

THE HELMSMAN

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



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Larry Ott, President
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FEBRUARY 2020
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DINNER SOCIAL

FLEET WEEK

We hope you will join us for our Dinner Social on

Thursday, February 13, 2020

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

PROGRAM:

Installation of 2020 Council Officers

Guest Speaker

MGySgtAlberto E. Gomez

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Choice of:
Prime Rib of Beef
or
Salmon

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

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or before Feb 6
by e-mailing browardnavyleague@gmail.com or
by leaving a message at 954-389-0545

Planning for Ed Morse Automotive Group Fleet Week Port Everglades 2020 began with a kick-off reception hosted by Broward Navy Days. The event was held on January 13 at Galuppi's Restaurant in Pompano Beach. On January 14, a planning meeting was held at the Port Everglades administration building. (photos were provided by Shelley Beck)



Denise Ingram, Mary Anne Gray, Fran Shaw and Shelley Beck enjoyed the evening



Council President Larry Ott with the US Navy Band director

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 was an outstanding year for the Broward County Council. Adopting two ships and the awards we received at the National Convention were two of the high points of the year. Now that we are in the new year, we are already involved in our mission to support the sea services.

A number of council members attended the first Fleet Week planning meeting a couple weeks ago. Many of the volunteers for Fleet Week come from our council and do so each year as it is a rewarding experience to meet our sea service guests. I would encourage everyone to get involved as a volunteer for this event.

On the same subject of Fleet Week, the council will host our annual Junior Officers party. This will be on Tuesday night, May 5th. The JO party is another opportunity for us to give back to Navy, Coast Guard and Marines for their service. It is always a lot of fun so put May 5th on your calendar.

Our next dinner meeting is coming up very soon – Thursday, February 13th at Tropical Acres. Our guest speaker, MGySgt Alberto E. Gomez will recount some of his experiences while serving in the Marines. I know this will be very interesting and am looking forward to his presentation. Also, at this meeting we will have the installation of officers.

I hope to see you at these events – invite a friend.

Best regards.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



GUEST SPEAKER

MGySgt Alberto Gomez enlisted in the Marine Corps in November 1986. In 2012, after serving nearly 26 years of active duty, he retired from Recruiting Station Fort Lauderdale as the Recruiter Instructor. He currently serves as the Senior Marine Instructor at Deerfield Beach MCJROTC.

While in the Marine Corps, his occupations ranged from Artillery to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and he was stationed at multiple world-wide locations. While serving in EOD, he participated in multiple operations in the recovery of American remains in Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and North Korea. As part of these recovery teams, they were able to repatriate the remains of 27 Americans.

In 1995, Gomez received orders for duty as a canvassing recruiter, and, after training, served as a recruiter in South Dade. He was recognized with several awards during his time there.

MGySgt Gomez has been married for nearly 29 years to Luisa Gomez and they have two children, Sgt Edwin Gomez an active duty Marine and Jessica Gomez a 3rd year law school student at the University of Miami.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to this member who was recently assigned to our Council:

Ren Lueder of Fort Lauderdale

All members are encouraged to invite your friends and family members to join our Council. An e-membership is only \$25! The Navy League depends on citizens to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. At the national level, membership allows you to help our legislative affairs team fight on behalf of our sea services and educate government officials.

2019 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

A big thank you to Council President Larry Ott, the Board of Directors and all members who worked to make 2019 another great year for our Council. Thanks to the generosity of members who paid local dues and/or made donations, we were able to adopt two additional units – the USS Paul Ignatius and the USCGC Manatee. We also were able to continue support to our other eleven adopted units and six youth groups. Participation is key to making our events a success and we thank all those who came out to support our sea service units. If you have not participated in a Council event recently, we ask that you consider attending the next dinner social or the upcoming Fleet Week events. Together we can ensure that additional sea service members will benefit from our support in 2020.

Council members participated in all of the following events in 2019.

