

# Great Lakes Bulletin

APRIL 22, 2022

SERVING "THE QUARTERDECK OF THE NAVY" FOR 104 YEARS

## IN THIS ISSUE

*New Undersecretary of  
the Navy Sworn In*

*Don't Forget to Register  
Your Car on Base!*

*WWII Veteran Celebrate  
108th Birthday*

*MEDLANT Sailor of the  
Year Announced*

*Drug Policy for Service  
Members and Federal  
Employees*

*MWR & FFSC*

*Path to Citizenship  
Returns to RTC*



## Erik K. Raven Sworn in as Under Secretary of the Navy

The Honorable Erik K. Raven swore into the Department of the Navy as the Under Secretary of the Navy during a private ceremony at the Pentagon, Apr. 13, 2022. "It is such an honor to join the Navy and Marine Corps team after spending the last 24 years on Capitol Hill," said Raven. "Throughout my career I have established some great relationships within the Department of the Navy and I look forward to building more. I am thrilled to join Secretary Del Toro, the Assistant Secretaries of the Navy, the Chief of Naval Operations, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and everyone else in the Department on our shared priorities of strengthening our maritime dominance,





## **Command and Staff**

### **Commanding Officer**

*Capt. Jason Williamson*

### **Public Affairs Officer**

*John Sheppard*

### **Editor**

*MC2 Brigitte Johnston*

## **Contact us!**

### **Phone**

*847-688-2430 ext. 359*

### **Email**

*pao.navstaglakes@navy.mil*

### **Website**

### **Facebook**

### **Twitter**

### **Instagram**

## **DISCLAIMER:**

*The Department of the Navy does not endorse and is not associated with non-federal entities in this publication.*

# **CNIC**

★ FLEET ★ FIGHTER ★ FAMILY



building a culture of warfighting excellence, and strengthening our relationships with strategic partners.”

Born in San Francisco, Raven graduated from College of Marin with a Bachelor of Arts in international relations from Connecticut College and a Master of Arts degree in international history from the London School of Economics.

Raven began his career in the offices of Senators Dianne Feinstein, Edward Kennedy, and Robert Byrd, serving in a variety of staff roles. In 2006, Raven became a professional staffer for the United States Senate Committee on Appropriations. He has since served as principal advisor to the Democratic Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Committee on Appropriations and Subcommittee on Defense on budget matters relating to the Department of Defense and intelligence community.

On Dec. 13, 2021, President Biden nominated Raven to be the next Under Secretary of the Navy and was officially confirmed by the Senate on Apr. 7, 2022.

“The Department of the Navy welcomes Under Secretary Raven with open arms. I have no doubt he will utilize his extensive Congressional experience to benefit the Sailors, Marines, and civilians in the Department,” said Del Toro. “I also want to thank Assistant Secretary for Energy, Installations, and Environment (EI&E) Meredith Berger for performing the duties of Under Secretary these last eight months. Her professionalism, thoughtfulness, and recommendations have been critical when we announced the AUKUS partnership, collectively responded to the situation impacting Red Hill and the people of Hawaii, rolled out the FY23 Budget, and handled countless other issues both internal and external to the Department.”

For more information about the Secretary of the Navy, visit: <https://www.navy.mil/Leadership/Secretary-of-the-Navy/>

# **NOTICE**

## **Register your Car on Base!**

All personnel aboard Naval Station Great Lakes are reminded to register their car on base. Vehicle registration is conducted at the Visitor's Center - BLDG 6130 - during normal working hours. Visitor Control Center is located adjacent to the Naval Station Great Lakes Main Gate/Gate 1.

The following information is required for vehicle registration:

Vehicle registration.

- Current proof of insurance
- Valid driver's license
- DoD identification card

Borrowed vehicle drivers must present a notarized authorization letter from the vehicle's owner.

Rental vehicles drivers must present a current rental agreement in the driver's name.

Personnel residing in housing not on active duty or retired will be required to submit vehicle information to the base housing office. The housing office will conduct background checks and submit paperwork to Pass and ID for passes. At no time will general base access be granted to non-military affiliated personnel.

# Versailles native and U.S. Navy WWII Veteran celebrates 108th birthday

*Story by Rick Burke, Navy Office of Community Outreach*

Chester Edgar Wilson, a Versailles, Kentucky, native and WWII veteran, is celebrating a once-in-a-lifetime milestone on April 25 - his 108th birthday.

Wilson was born to Jesse Pierce and Cora Wilson in Lexington, Kentucky, on April 25, 1914. He's the first in his family to complete high school, graduating from Bryan Station High School in 1934. As a young man, he worked as a caddy at the Lexington Country Club. Wilson loved baseball and played for his high school team and the Versailles Aristocrats, a Bluegrass Minor League team. Wilson was 29 and married to Margaret Dozier when drafted into the U.S. Navy on Dec. 7, 1943.

