

fanfare

September/October 2012 • Volume 33 Number 5

NAVY BIRTHDAY CONCERT
SPOTLIGHT ON MUCM KNUTSON
COMMODORES NATIONAL TOUR
NAVY BAND ALUMNI WEEKEND



THE UNITED STATES
NAVY BAND
WASHINGTON, D.C.



AMERICA'S
NAVY
A GLOBAL FORCE FOR GOOD.™



A Message from the Commanding Officer

It was quite a hot and busy summer in our nation's capital. In fact, July ended up being Washington's second-hottest month on record! The heat wave, however, wasn't enough to stop us from performing 37 public concerts in six states and more than a hundred ceremonies in July alone. We had wonderful crowds this summer at our Concerts at the Capitol and Concerts on the Avenue series. We enthusiastically supported Navy Weeks in Baltimore, Boston and Nashville. In August, we were pleased to have Navy Band alumni join us for a special concert at the Navy Memorial. It's great to see our younger Sailors interacting with their predecessors.

At a change of office ceremony held in the Sail Loft on Aug. 10, we bid "fair winds and following seas" to the outgoing Chief of Information (CHINFO), Rear Admiral Dennis Moynihan. Admiral Moynihan served as our command assist official for the office of the chief of naval operations since 2009, and was one of our greatest supporters at the Pentagon, for which we are extremely grateful. His replacement, Rear Admiral John Kirby, assumed command at that ceremony. The Navy Band is looking forward to working for Admiral Kirby, and his leadership in charting a way forward for the Navy Band.

Now it's time to look ahead. This month, Country Current is spending 17 days delivering their unique mix of bluegrass and country to audiences in Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Missouri. If you're close, make sure to get a ticket (they're free) and come on by.

This October we'll be joining Adm. Jonathan Greenert, the chief of naval operations, to celebrate the Navy's 237th birthday. During a special concert on Oct. 14, we'll explore our warfighting heritage, from the beginning of our continental Navy, through our emergence as a naval power during the War of 1812, to our present state as the finest Navy the world has ever known. The concert will be a great mix of sea chancies, American folk songs and patriotic fare.

Finally, I want to congratulate our newest senior chiefs and chief selectees. Joining the "flag ranks" of the chief petty officer community are senior chiefs Bob Couto, Pete Czekaj, Bill Mulligan, Laura Grantier and Steve Williams. Our chief selectees are Jon Agazzi, Mike Belinkie, Brian Bowman, Randy Johnson, Chris Sala and Kevin Taylor. Congratulations and thank you for your devotion, hard work and leadership. I'm looking forward to more great things from all of you.

To our patrons, thank you for your continued support. As always, we hope to see you at a concert very soon!

Brian O. Walden, Captain, USN
Commanding Officer/Leader



fanfare

Volume 33 Number 5
Commanding Officer/Leader
CAPT Brian O. Walden, USN

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Front Cover: Chief Musician Yolanda Pelzer performs with the Concert Band during the 15th Navy Band alumni reunion concert at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The concert featured former leaders and musicians of the Navy Band sitting in and conducting the band.

U.S. Navy Photograph by Musician 1st Class Jeremy Buckler

SEA CHANTERS

Thank you all for the wonderful concert tonight in Martinsburg, WV. You gals & guys rock!!!! Thank you for your service to our great country!

Sandy (Facebook)

Navy Band 15th alumni weekend a success

by Master Chief Musician Aaron Porter

Navy Band alumni gathered on Sunday, Aug. 5 in the Navy Yard's historic Sail Loft to celebrate the 15th alumni reunion. The kick-off event was a reception and dinner for approximately 75 former members of the band, which provided an opportunity for shipmates to share "sea stories" and memories from their days with the band. Capt. Brian O. Walden spoke at the dinner, bringing alumni up to date with what the band is doing today and to point out that the enthusiastic alumni presence was a strong indication of their loyalty to the band and its mission. He also emphasized that current members are carrying out the mission with pride and professionalism and building on the solid foundation laid down by retirees. Among the alumni at the dinner was former



Captain Ralph M. Gambone, (ret.) conducts the Navy Band at the U.S. Navy Memorial at the 15th Navy Band alumni reunion concert at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The concert featured former leaders and musicians of the Navy Band sitting in and conducting the band.
(U.S. Navy Photograph by Musician 1st Class Jeremy Buckler/Released)



