



THE BLUE AND GOLD NEWSLETTER  
OF THE  
**USNAAA**  
PUGET SOUND CHAPTER

Volume XX  
Issue II

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'97

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**Honor, Courage, Commitment**

***PRESIDENT'S CORNER***

I hope this newsletter finds you all happy and healthy!

To start, many thanks to all the Trustees, Chapter Officers, and Alumni who have stepped up to help plan, execute, and attend events this year. We have hosted many happy hour / networking socials all over the Region, held our annual meeting, enjoyed an amazing tour of the *Blue Origin* facility in Kent, hosted the incoming Plebes and Napsters for lunch at the *Mercer Island VFW*, and kicked off the summer with our annual picnic at *Camp McKean*....

With football season rapidly approaching, be sure to check out our portal [www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net](http://www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net) for game watching events – Although we try to plan in advance there will be “pop-up” opportunities to gather with fellow Alumni so in addition to checking the portal please open up the emails we send.

This year for *Army/Navy* we are trying something new and hosting at the *Family Fun Center* in Tukwila (near Southcenter). Great food and drinks, fun games for the family (who doesn't love the idea of laser tag or Go-Karts during half time or maybe having some Army/Navy bowling challenges while watching Navy dominate on the huge screens above the lanes?). I hope this family friendly venue brings out all generations of Alumni & family proudly displaying their Blue & Gold.

Membership – Our membership is doing well but I know we can do better – That said, the Board has decided that if you join/renew by Sept 30th your dues payment will be good through calendar year 2020. As I wrote back in April, a Chapter is only as strong as its membership and we want to be the best; We cannot do it without you!

Trustees & Chapter Officers – Early in 2020 we (all current members) will be voting in at least three Trustees to the Board; and the Board selects the Chapter Officers each year. You do not need to be a Trustee to serve as an Officer. If you are interested in serving as a Trustee and/or Chapter Officer, please let me know ASAP by sending me an email at [usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com](mailto:usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com). Fresh ideas and energetic volunteers are how we will continue to grow and make a positive impact on our current and future alumni as well as our community.

Called to Serve - Daring to Lead: The Naval Academy Campaign. On this I will just say please visit <https://www.usna.com/daringtolead>, read a little about what this campaign is for, and make a decision if contributing is right for you. Know that the amount is less important than the participation – It would be really amazing if we could get 100% participation from the Puget Sound Alumni!

I will close by saying Thanks for reading, Thank You for your service (past, present, and future), and Thank You for being a part of the Puget Sound Chapter...

***GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!***

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

***UPCOMING  
EVENTS***

**NAVY FOOTBALL 1-0  
2019 SCHEDULE**

Holy Cross – W, 52-16  
ECU – 9/14 CBS-SN  
@ Memphis – 9/26 ESPN  
Air Force – 10/5 CBS-SN  
Tulsa – 10/12 CBS-SN  
USF – 10/19 CBS-SN  
Tulane – 10/26 CBS-SN  
@ UCONN – 11/1 ESPN2  
@ Notre Dame – 11/16 NBC  
SMU – 11/23 CBS-SN  
@ Houston – 11/30 \*TBA\*  
AAC-CHMP – 12/7 ABC  
ARMY – 12/14 CBS

***9/17: Networking Social***  
*(North), Anacortes*

***10/5: NAVY vs Air Force,***  
*Viewing party, Oak Harbor*

***10/30: Networking Social***  
*(West), Oxford Suites,*  
*Silverdale*

***11/6: Networking Social***  
*(North), Oak Harbor*

***11/12: Networking Social***  
*(Seattle), Fado's Irish Pub*

***11/16: Notre Dame Game***  
*viewing parties, Multiple*  
*Venues around Puget*  
*Sound (check our website!)*

***12/14: Army - NAVY***  
***Football Game, Baltimore***  
***\*\*Viewing Party – Family***  
***Fun Center, Tukwila\*\****  
***>Viewing Party – Whidbey***  
***CPO Club, Oak Harbor***

***GO NAVY! BEAT ARMY!***

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **NETWORKING / SOCIAL EVENTS ARE GOING STRONG!**

Our chapter has several informal networking/social happy hours scheduled throughout the Puget Sound area in Seattle, Oak Harbor, Mercer Island, as well as our traditional longest running social in Silverdale at the Oxford Suites. These are "come as you are" events where all USNA Alumni and their guests of all ages are invited. Current chapter members' first drink is on us. No RSVP required! Information on these and other events, as well as how you can host an event, are found on our chapter website at <http://pugetsound.usnachapters.net>.



