



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 22 ISSUE 6

George Reeves, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

JUNE 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## MAY DINNER SOCIAL



Captain Patrick A. Lefere (shown with Council President George Reeves), Commanding Officer of Naval Air Station Key West, was the guest speaker at the dinner social held on May 12. He gave the audience a very interesting, and often entertaining, look at the past 100 years of naval aviation. Captain Lefere took the audience through these early years of naval aviation and then focused his presentation on the history surrounding Naval Air Station Key West. Although naval aviation started on November 14, 1910 when Eugene Ely, in a Curtiss Pusher, conducted a flight from the deck of the USS Birmingham, May 8, 1911 was designated as the birth date of naval aviation. On that date Captain Washington Chambers ordered two Curtiss biplanes for the Navy. The first naval flight ever made from Key West was on September 22, 1917 when a Curtiss N-9 seaplane was flown by Coast Guard Lt. Stanley Parker who went on to become the Station's first Commanding Officer. Today, the Air Station's supports operational and readiness requirements for Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Guard units, federal agencies, and allied forces. The Air Station is also host to many tenant commands.

## JUNE EVENTS

The June dinner social has been cancelled. The next dinner social will be on September 8, 2011. Enjoy your summer!



Our adopted unit, Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC), will hold its annual Family Day on June 5, 2011 beginning at 9 AM. All Council members are encouraged to attend. There will be a BBQ lunch served; non-family visitors will be asked to pay a nominal fee. NOSC is located at 18650 NE 62nd Avenue, Miami.



LT Doug Watson, commanding officer of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale will be relieved by LT Paul E. Turner at a change of command ceremony on June 17<sup>th</sup>. LT Watson, his wife Lisa and their family will be moving back to Alaska. LT Watson has been a good friend to the Council and he will be missed.



Captain Rick Kenin, commanding officer of Coast Guard Station Miami will be relieved by Captain Joe B. Kimball at a change of command ceremony on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Captain Kenin also has been a good friend to the Council and will be staying in South Florida. We look forward to seeing him at future Council events.

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

### **Fleet Week 21 – An outstanding event**

The entire experience was an unqualified success.

And we at Broward County Council perpetuated our active support of the Week's events by providing numerous volunteers to manage the oftentimes complex and intricate jobs needed to make this event happen. Hands on work that extends from the bilge to the crow's-nest.

For us who work the event, calling the occasion, "Fleet Week", is somewhat of a misnomer, much the same as referring to Christmas as a Day.

For the volunteers, activity begins months before to plan and organize the ship/port logistics, the ubiquitous security procedures which this year seemed to evolve daily, the visits of several thousand civilians, high school JROTC students, Sea Cadets, for the on board tours. And equally important, the many community outreach programs for some 2,500 sailors, Marines and Coasties, including hospital visits, Habitat activities, calls on Veteran groups, sport fishing, athletic events and professional prowess sea service skill competitions. And we all had to accommodate to new event registration processes.

Intertwined with our volunteer jobs, we arranged our own Council Junior Officers reception and many of us attended events hosted by our other seafaring colleagues during the week.

For our Council, work started months before – as always. Tom Jones managed the electronic ship visit system with his own wizardry. Joe Giambone continued with the ship tour process which involved handling some 7,000 tours, it all worked flawlessly, with Teresa Perez, Al and Shelly Stein, Tom Carney, Anita Carmell, Dottie Kirk, Erwin and Joan Sefton and Fran Shaw helping at the check in area. Bill Weiler spent considerable time arranging JROTC tours. For the outreach events, Al Stein, Bob Marks, Mike Gordon and Erwin accompanied sailors on hospital and habitat visits, Ernie Gorwood on Fire and Rescue ride alongs, Peter Caspari on the fishing tours, Alan Starr with the Sea Cadet visits. Shelley Beck coordinated the activities of all Fleet Week volunteers.

And there was the water/soft drink barge crowd supervised, as always, by Don and Phyllis Bannister. Helpers here were Tom Carney, Larry Ott, Sandra Jones, Charlie Schmidt, Erwin and Ernie. Sales were at a record including the demand for Council coins from Joe's stash. There were constant trips to replenish depleted inventory including ice. The volunteers here should have joined the Teamsters Union. I won't mention the net revenue but we easily recouped our donation to Broward Navy Days.

