled to condone — even silently — homosexual behavior.”

Retired Chaplain Ronald Crews has said that when he was on active duty a four-star general told him: “If you cannot accept the changes coming, you have one option: You can resign your commission.” In 2010, Admiral Michael Mullen told a Christian chaplain who opposed the repeal of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” much the same thing, “If you cannot get in line, resign your commission.”

In January of this year Obama announced that he will disobey a provision protecting chaplains which Republicans included in the national defense authorization bill he signed. The provision states that the religious views of a soldier cannot be “the basis of any adverse personnel action, discrimination or denial of promotion, schooling, training or assignment,” and that chaplains cannot be forced “to perform any rite, ritual or ceremony that is contrary to the conscience, moral principles or religious beliefs of the chaplain.” He called this provision “unnecessary and ill-advised.”

Thus far, there’s been no significant exodus — perhaps two or three departures of active-duty chaplains linked to the repeal. Moreover, chaplains or their civilian coordinators from a range of conservative faiths told The Associated Press they knew of virtually no serious problems thus far involving infringement of chaplains’ religious freedom or rights of conscience. (http://www.armytimes.com/article/20120705/NEWS/207050314/chaplains-face-few-issues-after-DADT-repeal)

We will see what the future brings.
At each of the GAC’s dinner meetings we are honored to have a Navy JROTC, Young Marine, Sea Cadet or UT NROTC unit post the colors to get the meeting off to a patriotic start. The students and their sponsors are invited to participate as guests of the Council.

To help us offset the cost of the meals for these fine young men and women, we’re inviting members to adopt a cadet.

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When you make your dinner reservation, let Lu Ann Reyes know if you would like to adopt a cadet or adopt when you check-in. Your generosity will be recognized at the dinner and in the next Anchor newsletter.

George T. Jones Scholarship Fund provides scholarships to graduating seniors in Navy and Marine JROTC and Sea Cadet programs.

**Contribute Now!**

Send your tax deductible contributions to Greater Austin Council NLUS George T. Jones Scholarship Fund c/o Lu Ann Reyes 12901 Pantara Dr. Austin, TX 78729

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George T. Jones, 1926–2003
U. S. Navy WWII Veteran and Navy League Member
**SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AFFILIATES**

**Citizens in Support of the Sea Services**

The Navy League of the United States is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating our citizens about the importance of sea power to U.S. national security, and supporting the men and women of the sea services and their families.

**HELP US BUILD OUR MEMBERSHIP**

Use the form below and sign up a new member. Bring it and your new member to our next council meeting, or mail the form, together with the fee (check or money order payable to NLUS,) Lu Ann Reyes, 12902 Pantara Dr., Austin, TX 78729. The new member will immediately be added to our mailing list.

**YES! Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today**

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**Type of Membership (please check one)**

- ☐ Individual One-Year Membership ................................................ $50
- ☐ Husband & Wife One-Year Membership ....................................... $80
- ☐ Individual Two-Year Membership ................................................. $90
- ☐ Individual Three-Year Membership ........................................ $125
- ☐ Individual Life Membership (55 and below) ............................. $1,000
- ☐ Individual Life Membership (56 - 75) ........................................ $750
- ☐ Individual Life Membership (76+) ............................................. $500

**Method of Payment—Check enclosed (Make payable to NLUS) or Please charge my**

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**Signature**

**Billing Zip Code**

*Student memberships available online at navyleague.org ($25)*