### **\*\*ANNUAL JOINT ARMY/NAVY GAME TAILGATE - DECEMBER 14 – FAMILY FUN CENTER, TUKWILA\*\***

This year our Joint Army/Navy tailgate / viewing party is being held at a terrific venue for all ages, the Family Fun Center & Bullwinkle's Restaurant in Tukwila! [www.fun-center.com/tukwila](http://www.fun-center.com/tukwila)

Your ticket includes access to the dining room and bowling VIP/annex rooms (each with TVs of a variety of sizes, including several big screens), food (salad, pizza, sliders, chicken, fries, deserts/sundaes), bottomless fountain beverages, bowling, unlimited indoor attractions (except Virtual Reality Challenge and Games), one additional attraction (Outdoor or Virtual Reality Challenge) and 30 points for games. There is a cash bar for alcohol and additional food & snacks will be available for purchase. Come early to enjoy some games and rides before lunch and kickoff!

**10am: venue opens; 11:30am: food service begins; 12pm: kick-off**

***\*\*Please see the attached flyer for additional information, including a list of all activities and attractions at the venue.\*\****

***Please RSVP by Sunday, December 8!***

***Online:*** [www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net/events-news/army-navy/](http://www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net/events-news/army-navy/)

***By Mail:*** please use the form included on the included flyer

***Questions:*** contact Craig Wiesen

***Via email:*** [usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com](mailto:usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com)

***Via phone/text:*** (703) 229-3036

>>>>There is also an Army/Navy game viewing party being held in Oak Harbor, at the CPO club on Ault Field Rd starting at 11am. Football, food, friends & family (parents must entertain their kids ;-).  
>>>>The same venue will host for Navy vs Air Force on 10/5 (21+).

## THE WAY IT WAS

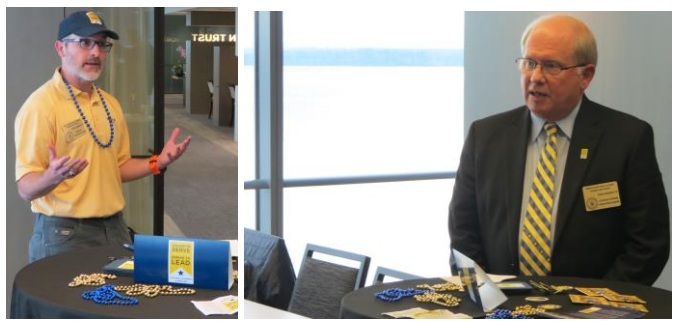
### **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING – NORTHERN TRUST OFFICE**

On April 18, we held our chapter annual meeting and celebrated two of our local distinguished graduates:

**ADM Thomas Hayward, USN (Ret) Class of '48, 21st CNO, 2007 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient**

**CAPT Wendy Lawrence, USN (Ret) Class of '81, former NASA Astronaut, 2019 Distinguished Graduate Award recipient**

**ADM Hayward** shared several fascinating sea stories and **CAPT Lawrence** shared her experiences as an astronaut and thoughts on spaceflight. They lauded the many new amazing programs and opportunities available to current USNA Midshipmen. Both were highly engaging and entertaining speakers!





