



2022 Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award Winners

[Awarded in 2023]

Extra Large Council Winner

Honolulu Council (5th Consecutive Award)

The Honolulu Council adopts two namesake ships (USS HAWAII and USS CHUNG-HOON), plus ten youth groups, a Marine Battalion, and eight large shore commands. Under the umbrella of adopted unit, Destroyer Squadron 31, they also provided direct support to Pearl Harbor's eight destroyers, including significant support to namesake USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118).

Given their location in a major Fleet Concentration Area (FCA), they primarily hosted, co-hosted, or supported many events that were open to all sea service unit members and/or families in the area, including:

- Hosting an area-wide Ombudsman Appreciation Dinner honoring these dedicated volunteers from all major commands on the island. Each of the 83 attendees at the dinner also received "swag bags" filled with donated items the council solicited for the event.
- Opening their doors to any local service-related social/support/benevolent clubs and organizations that need a space to meet or work, often providing free refreshments. These would include Chief Petty Officer Associations, First Class Petty Officer Associations, Family Readiness Groups (FRGs) (Navy), Ombudsmen, Spouses' Clubs (Coast Guard), Commissioning Committees, etc.
- Providing homecoming refreshments for all returning deployed ships, as well as dinner for the duty section on day of return. As mentioned above, the council's spaces often served as a pre-homecoming work area, staging, and/or gathering location for families and family groups.
- Partnering with the Pacific Fleet Commander and Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum to host 1,000 military families to see the pre-released Top Gun Maverick show in support of Military Appreciation month on Ford Island.
- In partnership with the Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam Medical Clinic, Honolulu leadership supporting (provided donated snacks and pizzas), attending, and participating in a "Thank You" event for all professionals who worked through the COVID challenges over the past year.
- Providing welcomes on the pier, receptions and/or "Picnics on the Beach" for visiting warships including pre-planning support and a welcome on the pier (including hula dancers!) for the arrival of USS Frank Peterson (DDG 121) at its new homeport. They even hosted a "Welcome to Your New Home" event for Peterson's spouses and families.
- Assembling and delivering "Sailor Deployment Bags" to various afloat units preparing for deployment.

- Showing significant leadership in, and engagement with, the Wounded Warriors unit at the Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe. Also played a major role in assisting a local Marine who became homeless with three children get back on their feet. Also setting-up Toys for Tots donation boxes around the council and collecting over 16 boxes of toys and \$2,500 in cash donations.
- Supporting Easter Bunny Day for kids and families on Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe with juice boxes, single bags of cookies, and Easter candy for over 200 children.
- Providing food and/or refreshments for multiple sea service unit ad hoc events such as command picnics/cook-offs, awards ceremonies, graduations, pre-deployment nights, children's holiday parties, spouse events, military youth events, and for open events.
- Supporting other NLUS councils ending representatives to the island to visit their adopted units (for example, see Marin County below).
- Hosting dedicated awards luncheons at which stand-out sailors from groups of commands were honored.

In addition to their normal recurring support events (Sailor/Enlisted Person/Marine of the Quarter/Year awards, etc.), the council provided financial support to the various family groups in support of special events, such as holiday parties and new arrival receptions.

The council also provided funding to their youth groups for uniforms, as well as refreshments at unit events, and arranging for their youth groups to tour various warships in the port and participate in many ceremonies, parades and other public events.

Large Council Winners

New York [City] Council (3rd Award)

The New York City Council sponsors ten youth groups, including the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and State University of New York Maritime College, three namesake ships, four large shore commands, and two Marine Corps units.

All sponsored youth groups received, proportional to the size of the unit, substantial funding grants for general operations and ad hoc needs (uniforms, equipment, training spaces, etc.), as well as multiple Theodore Roosevelt awards (swords for NROTC/Merchant Marine Academy) and academic stipends to individuals. The New York Council arranged for 20 George Washington Division Sea Cadets to march in New York City Veterans Day Parade (the country's largest), under the New York Council Navy League banner. This allowed them to have premier placement toward the front of the parade, which was regionally-televised.

