

THE AIRSHIP



Navy Lakehurst Historical Society

P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733

<http://www.nlhs.com>

August 2015

NLHS Welcomes Col. Frederick Thaden USAF

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Max Frei

Webmaster: Tara Cunningham

How True

When the President calls 911, the aircraft carriers answer!

When the aircraft carriers call 911, Lakehurst answers!

View from the Top Presidents Message

Once again the dreaded words BRAC Commission are being heard. Unfortunately there are certain individuals in our political circles who don't recognize and realize the economic and military value of Joint Base MDL. Fortunately, Senators Thomas MacArthur and Corey Booker have become deeply involved and taken action to keep the Joint Base MDL missions intact.

Many groups and organizations have been formed on the State, County, local government and veterans groups to support the missions at Joint Base MDL. As your President, rest assured I have been and continue to be an active and supportive member of these groups. Please take the time to read the various BRAC stories printed in this newsletter and write to your Senators and Congressmen in support of Joint Base MDL.

Officers Meeting

Our next Officer & Trustee meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 19, 2015 at our usual location at 9:30 AM. All Officers and Trustees are expected to attend this meeting.

Volunteer Hours

Volunteer hours for June and July 2015 for the NLHC and Ready Room, tours, work projects and outside speaking engagements totaled over 1100 hours. Many thanks to our volunteers for your support: Don Adams, Carl Larsen, Rick Zitarosa, Frank Dennis, Nick Rakoncza, Ron Montgomery, Charlie Bish, Ron Stryshak, Frank Smith, Kevin Mulligan, Pete Lovering, Pete Murphy, Kevin Pace, Howie Sjursen, Elizabeth Rossell, Peter Larkin, Susan K. Koller,

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Roger Jordan, Jim Morano, Robert Hull, Diane Chierchie and Carl Jablonski.

Tours

Our tours continue to be a very popular attraction. Starting now tours will be given every Wed-nesday and every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month from 10am to 1 pm. Don Adams, Nick Rakoncza, Frank Dennis, Carl Larsen, Ron Montgomery, Carl Jablonski, Kevin Mulligan, Elizabeth Rossell, Susan K. Koller and Rick Zitarosa continue to serve as tour guides.

NLHS Welcomes Col. Frederick Thaden, USAF

On June 25, 2015, Col. Frederick Thaden, USAF assumed command of Joint Base MDL and 87th Air Wing. NLHS cordially welcomes Col. Thaden, his wife, Dee Dee and family. We look forward to continue our support of Joint Base MDL and Col. Thaden.

COL. FREDERICK D THADEN

Col. Frederick D. Thaden is the commander, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and 87th Air Base Wing, JB MDL, N.J. Col. Thaden provides installation support to more than 80 mission partners at the Defense Department's only tri-service joint base. He is also responsible for providing mission-ready expeditionary Airmen and Sailors to combatant commanders in support of joint and coalition operations.

Col. Thaden was commissioned in 1991 as a graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps at Brigham Young University. The colonel's assignments include duties as a behavioral scientist, social actions chief, manning division chief, squadron commander and as vice commander at the wing level. He served at Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Lajes Field, Azores; Stuttgart, Germany; Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates, among others. He is a graduate of Squadron Officer School, the Air Command and Staff College and the National War College. Col. Thaden is a veteran of Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Joint Forge and Joint Guardian. Prior to assuming command of the Joint Base and 87th ABW, the colonel served as the director of Manpower, Personnel and Services, Head-quarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Col. Thaden is married and has seven children and four grandchildren.

