



# THE HELMSMAN

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

Glenn Wiltshire, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

SEPTEMBER 2015  
Volume 26 Issue 7

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

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)

## SEPTEMBER DINNER

**Broward County  
and  
Fort Lauderdale Councils**

**Invite you to join us at**

**SEA CADET NIGHT  
Thursday, September 16, 2015**

**Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
2800 Yacht Club Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale**

**6:00—7:00 PM Cash Bar  
7:00 PM—Dinner and Meeting**

**\$40 per person  
Checks should be made payable to  
Fort Lauderdale Council NLUS**

**Please phone your RSVP  
before September 13  
by calling 954-565-6778**

**Admittance by reservation only**

## MILITARY APPRECIATION

On August 3, the Miami Marlins hosted a Military Appreciation Night celebrating the 225th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. Active duty military, veterans and their immediate families were admitted free to watch the Marlins take on the New York Mets. Rear Admiral Scott Buschman threw out the first pitch. Coast Guard Color Guard presented the colors.



# ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

Welcome back after our "summer break." I hope everyone had a great summer and are ready for another busy Council year. While we didn't meet over the summer, it was still a busy time for Council members.

I had the opportunity to represent the Council at the Navy League National Convention in Tampa in late June. The Tampa Council did a great job organizing a number of events at the convention. Skip Witunski from the Tampa Council was elected as our National President, Lynn Drucker was elected as the South Florida Area President, and four members of the Fort Lauderdale Council, Chuck Black, Lynn Drucker, Rudy Oetting, and Simone Ramos were elected as National Directors. We also held a nice gathering of Council members at Bravo's at the end of June; thanks to Larry Ott for coordinating that event. Our Council also co-hosted a ship's party on July 2nd for the USS KAUFMANN crew during its short notice port call at Port Everglades. The KAUFMANN is the last operational frigate in the US Navy and was returning from a successful counter-narcotics patrol before being decommissioned later this year; my thanks to Erwin Sefton for taking the lead on that event while I was out of town. A number of our members also attended the "Spirit of 45" event at the Lone Sailor Memorial in August commemorating the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. A special thanks to Larry Ott and his employer for assisting with organizing that event.

Our next dinner meeting will be a joint meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council on Wednesday, September 16th, at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club, where we will hear from the sea cadets from the Spruance Division report on their summer training program experiences. Hope to see a large turnout of our members for this meeting, which is a favorite of our members. Our October meeting will be our annual Oktoberfest gathering. Watch for more details on that as the date gets closer.

Once again, I hope everyone had a great summer, and be safe and healthy as we move closer to the end of another great year, when it will be time to start planning for Fleet Week 2015. As always, please feel free to contact me at 718-619-7402 or at 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 MEMBERS***

The Council would like to welcome the following new members:

James Dolan of Davie

Dale Hoover of Fort Lauderdale

John M. Milledge of Fort Lauderdale





## ***ALL HANDS PARTY—USS KAUFFMAN***

Broward Navy Days, Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward County Council hosted an All Hands Party for the crew of the USS Kauffman (FFG59) on July 2 at Briny's Irish Pub Restaurant. As usual, Briny's provided a great buffet for all to enjoy and the Council provided 2 free drinks for each sailor in attendance.

The Kauffman departed Naval Station Norfolk in January for the ship's final deployment and operated in the U.S. 4th Fleet area of responsibility. Kauffman's final deployment marked the last scheduled deployment by any Oliver Hazard Perry-Class frigate and the ship will be the last operationally-active frigate to decommission. During Kauffman's final deployment, the crew supported the United States Southern Command and the Joint Interagency Task Force South's Operation Martillo whose goal is to suppress the illegal drug trade in the Caribbean, Central America and South America by conducting drug trafficking interdiction operations. Captain Michael Concannon, Kauffman commanding officer, led the crew through their final deployment. The ship returned to Norfolk on July 12 and will remain there until it is decommissioned (tentatively scheduled for September 18).

Below is Board Member Erwin Sefton with Captain Michael Concannon

Civilians and Kauffman crew members enjoyed the evening at Briny's.





## ***JROTC CADET***

An article appeared In the June edition of The Helmsman regarding the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) outstanding cadets who were recognized by the Council. At that time, a photo of Cadet Alyssa Manalac of JP Taravella High School was not available. She is shown here in a photo with Council Secretary Shelley Beck.



