



# THE HELMSMAN

Publication of the Broward County Council-Navy League of the United States

Glenn Wiltshire, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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[www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org)

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## APRIL EVENT

### Dinner Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2015

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

### Guest Speaker

Captain Melissa Bert USCG

Chief of Staff

Seventh Coast Guard District

### Dinner Selections

Prime Rib

Mahi Mahi

Members and Guests - \$35.00

Active Military and Spouses - \$25.00

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or  
before April 2 by emailing  
[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)  
or calling Joan at 561-336-3610

## FLEET WEEK

### Junior Officers' Reception

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Briny Irish Pub Restaurant  
305 South Andrews Avenue.  
Fort Lauderdale  
(Las Olas Riverfront  
on the New River)

Two Free Drinks for Guests  
in Uniform

Cash Bar for Civilians

Free Buffet for All

Entertainment



For more information contact Erwin  
Sefton at 954-868-2107

# ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Fleet Week is closing fast, with the final planning meeting scheduled by the Navy and Broward Navy Days for April 7th to finalize the schedule for the numerous events that will run from May 4-10, 2015. Volunteers are still needed to assist with tours, special events, etc. So far, I've had a couple members step forward to staff our table, where we will once again be selling cold drinks and coins, but still need additional Council volunteers to staff the table and donate soda and water. In addition to this being a fundraiser for our youth programs, it's also an opportunity to recruit new members, so let me know if you are available. Volunteers are needed Wednesday through Saturday. Erwin Sefton is also coordinating our hosting of the Junior Officers Party at Briny's on Tuesday, May 5th, and there will be numerous other events throughout the week for members to participate at. See [www.browardnavydaysinc.org](http://www.browardnavydaysinc.org) for a complete list of events.

Thanks to all who were able to make it to our March meeting hosted by BCNL member Graeme Holman at the STAR Center in Dania Beach for dinner and a tour of the outstanding facilities used to train American's merchant mariners. It's always great to see this outstanding facility that trains thousands of US and non-US merchant mariners to meet their licensing requirements. We also had a record turn-out for the Easter Egg Hunt at the Coast Guard Station. Thanks to all that helped out, especially to Shelley Beck who pulled it all together.

Looking ahead, our April Council dinner meeting will be on Thursday, April 9th at Tropical Acres. Our guest speaker is CAPT Melissa Bert, Chief of Staff of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami, who will speak to us about the wide range of Coast Guard missions in the Southeastern United States and the Caribbean. Due to the Fleet Week events in May, we will be holding a joint meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club on Wednesday, May 20th. Stay tuned for details.

As always, please feel free to contact me at 718 -619-7402 or at [wiltbrit@aol.com](mailto:wiltbrit@aol.com) if you have any ideas on what our Council should be doing to make your membership more valuable to you.

Glenn Wiltshire  
CAPT, US Coast Guard Retired  
Broward County Council President



## ***NEW MEMBER***

Welcome to our newest member:

James Santucci

We ask all Council members to serve as recruiters. If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting the Sea Services and joining our Council, please invite them to one of our events. You can also refer them to the Council's website ([www.browardnavyleague.org](http://www.browardnavyleague.org)) so they can review photos of past events, previous editions of the Council newsletter as well as other information that will allow them to learn more about what we do. Annual national dues for an individual are \$65 and for a husband/wife are \$117.



## ***GUEST SPEAKER***



Captain Melissa Bert became the Coast Guard Seventh District Chief of Staff in June 2014. Just prior, she served as the Chief of the Coast Guard's Maritime and International Law Division, where her office supported International Maritime Organization engagement and provided legal advice to the Oper-

ations Directorate on the Coast Guard's maritime safety, security and stewardship missions - including drug and migrant interdiction, homeland security, search and rescue, pollution response, port and vessel safety and security, Outer Continental Shelf regulation, fisheries law enforcement, counter-terrorism and piracy initiatives, Arctic stewardship, and environmental protection.

Captain Bert's Coast Guard career has encompassed operational and legal tours. She served aboard two cutters, including as Executive Officer of the Cutter Red Birch in Baltimore, Maryland. During the attacks of 9/11, she was the Operations Officer for Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach, California, where she was responsible for port security, search and rescue, and law enforcement in the ports and coastline of Southern California.

From 2009 - 2011, she was the Commander of Coast Guard Sector Juneau and Captain of the Port for Southeastern Alaska. The Sector was responsible for overseeing a wide array of maritime operations and activities in Southeast Alaska. As a judge advocate, she served as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the Seventh District in Miami, FL, was a Military Judge, and Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA).