Across multiple youth groups, the New York Council:

- Funded three multi-unit events open to the approximately 1,500 cadets from all nine of their supported youth units to include a picnic, a dinner cruise, and VIP ship tours during Fleet Week.
- Covered the attendance of ten cadets from eight youth units at their 120th Anniversary Dinner free of charge, with youth participation as color guard members or awards presenters, emcee recognition of the cadets, with SECNAV, multiple flag officers and prominent corporate sponsors in attendance.
- Funded an NROTC Preparatory Program scholarship to cover the first-year tuition for a midshipman who is an outstanding member of the ROTC program but missed qualifying for an NROTC scholarship.
- Welcomed 20 NJROTC cadets from Curtis and Graphics Campus High Schools and one Young Marine at the USCGC Clarence Sutphin Jr Commissioning Ceremony and Reception.

In 2022, the council was heavily involved in the commissioning activities for namesake USCGC Clarence Sutphin Jr., with 44 Council members serving on the Commissioning Committee, donating to the campaign, or both. The ship was commissioned in New York City, after which it changed homeport to Manama, Bahrain, where the council continues to support them as an adopted unit *in spite of the distance*.

The New York Council is also deeply immersed in the pre-commissioning activities for namesake adopted unit, PCU Cooperstown (LCS 23). Engagement was highlighted by the council's support of a namesake visit by six crew member to New York City, as well as participation in various pre-commissioning milestone ceremonies.

The New York Council provided substantial support to the extensive Coast Guard presence in that service's most active waterway system. The council supported the USCG Sector New York and several subordinate units in the area. Specifically, they

- Awarded Enlisted Person of the Quarter/Year (EPOQ/EPOY) honors for Sector proper and the Sector as a whole, including sub-commands. Multiple council members represented the Navy League at the various awards presentations, which were usually done at all-hands meetings held at the command chapel.
- Working with the unit leadership, provided a luncheon for the visit of USCGC Eagle to New York City with 100 boxed lunches for participating USCG Sector New York personnel and family members, plus a Wardroom VIP luncheon co-hosted by the two Commanding Officers.
- Partnered with the unit's MWR office and funded/staffed the children's area at USCG Sector New York's Coast Guard Day Celebration.
- Supported USCG Sector New York's Chief Warrant Officers Association as a tee sponsor for their golf tournament, with a multiple council members enjoying some playing time with the USCG participants. Tee sponsorship included signage and emcee recognition of Navy League throughout the day.

For the 1st Marine Corps District (equivalent to Navy Recruiting District), the New York Council:

- Worked with the unit leadership to fund an Axe Throwing Tournament as a morale event, with a follow-on pizza party for 50 Marines; provide and present prizes at the Dan Daly Cup, a competition for local "poolees" (an individual who has already signed up to become a Marine but has not yet left for boot camp); and presented a cake-cutting ceremony in honor of the USMC's birthday.
- Partnering with the unit's Family Resources Coordinator, hosted three family events. First, a summer visit and picnic at White Post Animal Farm, then a Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event that included 17 Amazon gift cards for costume and contest prizes, and finally a holiday bowling party at AMF Lanes with bowling, shoe rental, food and beverages and a gift certificate provided for each of 60 attendees.

Finally, the council hosted ten Marines, ten Sailors and 12 Coast Guardsmen from local units at a Yankee's Military Appreciation Week game with a package that included tickets, food and beverage, t-shirts and PA/Jumbotron recognition. They also covered the attendance of 24 local unit leaders and spouses at the council's 120th Anniversary Dinner free of charge, with emcee recognition of the unit Commanding Officers (COs), Executive Officers (XOs) and Command Master Chiefs (CMCs).

Bremerton/Olympic Peninsula Council (4th Consecutive Award)

The Bremerton/Olympic Peninsula Council is also in a major Fleet Concentration Area. Thus, they conduct many activities in support of all sea service units in the area in addition to routine support of their adopted namesake units (USS Washington and USS Henry M Jackson), four local shore commands, a medium endurance Coast Guard Cutter, USCGC Active (WMEC 618), and six youth groups, including one overseas. In 2022, teamed with the Casco Bay Council to co-adopt USS Maine (SSBN 741).

The council holds monthly luncheons and has a rotating schedule of local commands to which they present eagle statuette awards at the luncheon. The rotation contains their various local adopted units, as well as other prominent commands in the area. As much as possible, the command receiving awards is the same as the guest speaker, and commands of a given service are aligned to birthday months—Coast Guard in August, Navy in October, and Marine Corps in November. The command is allowed to choose the specific awardees (...of the Quarter vs ...of the Year, senior vs junior vs bluejacket, etc.) based on recipient availability. Sailor of the Year (SOY), Junior SOY, and Bluejacket of the Year (BJOY) awards are mailed to USS Washington on the east coast, and local adopted units not in the luncheon rotation (for example, the at-sea crew on two-crew SSBNs), are presented at separate ceremonies.

