Pandemic forces scaling back of traditional Navy Birthday celebration

Oct. 13 marks Navy’s 245th year

By Donna Capolloni
NAS Patuxent River Public Affairs

With COVID-19 sharply curtailing the ability to conduct large-scale public events, the traditional formal Navy Ball, held annually to commemorate the Navy’s Birthday, has been replaced this year by a simpler, more intimate cake cutting ceremony.

Taking place 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Oct. 13 outside at the Parade Field onboard NAS Patuxent River, the gathering will feature retired Capt. Glen Ives, a former commanding officer of Pax River from 2006 to 2008, as Guest of Honor and speaker.

“This year’s event will focus on the ‘Victory at Sea’ and the 75th anniversary of World War II,” said Logistics Specialist 1st Class Jackson Detore, leading petty officer of the Navy Birthday planning committee. “Sailors will also be presenting speeches about some of the [Navy] battles that led to U.S. victory, and the base Skipper is going to cut the cake at the end. Anyone with base access is invited to attend. Face masks are required and we will be observing physical distancing guidelines.”

According to Naval History and Heritage Command, an Oct. 13, 1775 resolution of the Continental Congress established what is now the United States Navy with “a swift sailing vessel, to carry ten carriage guns, and a proportionable number of swivels, with eighty men, be fitted, with all possible dispatch, for a cruise of three months...” After the American War of Independence, the U.S. Constitution empowered the new Congress “to provide and maintain a navy.” Acting on this authority, Congress established the Department of the Navy on April 30, 1798.

In 1972, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo R. Zumwalt authorized official recognition of Oct. 13 as the birthday of the U.S. Navy. Since then, each CNO has encouraged a Navywide celebration of this occasion “to enhance a greater appreciation of our Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.”

“The Navy Birthday planning committee was formed back in April,” Detore said. “We started planning the Navy Ball — programs, tickets, fundraising — knowing there’d be challenges, but as the weeks turned into months, we learned it wasn’t going to take place. Next, we transitioned to planning a picnic with games, but it was decided we couldn’t mitigate that, so we had to scale it back again.

The Navy Ball is a big deal, and to not have it is a big deal, but we still wanted to put on a display of respect for our Navy. Kudos to our Sailors for all the hard work they put in during this process.”

Naval District Washington announces Energy Action Month 2020

Personnel encouraged to submit energy saving tips

From Naval District Washington

Energy Action Month is a time to renew our commitment to using energy more effectively at our duty stations and in our homes. We are transforming our energy culture — making the Navy more energy efficient, resilient and reliable and thus, more secure. Fostering energy security is a daily all-hands effort that is critical for ensuring success of our diverse operations.

To stay mission ready, we need to be as efficient as possible and look for ways to be more effective with our existing resources.

Technology can only get us so far, so our behavior, leadership, and drive must be synchronized for success.

Everyone can contribute to improve our energy security. If a light or electronic device is left on but not in use, turn it off. If a window or door is open while the AC or heat is on, close it. If a faucet or showerhead is leaking, report it. Work with the Building Energy Monitors (BEM), Installation Energy Managers, (IEM), and Regional Energy Program Managers (REPM) to help reduce energy waste. Through collaboration, we will continue to increase our efficiency, innovate our systems, and improve readiness.

If you have questions, comments, or electronic energy saving suggestions for the home or office, reach out to your direct leadership or NAS Patuxent River’s Installation Energy Manager at paul.impelluso@navy.mil. For more information on easy ways to save energy, please visit http://energy.gov/energsaver/energy-saver. Thank you for your support.