



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

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Shelley Beck, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

MAY 2012

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## MAY DINNER SOCIAL

Our May dinner social

will be held on

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road  
Fort Lauderdale

Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 Dinner at 7:15 PM

Dinner choices: Chicken Francaise  
Prime Rib

Members and guests = \$35  
Active military and spouses = \$25

Please call Joan at 561-509-7941 or email  
[bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)  
by May 4 to make your reservation

Please bring an item for the Marine "care packages"

Our apologies—information regarding the guest speaker was not available at press time; Watch your email for pertinent information.



## FLEET WEEK



For many Navy League members, Fleet Week started a day early. On Tuesday, April 24, Captain Bob Hein, Commanding Officer of the USS Gettysburg CG64, held a reception onboard the ship to thank Navy Leaguers for their support. Guests enjoyed a buffet, drinks and great conversation with an outstanding crew. Our thanks to Captain Hein for a great kick-off to Fleet Week.

Above:  
Council President Shelley Beck with Captain Bob Hein  
Left:  
Council member Erwin Sefton with ENS Stephanie Stamm



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

As we close out the month of April, what better way to end the month than to celebrate FLEET WEEK with all the men and women serving our great country. We began the week with an onboard reception the USS Gettysburg, a guided missile cruiser commanded by Capt. Bob Hein. Capt. Hein was raised right here in Broward County and his parents, Bob and Denise Hein, are members of our council and Bob is a Past President of the Council. Another Broward County resident, Capt. Gary Boardman, is commander of the USS Wasp.

The Humana Military Fleet Week 2012 is presented by Advocate Homecare, Broward Navy Days and, local Navy League Councils. The festivities started off with a bang of fireworks showcased at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino with an All Hands reception. Rear Admiral Ann C. Philips, USN welcomed everyone. The courtyard was filled with sailors, Marines, coast guard, veterans and the general public who mingled for hours and a wonderful time was had by all.

As the week progressed, many activities kept everyone on the move, with the Celebrity Chef luncheon hosted by all US Navy ships, Fort Lauderdale Coast Guard Station and Anthony's Runway 84. The food was out of this world, you didn't go hungry. Thanks to all the local chefs for coming out and supporting Fleet Week.

We continued on with the Junior Officers' reception hosted by our own Broward County Council. What a great time we had, as always, at our Community Affiliate, Briny's Pub. Our council presented a small gift to each visiting vessel for their MWR fund.

On Friday, The Office of the Secretary of Defense National Committee for the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and iReachAmerica Foundation held a breakfast dedicated to the Employers of the National Guard and the United States Reserve Service Members. Guest speaker was Rear Admiral Michael Yurina, Director, Strategic Planning and Communication, Submarine Warfare Division, Chief Naval Operations Staff. Rear Admiral Yurina also hails from Broward County. He spoke earlier in the week to the student body of his alma mater, Cardinal Gibbons High School. His parents, John and June Yurina, are members of the Broward County Council and they were also present at the school. I also attended the presentation and was warmly greeted by the Admiral.

This is only a few of the many activities that were planned for the week. Approximately, 8,000 people came out and took advantage of touring the many vessels in port. Thank you goes out to many of our council members, too many to name, and I don't want to forget anyone, so I will just say THANK YOU AND THANK YOU for all you did and gave to make this Fleet Week a huge success.

The week ended with a Dignitary Reception onboard the USS Wasp with Guest Speaker, Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr., USN. On Saturday evening, Hugh's Catering hosted the Annual Galley Wars, a mini "food chef" competition between the galleys of each visiting vessel. Again, what great food, as you can tell, we ate a lot this week !!!!

Congratulations to Flanagan High School JROTC who took the trophy home for first place. The group of 45 students was crowned champions at a national academic, athletic and drill competition. This group will present colors at our upcoming May dinner social.

