



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 22 ISSUE 5

George Reeves, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

MAY 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

## MAY DINNER SOCIAL



Shelly Beck, event coordinator, with Easter bunny BM3 Brett Lawrence

The Council's annual Coast Guard Easter egg hunt and BBQ was held on Saturday, April 16, at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Coastguardsmen from Station Fort Lauderdale, Air Station Miami and Sector Miami and their families joined Council members and friends for an overcast, but very enjoyable day. Children of all ages came with baskets ready to find the almost 500 plastic colored eggs scattered on the grounds of the Station. The children were also able to enjoy the bounce house and face painter and all children went home with a toy and candy. Adults and children were able to enjoy hot dogs, burgers, salads, chips, cookies, water and soda. Cooks for the day were board members Erwin Sefton, Alan Stein and Charlie Schmidt. Special thanks to our community affiliate Ships Supply for once again donating the majority of the food and to Public Supermarkets on Cordova Road for donating the bottled water and soda. A big thank you goes to Council member Shelly Beck who coordinated the event and was assisted by Dottie Kirk.

Thursday , May 12, 2011

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

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

Program: Centennial Year of Naval Aviation

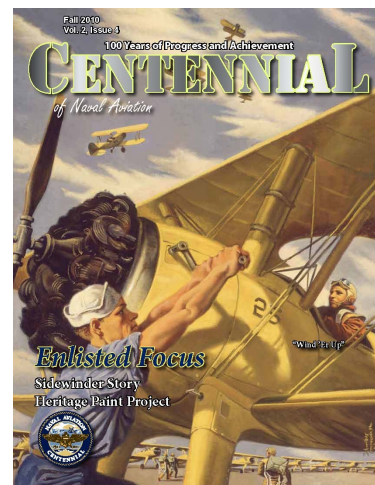
Guest Speaker: Captain Patrick A. Lefere  
Commanding Officer, Naval Air Station, Key West

Dinner Choices: Prime Rib or Shrimp Scampi

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

Make your reservation by May 7, 2011

Send an email to [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com) or  
Call Joan Sefton at 954-753-2322



## ***FLEET WEEK***

Fleet Week went by quickly for those Council members who were able to participate in the numerous events. We hope that you were able to get out and meet some of the sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen that visited Fort Lauderdale.

The week started with the public lining the shores to watch the USS Iwo Jima, USS Normandy, USS Ross, and the USS Annapolis arrive in Port Everglades. (Coast Guard cutters Gannet and Diamondback also participated in Fleet Week.) The VIP welcome reception was held Monday night at the Bluepoint Ocean Grill and was attended by officers from the visiting ships, local government officials, sponsors as well as Broward Navy Days and Navy League members. The reception was followed by the Official All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party, held in the courtyard of the Paradise Shoppes at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. The enlisted persons of the year from the various ships were recognized for their accomplishments and, after a few welcoming comments, the evening was all about the sailors, Marines and Coastguardsmen enjoying themselves. The Hard Rock provided free food and drinks and the Navy band entertained the crowd. On Tuesday evening, the Council hosted the Junior Officers party at Briny's Irish Pub. The event was well attended and, as they say, a good time was had by all. On Wednesday, some very lucky individuals had the opportunity to enjoy lunch onboard the military vessels. Several local chefs joined the Navy chefs to produce delicious meals which were served to guests and military personnel. Thursday night was also about food - Galley Wars took place at Hugh's Catering. Guests watched the chefs from the visiting ships compete against each other using a "mystery" ingredient similar to the Iron Chef TV show. Friday brought the week to a close with a farewell reception onboard the USS Iwo Jima.

The above were just a few of the public events that took place during the week. Of course, there were also the numerous public tours of the visiting ships. Thanks to the efforts of Tom Jones and Joe Giambrone, who were instrumental in ensuring these tours went off smoothly, over 7,000 people participated in the tours. Numerous schools, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Sea Cadets and JROTC units were able to participate. For the military, there was a golf tournament, school and hospital visits, damage control Olympics, athletic events, a fishing tournament, beach clean-up and more. A special thanks to Don and Phyllis Bannister who set up a booth at the port to sell bottled water and soda; all proceeds were donated to the Council. And a huge thank you to all the volunteers from the Council who stepped up and assisted at the week's events.