Picking the "...of the Year" winners is always hard for any command—too many good candidates! So, the Bremerton/Olympic Peninsula Council provides four additional awards to USS Washington and USS Henry M Jackson to be given notionally to runners-up. Washington has chosen to name these special awards after iconic people or places in Washington State (i.e.; "Kitsap Power and Light Maintainer of the Year"), and has chosen

piano black plaques to align to the ship's nickname "Blackfish." Henry M Jackson has chosen to use Henry "Scoop" Jackson-themed names for their awards (i.e.; "Engineering Defender of the Year") and receives plaques (both crews) in the shape of Washington State. The council is in the process of expanding these awards to USS Maine (both crews), USCGC Active, and USCG Air Station, Port Angeles for 2023.

The council provided robust "seasonal" support to command family events held by their adopted units with strong support from community affiliates.

- Starting in the summer, the council supported command picnics for all of their adopted units ranging across the spectrum from merely helping set-up, break-down and mind kiddie rides, to providing desserts, beverages, side dishes, and/or funding.
- For Halloween, the Bremerton/Olympic Peninsula Council provided candy to the units for use at their family events, with most holding some form of "Trunk or Treat." The candy was solicited from membership and collected at monthly luncheons. The council also supported, through greens fees, free lunch, and swag bags, a Halloween Golf Tournament open to Coast Guardsmen stationed in Port Angeles.
- For Thanksgiving, the councils donated frozen turkey dinners to the Marine Corps Security Force Battalion—Bangor (MCSFBn-Bangor) to help some of the most junior Marines in the Battalion.
- For the Christmas season, the Bremerton/Olympic Peninsula Council:
 - Similar to summer picnics, supported a variety of command family parties with a variety of support.
 - Provided holiday meals for four families of junior crew members on USCGC Active, to include gifts for their children.
 - For the MCSFBn-Bangor family party, they even provided the Santa Claus (a long-time council member and local comic), who arrived in an armored vehicle!
 - Collected for Toys for Tots both toys and cash donations.
 - Sent a holiday card signed by council members at the November and December luncheons to every adopted unit and youth group received
 - Facilitated the delivery of over 350 individual holiday cards to Sailors on adopted and other local afloat warships.

The council provided deployment support to their adopted units' deployment, again with strong support from community affiliates. They:

- Collected donations at luncheons and from community affiliates for Single Sailor/Halfway Night Boxes for deploying ships.
- When established by the unit's FRG, promulgated to membership links to wish lists on sites such as Amazon to promote facile remote donations.
- Provided extra crew-favorite items to deploying units to supplement official food stocks, such as energy drinks, gourmet teas and coffees, Washington-themed specialties, etc.

- Met deploying units on the pier upon their return and provided refreshments for waiting families (or contributed to FRG's efforts for remote units).
- Published a CO's Corner in the newsletter highlight the unit's accomplishments on deployment.

The council's six sponsored youth groups were also supported with annual funding grants, Theodore Roosevelt Medals/Certificates, council member attendance at unit drill meets and awards ceremonies, stipends to attend area-wide drill meets, and scholarships to attend the annual Northwest Youth Leadership Conference.

In terms of area-wide or non-adopted support, the Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula Council hosted receptions for two submarines arriving at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for decommissioning.

They also put-on, in all respects (fundraising, planning, coordination, execution, etc.), the Annual 2022 Navy League Gala and Senior Enlisted BBQ during the City of Bremerton's Armed Forces Week. The council hosted the Senior Enlisted BBQ at the historic Kiana Lodge owned by one of their community affiliates, Port Madison Enterprises, an agency of the Squamish tribal government. Senior enlisted personnel from across the region were treated to a salmon dinner and traditional Native American dancing. The annual gala is a black-tie event with a night of dinner, awards, guest speakers, and entertainment for roughly 200 Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers, and their guests. The guest speakers this year were Vice Adm. Johnny Wolfe, Director of the Navy Strategic Systems Programs, and retired Navy Adm. Jamie Foggo, Dean of the Center for Maritime Strategy.

Greater Cincinnati Council

In 2022, the Greater Cincinnati Council sponsored nine youth groups, one shore commands, and one namesake ship, USS Cincinnati (LCS 20).

