

# THE HELMSMAN

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

Larry Ott, President  
Wayne McLaren, Editor

Q4 2022  
Volume 33 Issue 4



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

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)



## *Party Time!*

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,



As the year is coming to a close we had our last event for the year just recently.

The Coast Guard Holiday Party is an annual event and we are glad to join with the Fort Lauderdale Council and

Broward Navy Days with sponsorship.

Our guests had a good time mingling with other "coasties" from South Florida. District 7, Sector Miami, Air Station Miami, Taclet, Station Fort Lauderdale along with Admiral and Mrs. McPherson joined in the festivities.

Our Coast Guard liaison, Glenn Wiltshire got everyone's attention with a military game followed by Fort Lauderdale Council's president, Abi Montes involving everyone with an amusing game of "Big Money".

As I often say-"A good time was had by all".

I would be remiss if I did not recognize Tom Carney, our treasurer. Tom arranges the venue and the food each year. Thanks Tom.

So this is my last president's message for 2022.

Hope all have a safe and happy holiday season.

Larry

## Council Local Dues



Each year, we ask our members to pay local dues and/or make a donation. Local dues provide direct financial support to the Council while your National dues help the Navy League continue with its mission. This year on our renewal form we have listed the names of the military units we

support as well as several major events we host and hope that you might consider making a donation to one or more of these units along with your dues in order to help us to continue the support we provide.

Membership renewal forms may be found on our website, [www.BCNavyLeague.org](http://www.BCNavyLeague.org)

## Coming Events

### 2023

Our calendar for 2023 is being finalized. Keep in touch with forthcoming council events by checking our website periodically.

### April 23rd - April 30th, 2023

Here before we know it, Fleet Week 2023

### June 7-11, 2023

The 2023 national convention will be held in Dallas Texas

## 2022 Officers

*Thanks for serving!*

Larry Ott - President  
Tom Melville - First Vice President  
Bruce Gottsch - Second Vice President  
Tom Carney - Treasurer  
Shelley Beck - Secretary  
Robert Marks - Legislative Affairs  
Julie Carlson - JAG

## Did you Know?

*That starting in 2023 Council members will be able to make payments to the Council via our website. Payments such as Local Dues, Dinner Social payments and more may be accomplished via a link that will soon be available there.*

**[www.BCNavyLeague.org](http://www.BCNavyLeague.org)**

*Additionally, there are many other resources to be found there. Such as Council Membership renewal form, photos from Council events, detailed information on coming Council events and much more.*

# Coast Guard Holiday Party



Once again the Coast Guard Holiday Party hosted by the Broward Navy Days, Ft Lauderdale Council and Broward County Council was staged at McSorley's on the beach. As has been the case in past years there was a large and enthusiastic turnout of both local Coast Guard personnel and Council Members. As the above pictures will testify, a good time was had by all.

# *Coast Guard Holiday Party*



*CAPT Shawn Koch (USCG Retired), former CO of AIRSTA Miami, Glenn Wiltshire, Council Director, RADM Brendan McPherson, Seventh District Commander, Rich Fournier, Council Membership Director*



*Fran Shaw, Council Member, LCDR Adam Mosley, Sector Miami*



*Captain Chris Cederholm, Sector Miami USCG, Ren Leuder, Council Member*



# Legislative Affairs



## 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.*

*Presently the NLUS has several campaigns underway. You are encouraged to go to their website <https://navyleague.quorum.us/NLUScampaigns/> and provide your support.*

### Breaking News!

The House and Senate have approved the final text for the NDAA. The bill is now on President Biden's desk.