Former leader of the Navy Band, retired Lt. Cmdr. John Pastin acknowledges the audience at the 15th Navy Band alumni reunion concert at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The concert featured former leaders and musicians of the Navy Band sitting in and conducting the band.
(U.S. Navy photo by Musician 1st Class Jeremy Buckler/Released)

commanding officer, retired Capt. Ralph Gambone, who served in that capacity from 1998 to 2007. Also present was retired Lt. Cmdr. Melvin Kessler, who served at the band as an enlisted trumpet instrumentalist and later as third officer. He retired from the Navy in 2006 after serving as leader of the Naval Academy Band in Annapolis.

The events most anticipated by alumni were the rehearsal and concert on Monday, Aug. 6. In preparation for the concert, the band and about 24 Concert Band and Sea Chanters alumni rehearsed that morning in the Sail Loft, and the performance followed that night at the U.S. Navy Memorial. The program chosen by Walden was ambitious,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

America's Navy turns 237

by Musician 1st Class Adam Grimm

Senior Chief Musician Keith Hinton and Musician 1st Class Amanda Polychronis sit in a cubicle. There are papers scattered on the desk. Some contain lists of ideas for musical selections, others information about the War of 1812 and still others that outline the chief of naval operation's vision for the Navy. The computer monitor is littered with open sound files and videos. They are busy planning the Navy birthday concert.

This year's concert, to be held on Oct. 14 at DAR Constitution Hall, will represent months of careful planning. There have been at least a dozen drafts for the program. The operations office makes sure that the concert personnel, made up of musicians from the Concert Band, Sea Chanters and Country Current, can make all of the rehearsals during what is usually a busy time for the band. Production assistants go over budget minutiae

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

COUNTRY CURRENT

The performance was fabulous; we enjoyed it very much, especially your original material. But, we also, liked the mix of country music you chose to perform. I brought my 90 year old dad, a patriotic, second world war NAVY veteran, so I was glad when you acknowledged the branches of service with their various songs.

Debbie (Newark, Del.)



(Oct. 18, 2002) Ernest Borgnine rehearses with the Navy Band in preparation for the concert celebrating the Navy's birthday at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



(Oct. 16, 2004) Ernest Borgnine performs as guest narrator during the Navy Band's concert celebrating the Navy's birthday at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

A tribute to Ernest Borgnine 1917-2012



(Oct. 15, 2005) Ernest Borgnine, left, is greeted on stage by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Mullen during the Navy Band's concert celebrating the Navy's birthday at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



(Oct. 19, 2002) Ernest Borgnine performs as narrator during the Navy Band's concert celebrating the Navy's birthday at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



(Oct. 14, 2004) Ernest Borgnine rehearses with the Navy Band in preparation for the concert celebrating the Navy's Birthday at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

CRUISERS

The Cruisers are fantastic. Their musicianship, both individually and collectively, was of the highest caliber. The repertoire is packed with sure fire crowd pleasers.

Sherrod (Solomons, Md.)



Senior Chief Musician Mike Bayes, left, assistant drum major with the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band, is interviewed about the Navy Band's involvement with the "Star Spangled Sailabration" during a live broadcast aboard USS San Antonio (LPD 17) on Baltimore's WJZ Morning News. The "Star Spangled Sailabration" commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Musician 1st Class Casey Elliott, right, conducts the Sea Chanters in front of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as part of the "Star Spangled Sailabration" in Baltimore. The "Star Spangled Sailabration" commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Musician 1st Class James Hicks, right, tuba instrumentalist with the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band explains the workings of his tuba to a young Sailor after the opening ceremony of the Star Spangled Sailabration in Baltimore. The "Star Spangled Sailabration" commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Members of the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band perform patriotic music behind Al Roker, left, during the "Today Show" filming at the Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Md. The "Star Spangled Sailabration" commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

CRUISERS

Not only are they tremendous entertainers they are very personable and bring credit to the Navy. I am looking forward to the next time I have the opportunity to hear them or the other bands.

Charles (Solomons, Md.)



