



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

**Serving the Sea Services Since 1902**

**VOL. 22 ISSUE 1**

George Reeves, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

JANUARY 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## JANUARY EVENT

The Installation of the Council's officers  
will take place aboard the Crown Princess  
Port Everglades FL

January 22, 2011  
Boarding begins at 11:00 AM  
\$40 per person

The following officers will be installed:

President – George Reeves  
First VP – Sandra Jones  
Second VP – Charles Schmidt  
VP, Legislative Affairs – Robert Marks  
Secretary – Teresa Perez  
Treasurer – Tom Jones  
JAG – Frederick "Fritz" Heidgerd

Princess Cruises requires each attendee to submit security information (even if attendee has a port id).

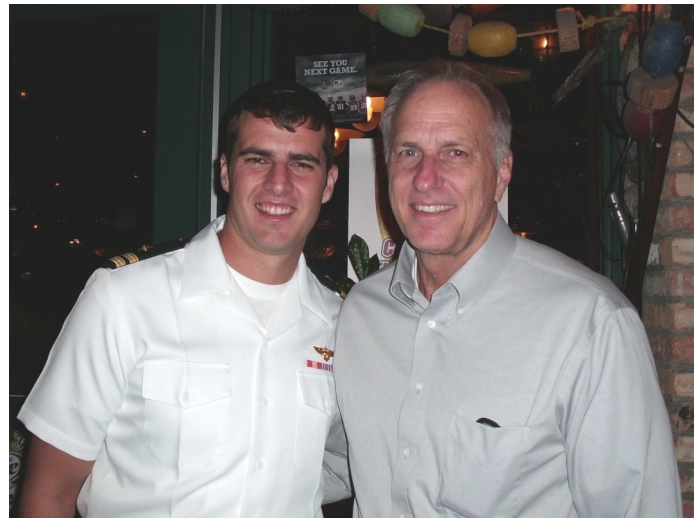
Please send the following information for each person attending the event: full name, passport or driver's license number and state of issue, and date of birth. Mail the security information along with a check made payable to BCNL to Marianne Giambrone, 1546 Barcelona Way, Weston FL 33327.

Questions can be sent to [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)

Check and security info must be received by  
January 12, 2011

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**

## USS BOONE FFG 28 VISIT



Council member Milton Leidig stopped by the All Hands Party at Briny's Irish Pub on December 2, 2010 to see his son Zach Leidig who serves on the USS Boone. There was a great turnout for the event with members from Fort Lauderdale and Boca Councils as well as Broward Navy Days in attendance. Below are just some of the sailors who enjoyed the event.



E-MAIL - [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com) - Visit our Web Site - [www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2011 – Navy Aviation Centennial Year.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Navy Aviation.

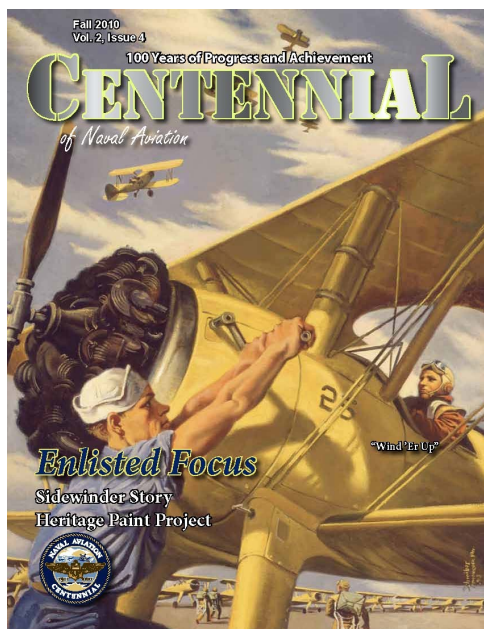
A Centennial Task Force has been formed, including U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Corps flight elements, to celebrate this anniversary throughout the United States. Formal celebrations will kick off in San Diego in January and continue at select locations including Pensacola with a Blue Angels Homecoming in November. Locations, background information and a lot more are included in the website, [www.cnaf.navy.mil](http://www.cnaf.navy.mil). I commend the site to you. Words don't do justice to a century of great aircraft, carriers, and crews depicted in photos and videos.

