



COMPASS POINTS

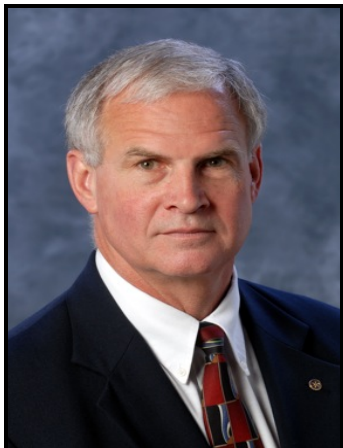
Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council of the Navy League US

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services ~ U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Flag Merchant Marine

VOL. 10

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ISSUE 4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sandy McMillan

Greetings,

This will be my last letter as your President. I have enjoyed serving you and will not forget the exciting times over the previous two years. Needless to say, the highlight of my tour was the very successful National Convention which we hosted at the Convention Center in October of 2011. I cannot thank enough Dan Saieed, our Convention Chair, and the many volunteers who helped us pull off this tremendous event. I still receive many wonderful compliments from the staff at National Headquarters so a hearty BZ to everyone who pitched in and helped with the convention. Our new President will be Dan Saieed. Dan and I have worked very closely on the Board this past year and over the previous few years. I know he will do an outstanding job leading the Council.

As we kick off the new year, The Board recently decided we want to become more involved in helping our veterans, especially those who have recently returned from combat tours. If you know of a veteran who has recently returned to the states, please contact me; my mobile number is 605-7262. If you know of any needs the returning vet(s) may have, let me know that also. Ed O'Brien is the first of our Council to step forward to help these vets. Ed has offered to help the returning vets file their income taxes. I really want to thank Ed for stepping forward and offering his services for free to the men and women who are putting their lives on the line for those of us who remain safely at home.

Soon we will be mailing out our annual statements for LOCAL council dues. Local dues are in addition to national dues and are \$15 for individuals and \$20 for couples. I stress local dues are in addition to national dues. Everyone must pay local dues, including lifetime National members. We do waive local dues for first year

members, but everyone else must pay annually. We use these dues to support our youth organizations; to fund the cost of printing and mailing our *Compass Points* Newsletter; to support our adopted ship, The USS TENNESSEE (SSBN 734); and to defray the cost of other correspondence such as postage and web site maintenance.

I am very concerned about our membership which has been shrinking over the previous two years. I strongly encourage everyone to be on the lookout for new members. Gary Meyer is our Membership Chair. If you know a prospective member, call Gary to discuss the best way to approach him or her; Gary's phone number is 266-1955; he can provide you with a registration form and, if you like, can help arrange for someone to accompany you when you actually make the pitch to the prospective member.

In closing, I hope to see everyone at the Choo-Choo on Tuesday, 19 February. Our speaker will be RADM Raymond, K. Alexander (Ret), who is the newest member of our Council. He will be speaking to us on the effects of sequestration on Naval Construction. His biography appears in this edition of *Compass Points* along with the dinner registration form. Please send in your reservation with your check and choice of entrée as soon as possible; send it to Dick Lewallen, 2600 Wilson Avenue, Signal Mountain, TN 37377. We will also be installing our new officers and board members.

One final comment, I want to sincerely thank Dr. Julie Briggs, DDS, who sponsored this edition of *Compass Points*. She practices on Signal Mountain, and her business card appears in this edition of *Compass Points*.

Fire in the hole,

Sandy McMillan
President



"We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

Winston Churchill



*Rear Admiral Raymond
K. Alexander, CEC, USN (Ret.)*

Rear Admiral Raymond K. Alexander, CEC, USN (Ret.), a native of Taylor, Mich., was commissioned an ensign, Civil Engineer Corps in 1975 through NROTC. The honor graduate of Civil Engineer Corps basic course 138, he began his military service with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 133.

During the next 28 years of Naval service, Alexander has held every leadership and command billet within the Naval Construction Force. This includes commanding Construction Battalion Unit 403, U.S. Naval Academy, NMCB 24, and

RADM Raymond K. Alexander, CEC, USN (Ret.) Guest Speaker at Council's Dinner Meeting, February 19, at Chattanooga Choo-Choo

the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment. He has served on flag staffs as well as on two joint commands as the deputy engineer – U.S. Southern Command and U.S. Central Command.

During his 33 year career, he has made deployments to Diego Garcia; Rota, Spain; Nea Marki/Souda Bay, Greece; Saudi Arabia; Kuwait; United Arab Emirates; Iraq and Korea. During the Gulf War, he was assigned as the I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) Forward Engineer and led the Seabee detachments at the Battle of Kafhji and during the ground assault with 1st and 2nd Marine Divisions to liberate Kuwait City. He recently returned from Iraq where he commanded the 1st Marine Expeditionary Engineer Group, consisting of 2,000 U.S. Army, Marine engineers and Seabees in the Al Anbar province and was re-

sponsible for coalition forces engineering support prior to, during, and post Battle of Fallujah. He was also appointed as the reconstruction manager for the City of Fallujah as well as all of Al Anbar. Upon his return home, RADM Alexander served as Deputy Commander, 1st Naval Construction Division, Norfolk, Va. and finally as the Deputy Chief of Civil Engineers where he retired from Naval Service in 2008.