Performance Schedule

All concerts are FREE and open to the public. Tickets or reservations are not required unless noted (*). Please note that all concert information is accurate at time of publication, though subject to change due to weather and other conditions. For inclement weather announcements, please call 202-433-2525 or visit www.twitter.com/usnavyband. For the most up-to-date information, please check our online performance calendar at: www.navyband.navy.mil

SEPTEMBER

BRASS QUARTET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 30, 3 P.M.

Metropolitan Memorial United Methodist Church
3401 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

CEREMONIAL BAND

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 1:30 P.M.

Navy Memorial
Washington, D.C.

COMMODORES

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8, 4:30 P.M.

Hagerstown Community College
Hagerstown, Md.
Concert Band

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, 7:30 P.M.

James Hubert Blake H.S.
Silver Spring, Md.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 6:30 P.M.

Henry E. Lackey H.S.
3000 Chicamuxen Road
Indian Head, Md.

CRUISERS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9, 6:30 P.M.

Stango Park
Lewes, Del.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23, 2 P.M.

John Handley H.S.
Winchester, Va.

SEA CHANTERS

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, 2 P.M.

National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

WINDJAMMERS

WOODWIND QUINTET

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, 3 P.M.

United Baptist Church
Annandale, Va.
October

CEREMONIAL BAND

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31, 7 A.M.

Alumni Hall
USNA
Annapolis, Md.

COMMODORES

FRIDAY, OCT. 5, 8 P.M.

HCC Auditorium Smith Theatre
Columbia, Md.

CONCERT BAND

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31, 10:15 A.M.

New Town High School
4931 New Town Blvd.
Owings, Md.

CRUISERS

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 31, 5:30 P.M.

Dahlgren Hall USNA
Annapolis, Md.

SEA CHANTERS

SATURDAY, OCT. 27, 7 P.M.

Notre Dame of Maryland University
Baltimore, Md.

NOVEMBER

COMMODORES

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 6 P.M.

Joint Base Anacostia Bolling
Alexandria, Va.

CONCERT BAND

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 7, 10:15 A.M.

Loch Raven High School
1212 Cowpens Ave.
Baltimore, Md.

CRUISERS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 6 P.M.

Bowling Club
Joint Base Anacostia, D.C.

SEA CHANTERS

FRIDAY, NOV. 2, 7:30 P.M.

Stonewall Middle School
10100 Lomond Drive
Manassas, Va.

COUNTRY CURRENT 2012 FALL TOUR

Country Current departs Sept. 5 on a 17-day national concert tour through Arkansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas. Please check our website at www.navyband.navy.mil for updates.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, 7 P.M.

Robson Performing Arts Center
101 E. Stuart Roosa
Claremore, Okla.

COMMODORES

Their level of musicianship was tremendous, and the audience was delighted. Thanks to you guys for a wonderful service to our Nation, and to so many individual communities. I've got to believe that the Navy Band's outreach is extremely valuable to DON and to our entire military.

Paul (Aberdeen, Md.)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 6, 7 P.M.

Alma Performing Arts Center
103 East Main St.
Alma, Ark.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 7, 7 P.M.

University of Central Arkansas
Reynolds Performance Hall
Beatrice Powell Drive
Conway, Ark.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 8, 7:30 P.M.

Malco Theater
422 Cherry St.
Helena, Ark.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 9

TBD

TUESDAY, SEPT. 11, 6:30 P.M.

Heritage Park
1701 Bayou Lane
Slidell, La.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 12, 7 P.M.

Downtown Amphitheater
251 Jackson St.
Alexandria, La.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 7 P.M.

Kingwood Park High School
Performing Arts Center
4015 Woodland Hills Drive
Kingwood, Texas

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 7 P.M.