## TOUR OF BLUE ORIGIN FACILITY – KENT, WA

On Saturday, April 27, our chapter members toured the headquarters of spaceflight company **Blue Origin** and learned a great deal about commercial spaceflight, space tourism, and the types of people and vehicles necessary to make it all happen. **Blue Origin's** mission is *"Building a road to space so our children can build the future"* with a vision of *"Millions of people living and working in space."* They're designing the reusable rocket systems and engines necessary to move materials and people into space at a price point that encourages space exploration and possible future colonization. The **Blue Origin** headquarters a spectacular factory floor where the company assembles its New Shepard suborbital rocket. USNA is well-represented at Blue Origin with several alumni working there in important roles. Special recognition and a hearty thank you to **Erik Lord '04** for coordinating the tour and giving an excellent talk titled, *"From Submarines to Reusable Space Ships: A Materials Journey."* He spoke about how his career experiences from being an enlisted nuke submariner to USNA to graduate school to various engineering roles have prepared him for his current role as **Senior Manager of Materials and Processes**, in which he leads a team of engineers and technicians that support the development and qualification of materials and manufacturing processes needed for producing spaceflight vehicles and engines. Thank you again, **Blue Origin**, for hosting us and to all the USNA alumni working there who led the tour for our chapter: **Terry Benedict '82 (COO)** **Jeff Draeger '93** \* **Kevin Sproge '98** \* **Seth Krueger '05** **Erik Lord '04** \* **Casey Thompson '04** \* **Mark Jackson '82**

**Blue Origin, LLC** is a privately funded aerospace manufacture and spaceflight services company founded in 2000 by Jeff Bezos, who is also the founder of Amazon. The company motto is *Gradatim Ferociter*, ("Step by Step, Ferociously") [www.blueorigin.com](http://www.blueorigin.com)



## PLEBE LUNCHEON – MERCER ISLAND VFW POST 5760

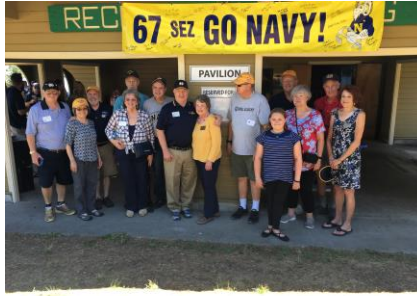
We hosted our annual **Plebe Luncheon** to welcome the **Class of '23**, on Saturday, May 11. Well over 100 people attended, including local alumni, parents, Blue & Gold Officers, and 13 incoming Plebes and Napsters. Local **Class of '73** alumni (**Robert Fishman**, **Dan Couch**, **Don Jefferson** and **Jamie Kelly**) attended in support of **Another Link in The Chain** and the **Washington Parents Club** (joined by **Elizabeth Beedenbender from the USNA Alumni Association & Foundation**) was there to present *"Plebe 101"* to help get the young men and women and their families ready for I-day and Plebe year. It was a great event and we send our thanks to the Parents Club, **Class of '73**, USNAAA & Foundation, USAA, our BGOs, and the Mercer Island VFW for all their support!



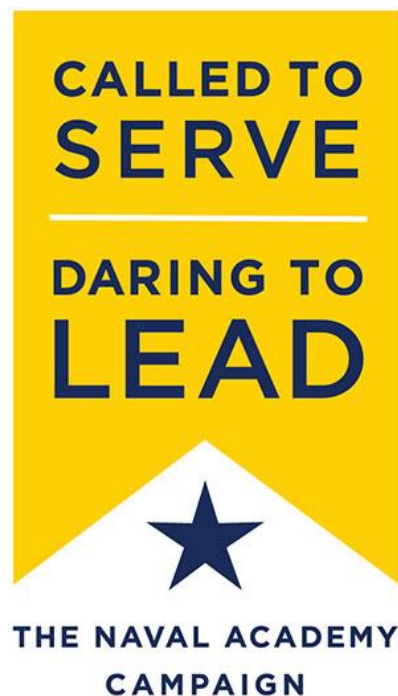


## ***ANNUAL SUMMER CHAPTER FAMILY PICNIC – CAMP MCKEAN, KITSAP LAKE, BREMERTON, WA***

On Sunday, July 21, the USNAAA Puget Sound Chapter held its annual chapter picnic at our traditional site at Camp McKean on Kitsap Lake. Despite a hasty date change to earlier in the summer (due to some MWR scheduling conflicts), the event was still well attended. It was a gorgeous day, and there was a tremendous variety of food, with the Chapter providing the burgers, hot dogs, and drinks and the guests bringing in a plethora of additional dishes for the “pot luck.” As a result, the cost for attending was significantly reduced from years past, yet there seemed to be a much greater variety in all the available dishes and drinks! The weather was terrific, and everyone had a wonderful time, as seen in the pictures below!







