



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

SEPTEMBER 2012

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Thursday, September 13, 2012
Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road
Fort Lauderdale

PROGRAM

Team Spruance Sea Cadets
Summer Experiences

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Choice of:

Prime Rib of Beef or Seabass Oreganato

Members and Guests - \$35.00
Active Military and Spouses: \$25.00

Please RSVP your dinner choice on
or before Sept. 9
by e-mailing bcnavyleague@yahoo.com
or
calling Joan at
561-336-3610

COMMISSIONING



On August 3, 2012, Coast Guard cutter Richard Etheridge was commissioned in Port Everglades. The 154-foot Etheridge is the second Fast Response Cutter in its class of 18 Fast Response Cutters that are scheduled to be delivered to the 7th Coast Guard District over the next several years. The cutter will be homeported in Miami and will primarily perform missions to save lives, enforce U.S. and international maritime law, and ensure security in the Coast Guard's 7th District off the Southeastern coast of the U.S. and in the Caribbean Sea. The cutter has a 24-person crew commanded by Lt. Cmdr. Christian Lee (photo left).



The Etheridge is named after Richard Etheridge, a former slave who became the first African American to command a life-saving station. In 1896, he led a team of six in the daring rescue of 10 people from a schooner that had been grounded in a storm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As summer is coming to an end and students are returning back to school, it always reminds me of the excitement as a child of buying school supplies and wondering who your teacher will be for the year and of course, who are your classmates. One of your first assignments was, "What did you do over the summer?"

As we come back together after having the summer months off, "how did you spend your summer? Did you take a family vacation? Did you work all summer? Did you attend a class reunion?"

Personally, I have spent a lot of my free time volunteering with the Miami Dolphins Special Teams volunteer group and giving back to those in need throughout Broward and Miami-Dade Counties.

At the end of July, the USCGC Richard Etheridge, WPC 1102 pulled into Port Everglades to prepare for their commissioning on August 3. The weekend prior, the Fort Lauderdale Council Navy League hosted a cook out on the beach and hosted the crew and their wives/girlfriends. Attending from the Broward County Council was myself, Dottie Kirk, Garry Murphy, Mary Anne Gray, Lynn Bender and Lynn Drucker who was one of the organizers of the event. It was a beautiful evening to relax, socialize with friends and enjoy some great food.

As a member of the commissioning committee, I organized 2 community projects for the crew of the Etheridge. The first was working with Habitat For Humanity and second visiting patients at the Chris Evert Children's Hospital. Both groups truly enjoyed their project by giving back to the local community.

As we rolled into August, several of our members attended the Chairmen's Reception at Pier 66 and the following day the commissioning of the Richard Etheridge. It was a beautiful ceremony.

Please mark your calendars to attend the 9-11 memorial concert at Arts Park in Hollywood starting at 7:30 pm. This should be a great evening of music and a time to remember those who died on this dreadful day in history.

And finally, I look forward to seeing you all at our September dinner meeting where we will hear the "summer highlights" of the Spruance Division of the Naval Sea Cadets.

Shelley



COMMISSIONING

The Coast Guard cutter Etheridge's commissioning ceremony was attended by Adm. Robert Papp, U.S. Coast Guard commandant, Rear Adm William Baumgartner, commandant of the Southeast District along with other Coast Guard senior officers and distinguished federal, state and local officials as well as many Navy Leaguers. RADM Baumgartner and RADM Papp presided over the commissioning traditions: hoisting the pennant, setting the first watch and handing over the "long glass," an old-fashioned spyglass that represents a watchstander's duty. Port Chaplain Ronald Perkins delivered a final blessing: "May she enjoy calm seas and gentle breezes."

Shirley Rochon (photo below) was the ship's sponsor and is married to Rear Adm. Stephen Rochon (ret.), who helped spearhead the effort to posthumously award the Gold Lifesaving Medal to Keeper Richard Etheridge and the crew of Pea Island Station.



Council President Shelley Beck and Past President George Reeves (photo below) were two of the many Navy Leaguers in attendance at the commissioning.



SEA CADET MONTH

UPCOMING EVENTS



The following was issued by Phil Dunmire, National President of the Navy League:

The month of September is hereby proclaimed as Naval Sea Cadet Corps Month in recognition of the many benefits we all realize from this premier youth program. While I urge you to support the NSCC program fully throughout the year, designating September as NSCC Month will give you an opportunity to place special emphasis on the Navy League's exclusively sponsored youth education program. Of additional importance this year is the fact that the Naval Sea Cadet Corps is celebrating its 50th Anniversary, having been chartered by Congress on September 10, 1962 as the Navy's youth development program.

