



# "THE HELM"

## Newsletter of the Connecticut Council (formerly Western CT Council)

June 2021

### *Photo edition*

#### Council-adopted ships:



#### USS Winston S. Churchill (DDG 81):

CHURCHILL was selected by the CNO in May to receive the biennial **USS Arizona Memorial Trophy**. This award goes to the best performing, combat-ready crew among all ships of the surface force with primary missions in strike warfare, surface fire support, and anti-surface warfare.

Bravo Zulu to Captain Tim Shanley and the entire CHURCHILL crew!

#### USS Connecticut (SSN 22):

CONNECTICUT departed her homeport of Bremerton on May 27th for a deployment in the northern and western Pacific.

Council best wishes to Captain Cameron Aljilani and his crew as they operate on another, mostly undersea, deployment in our defense.



## Sea Cadet and NJROTC Units:

June is annual graduation time for our high school senior cadets at our four CT area US Naval Sea Cadet units; and changing of cadet command positions for the next academic year.

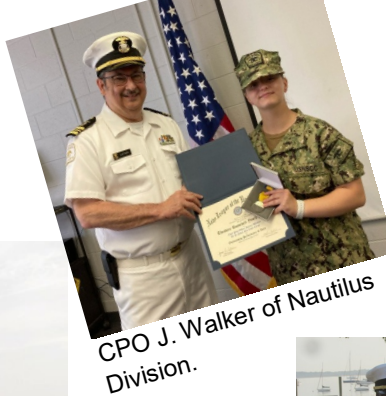
It is also time for the Council annual award of Navy League Youth Medals to high performing cadets in both the Sea Cadet units and at CT high school Navy Junior ROTC units.

Also our Council awards partial college scholarships to deserving grads, including Finneran scholarships funded by the Trimble Family Foundation, and scholarships from the Macintyre Scholarship Fund.

Photos show some of these recent activities (insufficient space to show all award and scholarship winners):



NL Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal; recipients included:



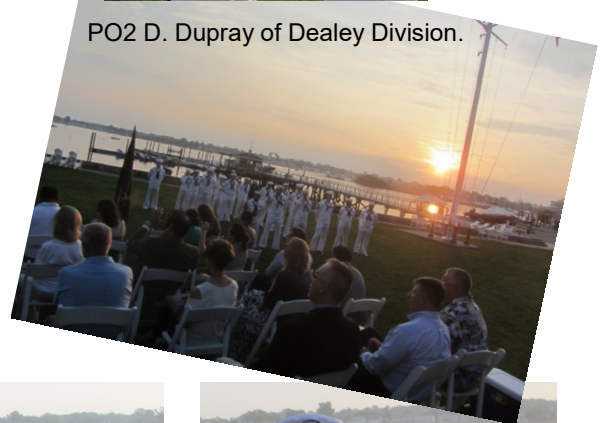
CPO J. Walker of Nautilus Division.



CPO M. Canu of Barque Eagle Division.



PO2 D. Dupray of Dealey Division.



Graduating Seaman A. Derby will attend Univ. of Richmond on 4 year Army ROTC scholarship.



Graduating sisters (from left) PO's Shelomi and Evania Soljour, Finneran scholarship recipients.



## Cadet news (continued):



Graduating PO Luke Arena will attend the US Merchant Marine Academy.



Dealey graduates with unit CO retired Navy Captain and Council board member, Alan Gerard.



Graduating CPO Jonathan Christie, completed high school in 3 years; will attend UConn; Macintyre scholarship winner.



Cake for the graduates.

## Former cadet graduates West Point:

Former sea cadet Kaitlyn Kutz has become the first Dealey woman to graduate from any of the service academies. Kaitlyn was Captain of the Precision Rifle Team for her last 2 years at West Point. She will be headed to Fort Bliss in El Paso, TX to join a combat air brigade.



2nd LT Kaitlyn Kutz receives her first salute from younger brother Kyle, another sea cadet graduate who is also attending West Point.



## Admiral Mercado Zoom meeting:



The Council was pleased to host Vic Mercado, retired Rear Admiral and more recently former Assistant Secretary of Defense for strategy, plans, and capabilities, in a Zoom online meeting on May 19th. All Council members and friends were invited to attend.

Our thanks to the Admiral for a highly informative and enjoyable presentation with Q and A session.



## USNA sailboats visit Stamford:

Naval Academy 44 foot sailboats are visiting the Stamford Yacht Club for several days in June on summer midshipmen training. Sea Cadets are supporting the visit.





## Local SEAL candidate program:

Our local SEAL candidate mentoring program, headed by retired Navy Captain and Council board member Drew Bisset, continued training exercises at Pugzee Farm, provided courtesy of program supporter Eyal Shapira.



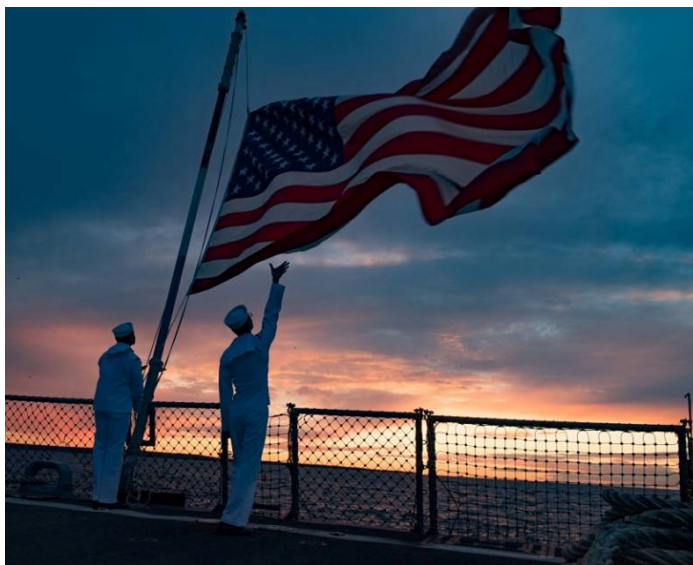
Fathers and SEAL candidate sons at the pool on Father's Day.

## Darien CT Memorial Day:



Retired Commander and Council board member Pete Kenyon was honored as Grand Marshall for Darien's 2021 Memorial Day Parade.

Shown here flanked by Darien's State Representative (left) and First Selectman.



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See our Council's extensive website for special features and timely updates that occur between the editions of this newsletter at: [www.navyleaguewestct.org](http://www.navyleaguewestct.org)

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**Western Connecticut Council  
Navy League of the United States**

c/o E. Fitzgerald  
111 Nursery Road  
Ridgefield, CT 06877

