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The Navy League of the United States, first suggested in 1901, had its roots in the Civil War because it was founded by men some of whom served in the Navy during that war but who resigned during the stagnation of promotion that existed between the close of the Civil War and the beginning of the Spanish War. Most of them returned to the Service during the Spanish War and were connected with the Naval Militia both before and after that war.

Inspired by love for the Navy and for their Country, having a first hand knowledge of the horrors of war and believing that, owing to our geographical position, war could come to us only across the sea and that, therefore, an efficient and adequate Fleet was the best defense against invasion and the surest, best and cheapest insurance of peace, they founded the Navy League to urge the creation and maintenance of such a Fleet.

President Theodore Roosevelt contributed a part of the Nobel Peace Prize money given to him to the Navy League and was the first President to endorse the organization. His letter follows: