THE HELMSMAN

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

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Annual Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt

As is our custom, each year BCNL conducts an Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ at Coast Guard Station Ft Lauderdale for our local Coast Guard personnel and their families. This year we had it on March 28th under a beautiful south Florida Sky.

The participants are lined up waiting the signal to go after the eggs.

and BBQ

Chef Patrick Carney overseeing a delicious BBQ

President's Message

As the first newsletter of 2026, we have a lot to catch up on. We started the year with our January dinner meeting where we installed our officers for 2026 and heard from CWO2 Brad Bishop, the Commanding Officer of the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER, one of our four adopted Fast Response Cutters at Base Miami Beach. Brad was able to fill us in on the many missions of the cutter that have kept them very busy off our coasts and in the Caribbean. The Council made a donation to the WEBBER's MWR fund to defray the cost of new unit ball caps since the crew was swapped from the USCGC PAUL CLARK that is now in the shipyard for a major overhaul. Our Council also formally adopted the USCGC WINSLOW GRIESER, a Fast Response Cutter that moved to Miami last year as part of the same overhaul program.

Our March Dinner meeting featured Joe Farrell, Jr., US Coast Guard Vietnam veteran and owner of Resolve Marine, as our guest speaker. Joe filled us in on his history from growing up in Boston to service as a diver on a Coast Guard icebreaker and supervising explosives loading in Vietnam. After leaving the Coast Guard, he founded Resolve Marine, which has grown to one of the largest marine salvage companies in the world. We were fortunate that a contingent of cadets from the Taravella NJROTC program were able to join us as well. That was followed by a very successful Easter Egg Hunt and Barbeque for Coast Guard families on Saturday March 28th at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Shelley and her team of volunteers did an outstanding job pulling it all together, supported by a generous donation from Council member Bob Giacin. Since the Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard still doesn't have a FY2026 budget, there is still much uncertainty over whether the Coast Guard military members will continue to get paid, the Council provided gift cards to each family attending.

We were also proud to attend two recent events at our adopted units where the Coast Guard Southeast District's Enlisted Persons of the Year were honored by the District Commander, RADM Chamie. The active-duty award recipient was ME2 Michael Hand from TACLET South, and the Reserve recipient was AMT1 Haylee Davalos from Air Station Miami. Our congratulations to both for a job WELL DONE!

We will be joining the Fort Lauderdale Council at their next dinner meeting on May 20th, and our next dinner meeting will be on Thursday, June 11th at Tropical Acres, featuring CAPT Aaron Ortenzio, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Miami. CAPT Ortenzio will fill us in on what is going on at our largest adopted Coast Guard unit, and you won't want to miss it.

It is also coming up on summer transfer season, so we wish safe travels for any members leaving our adopted units and welcome any new members.

Finally, we are still accepting payments of local dues. Although voluntary, these funds allow us to continue supporting our adopted unit and youth programs, so please do consider a contribution. In closing, this is your Council, so please do let me know if you have any questions, comments, or ideas on what we should focus on.

Regards,

Glenn A. Wiltshire
CAPT. USCG Retired
President, Broward County Council

Coming Events

April 19-22

The 2026 Navy League Sea-Air-Space Exposition at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland.

Wednesday May 20th

A joint dinner meeting with the Ft Lauderdale Council at the Lauderdale Yacht club. The guest speaker will be LT Matias A. Sueldo USNR (Ret)

June 3-6 2025

Navy League National Convention will take place in Jacksonville

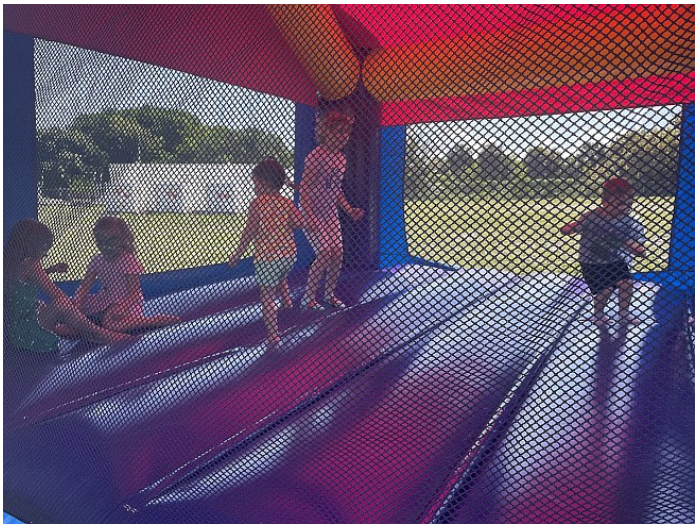
Thursday June 11th

The last dinner social before our summer break. We will be joined by CAPT Ortenzio of the Air Station at Tropical Acres

Annual USCG Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ

Kids having fun

Face Painting



Bounce House

BCNL President and chief bunny Glenn Wiltshire awarding prizes

Annual USCG Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ

Members enjoying the day

Larry Ott (is that really Larry??) and Rich Fournier

Patty Croonquist with guest

Adopted Unit News

CG Station Fort Lauderdale

Glenn presenting EPOQ award to BM2 Thomas Gibson, looking on is the station XO LT John Higgins

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
NAVY LEAGUE
of the UNITED STATES
BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL
"Citizens in Support of the Sea Services"

2026 Officers

Thanks for serving!

Glenn Wiltshire - President
Tom Melville - First Vice President
Vacant - Second Vice President
Tom Carney - Treasurer
Shelley Beck - Secretary
Robert Marks - Legislative Affairs
Julie Carlson - JAG

Adopted Unit News

USCGC Winslow Griesser

In case you don't recognize the name, the Winslow Griesser is our newest adopted unit. The Winslow Griesser is a replacement hull for our former adopted unit the USCGC Paul Clark. The Paul Clark is now in a yard period for overhaul.