JANUARY



- * Hosted installation of Council officers aboard the Royal Princess with guest speaker Commanding Officer Robby Trotter, USS Paul Ignatius (shown here)
- * Planning for the commissioning of the

USS Paul Ignatius continued

- * First planning meeting for Fleet Week 2019 was held
- * Four Chaplains ceremony was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale
- * USS Leyte Gulf's sailors of the quarter were recognized



FEBRUARY

- * Joint dinner social with Fort Lauderdale Council was held with guest speaker Captain Michael Platt, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station Miami (Council Presidents Larry Ott and Abiud Montes

shown with Captain Platt)

- * USCGC Paul Clark's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized
- * Coast Guard Air Station Miami's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized

- * USCGC Bernard C. Webber's enlisted person of the quarter/enlisted person of the year was recognized
- * USCGC Robert Yered's enlisted person of the quarter and enlisted person of the year were recognized
- * USCGC Margaret Norvell's enlisted person of the quarter and enlisted person of the year were recognized
- * Greeted USCGC Forward upon its arrival in Port Everglades; made arrangements for crew to view Super Bowl

MARCH



- * Dinner Social was held with guest speaker Captain Megan Dean, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami.

- * Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale's enlisted person of the year (FN Derek Seurnyck) was recognized at dinner social (photo: Captain Dean, Larry Ott, FN Seurnyck, Glenn Wiltshire)
- * Fort Lauderdale Council held dinner social with guest speaker Commander Raul Rojas, Commanding Officer of Navy Operational Support Center Miami serving
- * Navy League Florida Region meeting was held in Orlando

APRIL



- * Annual Coast Guard Easter egg hunt & BBQ was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale
- * Fleet Week began with All Hands event at Esplanade Park

- * Fleet Week Junior Officers Party was held at McSorley's Beach Pub
- * Council table set up at Port Everglades for Fleet Week selling water, soda and Council coins to visiting civilians as well as promoting membership in the Navy League

2019 – A YEAR IN REVIEW

MAY



* Fleet Week Council table continued selling water, soda and Council coins (shown are Charlie Schmidt, Wayne McLaren, Shelley Beck, George Reeves and Johnny Jackson)

- * Fleet Week Enlisted Person of the Year awards banquet was hosted by Fort Lauderdale Council
- * Fleet Week activities continued including celebrity chef lunch at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale
- * Fundraiser event for commissioning of USS Paul Ignatius was held
- * Navy League's Sea-Air-Space was held at the Gaylord National Convention Center in National Harbor Maryland
- * Change of Command ceremony for Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami was held. Captain Megan Dean relieved by Captain Jo-Ann Burdian
- * USS Leyte Gulf's sailors of two quarters were recognized
- * Junior ROTC cadets at Cooper City High School, NOVA Southeast High School, Stranahan High School and JP Taravella High School were recognized
- * Joint dinner social with Fort Lauderdale Council was held with guest speaker Rear Admiral Pat DeQuattro USCG, Director for Joint Interagency Task Force South
- * Council recognized by Broward Navy Days at joint dinner social for providing the Fleet Week volunteers
- * Change of Watch ceremony was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Master Chief Damage Controlman Russel Cox assumed the title of Silver (Enlisted) Ancient Mariner from Master Chief Boatsman's Mate Mathew Coppola
- * Change of Command ceremony for Officer in Charge, USCGC Manatee, was held. Master Chief Mathew Coppola was relieved by Senior Chief Jason Brennan
- * Retirement ceremony was held for Master Chief Mathew Coppola

JUNE



* Council adopted USCGC Manatee and donated to their MWR fund (Larry Ott with BMCS Jason Brennan, USCGC Manatee)

- * Navy League National Convention was held in Norfolk Virginia
- * Council was recognized with awards in five categories at the National Convention
- * Dinner social was held with guest speaker Captain Todd Cooper, co-managing pilot of the Port Everglades Pilots' Association serving
- * Coast Guard TACLET South's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized
- * Change of Command ceremony for Commander, Coast Guard Air Station Miami was held. Captain Michael Platt was relieved by Captain Shawn Koch



JULY AND AUGUST

- * Precommissioning events were held for USS Paul Ignatius
- * USS Paul Ignatius was commissioned (shown are Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz with Commanding Officer Robby Trotter)
- * Council adopted the USS Paul Ignatius and donated to their MWR fund
- * USS Paul Ignatius' sailors of the quarter were recognized
- * USS Leyte Gulf's sailors of the quarter were recognized
- * USCGC Bernard C Webber's enlisted persons of the quarter were recognized
- * Coast Guard Aids to Navigation's enlisted person of the year was recognized
- * USCGC Paul Clark's enlisted persons of the quarter were recognized
- * Change of Command ceremony for Commanding Officer, USCGC Bernard Webber was held. LT Nathan Neuhardt was relieved by LT Ryan Montvydas
- * Change of Command ceremony for OINC, Coast Guard Aids to Navigation was held. BMCS Dax Burgrabe was relieved by BMC Raymond Coleman
- * Commanding Officer of the USCGC Margaret Norvell was promoted
- * Over 5,000 school supplies were collected and distributed to local adopted units as part of the Operation Homefront Back to School Brigade program in association with The Dollar Tree stores
- * Fort Lauderdale Council hosted their annual summer picnic