On January 18, 1911, a civilian pilot, Eugene Ely, made the first landing aboard ship flying a Curtiss pusher onto a wooden platform constructed on the armored cruiser PENNSYLVANIA in San Francisco Bay. Days later, LT Theodore Ellyson accompanied pilot Glenn Curtiss who made the first successful hydroaeroplane flight in San Diego. Later on May 11th, Captain Washington Irving Chambers prepared the contract to purchase the first Navy aircraft and this date was designated as the birthday of Navy Aviation. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Navy's first aircraft, an A-1 Triad made its maiden flight at Hammondsport, New York. On September 24, 1918, LTJG David Ingalls shoots down his fifth enemy plane in Europe to become the Navy's first fighter ace. Then on to the commissioning of the LANGLEY in 1922 where LCDR Godfrey Chevalier makes the first carrier landing. The saga, of course, continues through the WWII years and to current operations, aircraft and the ships that support them.

You've got to see the pictures and video.

Our Council has been in contact with the Centennial Task Force in San Diego and we hope to have a speaker from Pensacola NAS travel to Ft. Lauderdale to make a presentation with all the visuals. I'll keep everyone informed.

George Reeves  
President



## IN MEMORIAM



Board member John Kiefer passed away in mid-December.

John and his wife Nelly have been active members of the Navy League and our Council since 2004. John recently served as the Chairman of the New Members Social Committee. He felt strongly that all new members should feel welcome at Council events.

John served in the Navy from 1963-1965 and was active in the Archbishop Carroll High School Alumni Association in Washington DC.

A celebration of life was held at St Pius X Roman Catholic Church on December 27th. John will be truly missed.

Donations may be made in John's name to:

Jim Moran Heart and Vascular Center  
Holy Cross Hospital  
4725 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33308

## MILITARY NEWS

Congress approved a short-term spending bill in late December, clearing a contract for Marinette Marine and Austal to each build ten littoral combat ships for the US Navy. The passed bill went through some wording changes allowing the US Navy to purchase ten ships each from Lockheed Martin and Austal USA. As stressed in the last few days of debate over this issue, the Navy once again reminded Congress that the plan to use two builders allows them to purchase 20 ships for the price of 19. The Lockheed Martin ships will be built at the Marinette Marine yard in Marinette, Wisconsin and the Austal ships will be built at Austal's US yard in Mobile, Alabama. Each contract is worth nearly \$5 billion and is expected to double employment at Marinette Marine by 2013. Austal's Mobile facility will double in size and is expected to add 1,800 jobs over the next two years. The ships are capped at \$480 million each, with expected price per ship to range between \$440 million and \$460 million, according to the Navy.





## SHOEBOX CARE PACKAGES FOR MARINERS



*Al Stein (left) delivers gifts*



*Larry Ott (2nd from right) waits for gifts to be loaded onto ship*

Christmas came simply for mariners visiting Port Everglades. It didn't come with big party but it came in a gift-wrapped shoebox stocked with soap, shaving cream, work gloves and other basics provided by Seafarers' House volunteers. The simple gifts are valued because the federal Patriot Act prevents mariners without visas from leaving their ships. Even for those with visas, shore leave is limited. Because of automation, ships that once stayed a day or two now may sail within six to eight hours.

This is the fourth year of Shoebox Christmas and since late November, shoeboxes were brought to two or three ships a day, seven days a week. By mid-January, about 100 volunteers will have boarded 125 ships and given out over 2,000 presents. Among those volunteers was Joe Giambrone, South Florida Area President and board member, who took on the task of coordinating the delivery volunteers. Some of the members who delivered boxes to the ships include Larry Ott, Erwin Sefton, Mike Gordon and Al Stein. Board Member Al Starr had his Spruance Division Sea Cadets participate in the endeavor. Council member and Chaplain of Seafarers' House Ron Perkins drove the van loaded with gifts and often provided spiritual comfort and blessings to the mariners. The Council also made a financial contribution to Seafarers' House to assist with purchasing items to place into the shoeboxes.