The council provided Theodore Roosevelt medals and certificates to awardees in each of their sponsored youth groups. On a rotating basis, all of the units were invited to attend council membership meetings at no costs and to actively participate, such as leading the Pledge of Allegiance or serving as a color guard for larger meetings. At the meetings, the youth were able to hear a variety of inspiring speakers, and interact with council members, military guests, and the guest speakers. The council also maintains a fund to support ad hoc requests for their youth groups throughout the year.

Tying together one of their youth groups with their namesake ship, the council arranged for the Hamilton High School NJROTC Unit to visit USS Cincinnati when the unit was in San Diego for a National NJROTC event. They were given a two-hour tour of the ship and met with the ship's CO.

The Greater Cincinnati Council also acted as superb facilitators of exposure and diverse experiences for their sponsored Sea Cadet unit. With the help of the council, the Cincinnati Division Sea Cadets:

- Attended and served as the Color Guard for a Navy League Dinner for visiting crew members from the USS Cincinnati.
- Served as ushers for the Blue Angels Dayton Air Show practice event.
- Were invited to the Navy Reserve Center (NRC) Change of Command and to serve as Color Guard for the event. [Only last year, the council facilitated the Cincinnati Division changing their drilling location to the NRC, as opposed to the prior Air National Guard Center, for greater exposure to the Navy.]
- Participated in the council's annual Military Sabbath Service, where they served as the Color Guard.

Council support for namesake USS Cincinnati continued to be over-the-top in terms of depth and frequency of engagement. As with many Navy League councils, they are the driving force within, and work closely with, a dedicated foundation set-up to support the ship. Some of their activities included:

- Supporting a crew namesake visit, led by the ship's CO, to the city in April. Enjoying extensive local media coverage, the support provided by the council included:
 - Covering downtown lodging for the crew visit, an emergent need caused by a travel budget shortfall.
 - Arranging for a well-attended welcome ceremony for the crew members at the Cincinnati Airport, as well as a full police escort to their downtown hotel.
 - Hosting a dinner in honor of the crew visit attended by nearly 200 Navy League members, representatives of both the Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments, business and civic leaders, local veterans and three WWII Merchant Marine veterans. During the dinner, the Council President and the CO conducted a formal ship's adoption ceremony.
 - Escorting the crew members as guests at a meeting of the full Cincinnati City Council, during which the Mayor and the Council presented a formal proclamation honoring USS Cincinnati and her crew.
 - Arranging for the crew to have an extensive guided tour of the NFL Cincinnati Bengals' Paul Brown Stadium led by former Bengals star players, where they were presented ball caps and a Bengals banner signed by Bengals head coach Zac Taylor.
 - Arranging for the crew to have an extensive guided tour of the MLB Cincinnati Reds' Great American Ballpark and Museum, during which the crew members were allowed on the field for photographs, toured locker rooms, press rooms and to meet former Reds players.
 - Arranging for guided tours of General Electric Aviation, the company that built the ship's turbine engines, as well as General Tool Company, a variety of local businesses, the Cincinnati Museum Center, and the Cincinnati Zoo.
 - Facilitating a Community Relations (COMREL) event at which the crew served dinner for unhoused guests at the St. Anthony Center.

