



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 22 ISSUE 10

George Reeves, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

DECEMBER 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

HOLIDAY EVENTS

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Seasons Greetings

COUNCIL DINNER SOCIAL

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Cocktail Hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15pm

The Country Club of Coral Springs
10800 West Sample Road
Coral Springs

Guest Speakers:

Captain Peter Husta and Mattie Husta

COAST GUARD HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 9, 2011

5:30 pm—7:30 pm

Briny's Riverfront Restaurant
305 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale

Details on these events
are on the
following page



The Council participated in three important events during November—the luncheon honoring the individual augmentees; the visit of the USS Leyte Gulf and the Council's yard sale. Read about the events and view more photos inside this edition of *The Helmsman*.



Above: VADM Joseph Kernan at IA Luncheon

Below: Tom and Sandra Jones with Captain Brian O'Donnell at All Hands Party for USS Leyte Gulf



DINNER SOCIAL



Thursday, December 8, 2011

Cocktail Hour 6:30pm

Dinner 7:15pm

The Country Club of
Coral Springs
10800 West Sample Road
Coral Springs

Guest Speakers:

CAPT Peter Husta

Fourth Fleet Liaison Officer, SOUTHCOM

Maddie Husta

Survivor Outreach Services Coordinator, SOUTHCOM

ENTRÉE CHOICES

Grilled Atlantic Salmon – mustard dill sauce
Oven Roast Pork – apple thyme jus

All Navy League Members and Guests - \$35
Active Military and Spouses—\$25

Please **RSVP** your menu choice
on or before **December 3** by
e-mailing bcnavyleague@yahoo.com
or calling **Joan** at **954-868-2107**

It is requested that you send your check, payable to BCNL, to Tom Jones, 6201 SW 16 Street Plantation FL 33317 by December 5

Silent Auction items:

Framed Fleet Week 2006 poster
Presented to Joe Millsaps by
ADM Winnefeld, Vice Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff
Lobster Wall Decoration
Framed Painting

Election of 2012 officers will take place



COAST GUARD PARTY

Friday, December 9, 2011

5:30pm—7:30pm

Briny's Riverfront Restaurant

305 S Andrews Ave

Fort Lauderdale

Co-hosted by Broward Navy Days



Annual Event honoring these Coast Guard units:

USCGC Gannet WPB 87334
USCG Station Fort Lauderdale
USCG Aids to Navigation
USCG Air Station Miami

Two free drinks for Coast Guard and their guest

Free buffet for all

Casual holiday attire
Uniforms not required for military



INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

HOLD THE DATE!

The installation of the Council's officers for 2012 will take place aboard the Ruby Princess on Sunday, January 22, 2012. Additional information will be sent via email and will also be in the January issue of The Helmsman.

Elections of 2012 officers will take place at the December dinner social. Members must be present to vote.

President – Shelly Beck
First VP – Marianne Giambrone
Second VP – Charles Schmidt
VP, Legislative Affairs – Robert Marks
Secretary – Teresa Perez
Treasurer – Tom Jones
JAG – Frederick "Fritz" Heidgerd

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Pearl Harbor A Country Defining Loss

As we move into the early days of December, we join every American in a fitting commemoration for the stunning loss of men and women of all military services – and civilians –our country suffered during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941.

On that Sunday morning, indeed during a span of only ninety minutes, 2,388 Americans died, fully half from the massive explosion on the USS Arizona, and 1,178 were wounded. In terms of materiel, 21 ships were sunk or damaged including eight battleships; 323 aircraft were destroyed or required extensive repair. Pearl Harbor represented a major tactical defeat for our Navy.

We declared war against the Axis powers the next day and jumped into the initial stages of WWII which was then entering its fifth year beginning with the Japanese attack on China in 1937 and followed by the war among the European powers in 1939. Historians differ on the human costs of WWII; however, seem to agree that total deaths through 1945 numbered in excess of 60 million, some three times greater than those who suffered through WWI. Our resilience, determination and unswerving purpose, blessed with our amazing geography and industrial might, saw us through the initial dark days of the Naval, including Marine, war in the Pacific beginning with Pearl Harbor.