Of course, there was the BND contingent of the Fleet Week management group, Council members all, consisting of Denise Johnston, Garry Murphy, and the overall guru, our own Mary Anne Gray.

So in many ways, the success of Fleet Week reflected well on Broward County Council

I know I've forgotten someone and for this I apologize.

George



## ***WEBSITES***

Do you enjoy reading *Seapower*? You can now visit their new website at [www.seapowermagazine.org](http://www.seapowermagazine.org). The website offers sea service and defense industry news and photos that are not found in the magazine.

Don't miss out on Council news over the summer months. Visit the Council's website at [www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org).

## ***THANK YOU FROM JROTC***

What does it mean to the JROTC cadets to receive recognition from our Council? Read for yourself:

*Teresa - I am grateful for your time and support last night in attending the FLANAGAN NJROTC end-of-year Awards Dinner. The Navy League should be commended for the tremendous support they provide the local JROTC units. In the austere economic climate of today, the Navy League stands alone in providing an impressive scholarship package to a deserving future college-bound student. And the Teddy Roosevelt Medal and certificate are very impressive indeed.*

*Again, thank you for your time and support. I hope our paths cross again soon.*

*LCDR Jim Stauffer  
Charles W. Flanagan HS NJROTC*

Email was addressed to Teresa Perez who attended the awards ceremony and made presentations on behalf of the Council.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

John Kirkpatrick, 804 Ponce de Leon Dr, Fort Lauderdale  
FL 33316-1249, no email or sponsor provided

Alan W. Adler, 2001 Harwood C, Deerfield Beach FL  
33442, Phone 954-429-3888 (h) 954-270-8002 (w)  
Email: [comedyawa@comcast.net](mailto:comedyawa@comcast.net) Sponsor: Phyllis  
Bannister

Lynne Bender, 777 S Federal Hwy RP214, Pompano  
Beach FL 33062 Phone 954-783-6302 (h) 954-592-1610  
(cell), No email or sponsor provided

Scott Mitchell Kupferman, 7944 Pines Blvd, Pembroke  
Pines FL 33024-6908 phone 757-244-0742, email:  
[smkupferman@gmail.com](mailto:smkupferman@gmail.com) sponsor: Tom Jones

### DO YOU KNOW THESE LIFE MEMBERS?

We have lost track of the following life members. The  
addresses we have on file are no longer valid and we do  
not have email addresses for them. If you know the cor-  
rect address and/or email for anyone listed, please send it  
to [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com).

Edward Bleckner  
Wilber Bull  
Wilber Bull  
Joe Ellis  
Anne Garzilli  
Ann Heath  
John Brady (American Maritime Officers)  
John Dimattei (Internav Corp.)

Roy Kelley  
Jeanne Little  
Winifred Mallory  
Alberto Vadia  
Ernest Wheeler  
John Zamperini

## HOLD THE DATE



The fourth annual Guardians Gala, hosted by the South Florida Coast Guard Association, will be held on Saturday, October 22, 2011 at the Westin Diplomat Hotel and Resort in Hollywood. The South Florida Coast Guard Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing professional development and networking opportunities for all South Florida Coast Guard personnel – active, reserve, retired, auxiliary, civilian – and friends. Their mission is to provide opportunities for members to develop professionally and enjoy the camaraderie associated with military and community service by hosting and participating in professional and morale events based on the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. Visit their website for more information at: [www.thesfcga.com](http://www.thesfcga.com).

## AWARD NOMINATION



Chief of Naval Personnel announced the selection of the Navy's nominees for the 2010 Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award. Board members Al and Shelly Stein were nominated by Col. Matthew Glunz, commanding officer of Joint Intelligence Operations Center Europe (JIOCEUR) Analytic Center, RAF Molesworth, United Kingdom. "Mr. and Mrs. Stein have had a global impact touching the lives of tens of thousands of military service members by creating and selflessly implementing numerous programs showing their unyielding support to the troops," said Glunz. The Steins will compete with nominees from the other services for this prestigious award. The winner will be honored during a ceremony this fall at the Pentagon.

The Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher Distinguished Civilian Humanitarian Award program was established in 1996, by the military departments in honor of Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher. The award recognizes and honors a private sector individual or organization that has demonstrated exceptional patriotism and humanitarian concerns for members of the armed forces and their families.