2019 – A YEAR IN REVIEW



SEPTEMBER

- * Sea Cadet night was hosted jointly with Fort Lauderdale Council with Spruance Division Sea Cadets serving as guest speakers
- * LCDR Alan Starr was recognized for his 25 years of service to the Sea Cadets
- * Coast Guard Air Station Miami's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized
- * Council greeted RFA Mounts Bay upon its arrival in Port Everglades. Council officer and crew members went golfing



OCTOBER

- * Octoberfest was hosted jointly with Fort Lauderdale Council at Old Heidelberg Restaurant
- * Everglades Council was disbanded and their members were welcomed into our Council
- * USCGC Robert Yered's enlisted persons of the quarter were recognized
- * Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized



NOVEMBER

- * Dinner social was held with guest speaker Rear Admiral Steve Poulin USCG, Director of Operations, US Southern Command (George Reeves, Rear Admiral Steve Poulin, Bob Marks and Richard Fournier in photo)
- * Navy League's Board of Directors meeting was held in Arlington Virginia
- * New Navy League logo was approved at the Board of Directors meeting
- * Election of 2020 officers took place at dinner social
- * Navy League's Anchors Aweigh Congressional Fly-in was held

- * Coast Guard Air Station Miami's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized
- * USS Leyte Gulf's sailors of the quarter and sailors of the year were recognized



DECEMBER

- * Joint dinner social was held with Fort Lauderdale Council with guest speaker First Sergeant Alkedra Tyler, USMC, Inspector-Instructor, 4th Civil Affairs Group, Hialeah (shown with Fort Lauderdale Council President Abiud Montes)



- * Also at the dinner were National Treasurer Joe Giambrone, Gerald Saunders, National Sr VP Field Services Ops and Florida Region President Lynn Drucker
- * Annual Coast Guard holiday party was held at McSorley's Beach Pub. Event was hosted jointly with Broward Navy Days and Fort Lauderdale Council
- * Over 8,000 toys were collected and distributed to local adopted units as part of the Operation Homefront Toy Drive program in association with The Dollar Tree stores
- * Flight 19 memorial ceremony was held at Naval Air Station Museum
- * Annual Pearl Harbor remembrance was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale
- * USS Paul Ignatius's sailors of the year were recognized
- * USCGC Margaret Norvell's enlisted person of the quarter was recognized

A big thank you to all who
made this an outstanding year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

On March 12, the Council will host a dinner social at Tropical Acres Restaurant. The guest speaker will be Captain Shawn "MAX" Koch, Commanding Officer, USCG Air Station Miami.

The Council will host its annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ (date to be announced). This is a great family event which allows local Coast Guard personnel and their families as well as civilians to enjoy a free BBQ lunch, games for the children and possibly a visit by the Easter bunny!

Ed Morse Automotive Group Fleet Week Port Everglades will be held from May 4 - May 10. Visiting ships will be announced in late March or early April with ship tour registration opening in early April. To monitor announcements on ship tour registration, go to the Broward Navy Days website <http://www.browardnavydaysinc.org>. As part of Fleet Week, the Council will once again set up a table to sell water, soda and Council coins. Volunteers will be needed.

On Tuesday, May 5, the Council will host its annual Fleet Week Junior Officers Party.

Additional information on all these events will be made available via email, Facebook and our Council's website.

VETERAN HEALTH CARE

Nova Southeastern University (NSU) recently announced news of their Veterans Access Clinic locations in Davie and Miami. The following is an excerpt from their website (nova.edu/healthcare/veterans). As a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces you and your immediate family members now have access to a variety of health care services at any of NSU's clinical locations. The NSU Veterans Access Clinic provides veterans and their immediate families coordinated care using an interdisciplinary team approach to evaluate your health needs and facilitate all necessary appointments and referrals. There is no cost associated with many of the services for those who qualify. Additional financial assistance may also be available. We have dedicated staff available to work with you to ensure your physical and mental health needs are taken care of. Their Davie campus is located at 3200 S University Drive and their Miami Campus is located at 8501 SW 124 Avenue, Suite 111A.