## ***COMMISSIONING***

On June 20, 2015, at the Port of Tampa, the U S Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon was commissioned. This vessel is named after the Coast Guard hero Richard Dixon, a First Class Boatswain's Mate stationed at Tillamook Bay, Oregon, who was awarded two Coast Guard Medals for his heroic actions on the July Fourth weekend in 1980. A series of dangerous storms swept across the Pacific Northwest and two boating incidents could have ended in disaster. Dixon and his crew courageously performed two separate rescues that weekend in the treacherous storm conditions saving the lives of nine individuals, which included the captain of the motor vessel Fantasy Isle.



## ***USCGC ROBERT YERED***

On June 8, Council President Glenn Wiltshire presented the USCGC Robert Yered's Enlisted Person of the Quarter with a certificate and monetary award. The presentation to BM2 Nicholas V. Piz-zigno was held on his last day at the unit before he departed for his next assignment at CG Station Pensacola.



The Robert Yered's Executive Officer LT Nicholas Sharpe departed the ship on June 12 to attend Naval Postgraduate School Monterey. His replacement is LTJG Brandon Belveal (on the left in the photo). The Council welcomes LTJG Belveal to South Florida.





# *HAPPY HOUR EVENT*

On Thursday, June 25, 2015, the Council held its first Happy Hour event at Bravo Restaurant on 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale. Even though the group was small, the evening was full of great conversation, food and drink. Bravo was extremely accommodating to our group and set up tables so that we were able to seat together and talk. They had a great Happy Hour menu with appetizers available for \$5 each and delicious entrees available for \$10. Thanks to Board member Larry Ott for working with the staff at Bravo to set up the event for our group.





# RECOGNIZING OUR COUNCIL'S ADOPTED SHIPS

## USS LEYTE GULF

The Council would like to recognize the 3rd Quarter Sailors of the Quarter from our adopted ship, the USS Leyte Gulf. The Council forwarded certificates and monetary awards to the Senior Sailor of the Quarter CTM1 Nathan Czuhajewski, the Junior Sailor of the Quarter GSM2 Travis Harde-mon and the Blue Jacket of the Quarter HT3 Cody Brennan. Congratulations to these fine sailors for their accomplishments. Unfortunately photos of the sailors were not available.

## USS BATAAN

The Council would like to recognize the 2nd Quarter Sailors of the Quarter from our adopted ship, the USS BATAAN. The Council forwarded certificates and monetary awards to the Senior Sailor of the Quarter EM1(AW/SW) Ross A. Ehrhart, Sailor of the Quarter PS2 Anna Dolgova, Junior Sailor of the Quarter AZ3 Lisa Myers and Blue Jacket of the Quarter DC3 Ryan Ullrich. Congratulations to these fine sailors for their accomplishments. The photos shown on the right were taken at a command picnic and show Commanding Officer Captain John Carter making the presentations.

Sailor of the Quarter  
EM1(AW/SW) Ross A. Ehrhart



Photos Top to Bottom: Sailor of the Quarter PS2 Anna Dolgova; Junior Sailor of the Quarter AZ3 Lisa Myers; Blue Jacket of the Quarter DC3 Ryan Ullrich





# COAST GUARD NEWS

## USCGC GANNET

The Change of Command for the USCGC Gannet was held on June 10 at 1 PM at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. BMCS Joseph Orlando was relieved by BMCM Matthew Coppola.

Shown in photo are Captain Austin Gould, Mary Anne Gray, and Larry Ott



## STATION FORT LAUDERDALE

A good friend to the Council, Executive Officer Anthony Ippolito of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale left in mid-July to attend graduate school at George Mason University. His replacement is LTJG Jessica Shafer. LTJG Shafer was recently involved in the release of sea turtle hatchlings near Boca Raton and is shown in the photo. We welcome LTJG Shafer to South Florida and look forward to meeting her at a future Council event.



## SEVENTH DISTRICT



The Council would like to congratulate Captain Melissa Bert who has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral. She is currently chief of staff for the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. Capt. Bert graduated from the Coast Guard Academy with a bachelor of science degree.

She earned her law degree from George Washington University Law School, and completed the strategic studies program at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

## RESERVE UNIT—SOUTHCOM



Capt. Peter D. Conley, commanding officer of Coast Guard Reserve Unit, U.S. Southern Command

(CGRU SOUTHCOM), transferred command to Capt. Scott R. Linsky during a change of command ceremony at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, on Saturday, July, 25 2015. Captain Conley assumed duties as the Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Reserve Unit, U.S. Southern Command in July 2012. He will now be assigned to Coast Guard Pacific Area Command, as the Reserve Forces Chief of Staff. Captain Linsky reported to Coast Guard Reserve Unit Joint Staff Suffolk, Virginia in September 2012, serving as the Training Department Head. He will now be Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Reserve Unit, U.S. Southern Command. Coast Guard Reserve Unit SOUTHCOM provides a ready-reserve force of deployable U.S. Coast Guard expertise, prepared and equipped to conduct intelligence, operations, planning, and other specialized duties in garrison and throughout the Americas in support of U.S. diplomatic, defense, and homeland security goals.

