



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

**Serving the Sea Services Since 1902**

**VOL. 21 ISSUE 11**

George Reeves, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

DECEMBER 2010

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## DECEMBER EVENTS

### **BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL AND BROWARD NAVY DAYS**

**HONORS THE U S COAST GUARD  
WITH A HOLIDAY PARTY AT**

**BRINY'S IRISH PUB RIVERFRONT  
305 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE**

**ON**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2010  
5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**TWO FREE DRINKS FOR COAST GUARD  
AND THEIR GUEST  
FREE BUFFET FOR ALL  
CASUAL HOLIDAY ATTIRE  
(UNIFORMS NOT REQUIRED FOR MILITARY)**



### **COUNCIL HOLIDAY PARTY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2010**

**THE COUNTRY CLUB OF CORAL SPRINGS  
10800 W SAMPLE ROAD—CORAL SPRINGS**

**COCKTAILS AT 6:30 PM DINNER AT 7:15 PM**

#### **DINNER CHOICES:**

**FLANK STEAK (WITH ONIONS, MUSHROOMS AND PEPPERS)**

**HERB ENCRUSTED MAHI-MAHI (WITH KEY LIME SAUCE)**

**CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN (TOPPED WITH MUSHROOMS, SHALLOTS, ROASTED RED PEPPERS, OLIVES, SPINACH, TOMATOES AND FRESH HERBS)**

**COST: \$35 FOR NON-LOCAL DUES PAYING MEMBERS  
\$30 FOR LOCAL DUES PAYING MEMBERS  
\$20 FOR ACTIVE MILITARY AND SPOUSES**

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY DECEMBER 12, 2010**

**SEND AN EMAIL TO [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)  
OR CALL JOAN SEFTON AT 954-753-2322**



## *NOVEMBER DINNER SOCIAL*



The Council's November meeting was held at the Plantation Preserve Golf Course & Club. Guest speaker was Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District. The admiral spoke about the duties of the Coast Guard. He also spoke of the Coast Guard's new ships and aircraft and how they will make the Coast Guard's work more effective.

The Council had asked members to bring new toys to the dinner social. Over 40 toys were donated and were brought to our adopted unit, the Marine Reserve Center in Hialeah, for the Toys for Tots program. Thanks to our generous members.

Taravella's JROTC provided the color guard at the meeting and are shown in the photo above with RADM Baumgartner. Council President George Reeves presented RADM Baumgartner with a clock to thank him for serving as guest speaker – photo below.



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

We've got an active seafaring holiday season ahead.

The visit of the USS Boone, FFG28, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We hosted an All Hands at Briny's. Additionally, we have the annual party we, together with Broward Navy Days, offer for several of the area Coast Guard units and their families including gifts for our invitees, also at Briny's on December 10<sup>th</sup>

What would Council social life be like without Briny's? I hesitate to contemplate.

We have our Council seasonal dinner on December 16<sup>th</sup> at The Country Club of Coral Springs, a new venue.

There's the Winterfest Boat Parade on December 11<sup>th</sup> and I'm sure many of us will delight in this South Florida event.

We also have an important volunteer activity to collect toys at the Dollar Tree stores to assist our affiliate, Operation Homefront, to gather gifts for military families. Sign up if you haven't already done so.

And then there's follow up to the recent inauguration of Fisher House which we can start now. The House will need volunteers and also donations of amenities for the visiting families of infirm active duty and retired military personnel. I'll circulate a list opportunistically.

These events alone guarantee and full and productive Holiday Season.

Participate and enjoy.

George

## *USMC BIRTHDAY BALL*

Al Stein was honored as the oldest Marine at the 235th USMC Birthday Ball for Joint Intelligence Operations Center - Europe (JIOCEUR) Analytic Center (JAC) in Molesworth, England in November



## SAILORS OF THE QUARTER USS BATAAN



From left to right

IC1 (SW/AW)  
William Massey,  
Senior Sailor of  
the Quarter;

HM2 (SW/AW)  
Teddy Cham-  
bers, Sailor of  
the Quarter;

ABFAN (AW)  
Randy Saylor,  
Bluejacket of  
the Quarter

## SAILORS OF THE QUARTER USS LEYTE GULF



Top is SOQ FC1(SW) Israel James  
Center is JSOQ LS2 Aaron Lambert  
Bottom is BJOQ STG3(SW) William Hayes

The Council recognizes Sailors of the Quarter of our adopted units with monetary awards and certificates of recognition

## WELCOME HOME

BU1 Patricio Gonzalez returned from mobilization on November 25. BU1 Gonzalez is a member of our council and is a Navy reservist at the Navy Operational Support Center.