COAST GUARD NEWS



On January 10, crewmembers from Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale visited Hillsboro Lighthouse to celebrate the promotion of its Executive Officer, LTJG Pete Hutchison, to Lieutenant. Congratulations! (photo from our adopted unit Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale's Facebook page shows LT Derek Wallin, Commanding Officer on left with LT Hutchinson)



Projects are well underway after 20+ days in Dry Dock! Our crew, along with Bollinger Shipyards and Tampa Ship are working hard to make our ship better than ever with critical structural

modifications, exterior sustainability projects, and a whole lot of new parts! These Dry Dock availabilities are essential to CGC ROBERT YERED as we work together to increase the lifespan of our Coast Guard assets. Thank you to our crew, Bollinger Shipyards, Tampa Ship, and everyone else involved in these projects for all the long days put in so far, and all the work still to come! (from the January 31st post on the Facebook page of our adopted cutter, USCGC Robert Yered:)



Air Station Miami was proud to represent the Coast Guard tonight at the Weston Winter Safety Expo put on by the City of Weston and the Broward Sheriff's Office - Weston District! (from the January

24th post on the Facebook page of our adopted unit Coast Guard Air Station Miami)

RECOGNITION

On January 7, the Enlisted Person of the Quarter and the Enlisted Person of the Year were recognized at Coast Guard TACLET South. LCDR Alan Starr was on hand to recognize the achievements of Enlisted Person of the Year ME1 Jacob Johnson (photo on left) and Enlisted Person of the Quarter ME2 Bianca Caraballo. Each received a certificate of accomplishment and monetary award. (photos provided by CMC David A Carr)



On February 4, Past President Glenn Wiltshire was on hand to recognize SN Brandon Baker, Enlisted Person of the Year on the USCGC Paul Clark. SN Baker was recognized for his accomplishments and is shown in the photo with Glenn and CO LCDR Kris Ensley. (photo provided by Glenn Wiltshire)



BUSINESS CARD AD

Larry M. Ott
Licensed Funeral Director



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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 Giambrone at browardnavyleague@gmail.com.

USS PAUL IGNATIUS

The Council recently received this very nice email from CDR Robby Trotter, Commanding Officer of the USS Paul Ignatius which the Council adopted after its commissioning last July.

To the entire Broward County Navy League,

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for ALL of the love, support, and dedication from start to finish of commissioning the ship, but also helping me to make it to such a major milestone in my career. I could not have done it without ALL of your help. From your adopted Son and crew - I LOVE YOU ALL!!!

V/R
CDR Robby D. Trotter
Commanding Officer
USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG 117)



On Friday, February 7, there will be a change of command ceremony at which time CDR Trotter will be relieved by CDR Lennard D. Cannon. Many of us got the pleasure of meeting CDR Cannon since he was the Executive Officer of the ship during the commissioning process.



We'd like to welcome the new Executive Officer CDR Jeffery Servello. The following is an excerpt from an article written by CDR Servello in the ship's newsletter The Phalanx.

I am a Navy kid. I was born to and raised in a Navy family. My father was a career Sailor who retired as a Chief Petty Officer and my Mom was a school teacher. I am married and have two wonderful children. During our 17+ years together, we have lived all over having served in patrol craft, cruisers, and destroyers. Most recently we lived in Newport, R.I. where I taught at the Surface Warfare Officer.

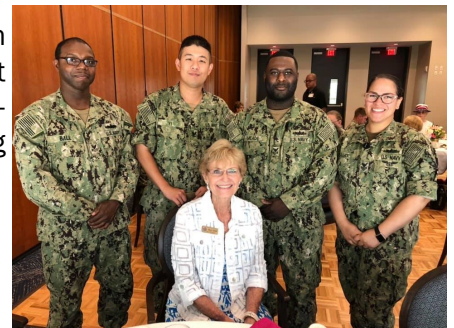
We wish all three outstanding Navy officers continued success as they begin their new assignments.