## **NAVY LEAGUE NEWS**

Council President Glenn Wiltshire attended the Navy League National Convention which was held in Tampa from June 16-21. At the convention, Skip Witunski was elected as National President. Skip is a member of the Tampa Council and has served as the Florida Region President for the past 3 years. John Vargo from the Mayport Council was confirmed as Florida Region President. Lynn Drucker, President of the Fort Lauderdale Council, was confirmed as South Florida Area President. Lynn, Chuck Black, Rudy Oetting and Simone Ramos, all from the Fort Lauderdale Council, were elected as National Directors.

The Navy League Communications Committee is asking members to update their mailing and email addresses. As the Navy League moves toward utilizing social media and other communications tools, including email, it is important that all members who do have email addresses have the most current email in the Navy League's membership files. If you have recently moved or have a new email address, please provide that information using the Council's email ([browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)). We will update our records and forward the information on to National.

The Navy League announced that they will hold the second Anchors Aweigh Fly-In on December 3. All Navy Leaguers are invited to participate in meeting our members of Congress in Washington, DC to present the Navy League's legislative priorities. If you are interested in participating, National needs to know as soon as possible so they can start lining up meetings. Please email Sara Fuentes ([sfuentes@navyleague.org](mailto:sfuentes@navyleague.org)) with your name and address (for assigning constituent meetings), and they will take care of the rest. The Sea Services need YOU to speak for them to Congress. The details of the event are as follows: You must plan to arrive no later than 7PM on Wednesday, December 2, to be included in training. Navy Leaguers will stay at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum, Maryland and shuttles will provide transportation to Capitol Hill. Navy Leaguers will storm the Hill on Thursday, December 3.

## **SEAFARERS' HOUSE**



Seafarers' House is open throughout the year as a safe, friendly place for mariners whose ships are visiting Port Everglades. Seafarers' House provides access to pastoral care and counseling, emer-

gency assistance, and local ground transportation. Their center provides access to free Wi-Fi and telephones, an international store, a recreational lounge with a library, microwave, TV and pool table. Seafarers' House provides low-cost money orders as well as safe, economical wire transfers to 156 countries around the world.

Each year, Seafarers' House delivers wrapped shoeboxes filled with socks, toiletries, and holiday cheer to seafarers who come from all over the world into Port Everglades. Seafarers' House's "Shoebbox Christmas" got an early start this year and they have begun the process of wrapping shoeboxes and collecting donations of personal care items. Board members Joe and Marianne Giambrone volunteer at Seafarers' House and have been involved in the program for several years as has Board member Larry Ott who volunteers his time delivering shoeboxes to the ships. There is always a need for additional volunteers and funds and there are several ways you can help:

Donate personal care items. The 10 items that go into each box are athletic white socks, combs, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, shaving cream, soap/shower gel, toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils/pens/pencil sharpeners

Volunteer to wrap and fill shoeboxes

Volunteer to deliver filled shoeboxes to seafarers aboard their ships from late November to late December. Volunteers must be physically fit and over 18 years old.

Make a cash donation to help with the cost of the personal care items used to fill the shoeboxes

For more information, please contact Joe or Marianne Giambrone at [giambronejm@gmail.com](mailto:giambronejm@gmail.com).



# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Sailors and Marines celebrated Women's Equality Day on the mess decks aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt on August 26.

The celebration marked 95 years since passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Cmdr. Kim Donahue, the command chaplain, spoke at the event to reflect on her experience with the progress of women in the military. In 2000, Donahue was the first female chaplain onboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), the same year Capt. Kathleen McGrath became the first woman to command a U.S. warship while deployed in the Arabian Gulf. The Roosevelt is deployed in the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, strike operations in Iraq and Syria as directed, maritime security operations and theater security cooperation efforts in the region.



On August 25, Retired Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen, 83, died of complications from lung cancer. When he retired as a lieutenant general in 1988, Petersen was the senior ranking aviator in both the Marines and the Navy — with which he served before joining the Marine Corps — and simultaneously held the honorary titles of Silver Hawk and Grey Eagle. Petersen served two years in the Navy before he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps in 1952, becoming the first African-American aviator in the service's history. He went on to command his own fighter squadron, then an aircraft group, an amphibious brigade and an aircraft wing. Petersen was promoted to brigadier general in 1979, becoming the first African-American to hold the rank in the Marine Corps. After serving as special assistant to the Marines' chief of staff, he retired as commanding general of Marine Corps Combat Development Command at Quantico, Virginia.