Thank you for your service and welcome home!

## COFFEE FOR OUR TROOPS

Once again, Shelly and Al Stein have found another way to provide support to our deployed troops. They recently contacted Boca Java Coffee Company of Deerfield Beach regarding their Operation Million Cup Program. The Steins provided them with addresses of the five companies that they are currently in contact with and included their son's address as he is stationed in the UK. As a result, these units received cases of coffee and tea products. Following is an excerpt from the thank you letter that was sent to Boca Java by Captain L. J. Stein, Directorate of Intelligence:

*The purpose of this letter is to express our deep thanks and appreciation for your incredible act of kindness in sending us the Coffee and Tea CARE Package through Operation Million Cup. We are very much aware of the incredible challenges our nation is facing and it was great to be able to distribute the tea and coffee to the 400 military personnel comprising Joint Intelligence Operations Center Europe Analytic Center (JAC) representing all branches of the US Armed Forces as the temperature has dropped considerably in the central United Kingdom over the last two weeks. As you pointed out, the vast majority of our military personnel are very young and experiencing their first overseas assignment far away from home. Your delicious products helped to close the distance, make them feel closer to home, and sent a very strong and important message of support.*

# USS JASON DUNHAM COMMISSIONING

The USS Jason Dunham arrived with the crew manning the rails, tug boats shooting water cannons and media helicopters buzzing around when the ship arrived at Port Everglades on November 5, 2010. Some members of the commissioning committee were able to board the ship in Mayport and enjoyed the overnight transit to Port Everglades. The Commissioning Committee provided transportation for families of the crew members to get from Norfolk to Fort Lauderdale. The crew spent their mornings practicing for the ceremony but were able to enjoy lots of activities in the afternoons and evenings. The Council co-hosted a Welcome to Fort Lauderdale party at Briny's Pub on Friday, November 5. On Saturday, the crew participated in a 5K run. On Sunday, a picnic was held for the crew at Sun Life Stadium where they had the opportunity to tour the field and locker rooms. Quarterdeck hosted the crew for Monday night football. The crew also had numerous opportunities to participate in sports – they played softball against the Broward County Sheriff's Department (and won) and soccer against the Fort Lauderdale Club team. The crew was treated to a special event aboard the newest and largest cruise ship, the Allure of the Seas. The day after the commissioning, the crew once again headed to Sun Life Stadium where the Miami Dolphins hosted the crew and their families for their game against the Tennessee Titans.

The Jason Dunham was named after Cpl. Jason Dunham, 22, who was attacked by an insurgent who dropped a live grenade which Dunham covered with his helmet and body, saving the lives of two fellow Marines. He died of his wounds eight days later. President George W Bush posthumously awarded Jason the Medal of Honor in 2007. He was the first Marine since the Vietnam War to receive the distinction and the first Marine to receive the honor for Operation Iraqi Freedom. His parents, Dan and Deb Dunham were at the commissioning ceremony and Deb shouted the order to "Man the ship and bring her to life!". With that, the sailors raced up the gangplanks and lined the decks of the 510-foot long vessel. Secretary of the Navy Robert Work placed the Dunham into service and Cmdr Scott Sciretta assumed command of the ship. General James Amos, the commandant of the Marine Corps, paid homage to Dunham stating "it was his selflessness that made him always want to help out the little guy, the underdog. This is what endeared him to his men. They know that Corporal Dunham cared about their welfare."