Wilson served in the Pacific Theater aboard USS Benevolence, a U.S. Navy hospital ship, as a pharmacist's mate third class; though he often refers to himself as working as a nurse during his time on the ship.

Benevolence served as a haven and first stop in rehabilitation for thousands of Allied POWs during WWII, and was one of three hospital ships in Tokyo Bay on Victory over Japan (VJ) Day, Sept. 2, 1945.

After his honorable discharge from the Navy on Dec. 23, 1945,



Wilson went on to work as a storekeeper and tax collector for the federal government, retiring when he was approximately 62 years old.

Wilson adjusted well to retirement and stayed active, pursuing his lifelong golfing passion. He was an active member of Versailles Baptist Church and served as a deacon for many years. Wilson is also a Mason and was once a grand master of a local lodge. He always had a love of the outdoors and University of Kentucky basketball, baseball, football and golf.

Now, Wilson spends his days with fellow veterans at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center in Wilmore, Kentucky, where he is adored by staff and receives regular visits from his daughter, Brenda, 81. Wilson says the secret to a long life is, "minding your own business."

As a member of the U.S. Navy, Wilson was part of a service tradition providing unforgettable experiences through leadership development, world affairs and humanitarian assistance. Wilson's efforts will have a lasting effect around the globe and for generations of sailors who will follow.

"I was drafted, but happy it was with the Navy," said Wilson. "I was incredibly proud to be a sailor, and enjoyed traveling the world." **3**



# MEDLANT Sailor of the Year Announced

*Story by Tia Nichole McMillen, Naval Medical Forces Atlantic*

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Kirk Bishop was named the Naval Medical Forces Atlantic (MEDLANT) 2021 Sailor of the Year, at a ceremony at MEDLANT, April 15.

“This year’s Naval Medical Forces Atlantic Regional Sailor of the Year competition was extremely competitive as we brought 22 of the best and brightest First Class Petty Officers from the Mississippi to the Middle East,” said Rear Admiral Darin Via, commander, MEDLANT. “While each and every one of these Sailors should be commended for their noteworthy accomplishments, there can only be one Sailor to represent Naval Medical Forces Atlantic at the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Sailor of the Year Board.”

Command Master Chief Zachary Pryor was also proud of all participants. “The Sailor of the Year ceremony is a celebration of MEDLANT’s most hard-charging Sailors,” said Pryor. “They represent the best of the best in our Navy and espouse honor, courage, and commitment. This is the best part of my job and I am honored to serve alongside these leaders.”

Bishop is currently assigned to Navy Medicine Readiness and Training Command (NMRTC) Great Lakes.

Bishop’s nomination package will be forwarded for consideration at the fiscal year 2021 Bureau of Medicine and Surgery’s (BUMED) Sailor of the Year board, where he will compete against other outstanding Sailors throughout BUMED.

“Congratulations to all nominees,” said Pryor. “While there can only be one Sailor of the Year, each of you have taken great initiative to get to this point of your careers, and you should be proud of this journey that has built an even stronger path to your future success.”

The Navy’s Hospital Corps consists of more than 30,000 active duty and reserve hospital corpsmen that deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, in both wartime and peacetime. The rating



is the largest, most professionally diverse, and highly decorated enlisted corps in the Navy.

MEDLANT, headquartered in Portsmouth, Virginia, provides well-trained medical experts, operating as high-performance teams, to project medical power in support of naval superiority. Led by Rear Adm. Darin K. Via, the command ensures the warfighter is medically ready; makes certain medical forces are manned, trained, and equipped to meet the operational mission; and increases the survivability of those who go in harm’s way.

## Q&A about new marijuana laws for Illinois, military members

As of Jan. 1, 2020, possession of up to 30 grams of marijuana for recreational use has been legalized in the State of Illinois. However, use and possession of marijuana on a military installation, or by military members or Department of Defense employees, is still illegal under the Controlled Substances Act.

Members should be vigilant about the contents of what they eat, drink, and buy as marijuana, CBD, and hemp products become more prevalent. This includes making sure that civilian friends and family don’t leave these products in a military member’s home or vehicle.

Federal law establishes zero tolerance for drug use by any federal employee. Because marijuana and its derivatives, including 4 CBD, are still controlled substances under federal law, use or

possession of these products could form the basis for security clearance revocation, disciplinary action, or removal from federal service.

Individuals who are authorized to enter the installation may have their driving privileges revoked if they are suspected of driving under the influence of any intoxicant, to include marijuana. Additionally, civilian employees, contractors, and dependents who bring marijuana or CBD products on base could also be barred from the installation.

The following are some answers to frequently asked questions.

How are hemp and CBD related to marijuana?