*Joe Giambrone (right) and volunteers deliver gifts*



*Council member and Chaplain of Seafarers' House Ron Perkins checks on the supply of shoeboxes*





## *PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCES*



*Left to right: Board Member Senior Chief Alan Starr, Pearl Harbor survivors John Zarli and Abe Stein and CMC Slator USN of the USS Boone laying the memorial wreath*



*Left to right: Board member Bob Marks, Pearl Harbor survivor John Zarli and Capt Christopher Scraba, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami*

On December 5th, a Pearl Harbor Memorial Remembrance was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. John Zarli and Abe Stein, two Pearl Harbor Day survivors were in attendance and participated in the ceremony. Guest speaker was Captain Christopher P. Scraba, USCG, Commander, Sector Miami who spoke of the tragedy of December 7, 1941 and compared it to 9-11 noting that each generation has a wake up call to togetherness. Council member and Chaplain of Seafarers' House Ronald Perkins gave the invocation. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors led by Board Member Senior Chief Alan Starr. Crew members from the visiting USS Boone also were in attendance.

A special memorial service honoring WWII veterans was held at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Boynton Beach on December 7th. The service was organized by Ralph W. Slane, Director Emeritus, New York Council Navy League. Felix Novelli, who served on the USS Intrepid, recited a very descriptive poem about his experiences during WWII. The poem was written by Carl Novelli, deceased son of Felix. The distinguished guest speaker was Robert A. Ravitz RADM-RET, who is past National Vice President, Public Relations, Navy League; past President of the New York Council Navy League; and Co-Chairman and Executive Director of the USS New York LPD-21 commissioning committee. Tom Jones, Broward County Council Treasurer, described many of the features of the USS New York and recalled how this ship honors the victims and heroes of 9-11. Tom Jones' son is the Commanding Officer of the USS New York—the ship that has 7 1/2 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in her bow.



*Left to right: Micki Ravitz, Felix Novelli, Tom Jones, Robert A. Ravitz (RADM-RET)*



## MARINES IN ENGLAND

Shelly and Al Stein traveled to England in November to visit their family and, while there, attended the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. They made sure that the Marines received some of the scarves and helmet liners that local South Florida knitting groups have been making for our troops.

The following thank you email was received from GYSgt Adrian Marsden, Marine Detachment, RAF Molesworth.

*Thank you for sending the Scarves and Helmet Liners to us. We are stationed in England and have recently had a string of days where the temperature was below freezing, so your scarves were put to good use. Despite the weather, we carried on with our Toys for Tots efforts. Some of the scarves were worn by our Toys for Tots helpers to keep warm during the recent cold snap. I have included a photo of one of our helpers during a recent Toys for Tots collection event at RAF Alconbury. She asked us to pass on to you that in addition to being warm, the scarf she had was "cool!" The Marine Detachment at RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom sponsored the local United States Marine Corps Toys for Tots toy collection drive. Toys are distributed to local disadvantaged military families and several charities for local underprivileged British children.*



Shown in photo is GySgt Adrian Marsden (left) and SSgt Osumanu Saku (right) with a young Toys for Tots helper

## WINTERFEST BOAT PARADE

The 39th annual Seminole Hard Rock Winterfest Boat Parade took place on December 11<sup>th</sup>. The theme for this year's parade was "Dancing Thru the Decades" and about 100 boats participated. The event is one of the highlights of the holiday season in South Florida and has been happening every year since 1972. Members of the Council had the opportunity to participate in the world famous parade aboard the USCG Cutter Hudson.



Above: Crew of the USCG Cutter Hudson  
Below: Council members Erwin and Joan Sefton



Below: Trent Callahan, Ling Leung and Board member Anita Carmell





## HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Council members had plenty of opportunities to celebrate the holidays during the month of December. The annual Coast Guard holiday party was held on December 10 at Briny's Irish Pub. In attendance were personnel from Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, USCGC Gannett, Aids to Navigation and Air Station Miami. Rear Admiral Baumgartner, Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District also stopped in to provide holiday greetings to his crews. On December 16, the annual Council holiday party was held at the Country Club of Coral Springs. The room was very festive and everyone in attendance enjoyed this new venue. Long time Council members Mark Stein and Johnny Van were in attendance as well as the Council's military friends from NOSC and Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Below are the many faces of the holiday celebrations.





## COUNCIL RECEIVES THANKS

The Council has been sending care packages to our deployed military for some time now. Thanks to the efforts of Al and Shelly Stein, 443 care packages have been mailed. Here are just a few of the thank you emails the Council has recently received.

