



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 22 ISSUE 7

George Reeves, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

OCTOBER 2011

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

OCTOBER DINNER SOCIAL

Honoring the Sea Cadets

Spruance Division Sea Cadets will serve as guest speakers and share stories of their summer training activities

The dinner social will be held on:

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club
7050 W Broward Blvd., Plantation

Cocktail hour begins at 6:30 Dinner at 7:15 PM

Dinner choices:

Broiled Mahi Mahi with tropical fruit salsa or
Chicken Chardonnay with artichoke hearts

BCNL local dues paying members = \$30
National dues paying members and guests = \$35
Active military and spouses = \$20

Please call Joan at 954-753-2322 or email
bcnavyleague@yahoo.com by October 7 to make
your reservation



SEPTEMBER DINNER



The Council was honored to have Navy League National President Dan Branch join us at the September 8th dinner social. The event was held at the Plantation Preserve Golf Course and Club in Plantation – a last minute change due to the fire at our community affiliate Tropical Acres. President Branch addressed a small group of Navy Leaguers prior to the dinner social. There was time during the cocktail hour for those in attendance to meet the many special guests who were in attendance including National President-Elect Phil Dunmire, Regional President Bill Dudley and Council Presidents Morrie Weinman (Boca), Tom Melville (Everglades), Rudy Oetting (Fort Lauderdale) and Ken Lee (Palm Beach). Many of our local military also attended including Coast Guard Rear Admiral William Baumgartner and Rear Admiral Steven Ratti. Mary Anne Gray of Broward Navy Days and Simone Hoover of Operation Homefront were also in attendance. Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors. Shown in photo above is long time Navy Leaguer and Council member Hank Petri, National President Dan Branch and Council President George Reeves.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An American Ship Commissioned – A New Member of the Navy family

While in recent years, the christening and commissioning of Navy ships represent two separate events in the diary of a naval vessel, the Naval Historical Center informs us that ship launchings harken back to the times of the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans and involved elaborate ceremonies wherein the Gods were called upon to protect seamen and their newly built ships. As a symbol of blessing, shrines were placed on quarterdecks, wine was consumed and participants in ancient Greek launchings wreathed their heads with olive branches, all in an effort to protect ships and crews from the unpredictability of the seas.

During the Middle Ages and into the seventeenth century in Great Britain, launching ceremonies included a serving of wine in an elaborate cup by the presiding official who subsequently poured wine onto the deck and threw the cup overboard which ritual was replaced in later years by breaking a bottle across the bow.

The Historical Center reports that American christening practices emulated those of Europe. In eighteenth century Boston, the Constitution, "Old Ironsides", was christened by her sponsor, Captain James Sever, USN, as he stood on the weather deck at the bow and broke a bottle of fine old Madeira on the bowsprit according to written descriptions of the event.

In more modern times, the time between the christening and the commissioning – the latter when the ship is actually brought into Naval service – lengthened considerably as the hull required considerable installation of machinery and equipment, all of which had to be tested and modified through sea trials and refitting to the extent that some Nimitz class carriers underwent sea trials for three years before the commissioning ceremony when they were "brought to life" the watches set, the pennants unfurled and formally incorporated into the family of Navy ships.

Over the years, the American commissioning ceremony became a more publicly elaborate event, traditional yet colorful with much pageantry and meaning to those attending and especially for the plankholder officers and crew.

The Arleigh Burke class destroyer Spruance, soon to be DDG 111, will be commissioned in Key West on October 1st. I hope as many as possible will attend.

George Reeves
Council President



GUEST SPEAKERS

The Spruance Division Sea Cadets are sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League and led by our Council board member LDCR Alan Starr. According to their website, their purpose "is to build character, core values of respect, team work, self confidence, leadership, and most important of all, to make the right choices in life that will guarantee each of them success."

The Spruance Division (NSCC) 14 to 18 years and Radford Training Ship (NLCC) 10 to 13 years, meet or "drill" every Saturday during the school year. Cadets muster at 8:15 am and usually begin the day with physical training. Cadets are instructed by both adult volunteers who are Sea Cadet Officers and by senior cadets through classroom and hands-on instruction in subjects such as basic seamanship, military drill and leadership. Although they meet and drill every Saturday during the school year, most of the training for the Cadet Corps takes place over the summer months. The first training evolution for all cadets is Recruit Training, better known as boot camp, which is a scaled down version of the Navy's boot camp. During Recruit Training cadets are instructed by active and reserve military personnel and Sea Cadet officers in military drill and discipline, physical fitness, seamanship, shipboard safety, first aid, naval history, and leadership. Sea Cadets who have successfully completed Recruit Training may participate in various Advanced Training offered in locations throughout the United States.

