

The Sierra Wave

The Newsletter of the Navy League of the United States
Carson City Council #347

Betty Rowe, Editor
May 2008

May 16, 2008
Dinner Meeting
Carson Nugget
5:30 Social Hour
6:30 Buffet Dinner

CDR Gary L. Wick
USN, P.E., CEC

Speaker



Our next meeting will be at the Carson Nugget, Friday, May 16, 2008. The social hour is at 5:30 PM followed by a buffet dinner at 6:30 PM. The calling committee will be contacting you for your reservations unless you call Bob Prater at 888-2050 first or you may email Bob at Robert_Prater@sbcglobal.net. The price is \$25 per person.

For last minute reservations, you may call Bob through noon, Monday, the 14th. We must request that "no shows" be responsible for the price of their uneaten dinners.

Commander Wick was born in Flint, MI and graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University in 1987.

Upon completion of Officer Candidate School (OCS) and Civil Engineer Corps Officer School (CECOS), CDR Wick reported to the Washington Navy Yard as an Activity Liaison Officer. Following his tour at the Navy Yard, CDR Wick became the Service Contract Manager for the BOS Contract at Diego Garcia.

Upon completion of his tour in Diego Garcia, CDR Wick reported to NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION

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Skipper's Corner

Well, it's that time again, time to get together with your fellow Navy Leaguers and enjoy another evening of fun and frolic. The last dinner was a success with a fine meal and an excellent speaker whose demonstration of the night vision goggles the aviators use was enjoyed by all who attended. I am sure our next guest speaker will be just as informative and entertaining.

Navy League members

(Continued on page 2, column 3)

Sailors Recognized by our Council, 1st Quarter 2008



Fleet Readiness Center West Site Fallon, L to R: MR1 (SW) Dennis Nicholls SSOQ, AZ2 Shawn Lynch SOQ, and SK3 Christopher Erutor JSOQ, flanked by Bud Southard and Carol Branniff of Fallon Council, NLUS



VFC-13, SOQ AZ2 Kurt L. Kelly and SOQ YN1 Marie J. Newton are flanking presenter Bud Southard



SOQ = Sailor of the Quarter
SSOQ = Senior Sailor of the Quarter
JSOQ = Junior Sailor of Quarter

Bud Southard made another SOQ presentation, this time at NSAWC, to AW1 Gary Bryant, SSOQ and to ISSN Lendsey Tice, BJOQ. AO2 Leo Dominguez was TAD. He was JSOQ, 1st Q



Member Profile

George Mc Roberts

(see page 3)



Bring a friend, neighbor and/or a vet to the dinner! Last minute reservations to Bob Prater, 888-2050

At the NJROTC Ball on 3 May, 2008



Samantha Ferla received the Robert C. Brogan scholarship from Bob Brogan



Chelsea Milburn received the Leadership Plaque from President Bob Prater



Rachel Jeauxdevine and Cole Chandler received the Youth Medals from President Bob Prater



SKIPPER (Continued from page 1, column 3) have also been active in other areas. Bud Southard and I have continued to work on the TA-4J Cockpit at NAS Fallon and hopefully we will have it painted by the time you read this. Bud and I also visited VFC-13 where we joined the squadron in recognizing the Junior and Senior Sailor of the Quarter. During our visit, with good fortune smiling upon us, we were invited to try out the new F5 simulator. For me it was a lesson in humility as I could not get ahead of those sensitive controls. Bud, however, had much better reflexes and managed to fly it very well. Still it was fun to try.

On 3 May, Bud, Carolyn, my wife Sue and I, along with Bob Brogan, attended the NJROTC ball for an evening of fun with the younger set. Representing the Navy League we made the following presentations. The Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals were presented to Rachel Jeauxdevine and Cole Chandler. The Navy League Leadership Plaque to Chelsea Milburn and the Carson City Navy League's Commander Robert C. Brogan Scholarship to Samantha Ferla for \$500, a hearty congratulations to each of them.

Mark your calendar and make your dinner reservations for May 16th, we hope to see a lot of you at the dinner and look forward to having another wonderful evening

~Robert "Bob" Prater
Council President

New Members

Please welcome our new members:

Tom and Cathi Unruh

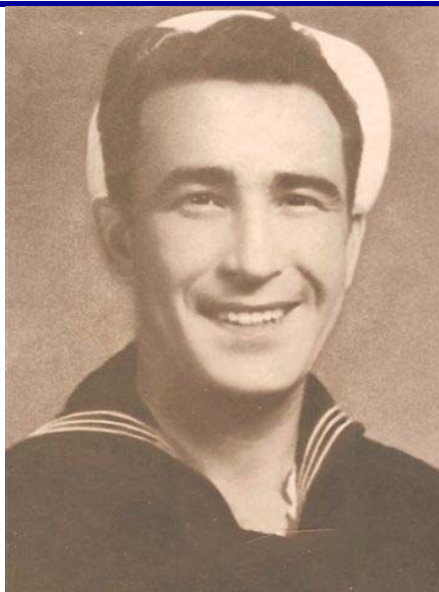
Ronald and Marla LeFrancois

Steve Vargo

Chief Petty Officer George W. McRoberts USN (Retired)

On December 6th, 1941 the destroyer USS Batch 363, part of the strike force escorting the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise CV6, was steaming back from exercises in the Truk Islands to Pearl Harbor when they encountered a typhoon that slowed them down more than a day. When Seaman McRoberts took his firing control duty station some 80 feet above the deck, he had brought along his little transistor radio in hopes of picking up some music from Hawaii. Instead, he picked up a station that had the announcement "Clear all vehicles from the streets to let the tanks through!" Then the station faded out. George chuckled to himself, thinking, leave it to the Army to have maneuvers on Sunday morning. Within minutes the ships alarm to battle stations rang out and the announcement was made on the P.A. The Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor.