EDUCATION

1991 Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah

1995 Master of Science Degree in Education (Counseling), University of Dayton, Ohio

1998 Squadron Officer School, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

2006 Master of Military Operational Art and Science, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

2010 Master of National Security Strategy, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

ASSIGNMENTS

1. January 1992 - December 1995, Human Factors Behavioral Scientist,

National Air Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

2. December 1995 - May 1998, Chief, Social Actions, Vance AFB, Okla.

3. May 1998 - July 1999, Chief, Relocations and Employment, Vance AFB, Okla.

4. July 1999 - July 2000, Transition Flight Commander, 319th Training Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas

5. July 2000 - November 2000, Chief, Personnel Support for Contingency Operations, Balkans Combined Air Operations Center, Vicenza, Italy

6. November 2000 - June 2001, Executive Officer, 737th Training Group, Lackland AFB, Texas

7. June 2001 - June 2003, Military Personnel Flight Commander, Lajes Field, Azores

8. June 2003 - June 2004, Chief, Squadron Commander Assignments, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

9. June 2004 - August 2005, Deputy Branch Chief, Executive Force Development, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott AFB, Ill.

10. August 2005 - August 2006, Student, Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

11. August 2006 - June 2008, Commander, 75th Mission Support Squadron, Hill AFB, Utah

12. June 2008 - May 2009, Deputy Commander, 380th Expeditionary Mission Support Group, Al Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates

13. August 2009 - June 2010, Student, National War College, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

14. July 2010 - June 2012, Chief, Manning Division, United States European Command, Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany

15. June 2012 - July 2014, Vice Commander, 75th Air Base Wing, Hill AFB, Utah

16. July 2014 - June 2015, Director of Manpower, Personnel, and Services, Headquarters Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill.

17. June 2015 - Present, Commander, Joint Base and 87th Air Base Wing, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, N.J.

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Defense Superior Service Medal
Legion of Merit

Bronze Star

Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters

Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster

National Defense Service Medal with one star

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Armed Forces Service Medal

Humanitarian Service Medal

Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal with one star

Air and Space Campaign Medal

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant Sept. 6, 1991

First Lieutenant Sept. 6, 1993

Captain Sept. 6, 1995

Major June 1, 2002

Lieutenant Colonel June 1, 2007

Colonel Sept. 1, 2011

NLHS Picnic Notice

Once again our annual appreciation picnic for NLHS members and their families will be held on Saturday, Aug 29, 2015 from Noon to 4 PM at Freedom Park, Joint Base Lakehurst. In order for this event to continue and be successful, we need a good attendance. You made it happen in 2014 so lets make it happen again in 2015 by attending. An attendance coupon is printed in this newsletter. All members including those who have a base pass, must submit this form if they plan on attending the picnic. We need a head count for the purchase of food. As always, members are welcome to bring covered dishes and desserts.

Farewell Capt. Fletcher, USN

On Friday, Sept. 25, 2015, Capt. Christopher Fletcher, USN, Deputy Commander Joint Base MDL and CO Naval Support Activity Joint Base Lakehurst, will be relieved by Capt. Bergen, USN. After Capt. Fletcher is relieved by Capt. Bergen, a retirement ceremony will take place honoring Capt. Fletcher for his 30 years of service. Both events will take place on Friday, Sept. 25, 2015 starting at 10 AM in Hangar One on the Colossus Flight Deck. All NLHS members are cordially invited to attend. Please fill out and submit the attendance coupon printed in this newsletter.

Hello Carl

It was nice to see Carl Larsen stop by for a visit. Carl is recovering from recent surgery. We wish him a continued recovery and speedy return to his NLHS activities.

Breakfast Meeting Results

Our July 18, 2015 breakfast membership meeting held at the Lakehurst Diner was very successful and well attended. NLHS realized several new members. Our guest speaker, Patricia Chappine, author of "NJ Women in WWII", gave a very interesting presentation and book signing. A decision to conduct another membership breakfast meeting for late September or early October will be discussed at our Saturday Sept. 19, 2015 Board Meeting. Check your next newsletter and our Web Site for info.

Welcome Home

Welcome home Tara, Mark, Charlie, Owen and Amelia Cunningham from your month long vacation in Ireland visiting family and friends. Tara serves as a Trustee, web master and Grant coordinator.