The Coast Guard offloaded nearly \$600,000 estimated wholesale value of marijuana at Coast Guard Sector Miami on August 21. On

August 3, the Coast Guard Cutter Dependable detected a go-fast vessel with suspicious packages off the coast of Jamaica. The men aboard the go-fast began jettisoning packages overboard after the Dependable began pursuit. The Dependable launched its small boat and stopped the suspect vessel after employing disabling fire against one of the outboard engines. Dependable later recovered 25 packages of marijuana from the water. The four suspected smugglers were transferred to federal authorities for investigation



In the world of technology, most women do not get the recognition that Rear Admiral Dr. Grace Brewster Murray Hopper has received. Hopper is the mother of computing. Her development of the first computer compiler and the first computer programming language helped revolutionize the world of computers. Although Hopper had a career decorated with many rewards, she had to prove herself repeatedly. She holds honoree doctorates from over thirty universities and many of her writings have influenced programs made today. Perseverance and knowledge are two traits that made her a great leader. She was determined not to let anyone get in the way of her vision of creating a much wider audience for computing. The USS Hopper, an Arleigh Burke class guided missile destroyer, is named after Admiral Grace Hopper; the ship was commissioned on September 6, 1997.

## MILITARY AWARDS

On July 1, the Greater Miami Chamber honored enlisted military at the 28th annual Military Service Person of the Year Awards, celebrating the numerous contributions and honorable service of the military in our community. The recipients of the 2015 Military Service Person of the Year Awards included Hospital Corpsman First Class Petty Officer Karla P. Nieves of Navy Recruiting District Miami and Petty Officer Jeremiah S. Cantrell of our adopted ship the USCGC Robert Yered. The awards recognized outstanding enlisted personnel selected by their Commanding Officers who have an outstanding military record, have made significant community contributions through their involvement in charitable volunteer efforts, and exemplify the significance the military has on our community.



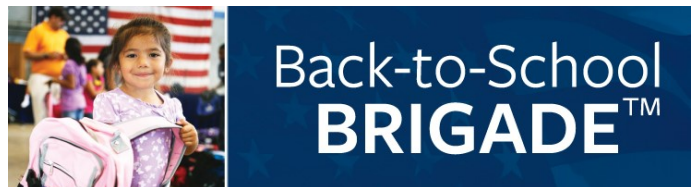
Petty Officer Jeremiah Cantrell (second from left) and Hospital Corpsman First Class Petty Officer Karla Nieves (second from right)



## BACK TO SCHOOL

Once again this year, Council members volunteered for Operation Homefront's Back to School Brigade. The Back-to-School Brigade program is a nationwide campaign by Operation Homefront and Dollar Tree Stores. This is the seventh year that Dollar Tree has partnered with Operation Homefront for the program. Last year, Dollar Tree patrons donated more than \$5 million of supplies.

Council volunteers delivered school supplies to Navy Recruiting District Miami, Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale and Coast Guard Station Miami. In addition to Navy League volunteers, the Kiwanis Club of Miramar/Pembroke Pines and the Kiwanis Club of Hialeah also collected school supplies. A big thanks to Angie Font who coordinated those efforts and ensured supplies were delivered to the Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) and Coast Guard Air Station Miami.





## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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

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

## POST OFFICE DEDICATION



The Princeton Post Office building in Miami-Dade County was dedicated to the memory of Corporal Christian A Guzman Rivera. The 21-year old Marine Corporal of Homestead was killed in action on August 6, 2009 while serving in Afghanistan. He was a combat engineer assigned to

the 3rd Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan.

The recognition was sparked by Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen who during the 113th Congress passed a resolution assuring Guzman Rivera would be honored in this fashion. "I am proud to participate in the deserved dedication of a post office for our local hero, Christian A. Guzman Rivera, who made the ultimate sacrifice for us all," said Ros-Lehtinen in a statement. "Christian's selfless devotion to our country shows the commitment that he had to ensuring we live in freedom and we will forever be indebted to him for his heroism. Dedicating a post office for him will not bring this hero back; it is but a small measure of gratitude from a thankful community for the ultimate sacrifice Christian made for all of us," said Ros-Lehtinen on the recognition.

# ALL HANDS PARTY—USS KAUFFMAN



Mary Anne Gray, Executive Director of Broward Navy Days with Captain Mike Concannon of the USS Kauffman at the All Hands Party held at Briny's Irish Pub



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