- Arranging for the CO to brief the Hamilton High School NJROTC, the Miami University NROTC, and a well-attended public event at the Cincinnati Museum Center.
- Arranging for the crew to visit Cincinnati Fire Engine Station #20, which shares the ship's hull number, to help reinforce the concept that, at sea, every crewmember is trained as a fire-fighter!
- Inviting the visiting crew to the University of Cincinnati Bearcats versus University of Houston Cougars baseball game, at which the crew members were publically honored and LT Santino Alteri tossed the first pitch – a perfect strike!
- Treating the crew members to a cookout and a professional fireworks display on the evening of their departure
- Sending a box of 300 USS Cincinnati prints that the ship's CO presents to crewmembers along with their awards, certificates, etc.
- To help the crew celebrate the holiday season, planning, coordinating and funding a sleigh-full of contributions to the crew. The council mailed a Christmas card to each crewmember signed by members of the Navy League, the Cincinnati City Council, members of the Cincinnati Police and Fire Departments, and other supporters of the ship. They also sent Cincinnati foodstuffs and numerous Cincinnati-themed gifts to the crew, including donations-in-kind from Grippo's Potato Chips, Skyline Chili and the Montgomery Inn.
- Creating an endowed educational scholarship, managed by the Anchor Scholarship Foundation, to awarded \$6,800 annually to a family member of current or former crew members.
- Providing ad hoc iconic Cincinnati-themed items for display on the ship, such as an NFL Cincinnati Bengals 2021-2022 season commemorative football in a display case, a signed FC Cincinnati Soccer Club jersey in a display case, and a Cincinnati Bearcats football jersey signed by head coach Luke Fickell.
- Coordinating with the MLB Cincinnati Reds organization, who worked with the San Diego Padres organization to schedule a combined USS Cincinnati/USS San Diego appreciation night at a Reds-Padres game in San Diego, at which both ships' crews were publically honored. During the summer, the council coordinated with the Cincinnati Reds to send 200 Reds military-style ball caps to the ship.
- Fostering namesake awareness during the NFL playoff season in early 2022. To help the crew display Cincinnati pride on the waterfront, the Greater Cincinnati Council provided the ship a Bengals banner, T-shirts and other swag for the crew, and coordinated/funded a pizza and wings dinner for the duty section to enjoy while they watched the Super Bowl on a large screen in the hangar bay. In the run-up to the AFC Championship game and the Super Bowl, the council coordinated press coverage of the ship and had them featured in several television and radio spots in San Diego, Cincinnati, and Watertown, NY. The ship's Super Bowl celebration was also covered by ABC affiliates WCPO in Cincinnati and KGTV San Diego

- Further driving public awareness of the namesake relationship with the city through use of a “Mini Cincinnati” model float of the ship used throughout the year in various parades and civic events. They also produced a 97-minute commercial was about USS Cincinnati that has been used extensively in various media and presentations.

Medium Council Winners

Greater Kansas City Council (2nd Consecutive Award)

While supporting four NJROTC youth groups, a Naval Sea Cadets youth group, an NROTC University battalion, three warships, and four shore commands, and three warships, this Council focused much of their money and efforts this year on supporting their adopted Naval Sea Cadet Corps Unit, the Harry S. Truman Squadron.

The Greater Kansas City Council raised money to provide funding of \$17,000 to help 28 Sea Cadets and 10 adult chaperones participate in a 12-day trip to the Norfolk and Washington, DC areas in July 2022. Highlights of this trip included visits to the USS Wisconsin (BB 64) Museum, USS George W. H. Bush (CVN 77) and USS James E. Williams (DDG 95) warships, HSC-7, VAQ-120 and FA 213 /VFA 83 aviation squadrons at NAS Oceana, the U.S. Capitol Building, the American History Museum, the National Archives, the National Mall, the Vietnam, WWII, and Korean War Memorials, the Jefferson Memorial, Navy Yard and the Navy Museum, the 8th & I Sunset Parade, the Marine Corps Museum, the Army Museum, and the Air and Space Annex at Dulles.

The Council continued supporting the strong relationship they developed with their namesake ship, USS Kansas City (LCS 22), of which they supported the commissioning in 2021. The Council provided softball jerseys for USS Kansas City’s softball team, the jerseys being a unique design based on and with the permission of the Kansas City Monarchs, a Negro League heritage baseball team associated with The Negro League Museum of the United States, headquartered in Kansas City.

The Greater Kansas City Council also supported their annual “Promoting the Sea Services in Kansas City” event, with the 2022 highlight being the annual Kansas City Air Show in which the U.S. Navy and the Sea Services were on display for three days during the show. The Council hosted the Family and Friends tent on the first day of the show, while manning a Navy League of the United States booth throughout the show. Navy Midshipmen from the sponsored NROTC Unit, University of Kansas, were also involved with the air show, and a Sea Cadet tent was set up beside their own.

The Council provided SOQ and SOY awards to at the Naval Reserve Center, Kansas City, and awards to Midshipmen at the University of Kansas NROTC Unit.

Patuxent River Council (1st Award)

The Council has adopted nine youth programs including seven NJROTC Units, seven aviation squadrons, a Naval Air Station, and a Naval Health Clinic. They provided planning and financial support for Holiday parties at several of the Naval Commands, and they

financially supported the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) programs at many of these Naval Commands.

The Council also provided SOQ and SOY awards to members at nine of these Naval Commands, and the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal at their supported youth programs.

