

# 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

The Council hosted its annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ on April 13 at Station Fort Lauderdale. The children were able to enjoy themselves throwing horseshoes, playing in the bounce house, on the playground equipment and on the basketball court!



## JUNE DINNER SOCIAL

Thursday, June 13, 2019

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

### PROGRAM:

Captain Todd Cooper  
Co-Managing Pilot  
Port Everglades Pilots' Association

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Choice of:  
Prime Rib of Beef  
Salmon

Members and Guests - \$35  
Active Military and Spouses: \$25

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or  
before June 7 by e-mailing  
[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com) or  
calling Joan at 561-336-3610



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another great Fleet Week! Beginning with the All Hands party at Esplanade Park in downtown Fort Lauderdale and continuing throughout the week with special events, council members were very involved as volunteers each day. As we do each year, the Council hosted a Junior Officers Party and this year; we chose McSorley's on Lauderdale Beach which proved to be ideal. What a great time everyone had! Glenn Wiltshire facilitated a competition between the Coast Guard and the Navy that became very entertaining. The Council also manned the water and soda table at the port; the funds raised helps to support our programs and sponsored units. Thanks to all who donated their time, sodas, water, ice and snacks.

At the joint dinner meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council, we were presented with a plaque of appreciation for the volunteer help we supplied for Fleet Week. Our secretary Shelley Beck coordinates the volunteers each year and this recognition is primarily due to her efforts. Thanks Shelley.

Our next dinner meeting will be held at Tropical Acres on June 13th with guest speaker, Captain Todd Cooper. Don't miss this meeting as I am sure the speaker will have a very interesting/informative talk regarding Port Everglades and the pilots who work there.

And lastly the USS Paul Ignatius commissioning is fast approaching. We have been planning and looking forward for this major event on Saturday, July 27th. Fort Lauderdale and Port Everglades are honored to be selected for the commissioning. This will be the sixth naval ship to be commissioned in Port Everglades. After the commissioning we will take a break from meetings until September.

Hope all have an enjoyable and safe summer and we will hope to see everyone in a couple months.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



## GUEST SPEAKER



Captain Todd J Cooper  
Merchant Marine Deck Officer  
Commander, US Navy Reserve  
Port Everglades Pilot

Captain Cooper graduated Cum Laude from Maine Maritime Academy in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation, a USCG Unlimited 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer License and a commission as an Ensign in the United States Navy Reserve. He is a native of Pemberton, New Jersey. Upon graduation Todd sailed as an Able Bodied Seaman on the heavy-lift vessel, Strong Virginian. He later went to Hawaii on the cruise ship SS Independence as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Officer. Todd continued his career at sea advancing his license to 2<sup>nd</sup> Officer and Chief Officer working on a variety of ships including, oil and product tankers, roll-on roll-off vessels, and government owned military support vessels. Todd earned his Unlimited Master's license at the age of 29. His first command as Master (Captain) started in 2006 aboard the crane ship, SS Cornhusker State. Some of his achievements as Master included JLOTS in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba 2009 and Operation Unified Response 2010 in Haiti after the devastating earthquake. It was here that Todd was awarded the Merchant Marine Medal for Outstanding Achievement awarded by the United States Maritime Administration. In 2012, after achieving the top score on a highly competitive exam, Todd was appointed by the State of Florida as a Port Everglades Harbor Pilot in Fort Lauderdale, where he resides with his family. Todd is married to the former Heather Leigh Madrak and together they have three boys, Erik, Gavin, and Brendan.

CDR Cooper's recently retired from the naval reserve after 21 years serving as a Strategic Sealift Officer. This was a very unique career because it required CDR Cooper to maintain an active USCG License and to work in the US Maritime Industry. The Strategic Sealift Officer Reserve Group is the only virtual reserve group in the US Navy. His active duty training has included various training schools; Port Ops in Mayport, FL; Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME; the US Maritime Administration in Washington, DC and Norfolk, VA; and at Little Creek Amphibious Base in VA.



# EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ

On April 13, the Council hosted its annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ at Station Fort Lauderdale. It was a beautiful but hot day with a big turnout of Coast Guard personnel and their families. Special thanks to Council members Brad Fitzgerald and Bob Giacin for making substantial donations to help defray the cost of the event.

Many members may remember that, in May 2018, 15-year old Collin Aleksak made a presentation to the Board asking for funds for his Eagle Scout project—playground equipment for Station Fort Lauderdale. The number of children using the equipment proved that Collin made a good decision in selecting that project. Denise Ingram was kept busy throughout the day bringing smiles to those children wanting their faces painted. Denise has been our face painter for several years and always makes sure each child gets the design of their choice – thanks Denise!

After the eggs were collected and counted, everyone enjoyed a great BBQ lunch. This year Patrick and Tom Carney Jr took over manning the grills. They also assisted with set-up, clean-up and anything else they were called upon to do – it was great having some young men on hand to provide assistance.

It seems as though the favorite part of the day was, at the end of the event, when boxes of toys were laid out and the children were able to pick their favorites. Each child in attendance left with at least four toys.

Council Secretary Shelley Beck once again did an outstanding job as chairperson of the event. Thanks also goes to the Council members who assisted throughout the day. Special thanks to the officers and crew at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The event could not take place without the use of the Station and their assistance. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Photos of the event were contributed by Charlie Schmidt, Shelley Beck, Erwin Sefton and Larry Ott.



# EASTER EGG HUNT/BBQ

Prizes were awarded to the children who collected the most eggs and finding the "golden" egg.



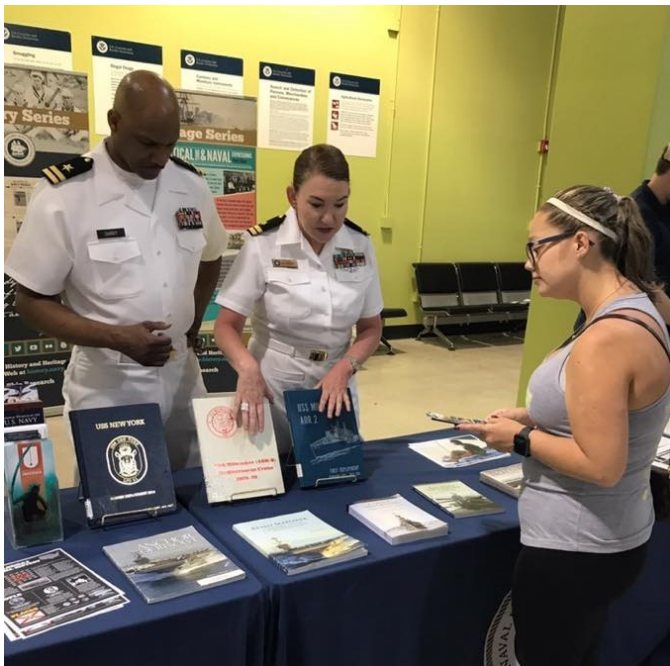


# FLEET WEEK 2019

Fleet Week kicked off on Monday, April 29, with a VIP reception at the Museum of Science & Discovery followed by the All Hands on Deck Welcoming Party held at Esplanade Park in Fort Lauderdale.

Several Council members were invited to attend the Celebrity Chef Lunch (photos on right) held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. A culinary team from Tropical Acres Restaurant worked with Coast Guard personnel to prepare and serve a meal to the invited guests.

Many of our Council members attended and/or volunteered at the numerous events throughout the week. A big thank you to everyone who helped make this a successful Fleet Week. A special thank you to those Council members that manned the Council table at Port Everglades. The sale of water, soda and Council coins gave a big boost to the Council's funds allowing us to provide additional support to our Sea Services. The table also served as a great recruiting tool promoting membership in our Council.



Lt Keith Darby and Lt Jill Brown talk to a guest at the Navy history booth set up to help educate the public as they participated in ship tours



Photos on this page provided by Larry Ott and Shelley Beck



# FLEET WEEK JUNIOR OFFICERS' PARTY

The military vessels started arriving in Port Everglades for Fleet Week on April 29 and on Tuesday April 30, our Council hosted its annual Junior Officers Reception at McSorley's Beach Pub. McSorley's was the ideal location for the event which was well attended by visiting Coast Guard, Navy and Marine junior officers as well as civilian guests.