*My Marines and I send our thanks for all the support you have provided thus far. We also hope that everyone on the distribution list is doing well and has a safe and prosperous holiday.*

*1stSgt Lucas  
Lima Company  
3/5 "Get Some"*

*The Marines are enjoying all your hard work and effort. It is definitely a morale booster and they are using it all... We've been out and about and are very busy, I will definitely send some pics once the dust settles here. Thank you again!*

*1stSgt English*

*Always makes me feel good to see great Americans like you continuing to support our brave warriors; wish there were more like you. I forwarded this email to my 1stSgt who will keep you informed about some of things the boys may need from the homefront. Please check out our company's Facebook account 2/3 Weapons Company "Havoc".*

*Major Rob Tart  
Weapons Company Commander  
Task Force 2/3  
COP Kharaman, Afghanistan*

Below is an excerpt from an email the Council's board received from Al and Shelly Stein:

*We have found that raising funds and using them to provide aid and comfort to deployed sailors and marines has proven to be one of the most rewarding experiences we have ever, repeat ever participated in over my lifetime. To read the emails from the troops and to check back to their units' websites to see what they have had to endure on a day to day basis has given us a greater appreciation of the men and women in our military.*

**YOU CAN HELP!** The cost to mail each "care package" using an APO/FPO flat rate box is \$12.50 per box which is in addition to the cost of filling each box. If you would like to make a donation to help the care package project, please send your check payable to BCNL to PO Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33339. Please indicate on your check that you are making a donation for the care package project. Any questions can be directed to Alan Stein at 954-472-0285 or alan33325alan@yahoo.com.

## SOUTHERN COMMAND

U.S. Southern Command opened its new \$402 million headquarters in Doral in December in an event that underscored the United States' ongoing partnership with Latin America and also marked a new phase in the command's history as a member of the South Florida community. Miami was selected as the home for SOUTHCOM from among 100 sites because of the city's links to the 31 countries and 10 territories in the Caribbean, and Central and South America in the command's area of responsibility. Following the ceremony, guests toured the immense complex, which encompasses more than 39 football fields of office space. The facility is designed to host more than 2,800 people representing all branches of the armed forces, 13 federal agencies and six Western Hemisphere nations. SOUTHCOM is one of six Defense Department



*Air Force Gen. Douglas M. Fraser (center) cuts the ribbon that officially opens the new U.S. Southern Command Headquarters.*

geographic unified commands and is responsible for U.S. military operations, cooperation and partnership-building in a region that includes 31 countries and 10 territories in the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

## COUNCIL SUPPORTERS

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2131 Hollywood Blvd Ste 101  
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**Wal-Mart**  
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**On Site Photo Solutions, Inc**  
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www.ireachamerica.com

## TOYS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Navy League joined Operation Homefront once again this year to bring toys to the children of our service members during the holidays. Operation Homefront partnered nationally with Dollar Tree Inc which solicited and encouraged patrons of their Dollar Tree Stores to purchase and donate a toy to be placed in the collection box at their stores. Over 4,000 Dollar Tree Stores across the country collected toys from November 1 through December 6. Members of our Council made periodic stops at local Dollar Tree Stores and picked up over 2,100 toys that were delivered to the local Coast Guard stations as well as the Navy Reserve and Marine Reserve units that the Council supports.

*Below: Tom Jones, Council Treasurer, brings toys to Coast Guard Air Station Miami. Shown accepting the toys are CMC Jeff Pomeroy (center) and Captain Rick Kenin.*



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

James (Jim) Stauffer  
Senior Naval Science Instructor  
Flanagan High School (JROTC Unit)  
12800 Taft Street  
Pembroke Pines, FL 33028  
cell 813-766-8317  
[james.stauffer@browardschools.com](mailto:james.stauffer@browardschools.com)

Thomas L. Stenger  
760 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave Apt D113  
Deerfield Beach FL 33441-5426  
Phone 954-501-8337  
[tsten1974@gmail.com](mailto:tsten1974@gmail.com)

## “EMAIL BUDDIES”

Many of you may not realize that the Council has a relationship with a local elementary school. Silver Ridge Elementary School in Davie is our Partner in Education and Board Member Shelly Stein serves as the Council’s liaison with the school. During a School Advisory Council meeting earlier this school year, it was suggested that a handful of students become “email buddies” with sailors aboard the USS Leyte Gulf. Silver Ridge adopted the ship many years ago and each time the ship visits Fort Lauderdale, a group of sailors are transported to the school to visit with the students. There are generally great question and answer sessions in the classrooms and the students normally put on a show in the auditorium.

