

THE HELMSMAN

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Bravo Zulu Council!



St. Louis, Mo –The second week of June this year the Navy League of the United States held their National Convention here. Amongst the many meetings, training sessions and activities at the convention the annual Council Awards Presentations were held.

Once again Broward County Council was well represented. We received an award in each of the 3 award categories.



Council Performance Award

Council Performance Awards recognize councils that strived for excellence in multiple areas throughout the prior calendar year. These awards are judged based on entries in a council's annual report, which details all of a council's activities throughout the year.

Mackie Award

The Mackie Awards are a series of three different awards given to Navy League councils for their communications efforts.

- Newsletter
- Website
- Social Media



Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award

The Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards are presented annually at the Navy League National Convention to councils that have demonstrated the strongest commitment to direct support of sea service units through robust adoption and youth programs. The award is inclusive of support to all types of adopted sea service units, including youth groups. This award is a singular award based on council size.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Now that many restrictions for Covid have been lifted, the Broward County Council is becoming more active by reaching out to some of our adopted units. Over the last several weeks visits were made to five of our adopted Coast Guard units. Coast Guard Air Station-Miami along with TACLET were the first followed by visits to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Aids to Navigation, and USCGC Manatee. Zoom and emails have been helpful this past year but they cannot adequately replace the in person contact and a warm handshake.

Later, a small group from the council accepted the generous invitation from the Air Station and TACLET for a tour of their facilities. This provided a chance to not only meet the officers and staff but to learn of their experiences and duties as they fulfill their missions. We as a local council support these units in a variety of ways including also speaking out in behalf of the sea services through legislation. In fact, Lynn Drucker and I participated in a "virtual fly-in" to Congress in Washington, DC along with all the councils across the US to promote a variety of issues for the sea services.

Although Joe and Marianne Giambrone have moved and joined another council in Maryland, they continue to support us here. At the National Convention in St. Louis this spring, Marianne accepted on behalf of BCNL three awards: the Mackie, Sea Service Adoption and the Meritorious Council awards. Congratulations to Marianne as she was appointed the Mid-Atlantic Regional President for 11 councils spanning Maryland, Virginia and Kentucky. Furthermore, Marianne is now a member of the National Board of Directors. Also at the convention, our own Shelley Beck was appointed to South Florida Area President. Shelley replaces Marianne in this position and I know Shelley will also excel with her new responsibilities. Congratulations to both.

On Thursday, July 15th, Glenn Wiltshire and I attended the Change of Command for Coast Guard 7th District. The District and South Florida said good bye to Rear Admiral Jones and his wife as they will be moving to Washington, D.C. Rear Admiral Brendan McPherson has assumed command of the District. Best wishes to both in their new assignments.

Looking forward we will join the Fort Lauderdale Council for Sea Cadet night in September followed by Octoberfest. Then in November we will plan to have our own dinner meeting. There will probably be a few other events scheduled before Fleet Week in May and then the commissioning of the USS Fort Lauderdale at Port Everglades sometime in the summer next year.

I am looking forward to these upcoming events and hope everyone will join us as we move forward into the rest of the year.

Until next time,

Larry M. Ott

Council President



Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome the following new members. We look forward to greeting and meeting you in person at a Council social event soon.

Ms. Julie Carlson
PO1 Michael Fleming
Ms. Adrienne Hibbert
Mr. Robert Mossie
Mr. Michael Preston
Mr. Schelvin Robinson

Coming Events

September

We join Ft. Lauderdale Council for our annual Sea Cadet Night on September 15th

October

Once again we join Ft. Lauderdale Council for our Oktoberfest Celebration

November

We return to Tropical Acres for our November Diner Social

Items from National



Advocating on Behalf of the Sea Services

Advocacy is a main pillar of the Navy League's mission. As a nonprofit organization, we are able to mobilize our grassroots membership to get to the heart of the issues that matter to the sea services, both on Capitol Hill and in our local communities.

Recently NLUS added a section to its web site to make it even easier for we as members of the Navy League to communicate with our congressional representatives with regard to matters that are of importance to the sea services.

