

THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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EASTER EGG HUNT/BBQ

ANNUAL US COAST GUARD
EASTER EGG HUNT / BBQ

Saturday, April 13, 2019

USCG Station Fort Lauderdale

10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 AM
followed by picnic

*coloring contest, bounce house,
face painting, hula hoops*
**don't forget to bring Easter basket
to collect eggs**

Civilian adults \$15
civilian kids under 10 Free

Coast Guard Personnel
and families – FREE

Coast Guard should RSVP (number of adults/
children with ages) to:
Shelleybeck@bellsouth.net

Civilians RSVP by making checks out to Broward
County Navy League and
mailing to:
Shelley Beck
301 N. Pine Island Road, Apt. 262
Plantation, FL 33324

Donations are appreciated if you
are unable to attend

FLEET WEEK JUNIOR OFFICERS PARTY

Everyone is invited to come out and meet the junior
officers from the ships visiting for Fleet Week !

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 PM

McSorley's Beach Pub
837 N Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd
Fort Lauderdale

<http://mcsorleysftl.com/>

Located on A1A facing Fort Lauderdale Beach
(South of Sunrise Blvd on the corner of NE 9th St)

Two Free Drinks for Guests in Uniform

Cash Bar for Civilians

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



Picture from last year's event

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The next few months will be filled with several opportunities to be involved with crew and officers of the sea services, beginning with the Easter Egg Hunt which is scheduled for April 13th at the Coast Guard Station in Fort Lauderdale. This is an event where we support the local Coast Guard families with the Easter Egg Hunt, bounce house, face painting, coloring etc. I encourage our membership to join us and bring your children or grandchildren. Enjoy meeting the men and women of our Coast Guard and share the cookout with them.

Fleet Week comes next. The Planning Committee has been meeting regularly and I am sure 2019 will be another great Fleet Week. The week will begin on Monday, April 29th with an All Hands event in Esplanade Park. This event is open to the public and all the ships and units will be present along with the Navy Band. A great opportunity to meet the crew and officers of the ships and units visiting for the week. The next day our council will host the Junior Officers Party at McSorleys on the beach-one block south of Sunrise on A1A. Don't miss this event. Again a chance to meet many junior officers and enjoy a buffet.

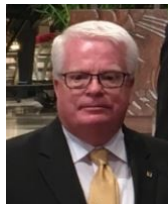
Then in July the USS Paul Ignatius will be commissioned in Port Everglades. Our council members are involved with planning the many details. We expect to have 4,000 attend the actual Commissioning Ceremony. With an event this large as with Fleet Week there are many opportunities to volunteer. Reach out to our secretary, Shelley Beck to get involved.

And finally I want to mention what a nice dinner meeting we had on Thursday, March 14th. Captain Meagan Dean from Sector Miami was our speaker. Captain Dean will be changing command soon and although we will miss her friendship and support, we wish her well on her new assignment. Also attending the meeting were officers from four of our Coast Guard adopted ships and unit as well as one from our Navy adopted unit. Along with local National Navy League leaders-we had a very impressive group, an entertaining and personal talk by Captain Dean and as usual – warm hospitality and delicious dinner from Tropical Acres.

So this is our line-up of events for the next few months. These are great opportunities to meet the men and women serving in the sea services. Come out and show your support and make a new friend.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



PAST PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the Council's Past President Glenn Wiltshire!

The Broward County Commission has named Deputy Director Glenn Wiltshire as acting Port Everglades CEO and director, replacing Steve Cernak, who died earlier this month. The commission named Wiltshire on March 28. "They needed to get somebody in place for continuity," he said Friday in a telephone interview, adding that he will concentrate on a 20-year master plan that includes \$1.6 billion in capital improvements at the port. He said the commission did not discuss a search for a permanent director.

The port conducted a memorial service Friday for Cernak, which was attended by 200 people, including top executives from the Royal Caribbean and Celebrity cruise lines. Cernak, who took the helm of the port in 2012, was leading it through a number of improvement projects when he died of pancreatic cancer March 16. He was the immediate past chairman of the American Association of Port Authorities.

Wiltshire is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy and served for 30 years. He also holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University. Wiltshire had been deputy director of Port Everglades since 2006, overseeing administration and operations, maintenance, and management of county-owned "landlord port" facilities with multiple tenants. He directly supervised four division directors and sea-port security functions and oversaw a port staff of 251 people. He was also the port's primary liaison to elected officials, federal, state and local government agencies, environmental groups and port users. He worked closely with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Director of Field Operations, addressing changes in operations to account for increasing cruise and cargo activity. From 2004 to 2006, he was captain of the Port New York/New Jersey Coast Guard facility at Staten Island, N.Y., the largest Coast Guard field operational command in the country with over 1,000 military and civilian personnel and 2,000 volunteers.