Speakers Bureau

We get many requests for outside speaking engagements. If you are interested in this program call Carl at 732-244-8861.

New Members

NLHS welcomes the following new members.

Richard Burke
Howard T Joyce
Irvine Hurd
Fred Denice
Norman Wedgewood

Sick Bay

Once again NLHS asks you to please consider sending a get well card to the following members who are having medical issues: Carol Montgomery, (the wife of our VP and NLHC Director Ron Montgomery). Carol's address is 1741 Newark Ave, Whiting, NJ 08759.

Also to Marie Stryshak (wife of Ron Stryshak, our NLHC Curator). Marie's address is: 3 Snowden Rd, East Brunswick, NJ 08816.

As always NLHS wishes all of our members who are ill a speedy recovery.

Taps

NLHS sadly announces the passing of Karen Frei, daughter of Max & Judy Frei, Philadelphia. Max is our NLHS Photographer. Karen passed at the young age of 49 on July 1, 2015. NLHS extends sympathy to Max & Judy at this difficult time. If you wish, please think about sending a card to Max & Judy Frei, 5531 Fairhill St., Philadelphia, PA 19120

Visit our New & Updated Web Site

Thanks to Tara Cunningham for your talents as Web Master and grant coordinator. Thanks to Margaret Burgess and her husband Dave who set up our previous website and who still do a great job in printing our newsletter.

Honor Roll

A Bravo Zulu to all of our volunteer members involved in our F14 & F18 plane restoration work in Hangar One and Museum Maintenance.

Many days and hours in various weather conditions have been donated by: Ron Montgomery, Roger Jordan, Peter Larkin, Peter Murphy, Howie Sjursen, Ron Stryshak, Sue Koller, Jim Morano and our military USN & USAF volunteers. Volunteers for plane work are welcome – call Ron at 908-907-1000 if you want to help.

Manuevers to save base shows hypocrisy on government waste

The Pentagon, which knows something about wasting money, has been telling Congress for years that the United States has too many bases within its borders and could save many billions of dollars by closing those it does not need.

The problem is that Congress, which knows something about hypocrisy, constantly fights the Pentagon on this because members don't want to lose jobs in their districts.

And so we have two New Jersey Congressmen, one Democrat and one Republican, who are leading an effort to block the rational consideration of base closings that President Obama has called for.

Their concern is that Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst is in the crosshairs. The base employs 40,000 people and is a \$7 billion economic engine for the region. Granted, it would be terrible for our state's second-largest employer to vanish.

But if all members act like this, then no bases would be closed. That is why we have a process known as BRAC, for the Base Closure and Realignment Commission. It establishes an expert panel that proposes a national blueprint for shrinking this footprint, and Congress must vote up or down on the whole package. It's designed to combat parochialism.

U.S. Rep. Tom MacArthur (R-3rd Dist.) and Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.) are stepping in the way. They have

added a provision to a defense policy bill that prevents the Pentagon from eliminating an aerial refueling aircraft (the KC-10 tanker) from its fleet – which makes McGuire more essential, because that's where the KC-10 is based.

Call it the "not in my back yard" bill. And the next time either of these Congressman talks about government waste, remember this moment.

It is certainly true that the BRAC process is imperfect. It led to the shuttering of Fort Monmouth in 2005, based in part on its projection that closing the base would cost \$780 million, and that the land could be redeveloped to soften the economic blow.

As it turned out, closing the base cost \$2.1 billion, nearly three times what BRAC predicted, and redevelopment of the site has lagged. What's more, a report from the Government Accountability Office – which does audits for Congress – said it could take a decade to replace the scientific expertise lost at Monmouth. Yes, "military efficiency" can be an oxymoron.

One BRAC commissioner told the Asbury Park Press in that the Monmouth decision no longer seemed justifiable, judging by the information in the GAO report.