Most Council members know of the Steins' tireless efforts in providing care packages to our service members. It is an honor to have them as members of our Council and we congratulate them on this nomination.

## MAY DINNER SOCIAL

Taravella High School NJROTC cadets presented the colors



James Lee, student at Cardinal Gibbons and grandson of past board member Dotty Porges, spoke to the audience about his project to collect DVDs and CDs for the crew of the Leyte Gulf. More information about James' project will be in the next issue of the Helmsman.



New member Alan Adler (left) was welcomed by board member Charlie Schmidt



## NLUS REGIONAL MEETING



*George Reeves and Shelly Beck at the Region Meeting*

The Florida Region Navy League meeting was held in Melbourne Florida on May 21, 2011. Navy Leaguers from Central, Northeast and South Florida councils attended; Shelly Beck, Marianne Giambrone, George Reeves and Bill Weiler represented the Broward County Council. Joe Giambrone, South Florida Area President also attended. George participated in the tour of Naval Ordnance Training Unit (NOTU) at Patrick Air Force Base on Friday. NOTU directly supports the mission capability and readiness of the United States Navy's Trident Submarines as well as the Fleet Ballistic Missile program of the United Kingdom. NOTU operates the Navy Port at Port Canaveral, supporting submarines and surface ships of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet and foreign navies and assets of the Military Sealift Command. The meeting agenda included discussions on legislative affairs, corporate affairs & development, youth programs, membership/retention, and individual augmentee (IA) recognition. Bill Weiler, who is the Region Vice President of Membership/Retention gave the audience suggestions on increasing membership and improving retention. Joe Giambrone gave an overview of the activities of the seven South Florida councils and George Reeves gave a summary of Council activities.



# HONORING OUR YOUTH



The color guard unit from Taravella High School Navy JROTC presented the colors at the May dinner social. Captain Ted Le Feuvre, Senior Naval Science Instructor, spoke to the audience about the accomplishments of several of the cadets.

Council President George Reeves and Board Member/ Youth Program Coordinator Allan Starr were joined by Captain Le Feuvre in presenting the Teddy Roosevelt Medal to Cadet LTJg Raymond Washington, shown in photo above.

A scholarship check and certificate was presented to Cadet LCDR Andrea Londono, shown in photo below.



Board member Teresa Perez attended the awards ceremony for the Flanagan High School JROTC unit on May 18, 2011. She presented Cadet PO3 Christian May (shown above) with the Teddy Roosevelt Medal.

Cadet LTJg Megan Tienjaroonkul (shown below) was selected to receive the scholarship award. She was selected for her outstanding academic achievements, achieving a 5.036 GPA (weighted) and being number 8 of 775 class seniors. Megan's other accomplishments include having been awarded the Teddy Roosevelt medal, the Vietnam Veterans of America youth medal, and the Presidential Academic award. She is a literary fair honoree, a summer science academy top student, a NJROTC operations officer and a member of Mu Alpha Theta (3 years). Bravo Zulu Cadet Tienjaroonkul!



Photos provided by Joe Motes

## SUPPORTING OUR MARINES

The Council – through the efforts of Shelly and Al Stein and in conjunction with Operation Homefront– will continue to send care packages to deployed Marines over the summer months. We recently had a request from the Marines for black boot length cotton socks. We were told that they go through socks very fast so they prefer the inexpensive ones that can be found at stores like Target or Wal-Mart. Now that the days are getting hotter, they are experiencing problems with mosquitoes and are asking for mosquito nets and insect repellent. Of course, they always enjoy receiving DVDs, dried fruit, candy, magazines, and personal care items. Donations of items for care packages or towards the cost of items for care packages/postage are always appreciated. Contact Al Stein at 954-472-0285 or at [alan33325alan@yahoo.com](mailto:alan33325alan@yahoo.com) to arrange for drop-off of items or to get more information on how to make a donation.