Some of the key provisions include a topline of \$847 billion (\$45 billion above the President's request) and a 4.6% pay raise for servicemembers. Additionally, the following items will be of interest to Navy Leaguers

#### Surface Warfare

- ◆ Authorizes multiyear or block buy contracts for the procurement of up to 25 ship-to-shore connectors, 15 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, eight Lewis-class oilers, five amphibious ships and CH-53K helicopters.
- ◆ Authorizes \$32.6 billion for Navy shipbuilding, an increase of \$4.7 billion, which includes the procurement of 11 battle force ships: three Arleigh Burke-class destroyers; two Virginia-class submarines; two expeditionary fast transports; one Constellation-class frigate; one San Antonio-class amphibious ship; one John Lewis class oiler; and one Navajo-class towing, salvage and rescue ship.
- ◆ Authorizes an additional \$2.2 billion for a third Arleigh Burke-class destroyer.
- ◆ Authorizes an additional \$289 million for LHA-10 advance procurement.
- ◆ Authorizes an additional \$250 million for LPD-33 advance procurement.
- ◆ Authorizes an additional \$250 million for surface combatant supplier development.
- ◆ Requires certain FFG-62 class vessels to be capable of carrying and employing Tomahawk and Standard Missile-6 missiles.

- ◆ Authorizes an additional \$25 million for continued research on the sea-launched cruise missile (SLCM-N).
- ◆ Prescribes DDG(X) acquisition elements in the areas of government and industry collaboration, competitive incentives, early technology maturation, and workforce stability.
- ◆ Mandates the inclusion of a Navy shipbuilding workforce development special incentive in Navy shipbuilding new construction contracts.
- ◆ Prohibits the early retirement of 12 vessels in fiscal year 2023, including: five littoral combat ships, four dock landing ships, two expeditionary transfer docks, and one cruiser.
- ◆ Authorizes an increase of \$405.5 million for urgent enhancement of naval mining and delivery capabilities.

#### Undersea Warfare

- ◆ Authorizes full funding of the budget request for Columbia-class submarines.
- ◆ Authorizes full funding of the budget request for two Virginia-class submarines.
- ◆ Authorizes an increase of \$188.9 million for advanced undersea capability investments.
- ◆ Requires a briefing on existing requirements and capabilities for offensive and defensive mining, as well as potential capability and production capacity improvements.

# Veterans Day

## Navy picks location for new national museum

The Navy has selected a location for its new national museum, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro said during a recent ceremony celebrating the service's 247th birthday.

The new structure will be positioned just outside the gated Washington Navy Yard in D.C. — where the existing museum can be found — a move designed to allow greater access to the public.

“The exhibits of this new museum will create a living memorial to the U.S. Navy’s heritage of victory and valor, bringing to life the human experiences of serving at sea,” Del Toro said at the event.



Although replacing the existing museum has been a drawn-out endeavor, the Navy is finally a step closer to constructing an institution it says will better showcase its history and culture.

At an anticipated 240,000 square feet, the new — and free to enter — museum will be over twice the size of the existing space. It is expected to attract roughly 1.5 million visitors per year — its current annual crowd averages roughly 100,000 — putting it on par with the number of guests the area’s Smithsonian museums welcome each year.

The announcement is a welcome one, especially given widely shared opinions that the current museum “is not meeting the mission of telling the Navy’s story to the American public,” according to retired Adm. Samuel Cox, the director of Naval History and Heritage Command and curator of the Navy.

“The base is very hard to get into due to security requirements that have only gotten more stringent over the years,” Cox told Military Times. “So, we are not going to have the Navy the nation needs if we don’t have the support of Congress, and you won’t have the support of Congress if you don’t have the support of the American people.”

## Veterans Day Breakfast



*Pictured here at the Veterans Day Breakfast are Council Director Glenn Wiltshire, Breakfast Keynote speaker Daniel Clossen, Council Secretary Shelley Beck*



The keynote speaker at this year’s Veterans Day Breakfast was Dan Clossen, a US Navy SEAL Lt. Commander and 6x Paralympic Medalist.

In 2009, Dan was deployed to Afghanistan, into an area of heavy combat. There on a night mission in the mountains he stepped on an IED,

loosing both legs in the blast.

He would later be awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor.

**Happy Birthday**

*United States Marines - 247 years defending our nation.*

*United States Space Force - on December 20th celebrated its third birthday*

# Veterans Day

## Parkland, Fl

*Our own Council Vice President Commander Tom Melville gave a Veterans Day speech on November 11 at the Parkland Veterans Day celebration.*

*Here are excerpts from that speech.*



Good morning, Ladies, and Gentlemen. Good morning, veterans. Will all Veterans please raise your hand. That includes Veterans of the U.S Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and the newly created Space Force. Yesterday, November 10, was the Marine Corps birthday.

