



The ANCHOR

The Greater Austin Council Navy League of the United States

May — June 2009 • Citizens in Support of the Sea Services • www.centexnavyleague.org

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Commissionings

OUR NEXT

Distinguished Speaker Programs THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2009



JOHN KNOX

Vexillologist and member of the Sons of the American Revolution

Topic:

The Evolution and Significance of the American Flag

Webster defines Vex•il•ol•o•gy as the study of flags. John Knox has studied the history of flags since he was in elementary school in West Texas. He is a member of North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), Vexillological Association of the State of Texas (VAST), and National Flag Foundation(NFF). Each year Knox travels with the Boy Scouts to retire 4000 flags. He also works with scouts to help them earn their Eagle Scout rank and in so doing he has helped raise 30 or more flagpoles at various Austin fire stations over the past seven years. Knox has over 250 different historical flags, many of which he makes himself, that he enjoys sharing with different civic and historical groups. Knox states, "I would say that 200 or more of my flags are one-of-a-kind custom made from the research I have done and are either made by me or made for me." Knox is continually adding about 20 new flags to his collection each year. This year he is working on Texas historical flags and last year he concentrated on colonial militia flags.

John Knox is the proud father of twin 20-year old boys, Tom and John. Tom is an Eagle Scout and junior at Texas A&M. John lives at home and is enjoying life to the fullest. His wife Cynthia is an AISD teacher who works with at-risk students. Knox is employed as Director, Decision Support Office for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Austin. He

Continued on page 2

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER PROGRAM
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- \$25 • Military in Uniform & their Guests - \$20
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Reservations: 512-327-7413 • rglennl@alumni.utexas.net

President's Message

A lot of exciting things have happened, are happening and will happen. Here are some highlights:

Past —The bold initiative I mentioned in April has been approved by the officers and directors. Commence operation: “Where in the world is the USS Austin?” As you will remember our namesake and adopted ship was decommissioned in 2006 and replaced by the USS San Antonio. One way to get our community to support expanding the number of ships is to provide them a connection. Most don't identify with the military but they are proud of our community. We will make presentations to the City of Austin, Travis County and the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce about the Navy League. In addition we will ask them to approve a resolution that reconnects our community and our Navy through another USS Austin. It gives us a reason to explain our goals to the community, heightens our visibility and provides a rallying call –

“Just Where in the world is the USS Austin?”

Present — on 1-3 May 2009 our own fearless leader Glenn Looney organized a Lone Star Region Annual Business Meeting in Fredericksburg, Texas. Of interest to Greater Austin Council members is the high regard that their Council is held in the Lone Star region and the level of trust placed in its members. Jeanie Coffey, Glenn Looney, Max Miller, and Jack Ritter were elected National Directors, an unprecedented number for a Council of this size. Additionally, Max Miller was elected President Central Texas AREA, Jack Ritter continues as Vice-President Lone Star Region for Legislative Affairs, and Glenn Looney was elected President, Lone Star Region. This is long overdue recognition of the massive investment of time and energy that these folks put into our Navy League both locally, regionally and nationally. Bravo Zulu (well done) to all.

Future — Our future is our youth. The positive response from so many to the tragic death of Cadet Raven Mayes strengthened the military community. Unnoticed by many are the daily efforts of the instructors and leaders of the Sea Cadets and Navy and Marine Junior ROTC units.



Bruce Byron
President, Greater Central Texas
Council of the Navy League of the
United States

KNOX, *Continued from page 1*

is the past president of the Patrick Henry Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) and past color guard commander for the South Central District of the SAR. Currently Knox serves as district vice president SAR, Texas brigade commander for descendants of Washington's Army at Valley Forge, and president of Moses Austin Chapter Sons of the Republic of Texas (SRT).

To prepare you for his presentation, Knox poses the following questions:

- Why do we have a flag?
- What was the first flag to fly in North America?
- What are some of the early flags that flew in America?
- How did we get our first United States Flag?
- Who is Francis Hopkinson?
- What was the first United States Flag?
- What about the story of Betsy Ross and the flag and the five-pointed star?
- Who made the Star Spangled Banner?
- Who is William Driver?
- What are the 27 faces of “Old Glory”?