By going to the NLUS website, logging in and going to the legislative affairs section you will have the opportunity to help the men and women of our sea services and our nation by simply clicking on the issues presented there that you feel are important.

A brief summary of some of the initiatives follow -

Cosponsor the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act

Unlike the other branches of the Armed Forces the Coast Guard is not shielded from the economic impacts of a government shutdown. In the event of a lapse in Congressional funding, the men and women of the Coast Guard are expected to perform their vital mission without pay. That is just wrong.

Support the Shipyard Act

America's shipyards are the unseen genesis of our entire maritime fleet. Our shipyards are critical to our security.

Navy Shipbuilding and Conversion Budget FY22

The Navy needs at least \$30 billion in annual Shipbuilding and Conversion funds to meet the realities of our new great power threat environment.

Defend the Jones Act

The Jones act helps protect the Merchant Marine, our American shipbuilding industry and many thousands of American jobs.

Ask Congress to Fund America's Tanker Fleet

We cannot rely on foreign tankers to safeguard America's national security interests.

SecNav nominee interviewed by Senate Committee

On July 13th Mr Carlos Del Toro the Administrations nominee to be the new Secretary of the Navy appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

A few of the highlights from a wide ranging testimony extracted from USNL's Legislative Affairs Weekly follow.

Ship Procurement

Mr. Del Toro received questions regarding ship procurement, and he stated that he fully supports the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act that included a goal of a 355 ship Navy and sees the fleet as a necessary deterrent to modern adversaries. There will be a more dominant maritime strategy moving forward and Mr. Del Toro described how it is his duty to make the case for a larger fleet. Such a fleet can help deter adversaries and the threat that China is starting to impose for defense as well as free trade.

China and Taiwan

In relation to the new pacing threat with China, multiple Senators had questions on the capabilities of the nation's Navy and Marine Corps. Mr. Del Toro stated that our allies need to be protected and that Taiwan must feel that the United States will protect it. Mr. Del Toro described that it needs to be absolutely clear for defense and deterrence reasons that the United States will protect Taiwan and provide the nation with any and all resources it may need.

Warfighting focus

Senator Cotton (R-AR) raised the point to the witnesses that there has been a lack of a focus on warfighting since the fall of the Soviet Union and now that there is a new pacing threat there needs to be a renewed focus on warfighting. Mr. Del Toro responded to the Senator in agreement stating that there will be more focus on warfighting and a war-ready Navy.

USCG 7th District



The Change of Command for the Coast Guard 7th District was held at Coast Guard Air Station-Miami on July 15th. Rear Admiral Jones was relieved of duty at the district by Rear Admiral McPherson. In the photo are left to right: Rear Admiral Jones, Vice Admiral Poulin and Rear Admiral McPherson.

USCG Welcomes new Vice Commandant



Adm. Linda Fagan relieved Adm. Charles Ray as the 32nd Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard during a Change of Watch ceremony at Coast Guard Headquarters, June 18, 2021. Ray retired after more than 40 years of service in the Coast Guard. *U.S. COAST GUARD / Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Magee*

Did you Know?

In fiscal 2022 the Navy is proposing to retire 22 ships. Of this 15 of the 22 are battle force ships. Most notably 7 of the 15 are cruisers (CGs). Also included in the 15 battle force ships are 2 Los Angeles class submarines (SSNs) and 4 Littoral Combat Ships (LCSs). The loss of the CGs also means the loss of 910 missile cells.

Saying thank you...

As most of you know, Broward County Council said good bye to Marianne and Joe Giambrone earlier this year. Marianne and Joe yielded to the call of family up north and have moved to Maryland to be closer to them.



As the new editor of the Helmsman I know I speak for the board in saying how much we appreciated all the years of hard work Marianne (and Joe) put in on behalf of our council.

And I'm sure you are also aware that one of big reasons our council has received the recognition and awards we have over the years is because of Marianne's tireless efforts. Marianne we're going to miss you! But the good news is that even though Marianne has left the area, she is still in touch helping, advising and counseling. Thanks again...

"may you have fair winds and following seas".

