

THE HELMSMAN

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

Larry Ott, President
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LPD-28

joins the fleet

USS Fort Lauderdale is commissioned here in South Florida



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Members and Friends,



After a year of planning and meetings, the USS Fort Lauderdale is now commissioned. Hip, Hip, Hurray!!! (See video of Commissioning on Youtube). As one of the vice chairs, I witnessed the hard work and numerous details needed to make this event a great success. Many of our members were involved and gave their support in various ways as well. Committee Chair, Pat Dumont organized and led a group of 120+ committee members. Truly a monumental and successful event.

We recently learned that one of our faithful members Lawrence Denmark and wife Yuki have two sons in the Coast Guard.



LtJG Adam Denmark

Ens David Denmark

LtJG Adam Denmark graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2018. He is now serving at Coast Guard Station New Orleans. Ens. David Denmark also graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 2020. Specializing in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He is now serving at USCG Headquarters, Washington, DC.

Since the Commissioning, over the past several weeks we've had a chance to "recharge our batteries" and begin looking forward to the next few months. First on the calendar was the Sea Cadet Night at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. Our council will joined with the Fort Lauderdale Council for this dinner meeting showcasing the Sea Cadets sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Navy League. The cadets reported on their summer trainings which are always interesting, impressive and entertaining.

Octoberfest will be our next get together. Plans are in the process to have this fun night at the Old Heidelberg restaurant. Come join us for most enjoyable evening.

Hope many will attend our meetings. See you there.

Best wishes,

Larry Ott
Council President

Coming Events

October 20th, 2022 @ 6:30

Oktoberfest
Old Heidelberg Restaurant
900 West State Road 84
Ft Lauderdale
RSVP: shelleybeck@bellsouth.net
954-224-3687
Hurry—space limited

Nov 3-5, 2022

Navy League headquarters based in Arlington Virginia will host the fall Navy League meeting

December, 2022

Our annual Coast Guard Holiday Party. Stay tuned for details.

April 30th—May 7th, 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

odds & ends...

New Top Enlisted Sailor



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea

The Navy has a new top enlisted sailor after Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy James Honea took over for now-retired Master Chief Russell Smith on September 8th in a MPCON Change of Office Ceremony held at the US Naval Academy.

According to the service record provided by the Navy, Honea enlisted in 1987 and has served on five ships, including the now destroyed USS Bonhomme Richard.

He also had postings from Newport, Rhode Island, and Norfolk, Virginia, to San Diego, California, and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Before becoming the master chief petty officer of the Navy, Honea served as the senior enlisted leader for U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

USS Enterprise

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — With its predecessor sitting just miles away in another part of the shipyard, Newport News Shipbuilding today ceremonially laid the keel for the future USS Enterprise (CVN-80), the third aircraft carrier in the Ford-class program.

The new carrier, sponsored by Olympic athletes Simone Biles and Katie Ledecky, will be the ninth in the US Navy's history to bear the name "Enterprise" (and not including the iconic starship from "Star Trek").

Join the New Navy League Facebook Group

Introducing the new Navy League of the United States Facebook Group! We've created an online community where our members from around the globe can connect and share with each other the many ways they support the sea services. Members can also search "Navy League of the United States" in the Facebook search bar and find the group that way.

The group is public so anyone can find it, but admission is private, so members will need to request to join the group. To request access, you must provide your name, member ID number and like the Navy League Facebook page. Any request received with incomplete answers

ADM Lisa Franchetti

On September 2, Vice Admiral (VADM) Lisa Franchetti was promoted to Admiral (ADM) and the new Vice Chief of Naval Operations (VCNO). VADM Franchetti will be the second female VCNO of the Navy, after ADM Michelle Howard (ret.) who served the role between 2014 and 2016.



odds & ends...

A message from our National President

We are greatly saddened by the loss of life and extensive property damage in Florida, as record-shattering Hurricane Ian moves through the state.



