

THE ELEVATOR SPEECH----NAVY LEAGUE
(The two minute speech) Draft Rev. 01/17/10

In response to the question, what is the Navy League of the United States?

We are a non-profit. We are an American civilian organization across North America, Europe and Asia with nearly **53,500** members organized in 250 Councils, with headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

We advocate--- we educate-- the public and our congress on the **need for strong and effective, and capable Sea Services**----Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine. Our members also directly provide support and **assistance to their families. We support the troops! We support a 9000 member youth program (The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps).**

We inform the public and our Senators and Representatives of the importance of sea power to **National Security and our economic prosperity.**

95% of our goods move by sea! The American public assumes trade will move unimpeded. **A strong navy that is large enough**---can guarantee freedom of the seas when the sea lanes are challenged, whether in peace or time of hostilities.

The Navy League briefs hundreds of Senators and Representatives annually on the need to adequately fund navy ship construction. We need well over \$25 billion funded annually to build the fleet to 313 ships, the minimum for our national security.

Administrations and congress recently **have funded shipbuilding under half that needed to build an adequately sized fleet. This affects our industrial base and long term, our economic prosperity.**

We are 287 ships today---nearly **where we were in 1916.** The fleet decline since the 1990s has been significant. **(There were 435 ships in 1993, and 592 in 1989).**

Wars, piracy/humanitarian assistance/guaranteeing free flow of trade for our economic well being require a robust and adequately sized Navy.

We need to build the Navy fleet to at least 313 ships near term.

So in short, we are an all civilian organization concerned with the long term interests of our national security. We are not political. (We are not lobbyists). Do you have concerns about National Security and/or the size of our Navy today?

Consider joining us and our cause.

The web is www.navyleague.org. Here is a Navy League brochure. Here is my card. Thank you very much.

