



The ANCHOR

The Official Newsletter of the
Navy League of the United States • Greater Austin Council

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OUR NEXT

Distinguished Speaker Program

THURSDAY, JUNE 16

FROM LONGHORNS TO LEADERS



CAPT DAN DIXON, USN
University of Texas
Professor of Naval Science

Many distinguished Navy officers began their careers in a ROTC program not unlike that currently commanded by Capt. Dan Dixon at the University of Texas. The knowledge and skills the cadets acquire in college serve them well throughout their careers. UT has produced a number of high profile military officers; the latest UT alum in the news is 1977 UT graduate Vice Admiral William H. McRaven, the commanding officer of Seal Team 6. Capt. Dixon will talk about the process of turning a cadet into a outstanding military leader.

Captain Dan Dixon was born and raised in Silver Spring, Maryland and attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1983. After graduation, Captain Dixon completed graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin earning a Masters Degree in Physics in 1984. He then went on to flight training at Pensacola, Florida and Meridian, Mississippi and received his Wings in August 1986. After completing FA-18 training at VFA-125, he was assigned to VFA-161 from July 1987 until the squadron was decommissioned in February 1988, at which time he reported to VFA-25. During this tour with the Fist of the Fleet, he made two Western Pacific deployments aboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV-64) and USS INDEPENDENCE (CV-62).

Captain Dixon was then selected to attend the Empire State Pilot School at RAF Boscombe Down, UK in 1991, with follow on orders to VX-4 in Point Mugu, California. During his assignment to VX-4, Captain Dixon was assigned duties as the exchange test pilot with

Continued on page 3

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER PROGRAM

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President's Message

In spite of vying for the public's attention against two established local events (the Star of Texas Rodeo and parts of SXSW), and major international news (Libya and the Japanese earthquake and tsunami,) Navy Week—Austin, March 19–26, accomplished much of its objective of bringing Navy messages and presence to Austin.



Randy Patterson
President, Greater Austin Council

Since the Austin area is devoid of a major Navy base or other public Navy associations, it is difficult to measure



LS3 Jessalynn Guerrero and Lt. Krystal Roberts, representatives of the USS George H.W. Bush, CVN 77, present a certificate and ship's cap to Austin Mayor Lee Leffingwell during Navy Week ceremonies at City Hall.

whether knowledge and awareness of the Navy are getting through, but, according to the statistics compiled by the Navy Office of Community Outreach, which organizes the Navy Weeks around

the country, over 1.1 million citizens were exposed to a number of Navy messages at 68 events in the general Austin area during the week. These events included over 25 educational and community service events and another 25–30 civic, government, media and sporting event appearances. Navy participants included flag officers, the Navy band “Country Current,” the “Leap Frogs” precision para-



Assistant SecNav Juan M. Garcia III (2nd from left) inspects the troops during his visit to Austin as part of the Navy Week activities. He was accompanied by Mayor Leffingwell.

chute team, SEALs, local Navy Reserves and several other Navy representatives.

The Greater Austin Council dinner meeting on March 23rd welcomed Assistant SECNAV for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Juan Garcia III, as our distinguished speaker. Secretary Garcia is a Texan, a former member of the Texas Legislature, and a former Navy pilot. His remarks were timely and well received by our members, visitors and guests.



Bruce Byron has been busy with the campaign to have a new-construction ship named USS AUSTIN under the slogan “*Where in the World is the USS AUSTIN?*” With some momentum from Navy Week and support by Mayor Leffingwell and his staff, the Austin City Council recently passed a resolution calling for a new USS AUSTIN (see related story p7.) There is still a long way to go, but at least we have a significant start.

Bruce Byron (left) talks to Mayor Leffingwell about a resolution that supports the naming of a Navy ship after Austin. (See related story, p 7)

Jack Ritter, Max Miller, and Jeanie Coffee continue their efforts to spread the word about the need for a 313+ Navy, and will be making some more visits in Washington, DC, to Congress and the Administration June 21 – 23.

A recent study published by The Heritage Foundation is an interesting and informative reinforcement of the basic Navy League message. I recommend that you get a copy of *Thinking About a Day Without Sea Power: Implications for U.S. Defense Policy* by Mackenzie Eaglen and Bryan McGrath. It is downloadable in the “research” section of “Heritage.Org”. (See highlights on p5.)

Randy



As part of Navy Week activities, the crew of the USS Constitution presented Mayor Leffingwell with a shell fired from Old Ironsides during a saluting ceremony.

Capt. Dixon, continued from page 1

the United States Air Force 413th Test Squadron at Nellis Air Force Base. In May 1994, he was again back at Naval Air Station Lemoore and assigned to VFA-97 for his department head tour where he made Western Pacific Deployments with both CVW-15 and CVW-11, onboard the USS KITTY HAWK (CV-63).

