

THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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FUTURE EVENTS

JANUARY

The Council will host its Installation of Council Offices on January 19, 2019 onboard the Royal Princess. The following officers will be sworn in by our guest speaker CDR Robby Trotter, Commanding Officer of the USS Paul Ignatius.

President – Larry Ott

First Vice President – Erwin Sefton

Second Vice President – Marianne Giambrone

Vice President, Legislative Affairs – Robert Marks

Treasurer – Tom Carney

Secretary – Shelley Beck

Reservations can no longer be accepted for the event.

FEBRUARY

The Council will host a joint dinner meeting with Fort Lauderdale Council on February 20, 2019. The guest speaker and other information regarding the event will be in the February Helmsman and will also be sent out via email and posted on the Council's website and Facebook page.

DECEMBER DINNER

On December 19, Council members joined Fort Lauderdale Council for our December dinner social. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors. CDR Joseph Meuse, Commanding Officer of our adopted unit TACLET South, served as guest speaker. Thanks to the generosity of attendees, toys were donated for the Toys for Tots program.

There were many Navy recruiting staff on hand including Captain James Bahr, Navy Recruiting Region East Commodore. Captain Bahr held a community outreach with local veteran groups, active duty and retired military and civilian personnel on December 18 at the Spruance Division Sea Cadet building. He is shown in the photo below talking at the dinner social.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As it is customary to review the prior year, I will reflect on some of the activities of the Broward County Council for 2018. With the current officers and board members, the Broward County Council of the Navy League began the year aboard the Caribbean Princess Cruise Ship in Port Everglades for a great send-off into 2018. At our first dinner we welcomed the National President of the American Maritime Officers, Paul Doell. Our course continued to the first major stop- the Easter Egg Hunt for local Coast Guard personnel and their families. Soon afterwards, we welcomed Chaplain Sandy Sears from Seafarers' House to speak at the March dinner meeting. A short layover followed as we gladly adopted the USCGC Bernard C. Webber. Continuing on course, we sailed to our second port- Fleet Week, where our crew assisted each day at Port Everglades. In June, we had the opportunity to learn more about the Merchant Marine through a presentation at the Star Center hosted by our own member, Graeme Holman. Also in June, Marianne Giambrone accepted from National President Alan Kaplan a very distinguished award, the Meritorious Council Award at the National Convention in Portland, OR. Another ship, USCGC Paul Clark joined us as the fourth ship in our fleet at Coast Guard Station-Miami Beach. Not only that but BMCM Coppola from the USCGC Manatee was recognized by Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca as the 13th Silver (Enlisted) Ancient Mariner. The summer months saw calm/quiet seas until September when we came alongside the Fort Lauderdale Council for an evening with the Sea Cadets. Soon afterwards, Captain James A. Passarelli (Chief of Staff, Coast Guard 7th District) came aboard for our November dinner. The itinerary continued with the Fort Lauderdale Council to enjoy Oktoberfest at the Old Heidelberg. The final major port call was the Coast Guard Holiday party at McSorley's on Lauderdale beach. Before disembarking, we again shared with the Fort Lauderdale Council dinner with Cmdr. Joe Meuse, CO of TACLET South. I would be remiss if I did not mention that throughout the months, we made many visits at our adopted units to pay recognition to the EPOQ, EPOY, SOQ, and SOY's to all of our adopted units. As this year closes I bid farewell to all and best wishes for the coming year.



Larry M. Ott
Council President

REMINDERS

Last month's Helmsman included information about the many ways the Council supports the Sea Services as well as local JROTC and Sea Cadet units and how payment of local dues and/or donations assists us in continuing. Our Council is committed to providing support to as many Sea Service units as we can. We currently support two Navy ships, one NOSC, eight Coast Guard units/cutters, one Sea Cadet unit and five JROTC units. There are more units that need and want our support. If you have not done so already, we hope you will mail your check today.

The Council originally had what is referred to as a "group page" on Facebook. People who were interested in viewing its contents had to make a request to be added to the group. Several months ago, a "page" was created for the Council that will allow more people to view it and, hopefully, become more interested in our mission and activities. The group page was deleted on January 1. Please be sure to visit and "like" the Council's new page at www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/.