The idea was presented to CDR Hank Viado, XO aboard the Leyte Gulf who solicited sailors who wanted to participate in this program. He was able to provide the names and email addresses of 13 sailors who wanted to communicate with the students. This information was provided to the school in November and the program is being monitored by the teacher of the participating students. The students initiated the correspondence – introducing themselves and providing some basic information about themselves – to open a dialogue. Although getting emails to and from ships at sea can sometimes be challenging, the students were very excited about being able to communicate with the sailors.

The students appreciate any opportunity to meet and talk to our military. They hosted an event at the school during Fleet Week and the photo below shows their enthusiasm.



## LOCAL DUES

If you have not done so already, please send in your check for 2011 local dues which are used for the Council’s administrative costs as well as to help the Council continue their support of the military and youth. Please provide this direct financial support to the Council by making your local dues payments of \$49 for a regular (single) member or \$84 for husband/wife (couple) members. Checks should be made payable to BCNL and can be sent to P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.



## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



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For information on placing your ad in the newsletter please contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545 or [giambronejm@gmail.com](mailto:giambronejm@gmail.com)

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Funeral Director

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Fax 954-565-7899  
[larry.ott@sci-us.com](mailto:larry.ott@sci-us.com)



## NEWS FROM LEYTE GULF

Sailors aboard the guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) successfully completed a low, slow flyer drill while participating in a joint task force exercise (JTFEX) with the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group (CSG) in early December. Leyte Gulf's participation in the low, slow flyer drill was crucial due to their role as the Enterprise CSG's primary air defense commander. The scenario simulated situations similar to ones the strike group could face while deployed to regions such as the Arabian Gulf. The drill also tested the skills of Leyte Gulf's repair locker teams, which required the efforts and teamwork of each crew member. As Leyte Gulf progresses through JTFEX and closer to deployment, exercises such as low, slow flyer drills are key to assessing the ship's ability to stabilize damage and minimize loss of lives.

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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**Tropical Acres Restaurant  
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## MARINE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Lance Corporal  
Andres A. Gonzalez  
Marine Reserve Unit  
Hialeah

**Hometown:** Miami, FL

**Duty Title:** Motor Transport Operator/ Radio Operator

**Time in the Marine Corps:** 2 years

**Why I joined the Marine Corps:** I joined the Marine Corps for the personal challenge, the benefits to my career and education, and to be a part of an elite organization.

**Greatest achievement since joining the Marine Corps:** Since graduating Marine Corps Recruit Training in July of 2008, I have successfully completed my sophomore and junior years of college, while working a full time job, and balancing my civilian life with my role as a Lance Corporal in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. Aside from my achievements in my civilian life, I have become a role model for young Marines and have also grown into a capable Marine who can always be counted on by my superiors to accomplish any mission quickly and diligently.

**Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Marine Corps:** Before I leave the Marine Corps, I hope to earn the rank of Corporal prior to being commissioned a Second Lieutenant. Furthermore, I hope to reach the rank of Captain and be given command of a company before I leave the Marine Corps.

**Plans after Marine Corps life:** When I finally leave the Marine Corps, I hope to be able to use my degree in History as well as all of the experience the Marine Corps has and will give me to pursue a career as a teacher.

## COAST GUARD HOLIDAY PARTY



Lt Doug Watson and his wife Lisa were among those in attendance at the Coast Guard Holiday Party held at Briny's Irish Pub. The Council received this email from him after the event:

*Please pass along my appreciation to your groups for the wonderful Christmas party. Our crew enjoyed every minute and had nothing but great things to say! Again, we could never provide an event like this on the CG morale money we receive from HQ! Thanks again!*

V/R,

LT Doug Watson  
Commanding Officer  
CG Station Fort Lauderdale

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
Post Office Box 39252  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-9252