After months of planning, the USS Paul Ignatius was commissioned in Port Everglades on July 27, 2019. During the planning stage, many Council members got to know CDR Robby Trotter and many of the crew. CDR Trotter attended our January 19, 2019 event aboard Royal Princess serving as our guest speaker and swearing in the 2020 installation of officers. Council members who served on the commissioning committee were fortunate and were able to attend many of the commissioning week events. Those Council members who requested tickets also were able to attend the commissioning. To add to the excitement of commissioning day, the Council officially adopted the USS Paul Ignatius as documents were signed by Council President Larry Ott and CDR Trotter. Below are just a few of the special moments with CDR Trotter, CDR Cannon and others serving on this magnificent Naval vessel.



CDR Lennard Cannon with Joe Giambrone

Fran Shaw with crew members at a pre-commissioning luncheon



CDR Trotter with Bob Marks at the installation of officers

SEA SERVICE NEWS



March 13 is National K9 Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs throughout history.

It was on March 13, 1942, that the Army began training for its new War Dog Program, also known as the "K-9 Corps," according to American Humane, marking the first time that dogs were officially a part of the U.S. Armed Forces. The rest, as they say, is history. The dogs of war span centuries and include such heroes as Sgt. Stubby, the original war dog, Chips, the most decorated dog in World War II and Lex, who retired with his fallen owners family and Cairo, the Navy SEAL working dog on the bin Laden raid. Today's military dogs are valued as important members of their military units and even have their own retirement ceremonies, awards and medals and memorial services. Photo shows Lance Cpl. Nick Lacarra, a dog handler with Combined Anti-Armor Team 2, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and 20-year-old native of Long Beach, Calif., and Coot, an improvised explosive device detection dog, hold security in a field during a partnered security patrol with Afghan Border Police in Garmsir District, Helmand province, Afghanistan, Jan. 30, 2012. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder . (story and photo from Military.com)



On January 20, during a ceremony in Pearl Harbor, Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly honored the legacy of World War II hero Doris Miller by bestowing his name on a future aircraft carrier. It marks the first time a flattop has paid homage to an African American, a Navy Cross recipient and an enlisted service member. The future aircraft carrier Miller won't be the first Navy vessel to honor the hero. On June 20, 1973, the Navy commissioned the destroyer escort Miller — which was reclassified as a frigate two years later. Modly said that when completed, the new Doris Miller, a Gerald R. Ford-class carrier, will be the most powerful and lethal warship ever built by man. Designed to operate deep into the 21st century, more than 100,000 officers and crew will serve on the carrier. (photo and story from NavyTimes.com)



One of the few remaining Navajo Code Talkers who used their native language to confound the Japanese in World War II has died. Joe Vandever Sr. died of health complications in Haystack, New Mexico, according to his family. He was 96. Tribal leaders called Vandever a "great warrior" and a "compassionate family

man" and asked Navajos to keep his spirit and his family in their prayers. Vandever was among hundreds of Navajos who served in the Marine Corps, transmitting messages using a code based on the Navajo language. The code developed by an original group of 29 Navajos was never broken. Vandever's death leaves less than a handful of Navajo Code Talkers still alive. Vandever enlisted in the Marines in Santa Fe in March 1943 and was honorably discharged in January 1946. He worked multiple jobs after the war, including for an oil company and as a mining prospector, and stressed the importance of the Navajo language. He also was a medicine man. He will be buried at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. (story and photo from MarineTimes.com)



During World War II, the Coast Guard established the Women's Reserve. The women who joined were known as SPARs, which stands for "Semper Paratus Always

Ready." Recruited and trained to "release a man for sea," the SPARs served in a variety of shore jobs, including clerical, recruiting, radiomen, parachute riggers, drivers, pharmacist's mates and cooks. A small contingent served in more novel roles. In 1944, a group of SPARs led by Ensign Vera Hamerschlag arrived in Chatham, Massachusetts, replacing all the men at Unit 21, a top-secret LORAN monitoring station. (story and photo from TheMaritimeExecutive.com)

FUTURE LEADERS



Past President Glenn Wiltshire participated on Congresswoman Lois Frankel's interview panel for Service Academy nominees. The photo was taken at the reception for the nominees held on January 22, 2020. Palm Beach Council members Sonia Foster and Deirdre Krause (behind Glenn on far right) also participated. Each year, a limited number of individuals are nominated to four of the five service academies. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.

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