# USS JASON DUNHAM COMMISSIONING



Top left: Teresa Perez, George & Rosa Reeves and Glenn Wiltshire enjoy Welcome Party at Briny's  
Top right: Mary Anne Gray of Broward Navy Days, Cmdr Scott Sciretta and Denise Hein at Briny's party  
Center left: Council member and Seafarer's House Chaplain Ron Perkins at blessing of the ship  
Center right: Commissioning ceremony  
Bottom left: Broward Navy Days and Council members at post-commissioning event  
Bottom right: Scouts enjoy their tour of the ship

## ***FISHER HOUSE DEDICATION***

Board members Shelly and Al Stein helped secure a Marine unit flag that had flown over an operating base in Afghanistan for the new Miami-based Fisher House. The Steins, who head up the Council's Support the Troops project contacted Marine Major Jason Schermerhorn of the 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Battalion, who sent the flag which was flown over Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan on September 11, the ninth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. A Marine Corps certificate of authenticity, stating the flag was flown on that date, was also provided. The flag, certificate and a photo of the men and women of the 1<sup>st</sup> Radio Battalion were given to Army Colonel Lettie Bien who made the presentation at the grand opening of the Fisher House on November 17. The Miami VAHS Fisher House is "a home away from home" for families of Veterans and military service members receiving care at the Bruce W. Carter VA Medical Center in Miami. The Fisher House enables family members to be close to their loved one during hospitalization by providing comfortable lodging, in a beautiful and relaxing setting, only steps away from the Medical Center and at no cost.

Council President George Reeves, Teresa Perez, Broward Navy Days Chairperson Mary Anne Gray, Garry Murphy, and Sandra & Tom Jones attended the dedication of the Fisher House on November 17, 2010.



Men and women of the 1st Radio Battalion are shown below.



## ***REMEMBERING...***

The annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day celebration will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010 at 1:30 PM at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets will present the colors; the guest speaker will be Captain Christopher P. Scraba, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Sector Miami. Board member Alan Starr, Broward Navy Days Chairperson Mary Anne Gray and Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale Commanding Officer Lt Doug Watson will also be making remarks. The laying of the remembrance wreath will take place from the USCGC Gannet WPB 87334. A cookout will follow the ceremonies.

The Annual Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 5, 2010, at 1:30 PM at Navy Park on the east side of the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport Tower. Capt. Steve Schaffer USN will be Master of Ceremonies. Guest speakers include Lt. David White USN WWII and Capt Frank Dailey USN retired NAS Banana River. The Stranahan High School Marine JROTC will provide the color guard for the ceremony. The ceremony is held each year at the Fort Lauderdale Naval Air Station to honor and remember the crew of the five TBM Avenger Torpedo Bombers who disappeared on December 5, 1945.

## ***COUNCIL SUPPORTERS***

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## JOE MILLSAPS RECOGNIZED

Mary Anne Gray, Chairman, and Garry Murphy, Navy Liaison travelled up to Jacksonville in October to attend the Navy League National Convention. At the closing banquet, Joseph R. Millsaps was given the Coast Guard Distinguished Public Service Award by the Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral R. J. Papp Jr. The award was presented to Garry Murphy, on behalf of the Millsaps' family, by Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner, Commander, Seventh Coast Guard District. This is the highest award given to a civilian by the Coast Guard.

All who knew Joe are aware of everything he did for the seagoing services. He dedicated his life to the military through Broward Navy Days. This was fitting recognition by the Coast Guard for our friend, Joe Millsaps.

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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## ***SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT - USS BATAAN***



### **Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (SW) Meline Stoodley**

Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class (SW) Meline Stoodley works in the dental department aboard the USS Bataan. Stoodley enjoys helping people, which is one of the reasons she decided to join the Navy as a hospital corpsman in early 2008. She grew up in the Navy town of Olongapo City, Philippines. Stoodley noted that "When I first received orders to USS Bataan, I was surprised because I lived an hour from Bataan province and was familiar with the history that it played in World War II. I have looked out over Corregidor Island and have been to the memorial atop of Mount Samat, which is dedicated to the valor of those who participated in the Bataan Death March. It gives me a special pride to serve aboard the USS Bataan." Stoodley has been in the Navy for only two and a half years, but in that short time advanced to petty officer third class proving her capabilities as a leader. Stoodley has completed her Bachelors Degree and hopes to continue her education. "I plan to make HM2 before I transfer to shore duty and pursue a Masters Degree in Business Administration in Healthcare while working in a clinic/hospital in shore command. My goal is either apply for Commissioned Officer in the Navy or work in Federal Government Agencies serving the public."

## ***THANKSGIVING ON THE USS NEW YORK***



Board members Tom and Sandra Jones (right) helped to serve Thanksgiving dinner on the USS New York

**BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.**  
**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**  
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