Marijuana, hemp, tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, and cannabidiol, or CBD, all come from the same plant – Cannabis sativa L. Under

the Controlled Substances Act, any derivative of the Cannabis sativa L. plant is “marijuana.” Marijuana, and derivatives of marijuana, are Schedule I controlled substances.

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (also known as the “Farm Bill”) created a small exception to this definition of marijuana. Derivatives of the Cannabis sativa L. plant containing no more than .3 percent THC would be defined as “hemp,” not marijuana. However, even though this definition removes “hemp” from the list of controlled substances, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration does not currently regulate hemp production. Without FDA oversight, there is no way to know for sure that products labeled “hemp” actually contain less than .3 percent THC. For that reason, products labeled “hemp,” “CBD,” “THC-free,” etc. should be treated with caution.

Are military members authorized to use any marijuana, CBD, or hemp products?

There are a small number of FDA-approved medications that contain THC or CBD that may be prescribed to military members. If a member is prescribed one of these medications, he or she must consult with a military medical provider before bringing these medications on base.

Otherwise, marijuana and its derivatives are controlled substances under federal law, and the use or possession of any such substance is punishable under Article 112a, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Military members are specifically prohibited from the knowing ingestion of hemp, and products derived from hemp. This includes any CBD product labeled as “hemp-derived” or “THC-free.” The ingestion of hemp products is punishable under Article 92, UCMJ. Ingestion means any way that a product or chemical gets into the body – regardless of whether the form is smoking, vaping, oral or intravenous use, or the use of transdermal patches or even creams and lotions absorbed by the skin.

What is not authorized to bring on base?

Marijuana and CBD in all forms are prohibited on Naval Station Great Lakes. However, individuals may be granted an exception for prescribed FDA-approved medications that contain THC or CBD. Any military member or civilian prescribed an FDA-approved medication that contains THC or CBD should seek clearance from military medical providers, their supervisory chain, and the civilian personnel office, as applicable, before bringing those medications on base.

Hemp products – not including CBD – may be brought on base, but military members are prohibited from ingesting hemp. Even so, all individuals should be cautious about the hemp products they consume or bring onto the installation, as the FDA does not regulate these products, and there is no way to ensure they contain less than .3 percent THC. Any product containing .3 percent of THC or greater is classified as marijuana. Examples of these products include hemp lotions, soaps, and oils that are labeled as being CBD or THC free.

What about military spouses or family members?

Though affiliated with the military, be it active duty, Reserves, or National Guard, military spouses are still treated as civilians in the eyes of the law and the military. So, if something is legal in your state, then military spouses are treated the same as any other civilian.

But that doesn't give you free rein to use marijuana or CBD wherever you want. This is especially true on government property as these are still federally-controlled substances. Government property includes on base or in any military housing (on base or off).

Also, be aware that even if you can use cannabis, your service member cannot. If you leave cannabis in a vehicle that your service member drives onto base, he or she has technically introduced an illegal substance onto a military installation. The use or possession of an illegal substance could end a service member's career.



## **Gym 2A - The Loft**

Mon - Fri: 5 a.m. - 1 p.m.

## **Gym 440 - The Fieldhouse**

Mon - Fri: 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

## **Gym 4 - Courts Plus**

Mon - Fri: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Sat & Sun: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Check out the latest events and activities from our MWR at*

*[www.facebook.com/NavyLifeGL/](http://www.facebook.com/NavyLifeGL/)*

*and on their website at*

*[www.navylifegl.com](http://www.navylifegl.com)*

*For tickets and travel, call 847-688-5417*



**The**  
Fleet & Family Support  
**Center**

## **Fleet and Family Support Center Great Lakes**

525 Farragut Ave, Bldg. 26

847-688-3603 ex. 100

[www.cnic.navy.mil/navylifema](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/navylifema)



# Path to Citizenship Returns to RTC

*Story by Chief Petty Officer Brandie Nix, U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command Public Affairs*

For the first time since 2017, Recruit Training Command (RTC) held a naturalization ceremony March 17, in which 25 recruits from 17 countries recited the Naturalization Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America and officially became U.S. citizens. The ceremony, held in the USS Yorktown Visitor's Center, was led by the Honorable Judge Heather McShain, magistrate judge in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Region Legal Service Office (RLSO) Midwest work with RTC to expedite citizenship for recruits who are qualified under the Immigration & Nationality Act Section 329, which allows expedited naturalization for aliens and non-citizen nationals serving in an active-duty status.

Naturalization ceremonies were halted in 2017 due to a DoD policy extending the amount of time military members were required to serve before becoming eligible for citizenship. This changed on February 2, with the signing Presidential Executive Order 14012, which requires the Department of Homeland Security and USCIS to facilitate naturalization for members of the military.

"During [processing days], recruits are screened for their citizenship status and a list of non-U.S. citizens for a training group is compiled," said Lt. Leslie Liang, RTC's naturalization officer. "The naturalization team representative is tasked with sitting down with the recruits to fill out their Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service and Application for Naturalization forms."

