

THE HELMSMAN

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



Glenn Wiltshire, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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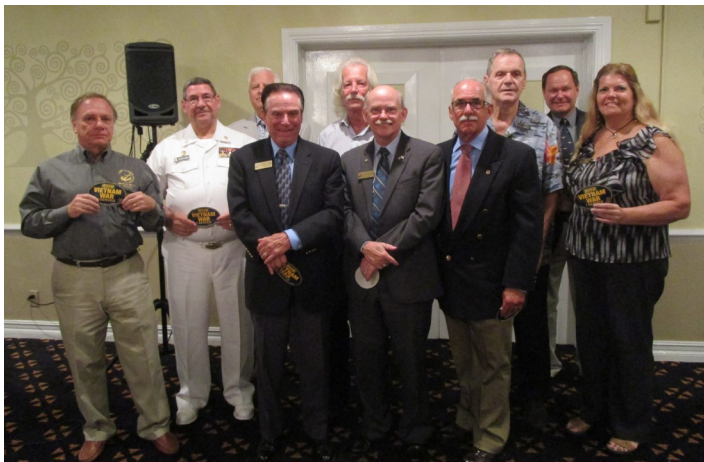
www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

On September 27, the Council joined members of the Fort Lauderdale Council to celebrate Sea Cadet Night. The Naval Sea Cadets Corps is celebrating its 55th anniversary this year, having been federally chartered by Congress as a non-profit organization in 1962.

Vietnam veterans were also recognized by National Vice President Joe Giambrone. The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration was authorized by Congress and launched by President Barack Obama in 2012 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. The Commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location. Each of the veterans were presented with a lapel pin and bumper sticker.



Shown in photo (left to right) Joe Giambrone, Alan Starr, Charlie Schmidt, Glenn Wiltshire, Eduardo Lombardo

Back row: Bruce Gottsch, Keith Walpole, Tom Melville, Robert Hogg Jr accepting for his father Robert Hogg Sr, Shelley Beck accepting for her father Ken Beck

Recognized but not shown in photo is Zane Kelletter

OKTOBERFEST

Broward and Fort Lauderdale Councils
Will be celebrating
OKTOBERFEST
On October 11, 2017

See flyer inside for details and
RSVP information

2018 SLATE OF OFFICERS

The following is the slate of Council Officers for 2018

President: Larry Ott
First Vice President: Erwin Sefton
Second Vice President: Marianne Giambrone
Vice President, Legislative Affairs: Robert Marks
Secretary: Shelley Beck
Treasurer: Tom Carney
JAG: No candidate

Write-in candidates will be accepted by the secretary until October 31, 2017. 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

It's been a challenging month here in South Florida. We all were affected in some way when Hurricane Irma arrived in Florida soon after the impacts of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Louisiana, and the whole world watches as Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and a number of other Caribbean nations continue to recover from the devastating impacts of Hurricane Maria. While I have only lived in South Florida for 11 years, this has definitely been the most active hurricane season. Once again, the sea services have been in the lead, with the Coast Guard at the forefront saving lives soon after the storms and coordinating the delivery of relief supplies, and the Navy and Marines still sending ships and personnel to Puerto Rico to help restore basic services to the entire island. In addition, hundreds of sea service members and their families stationed in the areas directly impacted by the storms were affected and continue to recover. While we were fortunate that Irma veered to the west before it made landfall and limited the impacts in our area, many of us were left without power for a few days and had light damage compared to what was initially predicted. Please keep all of those affected by these tragedies in your thoughts and prayers as they continue the recovery from the storms.

Thanks to all from the Council who were able to attend the joint dinner meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council on Wednesday, September 27th at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. We heard from six Sea Cadets who reported on their experiences during their summer training programs, which was a small sampling of the cadets that spent weeks of their summer at training throughout the country. In lieu of our October dinner meeting, we will once again be joining with the Fort Lauderdale Council at the annual Oktoberfest Celebration at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on Wednesday, October 11th. Don't forget that reservations are needed in advance. This is always a fun event, so hope to see you there.

As we get near the end of 2018, we will be putting forward our slate of officers and Board for next year to be voted on in November. My thanks to long time Board member Larry Ott for stepping forward as the nominee to be our President for next year, and to the others who have agreed to continue to serve on the Board. We are still looking for members who would like to take a more active role in the Council by serving on the Board, so please let me know if you are interested in stepping up and taking a stronger role in our Council's leadership as a Board member.

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



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Council's two adopted Naval ships celebrated "birthdays" in September.

On September 20, USS Bataan LHD 5 celebrated its 20th birthday. The ship was commissioned in 1997 in Pascagoula, Mississippi and memorializes the valiant resistance of American and Filipino troops on the Bataan Peninsula in the early days of World War II.