The Palace Theater
105 S. Main St.
Bryan, Texas

SATURDAY, SEPT. 15, TBD

The Bob Bullock Texas State
History Museum
1800 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, Texas



**Advanced to
Chief Petty Officer**

- MUC (sel) Jon Agazzi
- MUC (sel) Michael Belinkie
- MUC (sel) Brian Bowman
- MUC (sel) Randy Johnson
- MUC (sel) Christopher Sala
- MUC (sel) Kevin Taylor



**Advanced to Senior
Chief Petty Officer**

- MUCS Robert Couto
- MUCS Peter Czekaj
- MUCS Laura Grantier
- MUCS William Mulligan
- MUCS Steve Williams

**IN MEMORIAM ROY
GRUNDSTROM 1946 - 2012**

The Navy Band mourns the passing of retired Musician 1st Class Roy Grundstrom. He died on June 27, 2012 from complications related to diabetes. Roy retired in 1988 after 20 years in the Navy music program. He was a 1964 graduate of East Longmeadow High School, and received a Bachelor of Music Education from the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford, Conn. In 1968, after graduating from recruit training in Great Lakes, Ill., Grundstrom reported to the Navy School of Music, later joining the staff at the school teaching string

bass, electric bass and tuba. In 1969, he joined the Navy Show Band as a bass instrumentalist, and then reported to the U.S.



Navy Band in Washington, D.C., in 1970, performing on double bass, electric bass and tuba. During his time at the Navy Band, he performed with the Commodores, Port Authority and Concert Band. After retiring from the band, he moved to Florida and worked for the Disney Corporation. He leaves his wife, May, and two sons.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 16, 3 P.M.

Canyon High School
Performing Arts Center
1510 IH 35 E
New Braunfels, Texas

TUESDAY, SEPT. 18, 7:30 P.M.

Texas Lutheran University
Jackson Auditorium
1000 West Court St.
Seguin, Texas

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 19, 7 P.M.

Texas A&M University
Kingsville Jones Auditorium
700 University Blvd.
Kingsville, Texas

THURSDAY, SEPT. 20, 7 P.M.

Cultural Activities Center
Main Auditorium
3011 North Third St.
Temple, Texas

FRIDAY, SEPT. 21, 7:30 P.M.

Southeastern OK State University
Montgomery Auditorium
Durant, Okla.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 22, 6:30 P.M.

Life Church
1300 South George Nigh Expressway
McAlester, Okla.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 23, 7 P.M.

Myriad Botanical Gardens
Grand Lawn
301 W. Reno Oklahoma
Oklahoma City, Okla.

**COMMODORES
2012 FALL TOUR**

The Commodores depart Oct. 25 on a 20-day national concert tour through Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico and North Carolina. Look for their full schedule in the next issue of fanfare.

COMMODORES

It was obvious that MANY people came out tonight for the sole purpose of hearing the Commodores, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed every note (as if the standing ovations didn't make that clear enough). It was especially enjoyable to hear the piece about the Navy Seals, which was composed by your very own pianist/keyboardist. Excellent!

Janet (North Beach, Md.)



The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus performs "Eternal Father Strong to Save" during the commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the Korean War armistice at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater in Arlington, Va. The commemoration ceremony followed a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns recognizing veterans of the Korean War. The ceremony was part of the three year commemoration of the Korean War which began on June 24, 1950, and ended on July 27, 1953, with the signing of the armistice.
(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Lt. Cmdr. Walt Cline, executive officer of the U.S. Navy Band, leads the Ceremonial Band during the commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the Korean War armistice at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater in Arlington, Va. The commemoration ceremony followed a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns recognizing veterans of the Korean War. The ceremony was part of the three year commemoration of the Korean War which began on June 24, 1950, and ended on July 27, 1953, with the signing of the armistice.
(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Members of the Cruisers perform during a summer concert at the National Harbor amphitheater.
(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Musician 1st Class (AW) Cory Parker, lead singer with the Cruisers contemporary rock group, performs during a summer concert at the National Harbor amphitheater.
(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)

CONCERT BAND

Fantastic!

demarezmichel (YouTube)



The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus perform with the Boston Pops at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in Boston. This celebration was one of 15 signature events planned across America in 2012. The eight-day long event commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812, hosting service members from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard and coalition ships from around the world. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



The U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus perform with the Boston Pops at the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade in Boston. This celebration was one of 15 signature events planned across America in 2012. The eight-day long event commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812, hosting service members from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard and coalition ships from around the world. (U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Lt. Cmdr. Walt Cline, executive officer of the United States Navy Band, conducts the U.S. Navy Band Sea Chanters chorus as they perform the "Star Spangled Banner" on the flight deck of USS Wasp (LHD 1) as USS Constitution passes by to render a 19-gun salute during Boston Navy Week 2012. This celebration was one of 15 signature events planned across America in 2012. The eight-day long event commemorated the bicentennial of the War of 1812, hosting service members from the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard and coalition ships from around the world.