Florida holds a special place in the hearts of all members of the Navy League of the United States, with its deep maritime heritage and record of sacrifice and service to the nation. May our councils and the men and women of the sea services remain safe as they help their local communities get back on their feet after this disaster.

The storm is still making its way up the East Coast. We advise councils in that area to remain cautious and follow local guidelines.

We stand with our Navy League members in the great state of Florida and residents of all the states in its path, and hope for a speedy recovery from the storm.

Dave Reilly
National President
Navy League of the United States

New Uniforms Coming for Sailors



The Navy has ditched its iconic and beloved coveralls for sailors aboard ships for a new, two-piece uniform that was finally approved after years of trials and a decade after a previous version of the uniform was found to be dangerously flammable.

Bollinger Delivers 50th Fast Response Cutter to Coast Guard



The Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick in Key West. Photo: Bollinger Shipyards

LOCKPORT, La. — Bollinger Shipyards LLC has delivered the Coast Guard Cutter William Chadwick to the U.S. Coast Guard in Key West, Florida, the company said Aug. 4. This is the 176th vessel Bollinger has delivered to the U.S. Coast Guard over a 35-year period and the 50th fast response cutter delivered under the current program.

“It’s incredibly meaningful that we could deliver the 50th FRC, the USCGC William Chadwick, on the Coast Guard’s 232nd birthday and that she’ll be homeported in Sector Boston, the birthplace of the Coast Guard,” said Bollinger President and CEO Ben Bordelon.

Did you Know?

Honor Flight Network

The mission of Honor Flight is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials.

Member's corner

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT LAUDERDALE MUSEUM

By Charles E. Schmidt, MD

Recently council director Charles Schmidt and wife Diane visited the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum. Here he recounts their visit.



This local historical treasure is dedicated to preserve the records and memories of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale. The museum is the only remaining building of more than 200 that existed during WWII. The NASFL was a base to train pilots and air crews on the Avenger torpedo bomber from 1942-46.

The Station has the complete records of "The Lost Squadron". On 5 December 1945 Flight 19 took off on a torpedo bombing mission in the Bahamas. LCR Taylor reported they were lost 90 minutes after takeoff. Despite days of searching no trace of the 5 Avengers and their 14 crewmen were ever found. Adding to the tragedy a Mariner rescue plane also vanished with a crew of 13 men aboard.



But, the museum is much more than just the history of Flight 19. Museum historian, George Counts, gave my wife and me a 90 minute guided tour of all the additional artifacts, records and photos. In particular, we

visited the Bush room. George W. Bush entered training at NASFL in 1943 and became the youngest Avenger Bomber pilot at age 19! The room contains artifacts and photos of George Bush including his foot locker. President Bush returned in 1992 and autographed a beautiful painting of an Avenger.



In the museum there is a Link simulator used to train the pilots. Among other artifacts are numbers of uniforms, equipment, photos and models of the era. Navy veteran Don Fallon has built and donated over 400 models to the museum. In summary, this museum is a fascinating experience. You will be rewarded if you visit.



Member's corner – continued

Honor Flight

By Rob Latimer

Recently 25+ year council member Rob Latimer got to participate in a trip to Washington D.C. sponsored by the Honor Flight Network. Here Rob tells of his day.

As a Veteran and you haven't been on the Honor Flight take the time and sign up for the best day you can spend with other Vets.

At 4:15 am you arrive at Ft. Lauderdale Airport and get checked through TSA. At the gate they have coffee, sweet rolls, danish and muffins. My group had 73 veterans and 73 guardians. The trip was nice with more snacks and drinks before we arrived in Washington DC. They had a wheel chair for all us vets. The guardians did all the pushing.



First stop was the WW II Memorial with many visitors giving us a BIG Thank You for our service. None of this was staged. It was families enjoying the day like we were.



We moved onto the Viet Nam wall and the Korean War memorial. First you had to get your box lunch to keep up our strength. We pushed on to visit the Iwo Jima memorial. The last stop was the changing of the guard. Very impressive if you have never seen it. One more boxed meal for the trip home.

