

THE HELMSMAN

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

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www.bcnavyleague.org

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Easter Egg Hunt 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,

Spring has arrived in South Florida, and that means that the Council once again hosted its annual Easter Egg Hunt for US Coast Guard families at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. While we needed to postpone the event for one week due to thunderstorms on our usual Saturday week before Easter, we still had a good turnout a week later. Most importantly, the kids had a great time with the bounce house, face painting, and games both before and after the egg hunt. Thanks to all of the Council members and friends that volunteered to help out, as well as to members that donated funds to offset the cost of the event. Special thanks go to Bob Giacini for his very generous donation and to Shelley Beck who once again did an outstanding job organizing everything.

We had a great dinner meeting at Tropical Acres in January and installed our officers for 2024. Our guest speakers CAPT Delano-Johnson and LCDR Huck from SOUTHCOM filled us in on their Coast Guard responsibilities at SOUTHCOM that most of us were not aware of. We also had members attend the Fort Lauderdale Council dinner meetings, and hope to have one or two more dinner meetings ourselves before we take our summer break. I plan to attend the Florida Region meeting at the end of April in Key West, so if members have any thoughts on what the Navy League can do to improve your member experience let me know.

As you know, Fleet Week 2024 will be in the Port of Miami this year from May 5-12. While the schedule of events or names of visiting ships has not been announced yet, we will get the information out to our members that want to participate this year as soon as it is available. Shelley is assisting with organizing the volunteers, so if interested in helping out let her know.

Finally, a big thanks to our Board Membership Chair Rich Fournier for all of his efforts keeping track of our membership list. It was an especially difficult time as National transitioned to a new database, yet Rich kept on top of it. As you well know, the Council is only as strong as its members, so I ask that everyone take the opportunity to seek out new member leads that Rich can follow up on. Also, since we will not have any income from Fleet Week this year, please do pay your annual dues if you haven't already. While local dues are voluntary, they provide us additional funds to support our adopted units. Any additional contributions to the Council will help us to continue supporting our units.

Glenn



2024 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

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.

Coming Events

March 30th, 2024

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt held at Coast Guard Station Ft Lauderdale

April 8-10, 2024 NLUS Sea-Air-Space

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland

May 5-12, Fleet Week Miami

This year Fleet week will be in Miami

June 5-8, 2024, San Diego, Ca

This year at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, ca

Annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ

On March 30th we convened at USCG Station Ft Lauderdale for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ.

The event had been originally scheduled for March 23rd but was pushed back due to the promise of bad weather.

As the following photos will attest, there were many activities and a lot of happy kids.



Face Painting



Bounce House



New Friends



Sports

Annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ



Getting ready to go after the Eggs



Chef Carney doing his grill magic



Go!



