



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 24 ISSUE 4

Shelley Beck, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

APRIL 2013

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

APRIL SOCIAL

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2013

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road
Fort Lauderdale

PROGRAM:

Captain Christopher P. Scraba USCG
Commander, Sector Miami

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Choice of: Prime Rib of Beef
Sea Bass Oreganato

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

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or before
April 5 by e-mailing bcnavyleague@yahoo.com
or calling Joan at 561-336-3610



EASTER EGG HUNT/BBQ



The Council's annual Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ was held on Saturday, March 23, at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The event was well attended by Coast Guard personnel and their families. Activities for the children included the egg hunt, a bounce house, coloring contest and face painting. Prizes were awarded in different age groups for collecting the most eggs, finding the golden egg and for the coloring contest. All children in attendance were able to

select a small toy to take home with them.

Thanks goes to our community affiliate Ships Supply for providing the funds to purchase the food; to Council President Shelley Beck and board member Dottie Kirk for coordinating the event; to council members who made donations to help with the cost of the event and to board members Charlie Schmidt and Erwin Sefton for serving as the cooks. A big thank you goes to the crew at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale for their assistance with the event.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hoping that each of you and your loved ones had a joyous Easter and Passover.

Speaking of Easter, thank you to the board of directors and members who supported our annual Easter Egg Hunt/BBQ at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale by either attending or making a contribution. This is always a fun time to mingle with the men and women serving in the Coast Guard and to also meet their families and children. We had nearly 100 in attendance. Thanks to Ship Supply and Shelley's parents (Kenneth and Yvonne Beck) for donating the food, eggs (over 500 eggs were picked up by the children) and candy. Please take the time to look at the pictures on Facebook and on our webpage.

Please mark your calendars for April 11th, our next dinner social. This will be one of your last opportunities to see and hear our guest speaker, Capt. Christopher Scraba, who will be leaving South Florida in June and heading to Virginia. Capt. Scraba has been a friend to our Council and we will miss him dearly but wish him much success in his new endeavors.

Fleet Week – April 29 – May 4

Plans are still on for South Florida to host our annual Fleet Week. This year's event will be much smaller than in the past due to sequestration. Even if we have one ship or 10 ships, the committee has been busy planning parties, receptions and activities for the sailors. Our Council will be hosting the JO's reception on Tuesday, April 30 at Briny's Pub. We hope that you will be able to join us and thank the men and women serving on these great American ships.

It is with great sadness that we lost one of our long time members, Mark Stein. He loved this Council and served in many roles throughout his membership. We also received a card of another passing - Martin Ellis, longtime member and who was a mentor to me when I first joined the Council. Both of these men served their country in service and were great supporters of this Council.



Shelley

GUEST SPEAKER



*Captain Christopher P.
Scraba, USCG
Commander, Sector Miami*

Prior to being assigned to Sector Miami, Captain Scraba was assigned to Coast Guard Headquarters as the Executive Assistant to CG-8, Assistant Commandant for Resources/ Chief Financial Officer. Captain Scraba has served for eleven years afloat in numerous positions aboard five Coast Guard cutters and two U. S. Navy ships. His first assignment in 1985 was as a Deck Watch Officer aboard USCGC TANEY (WHEC 37). He has also served as Weapons Department Head aboard USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716); Operations Officer for Coast Guard Forces Middle East aboard USS LASALLE in Bahrain; Commanding Officer aboard the USCGC PADRE (WPB 1328); Executive Officer aboard the USCGC TAMPA (WHEC 902); and Commanding Officer aboard the USCGC HARRIET LANE (WMEC 903). In September 2005, he embarked in USS IWO JIMA (LHD 7) where he served as Coast Guard Commander, Atlantic Area's USCG Liaison Officer during the first few weeks of Hurricane Katrina rescue operations in New Orleans, LA.