Do you shop on-line using Amazon? Would you be willing to help the Council while you shop? If you do not personally shop on Amazon, we ask that you pass this information along to family and/or friends that do.

For the past few years, the Council has been able to benefit from members who use AmazonSmile for their on-line shopping. All you need to do is register the Council's name in AmazonSmile and shop as you usually do—the only difference is that the Council receives a rebate based on the amount of the purchases. We are hoping that more members will begin doing their on-line shopping on AmazonSmile. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. The Council is officially registered to receive rebate donations; the link is: smile.amazon.com/ch/65-0179407. You can also find the link on the Council's website (bcnavyleague.org) or you can select Navy League of the US-Broward County Florida Council on smile.amazon.com. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

COAST GUARD HOLIDAY PARTY

On December 6, the Council along with Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days hosted its annual Coast Guard Holiday Party. Almost 100 Coast Guard personnel and their guests along with civilian personnel attended the event at our new venue McSorley's Beach Pub on Fort Lauderdale Beach. Whether inside or outside on the rooftop at McSorley's, everyone agreed that the evening was a great success! Thanks to Council board members Erwin Sefton and Tom Carney for arranging the event and to all who attended.

Photos of the event were provided by Larry Ott, Tom Carney and Shelley Beck. Unfortunately, the names of all individuals are not available.



Tom Carney, CAPT James Passarelli and Fran Shaw



Brad Rinsem
and Mary
Anne Gray



Sonny Matta
and his wife



HOLIDAY PARTY

Photos of the event were provided by Larry Ott, Tom Carney and Shelley Beck. Unfortunately, the names of all individuals are not available.



SEAFARERS' HOUSE

Each year, thousands of mariners arrive in Port Everglades on cargo ships and tankers. Seafarers' House's Shoebox Program ensures that these mariners feel the holiday spirit while they are away from their families. Council President Larry Ott and Board members Joe and Marianne Giambrone have been serving as volunteers for this program for several years. This year, Marianne took on the responsibility of the shoeboxes and donations. She helped coordinate the volunteers who wanted to wrap and fill the boxes with personal care items. She also was the liaison with local businesses and volunteers who made donations of personal care items or cash to purchase them as well as wrapped and filled boxes. Joe continued to serve as coordinator of the scheduling of the numerous volunteers who deliver the filled boxes to visiting ships. Larry served again as a volunteer delivering the boxes to the ships. Below is a photo taken during one of Larry's ship visits as well as a photo of Elaine Hogg (South Florida Area President) with Seafarers' House chaplain Fr Sears. (photos from Seafarers' House Facebook page)



DECEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



Council President Larry Ott with CDR Joe Meuse



Florida Region President Lynn Drucker with Oscar Romano



Everglades Council President Tom Melville with his wife Joanne and daughter Jessica



President Larry Ott and KayeLynne Northcutt



Lawrence Denmark with CDR Meuse



Spruance Division Sea Cadet Color Guard

PEARL HARBOR DAY

On December 9, the annual Pearl Harbor Day remembrance celebration was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The Spruance Division Sea Cadet color guard participated. Commander Alan Starr officiated with guest speaker Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz. In attendance was 102 year old Pearl Harbor survivor Joseph Iscovitz. The following is an excerpt of comments posted on Facebook by his son, Doug Iscovitz.

“December 7th was the 77th anniversary of the surprise attack by the Empire of Japan on the United States Armed Forces at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii thrusting the United States into World War III! For the Iscovitz family, it is a moment of living history as we recognize my dad, Tech Sgt Joseph Iscovitz, as possibly the oldest living survivor from that fateful day! He will be celebrating his 103rd birthday in March! On December 9th the United States Coast Guard Station and the Navy League honored my dad for his service at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941! He had his picture taken with several dignitaries including Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz who represents my community of Weston! It was a great day for my dad and he has had a great life! I am grateful that he is still with our family! God Bless him and all who have served the United States of America! “



CDR Joseph Meuse, Commanding Officer, TACLET South with Joseph Iscovitz and Alan Starr (photo from Broward Navy Day’s Facebook page)

ANNUAL TOY DRIVE

Council members again volunteered this year to participate in Operation Homefront’s holiday toy drive. These holiday stocking stuffers get picked up from six local Dollar Tree Stores. Past President Glenn Wiltshire collected over 5,000 items and delivered them to several local military units. Shown in the photo is Master Chief Ellis, Command Master Chief at Base Miami Beach; he was previously the CMC at TACLET South.