On September 26, USS Leyte Gulf CG-55 celebrated its 30th birthday. The ship was commissioned at Port Everglades in 1987 and is the second U.S. Navy ship named for the WWII Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Pacific.



SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

Six cadets from the Spruance Division Sea Cadets talked about their summer training experiences at Sea Cadet Night on September 27.

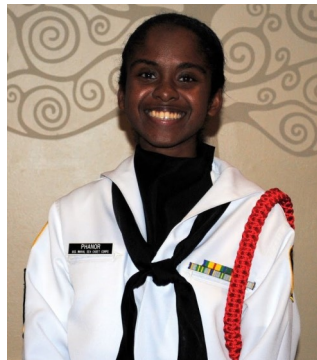


Matthew Tibbets attended Advanced Medical Training and Staff & Recruit Training.



Dominic Briganty attended Tactical Medical Training, Scuba Training, Boat Building Training and Tall Ship Training.

Mikhala Phanor attended Basic Medical Training and Master At Arms Training.



LCDR Alan Starr, commanding officer of the Spruance Division Sea Cadets with Abiud Montes, President of Fort Lauderdale Council



Erik Cooper attending Merchant Marine Operations Training, Basic Medical Training, Seamanship Training and Underway Training.

Sebastian Klincewicz attended Recruit Training, Master At Arms Training and Honor Guard Training.



Captain Joe Solomon Coast Guard Sector Miami Deputy Commander with Broward County Council President Glenn Wiltshire



Matthew Swain attended Master At Arms Training.

SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



National Vice President Joe Giambrone, Bruce Gottsch and Everglades Council President Tom Melville



Lynn Elsasser Black, Rosalind Starr and Alicia Romano



Joanne Melville, Diane Schmidt and Marianne Giambrone



Captain Megan Dean, Commander Coast Guard Sector Miami with Council President Glenn Wiltshire



Representatives from Navy Operational Support Center Miami—standing are YNC Dequerio Butler (left) and Commanding Officer CDR Tenisha Finley



Lt Olima (left), CDR Claire with their guest from Coast Guard Sector Miami



Broward County & Fort Lauderdale Councils
 invite you to a joint

Oktoberfest Celebration



Wednesday, October 11th
6:30-9:00pm

Lauderdale Yacht Club
1725 SE 12th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

Featuring
Live Music, German Beers,
& German Fare

Please detach and return with your check

Oktoberfest Celebration

Wednesday, October 11th, Lauderdale Yacht Club, 6:30-9:00 pm

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Email _____

attending (@\$38each) _____ **Total enclosed \$** _____

Make checks payable to: NLUS

Send to: Lynn Drucker, 845 S. Southlake Drive, Hollywood, FL 33019

NEWS FROM OUR SEA SERVICES



On September 27, Port Everglades was the center of action. Crew members from the Coast Guard cutter Valiant offloaded approximately 490 kilograms of cocaine at the hub in Fort Lauderdale. The drugs had an estimated wholesale value of approximately \$15 million. The offload was a result of interdictions from three separate cases in the Eastern Pacific in September, officials said. *Story and photo from The Miami Herald.*



In another historic moment for the Marine Corps, a woman is expected to become the Corps' first female assault amphibian officer. The woman is slated to graduate on October 3 from the 12-week Assault Amphibian Officer Course at Camp Pendleton, California, Training Command said in a statement. She is also the first woman to attempt the course. Training Command plans to release the woman's name after she graduates and becomes the first woman to earn the military occupational specialty 1803 for assault amphibian officers. This latest news comes after a female lieutenant recently became the first woman to complete the Marine Corps' 13-week Infantry Officer Course. The woman, whose name has not been released, will be assigned as an infantry officer to the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. These women join 2nd Lt. Lillian Polatchek, who became the Corps' first female tank officer in April; and the Corps' first two female field artillery officers, 2nd Lt. Virginia Brodie and 2nd Lt. Katherine Boy, who completed their training in June 2016. *Story and photo from Marine Times.*



On September 25, the U.S. Navy accepted delivery of the future USS Little Rock (LCS 9) during a ceremony at the Fincantieri Marinette Marine (FMM) shipyard. Little Rock

is the 11th littoral combat ship (LCS) to be delivered to the Navy and the fifth of the Freedom variant to join the fleet. Delivery marks the official transfer of the ship from the shipbuilder, part of a Lockheed Martin-led team, to the U.S. Navy. It is the final milestone prior to commissioning, which is planned for December in Buffalo, New York. *Story and photo from Navy.mil*