The Cadets serving as our guest speakers will be sharing stories of their summer training.



IA LUNCHEON

Our council will co-sponsor a luncheon on Sunday, November 6 to honor Individual Augmentees (IA's) who have returned home after serving in the "Global War on Terrorism". The luncheon is scheduled for 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM at Shula's Hotel, 6842 Main Street, Miami Lakes, (www.donshulahotel.com). We expect to honor approximately 50 Navy reservists who drill at the Council's adopted unit, the Navy Operational Support Center – Miami (NOSC). Although these service members drill in Miami, they come from all over the eastern coast of the United States.

Please join in us in honoring these courageous Navy personnel and enjoy some of Shula's fine fare and beautiful surroundings. Send your check for \$30 per person before October 29th to Treasurer Tom Jones at 6201 SW 16th St. Plantation, FL 33317. Entrance will be \$35 at the door. (Every paid admittance will receive a \$25 coupon which is good for another dining experience at Shula's). We thank Shula's for helping to underwrite the cost of this event.

For those who may not be knowledgeable about Individual Augmentees (IAs), the following is provided: In contrast to a sailor who deploys with a ship, squadron or unit, sailors who leave their assigned units or commands to deploy individually or with a small group are known as Individual Augmentees. After the September 11, 2001 attacks and especially after the U.S. invasion of Iraq and buildup in Afghanistan, Individual Augmentee assignments increased dramatically. Initially, most of these assignments included Navy or Air Force personnel assigned to Army units to fill specialized roles that the Army had either trouble filling or had limited expertise in. Some IA's volunteer...others are assigned. Currently, there are approximately 12,000 Navy and Air Force personnel filling Army jobs in the United States, Iraq, Afghanistan, Cuba, and the Horn of Africa at any one time. Roughly, half of the deployed IAs are active duty and half are reservists. Most IAs are concentrated in the 20-nation U.S. Central Command region, which includes Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, and Bahrain. Basic combat skills training is conducted at an Army base before the IA deploys. However, it is generally thought that these sailors and airmen are placed in harm's way because they do not have the full training of Army personnel. Many IA's have gone above and beyond the call of duty supporting overseas contingency operations. Twenty (20) IA's have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us. IA's have received over 1,483 combat service awards and 19,272 Meritorious Service Awards.

These brave men and women deploy individually and return home individually preventing them from getting the welcome home celebration and recognition they deserve. Please join us at the luncheon to recognize their sacrifices.



FLEET WEEK PARTY

On September 14, 2011, those that volunteered during Fleet Week enjoyed the "Volunteer Party of the Year" sponsored by Broward Navy Days. The event was held at The Villages of Gulfstream Park and was attended by over 100 volunteers and sponsors. Guests checked in at the Playwright Irish Pub and were given wrist bands. They had time to visit participating restaurants and stores before returning to the Playwright for an after-party. The members who attended appreciated being recognized for the hours they spent volunteering their services as well as reuniting with acquaintances from Fleet Week. Many thanks to Mary Anne Gray and Broward Navy Days.

Council members enjoying the event were (from left to right) Shelly Stein, Joan Sefton, Mike Gordon, George Reeves, Peter Caspari and Alan Stein.



SLATE OF 2012 OFFICERS

President – Shelly Beck
First VP – Marianne Giambrone
Second VP – Charles Schmidt
VP, Legislative Affairs – Robert Marks
Secretary – Teresa Perez
Treasurer – Tom Jones
JAG – Frederick "Fritz" Heidgerd

Write-in candidates will be accepted by the secretary until October 31, 2011. The name of the proposed candidate and office for which they wish to be considered must be accompanied by 20 signatures of council members in good standing. Mail information to Secretary, BCNL, P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.

Elections will be held at the November dinner social. Members must be present to vote.

