



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

browardnavyleague@gmail.com

APRIL DINNER SOCIAL

Please join us

on

Thursday, April 14, 2016

Our Guest Speaker
will be
State Representative George Moraitis

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Dinner Selections
Prime Rib
Norwegian Salmon Filet

Members and Guests - \$35
Active Military and Spouses: \$25

Please RSVP your dinner choice
on or before April 8
by e-mailing browardnavyleague@gmail.com
or
calling Joan at 561-336-3610



USS BATAAN

On Monday, March 7, Council members welcomed Captain John Carter USN, Commanding Officer of our adopted ship USS Bataan, to Fort Lauderdale. An informal reception was held at the Riverside Hotel Lobby Bar in Fort Lauderdale. Captain Carter expressed his appreciation for the support the Council provides to the crew and is looking forward to bringing the ship to Port Everglades for Fleet Week.



Above: Joe Giambrone, CAPT Carter, Shelley Beck, Council President Glenn Wiltshire

Below: Fort Lauderdale Council President Oscar Romano, George Reeves, CAPT Carter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

My thanks to all who were able to make it to the reception we hosted for our adopted unit USS BATAAN Commanding Officer, CAPT John Carter, at the Riverside Hotel Lobby Bar on Monday, March 7th. CAPT Carter is looking forward to his unit returning to Port Everglades for Fleet Week 2016 after being gone for so many years. The USS BATAAN will be hosting a special event during Fleet Week exclusively for Council members to thank us for our support of their Sailors of the Quarter for many years. The Council will be recognizing the current SOQs as well as presenting the crew with a special gift from the Council. We will provide more info on that event once details are finalized but hoping for a large turnout from Council members.

While we cancelled our March dinner meeting due to the reception for CAPT Carter, we held our very popular annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 19th at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Shelley Beck did a great job coordinating the event once again, with help from Joe and Marianne Giambrone, Charlie Schmidt, Erwin Sefton as cooks, and me as helper; Tom Carney also assisted with the shopping for the food. A large crowd of Coast Guard kids and parents enjoyed the event, which included the egg hunt as well as a bounce house, face painting, and coloring contest. A special thanks as well to Tom Carney for his efforts to arrange for sponsorship by the Fitzgerald Group, and to Publix for their donation to defray the costs of the event.

Fleet Week 2016 planning is in full swing, with the final planning meeting held on March 23rd. The "fleet" will be led by our own adopted unit, the USS BATAAN, when it arrives on May 2nd, which we haven't seen in Port Everglades in many years. Our adopted Coast Guard Cutter, the USCGC ROBERT YERED, will be participating in Fleet Week as well, along with the return of the USS COLE, which is a late replacement for the USS TRUXTON. There's still time to volunteer to assist Broward Navy Days with the many events planned for the visiting Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen. Our Council will also be selling soda and water and Council coins during Fleet Week, and I'll be looking for volunteers to help with that as the date gets closer.

Our April dinner meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14th at Tropical Acres. Our speaker will be State Representative and Council member George Moraitis, Jr. George graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1992, then after service as a submariner on active duty entered the Naval Reserve until retiring in 2012. His remarks will focus on his Navy career and how that has helped him as a State Legislator, especially in focusing on programs for veterans. With the numerous Fleet Week events in May, we will not be holding a May dinner meeting, however we will be

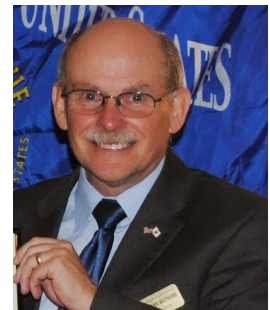
back at Tropical Acres on June 10th, when our tentative guest speaker will be US Marine Corps Brigadier General Paul Rock, Jr., the J-5 at SOUTHCOM. Hope to see you at our last Council event before our summer break.

I will also be representing the Council at the Florida Region meeting in Orlando on April 9th. One of the purposes of that meeting is to vote on the slate of National Directors to be nominated from the region. Council member Joe Giambrone has submitted an application to serve as National Director, and we all wish Joe success in the election. The meeting is open to all Navy League members, so let me know if you'd like details on the meeting location and agenda.

Finally, our adopted unit Coast Guard Air Station Miami in Opa Locka will be holding an Open House on Saturday, April 23rd from 9 AM to 3 PM. Please visit them if you have a chance to see what's new at the unit.

