

THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President
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APRIL DINNER SOCIAL

On April 12, the Council held its dinner social at Tropical Acres Restaurant. The guest speaker was Reverend Sanford Raymond Sears, Port Chaplain, Seafarers' House at Port Everglades. Father Sears talked about his military career in the Army and Coast Guard and how he transitioned into his life as a chaplain. He shared several amusing stories about his military life and encouraged the audience to get involved with Seafarers' House, especially the Shoebox Christmas program. Father Sears is shown below with Council President Larry Ott.



In attendance at the dinner was Lt Jessica Shafer, Executive Officer at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, and her husband Tim Woody. Lt Shafer will be departing in early May to become Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Cape Disappointment in Washington State. On behalf of the Council, Past President Glenn Wiltshire presented a going-away gift of hats and scarves which his wife Estella had knitted (photo inside th newsletter). Lt Shafer has been very active in Council events and will be missed; we wish her much success in her new assignment.

EASTER EGG HUNT/BBQ

On March 24, the Council hosted its annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ at Station Fort Lauderdale. It was a beautiful day with a big turnout of Coast Guard personnel from many of our adopted units along with their families. As always, there was the Easter egg hunt with prizes given for most eggs collected as well as the popular bounce house. The children kept face painter Denise Ingram very busy as she provided them with the design of their choice. All in attendance enjoyed a BBQ lunch prepared by chefs Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt. A big thanks to The Fitzgerald Group and Council member Bob Giacini for making substantial donations to help defray the costs of the event and to Publix for donating a \$100 gift card. Kudos to Council Secretary Shelley Beck who once again served as the chairperson of the event and did a great job coordinating the day's activities. Shelley and her mom, Yvonne Beck, donated the plastic eggs and all the gifts for the prizes that were awarded. Thanks also to the Council board members who assisted with set-up, clean-up and photography. It goes without saying that we could not hold this event without the assistance provided by the Officers and crew at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale; they assisted the Council before, during and after the event – from setting up the tent to clean-up—thank you all!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, March 24th, the Council hosted our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. It was a perfect day for this event and well attended by excited children participating in the Easter Egg Hunt and the many other events. We are grateful for Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale for providing the venue. In spite of a foot injury, Shelley Beck orchestrated the day. Chefs Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt manned the grill with Joan Sefton and Diane Schmidt assisting with the setups. Glenn Wiltshire delivered two large boxes of toys. Thanks to those who generously provided financial support-Brad Fitzgerald of The Fitzgerald Group and Bob Giacin.

I am pleased to welcome Bruce Gottsch who joined the Board of Directors. Bruce is a long-time member of the Navy League and I'm sure will bring new ideas and wisdom to the board.

Looking ahead, our next dinner meeting will be on April 12th at Tropical Acres. Chaplain Sandy Sears will be our guest speaker. Chaplain Sears is chaplain at Seafarers' House in Port Everglades. A retired Coast Guard Officer and rector of his church, Chaplain Sears offers a wide range of experience to his duties in Port Everglades. Several from our Council had the pleasure working with Chaplain Sears during the Shoebox project for the merchant mariners this past December.

Fleet Week will soon be here. Monday, April 30th to Saturday, May 5th. Our council provides many of the volunteers for the week. Being a volunteer is a rewarding experience and anyone interested can reach out to Shelley Beck at shelleybeck@bellsouth.net

Then in June we will have the opportunity to meet at the Star Center for our monthly dinner meeting. The Star Center is an impressive facility that offers maritime officers continuing education and certification. The simulator is so realistic that you think you are actually on a cargo ship and then there is the control room for the various systems on a ship. Council member Graeme Holman will be our host. You won't want to miss out on this meeting.

Hope to see you at these events.

Contact me by email at lar9601@aol.com or by phone 954-253-2786 for any questions or concerns.

Larry M. Ott
President



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As many of our members know, our Council sets up a table during Fleet Week to sell soda, water, and Council coins during the public ship visit hours. This is our second major fundraiser for the year, and all funds raised at this event go directly to support our adopted units and youth programs. This year, the ships arrive on Monday, April 30th and will be open for public tours from 9 AM to 4 PM from Tuesday, May 1st through Saturday, May 5th, and volunteers are needed to help staff the table during those days. Like past years, we will staff the table from 9 AM to 4:30 PM on Tuesday-Saturday, and will be assigning volunteers for either the morning (9 AM - 1 PM) or afternoon (1 PM - 4:30 PM). Weekdays are the most difficult to staff, so volunteers are especially needed then.

