

# THE HELMSMAN

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

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*Navy League*

# Happenings!

This coming spring and summer promise to be busy and exciting times for Navy Leaguers. We don't want to say the pandemic is behind us but we're hoping its well enough under control that we can comfortably participate and enjoy the really great events coming our way.

## BCNL Dinner Social

*Thursday April 14th at 6:30 PM*

Join us at Tropical Acres Restaurant for what promises to be an enjoyable evening. Our guest speaker will be Cdr. Jose H Testa Linderman, Senior naval science instructor, Cooper City HS NJROTC. Additionally he will be joined by this years recipient of the Teddy Roosevelt medal.

## USS Fort Lauderdale Commissioning

*Summer 2022*



## Fleet Week 2022

*May 1st–May 8th*



After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, we are looking forward to another fun filled Fleet Week. The U.S. Navy and Coast Guard are planning to send two destroyers and a cutter to South Florida for a week of public ship tours, Navy band concerts, community relations projects and, of course, recreational and professional development opportunities for the crews.

## Navy League of the U.S. Sea-Air-Space

*April 3rd–April 6th*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,

It's been a couple months since our last newsletter and several events are now being planned for the spring and summer. But first lets back up to February.

So glad to see members and friends at the February 10<sup>th</sup> dinner meeting. Commander Frank Florio from TACLET South was our speaker. Florio, aside from telling of his Coast Guard background, spoke of the dynamics of TACLET's mission. As Commanding Officer, he is directly responsible for a 135 member unit and its eight detachments. Primarily TACLET specializes in conducting high-risk counterdrug operations. Coincidentally, a major drug bust was delivered by the Coast Guard the next day.

Also during the meeting two of his staff were recognized for their outstanding service (see photos) and the Commander delivered the Oath of Office for our returning officers.

Several from our council are involved with the Commissioning of the USS Fort Lauderdale and have attended community functions- most recently the St Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Fort Lauderdale. It is a great honor for our city to have a ship named after it as Fort Lauderdale has historically been a favorite port for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines. The week of the Commissioning will provide opportunities for our city and Navy to celebrate this honored occasion.

Fleet Week is back this year! Many board members attended a recent planning meeting and although there will be less ships than in prior years, there will still be many opportunities for the Navy, Coast Guard and community to attend. One of which will be the Junior Officer's party hosted by our council.

Our next dinner meeting is scheduled April 14<sup>th</sup> with Cdr. Jose H. Testa Linderman, Senior Naval Instructor at Cooper City High School NJROTC who will give his presentation as well as recognition of one of his cadets for the Teddy Roosevelt Medal. Support of youth programs is one of the missions of the Navy League.

Hope to see many of you at these upcoming functions.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



*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

## Coming Events

### April 14th

On Thursday, April 14th join us as we get together at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd for our April meeting. Our featured speaker will be Cdr. Jose H Testa Linderman, Senior naval science instructor, Cooper City HS NJROTC along with the recipient of the Teddy Roosevelt medal

### April 4th - April 6th, 2022

Sea-Air-Space 2022 will be held at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, MD.

### May 1st - May 8th, 2022

Fleet Week 2022 will be held in Port Everglades, Fl

### June 8th - June 12th, 2022

2022 Navy League National Convention in Orlando, Fl

### Summer 2022

Commissioning of the USS Fort Lauderdale, Port Everglades, Fl

## odds & ends...

### Visit by National President



*Dave Reilly, National President of Navy League with Shelley Beck, council Secretary and South Florida Area President at Florida Region Meeting*

### The Coast Guard's Next Icebreaker Has A Name



*Adm. Karl Schultz, the commandant of the Coast Guard, speaks during the 2022 State of the Coast Guard Address at Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida, February 24, 2022. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Magee)*

The nation's first sea-going heavy icebreaker in more than 45 years will be named Sentinel -- a nod to its predecessors as well as future missions in the polar regions, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Karl Schultz said Thursday.

In his fourth and final "State of the Coast Guard" address delivered at Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Florida, Schultz announced the name and said design work continues on the \$745.9 million vessel, expected to be delivered in 2025.

### Saying goodbye to nearly 50 years of Naval history



*Navy tug boats support the ex-USS Kitty Hawk's towing in its final transit from Naval Base Kitsap – Bremerton, Washington, Jan. 15, 2022, to a shipbreaking facility in Brownsville, Texas. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Heather C. Wamsley)*

Kitty Hawk, a ship that served from Vietnam through the second Iraq war was the Navy's last commissioned conventional-powered aircraft carrier. It operated for 48 years before it was decommissioned in 2009.