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



CONVENTION

The 2016 National Navy League Convention will be held in Charleston, South Carolina from June 14 - 19. Be sure to check the Convention website at www.navyleagueconvention.org for information on registration, hotel information and the program.

GUEST SPEAKER



Representative George Moraitis is a partner with the law firm of Moraitis, Cofar, Karney, & Moraitis, where he practices primarily in the areas of real estate, probate, and estate planning.

George was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale and is a graduate of Fort Lauderdale High School and the United States Naval Academy. After serving seven years on active duty as a submarine officer in the United States Navy during which he qualified as a Navy Nuclear Propulsion Engineer, George attended the University of Florida College of Law and then followed his father, George, Sr., into the practice of law.

George has been married to Heather Thompson for 20 years, and they are active members of Cross Community Church. They have two daughters, Alexis and Catherine.

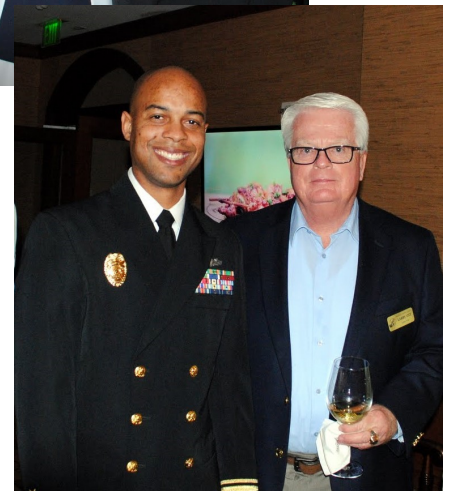
In November, 2010, George was elected as a State Representative. He currently represents District 93 that includes most of northeast Broward County. George serves on the Local Government Affairs Subcommittee (Vice Chair), Transportation & Economic Development Appropriations Subcommittee (Vice Chair), Appropriations Committee, and Civil Justice Subcommittee.

HONOR FLIGHT

On Saturday, April 2nd, Miami International Airport will play host to a truly memorable event and to a remarkable group of American heroes. In partnership with the non-profit Honor Flight South Florida and Eastern Air Lines, 177, World War II and Vietnam War veterans will travel to Washington DC to visit the National World War II Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall. For these local members of our nation's veterans, this will be their opportunity to visit the memorials that honor their courage, service and sacrifice. It promises to be a deeply personal and emotional experience for our hometown veterans. Honor Flight South Florida will depart MIA at 6:00 AM and the veterans will land back at MIA at 8:15 PM. The public is invited to welcome these veterans back alongside their family members, friends and military honor guards.

USS BATAAN

Below are photos taken at the March 7th reception held to welcome Captain John Carter USN, Commanding Officer of our adopted ship USS Bataan.



USNA GOSPEL CHOIR

Several Council members attended the U. S. Naval Academy Gospel Choir's concert on March 18. The Gospel Choir provided an upbeat inspirational concert at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale.



The USNA Gospel Choir



Joe and Marianne Giambrone with Midshipman First Class Eric Oliver, Gospel Choir Vice President.

CHANGE OF COMMAND



The Council will say good-bye to Captain Austin Gould, Commander, Sector Miami who will be relieved by Captain Megan Dean during a change of command ceremony at Coast Guard Air Station Miami on May 13. Captain Gould has been a good friend to the Council and we wish him well on his new assignment.

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@sei-us.com



**BCNL Member
Discount with
this ad**

COAST GUARD EVENT

Operation SAFEE Flight (South Florida Aviators Fly-in & Educational Expo) will be held on April 22 and 23 from 9AM to 3PM at Coast Guard Air Station Miami in Opa Locka.

On Friday, April 22, approximately 1,200 Miami-Dade school children will be able to tour the Air Station, sit in their aircraft and hopefully be inspired to fly. The Air Station will combine a Centennial of Coast Guard Aviation celebration with Operation SAFEE Flight.

On Saturday, April 23, Operation SAFEE Flight and the Air Station Open House will continue - the general public is invited to attend. Food trucks will be available both days.



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ

On March 19, the Council held its annual Easter egg hunt and BBQ for local Coast Guard personnel and their families. A big thanks to The Fitzgerald Group who sponsored the event this year and provided a beautiful banner for the event. Also thanks to Publix which provided a gift card.