The answers will be provided at the June 25th dinner. Make your reservations now! 


President's Message *continued*

Lee Hagen works many hours to coordinate our sponsorship of one sea cadet and ten junior ROTC units. We have just added Lehman High School in Hays County.

Membership — I can't talk about the future of our chapter without talking membership. Like any organization, we literally live or die as an organization based on recruiting and retaining members. After many years of growth we are slipping. So for our dinner meetings get out your address books and invite anyone who you know who might be interested. Or if people can't attend the dinners, sign them up anyway. It is an inexpensive way to support our sea services. See Sam Williams for details.

Navy League's annual convention is coming to TEXAS!

Corpus Christi - 27 October to 1 November 2009 at the Omni Corpus Christi Hotel - Bayfront and Marina Towers. This is an all hands event for members and their guests and there will be more than just business, including entertainment and tours before, during, and after the convention dates.

New name, same mission – support the seas services for us, for U.S, and for the generations to come. 

Bruce

Central Texas AREA Hosts Lone Star Region Annual Business Meeting and Getaway

by Glenn Looney and Max Miller

The Central Texas AREA hosted the annual Lone Star Region business meeting in Fredericksburg, Texas 1-3 May 2009 at the Fredericksburg Inn and Suites. The event set a record for attendance with forty-five national directors, council presidents and officers of the Texas Navy League and their guests.


Business included nominations for 2010 region and area officers and directors, review and discussion of the issues facing the Navy League and the Sea Services. Bill Waylett from Navy League national headquarters conducted seminars on recruiting younger members and how to work with congressional leaders. He and Glenn Looney led a discussion on the need for councils to have functional, current web sites.

The Greater Austin Council came away from the meeting with a greatly increased profile in the Lone Star Region. Jeanie Coffey, Glenn Looney, Max Miller, and Jack Ritter were elected national directors and Max Miller was elected president, Central Texas AREA. Jack Ritter continues in his role as vice president of the Lone Star Region for Legislative Affairs, and Glenn Looney was elected president

of the Lone Star Region.

Max Miller, Greater Austin Council Chairman of the Board, received the Region's Navy League *Scroll of Honor*, which was presented to him by Mr. Donald "Bull" Walker, outgoing Lone Star Region president.

In addition to the business aspect of the meetings, many enjoyed the weekend getaway with tours of the Nimitz Museum, shopping, dinner at the Cabernet Grill, an outstanding night of music at the Rockbox Theater, and a pleasant luncheon with Mr. Rob Esterlein, Deputy Director of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation, as speaker. A reception hosted by the Fleet Admiral Nimitz Council provided the needed wind down after the completion of business. Attending from the Greater Austin Council were Jeanie Coffey, Kitty Larson, Harold Johnson, Jim and Nancy Brotherton, Glenn and Nancy Looney, Jack and Mary Ritter and Max and Sylvia Miller.

The 2010 Lone Star Region meeting will be hosted by the South Texas AREA and will most likely take place in Ingleside in conjunction with the tall ships regatta scheduled in July. 



Outgoing Lone Star Region President, Bull Walker presents the Scroll of Honor to Max Miller



Travis Lagrone, president of the Greater Houston Council, Max Miller and Jim Brotherton of the Great Austin Council enjoy visiting each other at the Lone Star Region Annual Business Meeting.

Check it Out!

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Distinguished Speaker Program & Dinner



Council president Bruce Byron greets our distinguished speaker, Captain Hank Domeracki



CDR Dave Hogsten, UT ROTC XO, receives a Greater Central Texas Council Honorary Membership certificate from Glenn Looney



Sharon and Dean Nobles attended their first Navy League dinner.



Chaplain Roy Walker, assisted by UT NROTC Cadet Colin Doherty, conducted the poignant Two-Bell Ceremony. The ceremony honors the departed sea service shipmates from the Austin area who died serving our country.



(L-r) Peggy Jones, Beck Wharton, GYSG Peter Mireles Operations Chief with Weapons Company 1/23, 4th Marine Division and Liz Bailey share a few moments before dinner.



