

# THE HELMSMAN

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



www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com

Larry Ott, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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## DINNER SOCIAL

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

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

Speaker to be announced

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  
calling Joan at 561-336-3610

## HOLIDAY PARTY

On Friday, December 13, Broward Navy Days and Fort Lauderdale Council joined our Council in hosting the annual Coast Guard holiday party. The event was once again held at McSorley's Beach Pub. Coast Guard personnel and their guests each received two complimentary drinks and everyone in attendance enjoyed a great buffet. Many of the guests took advantage of McSorley's great rooftop lounge to enjoy the evening. Thanks to everyone who turned out for this annual event.



Callie Thomason, Fran Shaw and Mary Anne Gray



Captain Shawn Koch, LT Kris Kinsley, Larry Ott

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2019 was an outstanding year for the Broward County Navy League. Besides the normal activities and events, there were a few that stand out. Beginning with the partial government shutdown which impacted the Coast Guard. Since this council has adopted many ships and units in the Coast Guard, the "shut down" became more personal to us. Through the generosity of our members and the council, we donated gas gift cards and wrote letters to our congressmen to end the shutdown.

After months of planning, the USS Paul Ignatius was commissioned here in Port Everglades. Many from the council served on the Commissioning Committee and as volunteers. Moments after the commissioning, we adopted this new destroyer which joins our other two Navy ships and five Coast Guard cutters.

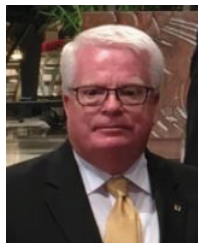
Then at the National Navy League Convention this summer, the Broward County won awards in all five categories! This achievement is due to the many in our council who have donated funds for us to maintain our programs and for the many who donate their time and talents. Let's keep the momentum going of support to the sea services in 2020.

In closing, I would like to pass on some information regarding veterans. There is an organization called Broward County Veterans Services that informs and assists with local veterans regarding benefits and services available to them. These officers are trained veterans themselves and are able to meet one on one. For more information call: 954-357-6622, email: Veterans@Broward.org or visit their website: Broward.org/ElderlyandVeterans.

Best wishes for the New Year 2020 and hope to see everyone soon.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



# NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these members who were recently assigned to our Council:

Cel Harris of Weston

Michael Miller of Pembroke Pines

Maria Miranda of Miami

Richard Sloane of Davie

Britney Wilson of Sunrise

You 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.

# NEW LOGO



At the November 2019 National board of directors meeting, the executive committee voted on and approved the use of the Navy League seal as the official logo of the organization. This seal was approved as the sole logo and will take the place of both the downward-facing

and slanted anchors. The executive committee's vote takes effect immediately. However, for printed materials, the Navy League is using a phased approach to logo adoption. Councils will start moving toward full adoption of the new logo by the end of January 2020 and all assets by April 30, 2021.

For members who are interested, The Navy League has a new Brand Resources Center page on the website (located under Member Resources) that will provide each member with the tools they need to adopt our new eagle perched upon a fouled anchor logo. A login is required to view this page.

# HOLIDAY PARTY

Here are some additional photos from the Coast Guard Holiday Party held on December 13 at McSorley's. Apologies for the quality of the photos since they were limited light both inside and outside the venue.



A special thanks to Simon Kearney and the entire staff at McSorley's for providing great service, a delicious buffet and an excellent location to host this event.

# PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE

On December 8, Broward Navy Days hosted the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Captain Jo-Ann Burdian, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami was the guest speaker. Station Commanding Officer LT Derek Wallin made remarks and Reverend Ron Perkins gave the invocation. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors and Council member Robert Latimer played several moving songs on the bagpipes.



Spruance Division Sea Cadets



Robert Latimer



Robert Latimer, Captain Burdian and Council Past President Glenn Wiltshire



Captain Burdian greeted a WWII veteran



Captain Burdian and LT Derek Wallin

# DECEMBER DINNER MEETING

On December 18, Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward County Council members joined together for a holiday dinner meeting at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors.

Gerald Saunders, Senior Vice President of Field Services Operations from the national Navy League office in Arlington Virginia was in attendance. During his remarks, he emphasized the importance of Navy League support to our sea services. First Sergeant Alkedra Tyler USMC, First Sergeant of Inspector-Instructor 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group, Hialeah was the guest speaker. She spoke about the importance of setting goals and not giving up on an individual's dreams. She answered many questions from the group and also made remarks to the Sea Cadets.

This was also a Toys for Tots event and the generosity of the group was very evident by the boxes of toys that will be distributed to needy children in the Fort Lauderdale area.



Casey Colton and Veronika Thorne



Richard Fournier, Rick Ciravolo, President Larry Ott, Captain James Passarelli and Lawrence Denmark



Fort Lauderdale Council President Abiud Montes presented a plaque to guest speaker First Sergeant Tyler



Vicki Pirtle, Lina Montes and Naia Montes



Toys—lots of toys!

