



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 21 ISSUE 5

George Reeves, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

MAY 2010

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

MAY DINNER SOCIAL

SUPPORTING THE MARINES

Thursday , May 13, 2010

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

Cocktails at 6:30 PM Dinner at 7:15 PM

Guest Speaker will be Mark Noah
Founder of History Flight

Dinner Choices: Prime Rib or Mahi Mahi

Cost: \$35 for non-local dues paying members
\$30 for local dues paying members

Make your reservation by May 6, 2010

Send an email to bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or
Call Joan Sefton at 954-753-2322



Mark Noah, the founder of History Flight, is a graduate of Emory University with a BA in history. History Flight owns and operates several WWII vintage aircraft and takes passengers for a fee. With the proceeds, Noah and his team of geologists support an ongoing effort to locate WWII MIAs, long lost aircraft and equipment. More recently, they have dedicated considerable time on Tarawa Atoll, where they've surveyed grave sites with ground penetrating radar and have identified over 200 previously categorized MIA Marines from the 2nd Marine Division.



Al and Shelly Stein received the following email from Capt Ryan Benson of India Company 3/4 acknowledging numerous care packages sent from the Council. As a reminder, the Council is still accepting donations for postage for future care packages. Send your check for \$12.50 (or any amount) made payable to BCNL and mail it to P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339. Please indicate "postage" on your check.

With the end of the deployment in sight, I wanted to take a second to thank you, your wife, and all of the Navy League members. Your packages have really made a difference to the Marines of India Company, especially at some of the more remote locations. We are extremely grateful for the time and effort that you have given up at our benefit. Your packages and encouragement kept the Marines of India Company motivated and encouraged by simply knowing that their efforts, so far from home, haven't gone unnoticed. Of course we also understand that our efforts in Afghanistan today would be nonexistent, if it wasn't for the sacrifices that you and so many others have made in the past to secure our freedom today. I suppose that is why we get more support from those who have previously served, than from anyone else. We share a common bond that cannot be duplicated. Thanks again for your appreciation and continued support.

E-MAIL - bcnavyleague@yahoo.com - Visit our Web Site - www.bcnavyleague.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WHY WE'RE MEMBERS OF THE NAVY LEAGUE. A REMINDER

Broward Council members have it good. We live in a beautiful sub-tropical area in close proximity to an irreplaceable shoreline. We have the great Port Everglades with facilities to host sea service vessels, not only our own, but from several friendly countries. We're one of only two locales on the Eastern seaboard to be graced with Fleet Week, an unparalleled event with its concentration of Navy, Coast Guard and capital ships from other countries, thousands of crew members who participate in outreach programs to our community, shipboard visits, all wrapped in an entire week of exciting events for visitors and local citizenry. We have Council socials with interesting speakers, volunteer groups to support sea service members near to us and their families, fund raisers for those deployed, and meaningful interaction with naval and marine youth groups. And we happily frequent Briny's Irish Pub and enjoy the Bannister-organized Easter Egg Hunt for the Coastie kids. This is a significant part of our Council life and we all take satisfaction from it.

However, The Navy League's **principal mission** as espoused constantly and consistently is to inform and educate the public that a strong investment in our sea services is the greatest source of peace due to our obvious deterrent capabilities throughout the world. And it's on this very issue that Council members are at risk of failing our mandate.

The Navy's fleet size has reached the lowest levels in over 100 years; the Coast Guard's responsibilities have increased while budget constraints are forcing them to reduce personnel and delay much needed ship and aircraft acquisition; our shipbuilding capacity has atrophied to unsustainable levels; our Marine Corps requires equipment replacement and our Merchant Marine assets need revitalization.

Council members need to revitalize our own efforts to educate the public and our congressional delegations to the dangers of sea service disinvestment. And one obvious, easy and practical way of doing this is by sending letters/emails to our President, Senators and Representatives. Simply pick an issue. And all issues are outlined on the Navy League website, www.navyleague.org.