Those of us who were born before many of the others were defined by WWII and Pearl Harbor will continue to be completely ingrained in our lives.

My father was stationed at the Naval Operating Base in Jacksonville and I clearly remember his picturesque vocabulary as we listened to President Roosevelt's speech on the radio. He was immediately transferred to be Operations Officer at the Banana River Naval Air Station in Cocoa Beach (now Patrick AFB) which was an anti-submarine base, and then on to Norfolk to join the Amphibious Forces such as it was at the time. In 1943 his units participated in the landings in Sicily then on to Salerno where he was severely injured having to leave the Navy at the then ripe old age of 44 with 90% disability. While he improved over the years, he never fully recovered. And it all began with Pearl Harbor.

We can all spend time in remembrance. On Saturday, December 4th, there'll be a ceremony at Coast Guard Station Ft. Lauderdale at 11:00AM with Speakers Commissioner Chip LaMarca and Congressman Allen West, and on December 7th another at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Boynton Beach at 7:00PM with several prominent speakers.

George Reeves



DECEMBER GUEST SPEAKER



Captain Peter Husta is the son of a World War Two Pacific Campaign veteran and native of Wilton, Connecticut. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979 and from Webster University in 1987. Following graduation from the Academy, he proceeded directly to sea, serving in operations, deck and engineering billets. Ashore, Captain Husta served at the Fleet & Mine Warfare Training Center, Navy Reserve Command Headquarters and in Mobile Inshore Warfare Unit's (MIUW) 209 and 212. He commanded MIUW 209 and subsequently went on to command MIUW 212. He is the first officer to ever command this type of unit in back-to-back assignments.

Captain Husta has also served as a Special Assistant to the Commander Armed Forces South in Naples Italy. Returning permanently to the Active Duty rolls, Captain Husta subsequently served in Honduras as the Navy Section Chief and then as the Navy Mission Chief in Colombia. Following five years in Central and South America, he was selected to serve as the Navy Element Commander and subsequently, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Task Force in Guantanamo, Cuba. He is currently the Fourth Fleet Liaison Officer to the Headquarters Staff of the U.S. Southern Command.

Captain Husta has served in Navy, Joint, NATO and Combined commands and operations and is authorized to wear the Defense Superior Service Medal (2 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal and several other personal, Unit and Service awards. He is also authorized to wear the Honduran Medalla de Merito Clase Dos, the Colombian Surface Fleet, Aviation Division and Submarine Fleet Service Commendations and was awarded the Sociedad de Almirante Padilla.

Captain Husta is married to the former Madhya (Maddie) Acosta Castillo who grew up in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. She studied under grad and graduate level psychology in Honduras becoming a licensed practitioner at the National Psychiatry Hospital. Later in her career, she explored Educational Psychology working in the private school system teaching bi-lingual students in grade school and high school. Before coming to Miami, she was at the Naval Station at Guantánamo Bay, where she supported families of all military branches stationed there. Maddie is now the Survivor Outreach Services coordinator at Southcom serving as the liaison and advocating for the families of our Fallen Heroes.

IA RECOGNITION LUNCHEON

On Sunday, November 6th, Broward County Council partnered with the Everglades and Fort Lauderdale Councils and Broward Navy Days in honoring individual augmentees (IAs). The luncheon was held at Shula's Hotel in Miami Lakes for 21 IAs who recently returned from war zone duty. All the sailors are attached to the Navy Operational Support Center, Miami Gardens, under the command of Lt. Commander Brett Bormann. The principal speaker was Vice Admiral Joseph Kernan, Military Deputy of the United States Southern Command. Two of the honorees, Commander Julio Albornoz and Petty Officer First Class Kristie Hamm, spoke of their experiences during assignments to Afghanistan. Approximately 60 members of the local Navy League Councils were on hand to show the community's support for these sailors and their families. Representatives from the offices of Senators Mark Rubio and Bill Nelson were also on hand and presented letters to each IA recognizing their service.