OPERATION HOMEFRONT

Huggies has created a limited-edition Little Movers camo diaper that will be distributed exclusively in Walmart stores across the country. Babies can be dressed for a cause and help support military families. Operation Homefront will get one diaper for every box of Huggies sold, up to 300,000 diapers. Walmart has joined in the excitement and has added a commitment of up to 200,000 diapers to be given to Operation Homefront as part of a postcard campaign; they will get one diaper for every postcard sent during the campaign, up to 200,000. With your help, up to 500,000 diapers can be donated to help military families. The campaign runs now through December 31, 2011 or until the goal of 500,000 free diapers for military families has been reached.

You do not have to buy the diapers to help - simply send an on-line postcard. For more details, go to www.huggiescamo.com.



MEMORIAM



*Randolph Joseph "RJ" Bieszczak
October 19, 1993 - August 21, 2011*

Randolph Joseph "RJ" Bieszczak spent the last 7 years as a member of the Spruance Division Sea Cadets where he participated in countless adventures, community service efforts, and technical trainings. As the Color Guard Commander, he participated in numerous formal ceremonies. RJ was a senior at Taravella High School and planned to join the Coast Guard after graduating.

In August, RJ died as a result of a tubing accident in a Coral Springs canal.

RJ was an organ donor and his organs were donated to four patients at the Miami Children's Hospital. He obviously was a very special young man and our condolences go out to his family and friends as well as to his Sea Cadet family.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to our new members!

Edward Cusnier and Rachel Cyrlak-Cusnier,
Aventura

David L. Enlow, Coral Springs

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CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

The following thank you email was sent to Ms. Wendie Karp, a neighbor of Shelly and Al Stein, who donated enough personal toiletries to fill up three flat rate boxes which were sent to Camp Bastion Hospital in Afghanistan.

Ms. Karp stepped up and supported our deployed military personnel – you can too. We need to continue this important project and the Council cannot afford to do so without your financial assistance. Your donation of items for the care packages or cash is deeply appreciated by these brave young men and women serving our country. Contact Al Stein at 33325alan33325@yahoo.com or 954-472-0285 or mail a check made payable to BCNL to P O Box 39252, Fort Lauderdale FL 33339.

Ms Wendie Karp,

I am writing to thank you for the boxes of toiletries that you've sent via Navy League of the United States Director, Alan Stein. I've just picked up the last box today.

I'm still in the process of sharing the 2nd box with my ship-mates, USMC, I hope you don't mind, I've been sharing with them with out United Kingdom military personnel in Camp Bastion Hospital as well. We are grateful for the time and effort that you've done to collect these goodies.

We are enjoying the various lovely scents and reminisce about the various places that they come from- Las Vegas and the spas are a hit (personally, I think that vanilla and coconut scents belong in the kitchen ;-)!

A little something about Camp Bastion and Hospital, it is near Camp Leatherneck- a USMC base, located in Helmand Province of Afghanistan. It is a very small hospital, but am darn proud that we can boast 95% survival rate . We treat all NATO forces including the local nationals. We are trying to win the Afghani hearts and minds but our priority will always be our Wounded Warriors and NATO forces. It is United Kingdom governed, we, the USN, USMC, and US Army are just a very small contingency here-i.e. very little American amenities.

There is a mini PX available at Camp Leatherneck which is a 10-15 minute walk from the hospital--just sells the bare minimum of necessities. The only western food that we get is from either the Dining Facility at Camp Leatherneck or the Pizza Hut located on base. The UK's main dishes contain: curry, curry, and curry. J--obviously, I'm not a fan of the spice. But all in all, our basic needs are met. The weather...hot, dusty, hot, dusty, and yes hot.

Again, we thank you for supporting us/our troops. The toiletries sent are quick scents of home, and we are appreciative and look forward to returning home safely.

*Thank you.
Respectfully,*

Mariflor M. Sumait CDR, NC, USN

The following are just two of the thank you emails the Council has received from military personnel who have received our care packages.

Hello there, I just wanted to let you know that we received over 50 packages the other day and I made sure that they made it to a good home. Here is a picture of two Marines that helped me organize. Thank you again.

*1stSgt Kevin Wiss
1/5 H&S Co*



Today is Thursday August 11th and your packages have just arrived! I was completely surprised by the seven boxes you had sent. Your generosity is overwhelming and greatly appreciated. You have placed one heck of a Navy smile on many faces today. With all the hard work everyone does here putting back together the injured Warriors its nice to be reminded of organizations like yours who are thinking of us back home.

