

“WHITE HOUSE

Washington, D. C.

March 19, 1903.

“My dear General Tracy:

“It seems to me that all good Americans, interested in the growth of their Country and sensitive to its honor, should give hearty support to the policies which the Navy League is founded to further. Furthermore, there is a special need in a matter of such importance to all of us, which is yet not the special business of any of us, that a society should be formed to watch with a jealous eye the general interest.

“No district is specially concerned in adding to the strength of the Navy—no public man has any pressure of concrete interests brought to bear upon him in its behalf.

“For the building and maintaining in proper shape of the American Navy, we must rely upon nothing but the broad and far-sighted patriotism of our people as a whole; and it is of great importance that there should be some means by which this patriotism can find an effective utterance. Your society offers just the means needed.

“I congratulate the Country because it has been formed.

“Sincerely yours,

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.”

“Gen. Benjamin F. Tracy,  
President of the Navy League,  
New York, N. Y.”