

THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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www.bcnavyleague.org

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MAY DINNER SOCIAL

THE STAR CENTER
2 West Dixie Highway, Dania Beach

You are Invited to a presentation, tour of the bridge & engine room simulators* and a bridge simulator demonstration

Thursday, June 14, 2018 6:00 PM

Price: \$30 per person (payable in advance)

Price includes a buffet dinner
entrée choices are grilled teriyaki salmon, beef tenderloin or chicken Francese
soda and water will be provided
guests are invited to bring their own wine

Due to limited space for the simulator tours, reservations will be accepted until we reach capacity.

Please RSVP your dinner choice ASAP via email to browardnavyleague@gmail.com or call Joan at 561-336-3610

Then mail your check made payable to Broward Council Navy League (or BCNL) no later than June 8 to Marianne Giambrone 1546 Barcelona Way, Weston FL 33327

*please note that guests must negotiate 6 steps to reach the simulator

FLEET WEEK

Fleet Week kicked off on Monday, April 30, on a beautiful evening in Fort Lauderdale. An invitation-only VIP reception was held at the Museum of Discovery & Science. Afterwards, the All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party was held at Esplanade Park. Local politicians and business leaders along with many civilians were on hand to welcome the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel to Fort Lauderdale. After the ceremony, the military personnel were treated to food and beverages provided by Mission BBQ.



Above—Board members Alan Starr, Erwin Sefton and Glenn Wiltshire at VIP reception Below—Crew of USS Kearsarge gets ready for All Hands on Deck Party



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another Fleet Week has just ended and we are now left with fond memories of those we have met and the many activities in which we participated. One of the highlights for our Council was the JO party at Briny's Pub on Riverwalk. What a great evening and large turn out from the Coast Guard, Marines, Navy and other units! Then among many other events, our Council raised funds with the sale of water and sodas to the public. These earnings help us support the many ships and units we have adopted. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time and resources to help make this 28th Fleet Week so successful.

Thanks to Marianne Giambrone and Tom Carney, we now have a tri-fold flyer that we can give out to prospective members. The flyer identifies our Mission, Objectives, and lists the many military units and youth programs we support. There is an application on the back page for anyone who might like to join us.

Our next dinner meeting will be at the STAR Center in Dania. This is an impressive operation that provides training to maritime officers. The Merchant Marines compose one of the four branches supported by the Navy League and this event gives us a better understanding of the vital role they serve. Council member Graeme Holman will be our host. There will be a buffet and tour of the facility and simulator. You won't want to miss this unique meeting.

And finally, I am pleased to announce that the Broward County Council of the Navy League has been selected to receive the Meritorious Council award. Meritorious Council is a national recognition and much thanks to Marianne and all who helped us achieve such a distinguished award.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the STAR Center.

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

Larry M. Ott
President



STAR CENTER EVENT

The STAR Center is the leading maritime training center in the United States and provides training for deck and engineer officers of all license levels. If you have ever wondered what type of training our merchant mariners go through to safely operate ships, then you will want to attend this event. Council member Graeme Holman, Head, Operations at STAR Center will share information about the maritime training programs before showing us the ship simulators. The 360 degree bridge simulator demonstration will take us through a variety of scenarios from high seas to fog, daytime to nighttime, and more. A buffet dinner will be served along with soda and water; guests who wish to have wine can bring their own bottles. We hope you will join us for our last dinner meeting before we take our summer break.

The STAR Center is located at 2 W Dixie Highway in Dania Beach. There is parking available. If you would like to find out more about The STAR Center, you can visit their website (star-center.com).

COUNCIL AWARD

The Council Performance Awards Committee recently announced that the Council has been awarded a "Meritorious" rating for 2017. The rating recognizes the Council's efforts in support of our Sea Services and their families, Youth groups (JROTC cadets and Sea Cadets), Legislative Affairs and Public Education. A special thanks to Council President Glenn Wiltshire who served as an exemplary leader for three years. Thanks also to the Council Board Members as well as to every Council member who attended an event, paid local dues or made a donation to the Council. Without everyone's efforts, we could not continue to support our military and youth.