(l-r) Jim Lacy, Bill Lacy and Jack Ritter catch up at the dinner. Bill Lacy was recognized for his painting of the USS Austin, LPD-4 that he donated to the USS Austin exhibit at Austin City Hall. Jim is Bill's son.

Lance Corporal Raven Jenae Mayes, a 15-year old member of the Round Rock Marine Corps Junior ROTC, was killed in an auto accident en route to our April 23 Navy League Distinguished Speaker program. Her funeral was May 2, 2009 and because she was in uniform when she died, she was accorded full military honors.



Raven was born March 7, 1994 in Everett, Washington. She was a freshman at Round Rock High School. In addition to her participation in the JROTC program, she was also a Dragonette. The following excerpt was taken from her memorial at www.mem.com.

“Raven was the oldest of five children. From the day she was born, everyone who came into contact with her knew she was special. She was extremely intelligent, very

caring, compassionate and honest. No matter what the situation, Raven never compromised her beliefs and morals. She was a leader. Those who had the privilege to be her friend

experienced her loyalty and her extraordinary personality. Raven had the ability to bring a smile out of everyone no matter what kind of mood they were in. She was and will continue to be a role model, and although she is no longer physically with us, she will live on forever in our hearts.”

The Greater Austin Council has, to date, donated \$1,780 to help the family offset funeral expenses. Anyone desiring to make a donation may send it to GAC/Navy League c/o Treasurer Ray Roark, 10709 Fountainbleu Circle, Austin, TX 78750. Indicate “Raven Mayes” in the memo field of your check.

MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS

SPENCE IS GUEST SPEAKER AT TOLLING THE BELL CEREMONY

Capt. Mike Spence, UT NROTC CO was the guest speaker at the *Tolling the Bell Ceremony* held by Round Rock Submarine Vets on Memorial Day. The SubVets have been holding these ceremonies for several years, honoring and remembering the ships



and crews of the 52 submarines lost during WWII by “tolling” the bell for those shipmates that have gone on “Eternal Patrol.” The ship names and crew members lost during peacetime accidents were added at some point, as was the case during the Memorial Day ceremony.

The history of American submarines has spanned 100 years, two world wars, four regional conflicts, and countless days of “peacetime” patrols. The U.S. Navy has commissioned nearly 800 submarines since 1900. Some of these submarines logged more than 2,000 patrols during their careers. During this time, submarines have been involved in serious accidents only 28 times, a remarkable safety record that continues to be the envy of other nations. To date there

have been 28 peacetime incidents involving 1,700 officers and crew. Of this total 540 men lost their lives.

CORNYN RECOGNIZES GRADUATES

Jack Ritter and Max Miller attended a Memorial Day ceremony where U.S. Senator John Cornyn honored Texas high school graduates who were awarded appointments to the US Air Force, US Coast Guard, US Merchant Marine, US Military, and US Naval Academies. The ceremony for the high school graduates was outstanding and the students and their parents came from all over Texas. After the ceremony, Jack and Max briefed Senator Cornyn with the second Navy League Legislative Affairs presentation.



JROTC, UT ROTC YOUNG MARINES & SEA CADETS

UPDATE

PRESENTING THEODORE ROOSEVELT YOUTH MEDALS IS AN UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE FOR THIS NOVICE

by Kathy Pillmore

Each year the Greater Austin Council presents Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals and certificates to deserving JROTC students and Sea Cadets (featured in the March-April *Anchor*) at our adopted high schools all over the Central Texas area. Members of the GAC board of directors are recruited to make the presentations. This was the first year that I had the honor to do this and I was so impressed by the calibre of students and JROTC units that I visited. The students I met were confident, focused, motivated, met challenges, gave back to their community and in general seemed to be more mature than the average high

school student. It was a true pleasure to meet these kids and their instructors and I know that the other board members who make these presentations feel the same as I do. Credit goes to Lee Hagan for ensuring that these deserving students are recognized each year.