Captain Scraba's operational ashore and other administration assignments include Fifth District (D5) Office of Law Enforcement as the Law Enforcement Detachment Coordinator; D5 Living Marine Resource and Fisheries Enforcement Coordinator as well as an Intelligence Officer upon his graduation from the Criminal Investigator course at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. He commissioned and served as the first Commanding Officer of Tactical Law Enforcement Team North in Portsmouth, Virginia; he served as the Program Manager of Coast Guard Port Security Units at Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Defense Operations (CG-532); and he served as Chief, Enlisted Assignments Branch, Coast Guard Personnel Command (CGPC-epm-2).

Captain Scraba is a 1985 graduate of the United States Coast Guard Academy, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Government. In 1995 he was awarded a Master of Public Administration degree in International Relations with Highest Honors from Troy State University. In 1998 he was awarded a Master of Arts degree in National Security & Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. In June 2008, he was awarded a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National War College in Wash, DC. Captain Scraba's personal military awards include three Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals, six Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal, and two Coast Guard Letters of Commendations.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ

The Easter Egg Hunt brought out many Coast Guard families. The following are photos taken throughout the day.



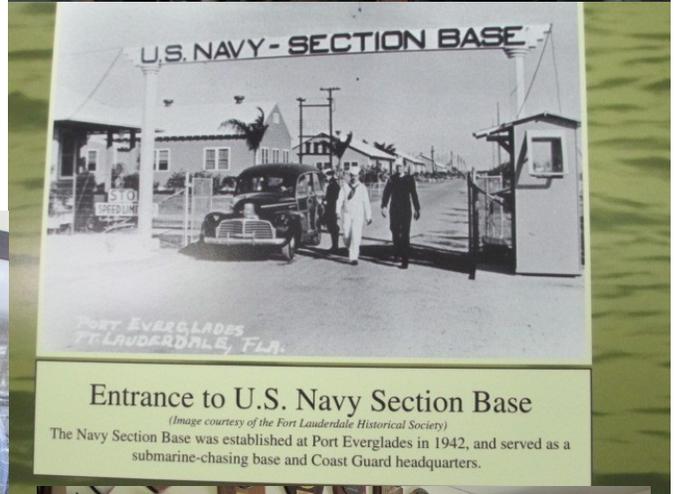
NAVAL AIR STATION FORT LAUDERDALE MUSEUM

On March 16, the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum held an open house. Visitors were able to view the *Broward Goes To War* exhibit as well as the many other treasures on display. For Council members who are not familiar with the Museum, it is located on West Perimeter Road near the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport. The Museum (also known as the Link Trainer Building #8) stands as a reminder of what once was a naval complex of more than 200 buildings.

The Museum began with the vision of one man, Allan McElhiney, who was a sailor in World War II. Nothing in the history of the City of Fort Lauderdale had greater impact in its growth and prosperity than its Naval Air Station, which was established in 1942. After the war, returning veterans created a population explosion in the area that dwarfed the 1920's land boom. This naval base provided an important catalyst for the growth and economic expansion of South Florida. Recognizing this fact, the *Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association* can be traced to one man, Allan McElhiney, who devoted much of his life to preserve a part of its history. When the war ended, the base closed its doors and the buildings were all but forgotten. Progress was about to eradicate the past to make way for a new airport, but thanks to the long fight of a visionary man who saw the significance of safeguarding a bygone era, the Naval Museum was established.

The *Broward Goes to War* exhibit will be on display at the Museum through September 16, 2013. If you would like to visit this exhibit/the Museum, please call (754-300-9259) before going to schedule your free tour. Volunteers are usually at the Museum on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 AM to 4 PM.

These photos show just a sampling of the items on display at the Museum.



FLEET WEEK

Ships will begin arriving at Port Everglades on Monday, April 29, for this year's Fleet Week. Listed below are some of the events that are open to the general public.

Council members are encouraged to attend the All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party/Roll Call/Enlisted Person of the Year Recognition at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel's Paradise Shoppes Courtyard on Monday, April 29, beginning at 6 PM. This will be a great opportunity to show the military a great South Florida welcome. This is a free event.

On Tuesday, April 30, the Council will host a Junior Officers' Party at Briny's Irish Pub beginning at 6 PM. This is another great opportunity to show the military your appreciation for their service. There will be a free buffet for all who attend.

