



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 20 ISSUE 3

Bill Weiler, President
Denise Hein, Editor

March 2009

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



With the 2009 Installation now behind us, I want to take time to thank those of you who attended for supporting the event, and especially thank our newest Board Members and Officers for stepping forward to assume roles of responsibility and leadership. As most everyone should know by now, George Reeves and Sandra Jones are our new first and second vice presidents, Bob Marks assumes the role of VP for Legislative Affairs, while Erwin Sefton and Ernie Gorwood have joined the Board as Directors. My sincere thanks to all of you! And how about our Installing Officer, BGEN David Garza? He did an outstanding job and his remarks were certainly entertaining and well received. My thanks to him and his lovely wife Carrie for giving up their Saturday to join us. And finally, thanks to Carnival Cruise Lines for providing the Carnival Freedom for our venue. The ship was beautiful, the food excellent, and the service outstanding!

Our February Dinner at Tropical Acres was a great success. We had more than 80 members and guests in attendance, and Broward County Sheriff Al Lamberti was our guest speaker. It appeared that everyone had a great time, and many took the opportunity to chat with the Sheriff or our other guests from BSO (Port Everglades Division), Chief Dan Cummings and Sgt. Jay Santalucia. Sheriff Lamberti's after dinner talk was informative and entertaining, and judging from the numerous questions that followed, thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to these fine gentlemen for joining us!

Although details are still sketchy, our March event will be held on Monday, March 16th, at Briny's Riverfront Irish Bar & Restaurant, from 6 to 8:30PM. It is anticipated that it will be a joint event with the Naval Academy Alumni Association and Naval Academy Parent's Club, for the purpose of welcoming the Naval Academy Women's Glee Club. The Glee Club will perform a program of songs at Briny's, while Mike and Aileen Brennan, our Community Affiliates, will provide their popular buffet. For those of you that haven't been to Briny's, it's in an excellent location directly on the Las Olas Riverfront Walk, with a convenient parking garage right next door. Be sure to circle the date and plan on joining us....bring along some friends or neighbors, and maybe we can recruit some new members. It should be a great time!

Finally, let's not forget our annual Easter Egg Hunt at the

Coast Guard Station, planned for April 4th, and of course Fleet Week beginning on April 27th. Please contact Don Bannister if you can spare a little time to help out as a volunteer...the more folks we have, the easier and more fun the tasks become. I hope to see you all at these events in support of BCNL and our Sea Services.

As always, thanks for your support.

Bill Weiler

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

MARCH SOCIAL

The Naval Academy Alumni Association
and Naval Academy Parent's Club,
Join
The Broward County Council, Navy League U.S.

Joint event of our March Social

Monday, March 16, 2009

6:00 – 8:30pm

Briny's Riverfront Irish Bar and Restaurant

PROGRAM:

Naval Academy's Women's Glee Club

Come, meet and listen to these young women and future
Navy Officers

Indulge in Briny's Free Buffet

Parking available in garage behind the restaurant

More details to follow

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Fleet Week 2009-Port Everglades Presented by HUMANA MILITARY HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Mark your calendars! Another exciting Fleet Week, hosted by Broward Navy Days (BND), area Navy League councils and Chief Petty Officers Association (CPOA) will soon be upon us. This year it's scheduled for April 27th – May 1st. We expect a total of seven (7) ships (including a submarine) from the US Navy, Canadian Navy and the US Coast Guard, all of which will be available for tours by Navy League members, school children, other organizations and the general public (new for 2009).

This year's Fleet Week will honor the service of Native Americans. The week will kick off with an **"All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party"** at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino on Monday April 27th (6 PM to 10PM). All council members are encouraged to attend and welcome crewmembers from all of the ships.

Ship tours (both morning and afternoon) will be held Tuesday, April 28th through Friday, May 1st. Sign-ups will be available through the BND website starting mid to late March. More details will be provided next month.

Our council will sponsor a **Junior Officers (JO) party** on Tuesday, April 28th (6 to 8 PM) at Briny Riverfront Irish Pub and Restaurant. Plan to attend and greet the Junior Officers from all the ships while enjoying the tasty Briny buffet.

