



Navy League of the United States

The Helmsman

Broward County, Florida Council, Inc.

Serving the Sea Services Since 1902

VOL. 24 ISSUE 2

Shelley Beck, President
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

FEBRUARY 2013

NAVY

MARINE CORPS

COAST GUARD

MERCHANT MARINE

FEBRUARY SOCIAL

USS LEYTE GULF VISIT

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2013

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Tropical Acres Restaurant
2500 Griffin Road
Fort Lauderdale

6:00 – 8:00 PM

PROGRAM:

CMDR DENNIS FARRELL
EXECUTIVE OFFICER (XO)
USS COLE (DDG67)

JOIN US IN WELCOMING THE CREW OF
THE USS LEYTE GULF (CG55)

and her

Commanding Officer, Captain Brian O'Donnell

at the

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

ALL HANDS RECEPTION

Choice of: Prime Rib of Beef or
Norwegian Salmon Fillet

BRINY RIVERFRONT RESTAURANT
305 South Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale
(Las Olas Riverfront on the New River)
www.brinyirishpubs.com/riverfront

Members and Guests - \$35.00
Active Military and Spouses: \$25.00

Two free drinks for crew members in uniform

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or before
February 8 by e-mailing bcnavyleague@yahoo.com
or calling Joan at 561-336-3610

Free buffet for all

The USS Cole was commissioned in Port Everglades on June 8, 1996 and is the adopted ship of Broward Navy Days.

Entertainment

Cmdr Farrell will be assuming command of the Cole on July 26, 2013.

Contact Erwin Sefton for more information
erwinsefton@bellsouth.net
(954) 868-2107

COME MEET THE CREW AND
SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Year, New Officers, New Adventures

Each year when we celebrate the New Year, it brings new excitement, new beginnings and new adventures for the Broward County Council Navy League. I am humbled and privileged to have been elected a second term to serve as your President. Throughout my career, I have been faced with many tasks and challenges. Through every situation, I rose to meet those challenges, and I am committed to doing the same as your President. On January 13, your newly elected officers were installed on-board the Ruby Princess by Captain Rick Kenin of the Coast Guard. I thank Capt. Kenin and his lovely wife, Sherri for joining us, and for his enlightening overview of the Coast Guard and volunteerism.

As we move ahead into 2013, it's important to remember our mission of the Navy League and to support our men and women serving this great country. One of our goals going forward will be to establish a working relationship with our military and to build a strong, long term partnership with those in our community.

Your board of directors recently met and are working together to provide our members with great opportunities for them to participate while members in this Council. As our plans are being finalized, we will keep you all informed either by email or your newsletter. We thank you for your support as members. If you have ideas or questions, don't hesitate to contact any one of the board members to discuss. We will all work together, in support of one another and for the benefit of the mission of the Navy League and the Broward County Council.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we all look forward to a prosperous New Year.

Shelley



IN MEMORIAM



Frederick C. Heidgerd (Fritz) passed away at his home in Boca Raton on January 1, 2013, surrounded by his family.

Fritz grew up in Boca Raton, attending local Saint Andrew's School followed by Salisbury School in Connecticut where he was Valedictorian and named All New England Football. He went on to graduate from Wake Forest University where he was a

Carswell Scholar, Member of Kappa Alpha Order and a Cum Laude graduate. He then attended University of Florida College of Law where he graduated on the Dean's List.

Fritz practiced law for 37 years in South Florida. As a devoted Christian, he was active in local churches. Always engaged in his community, he was active in Kiwanis Club among other local groups. Fritz loved his family, was an avid reader and runner and a dedicated Florida Gators and Demon Deacons sports fan.

Fritz fought a brave battle against melanoma. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Sarah (Beck) Heidgerd, his three children Rebecca Jean, Rachel Jane and Christian Alexander Heidgerd as well as his brother Dick Heidgerd.

Fritz served on the Council's Board of Directors as JAG for the past 2 years. He will be truly missed by his Navy League family.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members!

John Denzer of Fort Lauderdale

Jerry and Heidi Rosenthal of Fort Lauderdale

INSTALLATION OF 2013 COUNCIL OFFICERS

On Sunday, January 13, Council members and guests enjoyed great conversation, drinks and a superb lunch aboard the Ruby Princess.

