



Navy League of the United States

# The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 17 ISSUE 05

Joseph Giambrone, President  
Denise Hein, Editor

MAY 2006

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

## April Events



Children and parents line up for the start of the Seventh Annual USCG Easter Egg Hunt.



Sara found the "Golden Egg", while her parents looked on.



LCDR Kevin Kerney with his family Grace, Alice and Andrew enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt and Barbeque.

## MAY DINNER MEETING

WHEN – Thursday, May 11, 2006

WHERE – The Downtowner Saloon, 408 S. Andrews Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

TIME – Cocktails at 6:30pm, Dinner at 7:15pm

MENU – Prime Rib of Beef or Chicken Marsala

COST - \$30.00

RESERVATIONS: No later than May 7, 2006 to Celeste Keegan, 954-973-7814 or [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)

SPEAKER – LCDR Carlos Mercado, USCG – Commanding Officer, Marine Safety and Security Team Homestead

## CONTACT YOUR BOARD

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E-MAIL— [bcnavyleague@yahoo.com](mailto:bcnavyleague@yahoo.com)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The Council had a very successful Easter egg hunt and BBQ for the Coast Guard families last month. It is always a fun event and I'm sorry I missed it. However, I'd like to thank Al and Shelly Stein for doing a great job again this year with the planning; Ship Supply for donating all the food and paper goods and Chris Tague of the Cordova Road Publix Supermarkets for donating the bottled water and candy. In addition, we had cash donations made by D & B Tile Distributors, Electronics Unlimited, Playboy Marine, HMY New Yacht Sales and Council members Carl Hallberg and Monroe Hemmerdinger. It is only through the generosity of individuals like these that our Council is able to provide support to our military families - my deepest thanks.

May brings us two important holidays. We all know the sacrifices that mothers make for their children and I'd like to give every mom a big thank you as we approach Mother's Day. Then, as we celebrate Memorial Day, it is difficult to find the words to express the appreciation we all have for those that sacrificed their lives while serving our country. This year, May also brings us Fleet Week and the Air and Sea Show which will give us an opportunity to thank the men and women who are currently serving our country - I hope you will find the time to attend one of the many events that will be taking place in the Fort Lauderdale area.

We have an interesting dinner meeting this month that you will read about elsewhere in the newsletter. I encourage you to also mark your calendars for June 8 when the guest speaker at our dinner meeting will be Rear Admiral Casey Coane, U.S.N.R..

I usually end my message by saying that this is your Council and it is only as good as you make it. Well, you all made it very successful - the Council received a meritorious rating from National Navy League officials for our efforts in 2005. Thanks to every Council member --you each played a part in our success.

*Joe Giambrone*

giambrone@myacc.net

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 1 - Fleet Week Begins with the All Hands party at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino starting at 6pm.  
May 2 - Junior Officers Party at Coconuts Bahamian Grill, Seabreeze Boulevard  
May 6/7 - Air and Sea Show, Fort Lauderdale Beach  
May 11 - **DINNER MEETING**  
May 14 - Mother's Day  
May 20 - Armed Forces Day - 5K run at Air Station Miami- 7am.  
May 21 - Maritime Day/ Merchant Marine Birthday  
May 28 - Spruance Division, Sea Cadet Corps Awards Banquet - Tropical Acres Restaurant  
May 29 - Memorial Day

### BIRTHDAYS

May 2 - Carl Hallberg  
May 3 - Robert Grenitz  
May 5 - Rob Latimer  
May 8 - Hank Petri  
May 9 - Brian Kling  
May 10 - Lloyd Rhodes  
May 17 - Nancy Lindberg  
May 18 - Jeanne Knapp  
May 19 - Mark Stein  
May 20 - Michael Short  
Hy Volaski  
May 22 - Gayle Malone Neary  
Ann Hopkins  
May 23 - Jay Porges  
May 24 - Telmo Ortega  
May 28 - Bob Joslin  
Al Massey

### NEW MEMBERS

W. Telmo Ortega  
PO Box 814593  
Hollywood,  
954-395-7979  
twortega@comcast.net  
Sponsor - Bill Weiler

Judith Fisher  
511 Bayshore Drive Apt.602  
Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33304  
954-565-1625  
Sponsor: Robert Hein

## FUTURE EVENTS AND FUND RAISERS

**May 1-5, 2006 - Fleet Week - Salute to the Military - ships expected are the USS Shreveport LPD-12, USS San Antonio LPD-17, USS Oscar Austin DDG-79, USS Boone FFG-28, 2 Canadian Navy ships and USCGC Elm WLB-204.**

**May 2, 2006 - Junior Officers Party sponsored by the Council - Coconuts Bahamian Grill - 6-8 PM, on Seabreeze Boulevard just north of the Swimming Hall of Fame.**