In January 1997, Captain Dixon reported to Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Fallon, Nevada, as a TOPGUN Instructor until reporting back to Naval Air Station Lemoore in December 1998 for his assignment as VFA-25 Executive Officer and Commanding Officer where he deployed in August 2000 in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH onboard the USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN-72). Following his command tour, Captain Dixon reported once again to the Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Fallon, Nevada where he served as both the TOPGUN and Strike Department Heads from October 2001 until June 2004. He served as Deputy Director, Combined Air Operations Center, Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar from October 2004 through January 2005 enroute to Carrier Air Wing Eight where he served as both Deputy Commander and Air Wing Commander until August 2008. During his CAG tour, Captain Dixon deployed onboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN-71) in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. In September 2008, Captain Dixon reported to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Captain Dixon assumed command of the UTNROTC unit in August, 2011.

Captain Dixon has been married for 26 years to the former Rebecca Messer, they have four children; ENS Paul (24), MIDN 1/C Aaron (21), Elena (18), and Evan (11).

MORE NAVY WEEKS PICS



A static display of Navy aircraft at Bergstrom drew spectators.

Allen Bergeron, City of Austin's military liaison and USMC SGT Shaina Millan of ASN Garcia's staff chat after the City Council meeting.



TEXAS VETERANS' RESOURCES

VETERANS LAND BOARD

Since the days of the Republic, Texas has always supported her veterans in return for their military service. In the early days, it was in the form of land given by the state for military service in the Texas Revolution. In 1946, this tradition was formally recognized with the creation of the Texas Veterans Land Board (VLB) to administer benefits exclusively for Texas veterans. Since then, more than 200,000 VLB loans have been funded for Texas veterans. For over half a century, the VLB has been keeping the promise to serve Texas veterans, for life.

Land Loans ★ The foundation of the VLB is to help Texan veterans buy their piece of Texas with low-interest, long-term land loans.

Home Loans ★ In 1983, the Legislature created the Veterans Housing Assistance Program to help Texas veterans buy homes with special, low-interest loans for home purchase. Texas voters overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of bonds to fund the program.

Home Improvement Loans ★ In 1986, the VLB expanded the Veterans Housing Assistance Program, adding the Veterans Home Improvement Program to provide below-market interest rate loans to qualified Texas veterans for home repairs and improvements to their existing homes.

State Veterans Homes ★ In 1997, Senator Jerry Patterson passed a law authorizing the Texas State Veterans Home program to provide long-term care services for Texas veterans. Since 2001, the VLB has built seven Texas State Veterans Homes, which offer long-term, skilled-nursing care for veterans. The homes are located in Amarillo, Big Spring, Bonham, El Paso, Floresville, McAllen and Temple. The eighth home will be built in Tyler.

State Veterans Cemeteries ★ In 2006, to augment the federal veterans cemeteries and allow veterans to be buried closer to home and family, the VLB opened the state's first Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen, followed by state veterans cemeteries in Mission and Abilene. A fourth cemetery is under construction in Corpus Christi.

Come see us! ★ The VLB conducts Texas veterans benefit fairs across the state to help veterans better understand their benefits. Free and open to the public, the benefit fairs are co-sponsored by the Texas Veterans Commission.

Have a story to tell? ★ The **VLB Voices of Veterans**TM oral history program interviews Texas veterans from all eras and all conflicts to save their stories of dedication, courage and sacrifice for future generations. Please visit the Voices of Veterans website to listen to these stories or for more information.

For more information on all the VLB benefits and programs go to www.glo.texas.gov/vlb/index.html

Distinguished Speaker Program & Dinner



Bruce Byron, promoting the naming of a new Navy ship after Austin, poses with Max Miller and Juan M. Garcia, III, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserves.



GAC President Randy Patterson thanked Secretary Garcia for his remarks and presented him with one of the council's challenge coins.



JoAnne Colfack enjoyed the speaker as did Marine SGT Lovos (middle) and GySgt Jason Rousch, Asst. MOI - UT NROTC.



APD officer John Sevier with his son Jeff, a Bastrop NJROTC Cadet.



Fred Hudgeons and wife, both retired Army NCOs, came to hear Asst. SecNav Garcia.



Members of the Bastrop High School NJROTC Color Guard prepare to post the colors. (l-r) C/SA Edward Willis, C/PO1 Alex Wells (color Commander), C/PO1 Lorenzo Mendez, C/ SN Samantha Miller.



Selina (left) and C.P. Smith (right) with LCDR Elizabeth Leonard from Naval Reserve District-Austin Station for Officer Recruiting.



Guests were plentiful for Asst. SecNav's address.



