



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

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George Reeves, President
Marianne Giambrone , Editor

FEBRUARY 2010

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL



2009 was a success for our Council.

We were designated "Outstanding" for a second consecutive year. And the designation was deserved!

With President Bill Weiler at the helm, the entire Board actively promoted our several projects and events from port visits by U.S. ships, including the USNS Comfort, and British and Canadian visitors. The several All Hands receptions at Briny's Pub were well attended and both hosts and crews enjoyed themselves. During Fleet Week, our Board members were most enthusiastic participants and made a significant contribution to its success. We supported our several adopted units including the six high school programs as well as the Sea Cadets. We continued to bond our relationships with NOSC, the Coast Guard and the Marine Reserve unit. Our Socials, involving many excellent speakers, were well attended.

However our most significant and enduring program was, and continues to be, our fund raising and hands on effort to enhance the day to day existence of our Marines in Iraq and now Afghanistan. And I must mention Board members Al and Shelly Stein whose persistence and dedication served to champion this project. You both do us proud.

So what's an obvious and measureable result of a good year? A significant membership and member retention increase. That's what. People want to join. So as we look forward to 2010, we're simply going to keep momentum. I expect active participation from all.

I welcome new Board members Joan Sefton, Teresa Perez and Dr. Charles Schmidt and thank Don Bannister for his lengthy and unwavering service to our Council.

George Reeves, Council President

JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST DINNER SOCIAL IN 2010

Thursday , February 11, 2010

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

Cocktails at 6:30 PM Dinner at 7:15 PM

Guest Speaker will be Major General Doug Burnett
Florida's Adjutant General and
Commander of Florida's National Guard

Dinner Choices: Prime Rib or Salmon

Cost: \$35 for non-local dues paying members
\$30 for local dues paying members
(see "important changes in 2010" on page 2)

Make your reservation by February 7, 2010

Send an email to bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or
Call Sandra Jones at 954-587-4618

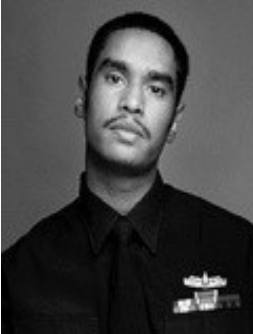
THE COUNCIL'S 2010 OFFICERS



Maritime and Sea Service News



WASHINGTON—Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano applauded President Obama's intent to nominate Vice Admiral Robert J. Papp, Jr., as Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Vice Admiral Papp would relieve Admiral Thad Allen in May 2010. Papp currently serves as Commander of the Coast Guard Atlantic Area (LANTAREA) and Defense Force East—functioning as the operational commander for all Coast Guard missions within the eastern half of the world. Prior to assuming command of LANTAREA, he served at the Chief of Staff of the Coast Guard in Washington. Papp graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and holds a master's in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College and a master's in management from Salve Regina College.



HOMESTEAD—The October 2000 terrorist assault on the USS *Cole* killed 17 sailors and injured 39, among them Petty Officer 3rd Class Johann Gokool of Homestead, an electronic warfare technician. On December 23, 2009, relatives say Gokool died in his bed, apparently during one of the violent panic attacks that had plagued him since the incident. On October 12, 2000, as the *Cole* refueled at the port of Aden, Yemen, terrorists rammed it with an explosives-filled boat, tearing a 40-foot gash in the hull and triggering deadly fires. Gokool was in the mess hall and fell four stories into an engineering room, where he lay unconscious. He was flown to a military hospital in Germany, then to the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia where doctors discovered that gangrene was spreading up his left leg and Johann made the decision to take the leg off. The family planned to take his ashes to Arlington National Cemetery, where the *Cole* victims lie in a special section.