USS Gerald R. Ford



USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) successfully completed the second of three scheduled explosive events for Full Ship Shock Trials (FSST), July 16, 2021. The shock trials are designed to demonstrate the ship's ability to withstand the effects of nearby underwater explosion and retain required capability.

Reportedly the explosion was the equivalent of a 3.9 magnitude earthquake.

Interesting Dates for August

- Coast Guard Birthday: Aug. 4
- Purple Heart Day: Aug. 7
- U.S. Department of Defense Birthday: Aug. 10
- National Navajo Code Talkers Day: Aug. 14
- Marine Corps Reserve Birthday: Aug. 29

Adopted Unit Visits

Over the course of the year various council members pay visits to our local units for the purpose of just keeping in touch, presenting awards or getting briefed by the unit on their mission.

Back in April/May council President Larry Ott made a number of these visits.



BMC Jason Brennan with Larry

Adopted unit USCGC Manatee is commanded by BMC Jason Brennan. The Manatee and its crew of 12 spent 150 days at sea last year. BMC Brennan has been on the Manatee for the past 1 1/2 years.



BMC Ray Coleman, Larry, and Lt. Ray Milne

During a visit to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale the CO of the Station, Larry Ott was able to reconnect with BMC Ray Coleman (on the left) with Aids to Navigation (ANT) and the CO of the station, Lt. Ray Milne (on the right).

BMC Coleman heads up the ANT (Aids to Navigation). ANT is also one of our adopted units and is located at Station Fort Lauderdale. They are responsible for maintaining bouys and markers as well as the Hillsboro lighthouse.

On Larry's left is Lt. Ray Milne who is the CO of Station Fort Lauderdale. Lt. Milne commands a crew of 56 active duty personnel.



XO Michael Thomas and CO Frank Florio of the Tactical Law Enforcement Team (TACLET)

TACLET is composed of highly trained men and women who have authority to board ships of various countries to detect and confiscate contraband.

Congratulations

Congratulations go out to BMC Ray Coleman of ANT for being selected for the prestigious Coast Guard 2021 Inspirational Leadership Award

Adopted Unit Visits - *continued*

From its inception, Air Station Miami has been involved in numerous noteworthy operations including heroic rescues, humanitarian relief efforts, and homeland security operations. Recently they invited a group from our Council to take a tour of their facilities.



CDR Ryan Matson and CDR Mike Gillham of the Coast Guard Air Station Miami



USCGC Bernard C. Webber



MIAMI – LT Christine Roselli relieved LT Ryan Montvydas as Commanding Officer of the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER, the first Fast Response Cutter to be commissioned, during a formal ceremony at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach on July 8, 2021.

USS Paul Ignatius

USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) held a change of command ceremony Jun. 25 at Naval Base Mayport. Cmdr.



Jeffrey Servello, a native of Hollywood, Md., assumed command of the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer from Cmdr. Lennard Cannon, a native of Decatur, Ga.

South Florida Navy Leaguers may remember Cmdr. Cannon as he was the Ignatius XO when she was in Ft Lauderdale for commissioning.

Also in attendance was the ship's namesake, 69th Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Paul R. Ignatius, who was the guest speaker at the ceremony. Secretary Ignatius celebrated his 100th birthday in Nov. 2020.

Deerfield Beach High School MJROTC Awards

In May at a ceremony at Deerfield Beach High School awards were presented to MCJROTC cadets by MGySgt Alberto Gomez, the Marine Corps Instructor to Cadet Alexander Davis and Senior Cadet Travis Byrd.



USCGC Robert Yered



The USCGC Robert Yered's new Executive Officer (XO), LTJG Jacob Dupree. XO joins the Robert Yered from the CGC TAMPA, a 270' cutter stationed in Portsmouth, VA.

Did you Know?