Here are recent thank you emails:

*Alan and Shelly, I am First Sergeant Frakes, the Weapons Company 1/5 First Sergeant. I would like to personally thank you for all of the nice things that you sent for my boys. Tell everyone down there in Broward County the Marines of Weapons Company 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 5<sup>th</sup> Marines appreciate everything they are doing for us. I have already passed out the stuff to the Marines, and they are already enjoying it. I wish nothing but good things to happen to all of you for all that you do.*

*Semper Fidelis,*

*1stSgt James D. Frakes*

*We did, indeed, receive your packages today. We got packages of socks and books, exactly what our guys need and want. Thanks so much, I can't begin to explain how much this means to the guys of my company. We have had some wounded Marines the last two weeks. As we send casualties back to the United States, the Marines wonder if anyone cares...especially back home in a country where people are more concerned with Charlie Sheen than the heroes we see do extraordinary things every day. But alas, someone does care and it means so much to the junior Marines. Thanks so much for sending us the packages and restoring a bit of these guys' faith back in the US.*

*Respectfully,*

*Robert R. Fafinski III  
First Lieutenant, USMC  
H&S Company Commander, 3/4*



## OUR YOUTH ENJOYED FLEET WEEK

During Fleet Week, numerous local elementary and high school students as well as Boy Scout troops were able to tour the visiting military ships. Four classes from Silver Ridge Elementary School in Davie (our Partner in Education) came to the port for tours. In addition, 777 JROTC cadets from 18 South Florida units participated in tours. Five of the Council's "adopted" JROTC units were among those visiting the ships. Following are thank you emails from our adopted unit, Flanagan High School NJROTC; Miami Beach High School Drum Corps and Boy Scout Troop 249:

*I wish to thank you and the Navy League for an outstanding day at Fleet Week. We attended with 40 cadets on Thursday and went aboard the CG and the LHD. Other than the stifling heat, the students had a magical day and REALLY enjoyed their tours. We adjusted our in-class curriculum to include shipboard operations and systems and the students received real-time feedback by listening to the tour guides and seeing the equipment first hand. Great job, Navy League!!!*

*Regards,*

*Jim*

*LCDR Jim Stauffer*

*Charles W. Flanagan HS NJROTC*

*Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the tour, everything was extremely well organized and presented. The students surely gained knowledge and experience that will be invaluable for their future.*

*THANK YOU*

*Paul*

*Miami Beach High School Drum Corps*

*This was one of our favorite trips ever! Thank you so much for all your help with arranging this for our Troop. I have attached a few photos showing some of the awesome experiences and lots of smiles.*

*Thanks again,*

*Keenan Klos*

*Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 249*



# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Leadership from the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) embarked aboard the Italian carrier ITS Giuseppe Garibaldi (C 551) in early May to allow the two coalition partners to strengthen ties through shared experiences, ideas

and insight. The embark provided the opportunity for Capt. Steven Yoder, commander of amphibious squadron (PHIBRON) 6; Capt. Steve Koehler, commanding officer of Bataan; and Col. Eric Steidl, commanding officer of 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), to discuss current operations and experience the daily routine of their Italian counterparts through a series of briefs at various stations around the Italian ship. Garibaldi and Bataan are both operating in the Mediterranean Sea, with Bataan conducting maritime security operations and providing support as required for coalition forces assigned to Operation Unified Protector. "It was an invaluable visit," said Koehler. "It allows us to gain a mutual understanding of our current operations and to forge relationships that will increase our navies' international interoperability. That's something we certainly want to build upon during our time in the Mediterranean. We look forward to returning the hospitality with a visit aboard Bataan."



The Marine Corps' short-takeoff/vertical-landing (STOVL) F-35B Joint Strike Fighter has completed all of the vertical landings and about 80% of the short take-offs required to begin testing aboard an amphibious assault ship later this year. The

F-35 Energy-Management diagrams, which display an aircraft's energy and maneuvering performance within its airspeed range and for different load factors, are similar to the F/A-18 but the F-35 offers better acceleration at certain points of the flight envelope. Beyond visual range, the aircraft's radar and stealthiness will enable it to dominate the skies. The Marine Corps has singled out the F-35 and the Amphibious Combat Vehicle, which replaced the recently canceled Expeditionary Fighting Vehicle effort, as its two most essential programs in the forthcoming budget crunch.



Military Sealift Command hospital ship USNS Comfort (T-AH 20) held several events to commemorate Nurses Week. Nurses Week is an internationally celebrated recognition event that was first observed in 1954, marking the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's mission to Crimea. It begins each year May 6 and ends May 12, Nightingale's birthday.