The attendees first enjoyed drinks in a beautiful lounge where they had time to meet and chat with others. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets opened the ceremony by presenting the colors and Seafarers' House Chaplain Ron Perkins gave the benediction. Board member Alan Starr served as the event's MC and introduced guest speaker Captain Richard "Rick" Kenin. Captain Kenin gave the audience an overview of our Coast Guard's activities and acknowledged the important role of the Navy League, both at the national and local levels. He also talked about his personal connection to our Council. Captain Kenin then swore in the 2013 Council officers. Council President Shelley Beck took time to thank Tom and Sandra Jones for their years of devoted service to the Council (the Jones' will be moving out of state in the near future). The group then moved to the ship's beautiful dining room for a delicious 3 course lunch which included wine. Those guests who wished to see more of the ship were able to do so before disembarking.

A huge thank you goes to Princess Cruises for hosting our event. Thanks also to everyone who supported this major Council fundraiser.



Spruance Division Sea Cadets



Chaplain Ron Perkins



Captain Rick Kenin



Tom Jones, Shelley Beck and Sandra Jones



Shelley Beck with her parents Kenneth and Colene

INSTALLATION OF 2013 COUNCIL OFFICERS



Phyllis and Don Bannister with Don's sister Phyllis Abendschoen



Andrea Vaughan and Daniel Ben-Joseph



George Reeves, Tom Jones and Bob Giacini



Garry Murphy and Dottie Kirk



Glenn and Estella Wiltshire



Teresa Perez and Elenore Ross



Left: Julie and Tom Carney

Right: Captain Rick Kenin and his wife Sherry



COMMISSIONING



The next new Fast Response Cutter, the USCGC ROBERT YERED, will be commissioned on February 15 at Coast Guard Base Miami Beach. This vessel is named after Coast Guard Hero, Engine-

man First Class Robert J. Yered whose fearless actions set him apart as he stood duty in the explosive loading detail at the United States Army Terminal, Cat Lai, Vietnam, on February 18, 1968. In the early morning hours, the terminal at Cat Lai was attacked by enemy rocket, mortar and small arms fire. As the heavy rounds beat into the terminal, one of the rockets struck a barge carrying several hundred tons of mortar ammunition. The barge was quickly engulfed in flames and threatened to destroy three nearby ammunition ships carrying more than fifteen thousand tons of explosives. Engineman Yered courageously exposed himself to enemy gunfire as he helped extinguish fires on the burning barge. His bold act averted not only the destruction of his own ship but also that of the entire terminal. Yered's valorous character shone through many times throughout his career and he is one of 12 Coast Guardsmen awarded the Silver Star. Among his other awards are the Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze stars and a Purple Heart Medal.

DAY AT THE RACES



If you enjoy a day watching the horses run at the racetrack, you might consider attending the Fort Lauderdale Council's Navy League Day at the Races on Sunday, February 10. The event starts at 12:30 PM at Gulf-

Stream Racing & Casino Park at 901 S Federal Highway, Hallandale Beach. The following are included in the "Ten Palms Racing Package" at a cost of \$45: a sumptuous buffet luncheon at scenic trackside Ten Palms Restaurant; air-conditioned trackside reserved seating for the afternoon; one complimentary glass of wine per person; daily race day program for each attendee; and one \$2 betting voucher per person. Reservations/payment is due no later than February 5 to Lynn Drucker, 845 S Southlake Drive, Hollywood FL 33019. Checks should be made payable to NLUS Fort Lauderdale Council. Lynn can be contacted at 954-325-9102 or at lynn@druckermail.com.

FLEET WEEK



Broward Navy Days and its partner organizations, including our Council, met with Navy officials on January 15 at Port Everglades to begin preparations for Fleet Week 2013. This year's Fleet Week will run from April 29 through May 6 with 5—6 Navy and Coast Guard ships expected to visit South Florida. Many of the most popular events will be returning including the Damage Control Olympics, Celebrity Chef Luncheon, Salute to Veterans, Galley Wars, visits to local schools and hospitals and the Council's Junior Officers Party. A full schedule will be available in late February or early March.