USCGC ROBERT YERED was the fourth (4th) Fast Response Cutter (FRC) delivered to the Coast Guard from Bollinger Shipyard. Commissioned on February 15, 2013 she has served as a multi-mission platform conducting various operations throughout the Coast Guard's 7th District. The cutter is named after Vietnam Veteran, Engineer First Class Robert J. Yered whose actions under enemy fire not only saved the lives of countless sailors and soldiers, but also prevented the detonation of over 15,000 tons of highly explosive U.S. military ammunition in Cat Lai, Vietnam. Robert Yered was awarded the Silver Star on behalf of the Army for his heroism.

Memorial Day Observance



On Memorial Day our own Board member, Commander Tom Melville USN, Ret was invited to speak at a Memorial Day observance in Coral Springs. Here is an abbreviated copy of Tom's comments:

Good Morning Ladies and Gentlemen. I am honored to be here sharing with you on such an important occasion. We are here to honor our service members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the many freedoms we all enjoy.

Since the first shots at Lexington and Concord were fired and our Revolutionary War began, American men and women have been answering the Nation's call to duty.

The idea for Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, arose from the ashes of the American Civil War to honor both Union and Confederate soldiers. One story goes that grieving families, both northern and southern, began decorating the graves of their lost soldiers with flowers and wreaths and flags. This was happening in Columbus, Mississippi and Petersburg, VA and led to the first formal Memorial Day observance in Waterloo, NY in 1866.

Congress made Memorial Day a Federal Holiday in 1887. After WWI, it was extended to honor Americans who have died in all Wars. Regardless of where or when they fought, the purity of their sacrifice is without question. Young men and women have lost their lives in order to make the freedom of others possible. Time permits me today to tell just a few of their remarkable stories.

- Let us remember those who rest in peace in our many U.S Veterans Cemeteries here at home – such as Arlington, Va., and nearby here at Lake Worth, Fl. Let us remember also our 25 American overseas cemeteries in 10 foreign countries.
- Let us remember Daryl Cole, Rich Higgins and Jason Dunham. All 3 were Marines. Sergeant Cole was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his action on Iwo Jima in WW2. Colonel Higgins was on an unarmed, peace-keeping mission in southern Lebanon in 1988. He was kidnapped and held captive by Pro-Iranian terrorists for over 2 years, then killed. Corporal Dunham was on foot patrol with other Marines in Western Iraq on the Syrian Border in 2004. He was also awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in protecting his fellow Marines at the cost of his own life. All 3 have had U.S Navy Ships named after them. All 3 ships, Guided Missile Destroyers, were commissioned right here in Broward County, in Port Everglades, Fort Lauderdale.
- Let us remember the four U.S. Army Chaplains who were aboard the U.S. Army transport ship “Dorchester.” In February 1943 in the icy waters off Greenland, the “Dorchester” was hit by a German torpedo and began to sink rapidly. When it became apparent there were not enough life jackets, the four U.S. Army Chaplains removed theirs, handed them to frightened young soldiers and chose to go down with the ship while praying.
- Let us remember Sharon Lane. Sharon Lane entered the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1968. A year later, the 25 year old nurse from Ohio was working at the 312th Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai, South Vietnam. This was where wounded soldiers were treated until they were well enough to be sent back to the States. Women were exempted from the Draft. 1st Lt. Lane was a volunteer. 1st Lt. Sharon Lane was where she wanted to be; with wounded soldiers. 1st Lt. Sharon Lane was doing what she wanted to do; helping wounded soldiers. Rocket and mortar attacks were common at her base in Chu Lai. In a letter home she wrote of one attack, “We got all the patients under the beds that we could, and we put mattresses over those patients in traction. Very interesting place but hardly anyone here is scared. It is just part of the job.” On 8 June 1969, 1st Lt. Sharon Lane made the ultimate sacrifice after a 122MM rocket blasted thru her ward killing her and a 12-year old Vietnamese girl.
- Let us remember Ryan Owens, a Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer and a member of Seal Team 6. He died in Yemen in 2017 serving the U.S. Central Command. He was assigned to a Special Warfare Unit. In a raid on Al-Qaeda, 3 other service members were wounded. Our son, Drew knew Ryan Owens over 20 years ago when they were classmates at Forest Glen Middle School in Coral Springs. They had Science and P.E. classes together. Since 9-11, more than 400 Special Operations Command Forces have died in action, fighting terrorists.
- Let us remember 7 December 1941 and the more than 2400 men who perished at Pearl Harbor, Hickam Air Field, Kaneohe Naval Air Station, and other military facilities on the Hawaiian Island of Oahu. Most of them were aboard Battleships anchored at Ford Island in Pearl Harbor. The USS Arizona lost over 1000 men, the USS Oklahoma 430, the USS Utah and the USS West Virginia also had casualties.

