



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 24 ISSUE 8

Shelley Beck, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

OCTOBER 2013

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

2014 COUNCIL OFFICERS

Oktoberfest



Broward County Council
and
Fort Lauderdale Council
Invite you to a joint

Oktoberfest Celebration

Thursday, October 17th
6:30 – 9:30 PM

Lauderdale Yacht Club
1725 SE 12th Street
Fort Lauderdale 33316

Featuring live music,
German food and German beers

\$35 per person / \$25 for military

Payment is due in advance

Make your check payable to NLUS and
Send it no later than October 12th to
Marianne Giambrone
1546 Barcelona Way
Weston FL 33327

The following is the slate of Council Officers for 2014

President: Glenn Wiltshire
First Vice President: Erwin Sefton
Second Vice President: Marianne Giambrone
Vice President, Legislative Affairs: Robert Marks
Secretary: Diane Schmidt
Treasurer: Tom Carney
JAG: No candidate

Write-in candidates will be accepted by the secretary until October 31, 2013. The name of the proposed candidate and office for which they wish to be considered must be accompanied by 20 signatures of council members in good standing. Mail information to Secretary, BCNL, P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.

Elections will be held at the November dinner social. Members must be present to vote.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the fall season is upon us, we think of cooler weather, football, changing of leaves and Oktoberfest. An email was sent to all members announcing our upcoming Oktoberfest on October 17 at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Broward County Council will once again be joining Fort Lauderdale Council to celebrate. Feel free to bring along friends and family members to enjoy this fun evening of German food, German beers and live music. This should be a wonderful evening with all of our Navy League friends.

For those of you who were not able to join us at our September dinner, you missed a memorable evening. The young men and women of the Spruance Division of Sea Cadets under the leadership of Lt. Commander Alan Starr enlightened all of us with their travels and experiences from their summer assignments. I had the pleasure of presenting one of the cadets with the Teddy Roosevelt medal. We had a great showing of support from the local Coast Guard commands as well as Navy. I want to thank Skip Witunski, Florida Region President for attending our September dinner and for giving us an overview of the status of the Navy League and Sea Cadets. We also had the pleasure of hearing from Diego Hernandez, former CO of the USS Wyoming.

The Broward County Council would like to welcome to our family as the new Commanding Officer of our adopted ship, the USS Leyte Gulf, Captain Dean T. Rauls who took command on Friday, the second day of August, 2013. We wish all the best to Captain Brian O'Donnell in his future endeavors as former CO of the USS Leyte Gulf.

We also welcome Rear Admiral Ricky L. Williamson, who is the new Commander of Navy Region Southeast and wish all the best to Rear Admiral John C. Scorby, Jr. in his new endeavors. Their change of command took place on Thursday, the twenty-ninth of August, 2013.

On the 8th of September, the Council supported in attendance and with a donation for the 140 Marine Reservists and their families Family Day picnic. From what I hear, all who attended had a wonderful time. Thanks to Al & Shelly Stein for setting up a table and receiving donations for NOSC (Naval Operational Support Center) our adopted unit and the Marine Reservists.

Many thanks to the board members who attended the South Florida Area Meeting in August; this meeting is held yearly to discuss the various issues at that time. The National President's priorities this year are: governance, membership & retention and well as finances. The upcoming National Meeting will be held November 13-16 in Baltimore, MD.

Save the Date:
November 20 - with our guest speaker, Admiral Korn
December 13 - our annual holiday party with the Coast Guard

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
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Mark your calendars for these upcoming Council events:

November 20 – Dinner Social – Council members will join with members of Broward Navy Days and Fort Lauderdale Council at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. Rear Admiral John H. Korn, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District, will be the special guest speaker.

December 13—Council members will join with members of Broward Navy Days for the annual holiday party for the local Coast Guard units

Additional details regarding these events will be available on email, the Council's website and in future editions of The Helmsman.