Captain Bert is a graduate of the Coast Guard Academy and George Washington University Law School. She also holds a Command and Staff degree in Strategic Studies from the Naval War College. From 2008 - 2009, she was a national security fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School, where she focused on Arctic development and the Law of

the Sea. She has taught as an adjunct professor at George Washington University and Florida International University. Captain Bert was also a military fellow with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) in New York.

Her honors include the United Way American Values Award, a Legion of Merit, three Meritorious Service Medals, three CG Commendation Medals, an Achievement Medal, and a Voluntary Service Medal. She was awarded the Young Military Lawyer of the Year for the Coast Guard by the American Bar Association in 1997. In May 2006, she received the Judge Advocates Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award.

She is a life member of the Council on Foreign Relations and founded the Coast Guard Women's Leadership Initiative, an active endowment of the Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association.

## ***USNA GLEE CLUB***

Several Council members attended the U. S. Naval Academy Men's Glee Club's concert on March 14, 2015. The Glee Club performed a variety of songs including Broadway hits and patriotic tunes. The performance was held at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale.





# FLEET WEEK 2015

The planning meeting continues for Fleet Week 2015 which will be held from May 4 - May 10 with the following ships tentatively scheduled to participate: USS COLE, USS JAMES E. WILLIAMS, USS NEW HAMPSHIRE, USS WASP, and USCGC RICHARD ETHERIDGE. As in the past, there will be numerous events that the Navy League members and the general public can attend. Volunteers are needed to assist with these events. You can register to become a volunteer on the Broward Navy Days website ([browardnavydaysinc.org](http://browardnavydaysinc.org)).

Listed below are some of the public events that Council members may want to attend:

**ALL HANDS ON DECK WELCOMING PARTY**  
Monday, MAY 4 - 6:00 - 10:00 PM  
Seminole Hard rock Hotel & Casino Paradise Shops  
Courtyard, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood

## SHIP TOURS

**PORT EVERGLADES, TERMINAL 21**  
Registration required on [browardnavydaysinc.org](http://browardnavydaysinc.org)  
Tuesday, May 5: 9-11:30 AM and 1-4 PM  
Wednesday, May 6: 9-11 AM and 2-4 PM  
Thursday, May 7: 9-11:30 AM and 1-4 PM  
Friday, May 8, 9-11:30 AM and 1-4 PM (all ships except Wasp)  
Saturday, May 9: 9-11:30 A. and 1-4 PM

## FLEET WEEK PORT EVERGLADES GOLF CLASSIC

Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Fort Lauderdale Golf & Country Club  
415 Country Club Circle, Plantation  
Registration required, contact POC Pete Swanson  
954-821-2867, [usatgsf@bellsouth.net](mailto:usatgsf@bellsouth.net)

## SALUTE TO VETERANS

Tuesday, May 5, 11 AM - 1:00 PM  
Independence Hall at Marrinson Senior Care Residences, 1639 NE 26th Street, Fort Lauderdale  
The Salute to Veterans is an event where active duty service members mingle and visit with veterans. Independence Hall, Marrinson Senior Care Residences is a retirement community where many of the residents are veterans of World War II and the Korean War, and they look forward to interacting with young service members.

## JUNIOR OFFICER PARTY

Tuesday, May 5, 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Briny's Irish Pub & Restaurant  
(Las Olas Riverfront)  
305 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale  
Hosted by Broward County Council  
Two Free Dinks for those in Uniform  
Civilians welcome (cash bar)  
Buffet for all in attendance  
Any questions, contact Erwin Sefton, 954-868-2107, [erwinsefton@bellsouth.net](mailto:erwinsefton@bellsouth.net)

## ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR RECEPTION

Thursday, May 7, 6:00 - 9:00 PM  
Hyatt Regency Pier 66  
2301 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale  
Hosted by Fort Lauderdale Council  
Any questions, contact Lynn Drucker,  
[lynn@druckermail.com](mailto:lynn@druckermail.com); 954-325-9102



## RETIREMENTS



The Council will say good-bye to Rear Admiral Stephen E. Mehling as he retires from the United States Coast Guard on April 30. RADM Mehling was very active with our Council when he served as the commanding officer at Coast Guard Air Station Miami.

RADM Mehling is currently the commanding officer of the Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) in Key West. JIATF-S is just one of three primary U.S. Centers responsible for detection, monitoring, tracking, and hand-off of suspect drug trafficking and illicit air and maritime trafficking events to law enforcement agencies and regional partner nations. We wish RADM Mehling and his wife Terri the best of luck as they begin the next chapter in their lives.



Also retiring is Rear Admiral Jake Korn, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District. During a change of command ceremony on May 1st at Coast Guard Air Station Miami, RADM Korn will be relieved by RADM Scott Buschman. A retirement ceremony will follow the change of

command ceremony. RADM Korn has been a great friend to the Council during his time in South Florida. We wish him the best.

