

# The Sierra Wave

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

Betty Rowe, Editor  
November 2008

**November 21, 2008**  
**Dinner Meeting**  
**Carson Nugget**  
**5:30 Social Hour**  
**6:30 Buffet Dinner**

**General Abizaid**  
**to speak at dinner**  
**November 21**



Our next meeting will be at the Carson Nugget, Friday, November 21, 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, 888-2050 first or you may email Bob at [Robert\\_Prater@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Robert_Prater@sbcglobal.net). The price is \$25 per person.

For last minute reservations, you may call Bob through noon, Monday, the 17th. We must request that "no shows" be responsible for the price of their uneaten dinners.



## Skipper's Corner

Surprisingly, September's Dinner meeting was quite a success. The turnout was outstanding considering that we were up against numerous other activities in which some members are involved. The Navy and Marine Corps Recruiters were great along with having Captain Glaser and Master Chief Forsch interacting with them. As a whole the membership appeared to have a lot of interest in

*(Continued on page 2, column 3)*

## New Members

*Please welcome*

**Martin D. Mockford**  
**Mary Lee Mockford**

## Sorry ...

The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry, as with the case of the bio of one of our members this time around. Our much appreciated biographer, Dan Seaton, has encountered a painful medical condition, non-life threatening, that prevented him from completing the member bio. Hopefully we will satisfy your appetite with other material.

John P. Abizaid retired from the United States Army in May, 2007, after thirty-four years of active service. After graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point, he rose from infantry platoon leader to become, at that time, the youngest four-star general in the Army. At the time of his retirement he was the longest-serving commander of United States Central Command. During a distinguished career he commanded units at every level, serving in the combat zones of Grenada, Lebanon, Kurdistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. Units under his command have included the 1st Infantry Division, a brigade in the 82nd Airborne Division, and two Ranger companies. Abizaid worked on the Joint Staff three times, the last as Director. He studied at the University of Jordan in Amman,

*(Continued on page 2, column 1)*

## And another comes home

Recently an email and a phone call came to this editor from a woman who for several years as a school girl wore a bracelet bearing Wendell R. Alcorn's name. See page 3 for the text of her email.

*Painting by Karen Z. Alcorn of the POW bracelets returned to Ray subsequent to his return from the Hanoi Hilton*



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

## Sailors of the Quarter



; Bud Southard makes 3rd Quarter SOQ presentations to CS2 (AW) Jose Tejada (JSOQ) and YN3(SW) Kathryn Long (BJOQ) at Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center, Fallon. Note: AW1(AW/NAC) Cameron Ruyg was away on assigned duties.



*ABIZAID Continued from page 1, column 2*

holds a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University, and is widely considered to be an expert in the field of Middle Eastern affairs. As such, Abizaid was one of the first to recognize the protracted nature of the ongoing conflict against religious-inspired extremists, which he has termed "The Long War."

General Abizaid was recently named the first Annenberg Distinguished Visiting Fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. He

works with the Preventative Defense Project at Stanford University and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He regularly speaks on leadership and international security through the Washington Speakers Bureau. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the International Institute for Strategic Studies. He currently serves as a Director of the George Olmsted Foundation and USAA. He and his wife Kathy are residents of Gardnerville, Nevada.

**SKIPPER** (Continued from page 1, column 3) what they had to say so it turned out to be a very informative evening.

Thanks again to Gunny Vincent and MR1 Hoover for the efforts to inform the membership about current recruiting efforts.

For those that would have liked to attend the Navy Ball but didn't, well, you missed a great evening and it was worth the long drive. The Ball Committee put on a great program and the food was absolutely the best. Hope you can make it next year.

We continue to support our adopted units and carry out the recognition programs by making the presentations for each unit. There is always a positive response from the participants and also from the command level.

As has been customary for the past several years we will host the Pearl Harbor Survivors at our November meeting. They will be our honored guests so please make them feel welcomed.

Once again we have come up with a well known speaker, Retired Army General John Abizaid former Commander of Central Command among other things. You better get your reservations in early. See-ya-there.