A big thank you to Council member Tom Jones for his efforts in making this luncheon possible.



Above: Mary Anne Gray, Chairperson, Broward Navy Days and Rudy Oetting, President, Fort Lauderdale Council
Below: CDR Julio Albornoz, LCDR Brett Bormann and Michelle Albornoz



Above: LCDR David Risberg with Ken Lee, President Palm Beach Council
Below: BM1 Relles Campos and CE1 Cervante Peralta with Council members Marianne Giambone and Anita Carmell



Diana Rivas with HM2 Jose Archilarios



BM1 Kristie Hamm shared her experiences and thanked her two children for their support



USS LEYTE GULF VISIT

The Council's adopted ship, the USS Leyte Gulf, arrived on Thursday, November 10 and was greeted by Erwin Sefton and other members of our Council. The Council hosted an All Hands Party that evening at our community affiliate, Briny's Irish Pub. It was a great event and well attended by crew and civilians. The public was able to visit the ship with tours available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday mornings. The crew got a visit from the Miami Dolphin cheerleaders on Friday, November 11, and approximately 50 sailors were able to attend the Dolphins/Redskins game on Sunday. On Saturday, many of our members enjoyed a reception held onboard the ship. Other events also took place during the Leyte Gulf's visit including a CPOA reception.

Below the navigation team reviews the charts as they prepare to enter Port Everglades



Above: Lisa Wright, new member Dave Enlow and South Florida Area President Joe Giambrone
Below: Sailors enjoy food and drink at the All Hands Party at Briny's



Enjoying the All Hands Party at Briny's Pub are members Marianne Giambrone (left) and Anita Carmell (below)

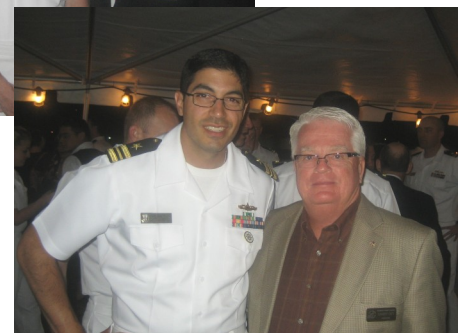


Left: Rita Tierney of Boca Raton Council had a great time mingling with the sailors

Below: Sailors got an opportunity to go on the field prior to the Dolphins/Redskins game



Members Mike Gordon and Bob Marks (photo left) and Larry Ott (photo bottom) at reception held onboard the ship



COUNCIL YARD SALE

The Council held a yard sale on Saturday, November 12 in the parking lot of Signature Memories (formerly the Fairchild Funeral Home) at 299 N. Federal Hwy., Fort Lauderdale. Donations of new and gently used items were sorted, tagged and placed out for sale by volunteers Teresa Perez, Anita Carmell, Charlie Schmidt, Bob Marks, Sandra Jones, Tom Jones, Joe Giambrone and Marianne Giambrone and Larry Ott. Despite the slow trickle of customers, the yard sale generated a profit of over \$300. Thanks to all who donated items, to those who stopped by to peruse the merchandise and to those that volunteered at the event. A special thank you to Larry Ott for making the arrangements.



Above (from left to right): Volunteers Anita Carmell, Bob Marks, Charlie Schmidt, Larry Ott, Sandra Jones, Tom Jones
Below (from left to right): Larry Ott, new member Sandra Majava and Teresa Perez



Joe Giambrone took charge of the cash!

AIR SHOW RETURNS



The air show will be returning to Fort Lauderdale in 2012!

Bryan Lilley served as the guest speaker at a recent Fort Lauderdale Council dinner social. Bryan is the President of B. Lilley, Inc. producer of two

annual beachfront air shows. He shared information with the group about the plans for the event which will take place on April 28-29, 2012 in conjunction with Fleet Week. Bryan talked about his love for the Fort Lauderdale Air & Sea Show and described other beachfront air shows he produces. He has already received tremendous support from local businesses and was confident that additional business and community support will continue. Bryan has also received tentative commitments from some of the top civilian acts in the nation and his team is requesting the Air Force Thunderbirds in 2012 and the Navy's Blue Angels in 2013.