## IN MEMORIAM

Navy Leaguer John Vanhezewyk a/k/a Johnny Van, 84, passed away on March 20, 2015. Johnny served as President of the Fort Lauderdale Council in 1999 and was also very involved in the Broward County Council. Funeral services were held at Forest Lawn North Funeral Home in Pompano Beach. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made in John's name to Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary, 13915 N SR 121, Gainesville, FL 32653.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The South Florida Coast Guard Officers Association will be holding their annual Coast Guard Gala on April 18. The event will be held at the Miami Marriot Biscayne Bay. Tickets for civilians are \$100 per person. For additional information and to purchase tickets, go to [sfcgoa.org](http://sfcgoa.org).

Seafarers' House will be hosting their 2015 International Golden Compass Award dinner on Saturday, May 2, at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six in Fort Lauderdale. This year's honoree is Joseph E. Farrell, Jr., President & CEO of Resolve Marine Group (one of our Council's community affiliates). There will be a cocktail reception, silent auction, dinner, award presentations, entertainment and dancing. Visit their website for registration information ([www.seafarershouse.org](http://www.seafarershouse.org)).

Due to Fleet Week events, the Council will NOT be holding a dinner social in May but will be joining Fort Lauderdale Council for a dinner on May 20th. Details not yet available.

## NOSC

On March 7, Past President George Reeves was on hand at the Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) to recognize outstanding reserve and active duty personnel. Certificates of achievement and gift cards were presented to:

Full Time Support (FTS) sailors: Sailor of the Year - PS1 Crystal Lincoln; Junior Sailor of the Year - HM2 Wei Zeng and Blue Jacket of the Year - ABF3 Katherine Montes. FTS sailors are members of the Navy Reserves who perform full-time active duty, receiving the same pay, allowances, and benefits as active duty members.

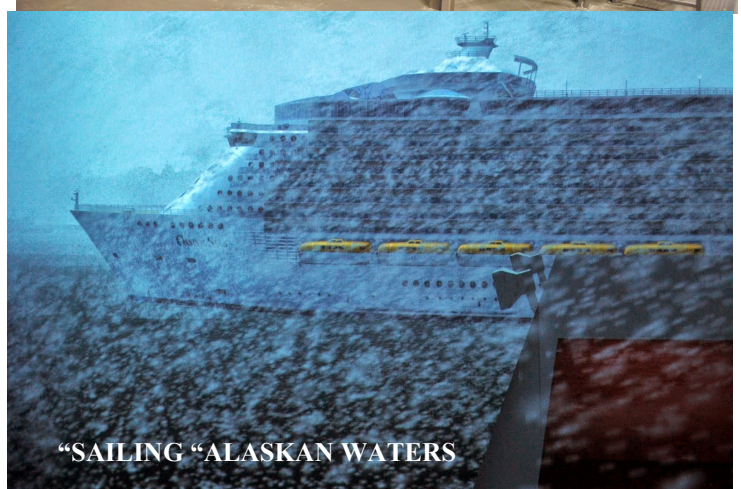
Selected Reservists (SELRES) sailors: Sailor of the Year - HM1 Scott Jones; Junior Sailor of the Year - CE2 Sergio Quiros and Blue Jacket of the Year - HM3 Desmond Cameron. SELRES sailors traditionally drill one weekend a month and two weeks of annual training per year receiving base pay and certain special pays when performing inactive duty.



# THE STAR CENTER

On March 12, Council members and guests visited The Star Center, a not-for-profit maritime training school in Dania Beach. Council member Graeme Holman made a presentation to the guests about the Star Center and then provided a tour of the bridge and engine room simulators. The highlight of the evening was the bridge simulator demonstration when guests "sailed" into Alaskan waters. Thanks to all who participated and a special thanks to Graeme for opening up the Star Center to us.

Here are a few photos taken during the evening (thanks to Charlie Schmidt for photos).





# EASTER EGG HUNT & BBQ

On March 28, the Council held its annual Easter egg hunt and BBQ for local Coast Guard personnel and their families. The turnout this year was the biggest we have had in some time - thanks to all who participated. It takes a lot to put the event together and the Council would like to thank the committee chairperson Shelley Beck for her efforts to make this event a success again this year. Thanks also to board members Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt for manning the BBQ grill as well as to other board members who were on hand to assist. A big thanks to those who provided financial support including our community affiliate Ship's Supply, Publix, and council members Dottie Kirk and Bob Giacin. Thanks also to Dorothy Porges who made a donation in memory of her husband Jay who served on the Council's board of directors for many years. Dorothy's donation was used to purchase the baskets given out as prizes. As usual, Candy (Denise Ingram) was a big hit with the kids (and adults) who got their face painted. And, finally, thanks to the Lt Anthony Ippolito and the crew of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale for all their assistance in setting up and breaking down the event.