Shelley Beck  
President



Council President Shelley Beck with Admiral John C. Harvey Jr. Commander, US Fleet Forces Command, and Council First Vice President Marianne Giambrone at a reception held aboard the USS Wasp LHD11 on Friday, April 27, 2012

# COMMISSIONING



On April 14, military and government leaders, Navy Leaguers, civilians and family members celebrated the launch of the first of a new generation of Coast Guard cutters designed to patrol South Florida's coasts to keep undocumented immigrants and drug smugglers from entering the state. About 400 people, including Miami-Dade Mayor Carlos A. Gimenez and U.S. Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, helped commission Bernard C. Webber, the Coast Guard's first fast-response cutter at Port Miami. The \$88 million, 154-foot Webber, bigger and far more advanced than the older, 110-foot models, is equipped with four .50-caliber machine guns and a remote-operated gyro-stabilized 25mm chain gun located near the cutter's bow, which can be fired from inside of the pilot's house, making it safer for crew members.

The cutter was put into commission by its 21 crew members. It will be commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Herb Eggert, who has been working on the fast response cutter program for several years. "This is a multi-mission cutter far more capable than the older ones," said Lt. Cmdr. Eggert. "It will be able to respond to whatever mission we have – Homeland Security, Law Enforcement and Department of Defense missions."

The cutter, designed to be faster and more stable, can sail through seas of up to 18 feet and achieve speeds of more than 32 mph. It's the first of the 58 of this type of cutter that the Coast Guard plans to build. According to Rear Adm. William D. Baumgartner, commander of the Miami-based district, the plan now is that a new cutter will arrive in Miami about every 90 days. "The first six will be home-ported in Miami and they'll operate throughout the Seventh District, wherever we need them," he said. "After that, the plan is to put the next six in Key West and the six after that will be based out of San Juan, Puerto Rico."

The ship is named for the late Chief Warrant Officer Bernard C. Weber. In fact, the entire class of fast-response cutters will be named for the Coast Guard's enlisted heroes. Webber was a first class boatswain's mate assigned to the Coast Guard in Chatham, Massachusetts on

May 9, 1952 when the 503-foot tanker S.S. Pendleton broke in half off Cape Cod from 60-foot seas and 70-knot winds. Webber and a crew of three Coast Guardsmen braved the elements to cross a sand bar to reach the sinking ship and saved 32 of the 33-man crew. All four were awarded the Coast Guard's Gold Lifesaving Medal. The story of this Coast Guard hero, told in the book *The Finest Hours*, will soon be a Disney film.

Members of our Council served on the commissioning committee and the Council made a donation towards the cost of the commissioning.



Above: Council President Shelley Beck and South Florida Area President Joe Giambrone at commissioning  
Below Chief Petty Officer Atsuko Sakurai, a Bernard C. Webber crewmember, gives a tour of the bridge to Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp.



## CARE PACKAGES



The Council continues to send care packages to our deployed Marines. You can support this program by bringing personal care or food items for the packages to any dinner social or by making a monetary donation. The support of Council members is tremendously appreciated.

The following email of thanks was received from SgtMaj Stephen Ahern who is in his 28th year in the Marines and looking forward to his upcoming retirement.

*I just wanted to say from the boys thanks for your packages. I also want to say thanks for the book Reversal it was very good read finally finished it. Hope all is going well and the Marines continue to do great things, I also believe the care packs that are sent help so once again thank you.. R/S Steve*

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## FLANAGAN HS JROTC

Flanagan High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) of Pembroke Pines took top honors in the NJROTC National Academic, Athletic and Drill competition at Pensacola Naval Air Station on April 14. Flanagan knocked off Corpus Christi's Flour Bluff High School which had won the competition 10 years in a row. Flanagan won top scores in unarmed platoon exhibition drill, armed platoon basic drill, the 16x100 yard shuttle relay and pulled off an impressive win on the academic test, with nine cadets finishing in the top 10.

Cadet Commanding Officer Tiana Chavez, a senior, said drive was the key to the Flanagan win. "The entire time, everybody was just motivated, completely wired," Chavez said. "We've wanted this for a long time." Two years ago, the team took second in the nation, and, last year, took fourth. Chavez said that led many outside the program to consider the 2005 score a fluke. "I don't think anybody thought we'd come out on top," she said.

Boca Raton High School took second in the competition for the second consecutive year. Union Grove High School of McDonough, Ga., won the athletic competition with a near-sweep of all athletic events, winning the push-up and curl-up challenges as well as the 8x220 yard oval relay. Union Grove took third place overall. Shawnee Mission North High School of Overland Park, Kansas, took fifth place, winning the drill portion of the competition.