*Council members at the VIP Welcome Reception at Bluepoint Ocean Grill*



## ***MAY'S GUEST SPEAKER***



**CAPTAIN PATRICK A. LEFERE  
UNITED STATES NAVY**

Captain Patrick A. Lefere, a native of Jackson Michigan, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1986. He received his commission in September 1986 upon completing Aviation Officer

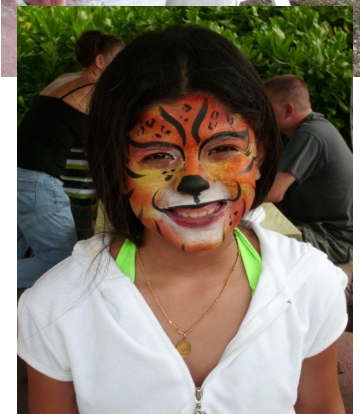
Candidate School in Pensacola Florida as a Distinguished Naval Graduate. After receiving his wings in April 1988, he was assigned as a Selectively Retained to VT-4 in Pensacola as a T-2 instructor pilot where he received Instructor Pilot of the Year honors for 1989. In April 1990, Captain Lefere reported to VFA-125 in Lemoore California for Fleet Replacement Training in the F/A-18. Upon completion of this training he was assigned to the BLUE DIAMONDS of VFA-146 where he completed two deployments to the Arabian Gulf onboard USS NIMITZ (CVN 68). Captain Lefere returned to VFA-125 as an Instructor Pilot in February 1994 and in 1995, he was awarded ROUGH RAIDER Instructor Pilot of the Year and Junior Officer of the Year. He left Lemoore in February 1997 and reported to the VFA-81 SUNLINERS at NAS Cecil Field Florida as a department head. With the SUNLINERS, he deployed onboard USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69) to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf.

Following his department head tour, Captain Lefere was assigned to the Naval Personnel Command in Millington Tennessee where he performed his duties as the F/A-18 Assignment Officer from July 1999 to July 2001. He then spent a year as Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Strike Fighter Wing, U.S. Atlantic Fleet at NAS Oceana Virginia where he was selected for operational command. Captain Lefere reported for duty as the Executive Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 136 in February 2003 and assumed command of the squadron in May 2004. During his time with the KNIGHTHAWKS, he deployed onboard USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN 73) to the Arabian Gulf. Following this tour, he earned a Masters Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, Newport Rhode Island in November 2006. From Newport, he was assigned to U.S. Joint Forces Command where he served as the Force Rotation Branch Chief for the Operations and Plans Directorate (J3) until January 2010.

Captain Lefere took command of Naval Air Station Key West, Florida in June 2010. He has logged over 3,800 flight hours and accumulated 598 carrier landings. His individual decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, two Meritorious Service Medals, two Strike Flight Air Medals, four Navy Commendation Medals, the Joint Service Achievement Medal and two Navy Achievement Medals.



# THE MANY FACES OF THE EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ





## SEA CADET COMPETITION

The 4th annual Southeast Florida U S Naval Sea Cadet Flagship Competition was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale on April 2, 2011. The event was hosted by the Spruance Division Sea Cadets, which is lead by our board member Alan Starr. Three other Sea Cadet Units from the tri-county area (American Veterans Division - Palm Beach, Enterprise Division—Miami and the West Palm Beach Division) participated. Over 140 Cadets, age 10-18, competed as teams in 15 events that showcased Naval training including personnel inspection, exhibition drill with rifles, firefighting, rescue line heaving, air rifle marksmanship, a stretcher race carrying a "casualty" through a hatch, knot tying, a mile run, and pull-ups, sit-ups and push-ups. The competition was an all-day event with active duty Coast Guard personnel judging the events. Below are some photos of the event.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Additional photos from the Coast Guard Easter egg hunt.





## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Alexander Leon, 7421 SW 14 Street, Plantation FL 33317  
Home phone 954-792-4954  
Email: [alex@deltafloida.com](mailto:alex@deltafloida.com)

Raiza Diaz, 4151 West 10th Avenue, Hialeah FL 33012  
home phone 305-951-2453, work 305-995-3777, email  
[anasquadron@aol.com](mailto:anasquadron@aol.com) Sponsor George Reeves

### NATIONAL DUES

Did you know that you can save money when renewing your national dues. National dues are payable in the anniversary month of when you joined the Navy League.

Individual membership (one year) - \$50  
Individual membership (two years) - \$90 – save \$10  
Individual membership (three years) - \$125 – save \$25

## MAY EVENTS

An evening celebrating the life and memory of Joe Millsaps is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2011. The event will be held at the Westin Beach Resort & Spa in Fort Lauderdale from 7-9 PM. Tickets are \$150 per person and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Joe Millsaps Endowed Scholarship Fund. Tickets must be purchased by May 6 at [www.nova.edu/invite/humanitarian](http://www.nova.edu/invite/humanitarian). For additional information, contact 954-262-2110 or [clarroch@nova.edu](mailto:clarroch@nova.edu).

The annual awards banquet for the Spruance Division Sea Cadets will be held on May 21, 2011. The banquet will be held at Tropical Acres Steakhouse and begins at 4 PM. Tickets are \$32.50 per person. For more information and to purchase a ticket, contact Leo Greenfield at 954-921-7502 or [bobbj55bhi@aol.com](mailto:bobbj55bhi@aol.com)

The Florida Region Navy League meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2011 at the Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place Hotel in Melbourne Florida. The meeting begins at 9 AM and should end by about 3 PM. Lunch will be onsite and the cost is \$30 per person – lunch choices are chicken, sirloin or mahi mahi. There is a special Navy League rate for the hotel (\$85 for standard room; \$99 for junior suite – breakfast buffet is included). Hotel reservations must be made by May 6 to take advantage of these special rates. Use group code FRPC when contacting the hotel at 321-768-0200. A 3-hour tour of the Naval Ordnance Training Unit (NOTU) at Patrick AFS has been scheduled for Friday, May 20, at 1 PM. For more information and to register for the meeting, contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545 or [giambronejm@gmail.com](mailto:giambronejm@gmail.com). All Navy League members are invited to attend.

## SEA SERVICE NEWS



Sailors stationed aboard the USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) recently spent time with children enrolled at the Regional Institute of

Active Learning (RIA) in Adliya, Bahrain, during a community relations (COMREL) project. Sailors spent time in the classrooms with students, assisting the staff, tutoring and playing games with the students. After a brief introduction period between Sailors and students, the volunteers were divided by class subject to assist students in specific areas of focus, such as English and math. Once the morning lessons were complete, Sailors and students participated in a recess period, which included a game of basketball, followed by lunch outdoors. RIA was founded by Dr. Emad Al Attar and his wife Christine Gordon in 1999 to help ensure special needs students received the same educational opportunities afforded to non-special needs children. Gordon expressed her thanks to the Sailors of Leyte Gulf for volunteering their time. RIA is a non-profit organization that is funded through nominal school fees and from charitable contributions from members of the community.



Sailors and Marines assigned to the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (BATARG) and 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) received a visit from the Commander, U.S. Second Fleet in early April. Vice Adm.

Daniel Holloway visited each of the three ARG ships during the final two days of a rigorous integration training cycle designed to prepare the blue-green team for a broad range of amphibious operations. During the three weeks of accelerated training, Sailors and Marines tested their ability to perform in such areas as flight deck and well deck operations, air and surface-defense exercises, replenishments-at-sea, small boat operations, medical evacuations, non-combatant evacuation, and tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel. "I came out here for one reason only, and that is to congratulate you on the way you have come together during this training," said Holloway in an address to Sailors and Marines on board USS Bataan (LHD 5). "It is no small feat to surge like you have. You have risen to the occasion and knocked this training out of the park."