Let me outline the process in terms that even I, who am an electronically challenged person, can understand. Go to the website. Hit Legislative Affairs along the top horizontal line and hit Legislative Agenda for specific issue background. Go back to Legislative Affairs, hit Contact Congress, (are you with me?), hit Elected Officials and insert Zip Code for Congressperson, hit Compose Message. Compose your message. Keep it short, four to five sentences - one issue at a time. Congressional staffs simply count opinions on issues. And you don't need a specific Bill to support or oppose unless there is one. Complete your personal information. Once completed, it remains for subsequent letters.

You'll note that you have two options for transmission indicated by dots alongside the names and the dots are defaulted to "email". Either leave them as defaulted and send, or place the dots on "printed letter". If the latter, when you send, all will print out with the proper addresses after which you simply commend them to USPS. But that's not all. Since Councils get graded on this activity by National, you have to send a copy to our Public Relations Director, Bob Hein, via email at rn1@mindspring.com or to his home address: 2636 Grace Drive, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316.

As an added bonus, while you're on the website, enjoy it in its entirety. There's more interesting information on our sea services than you can imagine. Have fun with this.....and thanks.

USCGC INGHAM IN KEY WEST



A historic Coast Guard cutter that performed search-and-rescue missions between the Florida Keys and Cuba during the 1980 Mariel Boatlift serves as a floating museum in Key West.

The 327-foot Ingham, launched at Philadelphia in

1936, is believed to be the most decorated vessel in the Coast Guard fleet. According to Coast Guard historical records, it is the only cutter ever awarded two Presidential Unit Citations. Named for Samuel Ingham, who was United States Secretary of the Treasury in the 1800s, it is one of only two preserved Secretary Class cutters.

The Ingham served during World War II, where it sank an enemy submarine while on convoy duty protecting ships that ferried supplies to Great Britain. It also served in the Korean War and earned Presidential Unit Citations for service during the Vietnam War. In 1980, when more than 100,000 Cubans fled Mariel, Cuba, the Ingham was active in search-and-rescue missions in Florida Keys and South Florida waters, rescuing refugees from swamped rafts and boats and escorting refugee vessels to safety in Key West.

Decommissioned in 1988, the preserved Ingham was a museum ship at the Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum in Charleston, SC. Facing financial burdens to repair other vessels in its fleet, the museum no longer could afford the \$80,000 annual cost of maintaining the Ingham. A group from Key West decided to acquire the vessel that is now a registered National Historic Landmark, dedicated to Coast Guard personnel killed in action in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The Ingham is docked on Key West's Truman Waterfront beside the USS Mohawk, another former Coast Guard cutter turned floating museum and is open to the public. For more information, visit www.uscgcingham.org.

MARITIME AND SEA SERVICE NEWS



The Navy's newest aircraft carrier will be the first to have its strike group commanded by a female. Rear Admiral Nora Tyson has been assigned as the next commander of the Norfolk Virginia-based Carrier Strike Group 2, which includes the carrier George H. W. Bush. The Navy says Tyson will be the first female to command a carrier strike group in Navy history. Tyson will move from her current assignment as commander of the Western Pacific Logistics Group when her orders are issued in the early summer.

RADM Tyson previously served as the Commanding Officer of the Council's adopted ship, the USS Bataan.



In early April, the USS Ashland (LSD 48) was fired upon by a skiff manned by suspected pirates in the Gulf of Aden, approximately 330 nautical miles off the coast of Djibouti. During the attack, Ashland, in accordance with her rules of engagement, fired two rounds at the skiff. The skiff caught fire and the suspected pirates abandoned it. Ashland deployed her rigid-hull inflatable boats to assist the pirates who were in the water. Once it was verified that the suspected pirates no longer had weapons on their person, all six were brought on board Ashland where they received medical care. There was no apparent damage to USS Ashland, and there were no injuries to any members of her crew. Capt. John Bruening, commanding officer, Nassau

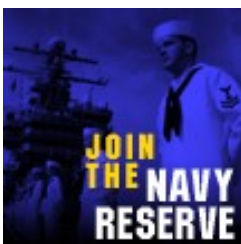
Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), expressed the commitment of the ships in the Nassau ARG to ensuring the success of creating a stable and secure maritime environment. "It is so much more than just putting a stop to the illegal activities of only one pirate skiff. It is about fostering an environment that will give every nation the freedom to navigate the seas without fear of attack." Bruening said.