## AWARDS

The Navy League awards committees has announced the winners of the Council Awards, Mackie Awards and Ship Adoption Awards. Thanks to the efforts of our Council's Board of Directors and the participation of its members, the Council was rated Outstanding for 2018. The rating is based on the Council's support of our Sea Service personnel and their families, support of our youth groups, interaction with our legislators, and education of the public on the mission of the Navy League.

The Donald M. Mackie Awards were established in 1964 to encourage more effective communication between Navy Leaguers. The award honors excellence in all areas of communication including newsletter, website and social media communication. Award levels are Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze and do not take the size of the Council in consideration. The Council received Mackie Awards in all three areas. The Council's newsletter, The Helmsman, was rated Gold. Its editor is Marianne Giambrone. The Council's Facebook page was rated Bronze. The page is managed by Joe Giambrone and Marianne Giambrone. The Council's website was rated Bronze. It is managed by Wayne McLaren.

New for consideration for 2018 was Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards awarded to Councils who demonstrated the strongest commitment to direct support of Sea Service units through a robust adoption program. The award is inclusive of support to all types of adopted Sea Service Units, including youth groups. Councils are divided into three judging categories based upon the size of the council. Our Council was given an award under the small size council (up to 125 members).

Second Vice President Marianne Giambrone will accept the awards on behalf of the Council at the National Convention being held June 19-22 in Norfolk Virginia. Board Member and National Treasurer Joe Giambrone will also be attending the Convention.

These awards are confirmation that the Council is completing its mission of providing support to our Sea Service units. We hope that Council members will continue to participate in our events and make financial contributions, including local dues, that will allow us to provide additional support to the Sea Service units we have already adopted as well as adopt more units in the future.

## JUNE DINNER

On May 15, our Council joined Fort Lauderdale Council members for a dinner meeting at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. Rear Admiral Pat DeQuattro, who assumed the duties of Director for Joint Interagency Task Force South JIATF South, U.S. Coast Guard in May 2018, was the guest speaker. The Joint Task Force is made up of representatives from 20 countries, five military branches and 20 agencies.



RAadm DeQuattro is shown here with Fort Lauderdale Council member Oscar Romano.

Jesse Adams of Broward Navy Days presented several plaques to thank individuals and groups for their efforts in making Fleet Week a tremendous success. Jesse thanked our Council members for serving as volunteers. Council President Larry Ott accepted the plaque.



# CHANGE OF COMMAND

On May 10, Rear Admiral Peter J. Brown, commander 7th Coast Guard District, presided over Coast Guard Sector Miami change of command ceremony. Captain Megan Dean, commander Coast Guard Sector Miami, was relieved by Captain Jo-Ann Burdian. Past President Glenn Wiltshire presented a plaque from the Council to Captain Dean after the event. George Reeves, Senior Chief Alan Starr and Mary Anne Gray also represented the Council at the event but weren't available for the photo.



# FREE ADMISSION

The Museum of Discovery and Science, located at 401 SW Second Street in Fort Lauderdale, is one of 2,000 Blue Star museums that will be providing free admission from May 18 through September 2, 2019, for those currently serving in the United States Military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. The Museum recently opened a special exhibit called "Hall of Heroes" that brings guests into the world of superheroes, crime-getters, gadgets and spies through an immersive experience. The journey takes guests through movie prop-quality photo opportunities, including an authentic George Barris-built 1966 Batmobile, challenging, highly engaging interactives, intriguing, informative displays with props, costumes and more.

See the museum's website for additional information: [mods.org/blue-star-museum/](http://mods.org/blue-star-museum/)

# USS LEYTE GULF

USS Leyte Gulf, one of the Council's adopted ships, is currently underway as part of the Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group deployment in support of maritime security cooperation efforts in the U.S. 5th, U.S. 6th and U.S. 7th Fleet areas of operation. With Abraham Lincoln as the flagship, deployed strike group assets include staffs, ships and aircraft of Carrier Strike Group 12, Destroyer Squadron 2, USS Leyte Gulf and Carrier Air Wing 7 as well as Álvaro de Bazán-class frigate ESPS Méndez Núñez.