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**Chapter WEBSITE: <http://pugetsound.usnachapters.net>**

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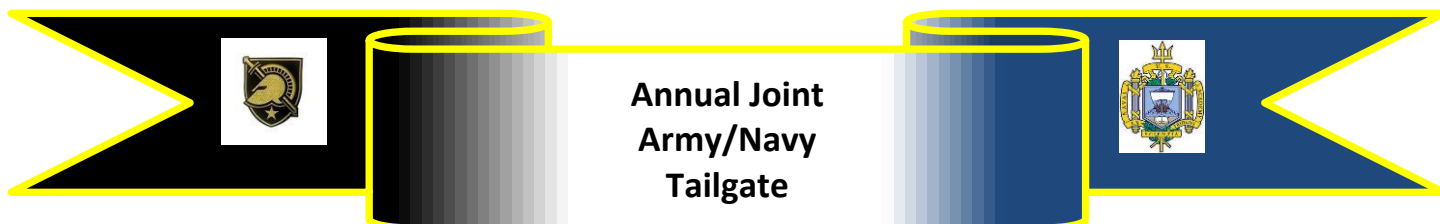
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[cdhoffmanusna80@msn.com](mailto:cdhoffmanusna80@msn.com)



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 10am

Family Fun Center

7300 Fun Center Drive, Tukwila, WA  
(just off Hwy 405, near Southcenter)

[www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net](http://www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net)

[www.fun-center.com/tukwila](http://www.fun-center.com/tukwila)

1000: Open for games/attractions.

1130: Food Service begins

1200: Army/Navy Kickoff

Indoor Activities/Attractions

Games  
Virtual Reality Challenge  
Bowling  
Bumper Cars  
Laser Tag  
Kidopolis

Outdoor Activities/Attractions

Go Karts  
Bumper Boats  
Batting Cages  
Scream'in Swing  
Miniature Golf



**Tickets Include:**

Access to Dining Room (multiple TVs) and Bowling VIP/Annex rooms (enormous TVs)

Food (Salad, Pizza, Sliders, Chicken, Fries, Dessert/Sundaes) - GF/Vegan options

Unlimited fountain beverages

Bowling on lanes attached to VIP and Annex rooms

Unlimited indoor attractions (except Virtual Reality Challenge & Games)

One (1) additional attraction (Outdoor or Virtual Reality Challenge)

30 points for Games



Parents Club Raffle

**Cost:**

Non Chapter Members & Guests (age 14+): \$35 per person

Members of Puget Sound USNA or USMA Alumni Association Chapters & Guests (age 14+): \$25 per person

Kids (age 6 - 13): \$15 per person, 5 and under are Free

**Registration:**

RSVP by Sunday, 08 December

Online: Visit [www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net/events-news/army-navy/](http://www.pugetsound.usnachapters.net/events-news/army-navy/)

By Mail: complete form below

Questions: Contact Craig via email [usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com](mailto:usnaapugetsoundpresident@gmail.com) or phone/text 703-229-3036

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ARMY or NAVY Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

Non-member Adults (14+): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 = \_\_\_\_\_

Member Adults (14+): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25 = \_\_\_\_\_

Kids (6-13): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 = \_\_\_\_\_

Kids (0-5): \_\_\_\_\_ X \$0 = \_\_\_\_\_ \$0.00

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check out to USNAAA-PSC

Mail To:

Craig Wiesen

9360 Mercerwood Dr

Mercer Island, WA 98040

Come Early to play games, ride attractions, or bowl a few games before lunch and kickoff!