The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty Nine Palms California was named the best installation in the Corps and given the Commander in Chief's Annual Award for Installation Excellence, according to a recent Department of Defense press release announcing the winners from each service. The installation shined above the rest because it is "the U.S. Marine Corps' premier live fire and maneuver training center for all Marine Expeditionary Forces, Marine Force Reserve and other U.S. and Foreign Forces. In 2009, the Combat Center provided unsurpassed training to over 45,000 Marines and sailors deployed to overseas contingency operations such as Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Despite funding and workforce cutbacks, the Combat Center improved the quality of life for family members living on the base and in the local

community through the Marine Corps Community Services.

The CINC award was started by President Ronald Reagan in 1985. His idea was to recognize installations and service members who "have done the best job with their resources to support the mission and to seek-out the most imaginative solutions to the many complex problems they face," according to the press release.



Navy Reservists and their spouses were treated to a VIP-style weekend of support and recognition at the Returning Warrior Workshop in Norfolk, Virginia in mid-April. The event, sponsored by Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Reserve Component Command, is one of several the Navy holds around the nation annually honoring Sailors who have returned from deployment and their family members. The workshop is designed to help reintegration and reunion with family members.

Guest speaker and Reservist Chief Warrant Officer Phillip Brashear, son of noted Navy diver Carl Brashear, addressed the audience. The National Guard helicopter pilot who deployed to Iraq shared his own experiences with the group. Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Christopher Wilkinson and his wife Cynthia, were among the more than 140 Reservists who attended the workshop. The Navy Reservist, assigned to VFC-12 in Norfolk, had just returned from a yearlong mobilization to Afghanistan. "This is a nice location in a nice hotel, we get pampered and it helps us re-acclimate back to our civilian lives and family."

Rear Adm. Buzz Little, commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command said that is exactly the type of feedback and support he hopes all participants gather from these workshops. "This is about doing right by the Sailor. Demonstrating that the Navy values their service and contributions by having them retreat to a welcoming atmosphere where they can reflect and talk with servicemembers who have similar experiences." Little attended the Norfolk event as both a keynote speaker and participant, having served in Iraq from December 2008 to January 2010. He said the program underscores the importance of family support during deployments. "It sends a strong signal to the Sailor and their family that the Navy cares about them, whether they are on deployment or back home in Des Moines."

EASTER EGG HUNT AND BBQ FOR THE COAST GUARD



The Tenth Annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and Barbecue was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, March 27. Coast Guard units represented were Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, Coast Guard District Seven, Aids to Navigation, USCGC Gannet and Coast Guard Air Station Miami. Beverages, hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings and plenty of candy were served to all in attendance. The event was free to Coast Guardsmen and their families. The food was donated by the Council's community affiliate, Ship Supply of Florida. A bounce house, games and prizes for the children were all part of the fun. About 150 attended on a beautiful Florida day. The Easter Bunny (Coast Guardsman Timothy Myerson) and a clown who did face painting and balloon tying were also there for the enjoyment of the children. Sponsoring this event has become a pleasurable tradition for our Council.

HONORING OUR ADOPTED SHIPS

The Council recently recognized sailors from our two adopted ships, the USS Leyte Gulf and the USS Bataan. Each sailor received an award plate, certificate and monetary award in recognition of their accomplishments.