As Port Everglades director, Wiltshire inherits a massive dredging project designed to allow larger container ships into the port, as well as the extension of the south port turning notch and other major capital projects. The port generated nearly \$168 million in revenues in fiscal year 2018. It is one of the nation's leading container ports and a world leader in the cruise industry, with space for up to eight cruise liners on any given day. (story from SunSentinel.com)

RECOGNITION

On February 27, Alan Starr attended the All Hands at Coast Guard Air Station Miami to recognize their Enlisted Person of the 4th Quarter. Alan presented AET1 Sean McTague with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. Alan and AET1 McTague are shown in the photo provided by AMTCM Robert Dryburgh.



NOSC MIAMI

On March 20, Fort Lauderdale Council held their monthly dinner meeting. Commander Raul A. Rojas, USN, Commanding Officer of Navy Operational Support Center Miami was their guest speaker. Council President Larry Ott attended the dinner and is shown here with Florida Region President Lynn Drucker and CDR Rojas.



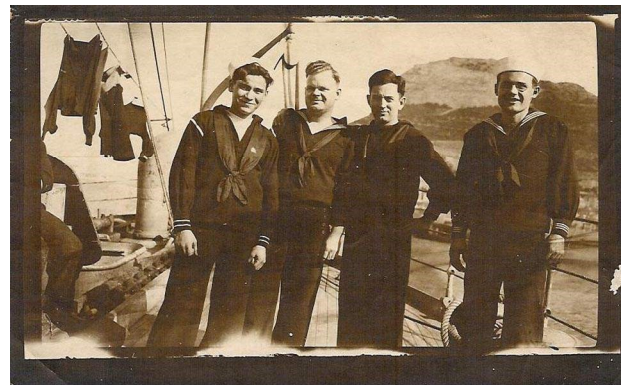
USS TAMPA

The Coast Guard is asking the public for information regarding crew members of the WWI ship USS Tampa, which sank after being shot by a German torpedo. The Coast Guard wants to posthumously award Purple Heart medals to the entire crew; however, 84 medals have yet to be claimed. Spread the word and help the descendants of these war heroes. The names of the USS Tampa crew can be found on the Coast Guard's website <https://www.history.uscg.mil/tampa/>

Below is an excerpt of an article appearing in Tampa Bay Times in September 2018 which gives some of the history of the USS Tampa.

As dusk was settling in over the Irish sea, a German submarine spotted a lone ship steaming toward England's Bristol Channel. The U-boat dived to attack. About half an hour later, it fired a single torpedo. The USS Tampa sank so quickly on Sept. 26, 1918, that none of the 131 people aboard had time to signal for help. When boats and a plane went to search for it, there were few signs the ship had ever existed — only a field of debris spread across eight square miles, and later, a boat nameplate and four unidentifiable bodies.

The sinking represented the largest loss of life for the U.S. Coast Guard during the four years and four months of World War I, according to naval historian Michael Lowrey, who is writing a book about U-Boats. The Tampa, skippered by Capt. Charles Satterlee, had been transferred from the Coast Guard to the Navy after the United States entered the war — switching missions from protecting people against icebergs to protecting wartime convoys. References to the ship are interwoven into Coast Guard life today — in Semper Paratus, the service's anthem, in the name of an active duty cutter, and on a building named for the Tampa's captain at the Coast Guard Academy.



Wambolt Sumner 2nd from left.
Was on USS Tampa when it sunk in WWI

Photo of crew members and excerpt of story from Tampa Bay Times

MARCH DINNER SOCIAL

On March 14, the Council held its monthly dinner meeting at Tropical Acres Restaurant. Captain Megan Dean, Sector Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami served as the guest speaker (photo below). It was a pleasure to have Captain Dean at our event since she will be leaving Sector Miami in May.

During the meeting, FN Derek Seurnyck was recognized by the Council as the Enlisted Person of the Year for 2018 for Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. LTJG Pete Hutchison, the Station's new Executive Officer, outlined FN Seurnyck's accomplishments. (All photos provided by Charlie Schmidt)



Alan Starr, LTJG Hutchinson, FN Seurnyck and Larry Ott



Florida Region President Lynn Drucker, Bob Hogg, South Florida Area President Elaine Hogg and National Director Maura Day

Above: Council President Larry Ott, Shelley Beck, Joanne & Tom Melville
Below: CDR Joe Meuse, TACLET South with Rick Ciravalo



NOSC Executive Officer LCDR Zach Bergland, his wife Schyda and family

NAS RICHMOND HEIGHTS SEA CADETS



The Council presently provides support to a Naval Sea Cadet unit in Miami-Dade County. Until recently, the name of the unit was the Zeus Division; however, the name has now been

changed to the NAS Richmond Heights Division of the Sea Cadets. Many may not know the history behind NAS Richmond Heights, located about 18 miles south of Miami and 3.5 miles west of US 1. The following information and photo were taken from the website Airfields-Freeman.com in a section on abandoned and little known airfields.