The NSCC program is an important part of the Navy League and this great country. The training and education provided to cadets prepare them exceptionally well for whatever career field they choose. The discipline, core values and teamwork these cadets learn forms the basis of their lives as citizens and future leaders of their communities.

Proclaiming September as NSCC Month commemorates the formal establishment of the Sea Cadet Corps and provides an opportunity for all Navy Leaguers to develop a deeper appreciation for this youth education program sponsored by Navy League. I strongly encourage each council to plan a special program which highlights the importance of our Sea Cadets. Councils sponsoring a Sea Cadet unit should contact their NSCC unit commanding officer to assist in coordinating Sea Cadet Month activities.

This is a golden opportunity for council members to get to know their Sea Cadet unit. Councils should encourage Sea Cadet parents to join the council sponsoring their cadets and help both the council and unit in their support of Sea Cadets. This special relationship will pay great dividends to both groups. Navy League Councils should contact NSCC headquarters to receive additional information on sponsoring a unit.

Below is a photo of the Spruance Division Sea Cadets—some of whom will be guest speakers at the dinner social



There are numerous events taking place in South Florida over the next few months. Hope you will attend at least one of them!

[9-11 Memorial Concert – September 11 – Hollywood](#)

Honor our armed forces, police, fire, EMTs and all those who were lost on September 11 at the 9-11 memorial concert sponsored by the American Legion 9th District. The American Legion Symphonic Band with vocalist James Perkowski will be featured. Also on hand will be the Florida Police Pipe & Drum Corp, members of BSO, Hollywood Police, Fire, EMT and Broward County veteran organizations. The event is at 7:30 PM at ArtsPark at Young Circle in Hollywood. Admission is free.

[Oktoberfest Celebration – October 11 – Old Heidelberg Restaurant, Fort Lauderdale](#)

Members of the Broward County Council and the Fort Lauderdale Council will join together to enjoy an evening of great conversation, food and music at the Oktoberfest celebration. Cost will be \$30 per person which will include soup, salad, choice of 6 different entrees, coffee and dessert. More details will be available in the next issue of The Helmsman as well as via email.

[Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall – October 19–21 – Davie](#)

The Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall is a three-quarter scale replica and is dedicated to all Americans who served in Vietnam and honors all veterans of the United States military forces. It will be available for viewing 24 hours a day from Friday, October 19, to Sunday, October 21, at the Forest Lawn South Funeral Home (The Pyramid) at 2401 Davie Road in Davie.

[South Florida Navy Ball – October 20 – Miami Beach](#)

Join the Navy's celebration of 237 years of service and tradition in South Beach. There will be a sunset social (champagne and cigars) at 5:30 PM followed by the ball from 6:00 – midnight. Admiral James G. Stavridis is tentatively scheduled as the guest speaker. At press time, the website (sfnavyball.com) was still under construction.

[South Florida Coast Guard Gala – October 27 – Fort Lauderdale](#)

The South Florida Coast Guard Association will hold its annual gala billed as "an evening honoring its partners in service" at the Hyatt Regency Pier 66 Hotel and Resort. The keynote speaker is Lt. Col Leo R. Gray of the Tuskegee Airmen. Tickets are \$100 per person for civilians and can be purchased on-line at thesfcga.com.

[Wings Over Homestead – November 3 and November 4 – Homestead](#)

The Air Force Thunderbirds and the Army's Gold Knights parachute team star at Homestead Air Reserve Base. For more information, go to Wingsoverhomestead.com

CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

As you can tell from the letters of appreciation on this page, there is still a need to send care packages to these brave Marines serving overseas. Donations of items for the care packages or cash donations for postage can be brought to any dinner social.

The following letter, dated July 9, was received from the Battalion Chaplain expressing appreciation for the many boxes sent to the then deployed 3/7 Marine BLT companies by our Council as well as the Weston Rotary Club and the Captain Alexander Quarrier Chapter of the DAR. Our thanks also go to both organizations for partnering with us. These organizations donated many items, a good deal of their time and either a check to cover cost of postage or the cost of mailing the boxes on their own.

Thank you for all the time and energy spent to provide 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines with care packages during our deployment to Afghanistan. The Marines and Sailors greatly appreciated the items they received, especially in the more remote areas. Your gifts lifted our spirits and helped us continue on with our mission.

All of us at 3d Battalion, 7th Marines are grateful for your efforts on the home front. We are thankful to the Broward County Navy League for all the hard work and support.

