

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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DINNER SOCIAL

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We hope you will join us for our
Dinner Social on
Thursday, March 12, 2020

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

PROGRAM:

Guest Speaker

Captain Shawn “Max” Koch
Commanding Officer
US Coast Guard Air Station Miami

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

Choice of:
Prime Rib of Beef
or
Chicken Francaise

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

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

The 2020 Council officers were sworn in by Florida Region President Lynn Drucker at the February 13 dinner social.



President Larry Ott, First Vice President Tom Melville, Vice President Legislative Affairs Bob Marks, Second Vice President Bruce Gottsch, Secretary Shelley Beck, Treasurer Tom Carney and Florida Region President Lynn Drucker



Council President Larry Ott welcomed new members Ren Lueder, Sandra Cathey and her husband Sam and Fran Scheffler to the Council

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our last dinner meeting in February, it was my pleasure to recognize three new council members: Fran Scheffler, Sandra Cathey, and Ren Lueder. Each has history with the sea services and we look forward to knowing each better in the months ahead. Fran has come to us by way of the Everglades Council, Ren served in the Navy during the Pueblo incident and Sandra has a daughter who was the first female commanding officer of the USS Independence. Welcome aboard to each.

Florida Region President Lynn Drucker administered the oath of office for the new and returning officers of the board. Former president of the Everglades Council, Tom Melville, was installed as First Vice President along with Bruce Gottsch as 2nd Vice President. Shelley Beck, Tom Carney, Bob Marks and I will continue with our current positions. The other members of the board provide experience, leadership and commitment to our council. All are volunteers and each has helped with the momentum of this council along with the support of all our members who either attend meetings, volunteer or assist us financially. Thank you all as we fulfill our mission as a Navy League Council.

I'm sure all were fascinated with the talk from MGySgt Gomez. He shared his experiences as a Marine with Explosive Ordnance Demolition and recovering of MIAs in Laos, Viet Nam, Cambodia and North Korea. Under normal circumstances, his assignment would have been most difficult but with hostile governments watching over him and his crew, more stress was added. We all were captivated by his first-hand experience in repatriating MIA's.

Coming up in March our speaker will be Captain Shawn Koch - the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Miami (one of our adopted units). This Air Station has a variety of aircraft as well as rescue divers. Be sure to save the date, March 12th and attend this most interesting meeting.

See you then.

Larry M. Ott
Council President



FLEET WEEK

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.

Also as part of Fleet Week, 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

RECOGNITION

On February 5, LCDR Alan Starr recognized the achievements of the Enlisted Person of the Year for Coast Guard Air Station Miami. Alan presented HS1 Brooke Muniz with a certificate of accomplishment and a monetary award.



GUEST SPEAKER

Captain Shaw “Max” Koch and his wife Trisha attended our February dinner social (shown here with President Larry Ott). We are pleased to have him return to serve as our guest speaker.



Captain Shawn “Max” Koch assumed command at US Coast Guard Air Station Miami in June 2019. Prior to assuming command, he served as the Chief of Incident Management for the Seventh Coast Guard District. He oversees search and rescue (SAR), aviation, pollution/HAZMAT response, command center operations, emergency management and implement of the National Incident Management System.

Captain Koch previously served as chief of Maritime and Arctic/Senior Intel Analyst at NORAD/US Northern Command, Ops Officer at CGAS Atlantic City/Director of Ops at National Capital Region Air Defense Facility and Chief of Intel Ops at CG Operations Command. He was the MH-68A Branch Chief at Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITROL-10), and a duty standing HH-65A pilot at Group/Air Station North Bend. As a cutterman, he was Lead Boarding Officer on CGCs DECISIVE and RESOLUTE. He has also served as an Oregon Sheriff’s deputy, an aviation gunner course instructor and is current an EMT.

A native of central Wisconsin, Captain Koch graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1995 with a BS in management. He has earned an undergrad certificate in law enforcement, an MBA, and a MS in strategic intel (MSSI) with concentration in counter-terrorism from National Defense College. He is also a graduate of the Naval War College (JPME-I) and Joint and Combined Warfighting School (JPME-II).

Captain Koch is married to the former Trisha McKinnon of Alberta Canada and they have three children.

PORT EVERGLADES

After years of work, it was announced this week that the Port Everglades expansion project will move forward. This project will include the deepening and widening of the waterways in and around the Port to allow larger ships to transit in and out. Once complete, Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale will be reconfigured and will be housed in a newly constructed state of the art facility. Commanding Officer LT Derek Wallin was on hand, along with other distinguished guests including Glenn Wiltshire of our Council, to deliver the news and answer questions at the press conference. (story and photo from a Facebook post of Station Fort Lauderdale’s on February 21)



BUSINESS CARD AD

Larry M. Ott
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BCNL member
discount with
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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.

FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL

There was a great turnout for our February 13 dinner social at Tropical Acres Restaurant. Attendees were able to meet several new members, watch the 2020 Council officers be sworn in and then hear an extraordinary guest speaker MGySgt Alberto E Gomez. The 2020 Council officers were sworn in by Florida Region President Lynn Atkinson Drucker. Council President Larry Ott welcomed three new members – Sandra Cathey, Ren Lueder and Fran Scheffler. Mary Anne Gray, President and Executive Director of Broward Navy Days also shared information about the upcoming 2020 Fleet Week taking place from May 4-10.

MGySgt Gomez is currently the instructor of the Deerfield Beach High School Marine Corps JROTC unit. He shared experiences from his time in the Marine Corps, serving as Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team leader. His stories about locating and recovering MIAs were sometimes very emotional and hard to imagine but they were extremely interesting. If you didn't attend the dinner social, you missed out on a great evening.