**May 6-7, 2006 - Fort Lauderdale. Air and Sea Show, Fort Lauderdale Beach.**

**May 11, 2006 - Dinner Meeting. LCDR Carlos Mercado, USCG will be the speaker. This event will be held at our new community affiliate - The Downtown, in the Maxwell room, 408 S. Andrews Avenue.**

**May 28, 2006 - Annual Sea Cadets Awards luncheon at Tropical Acres Restaurant - \$20 per person. More details to follow.**

**June Dinner Meeting - RADM Casey Coane USNR, Executive Director of the Naval Reserve Association will be the speaker addressing the changes in the Naval reserve. We will also be honoring the reserve sailor of the year from the Navy Operational Support Center in Miami**

**5K run at Opa Locka Airport, hosted by Air Station Miami on May 20th. All are welcome to attend or to run if you are so inclined. Registration will be from 7-8am. Lt. Laura Millen is contact person- call her at 305-953-2115 to volunteer or participate. Volunteers are needed for registration, water and tee shirt distribution and support.**

The USS Farragut DDG 99, will be commissioned on June 10, 2006 in Mayport, Fl.

July 13, 2006 – USS Grapple ARS-53 will be decommissioned in Little Creek, Va. There will be a limited number of invitations. More details to follow when the invitations are received. After the decommissioning there will be no more salvage ships on the East Coast.

**The Active Duty Sailor of the Year for the Navy Operational Support Center( formerly known as the Naval Reserve Center), FC1 Joseph Paramore, was honored recently during ceremonies at the Center. FC1 Paramore transferred from the Center.**

The USS Miami SSGN728 will be returned to active service on 25 May 2006 at Mayport, Florida. Her home base will be Kings Bay, Georgia. She is among the submarines being upgraded to guided missile vessels.



Café Bluefish  
954-563-3474

Downtown Saloon  
954-463-9800

Grady Marine Construction, Inc.  
954-523-1212

Ireland's Four Courts  
Arlington, Virginia  
703-525-3600

Ireland's Inn Beach Resort  
954-565-6661

Todd Kazdan DO  
954-581-7660

Ship Supply of Florida

**SUPPORTERS**

Bahia Cabana Resort  
Lenny's Sub Shop  
954-764-7827

Second Edition Book Shop  
954-431-0884

Walmart  
4700 Flamingo Road Cooper City  
Wayward Sailor Pub  
3045 North Federal Hwy. FTL

Membership News

Golf style shirts with the Council logo are now available. They are 100% pima cotton, soft and comfortable. \$25.00. Order yours today by calling Anita Carmell at 954-473-1071 or email to: not2wait2@earthlink.net.

**Visit our website at: [www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org). It is very informative**

**Reminder to all members – if you make a reservation for our dinner meeting and do not cancel it 24 hours in advance, you will receive a bill for that meeting. We are obligated to pay for the number of dinners we order. Cases of extreme emergency will be an exception.**

**Navy League of the United States Annual Convention will be held in St Thomas USVI—July 12th through the 16th. For more information and registration go to [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)**

Jay and Dorothy Porges enjoyed at 10 day cruise to the Caribbean

Our condolences to Rita Gretina on the recent loss of her brother.

The Porges are grandparents –again – their son, Steve, and his wife, Courtney, are the proud new parents of their 4<sup>th</sup> child – a boy named Cooper. Congratulations to all.

Ship Greetings and Events

**The USS Gettysburg CG64 visited 28 March to 1 April 2006. The host was Broward Navy Days. An ALL HANDS reception was held at the Parrot Lounge on 28 March.**

# SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## *USS Leyte Gulf CG-55*



GM2  
Jason S. Vela

Hometown: Brownsville TX

Duty Title: Gunnersmate

Time in the Navy: 3 years 10 months

Why I joined the Navy: To travel around the world and meet new people.

Most exciting/rewarding Navy experience: Working on the 5" Gun Mounts

Greatest achievement since joining the Navy: Becoming a Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor

Goal hoping to achieve before leaving the Navy: I hope to deploy with my ship and return with the mission accomplished.

Plans after Navy life: I plan to join a law enforcement agency.

The thing I like most about my job is: That I work with all kinds of weapons including the 5"54 MK45 Gun Mount

## EDITOR'S NOTE

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when men doubt you  
But make allowance for their doubting too,  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting.

The above lines are part of the first stanza from Rudyard Kipling's poem "If". It could be the life of a member of the Coast Guard, Navy, Marines or Merchant Marines. It could be any young man or woman defending freedom of the seas, waiting for an order or standing watch on a ship. It could be a Captain or Commander having issued an order to his crew. To all of the sea service members their job is waiting. Waiting to hear of a career advancement, waiting for an assignment, waiting to go through all the advanced training for the next assignment. And – when all is said and done – waiting to go home.