May God bless you for your service.

Sincerely,

*B. T. Johnson
Battalion Chaplain*

Alan Stein recently received the following email from the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, after they received one of the Council's care packages:

I hope this email finds you in high spirits. I have recently received some of your infamous green label packages. We are all very thankful for everything you are doing for us. Again thank you...

*Semper Fidelis,
1stSgt Marty D Dunn
Company C, "Suicide Charley"
1st Battalion, 7th Marines (FWD)
Sangin Valley, Afghanistan*

More emails thanking the Council for the packages:

My company suffered the KIA's and I would like to thank you and your wife for your sincere condolences. The men in the company are doing extremely well. I have received the packages and we at COP Tabac are sincerely appreciative of your generosity.

Again, thanks for all you do for us.

Semper Fi,

*1stSgt Young, D. B.
Dog Company
1st Battalion, 7th Marines
COP Tabac*

I hope this email finds you doing well. I apologize for taking so long to get back to you, things are pretty busy here but the Marines are doing a fantastic job and I couldn't be more proud of what they are doing day in and day out. I am honored to serve with them. We are all very appreciative of the support and everything you are doing for us here. Please pass to the companies and personnel that are supporting the effort with the care packages that we appreciate everything.

*Semper Fidelis,
1stSgt Marty D. Dunn, Marty D
Company C, "Suicide Charley"
1st Battalion, 7th Marines (FWD)*

SEAPOWERS MAGAZINES

REMINDER

If you discard your SeaPower magazines after reading them each month, please consider saving them and "recycling" them to interested veterans. Bring them to the dinner social where Board member Dottie Kirk will be glad to take them from you. Dottie shares them with the many veterans that live in her complex.

CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM



Council members may remember James Lee – grandson of Dorothy and the late Jay Porges – who attended our dinner social last year. In honor of his grandfather, James wanted to send DVDs to the crew aboard the USS Leyte Gulf (see the September 2011 issue of *The Helmsman*.)

Over the summer, James, with the assistance of the Council's Care Package Coordinator Alan Stein, sent a box of DVDs to the Marines and sailors of 1/7 H&S Company. He received the following thank you from 1stSgt Ryan Hermance. The Council would also like to thank James for his efforts.

If anyone would like to donate DVDs for James' project, please bring them to any dinner social.

Mr. Lee,

I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness on collecting and sending the DVD's to the Marines and Sailors of 1/7 H&S Co. I will get these out and ensure that everyone has a chance to enjoy them.

It sounds as though you stay quite busy with school sports and volunteering. I know it takes a lot of your time and energy and to be doing things of that nature and at your age says a lot about your character as a young man. The fact that you are preserving your grandfathers memory by sending DVD's to the troops deployed lets me know that you have very strong family values and come from a patriotic upbringing.

The men who fought in the world wars were who we looked up to as children. They were the driving force behind our country and stood for the values that our country was founded on. You should be proud of your grandfather's accomplishments, as well as your own.

I hope to be traveling near your hometown when I am able to get some vacation time and if feasible, stop by and meet you and Mr. Stein. You all have done more than enough for us and we hope for a bright and prosperous future for you and the all who have given to the men and women of the Armed Forces.

Semper Fidelis
1stSgt Ryan Hermance
1/7 H&S Company

REMEMBERING



In June 2012, Cpl Taylor J. Baune, 21, was the 2,000th American service member killed in the Afghan War. Cpl Baune was assigned to the 1/7 Marines, which is one of the units that has been receiving the Council's and Weston Rotary Club's care packages.

The following is an excerpt of an article that appeared in the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*.

Cpl. Taylor J. Baune, 21, was killed "while conducting combat operations in the Helmand province," according to a statement from the military. His wife, Colleen Baune, 20, said her husband was patrolling on foot when he was hit by a roadside bomb.

Taylor Baune became the 2,000th American to die in Operation Enduring Freedom. Baune was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force and was based out of Twentynine Palms, California.

He deployed to Afghanistan on March 24, 22 days after he married his high-school sweetheart in Las Vegas. According to family, the corporal had planned to return to civilian life after he finished his tour in November or December. Baune is the 29th soldier from Minnesota to die in combat in Afghanistan. At least nine of the previous deaths also occurred in Helmand province.