(U.S. Navy Photo by Chief Musician Stephen Hassay/Released)



Fair winds and following seas to...

MUCS Chris Walker, trumpet instrumentalist with the Commodores jazz ensemble, who retires after 23 years of service.



The U.S. Navy Band Commodores jazz ensemble performs on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. (U.S. Navy Photo by Musician 1st Class Jeremy Buckler/Released)

CONCERTS ON THE AVENUE

We went to the concert tonight at the Navy Memorial. It was fantastic, what a great time we had, the weather turned out great and the drill team and flag bearers were great too. Loved the music selections they performed.

Christine (Facebook)

Alumni continued...

with selections such as Dmitri Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," Cesar Franck's "Le Chasseur Maudit," (arranged by former officer in charge/leader of the Navy Band, Cmdr. Donald W. Stauffer) Saint-Saëns' "Bacchanale" from his opera, "Samson and Delilah" and Charles Ives' "Country Band March." The Sea Chanters were featured in "Battle Hymn of the Republic." A long-standing alumni reunion tradition was observed, as former leaders Gambone and retired Lt. Cmdr. John Pastin were invited to the podium to conduct the "Bacchanale" and "Festive Overture," respectively. Retired Master Chief Musician Don Stratton, chairman of the Navy Band Alumni Association, also kept another reunion tradition intact by conducting Stauffer's "Alumni March." By any measure, the concert was a resounding success.

The final event of the evening was a reception in the Navy Memorials' visitor center, a final chance for alumni and current band members to wish each other well and look forward to the next reunion in two years. Stratton, who has been involved with the alumni association for 27 years, said, "This is surely not the same band I entered in 1957...I have heard the band throughout these many years, and I am most pleased to say that musically and professionally, the standards have been well maintained."

The entire Navy Band is looking forward to the next reunion, scheduled for the summer of 2014. All the reunion events are the result of a close



Musician 1st Class Jonathan Yanik, principal saxophone of the Concert Band, performs a solo during the 15th Navy Band alumni reunion concert at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. The concert featured former leaders and musicians of the Navy Band sitting in and conducting the band. (U.S. Navy photo by Musician 1st Class Jeremy Buckler/Released)

collaboration between the Navy Band public affairs office and the alumni reunion committee, and, as public affairs director, I can honestly say that it would not have been a success without the committee's and especially Don's tireless work to make all the details come together. Until 2014, we wish all our alumni "fair winds and following seas," and we hope to see you at the next reunion! *ff*

Birthday continued...

while the video team works on the animations that will project on the large screens in Constitution Hall. Arrangers are busy getting all of the music ready for the librarian, who will print, sort, and distribute the music to the performers. Public affairs is designing programs and preparing the system that will handle the e-tickets.

Overseeing all of the planning is Polychronis, the Navy Band's head of production. Hinton, who held the position from 2008 until this summer, is retiring in September. They frequently consult their production team, in addition to bouncing ideas around with the executive officer and commanding officer. Planning first began in early spring, and intensified after

planning for the Concerts on the Avenue series was completed.

"Our goal is to create a concert that is entertaining, fun and family-friendly, and tells the Navy story. We want to celebrate the proud heritage of our Navy while also paying tribute to our Sailors who are forward-deployed and in harm's way," says Polychronis. This is Polychronis's first concert as head of production, though she has worked on the production team since 2009.

The 2012 Navy Birthday Concert will take place Sunday, Oct. 14 at 4 p.m. at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington. Tickets are available on the Navy Band web site, www.navyband.navy.mil. *ff*

COUNTRY CURRENT

A big thank you to Country Current for a fantastic concert here in Manassas, Virginia, on July 12!!

Susan (Manassas, Va.)

Spotlight on...

MUCM Jeffrey Knutson

by Senior Chief Musician Juan Vazquez

One of the Navy Band's newest master chiefs, trombonist Jeff Knutson serves as the Concert Band's unit leader. His willingness to coordinate the crucial daily operations of the unit and guide its junior members is instrumental in the Concert Band's continued success.