Other Florida Councils that were recognized as "Meritorious" were: Central Florida, Jacksonville, Saint Augustine-Palm Coast, Tampa, and Treasure Coast. There were no Florida Councils recognized as "Outstanding".

Second Vice President Marianne Giambrone and National Vice President & Board Member Joe Giambrone will accept the award on the Council's behalf at the National Convention in Portland Oregon in June.

COAST GUARD NEWS

It was recently announced that BMCM Mathew J. Coppola, currently the Officer in Charge of the USCGC Gannet, was selected as the thirteenth Silver (Enlisted) Ancient Mariner since the inception of the program in 1978. BMCM Coppola assumed the title of Silver Ancient Mariner from MCPO-CG Steven W. Cantrell during a ceremony onboard USCGC Bear in Portsmouth, VA on April 30. BMCM Coppola has over 17 years of sea time while serving aboard 7 Coast Guard cutters and has been OIC of CGC BELUGA (WPB 87325), CGC FINBACK (WPB 87334) and CG STA Wrightsville Beach. The Ancient Mariner title recognizes the officer and enlisted person with the earliest designation as a permanent cutterman and requires a minimum of ten years of sea time. The award recipients must personify and uphold the core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty, along with the professionalism and leadership associated with long service at sea.

On May 1, the crew of our adopted ship, the USCGC Bernard C. Webber said goodbye to LTJG David Westland who will be reporting to flight training to continue his career as a Coast Guard Aviator. LTJG Westland (*on left in photo*) was recognized for his excellent performance with a Coast Guard Achievement Medal. (*story and photo from the Webber's Facebook page*)



AST2 Samuel Knoeppel, a Rescue Swimmer at Air Station Miami, was recognized as the South Florida Federal Employee of the year. He was voted the Number 1 employee out of thousands of federal employees in the area. Additionally, AST2 Knoeppel received the South Florida Federal Employee Award for Valor 2017. He was recognized for maintaining Aviation Life Support Equipment for over 280 aircrew and 10 aircraft, deploying to Houston, Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, and saving more than 27 lives. Additionally, he provided life saving medical care to two individuals in the helicopter while enroute to the hospital. Due to the helicopter being unable to land at the hospital's pad, he carried the individuals 150 yds through the mud to get them to care. (*story and photo from CG Air Station Miami's Facebook page*)



BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

The Museum of Discovery & Science located in Fort Lauderdale was proud to announce that they have become a Blue Star Museum. According to the National Endowment for the Arts website (arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums), Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America. Each summer since 2010, Blue Star Museums have offered free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Memorial Day through Labor Day. This is a great opportunity for military families to enjoy the more than 200 Blue Star Museums nation-wide. For a complete list of the Blue Star Museums, visit the website.



The Museum of Discovery & Science is located at 401 SW 2nd Street in Fort Lauderdale. According to their website (mods.org), the Museum consists of 119,000 square feet of interior space, a 300-seat AutoNation IMAX Theater, an open-air Grand Atrium

featuring the Great Gravity Clock and the newly opened outdoor Science Park. The Museum features dynamic interactive exhibits in the natural and physical sciences and a large array of programs designed to serve diverse audiences. The Museum regularly serves over 400,000 visitors each year and is the primary destination for school field trips in Broward County. The ability of the Museum to entertain and educate children and adults through immersive exhibits, engaging educational programming and films, and a live animal collection adds immeasurably to the region's educational resources.



New Science Park at Museum of Discovery & Science

SEA SERVICE NEWS



The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute offloaded approximately 1 ton of marijuana on May 8 in St. Petersburg FL worth an estimated \$2.2

million wholesale which was seized during a 71-day deployment in international waters in the Caribbean Sea. (*story and photo from USCG Southeast Facebook page*)



The White House announced that President Donald J. Trump will award the Medal of Honor to Master Chief Petty Officer (SEAL), Retired, Britt Slabinski for his heroic actions in March 2002 during the Battle of Takur Ghar while serving in Afghanistan. Slabinski will be awarded the Medal of Honor during a White House

ceremony on May 24, 2018 for his actions while leading a team under heavy effective enemy fire in an attempt to rescue teammate Petty Officer First Class Neil Roberts during Operation ANACONDA in 2002. (*story and photo from Navy.mil*)



As the need and scope of the military's unmanned systems continues to grow, the Navy plans to establish a command devoted to aviation drones this fall.

Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Two Four (UX24) will come into existence at Webster Outlying Field in Maryland in October, according to an OPNAV instruction issued in April. UX24's mission will involve providing research, development, testing and other support for Navy and Marine Corps drone systems. That mission is currently performed by Naval Test Wing Atlantic, but growth in the field requires a command solely focused on the aviation drone mission, the OPNAV states. The Navy's aerial drone fleet has grown to run the gamut in recent years, and ranges from smaller models to plans for the MQ-25, a drone that will be able to refuel manned aircraft midflight. (*story and photo from NavyTimes.com*)

RECOGNITION AT OUR LOCAL UNITS

On April 26, Council President Larry Ott and Past President Glenn Wiltshire recognized the achievements of several crew members of our adopted ship, USCGC Margaret Norvell. FN Monserrat Lazaro-Rivera was recognized by the Council as the Enlisted Person of the Quarter. SN Odom was recognized for his advancement and placement on the BM "A" school list. A celebration on the retirement of BMC George Spitler after 20 years of service also took place.



Above: Glenn Wiltshire, President Larry Ott, FN Lazaro-Rivera and Commanding Officer LT Brittany Panetta

Below: Council President Larry Ott with BMC George Spitler



On May 2, Council President Larry Ott and Past President Glenn Wiltshire were on hand at our adopted unit, Aids to Navigation (ANT) Fort Lauderdale. Larry recognized the Enlisted Person of the Year MK3 Devin Gilbert for his achievements.



Executive Petty Officer ZBM1 John Ahlin, MK3 Gilbert and President Larry Ott

On May 9, Board Member Alan Starr was on hand at our adopted unit, Coast Guard Air Station Miami. Alan recognized the Air Station's Enlisted Person of the Quarter AMT1 Berry for his achievements.



FLEET WEEK – JUNIOR OFFICERS' RECEPTION

On Tuesday, May 1, the Council hosted its annual Junior Officers Reception at Briny's Irish Pub on the Riverfront. As usual, Briny's provided a wonderful buffet for all to enjoy. The event was well attended by both military and civilian guests. Council President Larry Ott and Past President Glenn Wiltshire entertained the crowd by having the most junior (Coast Guard) and senior (Navy) junior officers in attendance get up on the stage with them to sing their service song to earn a Council coin.

Coast Guard and Navy were well represented!



Above—Nelly Kiefer, LT Derek Wallin (CO, USCG Station Fort Lauderdale) and Council President Larry Ott Below—Marianne Giambrone with JO's from the USS Kearsarge



Board Members Bruce Gottsch and Shelley Beck



FLEET WEEK

On Wednesday, several Council members were fortunate enough to be invited to attend the Celebrity Chef Lunch. The event was held at the military vessels at Port Everglades as well as at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Chefs from local restaurants teamed up with the military culinary teams to prepare and serve meals to the invited guests. *(photos from USS Kearsarge Facebook page)*



Michele Caspari, National VP Joe Giambrone and Denise Jones



USS Kearsarge crew members *(photo provided by Shelley Beck)*



On Thursday evening, Fort Lauderdale Council hosted the Enlisted Person of the Year reception at Pier 66. The evening recognized the outstanding personnel of the visiting military vessels as well as local units.

On Friday evening, an invitation-only gala reception was held onboard the USS Kearsarge. There were several guest speakers and Navy Band Southeast provided the music. Afterward, guests were treated to delicious dishes prepared by the USS Kearsarge culinary team.



Marianne Giambrone, Willowstine Lawson (Senator Bill Nelson's Office) and National VP Joe Giambrone

FLEET WEEK



Above: Shelley Beck with RADM Brad Skillman (Photo provided by Shelley Beck) Below—One of the many ice sculptures at the gala



On Saturday morning, the French Legion of Honor ceremony was held onboard the USS Kearsarge. Five local WW2 veterans, ranging in age from 91 to 104, were awarded the prestigious medal by Clement Leclerc, Consul General of France.