MGySgt Gomez with his wife Luisa and Larry Ott



Lynn Drucker and Olga Botcharova



Joanne Melville, Marianne Giambrone, Ren Lueder and Fran Scheffler



Bob and Carolyn Marks with Tom Carney



Mary Anne Gray with Lawrence Denmark

(some photos provided by Charlie Schmidt)

USS PAUL IGNATIUS

A change of command ceremony was held aboard the USS Paul Ignatius on February 7. At that time, Commander Robby Trotter was relieved by Command Leonard Cannon (who was previously the Executive Officer). Mary Anne Gray, Chairperson of the Commissioning Committee as well as Fran Shaw and Pat Dumont attended the ceremony. Fran and Pat were both kind enough to share these photos.



CDR Trotter, his wife Pamela and son with Navy League National Vice President of Military Affairs Sinclair Harris



CDR Cannon with his wife Tina



Oscar and Alicia Romano, Paul Ignatius, Mary Anne Gray and Fran Shaw

SEA-AIR-SPACE

The 2020 Sea-Air-Space exposition will take place from April 6 – 8 at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor Maryland. It is the largest maritime expo in the United States. In 2019, there were over 337 exhibitors and 15,000 attendees including 186 flag officers. Sea-Air-Space brings the U.S. defense industry and key military decision-makers together for three days of informative educational sessions, important policy discussions and a dynamic exhibit hall floor.

Now in its fifth year is the return of the Sea-Air-Space STEM Expo. The STEM Expo is geared toward 5th through 12th grade students. It is a free event aimed at inspiring and empowering students interested in science, technology, engineering and math careers. Students and parents can enjoy interactive STEM workshops, hands-on demonstrations, STEM career information, networking opportunities and more. The Expo will take place on April 5 from 12:00 – 4:00 PM at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center.

As a reminder, there is no cost for Navy League members to attend the Sea-Air-Space exposition

COAST GUARD EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ



You and your family are cordially invited to attend the annual
US Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ
sponsored by the Broward County Council Navy League

Saturday, March 28, 2020

Coast Guard 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, prizes

****don't forget to bring Easter basket to collect eggs****

FREE for all Coast Guard Personnel and their families
\$15 per civilian adult & children over 10 / free for civilian kids under 10

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

Civilians should RSVP by sending their checks
made out to Broward County Navy League to

Shelley Beck
301 N. Pine Island Road, Apt. 262
Plantation FL 33324

****If unable to attend, donations appreciated****

Directions: Dania Beach Blvd East and head North (A1A) to Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park, 6503 N. Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004 (formerly John U. Lloyd Beach State Park) At gate house, let them know you are heading to Coast Guard station

SEA SERVICE NEWS



A keel-laying ceremony was held February 12 for the future USNS Cherokee Nation (T-ATS 7), the second ship of the Navy's Navajo class of towing, salvage and rescue vessels.

The ceremony was held near Gulf Island Shipyard at the Houma Terrebonne Civic Center. In attendance to authenticate the keel was Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Chuck Hoskin Jr., and the ship's sponsor and deputy speaker of the Cherokee Nation Tribal Council, Victoria Mitchell Vazquez. The Navajo-class will provide ocean-going tug, salvage and rescue capabilities to support fleet operations. The current capabilities are provided by three T-ATF 166 and two T-ARS 50 class ships, several of which will reach the end of their expected service lives later this year. Navajo-class ships will be capable of towing U.S. Navy ships and will have 6,000 square feet of deck space for embarked systems. The platform will be 263 feet long, have a beam of 59 feet and can carry a load of nearly 2,000 tons. (story and photo from Seapowermagazine.org)



The Gearing-class destroyer Orleck has made its home in Lake Charles for the past decade but may soon join the Jacksonville Naval Museum. The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association hopes to

have the Orleck as its main attraction for museum-goers and ship enthusiasts everywhere. Details are still being worked out. The ship came to Lake Charles in May of 2010, and was open to the public by April of 2011. Orleck will be towed to Port Arthur where it will be dry-docked for a good cleaning, some hull repairs, other minor repairs, a fresh coat of haze gray paint and whatever other superficial needs necessary to be berthed in Jacksonville. The ship is being prepared internally by volunteers that are packaging artifacts and securing documents among other things. (story and photo from NavyTimes.com)



Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz, meritoriously advanced Petty Officer 2nd Class Emily Ford and Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Newberg during the State of the Coast Guard Address from Charleston, South Carolina



on February 20. Ford, a storekeeper stationed at Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos (OPBAT), is a mission support expert who was instrumental in facilitating the whole-of-Coast Guard response during Hurricane Dorian. Newberg, a Coast Guard rescue swimmer, is stationed at Air Station Savannah, Georgia, and was instrumental in rescuing crewmembers from the motor vessel Golden Ray. The Coast Guard's Meritorious Advancement Program allows for a district commander to select and meritoriously advance the most talented people in the Coast Guard. Meritorious advancement is one way the Coast Guard can honor an individual's embodiment of the core values – Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. The program memorializes the extraordinary achievements of our past, present, and future workforce. (story and photos from USCoastGuard.mil)



The U.S. Coast Guard is the only branch of the military with a Cold Water Ice Diving program. Earlier this year, divers from the U.S. Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center hosted the Cold Water Ice Dive 2020, diving on location in Seattle and British Columbia with divers from sister services. (story and photo from US Coast Guard Special Missions Training Center's Facebook page)

COUNCIL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS



Front row: Marianne Giambrone, Larry Ott, Joe Giambrone, Glenn Wiltshire, Charlie Schmidt, Shelley Beck
Back row: Mark Lemay, Tom Melville, Bob Marks, Bruce Gottsch, Tom Carney
Missing: Rick Braswell, Wayne McLaren, George Reeves and Alan Starr (photo provided by Charlie Schmidt)

BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA COUNCIL
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