



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 20 ISSUE 10

Bill Weiler, President  
Denise Hein, Editor

DECEMBER 2009

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's been a busy fall! From Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> thru Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> we were honored to host the HMS Iron Duke during the British frigate's visit to Port Everglades. A number of our members had the opportunity to attend an on-board reception hosted by the ship's Commanding Officer. The following evening, we hosted an "All Hands"

Party at Briny's Riverfront that was well attended by Navy Leaguers and a large component of the ship's crew. Since I was attending our NL Convention in Texas, Vice President George Reeves filled in and represented us well. Additionally, thanks largely to the efforts of Tom Jones, a wide variety of recreational events, from golf to cricket, were made available to the crew. My thanks to Tom, George, and to those of you that participated to help show our British Allies a warm South Florida welcome!

Speaking of the NL Convention, in addition to numerous workshops, meetings, and luncheons, etc, we elected a new National President, Dan Branch, to succeed Mike McGrath. We thank Mike for his service as our president these last 2 years and look forward to working with Dan in the future. Our own Joe Giambrone was elected as South Florida Area President, while Bob Hein and I were elected National Directors. I was extremely honored to receive our "Outstanding Council" award (one of only 11 worldwide), while Bob Hein accepted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Place award for Public Relations. These awards are a tribute to the hard work in 2008 by our BOD and all of our members that contributed to the effort, and especially Bob for Public Relations, Phyllis Bannister for our Newsletter, and Marianne Giambrone for insuring everything was documented and submitted in our annual report and "scrapbook". My sincere thanks to all

Our November Dinner was a good one as we not only approved the 2010 Slate of Officers, but also an updated set of BCNL Bylaws (the latter thanks largely to the efforts of Sandra Jones). CAPT Marc Weeks, USN, the Navy Element Commander at SOUTHCOM, was our guest speaker, and he delivered an informative talk on the "Partnership for the Americas" initiatives as they relate to the sea services, followed by a Q & A period. My thanks to CAPT Weeks, and also to the Stranahan HS MCIJROTC Unit for their outstanding performance as our Color Guard.

Looking ahead, be sure to join us for our Holiday Party at Cinema Paradiso on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, (it should be a fun evening at a great venue), as well as our Installation of Officers on Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you all at both!

*Bill Weiler*  
President

**HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Thursday, December 17  
at the Cinema Paradiso  
503 Southeast 6th Street

**Catered dinner at 6:30 pm**  
**Movie at 8:00 pm**  
**Silent Auction full of surprises**  
**\$30 per person/ Cash Bar**

RSVP: Anita Carmell by Dec. 14 954-473-1071  
or email [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)

Join the Broward County Florida Council Navy League for  
**An evening of fun and festivity!**

### PLEASE NOTE:

*Cinema Paradiso is a beautiful and historic building in downtown Fort Lauderdale that should **not** be missed; parking will be free.  
See you there!*

## News from the Sea Services

USS BATAAN, At Sea -- Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) began participation in an Egyptian and U.S. Central Command-sponsored exercise near Alexandria, Egypt Oct. 10. Exercise Bright Star is a major, joint/coalition training exercise that encompasses naval surface and amphibious operations, command and control training, aviation operations, combined arms training and several other multilateral training events Oct. 10-20. The exercise is designed to strengthen military-to-military relationships and improve readiness and interoperability between U.S., Egyptian and coalition forces.



The Coast Guard's Fast Response Cutter (FRC), will be a new generation of Coast Guard patrol boats. The first FRC will be named the Coast Guard Cutter Sentinel, with the official class designation as the "Sentinel" class. The FRC's will be constructed Lockport, LA. It appears this new class of cutter will have very modern lines. It should look great on the water. As now planned, the Sentinel Class patrol boat will be 154 feet long, capable of speeds of 28 plus knots, armed with one stabilized, remotely-operated 25mm chain gun and four crew-served .50 caliber machine guns, and crew capabilities to hold 22 people. It will be able to perform independently for a minimum of 5 days at sea, and be underway for 2,500 hours per year. The first FRC's constructed are slated to be home ported in Miami and Key West. Construction of the first FRC is to start next month, with its projected delivery to Miami in January 2011.



PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (Oct. 14, 2009) The battleship USS Missouri (BB 63) arrives at Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard to begin a three-month, \$18 million effort of extensive maintenance and preservation work. Missouri is the last battleship made by the U.S., and was the site of Japan's unconditional surrender ending World War II.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA (NNS) -- USS Carl Vinson's (CVN 70) Air Department operations officer, Cmdr. Jim "Steamer" Stanley, recently received the Rear Admiral Thomas R. McClellan Award for Academic Excellence in the Graduate School of Business and Public Policy from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.