The Council provided a total of \$35,423 in financial support to the Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River and related commands. Highlights of their support activities throughout 2022 include the following:

- Sponsoring, planning, and chaperoning a Ski Trip for 43 sailors and their families from NAS Patuxent River and tenant commands.
- Sponsoring two Fishing Trips for 32 sailors from NAS Patuxent River and tenant commands.
- Providing funding for the "Right-hand Sailor" event that recognizes Sailors who are the right hand to many of the Chiefs on the station and recognize that they are on the verge of becoming leaders at the next level either as Chief Petty Officers or through a commission. Over 100 sailors attended this event which provides for recognition and physical interaction face-to-face with peers and senior enlisted leaders across the base, affording networking and mentorship opportunities with the Chief Petty Officer Association.
- Sponsoring a Golf Tournament to benefit the NAS Patuxent River Navy Relief Society that supports NAS Patuxent River and tenant commands.
- Fully sponsoring a "Taste of Maryland" event for NAS Patuxent River and tenant commands. It was hosted at Mattapany House, the residence of the three-star Naval Air Warfare Center (NAWC) Commander, aboard NAS Patuxent River, and attended by over 200 sailors and their families, and members of the local business community. The program included remarks from the NAWC and a docent who provided the historical record of the property.
- Financially Sponsoring the NAS Patuxent River Navy Ball for all tenant commands, with their donation helping to offset the cost of tickets for junior enlisted personnel and their guests.

Contra Costa Council (2nd Consecutive Award)

While supporting the Aids to Navigation Team –San Francisco, the USCGC Alder (WLB 216), the USCGC Tern (WPB 87343), USCG Sector San Francisco, USCG Station Rio Vista, USMC Advisor Company "B," USN Squadron VQ-3, the Navy Telecommunications Unit at Travis AFB, USMC Recruiting Station, Pleasant Hill, USN Recruiting Station, Pleasant Hill and the Diablo Squadron Sea Cadets, this Council focused its energy and resources on recognition and event support.

With special emphasis on SOY recognition ceremonies, the Council was able to recognize the outstanding enlisted member SOY in each of the units adopted.

The Council also provided meal support for area USCG units when the Galley servicing those units was closed due to renovations.

For each of their adopted units, the Council also raised funds and supported unique events:

- For the USCG Units, funds were raised and a joint USCG Birthday Dinner event was conducted.
- Money was raised and gifted to the Aids to Navigation Team MWR Fund.
- For the VQ-3 aviation squadron, a Thanksgiving Open House was held.
- For the Recruiting Stations, a Pizza Social was held to boost morale and recruiting.
- For USMC Advisor Company "B," funds were raised to support an area personnel hike through the mountains and support the Annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball.
- For the USCGC Tern, money was raised and coordination provided to support an "At Sea" family day aboard the Cutter.
- Money was raised and a BBQ event was held to support USCG Station Rio Vista.
- Supported the re-dedication Ceremony for USCG Station Vallejo, a non-adopted unit.
- Joined forces with Santa Clara Council to support another out of area non-adopted unit the USCGC Pike on the day of Pike's departure for deployment. Festivities and food were provided.
- More than \$1,300 was raised to purchase equipment and provide travel to support the Diablo Sea Cadet Squadron.

Denver Council (4th Award)

The Denver Council provided meaningful engagement with their adopted units: While supporting their namesake submarine USS Colorado (SSN 788) across the country in Connecticut, the local USCG Cryptologic Unit, five USMC and USN JROTC Units, an NROTC Unit, the local USMC Recruiting Station, the Rocky Mountain Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) (formerly Recruiting District), Navy Information Operational Command, Buckley Space Force Base, Naval Reserve Center (formerly NOSC), Denver, the Young Marines Rocky Mountain Unit, the Sea Cadet Unit-Lexington Division and League Cadet Unit-Training Ship Colorado.

A hallmark for the Denver Council was awards and scholarships. They consistently provided recognition, medals, and scholarships to virtually all of their units.

Particularly noteworthy however was the Denver Council support of USS Colorado, home-ported in Groton, Conn. As members of the USS Colorado Submarine Association, several Denver Council members traveled to Groton for the return of the submarine from

its second deployment. The group supported the ship's FRG by selling merchandise on homecoming day so families could be with their crew members, and spent time on board cooking for the crew. They also traveled to Groton for Change of Command ceremonies on board the ship.