RADM Alexander's professional education includes a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering/ Construction Management from the University of Michigan, a master of engineering degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Tennessee, and he is a registered professional engineer in Tennessee, Alabama, New Mexico and

Missouri. Alexander's personal awards include the Legion of Merit (3), Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3) along with various unit commendations and multiple campaign medals with Fleet Marine Corps devices and battle stars. He is also a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Specialist.

RADM Alexander currently serves as the Executive Vice President for Engineering and Physical Security for Professional Project Services in Oak Ridge, TN. He and his wife, Greta, reside in Lenoir City, Tennessee.



*Our Sincerest Thanks to our Sponsor
for this Newsletter Edition ...*

Julie Briggs, D.D.S.

FAMILY DENTISTRY

OFFICE HOURS
BY APPOINTMENT

809 RIDGEWAY AVENUE
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TN 37377
TELEPHONE (423) 886-1160



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

*By: Dale A. Lumme, National Executive Director,
Navy League of the United States*

Abdicating Our National and Economic Security

Many Americans breathed a sigh of relief when the outgoing House compromised and agreed to the Senate's bill that averted the so-called fiscal cliff. But, by only postponing the devastating impact to our national security that will be caused by sequestration, our nation's national and economic security is now at risk.

In their pre-election rhetoric, leadership in both the executive and the legislative branches promised that sequestration – the indiscriminate, across-the-board cuts to discretionary accounts – would never happen. They knew the effects would be so damaging, and so unacceptable to the American people that, somehow, an agreement would be met. On the last day possible, the old Congress punted to the new Congress, giving them two months to figure it out.

Until recently, the Department of Defense has been mum on sequestration and its impact on our services. It finally issued a memorandum to the services telling them to be prepared to take a number of steps to execute sequestration. These measures include furloughing thousands of civilian employees, freezing all civilian hiring,

laying off temporary hires, and not renewing contracts with term employees. All travel and training will be significantly curtailed. Administrative overhead and facilities programs will also be cut. Because of the long lead time requirement, DOD has approved the cancellation of all third- and fourth-quarter ship and aircraft maintenance activities effective Feb. 16. All research and development contracts greater than \$500 million are slated to be slashed which will deal a severe blow to the future of our war-fighting capabilities. For now, care for our wounded warriors and military pay is safe, as is funding for current wartime operations. However, no guarantees are being made to protect family programs, maintain combat readiness training, or develop the capabilities and requirements for the highly touted pivot to the Pacific revised national security strategy. Naval officials have testified before Congress that the barely adequate force of today's 287 ships would decrease to 230 combatants – meaning maintaining “freedom of the seas” would be problematic. Aviation assets would be cut approximately 20 percent. The nation's combat readi-

ness and homeland security threat level preparations would be reminiscent of – but worse than – the hollow forces of the 1970s and '90s.

Not only is our nation's security faced with sequestration, we still do not have an operating budget for fiscal 2013. Congress instead opted to issue another continuing resolution (CR), which keeps the lights on for the federal government until March 27, at which time either a 2013 budget will be approved, another CR will be passed, or we will face another government shutdown. The second and third of these options would severely affect the economic security of our nation. The services know they will have less funding in 2013 – they just don't know how much money will be available three or six or nine months from now.

It is absurd and irresponsible that our nation's security is held captive to partisan politics. The very first responsibility of Congress mentioned in the United States Constitution is to provide for the common defense. The first defined responsibility of the president is that of commander-in-chief. Clearly, the govern-

ing instrument of our nation places great emphasis on our nation's defense and solidly places this responsibility with the legislative and executive branches. For most of our nation's issues, healthy debate is an effective means for government to carry out its role in our society. However, once our democratically elected leaders take office, they are bound to a constitutional construct. The respective sides, executive and legislative – or Democrat and Republican – must execute the responsibilities they swore to defend, as defined in the Constitution. Without a budget, the services cannot execute to the requirements today or properly plan for tomorrow. The security of our nation and the resources the men and women of our armed forces need to do their job should never be a partisan issue. But our elected officials have decided that our nation's security has been and will be part of the partisan debate. For either side, there is nothing to gain, but America has much to lose – including both national and economic security.

Dale A. Lumme is a retired Navy Captain and naval aviator.

IN THE NEWS



The Signal Mountain Division of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, under the leadership of Commanding Officer LTjg Stacy Kehoe, is featured above. As previously mentioned in our November issue, the Signal Mountain Division saved the day for the Signal Mountain Lions Club during their most recent Labor Day barbecue. The division volunteered to help the Lions, but when several of the adult volunteers were unable to show at the last minute, the Sea Cadets found themselves playing a much larger role and working a few more hours than originally anticipated. As a result of their tireless work, they received a special commendation from the Signal Mountain Lions.