The first Fast Response Cutter in the Sentinel Class will be the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER, currently under construction in Louisiana. The cutter will be 153 feet, capable of 28 plus knots, with a crew of 22 guardians. The cutter is named for Petty Officer

First Class Bernie Webber who executed one of the most famous rescues in Coast Guard history. He piloted a lifeboat from Station Chatham Massachusetts to the stricken freighter Pendleton which split into two during a massive storm off of Cape Code on February 18, 1952. Fighting 70 knot winds, 50 foot seas and driving snow, Webber and his three crew members safely rescued 32 sailors. The cutter will be commissioned in Miami, probably at the end of the year. Broward County Council has been asked to assist with the commissioning ceremony; details will be forthcoming.



Members of Team Navy/Coast Guard ascended upon Colorado Springs, Colorado to compete in the 2011 Warrior Games from May 16-21. The second annual Warrior Games took place at the Olympic Training Center and the U.S. Air Force Academy.

The team of 34 men and women shared a desire to win and a deep determination to compete. The warriors did not only train for themselves. They trained, they said, to give hope to other service members that have been seriously wounded, ill, or injured. The members of Team Navy/Coast Guard planned to excel in competition but they agree that the Games are about much more than medal counts. "I come out to the Warrior Games to show people what they can do," said Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Dayton, a member of the sitting volleyball team. "The Warrior Games is the culminating event to our adaptive activities. It is a great program, because it allows us to focus on our possibilities and not our disabilities." Because of this spirit the word "wounded" has been purposely excluded from the title of the competition. The team is sponsored by Navy Safe Harbor, the Navy's lead organization for coordinating the non-medical care of wounded, ill, and injured Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, and their families. Through proactive leadership, Safe Harbor provides a lifetime of individually tailored assistance designed to optimize the success of enrollees' recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration activities. (Shown in photo is Retired Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Nathan R. DeWalt, a member of the Navy/Coast Guard Warrior Games wheelchair basketball team.)

# FLEET WEEK



Joe Giambrone and Mike Gordon hung the Council banner at Port Everglades



Ernie Gorwood with therapy dog during a visit with sailors to the Chris Everett Children's Hospital



Celebrity lunch aboard the USS Ross—Chef Saucy from Café Maxx in Pompano Beach is shown here holding the plaque; he's joined by the CO and several his children



The ships' chefs were hard at work during the Galley Wars competition, held at Hugh's Catering.



Council President George Reeves prepared to board the nuclear sub USS Annapolis



Council members Diane and Charlie Schmidt enjoyed the tour of the USS Normandy. Over 7,000 people were able to tour the visiting military ships during Fleet Week.



## FLEET WEEK



Thanks to Don Bannister (shown), his wife Phyllis and numerous volunteers, over \$1,400 was raised through the sale of water, soda and Council coins.



These Navy Leaguers from Maine flew down to see their son during Fleet Week and joined him at the Junior Officers Party.



Board member Larry Ott showed these Marines a warm welcome to Fort Lauderdale by paying for their dinners



South Florida Area President Joe Giambrone (left) with Congressman Allen West at the VIP reception held prior to the dignitary reception aboard the USS Iwo Jima



Board member Alan Stein enjoyed himself at the Junior Officers' Party, hosted by the Council, at our community affiliate Briny's Irish Pub and Riverfront Restaurant



Board member Erwin Sefton (center) accompanied sailors to the First Presbyterian Church where they painted the building behind them in this photo. Other civilians shown are members of the church.

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# SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT—USS LEYTE GULF



SN Michael Cleary

**Hometown:** Tucson, Arizona

**Duty Title:** Undesignated SN

**Time in the Navy** (years and months): 11 months

**Why I joined the Navy:** A new career, to explore the world, and to support my family.

**Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience:** Being involved in a job that feels like it has a greater purpose - that and driving the RHIB.

**Greatest achievement since joining the Navy:** Being awarded BJOQ and getting married.

**Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy:** Finishing my Master's degree and going to OCS.

**Plans after Navy life:** Continuing the family life and hopefully finding yet another career.

**The thing I like the most about my job is:** The special evolutions and getting to see different parts of the world.

## PROUD AVIATORS



The May dinner meeting was all about the naval aviation. Shown here are four proud aviators. From left to right are LCDR Brett Bormann, Commanding Officer, Naval Operational Support Center Miami; Captain Rick Kenin, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station Miami; Captain Patrick Lefere, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station Key West; and board member and Past President Bill Weiler.

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.  
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