Before being cancelled in 2008, the Fort Lauderdale Air & Sea Show was South Florida's largest spectator event. According to the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Air & Sea Show brought hundreds of thousands of tourists to the area and generated millions of dollars in economic impact.

For more information visit the website where you will also be able to join an email list to get updates about the show. The website is www.lauderdaleairshow.com.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED

Council events have not been as well attended as they previously were and we hope that our members can help us determine the reason(s).

We would like your feedback. If you no longer participate in events, let us know why. We would also appreciate suggestions on programs/events/speakers that you would find interesting.

This Council belongs to all of its members and we need the support of its members in order to continue our efforts in supporting the military. If there is anything we can do that will improve attendance at our events, we want to know.

Send your comments via email to the Council at their email address bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or send them to BCNL, P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.

PEARL HARBOR EVENTS

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

Sunday, December 4, 2011 11:00 AM

US Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale
7000 North Ocean Drive
Fort Lauderdale

Spruance Division Sea Cadets will present colors
Invocation will be provided by Council member Chaplain
Ron Perkins
Guest Speakers are Broward County Commissioner Chip
LaMarca and Congressman Alan West
Special guest will be Abe Stein, Pearl Harbor veteran

Refreshments will be served after the ceremony

PEARL HARBOR MEMORIAL SERVICE honoring WWII veterans

Wednesday, December 7, 2011 7:00 PM

Ascension Lutheran Church
2929 Seacrest Blvd
Boynton Beach

Honored Guests/Participants are:

Phil Dunmire, recently elected National President, Navy
League of the United States
Robert A. Ravitz (RADM-RET), Co-Chairman and Execu-
tive Director of the USS New York Commissioning Com-
mittee
Captain F. Curtis Jones, first commanding officer of the
USS New York (and son of council members Sandra and
Tom Jones)
Jose A. Rodriguez, Mayor of Boynton Beach
Sean Powers, 911 Memorial American Legion Post Com-
mander

All donations will benefit the Council's Individual
Augmentee (IA) Recognition Fund



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Rich Habib, 700 NW 33rd Street, Suite 290, Pompano
Beach FL, 33064-2069, phone: 954-309-6515, email:
crhabib2002@yahoo.com.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

Sponsor or give a Navy League membership to a friend or
family member this Holiday Season and be entered into a
drawing for **\$500!** Each membership you submit before
December 31, 2011 will count as one contest entry. Be
use to write priority code 4Q2011 on the membership ap-
plication or include it on the on-line application. The win-
ner will be announced February 1, 2012.

REMEMBERING OUR VETS



Each year thousands of wreaths leave from Harrington
Maine the first week in December and are escorted to
Arlington National Cemetery to be placed on all the
graves. For the past several years, this ceremony has
been expanded to all National Cemeteries throughout the
entire United States. On December 10, 2011, there will
be simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies at nearly 600 lo-
cations. Jacksonville National Cemetery will be participat-
ing in this annual Wreaths Across America wreath laying
ceremony.

If you are interested in purchasing a wreath on-line or by
mailing in a check, you may do so for only \$15 per
wreath. You may designate any National Cemetery in
any state of your choosing. If you choose the Jacksonville
National Cemetery, the cemetery ID is [FLJNC](#) and the
Group ID is [FLPGR002](#). This is a great way to remember
those who have served our country.

The toll free number is 877-385-9504. The website is
<http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/store> and the mail-
ing address is Wreaths Across America, P O Box 249,
Columbia Falls ME 04623.

SEA CADETS



Most Council members are familiar with the Spruance Division Sea Cadet unit under the leadership of our board member LCDR Alan Starr. But there is another board member who is also involved with a Sea Cadet unit. Teresa Perez, Council Secretary, is the Deputy Training Officer for the Enterprise Division Sea Cadet unit. The Enterprise Cadets are under the leadership of LT Reynolds "Rey" Sanchez and drill out of Coast Guard Air Station in Opa Locka. The Enterprise unit is sponsored by the Miami Navy League Council.