Back in the beginning of the year Glenn traveled to Miami to conduct the formalities of adoption. As part of the adoption process Glenn presented the Commanding Officer, LT Alexander Kearney an adoption certificate and $100 gift card for the ships MWR fund.

Commanding Officer, LT Alexander Kearney and Glenn displaying the adoption certificates

While there Glenn also made some award presentations.

CS3 Brodie Cummings was recognized as an EPOQ for his work providing meals for the crew during a very busy period.

CS3 Brodie Cummings

EM3 Yedial Rivera-Quinones was recognized as an EPOQ for his efforts to address a number of electrical discrepancies aboard the vessel while the crew was short staffed.

EM3 Yedial Rivera-Quinones

March Dinner Social

Our March meeting was held at Tropical Acres restaurant on Griffin Rd. The speaker was Joseph Farrell Jr, the founder of Resolve Marine.

Resolve Marine is a global entity specializing in salvage, recovery, environmental mitigation and emergency response. It employs over 550 employees worldwide with its headquarters here in Ft Lauderdale.

Founder Joseph Farrell, Jr. began operations in 1980 with the RESOLVE, a single tug that provided salvage services to coastal freighters and small vessels in the Caribbean. In 1984, he formed Resolve Marine, as it is known today. In the wake of U.S. Coast Guard OPA 90 (Oil Pollution Act of 1990) regulations, operations expanded: equipment depots were established across North America and a maritime firefighting training facility was launched to train personnel. After refining the emergency response model domestically, the company expanded globally and has facilities in over 8 different countries.

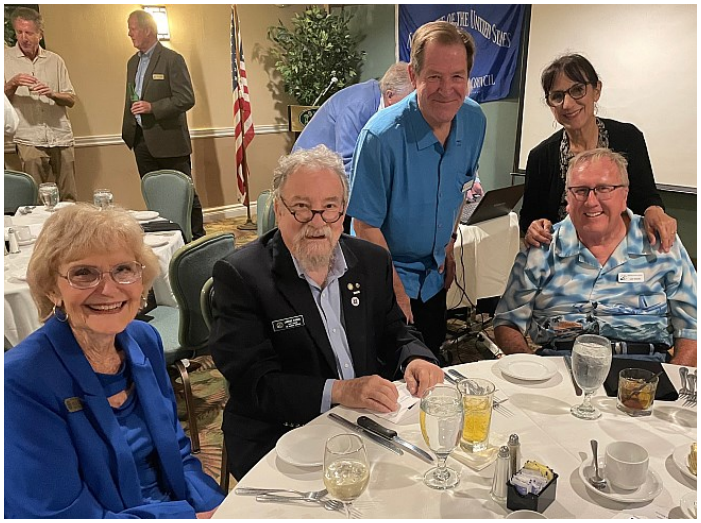
Council President Glenn Wiltshire presenting Resolve Marine President and CEO Joe Farrell Jr a council challenge coin

Jackie Watson, Ren Lueder, John Weeks and Rich Fournier

We were also privileged to have several NJROTC Cadets with us.

Joe Farrell Jr, Cadet Bien-Ame, Cadet Coughlin, Company Executive Officer Luscombe, Company Commander Dragrin and Glenn

Company Commander Dragrin speaking



Fran Shaw, Laurence Denmark, Bill Hooker, Gary Rozema and Linda Rozema (standing)

US Coast Guard News

New US Coast Guard Commandant Kevin Lunday

Adm. Kevin Lunday the 28th commandant of the United States Coast Guard. (US Coast Guard)

From Military.com

Adm. Kevin Lunday is officially the 28th commandant of the United States Coast Guard.

Lunday, previously the acting commandant, assumed his position during an Assumption of Command Ceremony presided over by the Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem.

He previously served as the Coast Guard's 34th vice commandant from June 2024 to January 2025. Prior, he served as commander, Atlantic Area, where he directed operations from the Navigable Inland Waterways east of the Rocky Mountains to the Great Lakes, Gulf Coast and East Coast of the U.S. throughout the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent parts of the Arctic Ocean to the Arabian Gulf.

During his comments he said there are three main objectives of the USCG and its service members: ready, fight and navigate, in that order.

That involved readying the service and delivering value to the American people by accomplishing missions, adapting, and winning regardless of challenge.

The US Coast Guard's newest weapon in border security: Jet Skis

From Militarytimes.com

In its ever-evolving fight on the U.S.-Mexico border, the U.S. Coast Guard has unveiled its latest tool: the Jet Ski.

First utilized in 2024 for Rescue Swimmer Stan Team members as well as the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Coasties have begun Jet Ski training off the shores of San Diego, California, as a component of a newly implemented effort to shore up America's southwest border.

In fiscal 2025, the Coast Guard recruited the most new, active-duty enlisted service members since 1991, according to a service release.

However, no word as to whether the Jet Ski — and the Coast Guard's slogan of "They say money can't buy happiness, but have you ever seen a sad person on a Jet Ski?" — has played a role in hitting those recruiting numbers.

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome new members

Jeremiah Miller
David Zweig
Richard Kidder

We look forward to greeting and meeting you in person at a Council social event soon.

and in closing...

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VETERANS MEMORIAL
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APRIL 24 - 26, 2026

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Scan the QR code to donate to the coalition or contact Philip Balem, Co-Chair, at 443-572-6400 for more information.

Play Davie

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The Veterans Coalition of Coral Springs is a 501(c)(19) Veterans Organization registered in the State of Florida (Florida Registration Number : CH42759).