Grab them Eggs



BBQ time



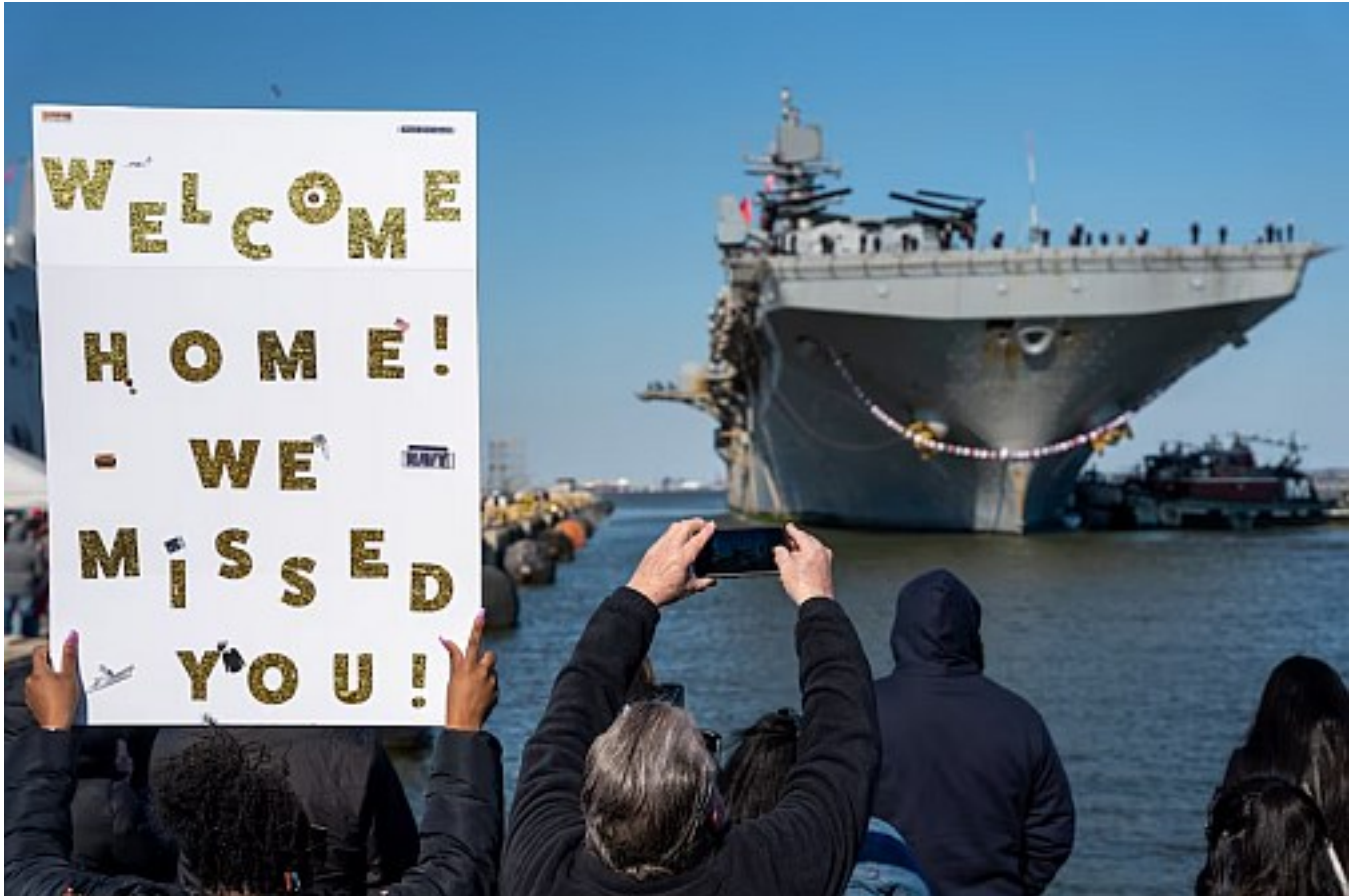
OMG!



Prizes and gifts

News from our Adopted Units

USS Bataan (LHD 5) returns home



The Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5), assigned to the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), returns to Naval Station Norfolk following an eight and a half-month deployment operating in the U.S. 5th and U.S. 6th Fleet areas of operation, March 21, 2024. More than 4,000 Sailors and Marines assigned to the Bataan ARG supported a wide range of interoperability opportunities and exercises, increasing combat readiness and crisis response capabilities while strengthening relationships with NATO Allies and partners. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Anderson W. Branch)

The Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned home to the East Coast on Saturday after more than eight months deployed to the Middle East and Mediterranean Sea.

The Bataan ARG – USS Bataan (LHD-5), USS Carter Hall (LSD-50) and USS Mesa Verde (LPD-19) – deployed in July, with Bataan and Mesa Verde leaving from Naval Station Norfolk, Va., while Carter Hall left from Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story, Va.

“This deployment marked the first time a MEU with the Special Operations Capable designation has been

employed in over two decades,” according to a Marine Corps news release. “While deployed, more than 4,000 Marines and sailors supported a wide range of interoperability training, exercises and operations within the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operations; covering the High North, Baltic Sea, Eastern Mediterranean, Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, and Middle East.”

Over the course of its deployment, the Bataan ARG participated in U.S. missions to deter Iran from seizing ships in the Strait of Hormuz, discourage Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and, most recently, prepare for a possible noncombatant evacuation in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

From March USNI News

January Dinner Meeting and Officer Installation

On January 11th we convened at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd to conduct our January Dinner Meeting and install our 2024 Officers.

Our speakers that night were CAPT Aaron Delano-Johnson and LCDR Ethan Huck from US Coast Guard SOUTHCOM Activities.



CAPT Delano-Johnson swearing in Officers Glenn Wiltshire President, Tom Melville Vice President, Tom Carney Treasurer and Shelley Beck Secretary.



CMC Bryan Salazar U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Amy Salazar and Patty Croonquist



Glenn Wiltshire, President; Barbara Makris, Council Member, Capt Eric Smith Commanding Officer USCG Air Station Miami

January Dinner Meeting and Officer Installation



CAPT Delano-Johnson presenting



LCDR Huck presenting



Glenn thanking the presenters



LCDR Ethan Huck, USCG Southern Command TAFT Officer in Charge, Colleen Huck, Lawrence Denmark member, Fran Shaw member, Captain Eric Smith



Michael Preston, BCNL member, Capt Delano-Johnson USCG Liaison Officer U.S. Southern Command, Richard Fournier Council Director



News from National



The Navy League National Convention 2024 will be held June 5-8, 2024 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego, California!