WORLD WAR II VET



World War II veteran Richard Overton, the oldest man and oldest veteran in the U.S., has died, a family member confirmed on December 27. He was 112 and died at a rehab facility in Austin Texas after

being released from a hospital stay during a recent bout of pneumonia. Overton, who served in the U.S. Army's all-black 1887th Engineer Aviation Battalion in the Pacific in World War II, was a lifelong Austin resident. He was in his 30s when he volunteered for the Army and was at Pearl Harbor just after the Japanese attack in 1941. Overton once said that one secret to his long life was smoking cigars and drinking whiskey. In 2013, Overton was honored by President Barack Obama at a Veterans Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. (story and photo from NYTimes.com)

COMMISSIONING



The USS Paul Ignatius Commissioning Committee continues to meet and make plans for the ship's commissioning scheduled for July 2019. An article

appearing on Navy.mil on December 22 reported "The future USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) successfully completed acceptance trials Dec. 20, returning to Huntington Ingalls Industries' (HII) Pascagoula shipyard after spending two days at sea in the Gulf of Mexico. During acceptance trials, the ship and its crew performed a series of demonstrations for review by the U.S. Navy's Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV). These demonstrations are used by INSURV to validate the quality of construction and compliance with Navy specifications and requirements prior to delivery of the ship to the U.S. Navy." (photo from Navy.mil)

If you would like to serve as a volunteer, contact Shelley Beck at shelleybeck@bellsouth.net.

If you would like to become a sponsor or get involved in the planning, please contact Mary Anne Gray at maryanne@browardnavydaysinc.org.

FLEET WEEK

The first planning session for Fleet Week 2019 will be held in the auditorium at the Port Everglades Administration Building on Wednesday, January 16, 2019. The meeting will start promptly at 9:00 with refreshments at 8:30. The first planning session usually will last the all morning. Anyone who is interested in Fleet Week is encouraged to attend.

Fleet Week Port Everglades 2019 will be held April 29 - May 6, To sign up for email alerts for news about Fleet Week and public ship tours, register on Broward Navy Day's website:

Browardnavydaysinc.org

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

Navy League President Alan Kaplan announced its new national executive director in an email on December 17. Below is an excerpt of that email.

The Navy League of the United States has named retired 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Michael D. Stevens as its new national executive director. Stevens will officially assume the position Jan. 7, 2019, at the Navy League's national headquarters in Arlington, Virginia.

During his 33 years in the U.S. Navy, Stevens rose through the ranks, becoming the 13th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, a post he maintained from 2012 to 2016. Steven's naval career began at the Aviation Structural Mechanic Apprentice School in Millington, Tennessee. He served as Master Chief Petty Officer when assigned to Fleet Composite Eight as the Maintenance Master Chief and Command Master Chief starting in 2002; Base Operations and Command Master Chief for Naval Air Station Pensacola from 2003-2006; Command Master Chief for Helicopter Mine Counter measure Squadron 14 in Norfolk, Virginia, in 2006; Commander of the Helicopter Sea Combat Wing Atlantic in 2007; Command Master Chief for the Commander of the 2nd Fleet in 2009; and 16th Fleet Master Chief for Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command in 2010, to name a few highlights. Stevens received a Bachelor of Science from Excelsior College. His personal awards include the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy Commendation Medal (five awards), the Navy Achievement Medal (six awards), the Coast Guard Achievement Medal with operational "O," the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Insignia and Enlisted Naval Aircrew Wings.

William "Bill" Stevenson III was elected as the new national president-elect during the November Board of Directors meeting. He will take office as national president for two-years at the June 2019 convention.