Each year, more than 8,000 people, including school, church, scout and veterans groups, tour the visiting military ships in port for Fleet Week. Due to security restrictions, requests for tours must be made online in advance. It is anticipated that the online registration (on the Broward Navy Days website) will be available by the end of the month. Details will be provided as soon as they are finalized but be sure to get your request in early as tour slots fill quickly!

Fleet Week is successful because of the many volunteers who work tirelessly at the many events. Please consider donating your time this year; you will have a great time and our military men and women will appreciate your support. It is anticipated that volunteers will be able to register online. More information will be provided once details are finalized.

SEAPOWERS MAGAZINES

REMINDER

If you discard your *SeaPower* magazines after reading them each month, please consider saving them and "recycling" them to interested veterans. Bring them to the dinner social where Board member Dottie Kirk will be glad to take them from you. Dottie shares them with the many veterans that live in her complex.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Council's Board of Directors recently held a strategy meeting to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the Council in an effort to improve its operation. Many ideas for improvement as well as changes to existing procedures were discussed. One area of concern is that there are several key committees (i.e. retention, publicity, communication) without a director to lead it.

All members are invited to attend any of the Council's board meetings which are generally held the first Monday of each month at the Port Everglades Administration Building. February's meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, due to the visit of the USS Leyte Gulf. Due to security at the Port, please contact the Board prior to the meeting so proper arrangements can be made.

Future meetings are scheduled for March 4, April 1, May 6, and June 3.

In order for the Council to remain successful, all Council members are encouraged to become actively involved. If you would like to find out how you can help your Council, please contact the Board via the Council's email (bcnavyleague@yahoo.com).

COUNCIL CHALLENGE COIN



Did you know the Council has its own challenge coin?

According to Wikipedia, a challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. They are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In

addition, they are also collected by service members.

Group members are required to carry their coins with them at all times and be ready for any other member of the group to initiate a coin challenge. Challenges are generally initiated at a bar or restaurant. Once a coin challenge is initiated, the members of the group must display their coin to the other members. Failure to do so will result in those members having to buy the other members a round of drinks.

Coins are normally given to the recipient during a handshake, passing from the right hand of the giver to the right hand of the recipient.

If you are interested in purchasing a Council coin, they are \$10 each. Contact Joe Giambrone at any Council dinner meeting or email him at giambronejm@gmail.com.

NEWS FROM SEAFARERS' HOUSE



Seafarers' House Shoebox Christmas Program delivered packages to 1,345 visiting seafarers from 41 countries on board 73 ships in Port Everglades and the Port of Palm Beach. The majority of the crew members (43.2%) were from the Philippines. Board member Joe Giambrone served as the coordinator of the volunteers who delivered the packages. Several

Council members volunteered their time to take part in the deliveries.

Many of the mariners work for months aboard ships that take them away from their families. They put in long hours and often do not have opportunities to get off the ship. They were very appreciative to be remembered at Christmas and both the crewmembers and those volunteers who delivered the packages benefited from the experience.

It is hoped that more Council members will serve as volunteers for the Shoebox Christmas Program next year. If you are not physically able to deliver the shoeboxes, there are usually opportunities to wrap and fill the boxes.



The International Committee for Seafarers Welfare (ICSW) has awarded its Seafarers Centre of the Year 2012 Award to Seafarers' House in Port Everglades for the outstanding services they provide. The awards ceremony was a glittering event in the General Assembly at the UN's International Maritime Organization in London. Lesley Warrick (shown in photo with award), Executive Director of Seafarers' House, accepted

the honor at the ceremony. What makes a good seafarers center the best in the world? According to Lesley Warrick, two things certainly stand out at the Port Everglades Seafarers' House: knowing what seafarers want ("We work hard to foster an atmosphere that is respectful, caring and never patronizing,") and collaborating with partners to deliver what seafarers want ("Crew repeatedly tell us how friendly our team is and how they can find whatever they need in our centre.")

Seafarers' House accomplishment was acknowledged at a luncheon hosted in Fort Lauderdale by the Port Everglades Association, where Broward County Commissioner Chip LaMarca presented a resolution from the Broward County Board of County Commissioners. The accomplishment was also acknowledged at a reception held at cruise terminal 18 at Port Everglades on January 30.