On Thursday, May 2, Fort Lauderdale Council will host the Enlisted Person of the Year dinner at Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six. The event will recognize all enlisted personnel of the year from the visiting ships as well as from local commands. There will be a fee for this event.

On Friday, May 3, there will be a bus loop, a progressive style party by bus trolley to various restaurants in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The event is hosted by 5 local non-profit organizations. There will be a fee for this event.

On Saturday, May 4, Galley Wars will be held at Hugh's Culinary. This event is an "Iron Chef" style contest between culinary teams from visiting ships and there will be a fee to attend.

The ships will depart on Monday, May 6.

There will be many events held throughout the week for the sailors such as a golf classic, BSO ride-alongs, Damage Control Olympics hosted by our Council's community affiliate Resolve Marine, Miami Marlins game, and visits to schools, hospitals, nursing homes.

Visit Broward Navy Days' website (www.browardnavydaysinc.org) for additional information on Fleet Week activities. Information will be emailed to Council members and will also be available on the Council's website (www.bcnavyleague.org).



Sailors shown at the All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party at Paradise Shoppes during Fleet Week 2012

FLEET WEEK TOURS

There will be two destroyers (DDG), a submarine (SSN) and one of the Coast Guard's new fast response cutters (WPC) available for tours during Fleet Week. Due to federal budget sequestration, these are smaller ships and accordingly, there will be a decrease in available tour slots. It is recommended that you register for tours as soon as possible by visiting Broward Navy Day's website (www.browardnavydaysinc.org).

THANK YOU FROM NOSC

The Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) is an adopted unit of the Council. We honor their reservists with financial awards as well as certificates recognizing their accomplishments. The following thank you note was received from PS2 (AW) Joshua R. Bright, 2012 Junior Sailor of the Year, who was recently recognized by the Council.

Mr. Reeves,

I plan on sending a formal thank you shortly. However, I believe that your extraordinary efforts on behalf of the Sailors at NOSC Miami deserves recognition. I am PS2 (AW) Bright, the 2012 JSOY at the NOSC and the support that you and the Broward County Navy League provided during my recognition ceremony was completely unexpected and overwhelmingly generous. You and the Navy League have supported many NOSC functions, helping arrange extraordinary guest speakers for cultural events, subsidizing command functions and providing multiple opportunities for Sailors to get involved and contribute to the local community. You do all this for no monetary benefit, only the desire to see that the Navy remains connected to the county which it serves. Your selfless dedication to the League and the Sailors it serves is an inspiration to all that country and community must come first. Though I am one small part of the vast madron, your appearance and support meant a lot to me and my fellow shipmates. I just mobilized three people to support the war effort in the Middle East; though the headlines have faded every week I send one or two sailors overseas to continue the fight. Your support reminds me and all my fellow Shipmates that we do not struggle in obscurity. Once again, thank you so much for all your support. God-speed!

Very respectfully,

PS2(AW) Bright, Joshua R
NOSC Career Counselor
18650 NW 62nd Ave
Hialeah, Florida 33015

IN MEMORIAM

Two life members of the Council recently passed away. Both gentlemen devoted many hours to the Navy League and to our Council and will be truly missed.



Long-time Council member Mark Stein passed away on March 5, 2013 after a brief illness.

Mark was born in New York City on May 17, 1924. He was a brilliant student and eligible Mensa member at DeWitt Clinton High School and after a year at City College he entered the service of the United States Army 101 Artillery Division, where he served with distinction. He was awarded many honors and medals in connection with the D-Day invasion where he was in the third wave of small ships that landed that first day on Omaha Beach. From there he fought through to the liberation of Paris and was given the French Medal of Honor for his valor. From Paris, he continued on to Belgium and the Battle of the Bulge where he was wounded, and after being buried alive by a bombing attack, he was dug out 2 days later and continued fighting through until the end of the war. He was given the Purple Heart, the Silver and Bronze Stars and many other awards. Mark was recognized by the noted director Steven Spielberg during the production of his film "Saving Private Ryan". Although he rarely spoke of those days, he was a true patriot.