Lee Hagan (left) helps Randy Patterson with the raffle items.



Tim Hunsberger (left) chatted with Sue and Roy Bennett before dinner.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NL YOUTH MEDALS 2010-2011

Each year, under the leadership of Lee Hagan, the Greater Austin Council, NLUS presents Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals to outstanding high school JROTC cadets and UT NROTC Midshipmen. Below are the 2010-2011 recipients

JUNIOR ROTC: HIGH SCHOOL	
Bastrop High School NJROTC	Cadet Petty Officer First Class Ricardo Collins
Brenham High School MCJROTC	Cadet Staff Sergeant Jon Gaskamp
Fredericksburg High School NJROTC	Cadet Lieutenant Douglas Brantley
Georgetown High School NJROTC	Cadet Lieutenant Commander Josh Paslawski
Jack C. Hays High School MCJROTC	Cadet First Lieutenant Yecenia Cortez
Hendrickson High School, Pflugerville	Cadet Sergeant Major Aaron Spieler
Lehman High School, Kyle, Texas	Cadet Petty Officer First Class Ely Gonzales
New Braunfels High School MCJROTC	Cadet Lance Corporal Richard E. Cooper
Round Rock High School MCJROTC	Cadet Gunnery Sergeant John Hass
Stony Point High School NJROTC	Cadet Ensign Matthew Calderon
Travis High School NJROTC	Cadet Malcolm Trammel
Vista Ridge High School	Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Matthew Altman
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS NROTC	
UT NROTC	Midshipman Ryan D. DeFranco



Greater Austin Council members are fortunate to attend each JROTC unit's award ceremony and present the Roosevelt Medals and certificates to the deserving students. (l-r) Cadet 1st Lt. Yecenia Cortez poses with Kathy Pillmore who presented her award. Hays MCJROTC squad poses with all their awards. Glenn Looney presents the NL certificate and medal to Cadet Lt. Douglas Brantley at Fredericksburg High School.

Heritage Foundation Talking Seapower

The following are highlights from *Thinking About a Day Without Sea Power: Implications for U. S. Defense Policy*, published May 16, 2011 by Mackenzie Eaglen and Bryan McGrath (www.heritage.org)

- Modern American sea power is the most flexible, adaptable, useful and powerful naval force the world has ever known.
- Congress and the Navy need to rebuild their relationship to help the nation build and afford the fleet it needs.
- The oceans are critical to international trade, with \$40 billion in oil passing through strategic chokepoints daily and \$3.2 trillion in yearly commerce passing through undersea cables.
- More than 95 percent of U. S. international trade is transported by water, with \$5.5 billion in goods moving in and out of American ports daily. The U. S. Navy is essential to guaranteeing the security of this shipping.
- A significant reduction in U. S. naval capacity would harm the American economy financially and reduce employment.
- Failure to invest in the fleet and maintain steady growth in the number of ships in the Navy's inventory will only embolden U. S. adversaries.

THE DEATH OF BIN LADEN

On May 1 President Obama announced that Osama bin Laden had been killed. (Ironically, it was on this date in 1945 that the world learned of the death of Adolph Hitler.) While the death of bin Laden was welcome news, I was somewhat troubled by the scenes of celebration outside the White House that resembled a football victory party. Is it really appropriate for Christians and Jews to celebrate the death of another human being? What does the Bible have to say about this matter?

One might think that the answer to this question is to be found in the sixth of the Ten Commandments, often stated as "Thou shalt not kill." Actually this is not the case. In Hebrew there are at least two words that relate to killing another human being. The word used in the commandment is *ratsach*, which is more accurately translated "murder." What is prohibited by the sixth commandment is what we today would call homicide. The commandment does not pertain to killing during warfare or as a punishment administered by the state. This made clear throughout the story of Israel and its many wars that depict God as the leader in the battles where Israel's enemies are killed. (David is considered a hero after killing Goliath.)

In the New Testament, Jesus tells his disciples to "Love your enemies" (Luke 6:27). However, in the same gospel Jesus also tells his disciples to sell their cloak if necessary to buy a sword (Luke 22:36). Perhaps the most relevant passage in the New Testament to the killing of bin Laden is found in Paul's letter to the Romans (13:4) where he says that one should not fear governmental authorities "For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the evil doer." Governments are established by God and punishing evil is their job, in the case on bin Laden a job well-done.

There is little question that the world is a better place now that bin Laden is dead. We should applaud the efforts of our military and intelligence communities that brought bin Laden to Justice. We should also celebrate the personal courage and skill of the operators who carried out this raid. The nation is in their debt.