Rear Adm. Mark H. Buzby became the 25th commander of the U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command on October 21, 2009. The global command, headquartered in Washington, D.C., is the ocean transportation provider for the Department of Defense - responsible for the operation of more than 110 civilian-crewed, noncombatant ships, which support military and humanitarian missions worldwide

## NEW MEMBERS

LCDR Michelle Martin, 3440 NE 192nd Street, # 4 J, N. Miami Beach, 33180  
305-542-4085 -MLmartin\_us@yahoo.com.

Dianne Watroba, 2300 Park Lane, # 209, Hollywood 33021-3728 954-967-9241.

George Moraitis, Jr., 915 Middle River Dr., Ste. 506, Fort Lauderdale, 33304  
954-563-4163 - gmoraitisjr@mcklaw.com.

George Moraitis, Sr., 915 Middle River Dr., Ste. 506, Fort Lauderdale, 33304  
954-563-4163 grm@mcklaw.com.

Karen Moraitis, 631 Middle River Dr., Fort Lauderdale, 33304 954-565-3052  
karenmoraitis@gmail.com.

Heather Moraitis, 1487 NW 60th Street, Fort Lauderdale 33334 954-303-3448  
hmoraitis@bellsouth.net

**Correction:** Patricio Gonzalez, 11180 SW 62nd Terrace, Miami, 33173  
(305) 596-1632 - gonzalezpi@bellsouth.net (Patricio not Patricia)

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

## Community Affiliates

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Bird Lakes Development Corp.  
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954-630-2009

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Tropical Acres Restaurant  
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12555 W. Sunrise Boulevard  
Sunrise

On Site Photo Solutions, Inc  
1-800-705-2454  
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## SHIP GREETINGS

No ships visits are scheduled at this time.

**SHELLY AND AL  
EVER THOUGHTFUL**

Al and Shelly

I'd like to thank you for the books you have collected and donated so far! NEW YORK is off to a fantastic start! It will be a great day when we can actually install the books on the ship and have them available for the crew to use. Your efforts and devotion to supporting sailors and marines is impressive and inspiring! Thank you again for all that you do each and every day.

Very Respectfully,  
Curt

*E-mail sent to Al and Shelly Stein*

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Installation of Officers for 2010  
Aboard the Carnival Freedom  
Port Everglades, Florida  
Saturday, January 16, 2010**

*Security Information will be required for boarding ship  
Details to follow*

**CONTACT YOUR OFFICERS**

President - Bill Weiler - 954 - 344 - 4513

First VP - George Reeves - 305-285 - 4845

Second VP - Sandra Jones - 954 - 587 - 4618

VP - Legislative Affairs  
Robert Marks - 954 - 755 - 7464

Secretary - Marianne Giambrone - 954- 389 - 0545

Treasurer - Peggy Raben - 954 - 462- 2178

JAG - Ed Rumin, Esq. - 954 - 565 - 9492

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praben@kasouth.com

**Henry "Hank" C. Petri**  
Chairman

737 SW 9th Terrace  
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# SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT NOSC - MIAMI



**BU1(SCW/EXW)  
JAMES L. JONES**

**Hometown:** Bronson, Florida

**Duty Title:** AT Coordinator, CA Operator, Builder

**Time in Navy:** November 1990

**Why I joined the Navy:** My Dad and Grandfather were US Navy Seabees. My Dad was a CMC Retired after 30 years active duty.

**Most Exciting/Rewarding experience in the Navy:** Being selected for Presidential Duty with President Bush at Camp David.

**Greatest Navy Accomplishment:** Becoming a Seabee and having my Dad there to give me my first Seabee Patch.

**Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy:** To some day become Command Master Chief to help junior sailors along the way.

**Post Navy plans:** Spending time with my wife, Tammy, for being so supportive of my navy career.

## WE SALUTE THE SAILORS OF THE QUARTER OF THE USS BATAAN (LHD 5)



(Pictured Left to Right)