We arrived home about 8:30pm to water cannons spraying the plane as we pulled into our gate. One by one as we departed the plane we were pushed into the terminal to a very large welcome home. My emotions were more than I can explain. If there were 500 people cheering us home the number was probably close to 1000.

A Big Thank You to my son for coming from North Carolina to be my Guardian for the day. It made it special for the both of us.

GOD BLESS THE USA



USS Fort Lauderdale Commissioning

Festivities



USS Fort Lauderdale commissioning

Sightings



Tom Carney with Gen. Eric M. Smith, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps

General Smith is currently serving as the 36th Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Born in Kansas City, Missouri, and raised in Plano, Texas, General Smith graduated from Texas A&M University and was commissioned in 1987. He has commanded at every level, including Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia; 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment during Operation Iraqi Freedom; and 8th Marine Regiment/ Regimental Combat Team 8 during Operation Enduring Freedom. He also served in Caracas, Venezuela as part of the U.S. Military Group.

As a General Officer, he commanded U.S. Marine Corps Forces Southern Command, 1st Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

General Smith's staff assignments as a General Officer include serving as the Director of Capability Development Directorate, Combat Development and Integration; Senior Military Assistant to both the Deputy Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Defense; and Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration.



Bob Marks with the Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Carlos Del Toro



Bob Marks with Oksana Markarova Ukrainian Ambassador to the United States

USS Fort Lauderdale commissioning

Pictures courtesy Charles Schmidt



Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro addresses to audience



Council members enjoying the festivities



Gen. Eric M. Smith, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps speaks



Ship's company preparing to "bring her to life"



Council Volunteers at check-in



Coming to life...

Sea Cadet Night

Again this September we joined with the Ft Lauderdale council and held our annual Sea Cadet Night. Here cadets from the USS Fort Lauderdale Division make presentations regarding their training experiences from this past summer.

In addition to it being an interesting and informative night there was a significant social component as some of the following photos will attest.

Our thanks again go out to Charles Schmidt for capturing some of the evenings highlights for us.



Sea Cadet Night

Presenters



PO2 Isaiah Shank

Attended aviation training at national flight academy in Pensacola Florida, enjoyed the simulator, taking different flight trainings.



SA/TAA Liam Englehardt

Attended aviation training at the national flight academy in Pensacola, Florida. He utilized the simulator to fly on and off an aircraft carrier, learned teamwork and the mission of the Academy, and at the end received his gold wings.



PO3 Carys Ray

Attended three different training sessions over the summer.

1. US Naval Academy in Baltimore, Maryland
2. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs
3. US Coast Guard in New London Connecticut

Carys learned about mechanical engineering, aeronautics, pilot training, and boot camp and received a letter of assurance from the Coast Guard Academy.



PO2/LCS Jeremy Hernandez with Sea Cadet Commander Rosa Ryan

He attended training in Brandon Florida. Prior to attending he attended an online training and once there did pool and lake training along with search and rescue. His deepest dive was 50 feet.



Cadet Victor Fuentes

Trained with Seabees and attended construction school.



SN/AA Joseph Brady

Attended advanced medical training at the University of Florida, where he also learned EMS training, as well as a simulator with regards to the anatomy of the body. The group also attended a local hospital where they observed medical care in surgery..

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Air Station Miami



Enlisted Person of the Quarter AET3 Connor Denmark (holding certificate). On the right is Station CO Capt Smith and on the left is Senior Chief Cornwell.

On September 7th Glenn Wiltshire traveled to Coast Guard Air Station Miami to present an enlisted Person of the Quarter (EPOQ) to AET3 Connor Denmark. The award was presented to him for his performance of duty including servicing and upgrading night vision goggles used for night flying and for his participation in a summer deployment as part of an air crew in the Great Lakes.

He also separately received a safety award for discovering maintenance issues on the deployed aircraft.