The USS Independence (LCS 2) was commissioned on January 16th in Mobile, Alabama. The Independence is the second littoral combat ship delivered to the Navy, and the first LCS of the General Dynamics variant. LCS is a new breed of U.S. Navy warship with versatile warfighting capabilities, capable of open-ocean operation, but optimized for littoral, or coastal, missions. The LCS class is designed from the keel up to deliver efficient capability, capacity, and flexibility to the warfighter. Independence, a high-speed aluminum trimaran, is designed to defeat asymmetric "anti-access" threats such as mines, quiet diesel submarines and fast surface craft. The 417-foot Independence is outfitted with reconfigurable payloads, called mission packages, which can be changed out quickly. These mission packages focus on three mission areas: mine counter measures, surface warfare and anti-submarine warfare.

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN 2010

COST OF DINNER SOCIALS: Effective immediately (February dinner social), the price to attend will increase to \$35. However, BCNL members who have paid their annual local dues (\$50-single or \$85-couple) will receive a \$5 discount for a net price of \$30. The charge for active duty Military and spouses will remain at \$20 each. If you have not paid your local dues for 2010 and wish to qualify for the discount, you may pay at the dinner social or send your check made payable to BCNL to Broward Council Navy League, Attention: Tom Jones, PO Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339-9252. An up-to-date list of those members who have paid local dues will be available at the dinner socials.

HELMSMAN GOING ELECTRONIC: Effective with the March issue, *The Helmsman* will no longer be printed and mailed to you via the Postal Service. Future issues will be emailed to members as well as be available online at the Council's website at www.bcnnavyleague.org. The widespread use of email and the Internet has made this method of distribution much more cost effective and will allow us to divert the significant cost savings to our main mission which is the direct support of our Sea Services. If you have not already done so, we highly encourage our members and friends to provide their updated email addresses by sending an email to bcnavyleague@yahoo.com. We realize that there are still some members who do not use computers. If you want to continue to receive hard copies of *The Helmsman*, please send notification to Marianne Giambrone, 1546 Barcelona Way, Weston FL 33327. Thank you for your understanding of this change.

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR: You may have noticed Joan Sefton helping at the reception table at many of our dinner socials. Joan has agreed to assume the responsibilities of Council Communications Director and will generate and email notices and invitations to dinner meetings and events, track the RSVPs, and monitor the BCNL mailbox. You will see Joan working at the reception table at council events. A huge thanks to Joan for her help!

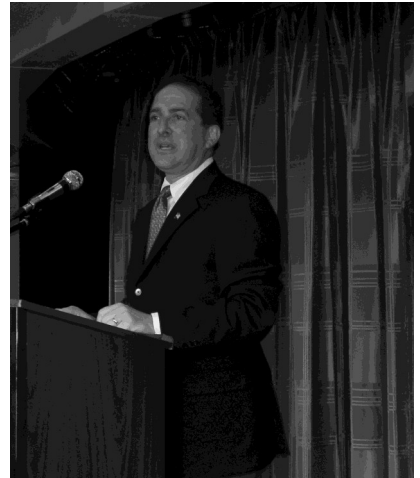
INSTALLATION OF 2010 OFFICERS



Bill Weiler named Don Bannister a Director Emeritus



Capt James Fitton USCG was thanked by George Reeves for performing installation



Cong. Ron Klein gave remarks and recognized Navy League's efforts



George Reeves recognized Bill Weiler for his 2 years as Council President



Rev Jacob Brey gave invocation



Past Presidents joined newly installed President (left to right) Joe Giambrone, Don Bannister, Bill Weiler, George Reeves, Bob Hein, Alan Starr

JROTC NEWS

The Council recently adopted the Cooper City High School Navy JROTC unit. Other Navy JROTC units that were adopted by the Council are at Flanagan High School, Krop High School, NOVA High School and Taravella High School. Stranahan High School's Marine Corps JROTC unit is also an adopted unit. The cadets that participate in the JROTC program are our future leaders and the Council is proud to recognize their efforts. Each year, the Council provides a financial award to the outstanding senior cadet as chosen by their commanding officer. A second cadet (usually a junior) is recognized with the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal which consists of a medal, ribbon bar, certificate and pamphlet on President Theodore Roosevelt whose visage is on the medal. We urge our Council members to talk to the cadets when they serve as color guard at our dinner socials; you will be surprised at their accomplishments.