Face painting and a bounce house were enjoyed by the children throughout the day. The Easter Bunny was on hand to take pictures. Prizes were presented for collecting the most eggs, finding the 'golden' egg, guessing the number of balls in the jar and for the coloring contest. A BBQ lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers, salads, chips and cookies were enjoyed by all in attendance. At the end of the event, each child was able to select several toys to take home with them.

It takes a lot to put the event together and the Council thanks committee chairperson Shelley Beck for once again ensuring a successful event. Thanks also to board members Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt for manning the BBQ grills as well as to other board members who helped with other facets of the event. Candy (Denise Ingram) was once again a big hit with the kids who got their faces painted. And, finally, thanks to the Lt Mark Ketchum and the crew of Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale for all their assistance in setting up and breaking down the event. A special thanks to DC2 Aja Anderson who served as the Station's point of contact and who stayed at the event to ensure all our needs were met.



Here are some of the many faces of this year's Easter egg hunt



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ



ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ



FLEET WEEK

The following information about ship tours during Fleet Week was taken from the Broward Navy Days website (browardnavydaysinc.org).

Registration for 2016 Fleet Week Ship Tours will open on April 1. In order to receive the latest information about ship tours, sign up for our email newsletter and you will be among the first to be notified. Please do not contact Broward Navy Days, as you will only be told that registration will be announced via our newsletter later this spring. We cannot take pre-registrations or make advance reservations for groups. Please be sure to read the ship tour information before making your reservation. Unfortunately, due to high demand on Saturday and Sunday, guests may only reserve tickets to tour one ship. We look forward to seeing you at Fleet Week Port Everglades 2016.

The tentative schedule for ship tours is indicated below. Please ensure you register PRIOR to Fleet Week on browardnavydaysinc.org. Each visitor will be required to provide the proper paperwork and ID in order to get on any military vessel.

Tuesday, May 3: 9:00-11:30 AM and 1:00-4:00 PM

Wednesday, May 4: 9:00-11:00 AM and 2:00-4:00 PM

Thursday, May 5: 9-11:30 AM and 1:00-4:00 PM

Friday, May 6: 9:00-11:30 AM

Saturday, May 7: 9:00-11:30 AM and 1:00-4:00 PM

Sunday, May 8: 1:00 - 4:00 PM

The following ships are expected to participate in Fleet Week: USS Bataan LHD5 (Council's adopted ship), USS Cole DDG67, USS Farragut DDG99, Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered WPC1104 (Council's adopted ship), Coast Guard Cutter Dependable WMEC626 and a submarine to be announced.

Volunteers are needed to assist with tours, special events, etc. If you or a friend wish to volunteer, you should register on the Broward Navy Days website. Council Secretary Shelley Beck is once again leading up the volunteers and will contact you after you register.

Volunteers are also needed to staff the Council's table where we will once again be selling cold drinks and coins. Donations towards the purchase of soda and water are also appreciated. This is a Council fundraiser and an opportunity to recruit new members, so please let Council President Glenn Wiltshire know if you are available. Glenn can be contacted at 718-619-7402 or at wiltbrit@aol.com.

Listed below are some of the public events that Council members may want to attend. Please be aware that information may be updated prior to Fleet Week so be sure to check next month's newsletter:

Sunday, May 1 - Time to be announced
NAVY BAND SOUTHEAST CONCERT
Sunset Cove Amphitheatre, Boca Raton

Monday, May 2 from 6:00—10:00 PM
ALL HANDS ON DECK WELCOMING PARTY
Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino
and Seminole Paradise
1 Seminole Way, Hollywood

Tuesday, May 3 from 7:30 AM—3:00 PM
FLEET WEEK PORT EVERGLADES GOLF CLASSIC
Fort Lauderdale Golf & Country Club
415 Country Club Circle, Plantation
Registration required - brochure available on Broward Navy Days website

Thursday, May 5 from 6:00—9:00 PM
ENLISTED PERSON OF THE YEAR RECEPTION
Hyatt Regency Pier 66
2301 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale
Hosted by Fort Lauderdale Council
Registration information not yet available

Mark Your Calendars for this Fleet Week Council Event:

Once again, our Council will be hosting the JUNIOR OFFICER PARTY on Tuesday, May 3, from 6:00 - 9:00 PM at Briny's Irish Pub & Restaurant (Las Olas Riverfront) 305 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

All civilians are welcome to attend and mingle with the junior officers from the visiting military vessels. There will be a free buffet for all in attendance and a cash bar for all civilians.