The **Fleet Week Golf Classic** will be held Tuesday, April 28th (noon) at Fort Lauderdale Golf and Country Club. Treat yourself and a crewmember to a round of golf.

Boca Del Ray Council will be hosting the **Enlisted Person of the Year Banquet** on Thursday, April 30th (6 PM to 9 PM) at Hugh's Catering. LCDR Brett Borman (CO – NOSC-Miami) will be guest speaker. The CO and Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) from each ship will be the honored guests. Contact Loretta Baldwin of the Boca council, lbaldwin@earthlink.net, ph: 561-361-7824, regarding tickets (\$60) for this wonderful evening.

As you can imagine, Fleet week is a huge undertaking and requires many volunteers to insure its success. We anticipate needing up to 175 workers to support 21 major events throughout the week. By mid March, BND will have more information on its website – including a "sign-up" page. Consider clearing your calendar for the week and becoming involved in this rewarding and enjoyable experience! You can contact Don Bannister at 954-980-1639 for more details.

Stay "tuned" for details regarding other special activities being held throughout the week.

By Tom Jones

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**Welcome to our newest additions to The
Helmsman.**

For information on placing your ad in the newsletter please
Contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545 or
Giambrone@myacct.com

News from the US Navy and the Coast Guard

Community Affiliates



Sailors assigned to the guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf (CG 72) use a rigid-hulled inflatable boat to approach a dhow needing assistance. The sailors boarded the dhow to assist local fishermen in an attempt to repair their engine. Vella Gulf is the flagship for Combined Task Force (CTF) 151, a multi-national task force conducting counterpiracy operations to detect and deter piracy in and around the Gulf of Aden, Arabian Gulf, Indian Ocean and Red Sea. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Jason R. Zalasky.

The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) and embarked Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) departed Norfolk Feb. 3 to participate in a Composite Unit Training Exercise (COMPTUEX) with the Bataan Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) off the coast of Virginia and North Carolina.

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates has selected a Navy four-star admiral to lead an assessment of operations at the U.S. detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a senior Defense Department official said in Washington Feb. 3. Adm. Patrick M. Walsh, the vice chief of Naval Operations, will head the review, Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell told reporters.



Sailors aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) watch the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) breakaway from the Military Sealift Command dry cargo/ammunition ship USNS Lewis and Clark (T-AKE 1) after a replenishment at sea. Carter Hall and Iwo Jima are deployed as part of the Iwo Jima Expeditionary Strike Group supporting maritime security operations in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Katrina Parker.



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Ship Supply of Florida

Tropical Acres Restaurant
954-989-2500

EDITOR'S NOTE

The winds of change are strong. The United States is ready with a new sail. We have a new president and many new members in his cabinet. Often change is good. Our country has avoided dictators, due to term limits. Change brings new ideas and perhaps a different perspective on issues. Fresh blood is always better than stale blood.

More than ever as citizens and members of the Navy League, we need to make our government more aware of the needs of our sea services. As members of a Navy League Council, with Navy ships coming into one of the most active ports in the United States, we are in social contact with Navy crew more than members of Congress. We hear voices from the sailor, just becoming part of a ships crew, to Captains and, yes Admirals. They are the ones facing day to day conflicts to keep America a free thinking country. Write to Congress, the sea services should be a large part of the national budget. Without strong well built ships and other well built craft, we could very well become less than a third world country.

Let our political leaders know soon, about the winds of change and the cost of Freedom, that we hear from the men and women sacrificing to keep it.

Denise Heim, Editor

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CORRECTION

Apologies to Joe Millsaps, Broward Navy Days, Inc., and our Council for the error in reporting Sponsorship for the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance in the January newsletter. Broward Navy Days, Inc. was the sole sponsor.
Phyllis Bannister

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. James Hacker - 4218 Inverrary Boulevard, # 94B - Lauderhill, FL 33319 - 954-676-5285 jaytheo@comcast.net

Mrs. Marilyn Moran - 2829 NE 33rd Court - Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306 - 954-563-5281

Ms. Nancy Remus - 2720 NE 29th Street - Lighthouse Point, FL 33064 - 954-871-4966 cruising-goal@juno.com

WELCOME ABOARD!