An aerial view of Fort Myers Beach during a Coast Guard flight after Hurricane Ian, on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022, in Florida. (Grethel Aguila/Miami Herald/TNS)

In an article posted by the Miami Herald a few days after Hurricane Ian ravaged the southwest coast of Florida, they reported that almost 650 people have been rescued by Coast Guard units, according to data provided by Air Station Miami. There have been more than 150 flight missions, which have rescued 261 people and 75 pets.

They further reported that the Coast Guard's flood water rescue teams have located an additional 380 people and 19 pets and also transported seven loads of supplies and 60 first responders to areas in need.

In case you were wondering...

Of all our local Coast Guard units it appears that the only one significantly affected by Hurricane Ian has been Air Station Miami. They have been flying many missions rescuing people and pets from Sanibel Island.

To see some exciting video footage of their deeds go to their Facebook page.



Adopted Unit News - *continued*

USCG Station Ft Lauderdale



The third photo is the EPOQ at Station Fort Lauderdale, BM2 Kelly Burkey, who was recognized for her many qualifications at the unit as well as her volunteer efforts. The XO is also in that photo.



EPOY at Station Fort Lauderdale, now BMC Joseph Obert, who was a BM1 when he was selected earlier this year. On the left is the new Station Executive Officer, LTJG John Truncale.

USCG Aids To Navigation (ANT) Ft Lauderdale



EPOY SN Jan Sanabria-Cores, who was recognized for his outstanding work at the unit. Also in the photo is Officer-in-Charge BMC Ray Coleman.

Did you Know?

The photos in our newsletters, such as the ones found in our coverage of Fleet Week that are BCNL sourced, may also be found in the Gallery pages of our website. In fact many photos do not make the newsletter due to space limitations. So to see the ones you have missed go to...

www.BCNavyLeague.org

They are also available for download, thus should you find a particularly good picture you would like to use for a screen saver or whatever, its available there for download.

and in closing...

Did you Know?

United States Coast Guard

The US Coast Guard celebrated its 232nd birthday on Aug. 4th. Here are a few fun facts about our nation's oldest military service you may not have been aware of.

The US Coast Guard is older than the Navy

The Coast Guard began life when President Washington established the Revenue Cutter Service to enforce U.S. tariffs in 1790, and was America's only maritime defense force until the Department of the Navy was established in 1798

The Coast Guard Is Also a Blue-Water Naval Force

The USCG's advanced National Security Cutters are advanced ships capable of operating in the open ocean. Although its missions are different from the Navy's, the newest cutters carry many of the same weapons systems that are present on naval vessels.

Coast Guard Officers Train Aboard a Captured Nazi Sailing Ship

The USCGC Eagle began its life in 1936 in Nazi Germany as the SSS Horst Wessel. The Horst Wessel was intended to serve as a training ship for the German Kriegsmarine. It served the Germans for three years, but when World War II kicked off, it was sidelined. With the defeat of Nazi Germany in 1945, the vessel was captured by the British. It eventually fell into American hands and was sailed across the Atlantic Ocean by a team of American and German seamen. Today it's the flagship of the Coast Guard and trains USCG cadets and officers in practical seamanship skills.



The Coast Guard Has Its Own Special Operators

Akin to the Army's Green Berets, and U.S. Navy SEALs, the Coast Guard has Maritime Safety and Security Teams (MSST) and Maritime Security Response Teams (MSRT). Coast Guard MSST are used to prevent or deter potential terrorist attacks on the seas, while Coast Guard MSRT are trained to board and secure vessels, including those held by terrorists holding hostages.

The Coast Guard has a Medal of Honor Recipient

Signalman First Class Douglas Munro volunteered to support the Navy in landing Marines during the 1942 landings at Guadalcanal. To protect Marines loading onto evacuation boats, Munro placed his boat between them and incoming fire to protect the Marines. While doing this Munro was killed by a Japanese machine gun.