In conclusion, from the soldiers who shivered and starved through the winter at Valley Forge, to the troops who patrolled the hills of Korea and jungles of Viet Nam, and to the young man or woman in the mountains of Afghanistan, we remember & honor them all today, Memorial Day.

Thank you for attending today!
God Bless You and Your Families
God Bless our Troops, Good Bless America and God Bless our fallen Heroes!

TACLET Dedication

Recently council director Glenn Wiltshire attended a dedication ceremony renaming TACLET's building for Nathan Bruckenthal, who was killed during a vessel boarding in the Arabian Gulf in 2004.



In this photo we see Command Master Chief Wyness from Sector Miami chatting with RADM Jones. And Glenn.



An image of the plaque that commemorates DC3 Bruckenthal's heroism.

The President of the United States of America takes pride in presenting the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V" (Posthumously) to Damage Controlman Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, United States Coast Guard, for heroic achievement in connection with combat operations against the enemy while serving as Boarding Officer with U.S.S. FIREBOLT (PC-10) and the United States Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment 403 during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM on 24 April 2004. While patrolling the security zone around the Al Basra Oil Terminal in Iraqi territorial waters, Petty Officer Bruckenthal detected a small, unidentified dhow proceeding towards the Oil Terminal. After maneuvering the team to screen the oil terminal, Petty Officer Bruckenthal approached the dhow to investigate its actions. As the boarding team drew alongside the dhow, the attacker on board the vessel, realizing he had been discovered, detonated explosives packed on board, mortally wounding Petty Officer Bruckenthal. The explosion alerted all in the area to an ongoing coordinated attack, allowing security forces to destroy two additional explosive laden vessels, thereby preventing massive casualties, irreversible environmental damage, and the destruction of the Iraqi peoples' major economic life-lines.

By his zealous initiative, courageous actions and exceptional dedication to duty, Petty Officer Bruckenthal reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Coast Guard and the United States Naval Service.

Wow!

Recently Port Everglades played host to 7 USCG Fast Response Cutters (FRC's). Five of these were operational and 2 were in Key West preparing for commissioning and then further deployment to the Arabian Gulf. This unusual occurrence came about because they came up from Key West because of Tropical Storm Elsa.

and a closing thought...



THE HEAT IS ON!

STAY HYDRATED!

7 Benefits of Hydration:

- Muscle Efficiency
- Cardiovascular Health
- Regulates Body Temperature
- Improves Digestion
- Prevents Dry Mouth
- Mental Clarity
- Supple Skin



Did you know?

- Not all beverages help with hydration. These beverages will actually place you at greater risk of dehydration: alcohol, coffee, tea, fruit juices, and soda.
- Water is the best fluid to ensure hydration because it keeps the body cool.
- If you perform high intensity exercise or have prolonged time in the sun, consume water and beverages that contain electrolytes such as sodium and potassium.
- Low calorie sports drinks and coconut water are great options to help replace the sodium and potassium lost in sweat, but it's important to not just consume sport drinks because they can also be harmful to our bodies.
- These foods contain high amounts of water and can help with hydration: cucumbers, tomatoes, green peppers, cauliflower, iceberg lettuce, watermelon, star fruit, strawberries, and cantaloupe.
- The American College of Sports Medicine recommends consuming at least 16 to 20 ounces of fluids 1 to 2 hours before outdoor activity, and 6 to 12 ounces of fluids every 10 to 15 minutes during outdoor activity.
- The best way to measure hydration is based on the color of urine. The more pale and clear color it is, the less fluids needed. If the urine is yellow, keep drinking water.