



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 20 ISSUE 2

Bill Weiler, President  
Denise Hein, Editor

February 2009

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The New Year is upon us and as I try to meet our newsletter deadline, our Installation of Officers is only a few days away. Hopefully I will see many of you there as we start off the year with George Reeves, Sandra Jones, and Bob Marks being installed as our new Vice Presidents, and Erwin Sefton and Ernie Gorwood joining them as new Directors. I sincerely welcome all of them to their new positions!

I just attended another meeting of the local Fleet Week planning group, and as usual, our Council was well represented, with more than half of the 15 attendees belonging to BCNL. As we get closer to the last week in April, the work load and demand for volunteers necessary to insure success will continue to increase. I have frequently asked many of you who have not taken an active role in Council activities to step forward and join in, and this year's Fleet Week will present a great opportunity to do just that. Volunteers will be needed in many areas; providing transportation for crewmembers to various local events, behind the scenes tour and event planning, pier side coordination of tour groups, staffing our BCNL Information Booth at the port....the list goes on and on. The more folks that we have volunteer to assist, the easier, and thus more enjoyable and fun the work becomes! For those of you who have job commitments during the day, perhaps you can spare some time during the evenings, at the very least by just coming out and showing your support by attending the various events.

As a long range guide for planning purposes, (i.e., "save the dates"), we are anticipating the opening night "Welcome Party" to be held at the Seminole Hard Rock complex in Hollywood on Monday, April 27th. On Tuesday our Council will again host the Junior Officers' Party at the Briny Riverfront, our Community Affiliate. Wednesday, an "All Hands Party" is planned, while the Boca-Delray Council will host a Sailor of the Year Awards Dinner on Thursday evening and Friday will be the farewell reception. Please try to arrange your schedule to allow maximum participation in these enjoyable events!

As a new administration takes over the reins of our national government, it will be greeted with enthusiasm and optimism. Let each of us not forget the real reason for the existence of the Navy League of the United States.....the support

for and avocation of our Sea Services. Take any and every opportunity to tell your friends, neighbors, relatives, and perhaps most importantly with new national leadership, your elected officials, how very important a strong maritime force is to maintain the many freedoms we enjoy everyday!

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season, and enjoy health and happiness in the coming year.

*Bill Weiler*

CAPT G. William Weiler, USN (Ret.)  
President, Broward County Florida Council  
Navy League of the United States  
954 344-4513

## FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL

When - Thursday, February 12, 2008

Where - Tropical Acres

Time - 6:30 pm Cocktails

7:15 pm Dinner

Program: Awaiting Confirmation

Dinner Choices  
Prime Rib & Shrimp Scampi

Cost - \$30.00 per person

Reservations to: Anita Carmell by Feb 6  
bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or 954-473-1071

## THANKS TO OLGA MARTINEZ MANAGER OF WAL-MART

Ten members of our Board of Directors assisted the Steins with their recent book sale project at the WAL-MART located on Flamingo and Griffin Roads in Cooper City. Three hundred dollars was raised.

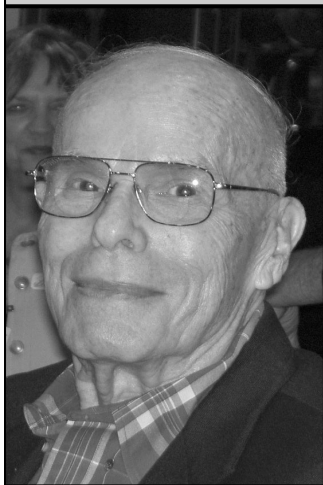
## SILVER RIDGE SENDS GREETINGS

Mr. Horner's Art Class at Silver Ridge Elementary School, our Council's Partner in Education, made and sent Holiday Greeting cards to the USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), USS Bataan (LHD 5) and USS Kauffman (FFG 59).

Pictured below are the sailors enjoying their cards and Ms. Tiffany Eddies 5th grade students e-mailing their navy buddies .