Once the application and any additional required documents are mailed and processed, the recruits are interviewed by USCIS and must pass an English and civics test. If the application for naturalization is granted, RTC's naturalization team work to coordinate a ceremony with USCIS and the District Court of Illinois. From start to finish the process takes about eight weeks.

"Recruits should ensure they bring any and all documentation related to naturalization to RTC, such as a green card, passport, state ID, marriage certificate, and divorce decree," said Liang. "[They] are provided with a study guide for the interview and civics test after they apply and are encouraged to study the material in preparation for their interview."

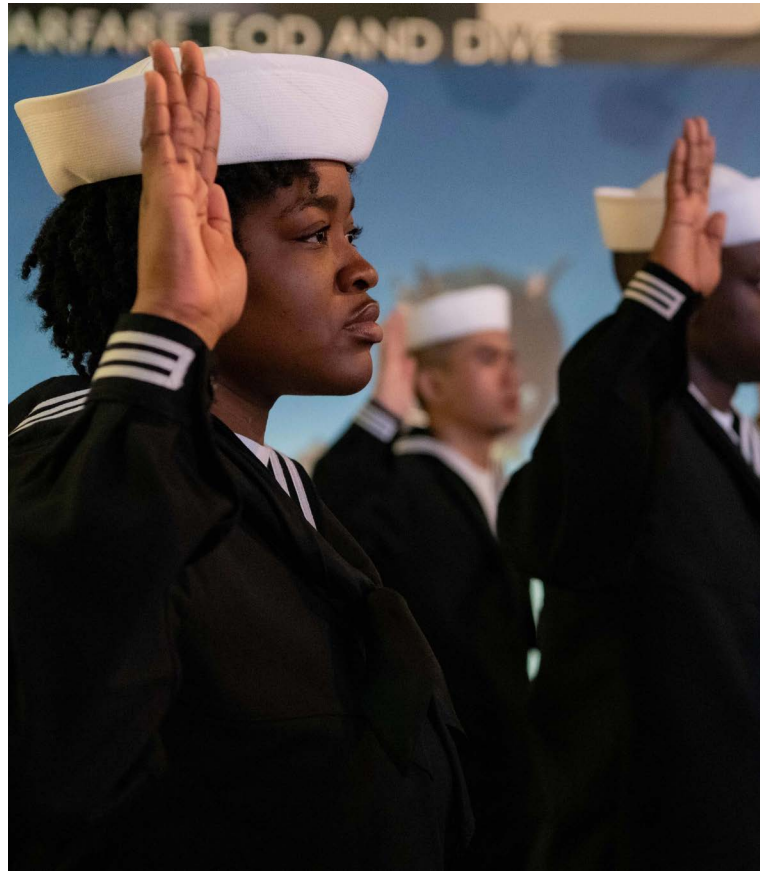
One recruit who received her citizenship during this ceremony was Airman Luisa Sanchez, who is originally from Columbia, and joined the Navy from New Jersey.

"It feels very nice because it's something for years you've had in your mind, and you knew that you needed to work for it, because nobody gave it to you for free," said Sanchez. "Now that I'm a citizen, I can travel to more countries and not have to worry about being back in the United States in six months, and I can apply for a better job in the Navy."

Sanchez, who is currently enlisted under the Airman Professional Apprenticeship Career Tracks program said her dream job is to be able to work on submarines.

"Now with my citizenship I can actually do that," she said.

Sanchez's celebration didn't end with her newly acquired citizenship. The next day she graduated from boot camp and



became a United States Sailor, with her mother and father watching in the audience.

Her father also just received his citizenship and had nothing but praises for his daughter upon liberty call.

"I'm really happy because now she can start a new life and have new opportunities, and I'm really happy for my daughter," he said. Liang feels strongly about the RTC naturalization program for personal reasons and is honored to be part of bringing the program back.

"The program is very near and dear to my heart. My parents were born in China and immigrated to America in the early 1990s," said Liang. "After residing in America with their Permanent Resident Card (green card) for 20 or so years, they finally became naturalized as U.S. citizens. In the same way my parents were afforded an opportunity to come to America to seek a better future for our family, I am beyond ecstatic to be able to assist others in becoming naturalized."

Liang said he hopes RTC will continue a monthly ceremony due to the success of the program restarting.

Boot camp is approximately 10 weeks and all enlistees into the U.S. Navy begin their careers at the command. Training includes physical fitness, seamanship, firearms, firefighting and shipboard damage control along with lessons in Navy heritage and core values, teamwork and discipline. More than 40,000 recruits train annually at the Navy's only boot camp.

For more news from Recruit Training Command, visit [www.navy.mil/local/rtc](http://www.navy.mil/local/rtc)