**FC2 (SW/AW) Kimberly R. Simpkins, Sailor of the Quarter**

**HM3(SW/AW) LaQuinia N. Johnson, Junior Sailor of the Quarter**

**LS<sub>1</sub>(SW/AW) Ivan W. Ciego, Senior Sailor of the Quarter**

**ADAN(AW) Aaron S. Ammazaloroso, Blue Jacket of the Quarter**

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## USS NEW YORK COMES HOME



WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Navy commissioned the newest San Antonio class amphibious transport dock ship New York (LPD 21), during an 11 a.m. EST ceremony Nov. 7, 2009, in New York City. The ship is named New York in honor of the state and the courage and heroism of New Yorkers during and after the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001. A unique characteristic of the ship is the use of 7.5 tons of steel salvaged from the World Trade Center wreckage that was incorporated into the construction process. The steel was melted and formed to make the bow stem of the ship. Use of this steel symbolizes the spirit and resiliency of the people of New York. The ship's motto is "Strength forged through sacrifice. Never forget." Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered the ceremony's principal address. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, also delivered remarks. Dotty England, wife of former secretary of the Navy and former Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England, is serving as the ship's sponsor. In a time-honored Navy tradition, she gave the order to "man our ship and bring her to life!" Designated as LPD 21, New York is the fifth amphibious transport dock ship in the San Antonio class. Four previous ships have been named New York. ... As a critical element in future expeditionary strike groups, the ship will support the Marine Corps' "mobility triad," which consists of the landing craft air cushion (LCAC), the expeditionary fighting vehicle (EFV) and the Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft (MV-22). The ship will provide improved war fighting capabilities including an advanced command-and-control suite, increased lift-capability in vehicle and cargo-carrying capacity and advanced ship-survivability features. Cmdr. F. Curtis Jones, a native of Binghamton, N.Y., is the first commanding officer of the ship, leading a crew of approximately 360 officers and enlisted personnel. The ship is capable of embarking a landing force of up to 800 Marines. Upon commissioning, New York will be home ported in Norfolk, Va., as a part of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Built by Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding - Avondale Operations in Louisiana, New York is 684 feet in length, has an overall beam of 105 feet, a navigational draft of 23 feet and displaces about 24,900 tons. Four turbo-charged diesel engines power the ship to sustained speeds of 24 knots.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES'



Commander Curt Jones assumed duties as the first Commanding Officer of the USS New York (LPD-21) on November 07, 2009. He was born and raised in Binghamton, NY.

Commander Jones has most recently been on the staff of the Naval Personnel Command (NPC) as Deputy Director of Surface Warfare Officer Distribution. While attached to NPC he deployed to Afghanistan and served on the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device task force. He previously served as Executive Officer of USS CORONADO, (AGF-11) the flagship of the Commander, Third Fleet, based in San Diego. Prior to duty on USS CORONADO, Commander Jones was assigned to the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) in Omaha, NE as an Emergency Actions Officer and later became Aide-de-Camp for the Deputy Commander, USSTRATCOM.

Previous sea duty included the pre-commissioning crew of USS BATAAN (LHD-5) both in Pascagoula MS and Norfolk, VA, and as Chief Engineer for USS CLEVELAND (LPD-7), home-ported in San Diego. There he received the Surface Navy Association's Arleigh Burke Award for operational excellence. His initial sea assignment was in 1989 on USS SAN JOSE (AFS-7), home-ported in Guam. From 1989 to 1993 he made deployments to the Western Pacific and the Middle East, including Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

A 1989 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy, Commander Jones received his commission through the Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps at MIT. He earned a Master's Degree in National Security Affairs from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. where he was active in student government and served a term as chairman of the Officer Student Advisory Committee.

Commander Jones's personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Medal (two awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards) Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy Achievement Medal (two awards) and the Army Achievement Medal.

CDR Jones is the son of our Council members, Tom and Sandra Jones. Sandra will be 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Tom will be Treasurer for the year 2010.



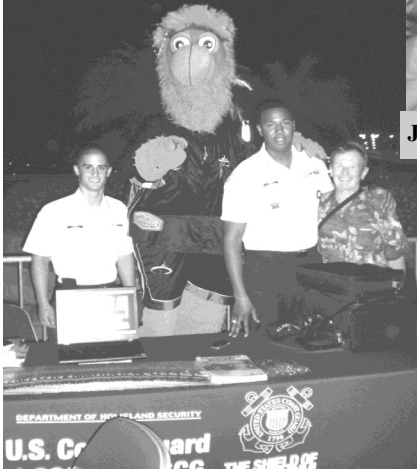
# "2009" It was a very good year!



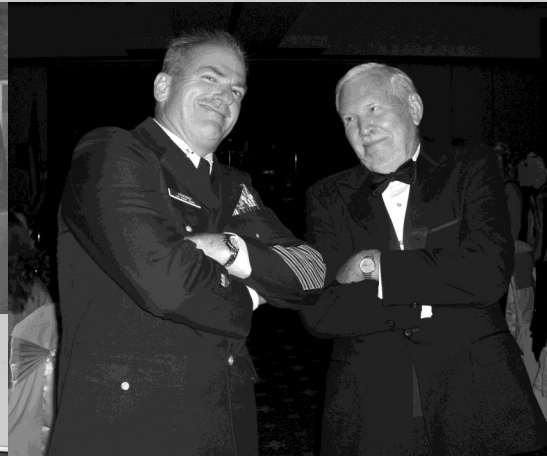
OCTOBERFEST DINNER MEETING AT OLD HEIDELBERG