# FLEET WEEK

Below are photos from the VIP welcome reception held at Bluepoint Ocean Grill, the Junior Officers Party hosted by the Council at Briny's Irish Pub, the VIP reception on the USS Iwo Jima and the Farewell reception onboard the USS Iwo Jima. More photos of Fleet Week activities will appear in the June issue of the Helmsman.





## FLEET WEEK

On Friday, April 29, RADM Tim Alexander made a visit to Nininger's Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines. The veterans as well as the young sailors and Marines who participated in the visit enjoyed sharing stories of their military careers. Board member Alan Stein accompanied RADM Alexander on the visit.



*Shown left is RADM Tim Alexander with a vet at Nininger*

*Shown in middle photo is Alan Stein with Marines who participated in visit*

*Shown in bottom photo is the Nininger vet surrounded by staff members and the visiting sailors*

## USS LEYTE GULF



The Council recognized outstanding sailors of the quarter from the USS Leyte Gulf with certificates and checks. Shown in the photo are (left to right) Sailor of the Quarter BM1(SW) Melvin Wilson, Junior Sailor of the Quarter GSM2(SW) Antonio Canes and Bluejacket of the Quarter SN Michael Cleary.

The Council received the following message from the XO:

*BC Navy League,*

*We received the certificates and checks this past week. Thanks for your generosity; the Sailors appreciated the gesture!*

*V/R XO  
CDR Hank Viado  
USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55)*

Shown in photo below, Lt. Shalanda Warr (right) presents Seaman Dagmawit Y. Tarekegn (left) with the Council's Blue Jacket of the 1st Quarter Award aboard the Leyte Gulf. Leyte Gulf is currently deployed to the US 5th Fleet area of responsibility to conduct maritime security operations.





# HONORING OUR YOUTH

The awards ceremony for the Navy JROTC unit at Cooper City High School was held on April 1, 2011. Board members Alan Starr, Bill Weiler and Teresa Perez attended the event. Alan and Bill presented the Teddy Roosevelt Medal to Cadet Gunner Shaw. Cadet CO Daniel Yanks was presented with a scholarship check and certificate to recognize his accomplishments.



Above from left to right: Alan Starr, Daniel Yanks and Bill Weiler

Below from left to right: Bill Weiler, Gunner Shaw and Alan Starr



The awards ceremony for the Marine Corps JROTC unit at Stranahan High School was held on April 28, 2011. Board member Alan Starr attended the event and presented the Teddy Roosevelt Medal to Cadet Shinnomon Bartley (in photo above) as well as a scholarship check and certificate to Cadet Taylor Dewey (in photo below).





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## SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT—USS BATAAN



HM2(SW/AW) Teddy Chambers

**Hometown:** Beckley, West Virginia  
**Duty Title:** Preventive Medicine Technician  
**Time in the Navy** (years and months): 6 years and 8 months

**Why I joined the Navy:** I joined the Navy so I could do something more than just earn a paycheck

**Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience:** To serve with not only Sailors but also Marines  
**Greatest achievement since joining the Navy:** Being named Bataan Sailor of the Year for 2010

**Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy:** I'd like to earn my degree in Environmental Health

**Plans after Navy life:** I want to further my education and spend more time with my family

**The thing I like the most about my job is:** Doing a lot of my work independently

## COUNCIL PRESIDENTS ARE RECOGNIZED



The Official All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party was held in the courtyard of the Paradise Shoppes at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino on Monday, April 25. During his welcoming remarks, RADM Herman Shelanski thanked the local Navy League Councils for their support and presented the Council Presidents with a token of appreciation.

Shown with RADM Shelanski are (from left to right) Council Presidents Morrie Weinman (Boca), Rudy Oetting (Fort Lauderdale), Tom Melville (Everglades) and George Reeves (Broward County).

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.  
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