Next month you will hear about the mothers of service people in our Broward County Council.

*Denise Heim, Editor*



**BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.**  
**NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**  
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## **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbeque and Easter Egg Hunt**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Barbeque and Easter Egg Hunt was held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale on Saturday, 8 April 2006 under a glorious clear south Florida sky. The men, women and children of Station Fort Lauderdale, ANT Fort Lauderdale and Air Station Miami were the honored guests of the day, along with the star of the show – the Easter Bunny. The activities started with the Egg Hunt and the “Golden Egg” was found by Sara, the daughter of one of the Fort Lauderdale Station sailors. While the burgers and dogs cooked on the grill, the children visited with the Easter Bunny, participated in the coloring contest and some games and enjoyed the Bounce House. Many thanks to our sponsors for this event, Ship Supply of Florida, Publix Cordova Road, DB Tile, Playboy Marine, HYM Yachts, Electronics Unlimited, Monroe Hemmerdinger and Carl Hallberg – their generosity was a great help in making this event a smashing success.

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR FLEET WEEK- NATIONAL SALUTE TO THE MILITARY**

Monday – May 1, 2006 – The ships arrive in Port Everglades. Watch the parade from the south area of Fort Lauderdale Beach or the north end of John Lloyd State Park. We expect the USS San Antonio LPD17, USS Shreveport LPD12, USS Oscar Austin DDG79, USS Boone FFG28, USCGC Elm WLB204, HMCS Preserver ADR510, HMCS Halifax FFH330 and an unnamed attack submarine. The “ALL HANDS” party will be held at Seminole Paradise Shops at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino from 6-10 pm. All are invited.

Tuesday – May 2, 2006 – Fleet Week USA Golf Classic benefiting Cystic Fibrosis at the Fort Lauderdale Country Club starting at 9am. “Liberty Call” at Beach Place – 6-10 pm – all are invited.

Wednesday – May 3, 2006 – “Anchors Aweigh” party at the Downtowner Saloon, South Andrews Avenue, on the river at the bridge – 6-10pm. All are invited.

Thursday – May 4, 2006 – Performers’ Party starting at 8:30pm at Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino at Tequila Ranch followed by a fireworks extravaganza.

Also – National Salute to America’s Heroes Concert, featuring the Blues Brothers at Seminole Hard Rock starting at 7:30pm. Tickets are available at the Hard Rock Live Box Office or through Ticketmaster. Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd will be backed by the Sacred Hearts band. Doors open one hour prior to show time.

Friday – May 5, 2006 – 6-10pm – Take Off Party for the aviators and other performers in the Air and Sea Show – Tarpon Bend, SW 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Fort Lauderdale

Saturday – May 6, 2006 – Village Block Party on Sunrise Lane, just off A1A and Sunrise Boulevard with music, beverages and fun. 6-10pm.

Air and Sea Show over Fort Lauderdale Beach, May 6 & 7, 2006.

## **USS BATAAN SELECTED AS FLEET HONOREE FOR UPCOMING NASCAR RACE**

By Journalist 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Joanne DeVera, USS Bataan Public Affairs

Norfolk, Va. Navy News Service.

The multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD-5) was selected by the U.S. Navy Motor-sports Fleet Honoree Program for the May 5 NASCAR Busch Series race in Richmond, Virginia.

Five Bataan sailors will attend the race courtesy of the Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, and the ships decal will be placed on the Navy #88 Chevrolet Monte Carlo car, owned by NASCAR superstar Dale Earnhardt Jr. and driven by series rookie Mark McFarland.

The fleet program honors a different unit for each of the 35 races in the series. The five Bataan sailors will receive grandstand tickets and participate in a private autograph and photo session with McFarland.

Navy Recruiting Command chooses honorees from packages sent by the commands vying for selection. Packages include a command history and reasons why their command would be the best choice.

“The packages the other command put in were eight page word documents, and I wanted to submit something more exciting for our ship,” said Lithographer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Todd Schaffer of Bataan. “Bataan was extremely busy last year (2005), and I wanted the judges to see that, not just read about it.”

Schaffer compiled an interactive CD-ROM that included video footage of Bataan conducting flight operations, boat operations and replenishment underway. The CD also highlighted Bataan’s role as the first Navy ship on the scene after Hurricane Katrina hit the U.S. Gulf Coast.

“In the past year, this ship has been at sea where it belongs,” said Capt. Rick Snyder, Bataan’s Executive Officer. “I have more than 1200 sailors who have decided to dedicate a significant portion of their lives to this Navy and the United States of America. The recognition of being Fleet Honoree will go a long way to improve the morale of these fine sailors.”

For more information about Bataan, visit the ship’s web site at [www.bataan.navy.mil](http://www.bataan.navy.mil).