OCTOBER VETERANS' EVENT

LUNCH & LEARN

Hosted by Dignity Memorial

Wednesday, October 16, 2013 at 11:30 AM at
Signature Memories Event Center
299 N. Federal Hwy.
Fort Lauderdale 33301

Topics:

Knowing Veteran Burial Benefits
Led by: Ken Stolar of Dignity Memorial

Knowing Veteran Hospice Benefits
Led by: John Donovan-Veteran Liaison with Vitas Innovative Hospice

RSVP Required by Friday, October 11th, 2013

954-781-9661 or 888-664-1122

Shelley

RECOGNITION

The Council recognized Enlisted Person of the Quarter SK1 Giovanni Beltran of Coast Guard Air Station Miami. A monetary award and certificate of achievement was presented at a ceremony held at the Air Station in August. Unfortunately a photo is not available.

THANK YOU NOTES

The Marines receiving the care packages from our Council truly appreciate them. These are just a few of the thank you notes recently received.

I received 2 care packages from you today. Thanks for continuing to send them out. I will have my replacements on deck in Oct and will be able to provide you their address once they are established. The Marines of Golf Company have really appreciated your support.

*Ronnie E. Ellis
First Sergeant SOTF West, MSOC G 8220
Fire Base Thomas*

Everything has reached me thus far. Thanks again for all your support and please give my regards to the folks back home. I officially crossed 180 days boots on the ground yesterday. Only a bit over five months to go!

*ISC Tim Dickey
NOSC Miami*

A Navy Leaguer who prefers to remain anonymous has provided substantial donations towards the Council's care package program. The following email was sent to him:

I am First Sergeant Ellis with Marine Special Operations Company Golf currently serving in Afghanistan and have received quite a few packages from Mr. Stein. Through conversation back and forth he has mentioned you regarding your service with the Marine Corps and the amount of support you have provided in the packages we have been receiving. I have Marines and Sailors in some remote places here and the packages that Mr. Stein has sent have been a real plus to those men. I asked them at one point if I was overwhelming them with stuff that I would stop sending everything their way and they quickly told me no. I share some of the items with the guys co-located with me and some of my other teams but we have more than the remote teams so I tend to send them nearly everything and they are very much appreciative. I just wanted to thank you for your service and leading the way for me and my men, and for all of the support that you are still providing to your country and the men who have come after you.

*Ronnie E. Ellis
First Sergeant
SOTF West, MSOC G 8220
Fire Base Thomas*

CARE PACKAGES

In early September, the Kiwanis Club of Cooper City sent 4 boxes of goodies to our troops overseas. Similar to our Council's care package program, this is one of their ongoing projects. Their members donate items and they also use some of their fundraising dollars to buy items for the boxes. Al Stein, who heads up our Council's care package program, provided the addresses of deployed Marines to the Kiwanis Club.

Thanks to the Kiwanis Club of Cooper City for partnering with our Council and providing these much appreciated packages to our troops.



James Lee is the grandson of the late Jay Porges, a long time member of our Council. James started a care package project about 3 years ago and dedicated it to his grandfather. He collects used and new DVDs from other students at Cardinal Gibbons High School as well as from various local companies and individuals and also purchases candy and other items to fill the boxes. For the past 3 years, James has sent at least one box a month to the Council's adopted ship, the Leyte Gulf. He also sends boxes to deployed Marines. Recently James received the following letter from CMDCM Scott Kelley of the Leyte Gulf acknowledging his contribution of DVD's.

*"We received 2 boxes of movies here at the ship which the crew has really enjoyed getting. We are out to sea now and it is always nice to get things like the movies and candy that provide a distraction from our separation from our families. You are a fine young man to have put these packages together and on behalf of the crew of the USS LEYTE GULF I thank you. Good luck on your finals and finishing out the year and I would consider the Naval Academy as one of your college thoughts. You seem to have a lot of the things we are looking for in a naval officer. Thank you again.
CMDCM(SW/EXW/AW) Scott Kelley,
Command Master Chief"*

If you would like to help James with his care package program, you can bring a new or used DVD to any Council event or you can donate a gift card to Target or Walmart and James will purchase the movies. For further information, you can contact Dorothy Porges at 954-972-0074 or Dorothyporges@bellsouth.net.

SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

On September 18, Broward County Council held a joint meeting with Fort Lauderdale Council at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The evening honored the Spruance Division Sea Cadets and those in attendance heard about their summer training activities.

Those Sea Cadets who shared their summer training activities were Parker Doberick, Paul Paguaga, Shannon McAllister, Danielle Serrano and Lorenzo Gari. Broward Council President Shelley Beck presented Danielle Serrano with the Navy League's Teddy Roosevelt medal and Fort Lauderdale Council President Lynn Drucker presented the Teddy Roosevelt medal to Lorenzo Gari.

Also on hand to speak was CDR Diego Hernandez, former Commanding Officer of the USS Wyoming who is currently assigned as Deputy Branch Head, Naval Operations. He shared information on Naval budgeting issues.

Skip Witunski, Florida Region President was in attendance at the meeting and spoke about current Navy League issues. Jenny Ceasar, Broward Outreach Coordinator for Congresswoman Lois Frankel also attending the dinner social.



CDR Hernandez giving remarks to the audience

Council President Shelley Beck with Florida Region President Skip Witunski



back row: Joan and Erwin Sefton
Seated: Patrick, Thomas and Tom Carney



Council President Shelley Beck with Jenny Ceasar, Broward County Outreach Coordinator for Congresswoman Lois Frankel



Left to right: Capt Gould, Capt Pruitt, Lt Turner and CDR Kyle receive a Navy League coin from LDCR Alan Starr

SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

Sea Cadets who shared their summer training activities are shown.



Above: Parker Doberick

Right: Paul Paguaga

Below: Shannon McAllister



Above:
Danielle
Serrano



Right:
Lorenzo Gari



All the Sea Cadets in attendance at the dinner are shown in the photo below.



MARINE RESERVES

On September 8, Detachment 4, TOW/Scout Platoon, 4th Tank Battalion, 4th Marine Division in Hialeah held their annual family day. Approximately 140 Marine reservists and their family members attended. The morning was set aside for family briefs followed by lunch and festivities in the afternoon. The Council made a financial donation to assist with the cost of the event and several board members were in attendance.

LOCAL DUES

Local dues notices will be sent out in the near future. The Council depends on these funds which directly support Council activities. Some examples of Council activities are:

Support of our adopted units: USS Bataan, USS Leyte Gulf, USCG Air Station Miami, NOSC, Marine Reserve Unit. This includes recognition of outstanding achievements (i.e. sailor/enlisted person of the quarter) and financial support as requested by the individual unit.

Support of local Coast Guard units (Station Fort Lauderdale, USCGC Gannett, Aids to Navigation, Air Station Miami): Annual Easter egg hunt/BBQ and holiday party

Support of Fleet Week: Council members volunteer and are able to participate at various events which include welcome reception, ship visits, junior officers' party, and golf outing.

Support of our adopted JROTC units: Cooper City High School, Flanagan High School, NOVA High School, Stranahan High School, and Taravella High School. Financial awards are presented to outstanding graduating cadets and the Navy League's Teddy Roosevelt medals are presented to outstanding junior cadets.

Support of visiting military vessels: Council greets each visiting military vessel and hosts All Hands Parties for the crews. Ship tours and onboard receptions are arranged when possible.

Individual Augmentee (IA) luncheons: Along with other local Navy League Councils and Broward Navy Days, Council sponsors luncheons honoring returning IAs and their families.

Dinner Socials: Council provides guest speakers who will share information on issues affecting the Sea Services. This is a great opportunity to interact with other Navy Leaguers.

The Council only receives a small rebate from your national dues but is able to utilize 100% of the local dues you pay. Please help the Council continue with its mission to support our Sea Services and youth by sending payment of local dues when you receive the statement.

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

Last Christmas season, Seafarers' House delivered over 1,300 Christmas packages to visiting seafarers. That's a small number compared to the thousands who come to Port Everglades and does not include cruise ship seafarers. The goal this season is to give a gift-wrapped shoebox of 'gear and goodies' to every seafarer who comes to Port Everglades from the first of December through mid-January. Spread the word to friends, family and students in need of service hours!

There are several ways you can help.