# RECOGNITION – USS PAUL IGNATIUS

The Council recently sent certificates of accomplishment and monetary awards to the outstanding sailors of the year of the USS PAUL IGNATIUS. We are proud to continue our support of one of our adopted ships.



## Senior Sailor of the Year

FCA1(SW) David L. Tortorello

Combat Systems Department/CF Division

Petty Officer Tortorello is from Corpus Christi, Texas and enlisted in the Navy in April of 2006. In December 2007, Tortorello began his career as an FC3 onboard the USS Chafee (DDG-90) in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. During his five and a half year tour onboard he deployed four times to the 7th fleet AOR while at sea, earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin and was advanced to Petty Officer Second Class in June 2011. He departed USS Chafee for recruiting duty at Navy Recruiting District San Antonio in Portland, TX. While there he quickly took the Leading Petty Officer position and earned multiple awards to include Recruiter of the Month, LEADS Station of the Year, and was personally awarded a letter of excellence from Force Master Chief Gray. He left NRD San Antonio with 13 Gold Wreaths and was meritoriously advanced to Petty Officer First Class in July of 2016. In 2017, he departed NRD San Antonio for Baseline ACNT B/L 9, AWS and BMD 5.0 schools in Dahlgren Virginia and reported to USS PAUL IGNATIUS in Mayport, FL. Since being onboard, Petty Officer Tortorello has made a major impact, implementing the ESW program onboard. He was elected as the FCPOA Treasurer in which he organized multiple events community relation events.



## Sailor of the Year

HM2 (SS) Thomas R. Minton

Executive Department/HM Division

Petty Officer Minton is from Long Branch New Jersey and enlisted in the Navy in January 2013. Upon completion of boot camp, HM2 reported to Naval Submarine School in Groton CT. From March 2013 to April 2014 he completed Basic Enlisted Submarine School, Apprentice Technical Training, Tactical Computer and Network Operator School, Radioman/BLQ-10 "A" school and ES journeyman "C" school. In April 2014, HM2 was assigned to USS SAN JUAN (SSN-751) stationed out of Groton, CT which he served on until December 2015. In January 2016 he was force converted to Hospital Corpsman and reported to Hospital Corpsman "A" school in San Antonio, TX from January 2016 to April 2016. Wanting to remain close to the submarine community from which he just came, upon graduation he chose orders to Naval Branch Health Clinic Kings Bay, GA. He served in the undersea medical department from April 2016 to January 2018. Due to his eagerness to return to sea duty he requested to terminate shore duty early and was given orders to PRECOM DET PAUL IGNATIUS. Since checking on board USS PAUL IGNATIUS, Petty Officer Minton has been a vital part of starting the medical department onboard and establishing a standard that will be held throughout the life of the ship. Due to his achievements and outstanding commitment to the ship and crew he was meritoriously advanced to petty officer second class in July 2018.

# RECOGNITION

## USS PAUL IGNATIUS



### Junior Sailor of the Year

CS3 Alvin L. Manarin  
Supply Department/  
S-2 Division

A native of Batangas, Philippines, CS3 Manarin graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electronics and Communications Engineering from Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 2004 and enlisted in the Navy in April 2017. He completed Culinary Specialist "A" School in Fort Lee, Virginia. In August 2017, CS3 was assigned to USS PAUL IGNATIUS stationed out of Mayport. Since on board, he has been temporarily assigned to USS Cole (DDG-67), USS Normandy (CG-60), and USS ARLEIGH BURKE (DDG 51) to gain hands on training, qualifying Basic Damage Control, Mess Deck Attendant, Cook on Watch and Baker on Watch.



### Bluejacket of the Year

SN Leana L. Barfield  
Supply Department/  
S-1 Division

A native of El Cajon, California, Seaman Barfield enlisted in the Navy in January 2018. Briefly stationed at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas, she transferred to PCU PAUL IGNATIUS in August 2018. Since checking on board USS PAUL IGNATIUS, she has been working in S-1 Division as a supply clerk, hazardous material representative, and MAMS custodian.

# RECOGNITION

On December 7 at a ceremony aboard the USCGC MARGARET NORVELL, Gunners Mate Second Class Vincent Padula was recognized by Commanding Officer LTJG Christopher O'Meara with a Letter of Commendation ribbon from the Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. He was also presented with a certificate of appreciation and gift card on behalf of the Council. Unfortunately our Council representatives were unable to attend. (photo appeared on MARGARET NORVELL'S Facebook page)



# FLEET WEEK

The first planning meeting for Fleet Week Port Everglades 2020 takes place on January 14 at 8:30 in the auditorium of the Port Everglades Administration Building. Ed Morse Automotive Group Fleet Week Port Everglades 2020 will be held May 4 - 10, 2020. Broward Navy Days will announce the visiting ships in late March or early April. As in past years, public ship tour registration will be open in early April. Sign up for email alerts and the latest news and updates about Fleet Week 2020 at [browardnavydaysinc.org](http://browardnavydaysinc.org). This year will be special as Broward Navy Days, Inc. celebrates the 30th anniversary of Fleet Week Port Everglades in South Florida. Watch for announcements about special 30th anniversary events during Fleet Week 2020.