Happy Veterans Day. What is a Veteran? I'll answer that question.

A Veteran – whether active duty, discharged, retired or reserve – is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America, for an amount of “up to and including his or her life.

Here's another question, and I'll answer it also. Why do we always celebrate Veterans Day on November 11th at 11:00 AM? Right now, it is the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of this year. The answer is Veterans Day was first called Armistice Day because WW1 fighting ceased on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. The Treaty to officially end WW1 was signed 7 months later at Versailles, France. Today is a celebration to honor America's Veterans for their patriotism, love of country and willingness to serve and sacrifice.

One of the missions of our Armed Services is HUMANITARIAN Relief and Assistance. Veterans in All of our Services promote peace, stability, and friendship. Some of the Humanitarian aid is here at home – such as our Coast Guard and National Guard help after Hurricane Ian.

One of the largest humanitarian missions in U.S Military History was Operations Tamadachi in Japan. Three Earthquakes and a Tsunami in 2011 caused 20,000 fatalities. Still, thousands were saved. Marine Veterans cleared tons of debris from 5 runways to reopen the airport at Sendai, Japan. The Navy sent the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Regan and 21 other ships to ferry supplies and to search the ocean for survivors swept into the sea.

Veterans also helped with relief efforts in Pakistan, Haiti, and Indonesia when they were hit by earthquakes, floods, and hurricanes. In Haiti Air Force veterans controlled a huge amount of air traffic after a massive earthquake hit Haiti. The USNS Comfort Hospital Ship provided medical care, fresh water, and shelter. The Navy Hospital Ship Mercy gave the same aid to Indonesians.

The Comfort and Mercy Hospital Ships each have twelve hundred Navy medical and communications veterans serving aboard these two hospital ships. Since 2001 veterans aboard these have conducted humanitarian assistance and disaster response missions at home and abroad, providing care to more than 550,000 people. The Comfort is home ported in Norfolk, VA and the Mercy in San Diego, CA. Veterans aboard the Comfort have provided relief for Puerto Rico in the wake of recent Hurricanes. During COVID-19 both hospital ships deployed with Veterans to New York city and Los Angeles to ease the patient load of those cities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conclusion Veterans, you have done your duty to your families, to your communities, to your fallen comrades, and to your country. You have honorably served our country with great distinction and for your service in war and peace.

Thank you and God Bless You!

# Member's corner

## Memories 12/7/1941

*By Charles E. Schmidt, MD*

My father Louis Schmidt was a young army enlisted who was on a date with my future mother Jennie D'Alba. They were attending a movie in Washington, D.C. when suddenly the screen went blank and the lights came on. The manager appeared on stage and announced that all military personnel were to report immediately to their duty stations. No further information was given. Jennie was a clerk typist for the Navy Department. The next morning she was one of many typing the terrible reports of our losses at Pearl Harbor.

Eventually Louis was part of our Army forces retaking New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. In the Philippines, our forces were assisted by the Aeta who were among the aboriginal people of the islands. They

helped provide perimeter defense using bolo knives, blowguns and bows and arrows. In return, Gen MacArthur promised them medical care in perpetuity and rights to any materials we left at our landfill at Clarke, AFB.

In 1972, I was a general medical officer in the USAF serving in the Pacific. On a visit to Clarke, AFB, I met members of the Aeta and indeed there were a few who were patients in the hospital. We had kept our promise to these remarkable people. During the Viet Nam War, some members of the tribe were instructing our pilots in jungle survival.

These are just a few of our family's memories from those years past.

## Operation Homefront



Shown here are photos of the boxes of Operation Homefront stocking stuffer toys donated by customers at seven Dollar Tree Stores that Council Director Glenn Wiltshire collected and dropped off to the Air Station Miami/TACLET South, Base Miami Beach/Sector Miami, CG Station Ft Lauderdale/ANT Fort Lauderdale/USCGC MANOWAR, and Navy Talent Acquisition Group Miami. This year he collected over 3,200 items from the stores for the units.