But the answer to that sloppy work is not to keep every base open, when the Pentagon says that it is still 20 percent over capacity after several rounds of BRAC cuts.

The answer is to get it right, to hold hearings on what went wrong and how the process can be improved.

On the merits, few expect that McGuire will be closed anyway. It has great strategic value as the only tri-service base in the country; the Northeast has already lost too many bases; and 20 percent of all national guardsman live within 300 miles of it.

But an objective process is critical. And throwing wrenches into the BRAC process is no way to fix it.

Task Force: NJ must act to prevent base closings

New Jersey state officials should encourage defense-related development around its military bases, educate well-trained employees that can work there, and regularly lobby the federal government to protect those facilities, a task force recommended Wednesday.

The recommendations from the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force came as officials fear the loss of Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst or other cuts to military facilities in the state. They are the state's largest employer, pump \$6.5 billion into the local economy, and support more than 73,000 jobs.

"The state must take all reasonable steps to fortify our military bases, and it must take them now," said Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, who chaired the task force. "New Jersey must demonstrate with a unified voice that it is military friendly and that the retention of missions not only makes strategic sense, but also makes economic sense."

Legislation setting defense policy for the federal fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 rejected President Obama's request for a new round of military base closings, which he said was needed in an era of limits on federal spending.

Obama and congressional Republicans have agreed to cap both domestic and defense spending, though the defense bills try to get around the restrictions by adding funds to a special military account not subject to the limits.

In the House version of the defense bill, Reps. Donald Norcross (D-1st Dist.) and Tom MacArthur (R-3rd Dist.), two freshmen members of the House Armed Services Committee, won approval of a provision banning the Pentagon from retiring or moving any of the KC-10 refueling tankers currently housed at the joint base, thus preventing Defense Department officials from scaling back operations there without congressional approval.

MacArthur applauded the task force's recommendations.

"This is precisely the kind of strategic thinking that is necessary to help protect Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst," said MacArthur, whose district includes the facility. "The joint base is too important to the economy of South Jersey and the defense of our nation to leave to chance."

Saving joint military base in South Jersey is a bipartisan effort.

As freshman members of Congress from different political parties, we are constantly looking for ways to work together for the betterment of South Jersey. We are proud to stand together to secure our national defense and to protect New Jersey's second-largest employer, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, which is responsible for 105,000 jobs in Southern New Jersey. In this political climate, we think it's more important than ever to put aside our differences and work together.

Recently, The Star-Ledger questioned whether opposing military base closures was too focused on local concerns. It's a fair question, but the truth of the matter is that our opposition to the Pentagon's base closure process, known as BRAC, goes far deeper than that.

Supporters of BRAC argue that the Pentagon needs to get rid of excess infrastructure around the country to save money. We agree that given the state of our country's finances, we should be doing everything we can to spend taxpayer dollars efficiently. But as it turns out, BRAC doesn't save money. Worse, it kills jobs when our state needs people working more than ever.

The last round of BRAC cost taxpayers far more than promised, and ten years later, the savings have yet to materialize. The base closures in 2005 were supposed to cost us \$21 billion. Now the price tag has skyrocketed to \$35 billion. On top of that, the billions we were supposed to save by closing bases around the country are now expected to be 73 percent less than we were told. In fact, the Pentagon isn't expected to even cover its upfront costs

from the 2005 BRAC round until 2018 – 13 years later.

Just in case those numbers don't convince you that BRAC is a bad idea, there are a few more reasons we joined forces across party lines to take up this fight. During a time of change around the world, from the rise of the Islamic State to a newly aggressive Russia, we can't be certain what challenges the next few years hold. Imagine if we shuttered military bases around the country and then were faced with a serious threat to our country. While we can hope and pray that we never have to face another 9/11, it would be shortsighted and dangerous to cut installations like JB MDL now. JB MDL is the nation's only tri-service military base, and its East Coast location central to major cities like New York, Washington, and Philadelphia makes it critical for our Armed Forces.