*~Bob Prater, President*



*Photo by Council Member Patrick Paine,*

Past President Bud, Carolyn and President Bob Prater weathered a drizzly Nevada Day 2008. And thanks to the hard and diligent work of Bob and Bud on the restoration of the cockpit.

## Out of the Blue This Email Arrived!

Betty:

My name is Robin and when my sister and I were about 10 & 12 respectively, we were affiliated with a local civic group to promote patriotism here in "little" Washington NC.

I received a POW bracelet for LTjg Wendell Alcorn who as you know was shot down in Vietnam in December 1965. I wore the bracelet for many years and only recently read a story online that he was released in 1973. I read the Sierra Wave and saw a reference to his scholarship and hoped that you might have some information on where to contribute.

Also, I wanted to find out if he or his family might like the original bracelet. My 23-year old son Colin passed away in September 2006, and he was an extraordinary young man who absolutely admired heroes like Wendell Alcorn. I think that Colin would absolutely be pleased that this pilot knew that there were Americans living in North Carolina that had prayed for him and thought of him and his family for so many years.

At your convenience, would it be possible for you to find out whether Lt. Alcorn would like me to mail the bracelet to him. Thank you & God Bless!

*Robin Arnold*

*Ed. Note: It seems a bit of irony, that a few years ago, the Alcorns moved to North Carolina. Ray and Robin have since talked by phone.*



Thornhill/07 North County Times

## Hello, remember me?

Some call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag - the Flag of the United States of America...There has been something that has been bothering me, so I thought that I might talk it over with you here today.

I remember some time ago, (I think it was Memorial Day, or was it Veterans' Day?) that people were lined up on both sides of the street for a parade. A high school band was behind me and, naturally, I was leading the parade. When your Daddy saw me coming along waving in the breeze, he immediately removed his hat and placed it so that his right hand was directly over his heart.

And you - I remember you.

Standing there as straight as a soldier, you didn't have any hat, but you were giving me the right salute. Remember, they taught you in school to place your right hand over your heart, and little sister, not to be outdone, was saluting the same as you. There were some soldiers home on leave and they were standing at attention giving the military salute. Oh, I was very proud as I came down your street that day.

Now, I may sound as if I am a little conceited, Well I am!

I have a right to be, because I represent you, the people of the United States of America.

But what happened? I am still the same old flag. Oh, I have a couple more stars added since you were a boy. A lot more stars added since the beginning of this country, and a lot more blood shed since that patriotic day so long ago.

Now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street, some people just stand there with their hands in their pockets and give me a small glance and then look away. I see children running around and shouting. They don't seem to know who I am.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have some people forgotten what I stand for? Have they forgotten all the battlefields where men have fought and died to keep this nation free? When you salute me you are actually saluting them!

Take a look at the memorial rolls some time. Look at the names of those who never came back. Some of them were friends and relatives of yours. That's whom you are saluting, not me!

## Coming Events

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  
February 3, 2009, Tuesday Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00  
March 20, 2009, Friday Dinner Meeting, Carson Nugget, Social 5:30, Dinner 6:30  
April 7, 2009, Tuesday Board Meeting, 1093 Gambrel Drive, Bud's, 5:00

Watch for changes in future issues

Mark your calendars now

### Navy League of the United States, Carson City Council #347

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is a gift to the NLUS, Carson City Council for the support of our adopted Sea Services units.

Mail to: Carson City Council #347, NLUS, Attention: Mike Russo, Post Office Box 4404, Carson City NV 89702-4404. The Board of Directors thanks you in advance for your generous support. The Navy League is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization

## Council Dinner Meeting

Friday, November 21, 2008

Social hour, 5:30 PM

Buffet dinner, 6:30 PM

**\$25 per person**

*Carson Nugget*

*Speaker*

*General John P. Abizaid,  
USA, Retired*

Call for reservations

888-2050 or 882-7960

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

Website: [www.cc347nlus.com](http://www.cc347nlus.com)



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