



**SHEILA M. MCNEILL**  
Past National President  
**Navy League of the United States**

Sheila M. McNeill was the National President of the Navy League of the United States from 2003-2005. The Navy League is the only civilian organization dedicated to supporting the sea services – the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine.

As National President, McNeill was responsible for leading the Navy League's 70,000 members who are dedicated to educating American citizens and elected officials about the importance of sea power. The Georgia native is the first woman to hold this position since the league was founded in 1902. She has been a member of the league since 1966 and served at every leadership level and now serves on the national advisory board.

McNeill served as a national vice president responsible for the organization's legislative affairs activities. While serving in that position, she aggressively sought support on Capitol Hill and made educating congressional members about the sea services her top priority. McNeill also served as a national director the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and served on the National Maritime Policy Committee. She was elected a national vice president in July 1999 and also served as vice president for Strategic Planning and Development.

Because of McNeill's long history of active involvement with the sea services; she served as vice chairman of the executive committee for the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS), an influential advisory committee to the secretary of defense and other DOD officials. During her three-year DACOWITS tour, McNeill visited 45 U.S. Military installations throughout the world.

In her home state of Georgia, McNeill serves as a member of the Executive Board of the Governor's statewide Military Affairs Coordinating Committee. McNeill was commissioning president of the St. Mary's Submarine Museum and Charter Chairman of the Military Community Council. She continues to serve in both organizations. She was co-chairman of the USS Bancroft Sail Exhibit at Kings Bay Submarine Base to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Submarine Force. She has been on the Board of Directors of the Chambers of Commerce in Glynn and Camden Counties. She is President of The Camden Partnership. McNeill was named one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians in Georgia Trend Magazine. She is the sponsor of the USCGC SEA HORSE (WPB 87361) and served as Chairman of the USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Return to Service Committee.

For 18 years, a Fortune 500 company employed McNeill where she was responsible for industrial relations and labor negotiations. Additionally, she has been a retail business owner for more than 25 years.

McNeill has received numerous awards including the Secretary of the Navy's Distinguished, Superior and Meritorious Public Service medals; the United States Coast Guard's Distinguished and Meritorious Public Service medals, the 2004 U.S. Armed Forces Spirit of Hope Award, the International Federation of Maritime Associations Service Medal, and was the first female recipient of the Spanish Navy League's highest honor, the Golden Anchor Award. She is the recipient of various community service awards including the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

McNeill is married to Arlie McNeill, a Navy veteran and long-time Navy League member and national director emeritus. They have one daughter, Leslie, and three grandchildren, Ryan, Norah and Raine.