



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 22 ISSUE 2

George Reeves, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

FEBRUARY 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL

Thursday , February 10, 2011

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

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

Guest Speaker will be

Joseph Farrell, Jr.
President/CEO
Resolve Marine Group

Dinner Choices: Prime Rib or Salmon

Cost: \$35 for non-local dues paying members
\$30 for local dues paying members

Make your reservation by February 6, 2011

Send an email to bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or
Call Joan Sefton at 954-753-2322

Look inside for information on other events
taking place in February

2011 COUNCIL OFFICERS



On January 22, the Council's 2011 Officers were installed into office aboard the beautiful Crown Princess. The Spruance Division of the Sea Cadets, led by LCDR Alan Starr, presented the colors. Ron Perkins, Council member and Chaplain of Seafarers' House performed the invocation. U S Coast Guard Captain Chris Scraba, Commanding Officer Sector Miami was the installing officer. Captain Scraba congratulated the Council on the support the Council provides to the Sea Services and, in particular, the local Coast Guard units. Congressman Allen West and his wife Angela were in attendance as well as Kate Wesner, Deputy District Director for Congressman West.

In photo (from left to right): George Reeves, President; Sandra Jones, First Vice President; Charles Schmidt, Second Vice President; Robert Marks, Vice President, Legislative Affairs; Tom Jones, Treasurer Frederick "Fritz" Heidgerd, JAG; and Teresa Perez, Secretary.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Maritime Disasters in South Florida – a Salvors' Paradise

One of the few early economic opportunities in our area, dating back to the sixteenth century, involved maritime salvage. The area's zenith extended from St. Augustine down through the Dry Tortugas.

Spanish ships made numerous journeys from Caribbean and Spanish Main ports, Portobelo, Cartagena, Veracruz, Margarita, Havana, all bound for Spain carrying cargoes of precious metals, spices, and gems. They transited the Straits of Florida right off our shores, shoals and coral reefs. Many of these ships went aground or sank due to poor navigation or storm activity well within sight of our coasts. Even those ships convoyed by the Spanish navy in order to protect their valuable cargoes from British and French marauders disappeared. Hundreds of wrecks dotted our coastlines, some charted, some not. South Florida became a treasure trove for salvage operations, both legal and off the books, and this activity antedated by centuries the citrus and real estate developers like Henry Flagler, George Merrick, Carl Fisher and even Al Capone. The most recent Spanish ship discovery occurred in 1985 when Nuestra Senora De Atocha was located in waters off the Tortugas with much of her cargo intact.

Fast forward to today.

Shipping disasters are even more prevalent today with fires, collisions, and certainly oil spills with much more at stake. We'll be fortunate to learn more about today's maritime dangers as Joe Farrell, CEO, of our Community Affiliate, Resolve Marine Group, one of the largest salvage, tug and fire fighting operations in the hemisphere, addresses our Council at our monthly dinner on Thursday, February, 10th at Tropical Acres. Arrive at 6:30PM for the cocktail reception. The announcement has been circulated to all.

George Reeves
President



FEBRUARY'S GUEST SPEAKER



Joseph Farrell Jr.
President/CEO
Resolve Marine Group

In 1980, Joseph Farrell Jr. founded what was to become one of the most effective salvage companies in the Americas. Focusing the initial efforts on the upper Caribbean Islands, Resolve successfully tackled scores of challenging salvage and wreck removal operations. By 1990, an unblemished success record in the Caribbean forged a path of rapid growth. As environmental concerns shaped the salvage industry throughout the world, Resolve expanded its client base by providing emergency responsive services to oil and chemical tankers regulated under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90). With the advent of OPA90, individual states, such as California, implemented their own regulations and Resolve was there to meet those standards. In 1994, Resolve Fire & Hazard Response Inc. was created to operate a state-of-the-art shipboard firefighting training facility in the heart of Port Everglades. This allowed Resolve to address public/industry needs for specialized training facilities as well as provide a base for their own in-house fire and hazmat response teams. Resolve's business model, having been divided into salvage, fire, and marine services, continued to successfully compliment the US salvage market for over 10 years. However, expansion into new markets was the next logical milestone and in 2009, Resolve reorganized to properly expand its subsidiaries into the global arena. Resolve's separate salvage and firefighting divisions were combined to form Resolve Salvage & Fire Inc., providing salvage and firefighting response worldwide. The maritime training division was properly renamed the Resolve Maritime Academy. Resolve Marine Services, Inc. continues to provide marine contracting services and support throughout the Americas.

OTHER FEBRUARY EVENTS

All Hands Reception for the USS Truxtun and USS Mitscher will be held on Friday, February 11 from 6:00 – 9:00 PM at Briny's Riverfront Restaurant, 305 S Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale. Event is co-hosted by Fort Lauderdale and Broward County Councils. Free buffet for all who attend.

Contact Erwin Sefton at erwinsefton@bellsouth.net for more information.