And then there's the effect on local economies. The Star-Ledger Editorial Board acknowledged the devastation a base's closure brings to a community, using the example of Fort Monmouth. They rightly point out that the closure cost three times more than originally planned and that it could take ten years to replace the scientific expertise lost. They hint that redevelopment of Fort Monmouth isn't bringing the economic recovery some promised. The Joint Base injects \$7 billion annually into New Jersey's economy, more so than did Fort Monmouth and, as mentioned, is our state's second largest employer. The loss to our region if the Joint Base were closed would be absolutely staggering, and not just to our congressional districts, but to the entire state.

Spending more, saving less, ruining local economies and reducing our nation's military readiness is not the answer. We'll continue to work together – across party lines – to find a better way.

A united front to secure NJ military installations

The military has shaped both of our lives, and we have both worked hard throughout our careers to support our men and women in uniform and our veterans. One of the best ways we've

found to do so is to show that New Jersey is a military-friendly state.

A major hallmark of these efforts has been our work on behalf of New Jersey's military installations, which, combined, serve as the largest employer in the state. Overall, they support more than 73,000 jobs and add \$6.5 billion to our state's gross domestic product. Beyond a doubt, they are essential to our economy, our national security and our future.

Each installation is unique in its services. For example, Picatinny Arsenal, one of Morris County's largest employers, is designated as the Department of Defense's Joint Center of Excellence for Guns and Ammunition and rapidly develops armaments and warfighter protection technologies benefiting all branches of the military. Half of its employees are engineers and scientists, and Picatinny personnel have been vital to innovation: They received 52 patents in each of the last two fiscal years.

Picatinny — like Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst in Ocean and Burlington counties, Naval Weapons Station Earle on Sandy Hook Bay, and the 177th Fighter Wing in Atlantic City (not to mention Coast Guard Training Center Cape May) — is critical to New Jersey and to the nation. Any move by the federal government to pursue base realignment and closure proceedings in New Jersey could spell disaster. Therefore, the state must take prudent steps to fortify our military bases, and we must take those steps now. BRAC and mission "realignments" short of a full BRAC are a threat, and New Jersey must position itself in the best possible manner against it.

To that end, the New Jersey Military Installation Growth and Development Task Force toured each of the state's installations in the past year and met with base leadership, community groups and local businesses to learn more about the role of these installations in our communities.

The task force recently released its findings in a report that outlines strategies for strengthening our installations. The report's suggestions include the appointment of a Military and Defense Economic Ombudsman to promote a coordinated approach to economic development related to our

military installations and industries that support them.

We must attract private capital to and around our military bases and ensure that private-sector businesses choose to partner with New Jersey installations — not installations in other states. We must also improve New Jersey's pipeline of STEM-educated young people who can fill the needs of our future military and defense jobs.

The time has come to face the threat of BRAC and take earnest steps to avoid closure or mission loss. In February, we led a congressional delegation tour through our installations to show New Jersey's representatives how valuable the bases are to the state and nation and to encourage them to stand with us in the fight against BRAC.

Now, New Jersey must actively engage with members of Congress and military leaders with a loud, consistent and unified voice in Washington, D.C. Our task is to remind key military decision-makers that enhancing the strength and sustainability of New Jersey's unique military installations is critical to all of our armed forces. Supporting these bases is vital to both our national defense and our state's historical support for national security.

We must show that protection of current missions and attraction of new roles in New Jersey makes strategic and economic sense. This is not a Republican or Democratic issue, not a red or blue issue, but a "red, white and blue" issue on which we all can agree.

Together — and only together — can we protect the military installations that provide so much to our communities and our nation.

Navy ship christened for former Arizona Rep. Giffords

MOBILE, Ala. — Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle "Gabby" Giffords of Arizona had a Navy vessel named in her honor during a ceremony at a Mobile, Alabama, shipyard Saturday afternoon.