Twenty-three NJROTC high school teams from Arkansas, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Mississippi, Nevada, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia competed in Nationals, representing the best of 615 NJROTC units nationwide. More than 900 cadets competed in the event.

The NJROTC program was established by Congress in 1964. It is conducted at accredited secondary schools throughout the nation, by instructors who are retired Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel. The NJROTC curriculum emphasizes citizenship and leadership development, as well as the maritime heritage, the significance of sea power, and naval topics such as the fundamentals of naval operations, seamanship, navigation and meteorology. Classroom instruction is augmented throughout the year by community service activities, drill competitions, field meets, visits to naval activities, marksmanship training and other military training.

*Story taken from The Sun-Sentinel*

*Editors Note:* Flanagan High School JROTC Unit is one of the Council's adopted units. The Council provides a monetary award to an outstanding senior cadet and the Teddy Roosevelt medal to an outstanding junior cadet at the end-of-school-year JROTC awards ceremony. Their color guard often presents the colors and attends our dinner socials.

## *RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING SAILORS*

The Council recognized the following outstanding sailors from our adopted ship, the USS Bataan, with monetary awards and certificates: Senior Sailor of the Quarter CTT1(SW/AW) Romano W. Rumbawa; Sailor of the Quarter ET2(SW/AW) Nicole A. Black; Junior Sailor of the Quarter AE3(AW/SW) Collin B. Peskett and Bluejacket of the Quarter BMSN(SW) Siara Rodriguez. Bravo Zulu to these fine young men and women.



CTT1(SW/AW) Romano W. Rumbawa



ET2 (SW/AW) Nicole A. Black

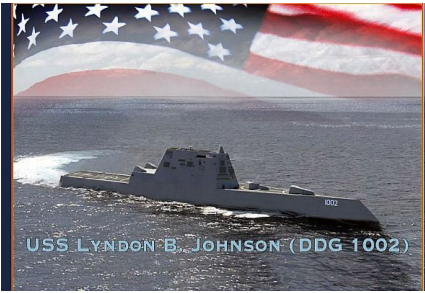


AE3(AW/SW) Collin B. Peskett



BMSN(SW) Siara Rodriguez

# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced the next Zumwalt-class destroyer will be named the USS Lyndon B. Johnson. The selection of Lyndon B. Johnson, designated DDG 1002, continues

the Navy tradition of naming ships after presidents and honors the nation's 36th president. Johnson was the first member of Congress to enlist in the military following the start of World War II. As a naval officer, Johnson requested a combat assignment after the attack on Pearl Harbor and served in the Pacific theater during World War II. After returning from active duty service, Johnson reported back to Navy leaders and Congress on what he believed were deplorable conditions for the war fighters, and continued to fight for better standards for all military members. USS Lyndon B. Johnson will be the third Zumwalt-class (DDG 1000) destroyer. Construction began on the ship at General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works in April and is expected to deliver to the Navy in fiscal 2018. The multi-mission DDG 1000 class destroyers are designed for sustained operations in the littorals and land attack and will provide independent forward presence and deterrence, support special operations forces, and operate as an integral part of joint and combined expeditionary forces. This warship integrates numerous critical technologies, systems, and principles into a complete war-fighting system. Zumwalt ships will be 600 feet in length, have a beam of 80.7 feet, displace approximately 15,000 tons, and capable of making 30 knots speed. Each ship will have a crew size of 148 officers and Sailors.



The aircraft carrier USS Enterprise CVN 65, the guided-missile cruiser USS Vicksburg CG 69, and the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Porter DDG 78 participate in

an replenishment at sea with the Military Sealift Command fast combat support ship USNS Supply (T-AOE 6). Enterprise, Vicksburg, Porter, and Supply are deployed as part of the Enterprise Carrier Strike Group supporting maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility.