Nicole Hirsh, Vice President of the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, presents the French Legion of Honor to Charles Carroll (photo from USS Kearsarge Facebook page)

There were numerous other events held throughout the week including ship tours, golf classic, damage control Olympics, salute to women in the military, take a hero fishing tournament, law enforcement and fire & rescue ride-alongs and numerous community relations service projects which included visits to local schools, hospitals and veteran care facilities.



Left: Council President Larry Ott on a tour of the USCGC Willow (photo provided by Larry Ott)

Below: Salute to Women in the Military Luncheon (photo from USCG Southeast Facebook page)



FLEET WEEK



Service members attached to the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3) volunteered to help refurbish

the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum. Community outreach is a significant part of the Fleet Week Port Everglades agenda with more than a dozen projects scheduled across the city. *(story and photos from Navy Region Southeast Facebook page)*



Several local schools were visited; Board Member Bob Marks (in dark t-shirt) accompanied the groups to each school *(photos provided by Bob Marks)*

Sailors and Coast Guardsmen visit families at the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood *(photo from Navy Region Southeast Facebook page)*



Sailors from USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), Navy Operational Support Center West Palm Beach, Coast Guardsmen from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Miami, along with their boat crew, show off their catch after participating in Take A Hero Fishing at Lauderdale Marina *(story and photo from Fleet Week Port Everglades Facebook page)*



A big thank you to everyone who participated and/or volunteered their time to assist with the events. It takes a great number of individuals working together to ensure the success of all the activities that take place during Fleet Week.

JROTC RECOGNITION

Each year, the Council recognizes the achievements of graduating cadets from 5 local high school JROTC units. Each cadet is presented with a Navy League Youth Medal at the school's award night. The medal is more commonly referred to as a Teddy Roosevelt medal since the Navy League was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt.

The following cadets were recognized this year:

Cooper City High School Navy JROTC – Cadet Nicholas Preston. Although a Council representative was unable to be in attendance, the Teddy Roosevelt medal was delivered to the school for presentation

NOVA Southeast High School Navy JROTC – Cadet Jena Michalski. Board member Alan Starr made the presentation on April 27.



Stranahan High School Marine Corps JROTC – Cadet Anthony Alexander. Board member Alan Starr will make the presentation on May 17.

JP Taravella High School Navy JROTC – Cadet Ian Fernandez. Board Member Shelley Beck made the presentation on May 2



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members:

Nestor Palma

Nestor was a volunteer at Fleet Week

Lawrence Denmark

Lawrence was also a volunteer at Fleet Week and worked at our Council table

FAREWELL

On May 11, Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale said goodbye to their Executive Officer LT Jessica Shafer. LT Shafer is departing to take command of Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Washington. LT Shafer has been a good friend to the Council and has attended many of our dinner socials and other events. She will be truly missed. We wish her the best of luck as she and her husband, Tim Woody, move across the country to begin her new assignment. *(photo from USCG Sector Miami Facebook page)*



Captain Megan Dean (far right), USCG Sector Miami Commander presented an award to LT Shafer along with LT Derek Wallin, Commanding Officer, USCG Station Fort Lauderdale

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 SEAPOWER magazine and 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 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.

<p>Larry M. Ott Funeral Director</p> <p>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</p>	 <p>BCNL Member Discount with this ad</p>
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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.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

At the May Board of Directors meeting, 15-year old Collin Aleksak made an impressive presentation asking for financial support for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Collin wants to provide a playground at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale so that Coast Guard children will have a place to enjoy when visiting. Collin, the son of a member of the Coast Guard, noted his goal was to raise \$2,200. He described the playground equipment, the space at the Station where it will be placed and his meetings with the Commanding Officer. He answered numerous questions from the Board members who then voted unanimously to fund Collin's project.

Kudos to an outstanding young man who wants to help other Coast Guard children. We wish Collin much success in this project and his future endeavors.

FLEET WEEK – COUNCIL TABLE



A special thank you to everyone that manned the Council table selling water, soda and Council coins as well as talking about the Navy League and promoting membership in our Council

Photo left: Charlie Schmidt, Jackie Weekes, John Weekes and Joe Giambrone

Photo right: Robert Kirkpatrick, Joe Giambrone, Wayne McLaren and Tom Stenger

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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