Please tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Fargo, N.D. My mother taught piano and my father was a teacher working with challenged adults. Perhaps it was inevitable that I would become a trombonist. When I was in kindergarten I heard an instrument on a "Fiddler on the Roof" soundtrack recording that I really liked and I asked my mother what it was. That was when I decided that I wanted to play the trombone. About 16 years later I played the actual show and discovered that the instrument that had inspired me as a child was a French horn. To be fair, the horn player on the recording was probably having a very good day. I went to Eastman School of Music for undergraduate studies and Northwestern University for graduate school. While I was at Northwestern, Senior Chief Musician Mike Cizek, then a member of the band's trombone section, called Frank Crisafulli, my teacher, and told him of the job opening here. I was lucky enough to win the job and have been playing my trombone (the same horn my parents bought me back in ninth grade) here ever since. You would think that playing a trombone would be satisfying enough, but fortunately the Navy has so much more to offer. Along the way I held a few other duties such as command fitness leader, managers' internal control supervisor and, my personal favorite, ceremonial brass quintet librarian.

What is your role as the Concert Band's unit leader?

I have been the Concert Band's unit leader for the past four years. My primary job with the Concert Band is to ensure the readiness of the unit for any performances that comes our way. To that end, I work very closely with Senior Chief Musician Dave Kolo, the Ceremonial Band unit leader, to ensure that we balance manning requirements between the two groups. This involves carefully monitoring leave,

liberty, and schedules for 90 personnel. Fortunately for Dave and me, we have extremely dedicated section leaders and leading chiefs to help us on a daily basis. With a large organization of highly specialized professionals, a sprained finger or stomach bug can dramatically affect what we are able to program and perform. For that reason it is pretty important to be able to anticipate or react quickly when life happens. In addition to the day-to-day operational grind, I work with the officers and leaders from our other departments on programming and productions.



MUCM Jeffrey Knutson

Please share with us three highlights of your career.

The number one highlight for me has to be the day I won a job with the Navy Band. Finding someone willing to hire a trombone player is almost as hard as finding someone willing to marry a trombone player! Winning the job here provided the stability my wife and I were hoping for, and we were married a few months after I completed basic training. She won her job as a violinist with the Army Band a few months later.

As a member of the band, at some point, everyone in the organization will annoy you. Not all at the same time, hopefully, but we all have our moments. One of the highlights of my time here was experiencing the kindness and compassion that was shown to my family when my mother-in-law passed away. I had to leave tour early and drive back home and when we walked in to the viewing at the church, we were met with a veritable eruption of flowers given by the men and women of the Navy Band. No one ever wants to be on the receiving end of compassion from a tragedy, but I am very proud to be in an organization that delivers it so well.

It is hard coming back to work after being on vacation. The strange thing is that even being away for a few weeks, I tend to forget how good the band is. Sitting down in the band after being away is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

COMMODORES

Thanks for reminding us how wonderful it is to be an American. God bless the USA and its armed forces!

Joe (Bel Air, Md.)

fanfare

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND
617 WARRINGTON AVE SE
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SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...

truly a highlight. I am very lucky to get to play with the caliber of musicians we have here.

What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

I enjoy traveling with my family, baking and woodworking. I am currently trying to make stringed

instruments and have built two electric guitars, an electric bass and almost two violins. A viola is the next project, which I hope to begin in September. *ff*



Welcome Aboard to...

MU1 Timothy Hill, staff arranger...and to MU1 Adele Mayne, clarinet instrumentalist with the Concert/Ceremonial Band... and to MU1 Jeremy Eig clarinet instrumentalist with the Concert/Ceremonial Band



Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal

MU1 Shana Catandella
MU1 Farah Chisham
MU1 Antje Farmer
MU1 Anthony Halloin
MU1 John Martinich
MU1 Christopher Sala
MU1 Rachel Sarracco
MU1 Shana Sullivan



Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal

MUCS Chris Walker
MUC Andy Carlson
MUC Rob Holmes
MUC Yolanda Pelzer
MUC John Schoeder

Contact Information:
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The United States Navy Band
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Visit us on the Web at www.navyband.navy.mil
www.facebook.com/usnavyband
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to comment on this issue of fanfare,
e-mail us at navyband.comments@navy.mil