Seafarers' House is the busiest such agency in the world, annually hosting more than 100,000 visits by cruise and cargo ship crewmembers.

CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

Recent newsletters have highlighted the generosity of several local organizations that have made donations for the Council's care package program.

Four of these organizations recently received an American flag, certificate and letter from the 2/7 Marines thanking them for their efforts. Below are copies of the documents received by Elizabeth Fulford of Captain Alexander Quarrier Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Other recipients were Trudy Sacco of Hollywood Academy of Arts and Science; Sue Griffin of the Fontenada Chapter of the DAR; and Lynn Asseff of the Major William Lauderdale Chapter of the DAR.

The Council would also like to thank these organizations for their generosity.



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
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 REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM 7
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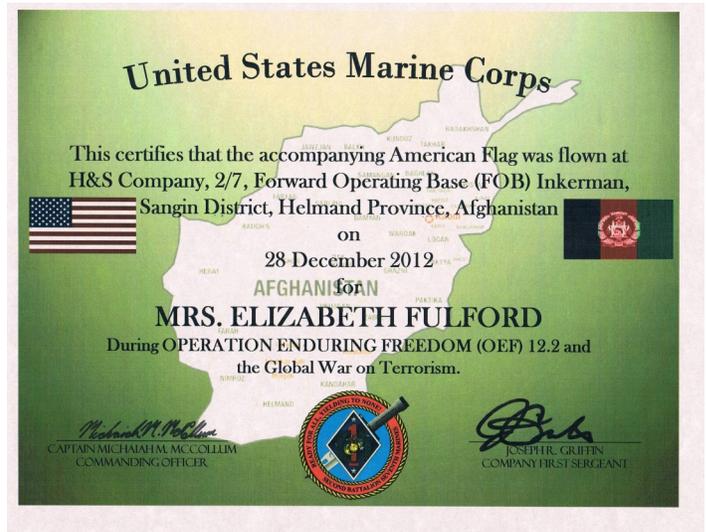
IN REPLY REFER TO:
 1000
 CO
 1 Jan 13

From: Commanding Officer, H&S Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
 To: Mrs. Elizabeth Fulford
 Captain Alexander Quarrier Chapter
 of the Daughters of the American Revolution
 1315 Citrus Isle
 Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

I would like to convey our sincere appreciation to you for your recent generosity and thoughtfulness. It was very kind of you to source and send the countless boxes filled gifts and letters to our Marines and sailors during the holiday season. Most of our Marines and sailors would not have received a care package had it not been for your gifts. We were truly touched by your generosity, your spirit, and willingness to go out of your way to help boost the morale and cheer of our Marines and sailors. You are true patriots. It is great to know there are Americans like you who take the time to support deployed troops. Thank you again for your commitment and support.

Semper Fidelis,

M. M. McCollum
 M. M. McCOLLUM



Below is photo of Shelly and Al Stein which was taken in November 2012 during their presentation to the Captain Alexander Quarrier Chapter of DAR. Also shown in the photo is Kathleen Allen, Regent of the Chapter.



SEA SERVICE NEWS



Coast Guard Cutter Dependable offloaded 1,210 pounds of cocaine with an estimated wholesale value of more than \$14 million to Homeland Security Investigations in Key West in mid-January. An MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew from Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) Jacksonville deployed with the Coast Guard Cutter Forward (shown in photo), noticed two suspicious vessels detected in the vicinity of Guanaja, Honduras. The cutter Forward and Coast Guard Cutter Confidence were diverted and launched their two small boat crews to stop and board the go-fast vessels. During the pursuit, the aircraft crew observed a go-fast crewmember jettison multiple packages in the water. The HITRON helicopter employed warning shots and disabling fire to compel the vessels to stop. The Forward and Confidence small boat crews subsequently arrived on scene, boarded the two vessels, and detained eight suspected smugglers. The 22 packages were recovered from the water and later tested positive for cocaine.