- You can donate empty decorated standard adult size shoeboxes (no boot boxes or children's shoeboxes). The lid of the shoebox must be wrapped separately so that the box can be opened for security. Shoeboxes can be wrapped, painted or decorated with pictures pasted over writing on box.
- You can donate any quantity of INDIVIDUAL loose items from the shopping list below or you can donate filled "complete" boxes containing all items on the standard list and optional extras if you choose.
- You can volunteer to deliver the filled boxes to the seafarers. Council member Joe Giambrone is the coordinator of this endeavor and can be contacted at giambronejm@gmail.com or by calling 954-389-0545.

SHOPPING LIST-STANDARD ITEMS - New items in regular sizes please! athletic white socks, after shave, combs, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, shaving cream, soap/shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils/pens/pencil sharpeners.

OPTIONAL EXTRAS - These are extra items that a seafarer might enjoy finding included with the above: Playing cards, hard candy, picture post cards, calendars with pretty pictures, a Christmas card from the donor, a Christmas letter or drawing from a child.

If you are donating boxes or items for the boxes, call Seafarers' House 954-734-1580 or Laura Kastner 954 258-2604 FIRST to schedule a drop off time and make sure someone is available to accept shoebox donations. Seafarers' House will be glad to provide you with a donation receipt; be sure to provide your contact information and a description of the items you donated.



SEA SERVICE NEWS



Cmdr. Dennis L. Farrell relieved Cmdr. Peter K. Nilsen as the 12th commanding officer of the USS Cole (DDG 67) on Friday, July 26 during a change of command ceremony held on board at the ship's home port in Norfolk, Virginia. Farrell assumed command of the Cole after serving as her executive officer. Farrell is a native of Boca Raton and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. Some Council members may remember that Cmdr Farrell served as a guest speaker at the February 2013 dinner social.



Royal Caribbean International announced the appointment of Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner, U.S. Coast Guard, Retired, as the cruise line's Senior Vice President of Marine Operations. In his new role, RADM Baumgartner will oversee the global cruise brand's fleet and their nautical, technical and maintenance operations. Recently retired from a distinguished 33-year career, RADM Baumgartner served as Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District and Director of Homeland Security Task

Force Southeast. Just prior to the above role, RADM Baumgartner served as General Counsel (Judge Advocate General) for the Coast Guard and was the Federal Government's lead maritime attorney.



The forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) offloaded Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) after conducting joint-force operations in the U.S. 7th Fleet Area of Responsibility on September 25. During the patrol, Bonhomme Richard

and the 31st MEU participated in Exercise Talisman Saber 2013 and Exercise Koolendong 2013 (EK 13) with their counterparts in the Royal Australian military. This patrol also featured the first time the MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265, embarked as part of the ACE for their first forward-deployed patrol with Bonhomme Richard.



Donald Brackett, a Coast Guard Auxiliary member, received the Coast Guard Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal for 66 years of service. He was presented with the medal at his home by RADM Jake Korn, Seventh Coast Guard District commander. Brackett was cited for meritorious service in the performance of duty in numerous positions within the Coast Guard Auxiliary from September 1947 to September 2013. During the first 22 years of his 66 years of service,

he held many appointed staff officer positions and was elected to leadership positions in the First District. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, Brackett and his ketch Sea Hawk III, were utilized by the Coast Guard and a local Boston radio station to broadcast weather and sea conditions in the Boston area. In the early 1960s Coast Guard Cutter, Point Partridge (WPB-82305) was stationed in Boston and as Division 5 Communications and Operations Officer, he embarked in, and coordinated joint search and rescue training with the Cutter and Auxiliary units. In 1965, Point Partridge was assigned to Operation Market Time operations in Vietnam and as a Division Captain, Brackett organized the "Adopt-A-Ship" program to support the needs and desires of the crew members until it was turned over to the Vietnamese Navy in 1970. Upon moving to Clearwater, FL in 1969, he continued his active participation in public education, public affairs and vessel examinations and further supported Air Station Clearwater as a qualified C130 air observer, where he flew over 400 hours and participated in 17 search and rescue missions. As an Air Station Clearwater assistant Operations Duty Officer he stood watch for countless hours and thereby relieved active duty personnel for other critical assignments. He also shared his expertise as a civil engineer to help plan major construction and renovation projects throughout District 7, saving the Coast Guard tens of thousand of dollars in planning and construction costs.