Any questions, contact Erwin Sefton, 954-868-2107 or at erwinsefton@bellsouth.net.



FLEET WEEK
PORT EVERGLADES
2016

USS FORT LAUDERDALE

On March 7, the City of Fort Lauderdale issued the following press release regarding the naming of a Navy ship.

Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus has informed the City that the United States Navy will name a ship in honor of Fort Lauderdale.

The USS FORT LAUDERDALE will be a littoral combat ship (LCS), part of the Navy's new generation of small, fast, highly maneuverable, surface warships. Equipped with advanced core weapons systems, broad combat capability and the latest in hull design and propulsion systems, the LCS can carry out a variety of missions primarily in the littoral (coastal) waters, including mine warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and surface warfare.

"Receiving this honor from the United States Navy represents one of the most prestigious accolades in the history of our City," said Fort Lauderdale Mayor John P. "Jack" Seiler. "We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Congresswoman Lois Frankel, Congressman Alcee Hastings, and Congressman Ted Deutch for their tireless efforts in bringing this dream to fruition. We acknowledge the tremendous assistance and support provided by Senators Bill Nelson and Marco Rubio, and we express our gratitude to all former members of Congress who helped champion this significant undertaking, including the late E. Clay Shaw, Jr."

The Navy's historic announcement comes after years of planning and coordination by Chuck Black, a Fort Lauderdale business owner and Veteran who served 20 years in the Navy. Black spearheaded the effort at the local level and he continues to lend his leadership as an active member of the National Board of Directors and Immediate Past South Florida Area President of the Navy League of the U.S.

"This is a dream come true for the City of Fort Lauderdale," said Black. "The project will create an inseparable bond between the City and the Navy while leaving a legacy for generations to come as our service men and women defend our freedom and protect our shores aboard the USS FORT LAUDERDALE. As a Navy veteran who proudly served our country, I look forward to spearheading the commissioning ceremony in the years ahead."

The decision to honor Fort Lauderdale with the naming of a naval vessel underscores the City's historic ties to U.S. Navy which date back to the 1830s. It was then, during the Second Seminole War, that Navy Lieutenant Levin Powell commanded the "swamp sailors," a contingency that reinforced Major William Lauderdale's troops who were stationed along the north bank of the New River constructing the first of three "Fort Lauderdales."

Fort Lauderdale served as an important Naval training center during World War II. Radar, gunnery and parachuting schools were operated at Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale, which today serves as Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. In addition, West Prospect Airfield, known today as Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, served as a training facility for Naval Aviators, including former President George H.W. Bush.

Fort Lauderdale's storied history with the U.S. Navy also includes having the distinct honor of commissioning six vessels in Port Everglades: the USS LEYTE GULF (CG 55) 1987; USS COLE (DDG 67) 1996; USS HIGGINS (DDG 76) 1999; USS BAINBRIDGE (DDG 96) 2004; USS JASON DUNHAM (DDG 109) 2010; and USCGC RICHARD ETHERIDGE (WPC-1102) in 2012.

"Having a ship named in our City's honor provides us with an opportunity to build upon the unique history, tradition, friendship and respect we have established with the U.S. Navy, while showing our appreciation to the courageous men and women who sacrifice each and every day to protect our liberty and preserve our freedom," added Mayor Seiler. "We look forward to providing the services, resources and support to ensure the project's success."

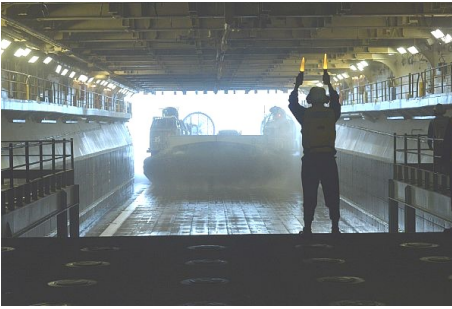
ENLISTED PERSON OF QUARTER

On Wednesday, March 23, Council President Glenn Wiltshire presented the Enlisted Person of the Quarter award at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. A certificate of recognition and monetary award was presented to BM1 Ryan W Brayton who also was the unit's Enlisted Person of the Year for 2015.