### PCS Fort Lauderdale

PASCAGOULA, Miss. - The U.S. Navy has accepted delivery of its future Amphibious Transport Dock ship, USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28), March 11.

Delivery signifies the ship's official transfer from the shipbuilder to the Navy. Shortly after the Navy accepts delivery pre-commissioning unit (PCU) Sailors will move aboard the ship to begin training and outfitting the ship while the shipyard completes work aboard the Fort Lauderdale.

What is a  
**TACLET?**

*TACLETs are a United States Coast Guard specialized force that carry out maritime interdiction, security and counter narcotics operations.*

# February Dinner Social

On Thursday February 10th we held our monthly Dinner Meeting at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd. Our guest speaker was Commander Frank Florio of Tactical Law Enforcement Team South (TACLET). CDR Florio gave an excellent presentation describing the vital and unique work that his TACLET team does. In addition to CDR Florio's great presentation he also administered the oath of office to our 2022 officers. In addition to a fun social evening we also had the privilege of presenting EPOY and EPOQ certificates to EPOY ME2 Aaron Humphreys and EPOQ to YN3 Bryn Riegel.



CDR Florio giving his presentation



Our 2022 officers being sworn in, L to R Tom Melville, 1st Vice President, Shelley Beck, Secretary, Robert Marks, Legislative Affairs, and President Larry Ott



Director Glenn Wiltshire presenting YN3 Bryn Riegel with her certificate.



ME2 Aaron Humphreys receiving his EPOY Certificate



New member Patricia Cronquist receiving her membership certificate from President Larry Ott



# PCS Ft Lauderdale



The commissioning committee for the Fort Lauderdale has been hard at work, not only getting ready for the big day (her commissioning) but also setting up and participating in a multitude of community outreach events.

They are doing this in order to heighten community awareness of the coming event. A couple of events that our council members participated in were the Ft Lauderdale St. Patrick's Day parade where the Fort Lauderdale Commissioning Committee was the lead group in the parade.

Another event BCNL members supported was the Finally Friday on Sistrunk which is a series of FREE outdoor pop-up events held at Provident Park and along the Historic Sistrunk Boulevard. The family-friendly event features food trucks, vendors, music, live entertainment, a kids zone and meet & greet with representatives from the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency. Several members of the Fort Lauderdale's ship's company were in town and were in attendance.

Other events currently in the planning stages are:

- Sunday Jazz Brunch – Tentative Sunday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> (1st Sunday each month)
- Carter Park Jamz – Tentative Friday, May 20th (3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the Month)
- Starlight Music Festival – date TBD (Friday's June 10 through August 12<sup>th</sup>)
- Las Olas Oceanside Park Weekly Market – date TBD (every Saturday 9 am – 4 pm)
- New River Open Air Market at History Center -- date TBD (every Sunday 9 am – 5 pm)
- Other Riverwalk Events -- date TBD (Events not yet published)
- Fort Lauderdale Beach Sweep – date TBD (2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday each month)



*Top - Some members of the crew at the Finally Friday on Sistrunk event*

*Bottom - Council Secretary and Commissioning Committee Vice Chair Shelley Beck was also in attendance*

The commissioning of the Fort Lauderdale will be a major event with thousands attending. To do something like this requires many, many volunteers.

So before its too late we encourage you to grab a volunteer sign up sheet and submit it. Volunteers of all descriptions are needed.

To get one go to our website <http://bcnavyleague.org> and go to the Events page. There you will find a link to the volunteer sign up form.



# 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.

### Don't cut Tanker Support Program

If the United States needed to engage in sustained foreign operations, a possibility made all the more likely by our renewed focus on great power competition, our forces would not have access to the refueling fleet required to accommodate both domestic trade needs and global military operations. This problem has only increased in recent years, and there is no indication that it will change absent significant legislative action by Congress.

### Energizing American Shipbuilding

America and the international community are caught in the grips of a global shipping crisis and a global energy crisis. There is one bipartisan bill currently introduced in Congress which could help America to navigate its way through both of these disasters. This is the Energizing American Shipbuilding Act, which will substantially expand the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base and the U.S. Flag Fleet by giving American vessels a larger role in the export of Liquefied Natural Gas.