The Navy purchased 2,107 acres at this location in 1941 to construct a blimp base to provide protection for Florida area shipping from German submarines. NAS Richmond was commissioned in 1942 and was, at the time, one of the largest construction projects to ever have been undertaken in Dade County. In 1943, one of Richmond's blimps detected a sub via radar. It made a depth charge run on the sub, but was hit by anti-aircraft gunfire and crashed into the sea. This was the only blimp lost to enemy action in US waters during the war.

At its wartime peak, Richmond was home to 25 K-series blimps, a 2,000' diameter landing mat, eight circular concrete mooring pads, 2 runways, 3 huge blimp hangars, a helium plant, and 3,000 men. The station eventually became the largest blimp base on the east coast. Richmond's 3 blimp hangars were massive: 1,086' long & 183' high, with an interior floor space of 7 acres apiece. From November 1943 to May 1945, Richmond's blimps logged 730 continuous days on patrol. This was a record untouched by any other Navy airship squadron. As a result of these unrelenting patrols, the number of successful enemy torpedo attacks in the South Florida area were reduced from 1942's total of 114 to only 4 sinkings in 1943.

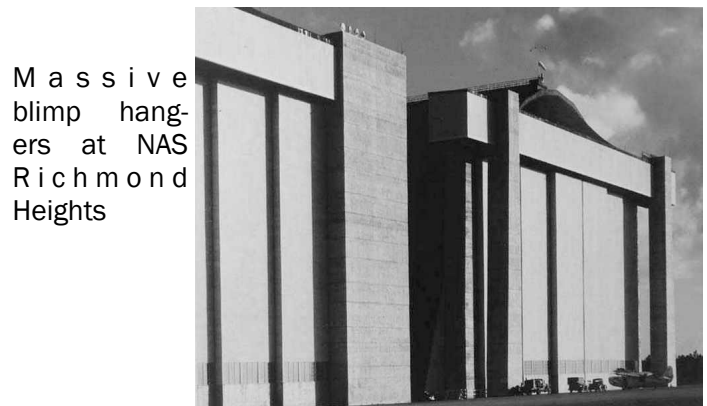
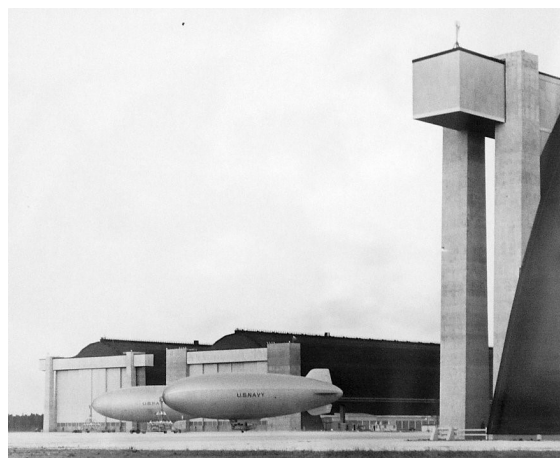
NAS Richmond survived the Second World War without a scratch, only to be dealt a fatal blow not long thereafter by Mother Nature. On 9/15/45, 3 years to the date of the base's commissioning, Richmond was devastated by a direct hit from a hurricane, with 123 mph winds striking the massive blimp hangars. The hangars, which stood close together, withstood the winds but one of them caught fire. Eventually all 3 hangars were ablaze. It was the largest fire in the United States in 1945.

When the rain stopped, all 3 of the massive hangars were completely gone, with only the smaller buildings & the hangars' concrete corner pillars still standing. With the war over, the massive hangars would not be rebuilt. Blimps never returned permanently to Richmond after the storm, but the base's helium plant continued to supply Navy airships for years. Richmond's other buildings served a variety of uses, such as providing space for Naval & Marine Corps Reserve units.

In 1946, 1,571 acres of the Richmond base were deeded to the University of Miami, to be known as "South Campus".