# News from our Adopted Units

## USCG Air Station Miami EPOQ



*Air Station CO Capt Smith, AST2 Tyler Kilbane, Council Director Glenn Wiltshire, Air Station Command Master Chief Salazar*

Recently Council Coast Guard Liaison Director Glenn Wiltshire traveled to Air Station Miami to present the Council enlisted Person of the Quarter (EPOQ) award to AST2 Tyler Kilbane. AST2 Kilbane was selected for the honor for providing first aid and assisting a disabled person that fell out of their wheelchair while crossing a busy intersection.

## USS Paul Ignatius – DDG 117



HELSINKI, Finland (Dec. 3, 2022) U.S. Navy Interior Communications Electrician 2nd Class Kyle Threlfall, assigned to the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117), builds a snowman while the ship moors in Helsinki, Finland for a scheduled port visit concluding exercise Freezing Winds 22, Dec. 3, 2022. Paul Ignatius, forward-deployed to Rota, Spain, is on a scheduled deployment in the U.S. Naval Forces Europe area of operations, employed by U.S. Sixth Fleet, to defend U.S., allied and partner interests. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Aaron Lau)

# November 15 Dinner Meeting

On November 15th Ft Lauderdale Council held its monthly dinner meeting at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. An invitation to our council was extended to which a number of our members responded.

The keynote speaker from the Department of Homeland Security Investigations was Special Agent Rafael Albuernes. During his time at HSI, Special Agent has been assigned to investigate drug smuggling, alien smuggling, human trafficking, and most recently commercial fraud/intellectual property rights violations.

Additionally he has worked on temporary duty (TDY) as a Program Manager in Washington D.C. Served as TDY instructor at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). Has taught foreign law enforcement departments human trafficking investigation classes in several countries around the world as part of the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA). Prior to being a Special Agent, was a Border Patrol Agent for 6 years in Arizona protecting our nation's borders.



*Special Agent Rafael Albuernes and Council Secretary Shelly Beck*

## going to the dogs?

### What some of our Service Mascots are up to

#### **U.S. Coast Guard morale dogs, Thor and Loki, earn promotion**



*Canines Thor and Loki were promoted to "Second Class Morale" dogs at U.S. Coast Guard Station Marquette during November 2022 ceremony. Provided by U.S. Coast Guard Station Marquette*

MARQUETTE, MI - Canines Thor and Loki have been bringing joy and comfort to U.S. Coast Guard Station Marquette for more than four years. And for that, they deserved a promotion, officials said.

They were both promoted to "Second Class Morale" dogs during a ceremony last week.

"Thor and Loki have proudly served as Station Marquette's morale dogs, bringing joy and comfort to the crew and the people of Marquette," officials said in a Facebook post. "As second classes, these fantastic pups will continue to bring happiness to the station every day."



#### **Marine Corps' top dog promoted to private 1st class**

*From Marine Corps Times*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — It's not often that the secretary of the Navy speaks at the promotion ceremony of a Marine who is picking up the rank of private first class.

Then again, Pfc. Chesty XVI is not just any Marine. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro personally changed the Marine Corps mascot and English bulldog into a dress-blue-Charlies-style onesie bearing an E-2 chevron at a ceremony held at Marine Barracks Washington on Tuesday. The promotion was well earned, according to Del Toro.



*Private First Class Chesty XVI*

Since 1957, the mascots have borne the name Chesty in honor of legendary Marine Lt. Gen. Lewis "Chesty" Puller.

Still a puppy, Chesty XVI wears two medals on his uniform: the National Defense Service Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Cpl. Jesus A. Moras, Chesty's handler confirmed to Marine Corps Times that the private first class, in addition to being a good Marine, is a very good boy. In his off-duty moments, Pfc. Chesty XVI likes to walk around the barracks.

"For myself and the other Marines around here, sometimes you're having a bad day and you see Chesty walking around and it cheers you up, especially being away from family and away from home," Moras said.

*and in closing...*