New Members Social – All members who joined in 2010 are invited to meet each other and the Council's officers and directors with an evening of fun, food and beverages. Event will be held on Thursday, February 24 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the George Thorne U S Naval Sea Cadet Training Facility, 300 SW 25th Street, Fort Lauderdale (off State 84 behind Lester's Diner). RSVP to Charles Schmidt at charlieanddiane@bellsouth.net or 954-741-1079. ALL members are welcome to attend.

2011 INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

There are additional photos provided by Peter Caspari of iReachAmerica on the Council's website:
www.bcnavyleague.org



- Photo #1 Chaplain Ron Perkins
#2 George Reeves and Capt Scott Scraba
#3 Congressman Allen West and LCDR Brett Bormann
#4 Mary Anne Gray and Rudy Oetting
#5 Angela West and Kate Wesner
#6 New member Tom Stenger with guest Karla Swartz
#7 Paul and Peggy Raben
#8 Spruance Division Sea Cadets Color Guard with LCDR Alan Starr

Photo credits: Peter Caspari and Marianne Giambrone

MERCHANT MARINES

The United States Postal Service will pay tribute to the U S Merchant Marine when it issues a pane of four stamps in July. The pane features types of vessels that have formed an important part of merchant mariner history: clipper ships, auxiliary steamships, Liberty ships, and container ships. Since colonial times, America's merchant ships have plied the oceans and other navigable waters conveying goods and passengers. During wartime, they have also helped deliver troops and war materials. This role was formalized shortly before World War II, when legislation empowered the "U.S. Merchant Marine" to serve as a naval auxiliary unit. During World War II, the U.S. Merchant Marine bore the brunt of delivering military supplies overseas to U.S. forces and allies. Today, it continues to help meet the nation's security needs while also transporting commodities that sustain the American economy.

Clipper Ships, ushered in by the California Gold Rush of 1849 and noted for their streamlined shape and majestic cloud of square-rigged sails, set numerous speed records for their time. Auxiliary Steamships —steam-powered ships with back-up sailing rigs— were the ocean liners of their day, competing in the 1850s with clipper and other sailing ships for transatlantic mail and passenger service. During World War II, the United States built more than 2,700 Liberty ships, plain but sturdy cargo vessels that sustained the Allied forces with a steady supply of food and war material. Container ships, pioneered in the 1950s, are the lifeblood of today's global economy, carrying nearly all the world's manufactured goods across the oceans and exemplifying the modern merchant marine.



HOLD THE DATE!

The Freedom Awards luncheon, hosted by Broward Navy Days, will take place on Sunday, March 13. The event will be held aboard the Ruby Princess; open bar and 4-course lunch will be \$50 per person. Registration information will be forthcoming.

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Thomas Stenger
1300 W Broward Blvd
Ft Lauderdale FL 33312
954-828-5700
stenger@fortlauderdale.gov
Sponsor: Ernie Gorwood

Garry Murphy
5202 NW 27th Ave
Tamarac FL 33309-2632
954-735-6060
garry@browardnavydaysinc.org
Sponsor: Mary Anne Gray

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NOSC AWARDS

George Reeves, Council President, presented Sailors of the Quarter awards on January 9 at the Naval Operation Support Center (NOSC). Cash awards and certificates recognizing the sailors' accomplishments were presented to OS1 Terry Holster, YN1 Caleb Burney, EO3 John Ballesteros, and LS1 Natalie Rodriguez. LCDR Brett Borrmann, NOSC Commanding Officer was on hand to recognize these reservists. NOSC is one of our Council's adopted units.

Below (left to right) George Reeves, OS1 Holster, YN1 Burney, EO3 Ballesteros, LS1 Rodriguez and LCDR Borrmann



RECRUITER OF THE YEAR



Board member LCDR Alan Starr has commanded the Spruance Division of the Sea Cadets and Training Ship Radford for the past 15 years. Recently, he also began supervising 7 other Sea Cadet units as Regional Director of Naval Sea Cadets Corps Region 6-5. As a result of his efforts, LCDR Starr was recently named Regional Director Recruiter of the Year for 2010. The citation, which was approved by the Chairman of the Naval Sea Cadets Corps and its 62 regions, says of Starr, "his direction and growth of his region was the best among the performance of several outstanding directors." LCDR Starr's region increased by 34 members, a 12% improvement in growth for the year 2010.

Congratulations Alan!

OUTSTANDING SAILORS

The Leyte Gulf's 2010 Sailors of the Year were recognized by The Council with monetary awards and certificates recognizing their accomplishments. The selected sailors are:

Sailor of the Year: FC1(SW) Michael Sheely
Junior Sailor of the Year: FC2(SW) Jammie Stauffer
Blue Jacket of the Year: SH3 Rawlings Osei

Left to right: Osei, Stauffer and Sheely



The Leyte Gulf also selected the 2011 Sailors of the First Quarter of 2011. They were recognized by The Council with monetary awards and certificates recognizing their accomplishments. The selected sailors are:

Sailor of the Quarter: FC1(SW) Twymane Hatcher
Junior Sailor of the Quarter: IT2(SW) Benjamin Church
Bluejacket of the Quarter: Seaman (SW) Dagmawit Tarekegn



Top left Hatcher Top right: Church
Bottom: Tarekegn

NEWS FROM THE SEA SERVICES



On December 1st, Capt. Ekundayo Faux, Deputy Director of the Coast Guard Civil Rights Directorate, presented the Partnership in Education award for outstanding dedication to Capt. Rick Kenin, commanding officer of Coast Guard Air Station Miami. The crew of the Air Station volunteered for guest instructor positions at Florida Memorial University and taught a minimum of four classes per month, investing approximately 25 individual hours per semester to teach, mentor and inspire aviation students.