Here are some of the many faces of the Easter egg hunt!



Top: Candy made sure each child got special treatment!  
Center: Charlie Schmidt and Erwin Sefton manning the grills  
Bottom: One little guest who volunteered to say grace before food was served.



# COAST GUARD EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ





# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Fifteen members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary were honored on March 23 as the

first team of Auxiliary Mass Rescue Operations Specialists (AMROS) to participate in a new program developed by the Coast Guard to assist in the event of major disaster involving large numbers of persons at sea. Rear Adm. Jake Korn, commander of the Coast Guard 7th District, presented the auxiliarists with badges and plank owner certificates signifying their completion of extensive training in areas such as search and rescue and on-scene coordination of landing sites and family reception centers. The auxiliarists also participated in several training exercises, including one in the Bahamas in 2013. The AMROS program, developed by Paul Culver of the Coast Guard's D7 Passenger Vessel Safety Specialist office, is expected to be carried to other areas of the country in the near future to develop similar teams in other Coast Guard districts where the potential for major maritime disasters exists.



Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin D. Baskin, a special amphibious reconnaissance corpsman with 3rd Marine Special Operations Battalion, Marine Special Operations Regiment, U.S. Marine

Corps Forces Special Operations Command, was awarded the Silver Star Medal for his heroic actions while deployed to Afghanistan in 2013. The award ceremony took on March 20 at the MARSOC headquarters aboard Stone Bay, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. Major Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command, presented the award.



Sgt. Nathaniel Lubinus, a helicopter crew chief with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 366, 2nd Marine Aircraft

Wing at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., was awarded the Enlisted Aircrewman of the Year Award for 2014. The Enlisted Aircrewman of the Year Award was established in honor of Master Gunnery Sgt. Danny L. Radish, who served in Marine aviation with distinction and heroism for over 23 years, for the most outstanding contribution by a Marine enlisted aircrewman. Lubinus was selected for the award because of his superior work ethic and his dedication to all tasks that are assigned to him.



The crew of the Council's adopted ship USS Bataan performing maintenance on the ship which is currently in port in Norfolk.



The superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy has been nominated for a promotion that would take her to the service's headquarters as a deputy commandant. Rear Adm. Sandra Stosz became the first woman to lead the academy in New London in 2011. She was nominated

by President Obama for the position of deputy commandant for mission support in Washington and a promotion from rear admiral to vice admiral. The Coast Guard says the appointment requires confirmation by the Senate. The promotion would take effect later this year after Stosz completes her tour as the academy superintendent. Stosz graduated from the academy in 1982.

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

A.C.T. Janitorial Services Co.  
1570 N Powerline Rd, Pompano Beach  
9540-960-1000

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

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

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale  
954-989-3500

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:larry.ott@sci-us.com)



BCNL Member  
Discount with  
this ad

## NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

The 2015 National Convention will be held in Tampa from June 16 - 21. Convention Chairman Skip Witunski and his team are busy working on events for this year's convention at the Grand Hyatt - Tampa Bay.

There will be a Welcome Reception on Wednesday, June 20, where Navy League members will meet the local mayors and congressmen, World War II veterans along with officials from U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command. The event will start out with the Sea Cadets dancing to swing music of the World War II era and the guest veterans will judge the talent and present an award. Attendees will be entertained by the Deacon Blues Band, made up in part by emergency room doctors from Tampa General.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the commissioning of the USCGC Dixon, a Sentinel-class patrol cutter, will be held on Saturday, June 20, at 10 AM, at Port Tampa Bay Cruise Terminal 3, with a reception immediately following. There will be an ice sculpture of the ship's crest and the attendance is FREE. Named in honor of Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Richard Dixon, who as coxswain of a 44-foot motor lifeboat was credited with saving lives in Tillamook Bay, Oregon, during two incidents on the July 4 weekend in 1980, will be the first Sentinel-class cutter to be homeported in Puerto Rico. Dixon, who died in 2010, was a rare two-time recipient of the Coast Guard Medal, one of the nation's highest noncombat honors.

For more information on events, contact Skip Witunski at [skip@witunski.com](mailto:skip@witunski.com).

Be sure to check the Convention website at [www.navyleagueconvention.org/](http://www.navyleagueconvention.org/) for information on registration, hotel information and the program.





# EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ



On left is Lt Mark Ketchum (CO, Station Fort Lauderdale) and his family. On right are some of the great personnel at the Station who helped tremendously with the event.

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.  
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