FOUR CHAPLAINS

On January 27 at 2PM at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, the annual Four Chaplains ceremony will be held. The public is invited to attend this moving ceremony which is sponsored by the American Legion. Below is an excerpt of a story that appeared in the New York Times. "On February 3, 1943, the U.S.A.T. Dorchester, a military transport ship carrying 902 American servicemen and civilian workers, was torpedoed by a German submarine about 100 miles off the coast of Greenland. In 18 minutes, the ship would be lost under the frigid sea. Four chaplains standing on the decks distributed life jackets. When the supply ran out, they gave the sailors their own. Only 230 men survived, making it one of the worst naval tragedies for the Americans in World War II. Witnesses recalled seeing the four chaplains standing with arms interlocked, each praying in his own way, as the ship sunk. They were Catholic, Jewish and Protestant: Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, the Rev. George L. Fox, a Methodist Minister, the Rev. Clark V. Poling of the Reformed Church in America, and the Rev. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest. In 1944, each chaplain was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and a Purple Heart. In 1948, a postage stamp was dedicated in their honor. In 1988, a unanimous Act of Congress established February 3 as an annual Four Chaplains Day."

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

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and Cremation Center**

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HOLIDAY EVENT

On December 8, Council President Larry Ott attended Havana nights, a party hosted by Rear Admiral Peter Brown and his wife Jenny at their home in Coral Gables. Rear Admiral Brown serves as Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami and is responsible for all Coast Guard operations in the Southeast United States and the Caribbean Basin, including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.



Larry Ott with Coast Guard Air Station Miami's Commanding Officer Captain Michael Platt (above) and with the Station's Executive Officer CMDR Jeff Graham (below) Photos provided by Larry Ott



RECOGNITION

On December 17, Alan Starr represented the Council at the Sailor of the Year recognition event at TACLET South. Alan presented a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award to ME2 Joe Kelly.





Our adopted ship, the USS Leyte Gulf, recently announced their 4th quarter sailors of the quarter as well as their sailors of the year. The Council recognized all of these outstanding sailors with a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. Unfortunately, photos were not available.

- Sailor of the Quarter: NC1 Nathan Keith
- Junior Sailor of the Quarter: YN2 Shanique Knight
- Blue Jacket of the Quarter: PS3 Cinthia Virostek
- Sailor of the Year: CTM1 Cecil Chapman
- Junior Sailor of the Year: FCA2 Joshua Fluck
- Blue Jacket of the Year: PS3 Cinthia Virostek

Photo of USS Leyte Gulf from Navy.mil

SEA SERVICE NEWS



BAE won the Marine Corps' contract to build its new eight-wheeled Amphibious Combat Vehicle, or ACV. The Corps is likely to take delivery of the

first lot of low-rate initial production, or LRIP, vehicles by summer 2019, according to John Swift, the director of amphibious programs for BAE. Delivery of the first lot of 30 LRIP vehicles will be complete by the end of 2019. In December, BAE was awarded a second contract for another 30 LRIP vehicles for its second lot. Those vehicles will be delivered in 2020 and be complete by summer 2020. Marines with 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division aboard Camp Pendleton, California, are expected to receive the first ACV 1.1 vehicles. (story and photo from MarineCorpsTimes.com)



Bath Iron Works has launched the U.S. Navy's third and final Zumwalt-class destroyer amid a debate over the future of the

ship, which fell victim to its enormous price tag and changing requirements. The future destroyer Lyndon B. Johnson was launched December 9 at General Dynamics-Bath Iron Works, Maine. The Johnson will be different from its sister ships, the Monsoor and Zumwalt, primarily because of its steel deckhouse instead of the composite material used on the other ships. The move was intended to save money. The Navy had planned to build 32 of the class but gradually slashed the number to three, which sent the Navy looking for a new mission for the ship. That has led to the current course change for the Zumwalt class, shifting to an anti-surface platform from a ship designed to support amphibious landings with a long-range shore bombardment system known as the Advanced Gun System. (photo and excerpt of story from NavyTimes.com)

DECEMBER EVENTS



Erwin and Joan Sefton at the Pearl Harbor Day event
(photo provided by Erwin)



Council President Larry Ott and Fran Shaw at the
December dinner social