Recognized from the Leyte Gulf were (from left to right):

Sailor of the Year CTR1(SW) Jason K. Barrow
Junior Sailor of the Year HM2(SW) Angelo D. Vivio
Blue Jacket of the Year EM2(SW) Aldwin A. David who was recently advanced to PO2



Recognized from the Bataan were (from left to right):
Blue Jacket of the Year ADAN(AW/SW) Aaron Amazzalorso
Senior Sailor of the Year HM1(SW/AW) Ingrid Cortez
Junior Sailor of the Year ET3(SW/AW) Troy Cottom



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW MEMBERS

Ted J. Pappas and Marie E. Pappas, 2516 De Soto Blvd. Coral Gables FL, 33134, 305-441-8771, ted.pappas@gmail.com Sponsor - George Reeves.

Rene Rodriguez Sr and Mimi Rodriguez, 551 NE 5th St, Pompano Beach FL 33060, 954-782-2878, cidrene@aol.com Sponsor – Bob Hein

"JB" Spence, 837 Andalucia Ave, Coral Gables FL 33134-4813, 305-443-6478, no email Sponsor – George Reeves.

Diane L. Schmidt, 4907 NW 67th Ave. Lauderhill FL, 33319, 954-741-1074; charlieanddiane@bellsouth.net, Sponsor: Charles Schmidt

Ralph McGrath and Lynne McGrath, 1400 Ponce de Leon Drive, Fort Lauderdale FL 33316, Lynne 954-336-2058 mcg523@aol.com, Ralph 954-336-2059 rm@mcgrath-law.com Sponsor – Bob Hein



Director Joe Giambrone presented Dr. Todd Kazdan with his community affiliate plaque.

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY

May 22nd is National Maritime Day, which marks the day when, in 1819, the SS SAVANNAH sailed from Savannah, Georgia to Liverpool, England and made the first successful crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a ship using steam propulsion. Each year, on this day, the men and women currently serving in the American Merchant Marine are honored, along with the many seamen who lost their lives in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf conflicts. Each year, American Maritime Officers and STAR Center in Dania Beach sponsor a ceremony in honor of National Maritime Day.

COAST GUARD AIR STATION MIAMI

Thanks to Captain Rick Kenin, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station Miami for sharing this story with the Council. Most civilians do not realize the activities of the Station are quite diverse, including participation in community events such as this one.

Black Pioneers of Aviation A promise. A future.

In support of African American History Month, Florida Memorial University (FMU) presented the "Black Pioneers of Aviation" on February 9, 2010. US Coast Guard Air Station Miami along with the US Air Force and 18 other aviation organizations participated in and supported this event. Eighty students attended the event and had the opportunity to hear from and speak with a number of people who have made monumental accomplishments in aviation. Speakers included two of the original Tuskegee Airmen, LT Jeanine Menze, the first African American female aviator in the Coast Guard, Dr. Sheila Chamberlain the US Army's First African American woman Combat Intelligence Pilot, and the first black pilots hired by major airlines to name a few. It showcased a very eager student body that allowed for networking opportunities after the presentations. Attendees seemed to gain an appreciation of the difficulties experienced when pioneers set out to diversify the aviation career field. The speakers were able to demonstrate the promise of open doors they pioneered to open and the hope for a positive future with no barriers to the dreams of these students; the motto on the program for the celebration was fitting: "A promise. A future."

This event reflected the past, present and future of aviation. The speakers spoke of the challenges they faced in their particular area of aviation. They spoke about their experiences in WWII, military/civilian aviation, and other challenges. They described the challenges minorities experienced while demolishing color lines in aviation. In spite of these challenges, these individuals not only persevered, but excelled; demonstrating in difficult moments not despondency and despair, but hope. Hope for a future with opportunities based on ability and qualification only.