MKC Herring, Glenn Wiltshire, BM1 Brayton and BMC Young

SEA SERVICE NEWS



Well deck operations aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5) started March 21 with the implementation of Amphibious Warfare 1.3 and the help of Assault Craft Unit 4. AMW 1.3

is the training portion of the well-deck qualification needed by the ship for deployment. The certification would ensure that Bataan could fulfill the whole purpose of amphibious warfare, which is ship to shore movement of marines and their equipment. The completion of the training qualification depends on four departments - deck, engineering, combat information center and the bridge coming together as one and working effectively and efficiently to ensure the safety of all personnel, crafts, equipment and ship. AMW 1.3 continued through March 23. Bataan will continue her underway conducting routine qualifications in preparation for her future deployment.



Sara Faulkner served in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1996-2016 as a rescue swimmer. Sara's road to becoming a rescue swimmer was exceptionally difficult. The U.S. Coast Guard water rescue school is designed specifically to weed out anyone not capable of the physically demanding job. Before Sara, no woman

had been able to achieve the Coast Guard's rescue swimmer qualification. Sara says she had to overcome numerous hurdles, noting that half of the men didn't want her to pass and the half who were okay with it still did not think she could do it. Sara proved the critics wrong and went on to a very successful career as a rescue swimmer. She has saved countless lives performing rescues from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and "mayday" calls from the Gulf of Mexico to Antarctica.



The commandant of the Marine Corps paid tribute to a staff sergeant killed by Islamic State rocket fire in Iraq, shedding new light on the circumstances surrounding the loss. Staff Sgt.

Louis Cardin, 27, a member of Battalion Landing Team 2/6, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, was killed by indirect fire on March 19 at a new artillery outpost near Makhmour, Iraq, shortly after he and a small

element of Marines had detached from the MEU in order to support the small post. Gen. Robert Neller said three other Marines wounded in that same rocket attack were due to arrive back in the United States headed for Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During a briefing to reporters at the Pentagon on Friday, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford said the circumstances of Cardin's death, the second combat death since the coalition fight against Islamic State militants began, does not change the nature of the operation or indicate an increase in the Marines' ground combat role.



Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod unveiled its yellow-painted MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter during a ceremony at the Air Station on March 25. The Jayhawk helicopter will operate out of Air Station Cape Cod for the

next four years. The Jayhawk is one of six specially painted Coast Guard MH-60s donning the chrome yellow paint scheme that Coast Guard and Navy helicopters used in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Altogether, three different Coast Guard aircraft types, 16 in total, including the Jayhawk and Dolphin helicopters as well as the HC-144 Ocean Sentry airplane, are receiving historic paint schemes representing various eras of Coast Guard aviation. Coast Guard aviation officially began April 1, 1916 when 3rd Lt. Elmer Stone reported to flight training in Pensacola, Florida. The Coast Guard is celebrating the centennial of Coast Guard aviation throughout 2016, with a variety of activities honoring the accomplishments and sacrifices of the men and women throughout the past 100 years. Air Station Cape Cod is the only Coast Guard Aviation facility in the Northeast and is responsible for the waters from New Jersey to the Canadian border.



Forty seriously wounded, ill and injured Navy athletes have been chosen to represent Team Navy at the Department of Defense 2016 Warrior Games this summer. The athletes were evaluated during

the Wounded Warrior Pacific Navy Trials, which took place Feb. 20-26 in Hawaii. During the trials 54 athletes competed in seven sporting events, including swimming, track and field, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, shooting, archery, and cycling. Navy Wounded Warrior (NWW) is the Navy and Coast Guard's wounded warrior support program. All of the athletes who participated in the trials are enrolled in the program, which has provided non-medical care throughout their recovery. The 2016 Team Navy roster includes a diverse collection of athletes from around the country, from both the enlisted and officer communities, with incredibly varied backgrounds and skill sets.

MARCH EVENTS



Council members in attendance at reception for Captain John Carter, USN, CO, USS Bataan are Julie Carney, Tom Carney, Joe Giambrone, Larry Ott, Marianne Giambrone and Glenn Wiltshire



Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale hosted the Easter Egg Hunt on March 19. Shown are Executive Officer LTJG Jessica Shafer, Council President Glenn Wiltshire and Commanding Officer LT Mark Ketchum

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