I shall put together a short video of who and what we are at the Kandahar Hospital. My time is coming to a close here and I will be home in early September. Thanks for remembering those of us in the War Zone.

I have sent a copy of this message to the Commanding Officer of the Navy Operation and Support Center of Miami, LCDR Brett Bormann. He is well aware of the fine contributions the Broward County Navy League continues to provide for all our Sailors.

*Respectfully,
LCDR Risberg, USN
NATO Role 3, MMU*

ANOTHER THANK YOU

For those members who wonder why the Council feels so strongly about sending care packages to our deployed Marines, read the following letter. If it touches your heart even just a little, please consider sending a donation so that we can continue this most important program.

9 August 2011

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Stein -

As our deployment is well over halfway done, I wanted to drop you a quick line to redouble my efforts to thank you for all you've done for my company of Devil Dogs.

We finally got ~~a~~ washing machines for our clothes. You'd be surprised how fast we were going through socks; a washboard beats up cotton more than you'd expect. The (prewashed) socks you sent helped tie us over until now! I even have a pair in reserve for the trip home. I've also sent a large number of the ~~socks~~ socks received to the Marines of 3rd Platoon, Lima Company. They've spent most of the deployment in very austere conditions and suffered heavy casualties. Their platoon commander and platoon sergeant (who has been since killed) asked me to pass on thanks to you.

On a positive note, our casualties have been down lately. We've also been bringing the fight to the Taliban, killing a lot more than before. It's easy to keep the Marines focused when enemy casualties are significantly higher than on the Marine side.

As for the junior Marines, they'll spend most of their time focused on: 1) trying to figure out when we leave here 2) thinking about our Marine Corps Ball in November and 3) working out. Whether you know it or not, your

packages have helped to make life in rather spartan conditions much easier. For that, as their commanding officer, I thank you. Have a good rest of the summer.

Semper Par
Robert F. Fink III

SEPTEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



Florida Region President Bill Dudley and USCG Rear Admiral William D. Baumgartner



Navy League National President Dan Branch and Operation Homefront Florida Chapter President Simone Hoover



Palm Beach Council President Ken Lee with Dan Branch



Bill Dudley, Fort Lauderdale Council President Rudy Oetting and LCDR Alan Starr



Council members Bob Haab and Shelly Beck with Everglades Council President Tom Melville



Dan Branch and Council President George Reeves

SEA SERVICE NEWS



Numerous dignitaries, military personnel, contractors and their families attended Naval Hospital Jacksonville's five-year-\$60 million renovation grand opening ceremony on September 7, 2011. The modernization of the hospital improves patient care while reducing costs by blending current medical technologies with environmentally sustainable design. Upgraded areas include a pharmacy with robotics, six state-of-the-art operating rooms, physical & occupational therapy with aquatic treadmill to better care for wounded warriors, a breast care center along with many other additions. The final additions to the hospital, including a post anesthesia care unit, should be completed by early 2012.



The Navy began construction of the thirteenth Virginia-class submarine, the as of yet unnamed SSN 787 on September 2, 2011. This new construction marks the first time

in 22 years that two submarines of the same class have started construction in the same year. Virginia-class submarines are designed to conduct anti-submarine; anti-surface; strike; special operations; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; irregular warfare; and mine warfare missions. Their inherent stealth, endurance, firepower, and sensor suite directly enable them to support five of the six maritime strategy core capabilities - sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence.



On September 9, 2011, The Coast Guard awarded a contract for the production of the fifth National Security Cutter (NSC). The NSC is the most capable vessel of the Coast Guard's recapitalized surface fleet. It features robust

capabilities for maritime homeland security, law enforcement and national defense missions. Each NSC is 418 feet long with an operational range of 12,000 nautical miles, a top speed of 28 knots and a 60-day endurance. NSCs have a crew of 113 with berthing for up to 148 to accommodate additional personnel such as law enforcement detachments. These technologically advanced vessels also are the first Coast Guard cutters to feature both a helicopter flight deck and a small boat stern launch. The NSC's advanced command-and-control communications systems greatly improve its interoperability and information sharing with the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense and other operational partners. The Coast Guard plans to acquire eight NSCs. The lead cutter in the class, Bertholf, and the second NSC, Waesche, are fully operational (shown in photo).