After retiring from his privately owned business, Mark enjoyed his new life in South Florida and was very active in community affairs, including a lifetime membership in the Broward County Navy League, and was one of the original members of Broward Navy Days. His support of the Sea Cadets under the leadership of Alan Starr continued and just a week before his death he donated his vast collection of Naval memorabilia, hats, mugs, and plaques to the group and was recognized with a special award of appreciation which brought a smile to his face.

Mark was a supporter of the arts and was a long time member of the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art. He enjoyed the big band, swing and jazz music of the 40's and 50's and never missed a season of the Philharmonic. Each summer Mark traveled to various parts of the world - from the Orient to Europe, Australia and every point in between.

There was no service in Florida per Mark's request. He was buried in New York on March 14th with a small private graveside service.

Donations in Mark's name may be sent to the Spruance Division Sea Cadets, PO Box 21101, Fort Lauderdale FL 33335.



Martin "Marty" A. Ellis, 80, passed away on February 16, 2013. Marty was instrumental in forming the Broward County Council and served as its President. He was a life member of the Navy League and also served as a National Director.

The following is an excerpt from the obituary which appeared on *Ocala.com*.

Marty served 24 years in the US Navy and served at the U.S. Naval Academy as a photographer where he later became an instructor. He was commissioned as an officer after being elected to the "Seaman to Admiral" program and served as Commander of the USS Valcour. He saw combat action during the Dominican Republic crisis and served with the River Patrol Force in Vietnam during 1967-68.

He was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal with Star, two Good Conduct Medals, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, two Vietnam Service Medals and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Star. He also earned the Presidential Unit Award and Combat Action ribbons.

Marty attended the University of Nebraska where he attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and Physics. Upon retiring in 1972, he moved his family to Fort Lauderdale where he presided over the NJROTC program at Fort Lauderdale High School and was the National Director of the Navy League of the United States.

In 1998, he moved to Ocala where he became very active at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. He is survived by his wife Edith, two sons, two stepchildren and numerous other relatives.

Life member Dottie Kirk was kind enough to provide her memories of Marty. Please see her narrative on the next page.



MEMORIES OF MARTY ELLIS

MEMORIES OF MARTY ELLIS AND THE BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL BEGINNINGS

Marty had been a member of the Fort Lauderdale Council which, at that time, was an "All Men's Council", and he felt women should be able to join. It was then that he formed the Broward County Council in 1987.

I was in the USO in 1990 when I met Marty and Edith Ellis. There was a picnic at TY Park in Hollywood, which I attended. He and Edith had set up a table there recruiting members for the Broward Council Navy League. I had never heard of it before and he proceeded to tell me about it. It sounded interesting, and at the time also, the USO was eventually closing its doors. That is when I joined.

It was a small Council then. Marty was President at the time. We met at their home for our meetings.

We would meet at the Anacapri in Fort Lauderdale for our formal activities; Christmas Party; Navy League Birthday Dinner Dance, etc. Eventually, our membership increased, and we moved to having dinner meetings at the Yankee Clipper Hotel Banquet Room for many years.

Marty brought up "Life Membership" to the members, and explained the cost which could be paid "in increments". After careful consideration, I decided to take it in 1993. Little did I know I would be here in 2013, enjoying my Lifetime Membership. It has been a long membership and a long life.

I don't remember the year when we were asked to speak to the Silver Ridge Elementary School. The school had asked for someone to come and speak to them about World War II. Mark Stein and I were asked. We decided he would talk about his part in the War and I would talk about "The Home Front". There were 2 classes of 8-year olds. He and I were both surprised how the 2 classes received our dissertations. The first class asked us questions. The second class, we decided, just weren't that interested, they listened, but no questions at the end.

I do believe that knowing how much our lives came about at the same time, different cities, different schools, etc., the fact we both are/were products of WWII, made us compadres.

I mentioned this about Mark Stein and myself as my dear friend passed away last week.

Thank you Marty, for getting me involved.

