

THE HELMSMAN

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

Glenn Wiltshire, President
Wayne McLaren, Editor

Q2 2023
Volume 34 Issue 2

www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com



Fleet Week 2023



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"

Coming Events

September 27th, 2023 @ 6:30

Our annual Sea Cadet night with Ft Lauderdale Council at Lauderdale Yacht Club

October 12th, 2023 @ 6:30

Dinner Social at Star Center Dania Beach

2023 Officers

Thanks for serving!

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



Evening Colors, USS New York

May Dinner Social

Courtesy Charlie Schmidt



Guest speaker Capt Sam Stephenson



Fleet Week 2023

Welcome Reception



Fleet Week 2023

Welcome Reception



Admirals Party



Fleet Week 2023 JO Party at McSorley's



Fleet Week 2023



Patti Croonquist, Ltjg Laurel Janunich of the USS Indiana, and Treasurer Tom Carney



Shelley Beck and former Mayor Jack Seiler



Council Treasurer Tom Carney invited three officers from the USS Indiana to play golf. Pictured here are Grant Eckhardt, Tom, Laurel Janunich and Lexie Silva.

Footnote...

The two young ladies Tom played golf with were division one athletes, Laurel basketball and Lexie soccer at the Naval Academy.



Larry Ott, Patti Croonquist, Bob Gaicin, Charlie Schmidt

Fleet Week 2023

VIP Party



Glenn Wiltshire, and Patti Croonquist, presenting each captain with a port Everglades hat



JW Arnold presenting Glenn Wiltshire, a bottle of wine for support from Port Everglades



Ernie Gorwood, and Shelley Beck at all hands reception



JW Arnold presenting Miami Sector commander Captain Chris Cedarholm, a bottle of wine

Did you Know?

JW Arnold is the director of Broward Navy Days, the organization that organized Fleet Week.

Fleet Week 2023

VIP Party



Glenn Wiltshire with captains of ships



Alan Starr with captain of the USS Cole

Cooper City High JROTC at STEM presentation



Ships



Foreground USS Cole, USS Indiana alongside to port, and the USNS Newport forward of USS Cole



USS New York

Viet Nam Moving Wall

The Veterans Coalition of Coral Springs sponsored an appearance of the half-sized Viet Nam Memorial May 5-7.



This Moving Wall was proposed and built by veterans to provide an opportunity for citizens around the country to view this powerful memorial. The wall contains over 58,000 names of our fallen men and women from the war. The Moving Wall has been touring the country over 30 years.



Among the guest speakers were USAF Lt Col Harry Blair and USN Cdr Tom Melville. Blair flew 256 combat missions in Viet Nam and received the DFC and 14 Air Medals. Cdr Melville was a carrier based intelligence officer with two deployments. He shared the stories of some of the pilots and crew he knew and briefed. Tragically, 17 of these were lost and their names appear on the wall.



Viet Nam Moving Wall





News from National



Welcome Chris Townsend, New Navy League National President



During our 2023 National Convention, Christopher Townsend was sworn in as the 52nd Navy League National President.

Thanks go to Dave Reilly for his leadership over the past two years. During his time as president, the Navy League launched the Center for Maritime Strategy, active-duty membership, council leadership track, a restructured Board of Directors meeting, and so much more. He also made it his goal to bond with members out in the field by meeting with councils often, totaling 22 trips during his two-year tenure.

Join Navy League Facebook Group

The Navy League of the United States now has a Facebook Group! An online community where members from around the globe can connect and share the many ways they support the sea services.

Members can also search "Navy League of the United States" in the Facebook search bar.

The group is public so anyone can find it, but members will need to request to join. To request access, you must provide your name, member ID number, and "like" the Navy League Facebook page. Any request received with incomplete answers will be declined. If you have any questions, contact membership@navyleague.org.



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.

Support Pay Parity for Coast Guard Service Members

While Congress has ensured that our men and women serving in the military do not experience any lapses in their paychecks despite potential delays in government funding, there is currently no such protections in place for the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard is not given the same paycheck assurance as the Department of Defense due to its jurisdiction falling under the Department of Homeland Security. During the government shutdown in 2019, more than 40,000 active Coast Guard members worked without pay. We cannot let that happen again.