If you think you can assist, please contact Glenn Wiltshire at 718-619-7402 or wiltbrit@aol.com. In addition, please go to the Fleet Week 2018 web site at www.browardnavydaysinc.org and register as a volunteer so you can be added to the cleared volunteers list for port entry and receive a free parking pass. Add in the comment section that you are volunteering for the Broward County Navy League table.

In addition to volunteers, we can also use donations of soda and water, or cash donations to defray the cost of purchasing these items for sale. Please contact Glenn directly if you would like to make a donation or have any questions.

MARCH DINNER SOCIAL



The Council held a joint dinner social with Fort Lauderdale Council on March 21 at Coral Ridge Country Club. The guest speaker was Major General David G. Bellon, Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South. Major General Bellon gave an outstanding presentation about his experiences in the Marine Corps. He also shared special motivational words with the Spruance Division Sea Cadets in attendance. Shown in the photo is Council President Larry Ott presenting a Council coin to Major General Bellon.

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ

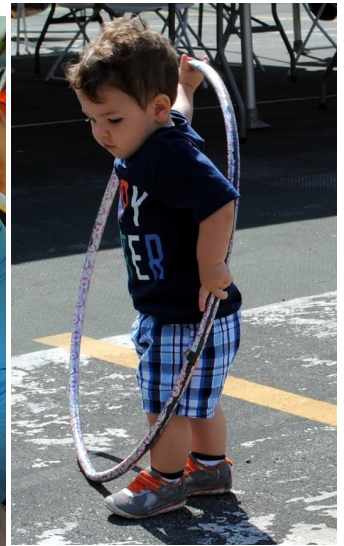


Thanks to Erwin Sefton and Charlie Schmidt who handled the grills



Denise Ingram did a great job with face painting

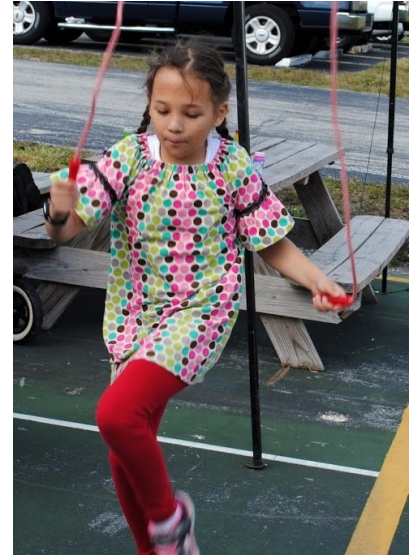
A great turnout of Coast Guard personnel and their families enjoyed the day; these photos are of just a few of them.



A big thank you to Diane Schmidt for taking all the pictures!

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ

Additional photos from the Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale.



COAST GUARD NEWS



Vice Adm. Karl L. Schultz has been nominated to be the 26th commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen an-

announced the nomination by President Donald J. Trump on March 8. Schultz, commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, currently serves as the operational commander for all Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Persian Gulf, spanning five Coast Guard districts and 40 states. He also serves as commander, Defense Force East, and provides Coast Guard mission support to the Department of Defense and combatant commanders. Pending confirmation, he is expected to relieve Adm. Paul F. Zukunft as commandant in a change-of command ceremony June 1 in Washington. Zukunft will retire this summer.

Schultz's previous operational assignments included sector command in Miami as well as command tours aboard the cutters *Venturous*, *Acacia* and *Farallon*. Staff assignments have included chief of the Office of Congressional and Governmental Affairs; congressional liaison officer to the U.S. House of Representatives; liaison officer to the U.S. Department of State, Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs; assignment officer at the Coast Guard Personnel Command; and command duty officer in the 7th Coast Guard District Operations Center in Miami.

The president also has nominated Vice Adm. Charles W. Ray, the current deputy commandant for Operations, as the Coast Guard's 31st vice commandant. Pending confirmation, Ray will relieve Adm. Charles D. Michel in a change-of-watch ceremony May 24 in Washington. Michel, the Coast Guard's first four-star vice commandant, will retire following the change of watch. *Article and photo from Seapower Magazine*

RECOGNITION

On April 4, Council Board Member Senior Chief Alan Starr and Past President Glenn Wiltshire recognized the achievement of the Coast Guard Air Station's Enlisted Person of the Year. A certificate of accomplishment and monetary award was presented to MK1 Angel Vazquez.