The list of recipients along with a few photos taken at presentations follow:

- Cadet Petty Officer First Class Anna Matson, Bastrop High School
- Cadet Ensign Amber R. Thompson, Fredericksburg High School
- Cadet Commander Cody Miles, Georgetown High School
- Cadet Second Lieutenant Christian Thompson, Jack C. Hays High Sch.
- Cadet Nicholas Parrish, New Braunfels High School
- Cadet Lance Corporal Louis V. Chicas, Round Rock High School
- Cadet First Sergeant Robert J. Royer, Round Rock High School
- Cadet Ensign Cassandra Diamon, Stony Point High School
- Cadet Chief Petty Officer Ruth Ramirez, Travis High School
- Cadet Second Lieutenant Wanda Martinez, Brenham High School



Kathy Pillmore presents a youth medal and certificate to Cadet 2nd Lt. Christian Thompson at Hays High School.



Lee Hagan presents a youth medal and certificate to Cadet Lance CPL Louis V. Chicas at Round Rock High School.



Kathy Pillmore presents to Cadet CPO Ruth Ramirez at Travis High School.



Lehman High School NJROTC Unit adopted by Council

On May 24, Lee Hagan and Randy Patterson, on behalf of the Greater Austin Council, officially presented an "adoption certificate" to LCDR John K. Berry, USN (Ret) Senior Naval Instructor at the new Lehman High School in Hays CISD. This brings to 11 the total JROTC and Sea Cadet units adopted by the Council.

Pictured (l-r) are Lee Hagan, Cadet Senior Chief Katy Cottle, Cadet Lt JG Gerynn McFarland, Cadet Senior Chief Martika Miller, LCDR Berry and Randy Patterson.



George T. Jones,
1926-2003
U. S. Navy WWII Veteran
and GCTC Member

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GCTC Calendar

- 25 Jun** *Distinguished Speaker Program*
John Knox, vexillologist and member of the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Texas Society of Sons of the American Revolution, presents a Flag Day Program.
- 13 August** *Distinguished Speaker Program*
CAPT Mike Spence, UT NROTC Commanding Officer
- 24 Sept** *Distinguished Speaker Program*
RADM John D. Butler, USN, Ret.
Vice President, Fleet Ballistic Missile Program Requirements
- 27 Oct-1 Nov** NLUS Convention at Corpus Christi
- 3 Dec** *Distinguished Speaker Program & Annual Meeting/Awards*

In Memoriam

William Kenneth Petticrew, Jr.
Long time Greater Austin Council and Navy League member, passed away May 18, 2009. Ken was a great asset to our council serving as an officer and always being counted on to ask the insightful question of our distinguished speakers. He was a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy and was one of the World War II Veterans honored last December.

☪
Jack Mc Crocklin

☪
**Cadet Lance Corporal
Raven Mayes**

The Council has made a \$100 donation to the George T. Jones Scholarship Fund in honor of each of the above-named individuals

GAC Challenge Coins Are Here

"Challenge coins" are collected for various military units, special events and the like. To mark the change of our council name, GAC has obtained a number of these coins for use as mementos for our distinguished speakers, other special recognitions, and for sale to our members. The coins (pictured here) will be available at our dinner meeting on June 25th.



THE ANCHOR IS NOW ACCEPTING ADVERTISING!

The *Anchor* is distributed electronically to over 400 Navy League members, elected officials and interested parties, and prints more than 175 copies that are mailed to members and distributed at council meetings as well as other locations. Copies are also posted and archived at www.centexnavyleague.org. You can get your name in front of a highly-targeted audience for a very reasonable rate while supporting your Greater Austin Council.

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IT'S OFFICIAL!

The Central Texas Council of the Navy League of the United States is now officially

**The Greater Austin Council
of the
Navy League of the United States**

The ANCHOR

Kathy Pillmore, Editor
 10001 Jupiter Hills Drive
 Austin, TX 78747
 email: kpillmore@austin.rr.com

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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 Sam Williams, 3509 Arrowhead Dr., Austin, TX 78731-4801. The new member will be added to our mailing list immediately.

YES! Please enroll me as a Navy Leaguer Today

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