



December 10, 2021

## For Those Who Serve

**Alert:** The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) has yet to receive its final vote in the Senate. However, [the House did pass a compromise NDAA](#), which should be palatable for the Senate. It includes pay raises for military servicemembers, changes to the Uniform Code of Military Justice regarding investigation of sexual assault and retains about \$25 billion plus-up to the President's budget which includes, among other things, funding for the second destroyer in the Navy Shipbuilding and Conversion Budget. All that remains is a vote from the Senate.

Congress postponed a government shutdown as Senate leaders reached a compromise for a short-term funding bill. The Senate also reached a deal that will allow the debt ceiling to be raised by a simple majority vote rather than through the reconciliation process.

Make sure to send your Members of Congress a "Save the Date" for Sea Air Space by visiting the link below. The invites go out through the same Voice to Congress platform as previous campaigns so just click send and get your MOCs to Save the Date!

[https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/36507/?login\\_code=coPP0bo8SwIVIE7-waUmvKtfhbH8YI8u\\_4FFoRnstLnu95iGNmZ56PjxeaRCLdSTDFYuNyH4Mw4sA3byDfDB3OF8GAXFys7lkK30pE5yq6ULp6prfe50hEGvIR0%3D](https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/36507/?login_code=coPP0bo8SwIVIE7-waUmvKtfhbH8YI8u_4FFoRnstLnu95iGNmZ56PjxeaRCLdSTDFYuNyH4Mw4sA3byDfDB3OF8GAXFys7lkK30pE5yq6ULp6prfe50hEGvIR0%3D)



The Navy League Long Island Council awards Jules Steinhauer, USN, Commander (Ret.) as part of its Veterans Day recognition of three World War II veterans. Photo includes the President of the Long Island Council, Roger Noakes, and Owen Watford.

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**Don't forget to share your stories with us!**

Your stories are important and they matter to your representatives. Please connect with us here at the Navy League so that we can relay your stories to the representatives that can affect real change in support of our Sea Services.

[Tell your story here!](#)

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## Remembering William "Bill" Evanzia



### **Posthumous Recognition for a Standout Member of the Long Island Council of the Navy League of the United States**

When the Long Island Council of the Navy League of the United States recently hosted a World War II Veterans Recognition Event on Veterans Day November 11, 2021, it was to honor and commemorate the valiant service efforts of three Long Island World War II veterans.

One of the three respected representatives of that Greatest Generation was unable to attend that planned celebration because of an unexpected rendezvous in heaven, an order that no one can refuse, on July 18, 2021. And **William “Bill” Evanzia’s** entire career was all about duty and obeying orders.

In Bill’s civilian career, he was a true professional, a man of utmost dignity who earned the respect of all through hard work and dedication. He applied his expertise and vision to all the projects he worked on and endeared himself to his fellow men and women in The Navy League of the United States with his energy, enthusiasm and take charge leadership.

Bill Evanzia rarely discussed his military service which concluded in 1948 after World War II and before the Korean War, but didn’t merely wear his patriotism on his sleeve. He demonstrated his patriotism with every project and task he tackled, and there were innumerable projects and tasks in his 30+ plus years involvement with The Navy League. In fact, Bill served the Navy League in virtually every capacity from Council President to Regional President. He brought his energy to a number of committees including the Executive, Legislative Affairs and Merchant Marine Affairs Committees and became National Director of The Navy League as well as National Director Emeritus.

Owen W. Watford, Vice President of the Long Island Council of the Navy League of the United States who knew Bill for 25 years, recently commented he “served on the Sumner-class Destroyer USS Purdy DD734 as well as the Fletcher-class Destroyer the USS Bronson DD848, and the Sumner-class Destroyer Wallace L. Lind DD703. And though he did not discuss his service time, it was easy to imagine that this Communications Officer, Radar-man Second Class (RD2), would have done his duty and been steadfast under fire.”

The passing of William “Bill” Evanzia reminds us that the Greatest Generation paid their dues in the crucible of World War II and went on to play leading roles in making the United States of America the bastion of freedom it is in the world today.



Photo courtesy of the Navy League Long Island Council's recent Veterans Day remembrance of three World War II veterans.

## Sea Service Updates

With over 100,000 Russian troops staged along the Ukrainian border, tensions in Europe are higher than they have been at any point since the end of the Cold War. President Biden has made clear that [U.S. troops will not](#) respond directly to a new Russian invasion of Ukraine, though the United States and its European allies stand ready to impose severe sanctions as a response. Additionally, the United States has increased its supply of weapons and ammunition to Ukrainian forces.

And while the NDAA passed this week by the House did include substantial funding for the Pacific Deterrence Initiative, calls are growing for [increased missile defenses](#) for the island of Guam. Many believe that in the event of Chinese aggression toward Taiwan, one of China's first moves will be to decimate American forces in Guam through a missile barrage. As such, military leaders, foreign policy analysts, and members of Congress are increasingly discussing upgrades to Guam's missile defense systems.





Photo courtesy of the Navy League Long Island Council's recent Veterans Day remembrance of three World War II veterans.

## Sea Service News

### The State of the Sea Services

[Luria: Sending Japan-based USS Ronald Reagan to Middle East 'Biggest Strategic' Mistake in a Lifetime - USNI News / Dec 8](#)

Dispatching the Navy's Japan-based forward-deployed aircraft carrier to the Middle East earlier this year to bolster the withdrawal from Afghanistan was a major strategic error, a top lawmaker on the House Armed Services Committee said today.

[Berger: I'll accept a smaller Marine Corps to make light amphibys happen - Defense News / Dec 8](#)

The Marine Corps' top general on Saturday doubled down on his willingness to sacrifice manpower for new systems needed to deter or defeat China, amid growing worries the defense budget may not include enough funding to protect programs like the light amphibious warship.

### \*Taiwan\*

[U.S. defense official says boosting Taiwan's defenses an 'urgent task' - Reuters / Dec 8](#)

Bolstering Taiwan's defenses is an urgent task and essential to deterring the threat of invasion by China, the Pentagon's top official for Asia said on Wednesday, adding that U.S. partners were stepping up their military presence in the region.

### Great Power Competition

[Russians have 120,000 troops on its border, increased intel gathering, Ukraine ministry says - Military Times / Dec 8](#)

The Russians now have about 120,000 troops [arrayed around Ukraine](#), and they are increasing their intelligence gathering activities, according to the latest Ukrainian military assessment, obtained by Military Times.

[Not enough US 'defensive capabilities' in Asia: US Army Japan commander - Breaking Defense / Dec 8](#)

The US Army doesn't have enough [missile defense capabilities](#) at its bases in the western Pacific as threats loom not just from China, the commander of US Army Japan recently said.

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