Alan Starr, MK1 Angel Vazquez and Glenn Wiltshire

INSURANCE

The Navy League recently announced that GEICO has been added to the list of companies providing discounts to Navy League members. The following is from the Navy League website:

In business for over 75 years, GEICO gives you the benefit of great rates on high-quality car insurance. Because you are a Navy League member, you could be eligible for a special membership discount on GEICO auto insurance. In addition to your special membership discount, you'll also receive 24-hour service online or by phone, as well as efficient and fair claim handling. To complete your free, no-obligation rate quote, simply visit <http://www.geico.com/mil/nlus> or call 1-800-368-2734 to speak with an agent. Make sure to mention that you are a member of the Navy League to be eligible for that special discount. Already a GEICO customer? Make sure to let a GEICO representative know that you are a member of Navy League so they can add that information to your policy.

APRIL DINNER SOCIAL



Lt Shafer and her husband Tim Woody trying out the warm gear they will need when they move to Washington State



New member Mark Yonge with President Larry Ott



Sonny Matta, Greg Steadman, President Larry Ott and Rick Ciravolo



Joe Giambrone with Erika Sears and Father Sears



David Shear with Board Member Nancy Lindberg



Joan Sefton, Erwin Sefton and Marianne Giambrone

Thanks to Board Member Charlie Schmidt for providing some of the photos!

COMMUNITY AFFILIATE

Community Affiliate members support our Council's grassroots efforts. Community Affiliate benefits include up to 4 individual Navy League memberships, a subscription to SEAPOWERS magazine and SEAPOWERS ALMANAC and recognition by our Council.

If your company would like to find out more about becoming a Community Affiliate, please contact us at browardnavyleague@gmail.com.

The Council appreciates the support of our community affiliate.

Ship Supply of Florida

10800 NW 103 St Ste 1, Miami

BUSINESS CARD ADS

Do you own your own business or know someone that does? Please consider supporting the Council by placing a business card ad in the Council's newsletter, the Helmsman. For \$125, your ad will appear in the newsletter for an entire year (normally 10 issues). The Helmsman is sent out to more than 300 people including local politicians, military personnel and other military-related organizations.

For more information, please contact Marianne Giambrone at browardnavyleague@gmail.com.

Larry M. Ott
Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild
Funeral Home
and Cremation Center**

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308
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Fax 954-565-7899
larry.ott@sci-us.com



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FLEET WEEK

The 28th Fleet Week Port Everglades will be held from April 30 – May 6, 2018. The community will welcome visiting Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen on Monday, April 30 at Esplanade Park on the Fort Lauderdale Riverwalk. The public is invited to this festive ceremony.

Public tours of visiting Navy and Coast Guard vessels will be offered May 1 through May 5. Broward Navy Days has indicated that all tours are currently completely full.

Don't miss these two Navy League events:

Our Council will host a **Junior Officers Reception** on Tuesday, May 1 from 6:00–9:00 PM. The public is invited to attend. Details as follows:

Briny's Irish Pub Restaurant, 305 S Andrews Ave, Fort Lauderdale (Las Olas Riverfront on the New River)

Free buffet for all in attendance—Two free drinks for guests in uniform—Cash bar for civilians

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

Fort Lauderdale Council will host an **Enlisted Person of the Year Awards Banquet** on Thursday, May 3 from 6:00–9:00 PM. Details as follows:

Pier 66 Resort & Marina, 2301 SE 17th Street Fort Lauderdale

\$75 for civilians—RSVP by April 30 with your check made payable to NLUS Fort Lauderdale Council. Mail to: Lynn Drucker, 845 S. Southlake Drive, Hollywood FL 33019

Questions can be directed to Lynn at 954-325-9102 or at lynn@druckermail.com

Humana.

FLEET WEEK
PORT ★ EVERGLADES 

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ



Diane Schmidt, Charlie Schmidt, Joan Sefton, Erwin Sefton, Shelley Beck, President Larry Ott, Glenn Wiltshire and Denise Ingram—the team that helped make the day a great success!

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