



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Navy League Ends Support of Sea Power Ambassador Program

The Navy League of the United States, the nation's largest civilian association supporting American sea services and personnel, has withdrawn its support of the American Shipbuilding Association (ASA) Sea Power Ambassador Program. The Navy League decided to end its ten-month partnership with the ASA due to differences over the tactics to be used in advocating for the maintenance of a strong maritime force in America.

"We share many goals with ASA, and will continue to work with them on issues of mutual concern," said Navy League National President Sheila McNeill, "but we have at times found their approach to issues too narrow and their tactics too divisive."

"The Navy League remains an ardent supporter of America's shipyards, and will remain a tireless advocate for recapitalizing our naval fleet while communicating a broad message about seapower to the American people and their elected representatives," McNeill added.

The Navy League of the United States, founded in 1902, is a civilian organization of nearly 70,000 volunteers across the Nation and around the world that actively support the men and women of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US-flagged merchant marine. From public education and grassroots outreach programs to organizing events for members of the sea services and their families, the Navy League has long called for increased shipbuilding as part of a balanced program to enhance America's military sea power.

"The Chief of Naval Operations has made it clear he believes America must build more ships to meet global security commitments and prosecute the Global War on Terrorism," said Navy League Executive Director Stephen Pietropaoli, "and he and Navy Secretary Gordon England are asking Congress to adopt capital acquisition strategies that will give the taxpayers more bang for the buck."

"But seapower is more than just building ships," Pietropaoli added, "and informed advocacy must reflect both the efficiencies the Navy and Marine Corps have gained from new operating procedures and innovative programs, and the requirement to maintain a balance between the ability to execute today's missions and the imperative to build the Navy that will safeguard America fifty years from now."