

Dear fellow New York Council Navy Leaguers:

It has been an exciting few months for our Council as we have fulfilled our mission through many activities across the greater New York City area. This issue of the *Bosun's Pipe* includes photos and details from May's major events, and some activities were covered in other recent issues, but here are some quick highlights:

USS Cooperstown Commissioning: Despite several U.S. Navy postponements, the ship was commissioned here in New York City on Saturday, May 6 in a ceremony attended by more than 1,000 individuals, including native New Yorker, the Honorable Carlos Del Toro, Secretary of the Navy, along with two notable Council members, the Honorable Sean Coffey, General Counsel of the Department of the Navy, and VADM John Mustin, Chief of Navy Reserve. In addition, we had Baseball Hall of Famers Johnny Bench and Joe Torre, members of the '69 Mets, and family members representing Gil Hodges and Yogi Berra. A big shout out and sincere thanks go to our partner in this endeavor — the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

Fleet Week New York 2023: Always a highlight of our year, this year's Fleet Week was a particularly enjoyable one. The Richard & Doris Scheuing CO/XO Reception was an absolute success, attended by more than 250 military and civilian guests. 33 fellow Navy Leaguers were joined by family, donors and friends, while the U.S. sea services were well represented by flag and general officers, commanding and executive officers, and command master chiefs and sergeant majors from the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units participating in Fleet Week, along with United States Merchant Marine Academy and SUNY Maritime College. We were also pleased to welcome our allied navies from the United Kingdom, Canada and Italy.

Our CPO/Staff NCO Cruise on Thursday night was also an absolute success, with nearly 150 senior enlisted leaders enjoying their cruise around New York harbor. New to our Fleet Week line-up this year was a Times Square pop-up rest stop, sponsored by RXR Realty and hosted in partnership with the USO. 10 Council Members joined the Staff to provide snacks, games, prizes and more to about 400 Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen over five days. Council volunteers also helped coordinate check-ins for our ship tours on both Manhattan and Staten Island.

Council leadership participated in two Memorial Day ceremonies — one hosted by the United War Veterans Council in remembrance of the Battle of the Atlantic and a wreath laying ceremony sponsored by the Soldiers & Sailors Monument Association. The Council also received recognition on Fox & Friends on Wednesday, May 24 as being instrumental in

bringing Fleet Week to New York and we rang the closing bell at Nasdaq on Tuesday, May 31, with 60 Sailors, Marines, Navy JROTC cadets, partners and members closing out an exhilarating nine days of activities.

National Security: We had our first briefing of the year in March with all the military fellows from the Council for Foreign Relations on the topic of the pivot to the Indo-Pacific region. Many attendees considered this one of the best yet with a thought-provoking and engaging discussion. Our Council has scheduled the next briefing for Tuesday, July 11, with more to come soon on the topic as we engage with another partner. Also, planning continues on our second annual New York Maritime Security Conference, to be held October 5, with the topic focusing on the U.S.-flag Merchant Marine in the contested environment.

Youth programs: May and June are always exciting as we recognize top-performing cadets at our Navy Junior ROTC programs at Graphics Campus, George Washington, Curtis, Benjamin Cardoso, and Westbury high schools, as well as our Sea Cadet and Young Marines units. This year we will award 40 educational stipends to outstanding graduating cadets and 16 Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medals.

I want to thank all our volunteers who make our programs a success over the year. Without you, we cannot do our mission of supporting the finest women and men, and their families, America has to offer, those standing the watch today, tomorrow and into the future.

My one ask of all members is to look for ways that you can support our efforts, whether with your time, your talent or through your donations. We succeed because of you.

Regards,

Frank