On September 27, the USS Ponce, born an Austin-class amphibious transport dock and remade into an afloat forward staging base in 2012, pulled into

homeport in Norfolk, Virginia, ending a five-year deployment to the Middle East. The ship is set to be retired after 46 years in service later this year. In late 2011, at the age of 40, the ship was set to be decommissioned. But plans changed when U.S. Central Command asked for an interim afloat forward staging base, a new class of seabasing ship that had yet to enter service. The ship's mission would be to conduct mine countermeasures, said Jim Strock, an independent consultant who previously directed the Marine Corps' Seabasing Integration Division. The Navy spent between \$60 and \$70 million to modify the Ponce for the mission, Strock said. It was equipped with Navy MH-53 minesweeping helicopters and a hybrid civilian-military crew and deployed to the Middle East in 2012. But while there, planners realized the ship could be instrumental for experimentation as well, testing out new concepts and equipment to inform development of new seabasing platforms that were soon to enter the fleet. Perhaps most notably, the Ponce gave the Navy a platform from which to test a prototype laser weapons system, known as LaWS, designed to defend against small vessels, aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles. LaWS was deployed aboard the Ponce in August 2014 for testing; it would remain aboard the ship for the duration of its time in the Middle East. Meanwhile, the Navy was beginning to acquire purpose-built seabasing vessels, beginning with the Expeditionary Transfer Dock Montford Point in 2013. The Lewis B. Puller, the Navy's first Expeditionary Mobile Base, was commissioned in August in Bahrain as a replacement for the Ponce in the Middle East. *Story and photo from Military.com*

MEMBERSHIP

A new Member Portal (<http://portal.navyleague.org>) has been created that will enable members to update their personal information, find Navy League training presentations on the Portal event calendar (take place on the third Thursday of each month) and more. (Please note that not all features are currently available.) You will need to visit the website to create a new user account/user ID/password. Once you register, it will take about 24 hours to receive confirmation that your user ID has been linked to your Navy League member record. Once you receive your email confirmation, click on the link embedded in the email or simply use the LOGIN button located in the upper right-hand side of the portal website.

Welcome to New Members

Mirtha Rivera of Miramar

Apologies to Mirtha who was not included in last month's newsletter

Community Affiliate members support our Council's grassroots efforts. Community Affiliate benefits include up to 4 individual Navy League memberships, a subscription to SEAPOWER magazine and annual SEAPOWER ALMANAC and recognition by our Council. If your company would like to find out more about becoming a Community Affiliate, please contact us at bcnavyleague@gmail.com.

The Council appreciates the support of our community affiliate.

Ship Supply of Florida
10800 NW 103 St Ste 1, Miami

UPCOMING EVENTS

On October 14, Fort Lauderdale Council will be hosting its annual Pursuit of Honor, Courage & Commitment 5K Run/Walk to benefit The Wounded Warrior Project & U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The event will be held at Charnow Park on Hollywood Beach. Register at tinyurl.com/Honor-5K-Run

On October 14th, Honor Flight South Florida will be holding its 1st Annual Military Gala at the Rick Case Arena on the Nova State University Campus in Davie. Master of Ceremony will be comic and actor Wil Shriner. Donations to Honor Flight South Florida help them honor and fly local veterans to Washington DC for the day. Visit honorflightsouthflorida.org to find out more about their mission, the event or to make a donation.

On November 4, the Broward Veterans Coalition Expo will take place at Broward College 3501 Davie Rd., Davie, FL 33314 in building #10 from 10 AM-2 PM. This expo had to be rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma.

On November 18, the 242nd Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration will be held at the Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa, 3030 Holiday Drive, Fort Lauderdale. Tickets are \$90 per person. For tickets and dinner selection, contact MSgt Booker Maxwell at HQ's MARFORSOUTH (305) 437-2532 / booker.t.maxwell.mil@mail.mil

NEWSLETTER SPONSOR

Business card ads are available at a cost of \$125. The ad will appear 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 954-389-0545 or giambronejm@gmail.com.

Larry M. Ott
Funeral Director

**Kraer-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**

HONOR FLIGHT

On September 23, a large group gathered to welcome home the veterans who participated in a day with Honor Flight South Florida. These veterans were treated to a great day in Washington DC where they got to visit many of Washington's greatest sights. The Honor Flight itinerary usually includes visits to the great memorials including places like the World War II Memorial, the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. A bus tour of the city is usually also included. It's a long day for these veterans but one they will always remember. *Photos by Carolyn Burns and Shelley Beck*



To find out how you can get involved, visit Honorflightsouthflorida.org

SEAFARERS' HOUSE SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS

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. For those not familiar with Seafarers' House, it is located on Port Everglades across from terminal 18. It is open year-round and provides mariners whose ships are visiting Port Everglades with a variety of services including pastoral care, money transfers and free Wi-Fi.

Board members Joe and Marianne Giambrone have been involved with the Seafarers' House's "Shoebbox Christmas" for several years and the planning has already begun for this year's event. 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.



Photo from last year's event. Board member Larry Ott is second from the right.

SEA CADET NIGHT



Spruance Division Sea Cadets with their commanding officer LCDR Alan Starr

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

