



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 19 ISSUE 4

Bill Weiler, President
Denise Hein, Editor

April 2008

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

MARCH EVENTS



The starting line up for the annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt.



Christopher Winans, age 4, son of BMCS Mike Winans, USCG, found the "golden egg".



Even some "big kids", Peggy and Paul Raben, enjoyed visiting with the Easter Bunny.

APRIL DINNER SOCIAL— 40th Anniversary Party

When - Thursday, April 10, 2008

Where - Tropical Acres Restaurant

Time - 6:30pm for cocktails, 7:15pm for dinner

Speaker - CDR. John Daly, USCG - Commanding Officer TACLET South

Dinner Choices - Prime Rib of Beef or Stuffed Breast of Chicken

Cost - \$30 per person

Reservations to: Celeste Keegan - bcnavyleague@yahoo.com or 954-973-7814 No later than Sunday, April 6, 2008

CONTACT YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

President - Bill Weiler - 954-344-4513
First VP - Alan Starr - 954-722-8285
Second VP - Bob Haab - 954-741-7299
VP- Legislative Affairs - Jerry Corcoran - 305-371-7612
Secretary - Marianne Giambone - 954-385-0545
Treasurer - Peggy Raben - 954-462-2178
JAG - Ed Rumin, Esq.- 954-565-9492

Don Bannister - 954-747-3454
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Celeste Keegan - 954-973-7814
John Kiefer - 954-563-9619
Steve Naimoli - 954-564-1400
Telmo Ortega - 954-395-7979
Larry Ott - 954-771-1765
Jay Porges - 954-972-0074
George Reeves - 305-285-4845
Mark Stein - 954-974-0006
Al/Shelly Stein - 954-472-0285
Bob Viverito - 954-452-6961

E-MAIL— bcnavyleague@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last Month I had the opportunity to attend a round table discussion with VADM John Cotton, Commander Navy Reserve, at NOSC Miami. We were joined in discussion by CDR Russ Larratt, Commanding Officer of NOSC, 5 Sea Cadets, several ombudsmen, and the Command Master Chief of the Navy Reserve. The discussion centered around the close relationship and Navy League support of the Sea Cadet Program, as well as the numerous opportunities offered thru the Sea Cadets. Following that discussion, VADM Cotton addressed well over 300 Reservists assembled in the Drill Hall. Preceding his presentation, he asked me to address the group, and I used the opportunity to speak about our support of the Sea Services in general and more specifically the special affiliation between BCNL and those Reservists assigned to the units of NOSC. The Admiral then gave an extremely informative briefing on the global war on terrorism and the importance of strength in our Maritime Services.

CONGRATULATIONS to our JNROTC Unit from Flanagan High School. In a regional competition against 17 other units, they finished in second place, earning them the opportunity to compete at the state level on April 5th in Pensacola. Good Luck!

By the time you receive this, our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at the FT Lauderdale Coast Guard Station will have passed. I'm sure that as in the past it was a great event enjoyed by all. A special thanks to Don & Phyllis Bannister for stepping forward to provide leadership for this event, and to all those others who volunteered to help.

"Fleet Week" will take place from April 28th thru May 2nd, beginning with the All Hands Party and associated events on Monday evening at the Seminole Hard Rock Complex in Hollywood. This party is a jointly supported event by all the area NL Councils and Broward Navy Days, and we are hoping for a big turnout. On Tuesday evening, we will sponsor the Junior Officer Party at the Briny Pub. Again I ask everyone to try to come on out, especially since this is OUR party, and Briny's always puts out a terrific spread.

I would also like to urge folks to step forward and volunteer to assist during Fleet Week. There are numerous areas that we can use help, and it presents a great opportunity to take a more active role. Please call or email myself, Tom Jones, or any of the Board members, and let us know that you're available and would like to help. I'm sure we will find something that will suit your interest. Although ship visiting will be somewhat limited, if you are interested, please let Tom Jones know as early as possible.