The USS Enterprise arrived in



Pearl Harbor late Sunday, searched for fuel and was back at sea on the 8th. They gave chase to the Japanese fleet but to no avail. They were soon ordered to other venues in the Pacific.

George recalls many Islands such as Tarawa, Marshall, Gilbert

and Midway, to name just a few, but the duty he recalls most vividly was to assist the USS Yorktown that had been hit hard during the battle of Midway. When they arrived at the Yorktown she was listing badly and sinking. George's voice softens a bit when he recalls that his ship recovered 475 sailors from the sea, most of them deceased.

George William McRoberts was born on a farm in Silver Lake, Kansas not far from Fort Riley Army base. He was one of 4 brothers and 2 sisters. He enlisted in the Navy in 1937 at the ripe old age of 19. During boot camp the Navy learned that he could type therefore he was assigned to San Diego as a typist.

After paying his dues typing, he received orders to report to the destroyer USS Selfridge DD 367. In 1941 he was assigned to the USS Balch DD 353 which was part of the 3 cruisers and 9 destroyers strike force assigned to the USS Enterprise under the command of Admiral William F. Halsey.

In 1943 George was assigned to the USS Rixby APH 3, a casualty evacuation transport, where he served until the end of the war. While attending training in Portland, WA. he met his bride to be, Margaret Bustamante. They were married and had 2 sons who now live in Bellingham, WA and San Leandro, CA.

George's last tour in the Navy was as a recruiter in Topeka KS.

In 1956 he retired from the Navy and was employed as a Tech Rep for Philco at their Palo Alto, CA. division.

George and Margaret moved to Carson City after he retired in 1999. Sorry to say, Margaret passed away in 2005 but at 90 years old, George stays busy with home maintenance, his church and other social functions such as the Navy League.

The next time you see George, ask him why he didn't join the Army.

~Dan Seaton, Biographer

Speaker(Continued from page 1, column 2)

BATTALION ONE THREE THREE.

During this tour, CDR Wick served as Material Liaison Officer, Charlie Company Commander, and AIR DET OIC. Following his Seabee tour, Commander Wick was selected to become the Accessions Officer for the Western Region of the United States. Naval Postgraduate School was Commander Wick's next stop where he earned a Master's degree in Financial Management.

Upon completion of PG school, CDR Wick reported as the Deputy Resident Officer in Charge of Construction at Everett, Washington. After a brief stint at the Defense Language Institute (DLI), Commander Wick reported to Naples, Italy where he served as the Assistant Public Works Officer. After Naples, Commander Wick reported to the USMC's Blount Island Command as the Naval Construction Force Liaison. During this tour, Commander Wick deployed to Kuwait as part of OPERATION

(continued next column)

IRAQI FREEDOM. After his tour with the Marine Corps, reported to the Naval War College and received a Masters degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. Following his studies at the War College, CDR Wick reported to COMNAVMARIANAS as the Assistant Regional Engineer. Upon completion of his tour in Guam, CDR Wick reported to his current assignment as Public Works Officer, Naval Air Station Fallon.

Commander Wick is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of Washington, Seabee Combat Warfare qualified, Acquisition Professional Community Level II, and JPME - 1 certified. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).

Coming Events

May 16, 2008, Friday	Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
May 17, 2008, Saturday	Armed Forces Day Parade
June 3, 2008, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
July 18, 2008, Friday	Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
August 5, 2008, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
September 19, 2008, Friday	Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
October 7, 2008, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
November 21, 2008, Friday	Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30
December 2, 2008, Tuesday	Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00
January 16, 2009, Friday	Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30

Mark your calendars now

Council Dinner Meeting Friday, May 16, 2008

Social hour, 5:30 PM

Buffet dinner, 6:30 PM

\$25 per person

Carson Nugget

Speaker

**CDR Gary L. Wick,
USN, P. E./ CEC**

Call for reservations
888-2050

Armed Forces Day Parade 17 May

On May 17th Carson City will hold its first Armed Forces Day Parade. The purpose is to honor our troops and raise money for the wounded soldiers. We hope you will come out and support the efforts of those organizing the activities. For more information visit the web-site at ww.carsoncityhonorsourtroops.com. Hope to see you there. Assemble on Stewart St. near DMV before 10 am. Route, north on Stewart & east on Washington St. to Mills Park.

**Carson City Council #347
Navy League of the United States
Post Office Box 4404
Carson City NV 89702-4404**

Website: www.cc347nlus.com



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