USS BATAAN AND SILVER RIDGE



Students at Silver Ridge Elementary School, the Council's Partner in Education, made holiday cards for the men and women serving in our Sea Services. Shelly Stein, our Council liaison for Silver Ridge, ensured some of these cards were sent to our adopted ships. Pictures above are sailors from the USS Bataan LHD5 enjoying the cards.

LEYTE GULF SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Hometown: Plainfield, New Jersey
Duty Title: S-3 Divisional LPO
Time in the Navy: 9 years and 4 months
Why I joined the Navy: To make a better life for myself and my family while doing something I can be proud of (financial stability, education and travel)
Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience: Waking up each day being proud of what I do knowing I'm making a difference.
Greatest achievement since joining the Navy: Making rank and being promoted as quickly as I have.
Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy: Become a Certified Public Accountant and earn my Khakis, either as a Chief or Officer.
Plans after Navy life: Dedicate the majority of my time to my children, taking long vacations and sleeping.
The thing I like the most about my job is: My division and I boost the crew's morale by ensuring our services are open and available for the crew.

SH1 Meggan Bailey

HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR COAST GUARD AIR STATION MIAMI



Joe Millsaps, Garry Murphy, and Phyllis and Don Bannister visited Coast Guard Air Station Miami and presented CMC "Rusty" Petersen with over 130 gifts donated from Elizabeth Arden. The gifts were wrapped by members of Broward Navy Days and the Council and they were distributed to the men and women serving at the station.

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBER

Michael A. Gordon, 7103 Woodmont Way,
Tamarac 33321-2649 954-720-0226
mhgordonfam@bellsouth.net

WELCOME ABOARD

KEY WEST COUNCIL INSTALLS 2010 OFFICERS



On January 6, South Florida Area President and Board Member Joe Giambrone (far left) attended the installation of the 2010 officers of the Key West Council. Stanley Rzad (4th from left) will serve another term as Council President. Captain Pat DeQuattro (3rd from right), Commander, Coast Guard Sector Key West, swore in the officers.

PLEASE DON'T LET A SOLDIER WALK AWAY FROM MAIL CALL WITH NOTHING

Community Affiliates

Many men and women serving on the front lines in Iraq and Afghanistan have no families or do not receive mail and care packages from home. The Broward County Council and Operation Homefront are working together in an effort to get as many "care packages" as possible mailed to our troops deployed to the Middle East. We have received many donations of hygiene items, comfort items, OTC medications and snack foods from outside sources and this has allowed us to fill up many "care packages".

YOU CAN HELP! While we have donations of the items in the care packages, the cost of mailing them is beyond the Council's budget. The cost to mail each "care package" using an APO/FPO flat rate box is **\$12.50 per box (rates increased on January 4th)**. We could possibly mail hundreds of boxes if our members help us with the mailing costs. If you would like to make a POSTAGE DONATION of **\$12.50** (or some other amount), please send your check payable to Broward County Navy League (BCNL) to PO Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339. Please indicate on your check that you are making a POSTAGE DONATION. Any questions can be directed to Alan Stein at alanstein07@comcast.net or 954-472-0285. Our military will thank you!

UPDATE: We would like to thank everyone who has contributed. We have received over \$1,000 in donations but we can use more—there are so many men and women serving in the Middle East who would appreciate receiving one of our care packages. Send your check today. We thank you in advance for your generosity.



MARINES SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN



The following is an email received by Al & Shelly Stein from the CO of Lima Company which will be receiving some of the care packages:
Thank you for your service and the work you are now doing to support our Marines. I am the CO for Lima Company and we are 306 Marines and Sailors strong in Now Zad, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. We have a unique situation here in Now Zad. Up until now Now Zad city has been abandoned due to the fighting that took place in 2006. Recently we did an operation to clear the Now Zad Valley of Taliban and are in the process of rebuilding and repopulating the city. We already have a school established that instructs 150 students a day, 25 of which are girls and a lot of shops opening in our market. I have attached a picture of my Marines on patrol.

Regards,
Andrew Terrell
Capt USMC

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