SHIP GREETINGS AND EVENTS

No Ships Currently Scheduled for Visits

**COASTGUARDSMAN
IN THE SPOTLIGHT**



AMT 1 BRIAN C. BAKER

Hometown: Fort Belvoir, VA

Duty Title: Aviation Maintenance Technician First

Time in the USCG: 9 Years

Why I joined the USCG: I joined for a real sense of purpose and livelihood now, when ten years ago I had no idea what that even was.

Greatest achievement since joining the USCG: Being recognized as the Enlisted Petty Officer of the Year for Air Station Miami by the Chiefs.

What are your goals to achieve in the USCG: To make Chief and eventually retire with a degree (I'm plugging away at college.)

Plans after Coast Guard life: I don't know what my plans are at this time. I would hope by then the economy would be able to absorb me as a worker and turn work into just a hobby rather than a necessity after retirement. I want to definitely have a family and just be happy with whatever I'm doing and stay healthy.

The thing I like most about my job is: I like the opportunities the CG offers with regards to career path, i.e., Warrant, OCS, ACET, Recruiting, CGIS, college degree.



USS BATAAN (LHD 5)
Sailor of the Year - SH1 (SW/AW) Maurice L. Thomas
Junior Sailor of the Year - AS2 (AW/SW) William Cepeda
Bluejacket of the Year - BM3 Lacey Mason

Dr. Michael Krop High School NJROTC
our recently adopted unit under the direction of
CDR Bill Welp were on board as Color Guard at the
February Dinner Meeting.



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CURRENT STATUS OF THE US NAVY

Active Duty: 331,702

Officers: 51,223

▶ Enlisted: 276,054

▶ Midshipmen: 4,425

Ready Reserve: 121,194 [As of 08 Dec]

▶ Selected Reserves: 67,909

▶ Individual Ready Reserve: 53,285

Reserves currently mobilized: 6,147 [As of 03 Feb]

Personnel on deployment: 55,871

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 185,259

Ships and Submarines

Deployable Battle Force Ships: 283

Ships Underway (away from homeport): 119

▶ ships (42% of total)

On deployment: 96 ships (34% of total)

▶ **Attack submarines underway (away from homeport):** 28 submarines (51%)

On deployment: 18 submarines (33%)

Ships Underway

Carriers:

- ▶ USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) - 5th Fleet
 - ▶ USS John C. Stennis (CVN 74) - East China Sea
- Amphibious Warfare Ships:**

- ▶ USS Essex (LHD 2) - Gulf of Thailand
- ▶ USS Boxer (LHD 4) - Pacific Ocean
- ▶ USS Bataan (LHD 5) - Atlantic Ocean

Aircraft (operational): 3700+

ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?

The Broward County Council of the Navy League of the United States is and , you can become a "fan" of the Council as well as join our cause.

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Become a fan of the council and log on today to join <http://www.facebook.com>. Best of all it's free.

Any questions contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545 or Giambrone@myacct.net.

USCG AIR STATION MIAMI HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BLITZ BUILD 2009



Habitat for Humanity Blitz Build 2009 was a huge success! Thank you to the **20 Coast Guard members from Air Station Miami** who volunteered their time to help build up one of ten houses in the Habitat For Humanity Neighborhood. The idea for the Blitz Build was to build ten houses in two weeks. The event was incredibly well organized and each day a new volunteer group arrived, checked in, received their safety and work briefs and went to work. Each house has the same daily work goals. **For the Coast Guard House**, we had to install doors, windows, finish some framing and install a roof, all in a few hours.