With the withdrawal of MDM and the cancellation of the Air & Sea Show, it us up to the Navy League and Broward Navy Days to step forward. Volunteering during Fleet Week and attending the events is an outstanding way to show your support for the young men and women who serve our country so admirably. I look forward to seeing you all out there!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 10 – Dinner Social
April 19 – Passover Begins
April 22 – Earth Day
April 28 – May 2 – FLEET WEEK 2008

NEW MEMBERS

Matthew J. Raskie
511 SE 5th Avenue #2310
Fort Lauderdale, 33301
954-736-8375
mjraskie@hotmail.com
Sponsor – Bill Weiler

BIRTHDAYS

Apr 02 Tim Easter
Jerry Sherman
Apr 20 Peggy Raben
Apr 20 Jerry Rosenthal
Apr 23 Richard Kuhta
Apr 24 Dorothy Porges
Apr 28 Brian Eggleston
Apr 29 Rosalind Starr

UPCOMING EVENTS

FLEET WEEK 2008 – April 28 – May 2, 2008. The USS Iwo Jima LHD-7 will be the flagship for the week. USS Carter Hall LSD-50, USS Vella Gulf CG-72, USS Ramage DDG-61, USS Mitscher DDG-57, an unnamed submarine and USCGC Reliance WMEC-615 will complete the roster in Port Everglades. Tours will be available by RESERVATION ONLY – contact Tom Jones at 954-587-4618 to provide security clearance information. Volunteers are needed for many events – contact Joe Millsaps at 954-649-4777.

USS Bataan LHD-5 continues with her planned maintenance program. The ship has been returned to the water from dry dock and the crew has moved back aboard to continue the upgrading of the ship and her systems.

Coast Guard Station was once again, the location for the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Barbeque. Under clear skies and with a nice breeze about 150 children and adults enjoyed the hunt for eggs, games, face painting and a tasty barbeque lunch. The Easter Bunny was a huge hit!!! Thanks to Ship Supply and all the volunteers who helped Don and Phyllis to make this such a memorable afternoon for the hardworking Coasties and their families. The "Golden Egg" was found by Christopher Winans (age 4), son of BMCS Mike Winans, ANT Fort Lauderdale.



Corcoran Associates
305-371-7612

Downtowner Saloon
954-463-9800

Grady Marine Construction, Inc.
954-523-1212

Gunn Allen Financial
954-315-3810

Resolve Marine, Inc.
954-764-8700

Ship Supply of Florida

Tropical Acres Restaurant
954-989-2500

Membership News

Visit our website at: www.bcnavyleague.org. It is very informative.

Council "Challenge" coins are now available. Cost - \$6.00. Contact Joe Giambrone at 954-389-0545.

Reminder to ALL members – If you make a dinner reservation and do not cancel 24 hours in advance, you will receive a bill for that event. We are obligated to pay for the number of dinners we order. Thank you.

National Membership Dues Increase

At the National convention of the Navy League held in November, the board of directors agreed to increase membership dues, effective July 1, 2008.

Members are strongly encouraged to consider becoming life members before the dues increase goes into effect. An individual life membership currently is \$450; the husband/wife life membership fee is \$650. Don't miss out on this opportunity – you will never have to worry about paying dues again and will avoid any future member dues increases. More importantly, you will be providing financial support to the Navy League and its mission.

A summary of the changes in fees is listed below. Take advantage of the lower fees by paying your dues before July 1, 2008. Questions can be directed to Membership Chairperson Marianne Giambrone at giambrone@myacc.net.

	Current	Effective July 1, 2008
Regular (individual) Member	\$40	\$50
Two-Year Member	\$75	\$90
Three-Year Member	\$100	\$125
Husband/Wife Members	\$70	\$85
Life member	\$450	\$500
Husband/Wife Life Members	\$650	\$750

Travelers

Joe and Marianne flew to Buenos Aires, Argentina and then cruised around Cape Horn to Santiago, Chile before returning home.

Tom and Sandra Jones traveled to New Orleans for the christening of the USS New York LPD21. Their son, Curt, is the Captain select for this newest ship in our Navy.

Bill and Karen Weiler traveled to California and Arizona to visit their children.

Bob and Nancy Viverito were in Singapore visiting their son and his family.

Ailing and Recovering

Bob and Denise Hein were both down with severe upper respiratory infections – hope they are soon back to full operating mode.

SUPPORTERS

Bahia Cabana Resort
954-524-1555

Publix Cordova Road
954-847-2844

Second Edition Book Shop
954-431-0884

Wal*Mart
4700 Flamingo Road Cooper City

Wayward Sailor Pub
3045 North Federal Hwy. FTL

Ship Greetings and Events

Fleet Week 2008 – the ships will be arriving in Port Everglades on Monday, 28 April 2008.

SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

USS Leyte Gulf CG-55 Sailor in the Spotlight



**DC3 ROSENTHAL-GEORGE, USS LEYTE
(CG 55) 2007
BLUE JACKET OF THE YEAR**

Hometown: Orcutt, CA

Duty Title: DC3 Rosenthal-George

Time in the Navy: 06 Feb 06

Why I joined the Navy: For all of the new experiences that it had to offer.

Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience: Making the deployment in 2006 was an awesome eye opening experience.

Greatest achievement since joining the Navy: Completing SAR swimmer school.

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy: To obtain an Associates Degree in Fire Science.

Plans after Navy life: To become a forest ranger.

The thing I like most about my job is: Getting to train the crew in all aspects of Damage Control.

EDITOR'S NOTE

To be so young and have the responsibility of the lives, of over twelve hundred men and women, is beyond the comprehension of most people. Commander F. Curtis Jones, son of Sandra and Tom Jones, Directors of our Broward County Council, is just such a person.

The Jones family recently had the privilege of attending the christening of the USS New York LPD-21, an amphibious assault ship, which took place at the Northrop Grumman shipyards in Avondale, La. It was with immense pride that they watched, along with about 5,000 others, their son Curt introduced as the ships first commanding officer, take his place on the speakers platform, with congressional representatives, dignitaries from the military, including Adm. Roughead, CNO, the ships sponsor Doty England and her husband Gordon England, Deputy Secretary of Defense who was the guest speaker.

This is the fifth ship that is named USS New York since 1800 and honors the heroes, victims and families of 9/11/01. Steel recovered from the World Trade Center has been built into the bow of the ship. This ship is a symbol and signal to this nation and the world that America is moving forward. The ships motto proudly proclaims "Strength-Forged Through Sacrifice-Never Forget"

Due to its high profile, this ship may be more of a target for terrorists than others. His parents are concerned for his safety and that of his crew, as the crew fulfills their solemn duty to protect the USA.

Another challenge for the New York LPD-21 was the tremendous personal sacrifice of the shipbuilders, as they continued construction after hurricane Katrina.

Curt's parents are most proud of the fine young man and the naval leader he has become. We all pray that he continues to demonstrate sound judgment and makes wise decisions. We wish him and his crew Godspeed.

These words are a direct quote from Commander F. Curtis Jones, "Heroism, literally is the backbone of this ship. There is no doubt that the crew and Marines of USS New York will live up to the extraordinary examples that are already part of this great ship's history. That Legacy is simultaneously awesome and humbling. "I am honored to be part of it, to help bring USS New York to life."

Denise Heim, Editor



**BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**
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Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard are integral part of safety on the seas

February 28, 2008 By J. Michael McGrath

For more than a century, the Navy League has been educating the American people about the critical importance of strong maritime forces to our national security and economic prosperity. Simply put, we must have a Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine that are second to none if we are to survive and prosper as a beacon of freedom and democracy.

Today, the strength of our maritime forces is being jeopardized by the financial strains of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the broader global war on terror and our enduring security commitments in every corner of the Earth.

If Americans want to safeguard their futures, protect U.S. citizens and interests across the globe, and maintain our role as leaders in a globalized economy of free nations, it is imperative that we invest wisely now, and rebuild and replenish our sea-going services.

In just a few weeks, the Navy League will issue its 2008 Maritime Policy Statement, a compendium of top national security challenges and budget priorities. It will be provided to members of Congress and unveiled to the public at the Navy League's Sea-Air-Space exposition in Washington this March. Topping our list of deficiencies that demand urgent attention are the continued shrinking of our Navy fleet; excessive wear and tear on virtually all Marine Corps aircraft, vehicles and weapons; and increasing wrong-headed attacks on vital military training operations by so-called environmentalists.

The Navy's current goal is to grow to a fleet of 313 combat ships. That's right, they need to grow to that number, because our Navy has only 279 ships — half the fleet size when [Ronald Reagan](#) left the [White House](#). And Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead told the House Armed Services Committee that the 313 ship "goal" is really a floor, the minimum number of ships needed to meet commitment.

Until these new ships come on line, the nation must live with "moderate" risk that the Navy and Marine Corps will not be able to respond when needed at times. Efforts to avoid such an occurrence places increasing demands on our ships and the sailors who take them to sea. They will spend more time deployed and away from their families. Can the United States, a maritime nation that thrives on global trade and unencumbered commerce on the seas, afford to accept this additional risk? The Navy League says "no," and we call on Congress and the administration to provide a top-line budget increase for the Navy and Marine Corps, and to increase funding immediately for the Coast Guard's Deepwater recapitalization effort.