### Defend Jones Act Jobs

The Jones Act—the law that requires that vessels moving cargo between U.S. ports be American built, American owned and American crewed—is fundamental to our domestic maritime industry. You no doubt know that there was significant turnover in Congress in the last election and many new members need to learn about the Jones Act, its importance to America and its relevance to their constituents. This becomes even more critical when one considers that there are well-funded groups working hard today, advocating for repeal of the Jones Act.

### Divest to Invest – 2022

#### Navy Fleet Would Shrink Further under Navy 2023 Decommissioning Plan



*LCS Freedom - under the most recent proposal from the Navy, all Freedom class ships would be scrapped. One of which is less than two years old.*

Normally the number of new U.S. Navy ships requested for the next a new fiscal year garners the most attention of reporters, but this time it was the number of ships the Navy is seeking to decommission that drew the most attention.

Under the Future Years Defense Plan, the size of the Navy's battle force would shrink from 298 today to 280 in fiscal 2027. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michael Gilday has advocated divesting in order to invest, and this budget supports that concept.

During the Navy Department's March 28 fiscal 2023 budget briefing at the Pentagon, Rear Adm. John Gumblerton, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Budget, said the Navy is requesting the retirement of 24 ships, compared with the construction of nine bat-

# *News from our Adopted Units*

## **U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered**

Sunset quarters provided an opportunity for us to recognize the outstanding work by members of our crew! We named our new Sailor of the Quarter (EM1 Clay), recognized several Good Conduct awardees, and identified those who recently received their Sea Service Ribbon. These awards only encapsulate a fraction of the exceptional work by our crew members, and we continue to be humbled by their dedication every day.



# Adopted Unit News - *continued*

## USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55)



*Rear Adm. Richard Cheeseman, awards Capt. Andrew Bates, commanding officer of the guided-cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55), the Legion of Merit during Leyte Gulf's change of command ceremony (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Novalee Manzella)*

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK (Feb. 10, 2022) Rear Adm. Richard Cheeseman, commander, Carrier Strike Group 10, officiated at the change of command ceremony of the USS Leyte Gulf where Capt. Michael Weeldryer relieved Capt Andrew Bates as commanding officer .

## TACLET South



*Pictured here L to R is CO CDR Florio of TACLET South and their EPOQ of Q4FY21 Petty Officer Tyler Filomeno*

TACLET South has identified their Q1 Enlisted Person of the Quarter (EPOQ) as YN3 Bryn Riegel. Their Enlisted Person of the Year was ME2 Aaron Humphreys. In the picture above also note that PO Tyler Filomeno received his Tactical Law Enforcement Insignia .

## US Coast Guard Air Station Miami



*LCDR Corey McPartlin and family at his retirement ceremony*

Recently Coast Guard Air Station Miami wished LCDR Corey McPartin "blue skies and tailwinds" as he retired after 22 years of service in the Coast Guard. As an expert on the HC-144 Ocean Sentry he will be missed.



*The water cannon salute is a long established tradition recognizing a special occasion for an aircraft or pilot. Here LCDR McPartin is being recognized after his final flight.*



## Adopted Unit News - *continued*



Adopted unit NJROTC Nova HS marching on behalf of USS Fort Lauderdale in the St Patrick's Day Parade

### *Broward Navy Days*



It's almost here. Come May 1st starting at 7AM ships participating will start arriving by sailing south along Ft Lauderdale Beach and into Port Everglades.

Then starting on Monday ship's tours will begin. Note - prior registration is required.

Over the course of the week there will be many opportunities to visit the ships, social events and more. We suggest you go to

<https://browardnavydaysinc.org/schedule>

for all the latest news and event info

### *Annual Dues*

Each year, we ask our members to pay local dues and at the same time make a donation. Local dues provide direct financial support to the Council while your National dues help the Navy League continue with its mission.

As we have done in past years 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 along with your dues in order to help us to continue the support we provide. A form for this purpose is available on our website

<http://www.bcnavyleague.org/>

Once there simply go to the bottom of the page and there will be a link which will take you to the form.

and in closing...



Happy Birthday

*US Navy Reserve - on March 3rd of every year the US Navy Reserve celebrates its birthday.*

*Formed in 1915 in response to the outbreak of World War I, the Reserve made up almost 84 percent of the Navy's fighting force during the war. The Navy Reserve has since had reservists serve in every major war in which the United States has fought.*