Is it proper to celebrate the death of bin Laden? The Bible offers differing answers to the question, however, in the end I agree with the writer of the Book of Proverbs:

When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. (Prov. 11:10)

Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry faces loss of funding

Texas Military Forces Museum located at Camp Mabry is in jeopardy of losing their state funding, which amounts to about \$500,000 per year...not a lot in the big scheme of things, but a big loss to an outstanding museum.

In 1986, the Adjutant General's Department of Texas undertook to establish a museum and archival collection to tell the story of the Texas Military Forces. The following year the United States Army's Center for Military History sanctioned the creation of a military holding and museum to be located in Austin, Texas, at Camp Mabry, headquarters of the Texas Military Forces. Under the energetic leadership of Brigadier General John C.L. Scribner, work began to collect historic vehicles, artifacts and archival material for the proposed museum.

In 1990, Major General William C. Wilson designated Building 6, originally constructed in 1918 as a mess hall, as the museum's new home. Led by General Scribner, a group of talented

and devoted volunteers raised the funds necessary to convert Building 6 into a museum. Working almost exclusively with a modest amount of donated funds, as well as their own tools and equipment, they designed and created the museum's exhibits. On November 14, 1992 the Texas Military Forces Museum opened to the public for the first time.



Since its inception, the museum has amassed an impressive collection of historical material and now houses more than 10,000 three-dimensional artifacts, 6,000 books, 20,000 historic photographs, more than three-dozen historical military vehicles and artillery pieces, and over 600 linear feet of archival material. New items are added to this already significant collection each week.

It would be unthinkable to let this unique historical archive die due to a lack of funding. Contact your state legislator and stress the importance of preserving this piece of Texas history.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE USS AUSTIN?

On May 12, the City of Austin City Council approved the following resolution in support of naming one of the Navy's new Freedom Class Littoral Combat Ships after Austin. Three other ships have carried the name USS Austin; the first one was part of the original Texas Navy and was named for Stephen F. Austin. The second Austin (DE-15) honored Chief Carpenter John Arnold Austin and the third Austin (LPD-4,) which was decommissioned in 2006, was named for the Capital of Texas. GAC past president Bruce Byron is heading up the effort to have a new ship named for Austin. Obtaining the City's support is just one of many steps to that end.

CITY OF AUSTIN RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy will be commissioning ten Littoral Combat Ships (LCS) to join the USS Freedom Class Fleet; and

WHEREAS, the Austin Navy League Council of the Navy League is moving forward with efforts to honor the citizens of Austin by having one of the Navy's new ships named after the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, a previous U.S. Navy ship named in honor of the City of Austin has recently been decommissioned; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has citizens and City employees who are military Veterans, many of whom are proudly serving or in our Armed Forces in Iraq and Afghanistan today; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin is honored to be the only city in the country to receive the prestigious Secretary of Defense Freedom Award for creating a model City program supporting our Veterans, Guard and Reserve personnel and their families; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin was also honored with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Commander's Award, the highest award given to an employer;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Council of the City of Austin commends and supports the Navy League Council of Austin for their continuing efforts to have one of the newly commissioned ships named the USS Austin.

A **Littoral Combat Ship (LCS)** is a type of relatively small surface vessel intended for operations in the littoral zone (close to shore). It is envisioned to be a networked, agile, stealthy surface combatant capable of defeating anti-access and asymmetric threats in the littorals. Two ship classes are the first examples of the LCS in the U.S. Navy: the *Freedom*-class and the *Independence*-class. Ten ships in each class are scheduled to be built. In the Freedom Class to date, the USS Freedom (LCS-1) is in service and the second named ship, the USS Ft. Worth (LCS-3) is under construction. Two other ships have been named: the USS Milwaukee (LCS-5) and the USS Detroit. (LCS-7) six remain unnamed.

GAC Calendar

~2011~

June 16

Distinguished Speaker Program
Capt. Dan Dixon, USN, UT NSP

Oct 20

Distinguished Speaker Program
Tom Hatfield, senior research fellow at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin and director of the Center's Military History Institute.

Additional speakers invited but not yet confirmed include:

- *Gen. Michael W. Hagee, 33rd Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps*
- *Author Fred Burton*
- *Dan Branch, NLUS President*
- *Adm. Bobby Inman and Congressman Michael McCaul joint presentation*
- *VADM William H. McRaven, SOCOM*

Dates are subject to change to accommodate the speaker. For calendar updates go to www.navyleagueaustin.org

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The ANCHOR

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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.

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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,) to Kathy Pillmore, 10001 Jupiter Hills Drive, Austin, TX 78747; or Lu Ann Reyes, 12820 W. Parmer Lane, Cedar Park, TX 78613. The new member will be added to our mailing list immediately.

YES! Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today

I am a U.S. Citizen I am not a U. S. Citizen

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