At left, students from Florida Memorial University at the Partnership in Education award ceremonies.



The Coast Guard will have the first woman superintendent at the helm of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy when classes convene next summer. The commandant of the Coast Guard, Adm. Bob Papp, has selected Rear Adm. Sandra L. Stosz, Coast Guard director of reserve and leadership, for the superintendent position. In her current position, Stosz is responsible for policy affecting the recruitment and training of more than 8,000 Coast Guard reserve members. She has also commanded the Coast Guard's only recruit training center in Cape May, N.J. She will be the first and only female commander to head any of the nation's five military academies. The Coast Guard Academy was established in 1876. The oldest service academy is West Point which was established in 1802.

The deployed guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf left Lisbon Portugal on January 29, after a four day port visit. During the visit, crew members volunteered some of their liberty time in port to help those less fortunate by participating in various community relations projects (COMRELS) throughout Lisbon. As they do each day on the ship, Sailors used teamwork to accomplish the missions assigned to them at their respective COMREL locations. From assembling bags of food for distribution to local charities to painting and fixing-up bedrooms and play areas for orphaned and at-risk children, the volunteers were able to accomplish in two days what might have taken the staff months to accomplish. On January 31, the Leyte Gulf successfully passed through the Strait of Gibraltar, bringing the ship from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean Sea. With the ship's homeport in Norfolk Virginia now far behind, sailors are busy conducting cooperative missions with allies in the region in support of maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts.



The Navy's newest and deadliest destroyer-class warship will be commissioned in Key West. The \$1 billion, 9,200-ton, 509-foot USS Spruance will arrive about Oct. 1, the Navy and City of Key West said. Commander of the ship, Capt. M. Tate Westbrook, said its crew of 285 sailors will prepare the ship for war before it is officially commissioned. It will mark the first combat-ready destroyer warship to be commissioned in Key West waters, said Navy spokesman Jim Brooks. Afterward, the Spruance will set sail for Asia and Mideast waters. The Spruance was christened earlier this year in Bath, Maine, where it was built at Bath Iron Works by Northrop Grumman Ship Systems. The ship is named after Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, the U.S. Navy commander at the Battle of Midway, fought June 4-7, 1942. It will be home-ported in San Diego and is the newest of the Navy's new Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers that are fitted with the highly touted Aegis Weapon System. The superfast computer radar systems support Tomahawk missiles, which can destroy targets 1,000 miles away. The Spruance's two gas turbine engines produce more than 100,000 horsepower, enough to propel the ship faster than 30 knots, according to the Navy. The ship can work alone or alongside the largest aircraft carriers. The vessel can attack submarines, airplanes, other ships or land targets as indicted by its motto, "Launch the Attack".

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SEAFARERS' HOUSE

The Council received a thank you email from Lesley M. Warrick, Executive Director, of the Seafarers' House at Port Everglades

Dear Friends with the Broward County Navy League:
It is heartwarming to see your item in the January newsletter about our Shoebox Christmas project for mariners visiting Port Everglades. The Shoebox Christmas program is a success because of the volunteers who work so hard to collect, wrap, pack, organize and deliver all the boxes. We are very grateful to all our volunteers and supporters who help make this project come together each year and we are proud to count among them a number of the Council members.

Throughout the year, we are proud to work in concert with BCNL and Broward Navy Days on a variety of projects -- and always in support of those who work at sea. Thank you to Broward County Navy League for all you do to support our mission and support our mariners. We wish you a very happy, healthy New Year and look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Lesley

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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USS LEYTE GULF SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



FC1(SW) Twymane Hatcher

Hometown: Cadiz Kentucky

Duty Title: Fire Controlman (CIWS TECH)

Time in the Navy: 15 years 10 months

Why I joined the Navy: To work with airplanes

Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience: Instructor duty at RTC (Small Arms Weapons Instructor)

Greatest achievement since joining the Navy: Being named 2009 Leadership Award Winner by my peers.

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy: Chief!!!!!!!

Plans after Navy life: Middle school teacher/medical provider

The thing I like the most about my job is: Flexibility that has to be displayed on a day-to-day bases in order to meet the demands of the division, ship and the Navy

FC1 Hatcher was also selected as Sailor of the First Quarter 2011

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS



The Council was honored to have Congressman Allen West in attendance at the installation of officers.

Congressman West spoke to the audience about the need for the United States to maintain a strong Navy.

Congressman West is on the House Armed Services Committee and the Small Business Committee.

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