## MEMBERS RECOGNIZED FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Mark Stein was presented a new name badge with the title Director Emeritus in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to our Council at the Installation of Officers Luncheon by President Bill Weiler. Mark is a long time member of the Council and has served many years on the Board of Directors. Among his many duties he served three terms as Vice President, has served on the Nominating Committee, ordered all our name badges, and proof read our many newsletters. We

will continue to look to him for his sage advice and sound judgment.

Bob Hein and Marianne Giambrone were also recognized for their contribution to our Council's being named Outstanding Council 2007. Bob's leadership as president and Marianne's dedication to producing the Annual Scrap Book that is sent to National for judging was certainly instrumental in our receiving this recognition.



## INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



What a wonderful day! On a scale of 1 to 10, it had to be a 14 and enjoyed by the eighty plus members, friends, families and guests as we boarded the Carnival Cruise Ship *Freedom* .

The program began with the Presentation of Colors provided by The Spruance Division of the Naval Sea Cadets under the direction of LCDR Alan Starr.

Father Thomas Falkenthal, Director of Pastoral Care at Seafarers' House offered the invocation.

BGEN David Garza, USMC, Chief of Staff , US Southern Command was introduced by President Bill Weiler.

General Garza captured the attention of his audience immediately with his winning smile and sense of humor as he related his military experience. His pride in his service in the U. S. Marine Corps was obvious as was his devotion to his wife Carrie.

The swearing in of 2009 Council Officers was next on the agenda. After which Bill asked the past and new members of the Board of Directors to join the officers on stage to be recognized. Our Council is blessed with the dedicated leadership they provide.

Wouldn't it be great if we all resolved now to become more active and participate in council activities in an effort to show our support.

Good wishes and thanks to our incumbent and newly elected Officers and Board of Directors. The success of this year also depends on the membership in general.

And Thanks to our guest participants, you're the Greatest!

Remember, "We can't change the direction of the wind, but we can reset the sails". It's up to us.



## 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

## News from the US Navy and the Coast Guard

USS Bataan's (LHD 5) engineering material officer, Charles W. Vandiver, a 30-year veteran, was promoted 29 December to one of the most experienced pay grades in the Navy, chief warrant officer (CWO) 5. He reported aboard Bataan in April of 2008, on his second stint in the Navy after retiring in late 2006.

The Secretary of the Navy, Donald C. Winter announced 8 January that the next Virginia-class attack submarine will be named in honor of recently retired US Sen. John Warner of Virginia. Warner retired 3 January 2009 after 30 years service in the US Senate.

The executive officer (XO) of Naval Submarine Support Center received the Bronze Star Medal for nearly a year of service as an individual augmentee (IA) at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shield, located in Sadr City, Baghdad, Iraq. Lt. Cmdr. James Hoch was presented by Rear Adm. Bruce Grooms, commander, Submarine Group 2 during a ceremony 12 December at Naval Submarine Support Center Norfolk.

USCG Diamondback (WPB87370) was commissioned in Miami on 17 January 2009. The Honorable Mel Martinez, US Senate, was the Keynote Speaker. The Sponsor was Mrs. Kitty Martinez. LTJG Alan Grosse will be the Commanding Officer.



## Community Affiliates



**Briny's Irish Pub**  
954-376-4742

**Corcoran Associates**  
305-371-7612

**Grady Marine Construction, Co.**  
954-523-1212

**Gunn Allen Financial**  
954-315-3810

**Resolve Marine, Inc.**  
954-764-8700

**Ship Supply of Florida**

**Tropical Acres Restaurant**  
954-989-2500

## EDITOR'S NOTE

"Only with power at sea can America survive." This is the Navy League motto.

People become members of the Navy League for various reasons. Bob and I joined because we had a son, soon to be Captain and a grandson following in his dad's footsteps. We have several board members with sons who are officers in the present Navy, the Steins, and Jones. Lieutenant Commander Alan Starr gives his time to young men and women through the Sea Cadet program. A program which teaches a certain group of young people the core values in life. He attends the awards night for the NJROTC high schools Broward Council sponsors.