Military and civilian officials along with ice hockey legend Mario Lemieux (second from right) gathered on September 7, 2011 to officially open a new playroom for children of wounded warriors

seeking treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Austin's Warrior Playroom, a bright, airy room stocked with toys, is located near the hospital in Tranquility Hall, a wounded warrior barracks designed to house outpatient service members injured in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families. The playroom offers children a fun and educational experience while their parents attend medical appointments and treatment sessions together. The playroom is a gift to wounded warriors from the Mario Lemieux Foundation, an organization dedicated to raising funds for cancer research and for hospital playrooms. Lemieux created the foundation in 1993 following his successful battle against Hodgkin's disease. He and his wife, Nathalie, later expanded the foundation's mission after their son, Austin, was born profoundly premature in 1996. While caring for Austin, they realized there wasn't a place to offer a calming environment for his sisters. The couple established the Austin's Playroom Project in 2000. The playroom here marks their 23rd room and their first in a military hospital.



The newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, the future USS Spruance (DDG 111), sailed away from the Bath Iron Works shipyard in Bath, Maine on September 1, 2011 on its maiden voyage to her

commissioning site in Key West before heading to her eventual homeport of San Diego, California. Spruance is a multi-mission guided-missile destroyer designed to operate in multi-threat air, surface and subsurface environments. The ship is equipped with the Navy's Aegis Combat System, the world's foremost integrated naval weapon system. The class provides outstanding combat capability and survivability characteristics while minimizing procurement and lifetime support costs due to the program's maturity. The DDG 51 program continues to reinforce affordability and efficiency with a commitment to deliver ships at the highest possible quality. Michael Murphy (DDG112) is currently under construction at Bath Iron Works and will deliver in fiscal year 2012. DDG 111 and DDG 112 are the last two ships in the Navy's initial production run of this class. DDG 113, to be built by Huntington Ingalls Industry in Pascagoula, Mississippi will be the first of the DDG 51 program continuation ships.

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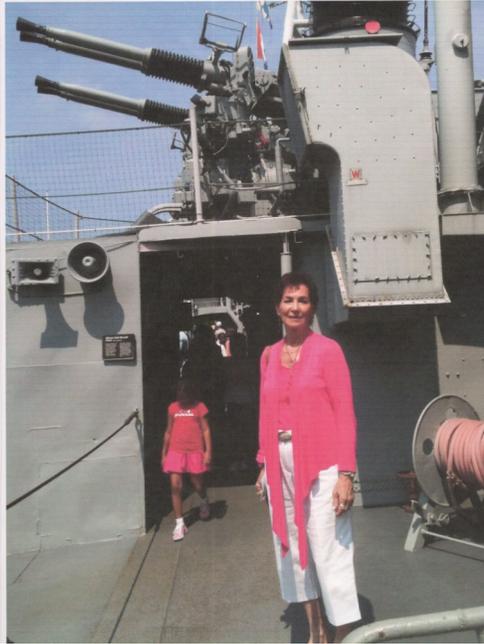
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VISIT TO USS CASSIN YOUNG



Board member Anita Carmell shared this photo from her visit to the USS Cassin Young DDG793 in Boston. Anita offered these comments:

“Having been fortunate to have the opportunity to go on numerous Navy ships as a member of the Broward County Council for many years, I realized what a stark contrast the Cassin Young is to the up-to-date ships of today. I found the tours to be an extremely fascinating experience. I was in the company of people who were not at all familiar with the Navy League and what our goals are, so this gave me the opportunity to inform and enlighten them, for which I take pride in doing.”

The USS Cassin Young was commissioned in December 1943. After serving in World War II, including the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the Battle of Okinawa, Cassin Young continued in active service until 1960. She is preserved today as a memorial ship, berthed at Boston Navy Yard across from the USS Constitution. The ship is maintained and staffed by the National Park Service and volunteers.

Thanks for sharing Anita!

RETURNING VETERAN



LCDR David Risberg USN was a recipient of the Council's care packages and was featured in an article in the last issue of The Helmsman. He has since returned home and attended the September dinner social.

He is shown here with Navy League National President Dan Branch and Council President George Reeves.

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
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