The USS Guardian, a Navy mine-sweeper that is based in Japan, crashed into a Philippine reef before dawn on January 17

while on its way to Indonesia after making a rest and refueling stop in Subic Bay, a former American naval base west of Manila. All of its 79 officers and crew were transferred to two other U.S. vessels the following day for safety reasons as the 74-yard long, 1,300-ton ship was unable to maneuver on its own and buffeted by strong winds and waves. The ship is hard aground about 30 meters from the edge of the reef, a marine sanctuary that is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. On January 24, it was reported that the minesweeper was damaged and taking on water and would have to be lifted off the rocks in an operation that could last a week or two. An investigation will look into all the factors that may have led to the grounding, including a reported faulty digital chart, sea conditions, weather and the state of the ship's navigational equipment. The Philippine government said it wants to fine the Navy for the damage and illegal entry into the marine sanctuary. The Navy said that after the ship is removed, the damage to the reef would be assessed and the two governments, which have close military and political ties, will discuss any claims.



A Marine and a sailor serving with 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion received the Bronze Star with combat distinguishing device during a ceremony at Camp Pendleton on January 23. Sergeant Thaddeus Herber, an infantryman, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Mark Connolly, a corpsman, received the Bronze Star from Maj. Gen. Ronald Bailey, the commanding general of 1st Marine Division, for their actions in Helmand province, Afghanistan in 2011. Herber, a native of New Braunfels, Texas, and his squad of Marines were ambushed by small-arms fire. He led two Marines forward into a ditch to return fire. A fellow Marine called over the radio and said that the enemy was shifting to return fire along the ditch. Immediately, Herber ordered the two Marines in his team to get out of the ditch and noticed a combat engineer had taken a gunshot wound to the thigh. Without hesitation, Herber applied a tourniquet to the Marine's leg and dragged him behind a wall to safety. In a separate incident, Connolly, a native of Corvallis, Montana, and his squad were on a patrol when they were also ambushed by small arms fire. During the firefight, a Marine received a gunshot wound to the leg. Connolly applied medical aid to the wounded Marine as bullets impacted the ground around him. The Bronze Star is the fourth-highest combat decoration in the United States military. It is awarded with a combat distinguishing device for acts of valor in a combat zone.

for their role in rescue operations that took place as a civilian diver was in distress in base waters on January 20. "Upon surfacing, the civilian diver realized there was weakness and tingling in the arms with a headache and nausea," said NS Guantanamo Bay Unlimited Diving Supervisor Navy Diver 1st Class Christopher Kerr. "The diver went to the emergency room at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay and was assessed by the doctors as having a diving disorder. The ER contacted the Duty Response Chamber Team and from there was evaluated by Chief Navy Diver Richard Bolen and was diagnosed with Decompression Sickness Type II." According to Kerr, without proper treatment, there was a high possibility of permanent loss of motor functions in the arms with a chance of numbness and areas of permanently decreased sensation possible.



Navy Divers at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals on January 23 for helping save a life. Commanding Officer Capt. J.R. Nettleton presented the awards to four Navy Divers

for their role in rescue operations that took place as a civilian diver was in distress in base waters on January 20. "Upon surfacing, the civilian diver realized there was weakness and tingling in the arms with a headache and nausea," said NS Guantanamo Bay Unlimited Diving Supervisor Navy Diver 1st Class Christopher Kerr. "The diver went to the emergency room at U.S. Naval Hospital Guantanamo Bay and was assessed by the doctors as having a diving disorder. The ER contacted the Duty Response Chamber Team and from there was evaluated by Chief Navy Diver Richard Bolen and was diagnosed with Decompression Sickness Type II." According to Kerr, without proper treatment, there was a high possibility of permanent loss of motor functions in the arms with a chance of numbness and areas of permanently decreased sensation possible.

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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Are you looking for a way to advertise your business at a reasonable cost?

Business card ads are available at a cost of \$125. The ad will appear in The Helmsman for one year (ten editions). If you would like to advertise your business or organization and provide financial support to the Council at the same time, contact Joe Giambrone at giambronejm@gmail.com or 954-389-0545.

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2013 COUNCIL OFFICERS



2013 Council Officers were sworn in on January 13, 2013.

From left to right:

Captain Rick Kenin, President Shelley Beck, Vice President Glenn Wiltshire, Vice President Erwin Sefton, Vice President Bob Marks, Secretary Teresa Perez and Treasurer Tom Carney

BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA COUNCIL, INC.
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
Post Office Box 39252
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33339-9252