The Navy-Marine Corps team is the greatest expeditionary fighting force this nation has ever had, but they cannot meet the challenges of the future with an anemic 280-ship fleet. The Coast Guard cannot be expected to build on their post 9-11 successes with antiquated ships.

The sea services need a financial commitment from our political leaders to bolster the U.S. shipbuilding industrial base and its suppliers. The shipyards themselves must then be willing to commit to making the necessary investments in modernization.

It has become fashionable for certain "armchair admirals" to question the need for strong maritime forces. They say our sea services are looking backward, that the days of fleet engagements on the high seas are over. Sadly, these pundits completely miss the point. The United States is still a maritime nation whose economic health depends upon transporting goods by sea. More than 90 percent of all products arrive here in ships. It also remains true that our global partners depend upon U.S. naval forces to enforce freedom of the seas and safeguard security. We cannot meet those obligations with dwindling and aging resources. Americans take these conditions for granted because our maritime forces have met the challenge over the years. The time has come to recognize the importance of that mission, and properly fund and train our Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

J. Michael McGrath is National president of the Navy League of the United States

Navy Leaguers Donate Your Miles!

Are you interested in donating your frequent flier miles to assist families of seriously wounded servicemen and women? The [Fisher House Foundation](#) makes it extremely easy for you to pass along your miles to service members in need. You can donate to the Hero Miles program [online](#) or by calling 888.294.8560 and a Fisher House staff member can answer your questions and assist you in making your donation. Thank you for continuing to support the men and women of the sea services

BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL 40th ANNIVERSARY

Our April Meeting will also include a celebration of our 40th Anniversary as a member of the Navy League of the United States. We have invited as many past presidents as we have been able to locate to join us that evening and to bring any memorabilia they have from their tenure in office. Over the years the Council has achieved many goals and has contributed faithfully to the support of the men and women of the sea services. Our adoptions of the USS Leyte Gulf CG-55 and USS Bataan LHD-5, along with the NOSC Miami and Coast Guard Air Station Miami have provided all of us with many memorable experiences. Our continued support of the NJROTC at Flanagan, Nova and Taravella High Schools, along with the MCJROTC at Stranahan High School has provided annual scholarships and awards to deserving cadets. Our partner in education, Silver Ridge Elementary School, has been beneficial in providing a learning experience for the students. These are just some of the activities the Council participates in on a regular basis. There are volunteer opportunities for everyone – get involved today by contacting Bill Weiler and letting him know what your area of interest is.

FLEET WEEK 2008 PORT EVERGLADES

Monday – 28 April – The fleet arrives in Port Everglades in the AM. USS Iwo Jima LHD-7, USS Carter Hall LSD-50, USS Vella Gulf CG-72, USS Ramage DDG-61, USS Mitscher DDG-57, a submarine, and USCGC Reliance WMEC-615 are expected to be the participating ships this year.

1800-2100 – ALL HANDS welcome party – Paradise Village, Seminole Hard Rock Café and Casino, Hollywood. – Free Drinks and food for the sailors. There will be a ceremony recognizing the Sailors of the Year from each ship as part of this welcome party.

Tuesday – 29 April – sailors from each of the ships will be participating in school visits and hospital visits and working at Habitat for Humanity. They will also participate in intramural sports tournaments – baseball, basketball, etc at Mills Pond Park, 2201 NW 9th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale – 0800-1500.

0900-1200 – ships are open for tours by RESERVATION ONLY – contact Tom Jones at 954-587-4618.

1200-1700 - Fleet Week Golf Tournament – Fort Lauderdale Golf and Country Club.

1800-2000 – Junior Officers Party – Briny Riverfront Pub – hosted by Broward County Council

1830-2100 – Chief Petty Officers Reception – Coral Ridge Yacht Club – Invitation only.

Wednesday – 30 April – hospital and schools visits, Habitat for Humanity and ship tours as above

1800 –2000 – Anchors Aweigh Party – location to be announced

Thursday, 1 May – hospital and school visits, Habitat for Humanity and ship tours as above

1800-2000 – Sailors of the Year Dinner – Deerfield Country Club – RESERVATIONS ONLY –

Loretta Baldwin – 561-361-7971. \$50 per person

Friday 2 May – JROTC tours of ships by reservation only.

1800-2100 – VIP Reception – INVITATION ONLY

Saturday 3 May – SHIPS DEPART.

Except where noted all events are open to the public. Volunteer to help by contacting Joe Millsaps at 954-649-4777.