Dottie Kirk

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

On Friday, March 8, 2013, the Council VP Legislative Affairs Robert "Bob" Marks met with newly elected Congresswoman Lois Frankel. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the Navy League to the Congresswoman and explain the role it plays at both the national and local level.

Congresswoman Frankel is an experienced public servant with a strong record of bringing jobs and opportunity to South Florida. After serving 14 years in the Florida state legislature, including as the first woman Democratic minority leader, she became mayor of West Palm Beach in 2003. Frankel was elected November 6, 2012 to represent Florida's 22nd Congressional District, which stretches from Riviera Beach in Palm Beach County to Fort Lauderdale and Plantation in Broward County. She is the first woman to represent Florida's 22nd congressional district. She serves on the transportation and Infrastructure and Foreign Affairs committees and is on the Highways and Transit, Water Resources and the Environment, and the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation subcommittees. On the Foreign Affairs committee, she is on the Middle East and North Africa subcommittee.

Shown in the photo (left to right) are Carolyn Marks, Bob Marks, Congresswoman Frankel, Joan Sefton and Erwin Sefton.



MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Council's newest member:

Jim Wells of Fort Lauderdale

SEA SERVICE NEWS



Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron Fifteen (HM-15) celebrated Women's History Month with a wreath laying ceremony at the Naval Aviation Monument Park in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The event com-

memorated the 40th anniversary of the first female naval aviators.

Members of HM-15, also known as the Blackhawks, were in attendance during the ceremony. These members included division officers, chief petty officers, first class petty officers of the squadron, and civilian friends and family. All attendees celebrated the accomplishments of women in naval aviation. During World War II, a group of women pilots were pioneers, heroes and role models. They were the Women Airforce Service Pilots, otherwise known as WASPs. They were the first women in history to be trained to fly American military aircraft in the United States. The women were trained to fly non-combat missions in order to free up male pilots to fly combat missions overseas. The WASP program was deactivated Dec. 20, 1944, having flown about 60 million miles in operations. Thirty-eight WASPs were killed during the life of the program, including some in training. On February 22, 1974, the Navy became the first service to graduate a female pilot. Lt. Barbara Allen Rainey. Today, more than 54,000 women are on active duty and more than 10,000 females serve in the Reserves. In 2012; 873 women earned their wings of gold and women now comprise 10 percent of the naval aviation community.



The Coast Guard announced that a private team had located a World War II rescue plane that crashed on the southeast coast of Greenland 70 years ago with three service members on board. The plane, a single-engine amphibious Grumman

Duck, disappeared near Koge Bay, Greenland, during a snowstorm in November 1942. The Coast Guard said searchers had found the plane, which was carrying Lt. John Pritchard, Petty Officer First Class Benjamin Bottoms, both of the Coast Guard, and Cpl. Loren Howarth, of the Army Air Forces, encased in a glacier. The discovery caps a two-year joint effort between the Coast Guard and North South Polar Inc., which specializes in glacier searches for the military, aimed at finding the plane before the men's closest relatives died and the glacier moved out to sea. Commander Blow, who coordinated and oversaw the mission for the Coast Guard, said that recovering Lieutenant Pritchard and Petty Officer Bottoms would mean that all of the Coast Guard's missing members from all wars would be accounted for. The Coast Guard said the plane is to be dug up and the men's remains repatriated.

ACTIVE BOARD MEMBER

Colonel Connie Christensen US Army Retired is quite a busy lady. In addition to serving on the Council's Board of Directors, she also serves as President of Chapter 23 of the Florida State Council Vietnam Veterans of America. Connie travels extensively in her pursuit of veterans rights and, in the photo below, is shown with actress Ann Margaret.



Below Connie is shown at the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC during its 30th anniversary celebration.



Connie is shown here at a fundraising event for the Broward County Chapter of Freedom Foundation



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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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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.

RECENT EVENTS



Council Member Joe Giambrone and Everglades Council President Tom Melville join Debbie McElhiney at the NAS Fort Lauderdale Museum Open House



Board members Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt who served as the chefs at the Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

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