(Front center) LTjg Stacy Kehoe, Commanding Officer Signal Mountain Division of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, is shown accepting a check from Signal Mountain Lions Ron Galante (left), and Curtis Hewitt (right), in support of the Sea Cadets for their tremendous contribution during the Signal Mountain Lions' recent Labor Day barbecue.



**BRAVO ZULU
TO THE
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN
DIVISION OF THE
NAVAL SEA CADET
CORPS!**

Military Trivia

How were the height and width of modern American battleships originally determined?

Answer will be in the next issue of Compass Points.

Answer to last issue's Military Trivia question: President-to-be Lyndon Johnson, who served in the United States Navy.



**New
Members
W·E·L·C·O·M·E**

**Membership Chairman
Gary G. Meyer**

Welcome aboard to the following individual who recently became a new member of the Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council of the Navy League of the United States:

- RADM Raymond K. Alexander, CEC, USN (Ret.)

We look forward to welcoming him at our upcoming meeting.

MILITARY EVENTS OF INTEREST

- February 26 Monthly Military Officers Association Monthly Dinner, 6:00 p.m., The Walden Club
- March 1 Arbor Day Ceremony and Tree Planting at the Chattanooga National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m., featuring uniformed reenactors for the nation's conflict periods
- March 15 Chattanooga Area Veterans Council Awards and Officer Installation Banquet, 6:00 p.m., Chattanooga Convention Center
- May 3 Armed Forces Day Parade, downtown Chattanooga, 10:30 a.m. Luncheon at 12:00 noon, Chattanooga Convention Center



REMINDER ... WE RELY ON YOUR SUPPORT!

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NAUTICAL TERMINOLOGY

Dungarees: 20th century sailor's work clothes. The term dates to the 18th century and comes from the Hindi word dungri, for a type of Indian cotton cloth.

Scuttlebutt: The cask of drinking water on ships was called a scuttlebutt and since Sailors exchanged gossip when they gathered at the scuttlebutt for a drink of water, scuttlebutt became U.S. Navy slang for gossip or rumors. A butt was a wooden cask which held water or other liquids; to scuttle is to drill a hole, as for tapping a cask.

Mayday: Voice radio distress call for vessels and people in serious trouble at sea. It is Anglicized from the French "m'aidez," meaning help me.



Sea Air Space

2013
EXPO

Sea-Air-Space 2013 • April 8-10, 2013
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
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Maritime Crossroads: Strategies for Action



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AREA/JOHN J. SPITTLER
COUNCIL**

P. O. Box 302
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

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chattanooganavyleague.org



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Compass Points is the quarterly publication of the Navy League of the United States Greater Chattanooga Area/John J. Spittler Council.

*Editor • Dan Saieed
Publisher • Mary B. Dall*



QUARTERLY DINNER MEETING PROGRAM

February 19, 2013

**Chattanooga Choo-Choo Historic Hotel
Roosevelt Room
1400 Market Street, Chattanooga, TN
Chattanooga, TN 37402 - Phone: 423-266-5000
6:00 PM, EST (1800 hours, Navy Time)**

- 6:00 p.m. SOCIAL MEET & GREET TIME (Open Cash Bar in Lounge)**
- 6:30 p.m. WELCOME (Guests take seats @ your chosen table)**
- 6:33 p.m. INVOCATION**
- 6:36 p.m. POSTING OF THE COLORS**
- 6:38 p.m. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- *6:40 p.m. DINNER**
- 7:30 p.m. RADM RAYMOND K. ALEXANDER, CEC, USN (Ret.)**
- 8:00 p.m. 50/50 DRAWING & ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 8:30 p.m. BENEDICTION**

DINNER RESERVATION FORM

*Please use form at right to make your dinner reservation for the February 19th Quarterly Dinner Meeting of the Greater Chattanooga Council, to be held in the Roosevelt Room at 1800 (6:00 PM Civilian Time).

Please note that the Chattanooga Choo-Choo has maintained their 2012 prices in order that we have no price increase for our 2013 Quarterly Dinners. Your Board of Directors sincerely appreciates your continued participation in the Navy League Council Quarterly Dinners during our nation's tough times.

✂

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Please phone in, or mail this reservation form, along with your check, **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2013**, to:

DICK LEWALLEN (H) 423-886-5097 (C) 423-991-7066
2600 WILSON AVENUE
SIGNAL MOUNTAIN, TN 37377

_____	x \$28 = \$____.00
_____	x \$28 = \$____.00
_____	x \$28 = \$____.00
_____	x \$28 = \$____.00

Each entrée includes a Spring Garden Salad with Ranch or Italian Dressing, Dinner Rolls & Butter, Seasonal Vegetables, Coffee & Tea, and Key Lime Pie, or Chocolate Mousse Cake.

Chicken Breast Marsala sautéed in wine, pancetta & portabella mushrooms

Grouper Fillet dusted w/flour and sautéed in a white wine & lemon caper sauce

Double, Center Cut Pork Chop w/Bourbon Sauce & Sweet Potatoes