## KEEP CONNECTED

Don't forget to visit and like our Council's Facebook page where you will get up-to-date information about many of our adopted units, other sea service news as well as events we are hosting

[www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/](http://www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/)

Also visit our website where you can read about our adopted units, get the latest event news and find previous editions of The Helmsman. You'll also find links to other related websites such as Operation Homefront and Broward Veterans Coalition.

[bcnavyleague.org](http://bcnavyleague.org)

Don't forget to visit the Navy League website. You'll be able to utilize the Voice to Congress feature, learn more about Navy League programs, shop for Navy League merchandise and more. It is recommended that you create a user name and password that will enable you to view additional information that is not available to the general public. It will also enable you to easily pay your membership dues.

[Navyleague.org](http://Navyleague.org)

## 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)



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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](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com).

## VETERANS EXPO

The Broward Veterans Coalition and United Way of Broward County's Mission United are hosting the Broward Veterans Expo. The event will be held on Saturday, January 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM at the Omni Auditorium, Broward College North Campus, 1000 Coconut Creek Blvd, Coconut Creek. Veterans will be able to take advantage of filing disability claims or for increases in existing claims, civil legal issues as well as employment and educational opportunities. Veterans will also be able to meet representatives from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Mission United, Career Source Broward, Legal Aid and more. There is no charge for veterans to attend this expo.

## FOUR CHAPLAINS

Four Chaplains Day will be celebrated locally at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, January 26 at 2 PM. The following is an excerpt of an article that appeared in the New York Times on February 4, 2018.

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. Sailors rushed to the decks, where some of the lifeboats had frozen to the ship. But four chaplains standing on the decks remained calm, distributing life jackets. When the supply ran out, the chaplains gave the sailors their own. Only 230 men survived the sinking of the Dorchester, 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, February 3 was established by a unanimous Act of Congress as an annual "Four Chaplains Day." The Four Chaplains Memorial Foundation tries to raise awareness through scholarship competitions, awards for valor, school group visits to its chapel and by funding an emergency chaplain corps.



# HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



Last month's edition of The Helmsman included an article about Past President Glenn Wiltshire's participation in Operation Homefront's holiday toy drive. As an update, Glenn picked up 8,460 stocking stuffer toys from six local Dollar Tree Stores between November 1 and December 5. The toys were boxed up and delivered to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Coast Guard Base Miami Beach and Sector Miami, Coast Guard Air Station Miami, TACLET South, Navy Recruiting District Miami, and Naval Operational Support Center Miami. After deliveries to all these units were completed, the remaining toys were dropped off at the Marine Corps Reserve unit in Hialeah for distribution through their Toys for Tots campaign.

Glenn provided this photo of just some of the boxes of toys he delivered to Coast Guard Air Station Miami. He also delivered a box of non-perishable food that was donated by the San Antonio Shoe Store in Plantation.



This annual toy drive is just one of the many programs sponsored by Operation Homefront. To find out more, visit their website at [operationhomefront.org](http://operationhomefront.org).

# LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The below article appeared In the December 20, 2019 Navy League's weekly legislative affairs update regarding WWII Merchant Mariners. A big thanks to those members who took the time to reach out to their congressional leaders on this issue.

We have exciting news and are happy to report that the Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019 has passed the Senate! We reached 72 co-sponsors (not including the sponsor Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), an incredible number considering we started the month with less than 50. Because the Senate bill made technical changes (which were needed) the House will now pass the Senate version before sending the legislation to the President. This bill would bestow a Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award by the Congress of the United States, on WWII Merchant Mariner veterans.

The below information regarding sea service funding was also in the update.

The Department of Navy funding, including the Marine Corps, makes a significant investment in readiness and innovation to align with the National Defense Strategy. It includes funding to buy 14 battle force ships, though short of the \$26.7 billion the Navy League recommended, and pulls the San Antonio amphibious ship buy to the current year. The Navy said the Flight II LPD production rate will be enough to sustain the industrial base. It also fully funds the 3.1 percent pay increases.

The Coast Guard request falls short of Navy League recommendations for a 5% growth in the Operations and Support budget, as well as a \$2 billion plus procurement account, especially in the funding for shore facilities decimated by the last couple years of hurricanes. The Navy League recommended \$300m for shore infrastructure. The Offshore Patrol Cutter (OPC) program's funding was cut while Eastern Shipbuilding works on delivering the first two contracted hulls along with strict oversight of the program and cost after the shipyard was damaged during Hurricane Michael. The bill also included funding for the second of six planned Polar Security Cutters (PSC)

As a reminder, the Navy League Voice to Congress feature is an easy way to reach your congressional leaders. You can find current sea service issues on the Voice to Congress Navy League website (<https://www.voterveice.net/NavyLeague/Home>).

# DECEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



National Treasurer Joe Giambrone, Sr VP Field Services Ops Gerald Saunders, Florida Region President Lynn Drucker, Fort Lauderdale Council member Veronika Thorne and Fort Lauderdale Council President Abiud Montes