We have several directors, who served in the Navy in some capacity, and if not the Navy the Marines, Air Force or the Army. These people gave their time, quick thinking skills, and many sacrifices to serve a country which believes in freedom. Perhaps if kindness, thoughtfulness and a willingness to be open minded, were carried through by Americans, then God and Love would empower America and the rest of the world. Greed, power, and thoughtlessness only lead to conflict and lost achievement.

To serve in the military, at whatever level, teaches tolerance of others, discipline and a chance to be part of a group with a common mission, and to carry forward the values of our forefathers, tolerance for all. Prejudice is the path to torment and death, whether it be physical or mental.

February's celebration of Valentine's Day is a symbol of love. Perhaps a kind gesture would be, to send the men and women of our adopted ships, the Bataan and Leyte Gulf a valentine. That is a positive gesture, and a small act, for they are working long hours. Their mission is to protect our American way of life, respect for others and diplomacy.

*Denise Hein*, Editor

## SUPPORTERS

Publix Cordova Road  
954-847-2844

Second Edition Book Shop  
954-431-0884

Wal-Mart  
4700 Flamingo Road Cooper City

On Site Photo Solutions, Inc  
1-800-705-2454  
www.ireachamerica.com

## NEW MEMBERS

Joan Sefton 8479 NW 2nd Street Coral Springs, FL 33071 Home 954-753-2322 (Erwin Sefton Sponsor)  
Carolyn Marks 7121 E. Cypresshead Drive Parkland, FL 33067 Home 954-755-7464 (Bob Marks Sponsor)  
Linda Ann Ciasca 2430 NW 85th Avenue - Sunrise, FL 33322 Home 954-748-2499 [lciasca@bellsouth.net](mailto:lciasca@bellsouth.net) (Bill Weiler Sponsor)  
Benjamin Berger 7261 Hearthstone Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33472 Home 954-610-0439 (Bob Marks Sponsor)  
Gregory & Jan Mitchell 1350 River Reach Drive, # 408 Fort Lauderdale, FL -33315 Home 954-610-0439 [jmitchell@gunster.com](mailto:jmitchell@gunster.com)  
and [jagm408@cs.com](mailto:jagm408@cs.com) (Bob Hein Sponsor)  
Lynn Atkinson & David Drucker 845 S. Southlake Drive Hollywood, 33019 Home 954-325-9102 [lynn@druckermail.com](mailto:lynn@druckermail.com)  
(Bill Weiler Sponsor)  
Peter & Jacqueline Caspari PO Box 1323, Hallandale, 33008 Home 800-705-2454 [peter@ireachamerica.com](mailto:peter@ireachamerica.com) (Bill Weiler Sponsor)

New Address: Mr. and Mrs. Brian Kling 180 Calle el Jardin # 202 St. Augustine—32095 [brian-kling@hotmail.com](mailto:brian-kling@hotmail.com)

**WELCOME ABOARD!**

## SHIP GREETINGS AND EVENTS

No Ships Currently Scheduled for Visits





**USCG AIR STATION - MIAMI**

**MK-2 ANTHONY LOPEZ  
ENLISTED PERSON OF THE QUARTER**



**USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)**

**SOY - ET1 (SW/AW) PETER LOCKLEAR  
JSOY - GSM2 (SW) JASON COX  
BJOY - DC3 WILLIAM HIGH**

**MARINES OF RAIDER PLT. 24th MEU**

This plaque was sent to Alan and Shelly Stein as a token of appreciation for the more than thirty packages sent them during their deployment in Afghanistan.

The Marines of Raider Platoon 24th MEU were involved in the operation to clean up the Helmand Province and were relieved by the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines which BCNL will also be supporting.

When Brig. Gen. Garza walked up to the table at the Installation of Officers event and saw this picture he said:

“These are my guys”.



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