According to Thomas Page, in 1962 the Richmond Air Force Station (Z-210), a radar facility, was constructed to the northwest of the former blimp airfield, consisting of 3 radar towers. The facility remained in operation by the FAA until destroyed by Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Starting in 1962 the former NAS Richmond was reused in a curious role. The CIA leased a few buildings from the University of Miami under the "front" name of Zenith Technological Services. This "front" company was in fact the intelligence gathering headquarters for efforts against the Cuban communist government, known as JM/WAVE, aka JM WAVE, aka WAVE STATION. Over 400 CIA operatives operated out of this facility. In 1968 the CIA facility moved from Richmond to North Dade County.



Massive blimp hangars at NAS Richmond Heights

FLEET WEEK

Fleet Week Port Everglades will be held from April 29 – May 6, 2019. Broward Navy Days announced Ed Morse Automotive Group as the new title sponsor for Fleet Week Port Everglades for the next three years. This year, the following ships are expected to participate: USS New York, USS Hue City, USS Milwaukee, USS Farragut, a submarine and USCGC William Flores.

On Monday, April 29 at 7 PM, the community will welcome visiting Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen at Esplanade Park on the Fort Lauderdale Riverwalk. The public is invited to this festive ceremony.

Don't miss these two Navy League events:

Our Council will host a Junior Officers Reception on Tuesday, April 30 from 6:00–9:00 PM. The public is invited to attend. Details are outlined on the cover page of this newsletter.

Fort Lauderdale Council will host an Enlisted Person of the Year Awards Banquet on Thursday, May 2 from 6:00–9:00 PM. The event will be held at Pier 66 Resort & Marina, 2301 SE 17th Street, Fort Lauderdale. \$75 for civilians—RSVP by April 28 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

BUSINESS CARD AD

<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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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 Giambone at browardnavyleague@gmail.com.

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 29th and will be open for public tours from 9 AM to 4 PM from Tuesday, April 30th through Sunday, 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-Sunday, 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 2019 web site at www.browardnavydaysinc.org and register as a volunteer using the Volunteer link at the top of the page 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.

USS PAUL IGNATIUS

On May 14, an event will be held to raise funds for the July commissioning of the USS Paul Ignatius. The VIP Broward County Reception will be held at Allied Kitchen & Bath at the Fuse Design Center located at 3484 NE 12 Avenue, Oakland Park. The event is hosted by Bill & Joe Feinberg, Jack Seiler, Bob Birdsong, Vice Mayor Ben Sorenson and the Capital Grill.

A donation of \$50 is requested with tickets available at ignatiusreception.eventbrite.com. If you wish to donate at the door, please RSVP to joanne@alliedkb.com; checks should be made payable to Broward Navy Days USS Paul Ignatius Commissioning Account. All proceeds will support the commissioning. The event will be run from 6-8 PM.

COUNCIL NEWS

The Council will not be hosting a dinner social in May.

In June, the Council's dinner social will be held on Thursday, June 13 at Tropical Acres Restaurant. Captain Todd Cooper, co-Managing Pilot of the Port Everglades Pilots' Association will serve as our guest speaker. Details will be sent out in late May and will also appear in the June Helmsman.

News about our Council, our adopted units and other organizations are shared on the Council's Facebook page. Visiting our Facebook page is a great way to get up-to-date information. We hope all Council members will visit and "like" the page our page which is at www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/.

We are looking for members who want to get more involved in the Council. If you joined the Navy League because you are interested in sharing your ideas and participating in sea service events, we would like you to consider joining our Council's Board of Directors.

Council Board of Director meetings are generally held the first Monday of each month – no board meeting is held in July. Meetings are held at the Port Everglades Administration building, room 301 starting at 6:30 PM and usually last about 2 hours.

The following is the calendar of Board meetings for the remainder of 2019. Please feel free to just show up or you can contact us at browardnavyleague@gmail.com for more information:

June 3	August 26 (for September)
October 7	November 4
December 2	

The Council's website is a valuable place to find information about upcoming events including Fleet Week and the commissioning of the USS Paul Ignatius. You'll also be able to see photos from past events, be able to read back issues of The Helmsman, review our list of adopted units, link to other websites and more. Please visit us at bcnavyleague.org.

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

The Navy League's Sea-Air-Space Exposition was founded in 1965 as a means to bring the U.S. defense industrial base, private-sector U.S. companies and key military decision makers together for an annual innovative, educational, professional and maritime based event located in the heart of Washington, DC. Sea-Air-Space is now the largest maritime exposition in the U.S. and continues as an invaluable extension of the Navy League's mission of maritime policy education and sea service support. This year's event will take place from May 6 – 8 at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. The Sea-Air-Space Exposition is free and open to the following qualified attendees: Active duty, reserve and retired U.S. Military, U.S. federal, state and local government employees, Members of Congress and Congressional Staff, Representatives of foreign embassies, government and military, Representatives of exhibiting companies and non-exhibiting defense industry companies, Navy League members. The event is not open to the public. Children over the age of 15 may attend the exposition provided they are accompanied by an adult at all times. Find out more at seairspace.org.