JOE SALUTES THE NAVY AT THE USCG GALA



MIAMI HEAT HONORS MILITARY



## FOREIGN SHIPS VISIT PORT EVERGLADES

Our council had the distinct pleasure of hosting the "HMS Iron Duke", a Royal Navy frigate, during its visit to Port Everglades Oct 30<sup>th</sup> - Nov 4<sup>th</sup>. The officers and crew were very cordial and friendly hosts for a cocktail reception held the first evening in port. Over 100 members of the community, including thirty-six (36) BCNL members, enjoyed this warm reception on board the ship. Ship tours were provided on November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our council hosted an "All Hands" party at the Briny Riverfront restaurant on Halloween. This was a resounding success with approximately 100 crew members attending. Our thanks to the Ship's commanding officer, Andrew Stacey and council member Graeme Holman, honorary RFA liaison officer for arranging the visit. The ship is expected to continue to operate throughout the Caribbean before it departs for home later this year.

Earlier in the month (Oct 19-23), the Canadian frigate, HMCS Toronto visited Port Everglades. Ft Lauderdale council hosted the ship and an "All Hands" reception on October 19<sup>th</sup> at the Briny Riverfront Restaurant. The evening was a memorable occasion, highlighted when the sailors gathered up on stage and sang a moving rendition of their national anthem, "O Canada".

*By: Tom Jones*



Photos by: Peter Caspari - Bob Hein - John Kiefer

# NLUS NATIONAL CONVENTION CORPUS CHRISTI TEXAS

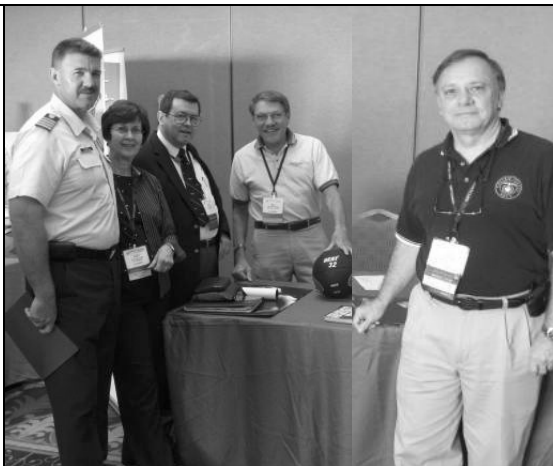


The Navy League of the United States has a new skipper at the helm. Daniel B. Branch, Jr. was sworn in on Oct. 31 as the 45th national president of the civilian organization dedicated to supporting the United States sea services – the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S-flag Merchant Marine. Branch changed the watch with his predecessor J. Michael “Mike” McGrath at the Navy League’s 107th annual national convention in Corpus Christi, Texas. Council Members Joe Giambrone was sworn in as South Florida Area President and Bob Hein and Bill Weiler were sworn in as National Directors.

Congratulations to all!



**Bill and Bob received Outstanding Council Award and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Public Relation Award at the National Convention**



**Council members publicize NBA teams to host Military Appreciation Nights at games throughout the season.**



**Council members with Gas Turbine Systems Tech 2nd Class Jason S. Cox of our adopted ship the USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55). Seaman Cox was awarded the J William Middledorf II Citation for engineering excellence at the convention.**  
*Photos by: Bob Hein - John Kiefer*

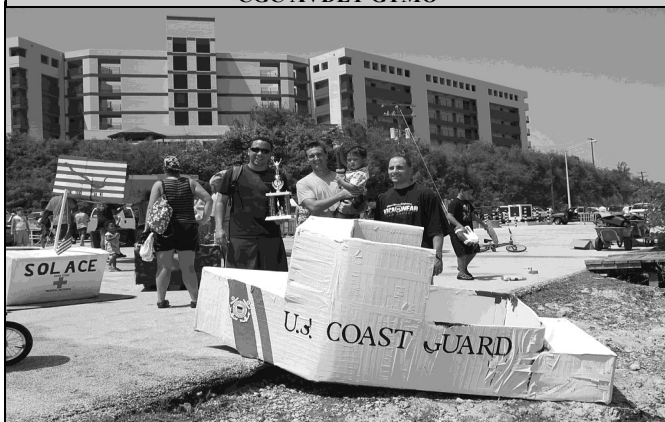
## AVIATION DETACHMENT GUANTANAMO BAY TAKES A LITTLE R & R 2009 NAVSTA GTMO CARDBOARD BOAT RACE



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**QM2 JUAN CARDONA (NAVSTA GTMO Port Operations Department)**



**SK2 CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, SKC COREY SIDLO, MILO SIDLO (Future Guardian) QM2 JUAN CARDONA**



**SK2 CARLOS RODRIGUEZ, QM2 JUAN CARDONA, CAPTAIN KEVIN BLAISEDEL, CO, SKC COREY SIDLO**