Habitat for Humanity has been in the Miami area for the past 20 years where they have helped 700 low income families into new homes, and raised some \$30 million dollars over the same time period. Homeowners are given no-interest loans for low-cost houses where they pay their mortgage off to Habitat for Humanity. One of the terms of homeownership for the low-income families is building "sweat equity." Each home owner has to put in 200-300 work hours into Habitat for Humanity Projects over the course of a year. Look for monthly volunteer opportunities organized by the Special Services Dept - next month, on March 20th we'll be doing a beach clean up at John U. Lloyd State Park and have a BBQ and morale day afterwards.



by:
LCDR Brent Bergan, USCG

VISIT OUR WEB SITE WWW.BCNAVYLEAGUE.ORG

Thanks to our Web Master, Steven Naimoli, a visit to our web-site is very informative. On a quick trip you will be able to find our Mission Statement, news of our adopted units, meeting dates, membership applications as well as upcoming events, a photo gallery and much more.

Have friends you'd like to share our newsletter, The Helmsman, with? Direct them to the web site and they'll find not only current but back issues as well.

Our thanks to Steven for his support and efforts in keeping us up to date.



To let George Reeves, our membership chairperson, know of changes to your mailing, e-mail address or telephone numbers. Contact George at 305-285-4845 or reeves514@aol.com.

**Council Leadership
Roster:**

**G. William "Bill"
Weiler**

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Sandra Jones

Second Vice President

Robert Marks

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Affairs

Marianne Giambrone

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Shelly Stein

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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

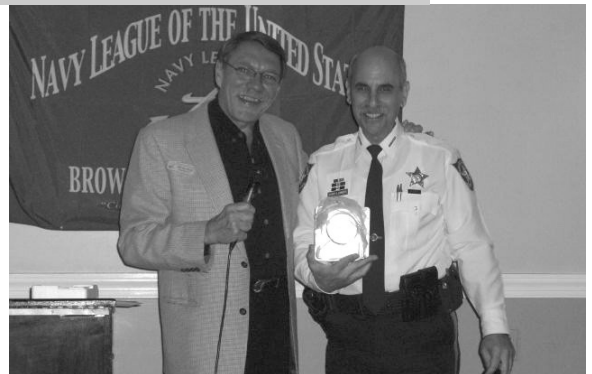
Treasurer - Peggy Raben - 954-462 2178

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

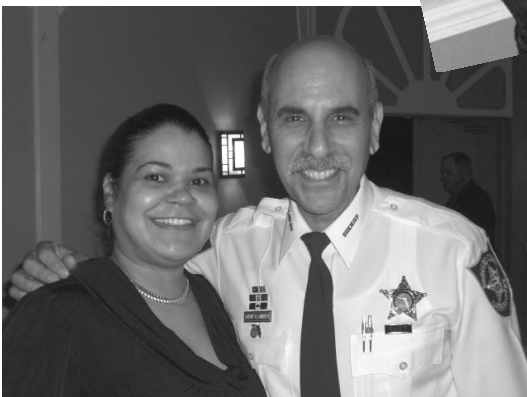
**PHOTOS FROM THE FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL
TROPICAL ACRES RESTAURANT**



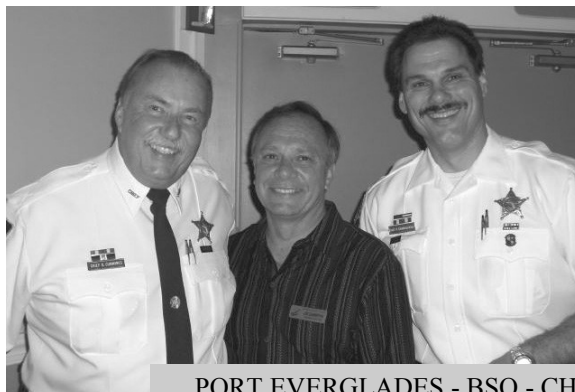
NEW MEMBERS RECOGNIZED



**PRESIDENT BILL WEILER AND
SHERIFF LAMBERTI**



**SHERIFF AL LAMBERTI WITH
CHIEF JANETTE CHANDLER
OF NOSC HIALEAH**



**PORT EVERGLADES - BSO - CHIEF DAN
CUMMINGS, SGT JAY SANTALUCIA WITH
JOE GAMBRONE**

Photos by: M. Giambrone