In 2010, then Gunnery Sgt. Kelly Minkler was in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, as an explosive ordnance disposal section leader with 1st EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). During that deployment, Minkler was in direct support of Weapons Co., 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines. Warrant Officer Minkler is once

again in Afghanistan with 1st EOD Co., 1st MLG (Fwd) – this time as the company operations officer. Minkler, a native of Oakhurst, California, was awarded the Bronze Star with Combat Distinguishing Device for his actions on September 3, 2010. According to his award citation, Minkler and his team were on a patrol in Helmand Province, Afghanistan when a service member noticed disturbed earth. Minkler investigated the area and identified a kite string leading to the north. Without hesitation, Minkler conducted the proper immediate actions, severing the kite string and rendering safe a command pull Improvised Explosive Device (IED). He positively identified the insurgent who was planning to detonate the IED and ordered a direct fire engagement of the triggerman. After the insurgent was eliminated, he then continued to investigate the IED. The device, which consisted of an anti-disturbance switch and a 35 pound directional fragmentation charge, was a new enemy tactic never before seen in Afghanistan. Minkler's unflinching and immediate actions along with his expert analysis of the scene prevented serious injury to the members of his patrol and helped to train and educate infantry squad leaders throughout the battle space on new enemy tactics, techniques and procedures. Minkler is shown in photo with Lt. Gen. Thomas Waldhauser, the commanding general of Marine Corps Forces Central Command.



Coast Guard Station Miami Beach crewmembers recently hosted cadets from the Maritime and Science Technology Academy (MAST) for an in-depth tour of Base Miami Beach. The station transported the cadets

from the MAST Academy on Virginia Key to Base Miami Beach via two 45-foot RB-M platforms. The cadets toured the station, learned about the station's missions and also toured the Coast Guard Cutter Diamondback, an 87-foot Marine Protector Class Coastal Patrol Boat, homeported in Miami Beach. The academic focus of the MAST Academy is primarily maritime studies infused with traditional high school curriculum.

# FLEET WEEK

The following photos were taken at the reception onboard the USS Gettysburg.

Top photo: New member Mirtha Rivera with the Sailor of the year who took her and others on a tour of the ship  
Center photo: Council member Anita Carmell (left), Weapons Officer Scott Jones and new member Simone Ramos

Bottom photo: South Florida Area President Joe Giambrone with Boca Raton Council President Jerry McColgan and his wife Cathy



Many of our Council members volunteered at Port Everglades to assist with the tours of the military ships. The Council sold water and council coins at the port. Thanks to Signature Memories who donated some of the water and soda.

Top photo: One of the many JROTC units which took a tour

Center photo: (L to R) Members Charlie Schmidt, Larry Ott and Wayne McLaren who sold water and coins



Council member Alan Stein accompanied the Marines and the Chaplain from the USS Wasp who visited The Alexander Ninger State Veterans Nursing Home in Pembroke Pines



## ***JUNIOR OFFICERS PARTY***

The Council hosted a Junior Officers Party at our Community Affiliate Briny's Irish Pub on Thursday, April 26, 2012. Over 100 officers were in attendance and enjoyed great food, drinks and conversation.



## ***GALLEY WARS***

Many Council members attended Galley Wars at Hugh's Culinary on Saturday, April 28. Culinary teams from the visiting military ships competed against each other in an "iron chef" type competition; swordfish was the secret ingredient. Guests enjoyed outstanding food prepared by Hugh's Culinary as well as by the culinary teams and got to vote for their favorite team.





## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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Are you looking for a way to advertise your business at a reasonable cost?

Business card ads are available at a cost of \$125. The ad will appear in The Helmsman for one year (ten editions). If you would like to advertise your business or organization and provide financial support to the Council at the same time, contact Joe Giambrone at [giambronejm@gmail.com](mailto:giambronejm@gmail.com) or 954-389-0545.



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## COMING HOME FOR FLEET WEEK

Council members Bob and Denise Hein (photo left) were able to enjoy the week with their son, Captain Bob Hein, Commanding Officer of the USS Gettysburg while Council members John and June Yurina (photo right) spent time with their son, Rear Admiral Michael J. Yurina, Director, Strategic Planning and Communication, Submarine Warfare Division, Chief of Naval Operations Staff.



## DIGNITARY RECEPTION

On Wednesday, April 24, a dignitary reception was held at The Blue Point Grill Restaurant at Paradise Shoppes. Invited guests included officers from the visiting ships, local politicians, Fleet Week sponsors, Broward Navy Days members and Navy Leaguers.

Shown in photo (L to R) XO Justin Fellers, LTC Herb Eggert (both of the USCGC Bernard C. Webber), Miami Sector Commander Capt Chris Scraba and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler



BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.  
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