IN MEMORIAM



A U.S. Navy honor guard paid tribute to the late actor Ernest Borgnine with a full-honors military sendoff at Forest Lawn Memorial-Park and Mortuaries cemetery in Hollywood, California on July 14, 2012. The honor guard honored Borgnine's lifetime of service and contributions to the Navy and its cause. After serving in the Navy for ten years, Borgnine left the service at the end of World War II as a Petty Officer 1st

Class. Ten years later, he won an academy award for his performance as the lead in "Marty." He went on to star as the title character in the hit '60s sitcom "McHale's Navy." In 2004, then-Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Terry D. Scott awarded Borgnine with an honorary advancement to chief petty officer. "When Ernie was promoted to honorary chief ... there was never, of all the honors - even Ernie's academy award - never anything that meant as much to him," said retired U.S. Navy Capt. Kathi Dugan, one of Borgnine's closest friends. "He had tears in his eyes."

When Borgnine was making his final arrangements, requesting military honors at his funeral was definitely his idea, said Dugan. Borgnine thought so highly of the Navy that he asked in his will that attendants to his funeral donate to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society in lieu of bringing flowers.

Shown in photo above: Senior Chief Logistics Support Willie Crane, left, and Builder 2nd Class Marco Valdovinos present the ceremonial flag and urn toward mourners of deceased actor Ernest Borgnine during his remembrance ceremony.

5K RUN/WALK

The Fort Lauderdale Council is celebrating the 237th birthday of the US Navy by sponsoring the Pursuit of Honor, Courage & Commitment 5K Run/Walk to benefit the Fort Lauderdale Sea Cadets and the Wounded Warrior Project. The event will be held on Hollywood Beach Broadwalk on October 13 at 7:30 AM.

The link to the registration page is www.active.com/running/hollywood-fl/pursuit-to-honor-courage-commitment-5k-run-walk-benefiting-ftl-sea-cadets---wounded-warrior-project-2012

The event supports two great causes, so please plan to participate.



REMEMBERING BILL KLING LONGTIME VETERANS ACTIVIST

Left: Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz honored Bill Kling with a marksman-ship program award in 2010 at the Fort Lauderdale City Commission Chambers.

William "Bill" Kling, a longtime and tireless activist on behalf of veterans' causes and the Democratic Party, died on August 6 at the age of 84. Mr. Kling, a native New Yorker, served in the Navy during World War II. He was best known for his community activism, especially on behalf of veterans. For 27 years, Mr. Kling was the head of the Broward County Veterans Council, which is the umbrella organization for all the veterans groups in the county. He also was a leader of the Jewish War Veterans.

Mr. Kling worked tirelessly to get the Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic build in Sunrise. He worked so hard on behalf of the building that there is a plaque inside the clinic's lobby that pays tribute to him. The Broward County VA Outpatient Clinic opened in October 2008 and replaced the Oakland Park VA Outpatient Clinic which had served veterans for more than 26 years. The outpatient clinic encompasses roughly 90,000 square feet of space and doubled the amount of space for primary care and sub-specialty care clinics. Mr. Kling was also instrumental in the opening of the Alexander "Sandy" Nininger Nursing Clinic in 2001 in Pembroke Pines and the South Florida National Cemetery in Palm Beach in 2007.

AIR STATION MIAMI

Two Coast Guard HH-65C Dolphin helicopters from Air Station Miami pass by the Cape Florida Lighthouse in Key Biscayne.



SEA SERVICE NEWS



Junior Sailors aboard our adopted ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) formed a new local chapter of the Navy's Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) in July. SADD is a Navy-wide program geared at young Sailors (ages 18 to

25) aimed at reinforcing a culture of shipmates helping shipmates, while preventing destructive behavior and building leadership skills. The program gives young Sailors the opportunity to help each other through peer-to-peer interaction. CSADD helps Sailors with everything from making responsible drinking decisions to suicide prevention.



The Defense Department is conducting pilot classes of a new program designed to better prepare service members transitioning out of the military to civilian life. Transition Goals Plans Success, known simply as Transition

GPS, replaces the 20-year-old Transition Assistance Program, or TAP. In a sweeping overhaul of the 20-year-old TAP, as part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act passed in 2011, Transition GPS takes military members through a week-long class, compared to the original TAP's mandatory two to four hours of separation counseling, said Susan Kelly, the Defense Department's deputy director for the newly formed Transition to Veterans Program Office. Naval Station Norfolk is one of seven installations now conducting pilot classes of the new five-day Transition GPS workshop. Full use of the program is expected to be in place by the end of 2013.



Coast Guard Cutters Richard Etheridge, Bernard C. Webber, and William Flores, the first three Sentinel Class Fast Response Cutters were together for the first time in Port Canaveral, seeking safe haven from

Tropical Storm Isaac on Sunday, August 26. Coast Guard Cutter William Flores sailed from Key West on August 24 to meet cutters Bernard C. Webber and Richard Etheridge in Miami. All three cutter's crews traveled together to Port Canaveral to seek safe harbor as the height of the storm passed through the Florida Keys and are now conducting post storm port inspections.