Support the Coast Guard's need for assured pay. Join our call to action and ask members of Congress to support the pay parity provisions in H.R. 2693, Congresswoman Scholten's "Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act of 2023." Learn more on our Voice to Congress page.

odds & ends...

From June 6th SeaPower Magazine

Marine Corps Announces the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine



Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz

WASHINGTON – Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz has been selected to serve as the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps.

Sgt. Maj. Ruiz is currently serving as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader for U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve and U.S. Marines Corps Forces South. He will replace Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Troy E. Black during a relief and appointment ceremony slated for Aug. 8, 2023.

Sgt. Maj. Black has served as the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps since July 26, 2019. Following the ceremony, he will relinquish his post as the highest-ranking enlisted Marine and principal enlisted advisor to the Commandant.

Sgt. Maj. Ruiz is a native of Phoenix, Arizona. He joined the Marine Corps Nov. 2, 1993, and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California. He began his career as a Marine Corps warehouse clerk with 3rd Supply Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group, in Okinawa, Japan. He continued his career as an enlisted leader serving across the Corps to include 1st Service Support Group; 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment; 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment; and 4th Marine Logistics Group.

From Stripes.com

USS Nimitz makes History



Navy Capt. Craig Sicola, commanding officer of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz, front seat, and Cmdr. Luke Edwards, commanding officer of the “Fighting Redcocks” of Strike Fighter Squadron, make an arrested landing in an F/A-18F Super Hornet on April 22, 2023, in the South China Sea marking the 350,000th time the carrier has landed a fixed-wing aircraft on its flight deck. Nimitz is in U.S. 7th Fleet conducting routine operations. 7th Fleet is the U.S. Navy’s largest forward-deployed numbered fleet, and routinely interacts and operates with allies and partners in preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region. (Caitlin Flynn/U.S. Navy)

Sergeant Major Ruiz—con’t

He has deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and operations with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Outside of the Marine Corps operating forces, Sgt. Maj. Ruiz has served as a recruiter in Los Angeles, a drill instructor with 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, MCRD San Diego, and as an instructor, drill master and chief instructor for Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego.

Sgt. Maj. Ruiz will serve as Commandant of the Marine Corps’ preeminent enlisted advisor with a protocol equivalency of a three-star general officer.

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps typically serves a four-year term, though service in the position is at the discretion of the Commandant.

The post of Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps was established in 1957 as the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, the first such post in any of the branches of the United States Armed

News from our Adopted Units

Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale



Glenn with LCDR Raymond Milne former Station CO



Glenn with new station CO LT Justin B. Dadlani

Recently Glenn attended the Change of Command at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. While there he presented the departing CO, LCDR Raymond Milne IV a framed photo of the Port. The new commanding officer is LT Justin B. Dadlani, who comes to the station from his last assignment in the Office of Boat Forces at Coast Guard Headquarters.



Adopted ship USS Paul Ignatius DDG 117 enjoying a beautiful sunset in homeport Rota, Spain

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Robert Yered – WPC 1104

Recently Council President Glenn Wiltshire visited the USCG Robert Yered to present EPOQ awards.



Enlisted Person of the Quarter Thomas Knight flanked by the unit XO Lt Dupree and Council President Glenn Wiltshire.

Did you Know?

In September of 1987 the Leyte Gulf, once known as "Florida's battle cruiser," was commissioned at Port Everglades, the first Navy ship to be commissioned in a civilian port.

USS Leyte Gulf – CG 55

From April 5th, 2023 Virginian-Pilot



The Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) returns to homeport at Naval Station Norfolk. (Ellen Hilkowski/U.S. Navy)

With a new Congress, the Navy is trying again with its proposal to shrink the fleet as part of its “divest to invest” approach.



The Navy unveiled its Fiscal Year 2024 budget in mid-March, announcing it plans to decommission 11 aging warships. Of those on the chopping block, four are based in Hampton Roads – two guided missile cruisers, the USS Leyte Gulf and USS Vicksburg; and two amphibious dock landing ships, the USS Gunston Hall and USS Tortuga.

But if history serves as an example, the USS Leyte Gulf is likely to be decommissioned in the coming year. At 38, the cruiser is three years past its expected 35-year service life.

BTW

Not only is the Leyte Gulf one of the oldest ships in the Navy, its also one of our oldest adopted units.

and in closing...