During the recent visit of the USS Leyte Gulf, Teresa was able to arrange a tour of the ship for the unit.



THANK YOU

The Council received the following email from LCDR Brett Bormann, Commanding Officer of NOSC Miami whose sailors were recognized at the IA luncheon.

George, Can't thank you and Tom enough for setting all of this up. I heard nothing but deep appreciation from all of the honorees and their spouses after the event. You really went all out and spared no expense- what a class organization! I will contact the POC at SOUTHCOM directly to let them know about what a great event this was

SEA SERVICE NEWS



The USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) recently received the Naval Supply Systems Command and Navy Exchange Service Command Ship's Store Retail and Service Excellence Award for "Best of Class" during fiscal year 2010. The Best of Class award signifies a superior level of service and excellence provided to the crew above and beyond the normal service provided on other ships of their class type. Each winning ship is judged and selected by a panel of Type commander and NEXCOM subject matter experts. This comprehensive award covers the range of services from proper management of the barbershop to the laundromat and the ship's store.



Coast Guard personnel from units throughout the United States, Guam, and Puerto Rico continue supporting the massive relief effort in Haiti by providing humanitarian assistance to Haitian survivors, evacuating critically injured U.S.

and Haitian citizens, and evacuating U.S. citizens from Haiti. Local units assisting with Haiti relief operations include the crews of two HU-25 Falcon jets from CG Air Station Miami, the USCGC Valiant homeported in Miami and the USCGC Mohawk, homeported in Key West.



Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary worked together to save more than 1,500 coral colonies and fragments from a seawall construction project at NAS' Mole Pier in Key West Harbor. Navy staff and contractors, trained by the sanctuary in coral re-

moval and handling, cleared a 425-foot long stretch of seawall of the largest corals, some of which spanned more than two-feet wide. The corals, representing 19 different species, have been placed in the sanctuary's nearby coral nursery and partner nurseries where they will be cared for until they can be placed into beneficial use projects, including the restoration of vessel grounding sites in the Keys and research projects. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary protects 2,900 square nautical miles of critical marine habitat, including coral reef, hard bottom, sea grass meadow, mangrove communities and sand flats. NOAA and the State of Florida manage the sanctuary. Naval Air Station Key West is located within the sanctuary and because of that there's an extra level of awareness and protection for our marine resources, said Naval Air Station Key West Commanding Officer Capt. Patrick Lefere.

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

SUPPORT THESE COMPANIES

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954-583-1830

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305-365-5448

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THEY SUPPORT OUR COUNCIL

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COAST GUARD IN THE SPOTLIGHT



BM1 Josh Peelman
Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

Hometown: Tracy, CA

Duty Title: Boatswain's Mate First Class

Time in the Coast Guard: 8 years

Why I joined the Coast Guard: I joined the Coast Guard because my father was in the Coast Guard and his father was in the Navy, so I am the son of a son of a sailor

Greatest achievement since joining the Coast Guard: Receiving a Medal of Commendation

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Coast Guard: I would like to be the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard

Plans after Coast Guard life: I want to retire in the suburbs and live a quiet life.

INDIVIDUAL AUGMENTEES LUNCHEON



Thank you for your service!

CDR Julio Albornoz, HM2 Jose Archilarios, LTJG Timothy Blank, LS1 Leonard Bonhomme, BM1 Relles Campos, ISC Levi Crespo, MA2 Michael Cruz, LCDR Valerie Diaz, PS1 Maria Flores, BM2 Johnny Fonseca, BU1 Patricio Gonzalez, BM1 Kristie Hamm, EN2 Patrick Henry, LT Brian Kipp, BUC Fernando Labrada, MA1 Evelio Martinez, CE1 Cervante Peralta, LCDR Dagoberto Perez, LCDR David Risberg, HMC Hector Roman, OSC Curtis Whitaker, PS2 Cameron Zbikowski, GMC Laura Zorza

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
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