Giffords joined others including Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, as the USS Gabrielle Giffords was christened in coastal Alabama. The

419-foot ship was built at the Austal shipyard and is the Navy's 10th littoral combat ship designed to operate in shallow waters near the coast.

Littoral combat ships are designed to operate against "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The ships are also capable of open-ocean operation.

Giffords was badly wounded in a 2011 shooting that left six dead and a total of 13 injured in Tucson.

The Democrat left Congress and later founded an organization that supports gun control.

"In Congress I was proud to support our armed forces. I love the Navy — I even married a sailor," Giffords said as she kissed her husband, Mark Kelly, a retired Navy captain who stood by as she addressed the crowd. "Thank you to all who built this ship. She's stealthy; she will defend freedom around the world."

Giffords was chosen as the vessel's namesake because of the characteristics she exemplified after the attack, officials said.

"Courage comes in many, many forms — physical, mental, spiritual and political. Gabby has truly modeled courage and resilience," said Vice

Admiral Philip Cullom, deputy chief of Naval operations for fleet readiness and logistics.

Biden was the ship's sponsor, and Cullom said her spirit will guide the vessel while it is in service. Biden called the ship a feat of engineering excellence.

Calendar of Events

Aug 14, 1945 - VJ Day (Japan Surrenders)

Aug 29 – NLHS Picnic, Freedom Park, JB Lakehurst, 12-4pm

Sep 2, 1945 – VJ Day, Japan Signs Surrender on "Big Mo"

Sep 7 – Labor Day

Sep 11 – Patriot Day (Anniv. of 9-11)

Sep 13 – Rosh Hashanah

Sep 18 – POW-MIA Day

Sep 19 – Officers & Trustees Meeting at 9:30 AM

Sep 22 – Yom Kippur

Sep 25 – Capt. C Fletcher, USN, Change of Command & retirement, Hangar 1 - 10 AM

Sep 27 – Gold Star Mothers Day

Oct 9 – Navy Ball, Caesars Atlantic City, 6 PM

Oct 12 – Columbus Day

Oct 31 – Halloween

Nov 11 – Veteran's Day (Federal Holiday – No Tours)

Nov 21 – Officers & Trustees Meeting at 9:30 AM

Nov 26 – Thanksgiving Day

**** TBA** – Next membership meeting will be either Sept. or Oct. Check next newsletter and our website.

NLHS Annual Picnic Saturday, Aug 29, 2014 12 noon to 4 pm Freedom Park, Joint Base Lakehurst

FULL NAME in following format: (please print) Make copies for each person attending

Last Name _____ Full Middle Name _____

First name _____

Phone (with area code): _____

Drivers License #: _____ State of Issue: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

People Attending: _____ Yes I will bring a covered dish

Type of Covered Dish I will bring _____

**MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733
ATTN: PICNIC**

Or e-mail information to : NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.net

DEADLINE: Aug. 24 , 2015 noon - No reservations will be taken after this deadline date

NO PHONE CALLS – MAIL RESERVATIONS ONLY!

NOTE: Your NLHS Membership card IS NOT a base pass.

Capt. C Fletcher Change of Command & Retirement Ceremony, Friday, Sept. 25, 2015 10 AM

Location: Hangar One – Colossus Flight Deck

FULL NAME in following format: (please print) Make copies for each person attending

Last Name _____ Full Middle Name _____

First name _____

Phone (with area code): _____

Drivers License #: _____ State: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

**MAIL TO: Navy Lakehurst Historical Society P.O. Box 328 Lakehurst, NJ 08733
ATTN: Change of Command**

Or e-mail information to : NAVLAKE@PRODIGY.net

DEADLINE: Sept. 21, 2015 noon - No reservations will be taken after this deadline date

NO PHONE CALLS – MAIL RESERVATIONS ONLY!

NOTE: Your NLHS Membership card IS NOT a base pass.