Registration is now open! Go to our National website and follow the links to National Convention.

Additionally, the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Members of the Navy League of the United States will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2024, in San Diego, California at the National Convention.

If you are not planning on attending this meeting in person, please complete and submit your proxy card by May 30 in order for us to establish a quorum. You can either mail back the hard copy proxy card distributed in the February/March issue of Seapower Magazine, or you can submit your vote online by going to the National website.



The largest maritime exposition in the United States, with more than 15,000 attendees and 300 exhibitors. Taking place April 8-10 at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center, National Harbor, Maryland



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.

Member's corner

Bravo Zulu Chaplain Rick Braswell



USCG District 7 chief of staff, Capt Pena and Chaplain Rick Braswell

Chaplain Rick Braswell was presented the Coast Guard Auxiliary Meritorious Service Medal by District Chief of Staff Capt Pena.

The honor was conferred at USCG Air Station Miami in recognition of his four years of ministry service to District 7.

Sighting



BCNL members Lawrence Denmark, Fran Shaw and Glenn Wiltshire at February Fort Lauderdale Council meeting

odds & ends...

Navy introduces new robotics warfare rating

From February Navy Times

The Navy unveiled a new robotics warfare rating recently to oversee robotic and autonomous system operations.

The rating, known as the Robotics Warfare Specialist, or RW, will operate both active and passive payload systems and sensors, while maintaining these robotics systems, which were not identified in a naval administrative message, or NAVADMIN, announcing the new rating.



The Navy is rolling out a new robotics warfare specialist rating. (Design by Sarah Sicard/Image courtesy of Unsplash)

“The RW rating is a major milestone in our Navy’s relentless march to achieve a truly hybrid Fleet,” the message said. “This dedicated robotics rating will accelerate development of deep expertise in rapidly advancing autonomous technologies. This new rating is now open to Active Duty Sailors.”

“All Active Duty ratings are open for conversion to RW, but it is important to note that this will initially be a small and highly selective rating,” the NAVADMIN said.

2024-2025 Navy League Founda- tion Scholarship Cycle Now Open

The 2024-2025 Navy League Foundation Scholarship application cycle is now underway! If you know students who are children or grandchildren of sea service members or members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets, please encourage them to take advantage of this great opportunity. For more information, please visit the scholarship page of the Navy League website.

News from our Adopted Units

USS Leyte Gulf Deploys from Norfolk to U.S. 4th Fleet



NAVAL STATION NORFOLK (Jan. 28, 2024) The guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) departs Naval Station Norfolk, Jan. 28, 2024, for a scheduled deployment to the U.S. 4th Fleet area of operations. Leyte Gulf will operate with regional partners to strengthen maritime partnerships, enhance U.S. maritime posture and counter threats such as illicit drug trafficking. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Anderson W. Branch)



Did you Know?

Adopted ship USS Leyte Gulf is due to be decommissioned on Friday September 20th in Norfolk Virginia.

USCG Air Station Miami

On March 13 Council Directors Richard Fournier and Tom Melville attended the All Hands Meeting at USCG Air Station Miami at Opa Locka to present our Navy League Broward Council Certificate to their Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY) for 2023.

Avionics Electrical Technician First Class (AET1) Joel Milian was the 2023 recipient. For his accomplishments AET1 Milian received a council certificate, \$100 gift card, and a Council Coin.



Council Director Tom Melville presenting AET1 Joel Milian with a council certificate for he accomplishments.



AET1 Milian displaying his certificate with the Station Commanding Officer Capt. Eric Smith

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Station Ft Lauderdale



FN (Fireman) Munaire Clarke receiving a Council certificate for President Glenn Wiltshire. Also pictured is MKC Gagnon, Station XO LT Truncale, and Station CO LT Dadlani.

Recently Council President Glenn Wiltshire visited USCG Station Ft Lauderdale to present the stations Enlisted Person of the Quarter (EPOQ) to Fireman Munaire Clarke. Firemen Clarke was recognized for becoming qualified aboard two types of response boats and also contributing to a major boat repair.

Wow!

At the 2024 USCG Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ there were over 400 Easter Eggs "hidden" for the youngsters

Deerfield Beach JROTC



MGySgt Alberto Gomez (left) presenting a \$200 check from our Council to Cadet Bruno Labuto on 21 March. He is the top Senior Cadet at the Deerfield Beach High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC program.

USS Paul Ignatious (DDG117)



USS Paul Ignatious (DDG 117) a cutting-edge Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer assigned to Forward Deployed Naval Forces-Europe (FDNF-E), docked in Copenhagen, Denmark for a scheduled port visit, March 22, 2024.

and in closing...