For Lance Cpl. Stephen Mader and his dog Maxx, riding in an armored truck over Afghanistan's rutted dirt roads is routine. Mader is an improvised explosive device detector dog handler

with 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6. Mader and Maxx have been together for seven months since they met at the 5-week IDD handler school in Southern Pines, SC. The dogs come to the school pre-trained to obey commands and track explosive scents. Human students go to learn how to handle the dogs. Mader, who joined the Marine Corps in 2009, said the dog needs a good rapport with their handler. If there is a personality clash, the dog won't perform. Unlike some military working dogs, IDDs are not trained to be aggressive. Because of this, IDD handlers have the discretion to allow other Marines to approach or pet their dogs. Maxx is popular with the Marines and gets a lot of attention. But, when it comes time to work, he's ready to go. As the Afghan National Army continues to take over more of the security responsibilities in Helmand province, officials at Marine Corps Systems Command said they anticipate the number of dogs currently serving to be reduced in the near future, correlating with the reduction in Marine forces in the region. If Maxx is no longer needed, Mader said he wants to adopt him.



The U.S. Coast Guard has selected SAFE Boats International LLC of Port Orchard, Washington, to provide future Over-The-Horizon IV (OTH-IV) cutter boats. The selection was made after conducting a "boat off" with three

different builders. The "boat off" included testing conducted at the U.S. Navy's Combatant Craft Division in Norfolk, Virginia, and with the Coast Guard Cutter Berthoff in San Diego, California. SAFE Boats International was selected as offering the best value to the government. The contract is for up to 101 boats over a seven year period with a contract ceiling of \$58.9 million. The Coast Guard may order up to 71 boats to be deployed aboard the service's major cutters, including the National Security Cutter class. The contract also includes up to 10 boats for the U. S. Navy and up to 20 boats for Customs and Border Protection.

FUTURE MILITARY

Our Community Salutes of Miami-Dade County held a ceremony at Jungle Island on June 2, 2012 to honor and support the high school graduates, families and mentors of future service members as they embarked on their careers in the military. Brig. Gen. Hector Pagan, the former head of Special Operations Command South based in Homestead, addressed the young recruits and their families on the expectations and challenges ahead. Superintendent of Schools Alberto Carvalho was the civilian keynote speaker. Vice Admiral Joseph D. Kernan of the U.S. Navy, led 87 future Army soldiers, 95 future Marines, 21 future airmen and 84 future Navy sailors in the oath of service.

The event was arranged by Council member Raul Mas who acted as Master of Ceremonies and included representatives from all services. Lunch was served to the enlistees and families. Council members Mary Anne Gray, Peter Caspari and George Reeves attended.

Shown in the photo is (L-R) Sergeant Major Erik Strobeck, USA, Council member Raul Mas, LTCOL Frank Melgarejo, USA, and BG Hector Pagan, USA.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to the Council's new corporate member, DHL Express (USA) Inc. of Plantation. As a corporate member of the Navy League, DHL is allowed to select 15 of their employees to become Navy League members. We look forward to establishing a relationship with the DHL members domiciled in the Plantation Office.

National has again asked us to remind our members that they want to communicate with all of its members but they only have about half of the members' email addresses. Please provide your email to National so you can receive important announcements from your Navy League leadership. You can send it along with your membership number (located on the label of your SeaPower magazine) to National at service@navyleague.com. Also make sure the Council is advised of any updates to your email and/or mailing address.

Our membership numbers are dropping; we have lost 26 members since the beginning of the year. We need your help in recruiting new members. If you know of anyone who might be interested in supporting the sea services while enjoying the Council's activities, please send their name and contact information to the Council's email address (bcnavyleague@yahoo.com). We will contact them with more information about membership.

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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 or 954-389-0545.



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USS LEYTE GULF—SAILORS OF THE QUARTER

The Council was pleased to recognize the 3rd Quarter Sailors of the Quarter from our adopted ship, the USS Leyte Gulf. They were sent a financial award as well as a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

Recognized were:

Sailor of the Quarter: MR1(SW) Timothy Iacoli (shown in photo on left)

Junior Sailor of the Quarter: EM2(SW) Jeremy Minnifield (shown in center photo)

Blue Jacket of the Quarter: BM3(SW) Paul Coronell (shown in photo on right)



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