The Naval Air Training Command (NATRACOM) held a change of command ceremony aboard the USS Lexington museum on September 26. Rear Adm. Roy Kelley (right) relieved Rear Adm. Mark Leavitt (left) as the Chief

of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) in the ship's hangar bay. The NATRACOM conducts and oversees all pilot and naval flight officer training for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard, throughout five training air wings located in three states. It also oversees the Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron the Blue Angels.

USS HIGGINS

Long time Navy League member Mark Stein gave away much of his military memorabilia before he passed away earlier this year. One of the items he gave to Council member Al Stein was a piece of the original keel block on which the USS Higgins was built. Al thought the current commanding officer might like this item and sent it along with a letter to the ship. Al received the following letter from the CO.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
USS HIGGINS (DDG 76)
FPO AP 96667-1291

August 30, 2013

Mr. Alan Stein,

On behalf of the Officers and crew of USS HIGGINS (DDG 76), I thank you for donating a piece of the original keel block of wood on which USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) was built and launched on 3 October, 1997.

USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) is named in honor of Colonel William R. Higgins, USMC, who disappeared on February 17, 1988, while serving as the Senior Military Observer, United States Military Observer Group, United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (Palestine). After being held captive by pro-Iranian terrorists in Lebanon, Colonel Higgins was murdered. The exact date of death is uncertain; however, he was declared dead on July 6, 1990. His remains were eventually recovered and interred at Quantico National Cemetery on December 30, 1991.

USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) deployed 14 January, 2013 and spent five and a half months in the Arabian Gulf and are now conducting maritime security operations in the western Pacific ocean. Knowing that there are Americans at home who depend on us and care enough to reach out to the crew like you have, brings our task meaning, and helps us carry out our mission.

I would like to thank you again for your donation and for all the support the Navy league gives to active duty service members.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. L. M. Shue", is written over the typed name.

N. L. M. SHUE

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

THESE COMPANIES SUPPORT OUR COUNCIL PLEASE SUPPORT THEM!

A.C.T. Janitorial Services Co.
1570 N Powerline Rd, Pompano Beach
954-960-1000

Construction Consulting Inc
2020 W McNab Rd Ste 102
Fort Lauderdale
954-972-5787

Todd Kazdan D.O, PA
2300 N Commerce Pkwy Ste 108
Weston
954-217-2745

Nancy Abrams
Morgan Stanley
1200 S Pine Island Rd Ste 800
Plantation
954-577-8857

Resolve Marine Group, Inc.
1510 SE 17 ST., STE 400
Fort Lauderdale
954-764-8700

Ship Supply of Florida
15065 NW 7 Ave, Miami
305-929-7090

Webb Commercial Realty
1300 NW 167 St Ste 2
Miami Gardens
305-624-8585

COUNCIL SUPPORTERS

Robert A. Giacin EA & Company
2131 Hollywood Blvd Ste 101, Hollywood

AutoNation
Fort Lauderdale

Signature Memories
Fort Lauderdale

Shula's Hotel
Miami Lakes

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

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.

Larry M. Ott
Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild
Funeral Home
and Cremation Center**
4061 North Federal Highway
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
954-565-5591
Fax 954-565-7899
larry.ott@sci-us.com



**BCNL Member
Discount with
this ad**

MEMBERSHIP

WELCOME BACK!

The Council would like to welcome back

STEVE NAIMOLI

We look forward to seeing you at a future Council event!

SEAPOWER 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 any Council event where member Dottie Kirk will be glad to take them from you. Dottie shares them with the many veterans that live in her complex.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT MEDAL RECIPIENTS



LPO Danielle Serrano receives the Roosevelt medal from Shelly Beck and Lt. Cmdr. Alan Starr.



Ft. Lauderdale Council President Lynn Drucker presented Chief Lorenzo Gari with his Roosevelt award.

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