The schedule for the Navy League's June 19-22 National Convention in Norfolk, Virginia is now on National's website (go to navyleague.org and click on 'meetings and events'). You will be able to view the convention schedule and book the official hotel room with a special discounted rate.

For those members who wish to purchase Navy League branded apparel, the Navy League Ship Store, operated by Vanguard, has been added to the Navy League homepage. This is an easy resource for members to order Navy League products.

REMINDER: All Navy League members are urged to register for the Navy League Portal and become familiar with the resources that are available. You can access the portal at portal.navyleague.org where you will need to create a user name and password.

The ability to renew online without logging into the Navy League website has been added to www.navyleague.org. Members wishing to renew may click the "Renew" button at the top of the page or select "Renew Individual Membership" under "Join Us" to complete a renewal form without logging in. Members who are logged into the Portal have the option of selecting "Renew Your Membership" within the member resources menu to renew without having to enter their information.

SEA SERVICE NEWS



The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer has been named in honor of Korean War veteran

and Navy Cross recipient Aviation Machinist's Mate 3rd Class George Neal. In a release, Secretary of the Navy Richard V. Spencer said Neal distinguished himself by volunteering to go into North Korea to rescue a downed American pilot. The future USS George M. Neal (DDG 131) will be a Flight III destroyer capable of fighting air, surface and subsurface battles simultaneously. It will be outfitted with a combination of offensive and defensive weapon systems that are designed to support maritime warfare, including integrated air and missile defense and vertical launch capabilities. The ship will be constructed at Huntington Ingalls in Pascagoula, Mississippi. It will be 509 feet long, have a beam length of 59 feet and be capable of operating at speeds in excess of 30 knots. (Story and photo from connectvets.radio.com)



Sailors assigned to the weapons department aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) flush a maga-

zine sprinkler system, Feb. 17. The components of CSG 12 embody a "team-of-teams" concept, combining advanced, air and systems assets to create and sustain operational capability. This enables them to prepare for and conduct global operations, have effective and lasting command and control, and demonstrate dedication and commitment becoming the strongest warfighting force for the Navy and the nation. (story and photo from USS Leyte Gulf CG-55 Facebook page)

COAST GUARD NEWS



A new Marine rotation is expected in Norway in the coming weeks as the Corps continues to prep its forces for a potential cold-weather fight. Roughly 700 Ma-

rines from 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, will be the primary unit deploying for the next Marine Rotational Force-Europe rotation through Norway. This will be the Corps' fifth six-month rotation to Norway. During the previous rotation, Marines focused on learning how to survive and fight in extreme cold-weather environments. The rotation also worked with partner forces on Arctic and mountain warfare. That will still be a focus for 1st Battalion during the opening salvo of their deployment. The expanded U.S. footprint was agreed to by the Norwegian government over the summer, during a time of renewed tensions with Russia. In addition to the training opportunities, analysts argue that the Corps' heel-to-toe footprint in Norway acts as a deterrence force against a possible Russian incursion. U.S. forces have also been storing gear in a series of caves in Norway to equip a Marine Air-Ground Task Force if a war were to break out in the Europe. (photo and excerpt of story from MarineTimes.com)

There was some good news for the Coast Guard in the spending bill signed into law in February. It included seven regular appropriations bills for fiscal year 2019 including the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act 2019. The Act provided \$655 million for production of the first Polar Security Cutter (PSC) heavy icebreaker and \$20 million for long lead time materials for a second PSC. It also funds increases of \$5 million for post-delivery activities for the tenth National Security Cutter; \$2.6 million for post-delivery activities for an eleventh National Security Cutter; \$5 million for survey and design work to support the acquisition of a Great Lakes icebreaker and \$100 million for additional Fat Response Cutters. (excerpt of story appearing in *Marine Log* magazine).

Thanks to all Navy League members who participated in the Voice to Congress feature of the Navy League website expressing your support of this funding.

MARCH DINNER SOCIAL



Council President Larry Ott, LTJG Peter Hutchinson (XO, Station Fort Lauderdale), Captain Megan Dean (Commander Sector Miami) Past President Glenn Wiltshire, Erwin Sefton, CDR Joe Meuse (CO, TACLET South) LT Nate Neuhardt (CO, USCGC Bernard C. Webber) and LT Christopher O'Meara (CO, USCGC Margaret Norvell) (Photo provided by Charlie Schmidt)

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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