Equally noteworthy was Denver Council's hosting of the CO and four crew members from the submarine during a visit to Colorado. The trip included visits to Colorado Springs, Denver, Aspen, Glenwood Springs, the U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Space Command at Peterson Space Force Base.

For each of their adopted units the Denver Council raised funds and supported unique events:

- For the Sea Cadets, the Council raised more than \$1,000 in support of Sea Cadet events, presented Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals, and employed the Sea Cadet Color Guard at Council meetings and functions as well as providing an FAA Ground School to the Cadets.
- For the USCG Cryptologic Unit, the Council awarded Top Performer Awards and raised money for their MWR fund.
- With five USMC and USN JROTC Units to support, the Denver Council presented each with a \$1,000 Scholarship, presented Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals, participated as inspectors during their military inspections and employed their Color Guard for the Annual Navy and USMC Birthday Ball.
- For the University of Colorado NROTC Unit, the Denver Council generated funding and awarded the Exemplary Leadership Award to the outstanding Midshipman during the University Annual Awards Program.
- For Marine Corps Recruiting Station Denver, the Denver Council presented a plaque and citation to the Top Recruiter of the Year during a dinner meeting.
- For NTAG Rocky Mountain, the Denver Council presented a plaque and citation to the Top Recruiter of the Year and the SOY during a dinner meeting.
- For NIOC Colorado, they presented a plaque and citation to the SOY, JSOY and BJOY at a dinner meeting.
- For the Naval Reserve Center, the Denver Council presented a plaque and citation to the SOY at a dinner meeting.
- For the Rocky Mountain Young Marines, they presented a Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to the outstanding cadet in the unit at an awards ceremony.

Small Council Winners

Marin County Council (3rd Award)

Marin County Council visits the US Coast Guard Pacific Strike Team to support the crew and to honor the EPOQ. Each visit lasts about an hour and includes the presentation of a

certificate of recognition and other gifts to the EPOQ, as well as providing refreshments for the entire crew. Council Members update the crew on legislation that the Navy League is working on that affects the Coast Guard and other services. Additionally, the Council hosted four crew members at a two-day maritime symposium sponsored by the Council and the California Maritime Academy. The Council also invited the entire crew to their Winter Celebration in December.

A unique Sea Cadet Division is supported by Marin County Council -- the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps Band of the West, in which all the Cadets play a musical instrument. As such, the Division is called upon to perform locally and throughout the United States, incurring substantial expenses. The Council contributed \$2,200 in 2022 to help defray those expenses and to purchase laptop computers. Council Members routinely attend practice sessions and performances to encourage the Cadets, in addition to presenting Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals and other Navy League awards, and securing notable speakers for the Sea Cadets' events.

Remarkably, the Marin County Council (based in the San Francisco area) has adopted, and has continually for 25 years, supported the guided missile destroyer, USS Hopper, even though Hopper's homeport is Pearl Harbor. In 2022, that support included a visit with the ship and crew in Honolulu, at which SOQ, JSOQ, and BJOQ awards were presented in-person. Additionally, the Council provided similar recognition awardees for the other three quarters that they could not attend. Council Members also attended a change of command ceremony while in Hawaii. Marin County Council is assisted by the Honolulu Council in supporting USS Hopper.

Marin County Council also has adopted the USS Greenville (SSN 772), which has been in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (Kittery, Maine) for overhaul. While a personal visit was not possible, the Council still provided custom-designed lithographs of the boat for a total of 12 SOQ/JSOQ/BJOQ awards for 2022.

Sarasota-Manatee Council (1st Award)

The Sarasota-Manatee Council hosted a "Sea Services Heroes" dinner to honor one representative from a Coast Guard cutter, a Coast Guard Station, a Sea Cadet Division, three Young Marines units, a Coast Guard JROTC unit, a Navy JROTC unit, and a Marine Corps JROTC unit. Criteria for selection were direct support for the unit and helping meet unit mission success. Each selectee was presented a certificate of appreciation, a medal, and flowers. It was such a well-received success, the Council decided to make it an annual event.

Sarasota-Manatee Council is a strong supporter of youth programs it has adopted. In 2022, the Council provided \$1,500 each to a NJROTC unit, a MCJROTC unit, and a Sea Cadet Division to support ongoing operations. Additionally, it provided \$500 to a newly established CGJROTC unit, one of only five in the country. It awarded a \$2,500 scholarship to a NJROTC unit cadet. The Council also raised \$10,000 to help the MCJROTC unit reach its goal of \$100,000 goal to build an obstacle course on school

grounds. All students at the school, as well as police officers and firefighters will be able to train on the course. That's a total of \$17,500 to support youth in the Council's area!