The Council recently recognized Leyte Gulf's outstanding sailors from quarter 1 and quarter 2 with certificates of achievement and monetary awards. Photos were not available.

Sailor of the Quarter - FCA1 Jordan Leibrand  
Junior Sailor of the Quarter - LS2 Giselle Alegria  
Blue Jacket of the Quarter - ET3 Madison Cronin

Sailor of the Quarter - CS1 Waddell Alphonse  
Junior Sailor of the Quarter - FC2 Deanna Shaw  
Blue Jacket of the Quarter - FCA3 Austin Burke



Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class Tim Hopkins, from Sanderson, Texas, a member of the air department aboard the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), departs an MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the "Grandmasters" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 46. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Zachary Pearson/Released—from the USS Leyte Gulf's Facebook page)



# YOUTH RECOGNITION – JUNIOR ROTC CADETS

Each year, the Council recognizes the achievements of graduating cadets from 5 local high school ROTC 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 Council's youth liaison, Alan Starr, attends each school's award night, talks to the audience about the Navy League and our Council, and makes the presentation. This year, Shelley Beck also visited one of the schools.

The following cadets were recognized this year:

Cooper City High School Navy JROTC  
Samuel Testa



NOVA Southeast High School Navy JROTC  
Mackenzie Buckler



Stranahan High School Marine Corps JROTC  
Robert Bonkenburg



JP Taravella High School Navy JROTC  
Samia Caballero



Unfortunately, we were unable to acquire the name of Charles W. Flanagan's outstanding cadet and to recognize them.



# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Captain Jo-Ann Burdian, Coast Guard Sector Miami Commander has begun her unit and area familiarization trips this week. On Wednesday after visiting Fort Lauderdale Coast Guard units, she stopped by Port Everglades. Visiting ports, industry officials, and regulated facilities helps her see and understand the various aspects that she's responsible for as the Captain of the Port. Shown in photo are Glenn Wiltshire, Acting Director for Port Everglades, Captain Burdian, and Captain Clare, Acting Deputy Commander (left to right). Photo and narrative from US Coast Guard Sector Miami's Facebook page posted on May 16



John Pinto, a Navajo Code Talker in World War II who became one of the nation's longest serving Native American elected officials as a New Mexico state senator, has died. He was 94. After serving as a Code Talker — a group of radio men who translated American coordinates and messages into an indecipherable code based on the Navajo language — Pinto had to take an English test four times before he was finally admitted into the University of New Mexico's College of Education. He graduated with a bachelor's in elementary education at 39, and eventually earned his master's, becoming a teacher and a truancy officer in Gallup. Pinto delved into politics to address the needs of impoverished indigenous populations. The Democrat won a seat in state Senate in 1976 as one of the state's first Native American senators. (photo and excerpt of story from [MarineTimes.com](http://MarineTimes.com))

## BUSINESS CARD AD

Larry M. Ott  
Licensed Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild Funeral  
Home & Cremation Center**  
4061 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-565-5591  
Fax 954-565-7899  
Larry.Ott@DignityMemorial.com  
[www.kraeerfairchild.com](http://www.kraeerfairchild.com)



BCNL member  
discount with  
this ad

## NEW MEMBER

Welcome to our newest member!

Mark Lemay  
of  
Fort Lauderdale

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](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com).

Do you have a friend, neighbor, co-worker or family member who may be interested in becoming a member of our Council? An e-membership is only \$25.

Contact our Membership Chairperson Marianne Giambone at [browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com).



# THANKS TO COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS!



Thanks to all the volunteers who manned the Council table during Fleet Week. Shown in photo on left is Charlie Schmidt, Wayne McLaren, Shelley Beck, George Reeves and Johnny Jackson. Shown in photo on right is Bruce Gottsch, Council President Larry Ott, Charlie Schmidt, Jackie Watson and John Weekes.

**BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA COUNCIL**  
**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**  
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