Two hundred students observed as the MH-65 from Air Station Miami flew in to support the event with a static display and engaged the students in a lengthy question and answer session. Air Station Miami not only supported this celebration, but many personnel have dedicated their time to work with FMU students through other events in support of our formal relationship with the University through the Partnership in Education (PIE) program. The Coast Guard participates and partners with local communities throughout the United States through the PIE program doing such things as fundraising for scholarships, participating in international trade education programs and teaching in local schools. Air Station Miami is committed to serving the community through the PIE program and upholding the Coast Guard's commitment to promoting diversity. This pursuit occurs through outreach into the community by building relationships with local schools through mentorship and other outreach programs.



*Tuskegee Airman LTC Leo Gray
poses in front of an Air Station Miami
MH-65C Dolphin*



*Air Station Miami MH-65C Dolphin lands
at Florida Memorial University's 'Black
Pioneers of Aviation' symposium*

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS



Petri
Positive Pest Solutions since 1956

Henry "Hank" C. Petri
Chairman

737 SW 9th Terrace
Pompano Beach, FL 33069

Broward: (954) 781-4100
S. Broward: (954) 981-4002
Palm Beach: (561) 278-7818
Fax: (954) 942-1246

E-Mail: petrispc@aol.com
www.petrispestcontrol.com

For information on placing your ad in the newsletter please contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545 or giambronejm@gmail.com

COUNCIL SUPPORTERS

Publix Supermarket
Cordova Road
954-847-2844

Second Edition Book Shop
954-431-0884

Wal-Mart
4700 Flamingo Road
Cooper City

Wal-Mart
Saw Grass Mills
12555 W. Sunrise Boulevard
Sunrise

Wal-Mart
3306 N University Drive
Sunrise

On Site Photo Solutions, Inc
1-800-705-2454
www.ireachamerica.com

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

**DO BUSINESS WITH THESE
COMPANIES THAT SUPPORT
OUR COUNCIL**

A.C.T. Janitorial Services Co.
954-960-1000

Bird Lakes Development Corp.
305-365-5448

Briny's Irish Pub
954-376-4742

Todd Kazdan D.O, PA
954-217-2745

KM Wealth Management
(previously Gunn Allen Financial)
954-315-3810

Moraitis, Cofar, Karney & Moraitis, PA
954-563-4163

Charles O. Morgan, Jr., PA
305-624-0011

Resolve Marine Group, Inc.
954-764-8700

Don Revis, Jr., MD
954-630-2009

Ship Supply of Florida
305-929-7090

Tire Hut
954-462-7780

Tropical Acres Restaurant
954-989-2500

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our apologies to our Community Affiliate Moraitis, Cofar, Karney & Moraitis, PA who has supported the Council since November 2009. Their name was erroneously left off the Community Affiliate listing in the past few issues of the Helmsman.

Community Affiliate Gunn Allen Financial is now doing business as KM Wealth Management. You can visit their website at www.kmwealth.net.

SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



BM2 Louis DeLaCruz

BM2 Louis DeLaCruz is assigned to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA

Duty Title: Boatswains Mate

Time in the Coast Guard: 7 years

Why I joined the Coast Guard: I joined the Coast Guard to try to get my education, to be involved in Search and Rescue and to travel.
Greatest achievement since joining the Coast Guard: In 2007, I went to Liberia to conduct a Humanitarian mission. We were the first boat to pull into their port in over 20 years. We worked at an art institute where they rehabilitated children who were involved in the Civil War to teach them new skills and trades to use after the war so that they didn't fight.

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Coast Guard: I would like to have a degree in Graphic Design.

Plans after Coast Guard life: I'd like to pursue a career in Graphic Design.

THANKS TO SHIP SUPPLY OF FLORIDA



Over 150 Coast Guard personnel, their families and Navy Leaguers attended the Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ on March 27, 2010. Thanks to the generosity of our Community Affiliate, Ship Supply of Florida, everyone enjoyed a great meal of hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, chips and cookies.

Pictured with Don Bannister (left) is Diego Romero of Ship Supply who attended the event with his family.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Permit No. 151

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
Post Office Box 39252
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-9252