In addition to the above, the Council presented SOQ awards and other gifts to four Coast Guardsmen, who were accompanied by leadership from their respective units at a Council dinner meeting.

Alameda Council (2nd Award)

In 2022, Alameda Council completed adoption of four Coast Guard Fast Response Cutters based in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area.

Alameda Council presented SOQ/JSOQ/BJOQ awards to two groups of reservists from the Naval Reserve Support Center at Alameda. Each of these 13 awards included a Council coin, a certificate, and other gifts. Additionally, the Council presented annual awards at a holiday party.

Jointly with the Lake Merritt Council, Alameda provided substantial support for USCGC Munro, with additional help from the Oakland Council. Six SOQ awards certificates, council coins, and other gifts were presented to crewmembers. Deployment support in the form of items for morale boxes, a Welcome Home Reception, and items (children's blankets and books) for the ship's community relations program (distributed by crew at port visits during deployment) were also provided. A "Thanks for Your Service BBQ" was held for over 200 personnel, as well as a "Thanks for Standing the Watch BBQ" for another 200 personnel. Alameda Council members shopped for and prepared food, and worked to serve the food.

The Council also presented EPOQ awards to three members of the Maritime Intelligence Fusion Center Pacific. Awards consisted of a Council coin, certificate, and other gifts.

Alameda Council is a strong supporter of the East Bay Coast Guard Spouses Club. During 2022, the Council assisted with the Club's annual Yard Sale. Council Members hosted the event, donated items, and volunteered for the sale. The Council also hosted two in-person Club meetings, providing dinner to Coast Guard spouses. Along with the Spouses Club and other Navy League Councils, Alameda hosted a dessert table at the Coast Guard Island Harvest Festival, attended by over 300 active duty and family members. Desserts were donated by the Council.

Very Small Council Winner

Lake Merritt Council (3rd Consecutive Award)

The Lake Merritt Council supports the large Coast Guard presence in the San Francisco Bay Area and formally adopts Coast Guard Base Alameda, two National Security Cutters, as well as two local youth groups.

In partnership with the Alameda Council, the Lake Merritt Council supported USCGC Munro (WMSL 755) with individual awards and deployment support, including bank boxes/over 160 bags of morale items for the crew during deployment, hosting a family welcome home sign-making party at which the council also served refreshments, and providing refreshments for the families on the pier upon the ship's return. The diverse items in the banker's boxes were assembled through a mix of fundraising, soliciting donations (including through NextDoor), and contributions from the two councils.

Similar support was provided to USCGC Stratton (WMSL 752) in conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley Council. In addition to SOQ awards, deployment support for Stratton was focused on their return-from-patrol events with tables full of Starbucks coffee, Hershey's Hot Chocolate, hot cider packets, water bottles, juice boxes, Smartee Oranges, Skinny Pop Popcorn packets, Mott's Fruit Snacks, donuts, packets of chips and pretzels, and homemade cookies.

The council also took the lead in running tables at USCG Base Alameda's 2022 Coast Guard Day family event in August. Supported by several councils in the Pacific Central Region, Lake Merritt organized/coordinated the support, set-up the tables, coordinated with the Base, and broke-down the area once complete. The councils provided a children's book give-away (over 500 books offered; many again solicited through NextDoor) and a large selection of craft supplies.

The Lake Merritt Council, in conjunction with the Alameda and Oakland Councils, were held TWO BBQs on Coast Guard Base, Alameda in 2022 open to all local adopted units, as well as any others on the base. At least 160 Coast Guardsmen and Marines, and their families, attended in May, and over 250 in October. The served hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, coleslaw, all the trimmings, chips, water, and cookies.

The council didn't forget about their Hancock Sea Cadet Squadron either. They awarded the cadet of the year with a Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal and a gift certificate, and provided funding to support general operations and ad hoc needs.

Although not a formally-adopted unit, Lake Merritt supported the NSCC Charles Parks Battalion/Training Ship Pampanito with their Safe and Sane Fireworks Booth that is their main fundraiser during the 4th of July holiday. The council shares the money made from the fundraiser with the unit; usually is about 50% of their yearly income.