



# THE HELMSMAN

Publication of the Broward County Council–Navy League of the United States

Glenn Wiltshire, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

DECEMBER 2015  
Volume 26 Issue 10

[www.bcnayleague.org](http://www.bcnayleague.org)

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)

## DECEMBER COUNCIL EVENTS

**BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL  
and  
BROWARD NAVY DAYS INC**

**HONOR  
THE U S COAST GUARD  
USCG STATION FORT LAUDERDALE  
USCG AIDS TO NAVIGATION  
USCG AIR STATION MIAMI  
USCG TACLET SOUTH  
USCGC GANNET WPB 87334  
USCGC ROBERT YERED WPC 1104  
USCGC RICHARD ETHERIDGE WPC  
1102**

**WITH A HOLIDAY PARTY AT  
BRINY RIVERFRONT RESTAURANT  
305 SOUTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
(Las Olas Riverfront on the New River)**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015  
6:00—8:00 pm**

**TWO FREE DRINKS FOR COAST  
GUARD PERSONNEL & THEIR  
SPOUSE/GUEST**

**FREE BUFFET FOR ALL**

**Broward County Council  
and  
Fort Lauderdale Councils**

**Invite you to join us for a  
Holiday dinner social on**

**Wednesday, December 16, 2015  
6:00—7:00 PM Cash Bar  
7:00 PM—Dinner and Meeting**

**Guest Speaker: Lt Mark Ketchum  
Commanding Officer  
Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale**

**Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
2800 Yacht Club Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale**

**\$40 per person  
Checks should be made payable to  
Fort Lauderdale Council NLUS**

**Toys for Tots!  
Please bring an unwrapped toy!**

**Please RSVP before 9AM on December 12  
by calling 954-565-6778  
No admittance without reservation!**

**Seasons  
Greetings**



# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As we get closer to the end of another year, I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Thanks to all who were able to attend our November Council dinner meeting on Thursday, November 12th, at Tropical Acres that featured LT Earl Potter, Commanding Officer of our adopted Fast Response Cutter USCGC ROBERT YERED as the guest speaker along with a number of his crew attending. LT Potter spoke about the cutter's recent deployment to the Caribbean and showed slides of the crew training members from multiple Central American countries and a successful drug interdiction during their extended cruise away from home. We were able to present two Enlisted Person of the Quarter awards to YERED crewmembers who were recognized for their accomplishments. We also held our annual officer elections at the meeting, and my congratulations and thanks to all of this year's officers who were elected for another term in 2016!

December will also be a busy month, with the Council hosting our annual Coast Guard Unit Holiday Party at Briny's on Friday, December 4th at 6 PM. This year, both the Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days will be co-sponsoring the event with us, so we hope to have a great turnout to thank the Coast Guard men and women and their guests for their service to our country. Council members will also be participating at the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony on Sunday, December 6th at 2 PM at the Coast Guard Station. Our December dinner meeting will be held jointly with the Fort Lauderdale Council on Wednesday, December 16th at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The guest speaker will be LT Mark Ketchum from Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Don't forget to bring an unwrapped toy donation for the Toys for Tot's program. Looking ahead to January, we will be holding our Installation of Officers Luncheon aboard the REGAL PRINCESS on Sunday, January 10th. Our thanks to Princess Cruises for once again donating the lunch, which allows us to use the proceeds from the luncheon to support our adopted unit and youth programs. We're hoping for a great turnout to enjoy a great lunch aboard the newest ship in the Princess fleet!

January also marks the beginning of planning meetings for Fleet Week 2016, with four US Navy ship and one or two Coast Guard cutters expected to participate from May 2-May 9, 2016. The "fleet" will be led by our own adopted unit the USS BATAAN, which we haven't seen in Port Everglades in many years. Once again, our Council members will be filling key leadership roles on the Broward Navy

Days planning team. Come on out to the planning meetings scheduled for January 13th, February 24th, and March 23rd at 9 AM in the Port Everglades Administration Building Auditorium if you want to be involved as well. Our Council will also be selling soda and water during Fleet Week and we'll need to identify volunteers to help with that as the date gets closer.

As noted previously, we are in the process of adopting two additional Coast Guard units: Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale, led by LT Mark Ketchum; and Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team South in Opa Locka, led by CDR Michael Freddie. We will be setting up adoption ceremonies for both at their units after the holidays, and will let you know when those are confirmed.

Hope you see you at one or more of our December events, but if not I wish all of our members and their families a Happy Holidays! As always, please feel free to contact me at 718-619-7402 or at wiltbrit@aol.com if you have any ideas on what our Council should be doing to make your membership more valuable to you.

Glenn Wiltshire  
CAPT, US Coast Guard Retired  
Broward County Council President



## **TOYS FOR TOTS**

Please note that we are asking all members that are attending the December 16th dinner social to bring a new toy (or two) for Toys for Tots. Your kindness will put a smile on a young child's face this holiday season. Toys for Tots began as a Los Angeles charitable effort in 1947 and in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched as a national campaign. Until 1979, Marine reservists and volunteers would collect and refurbish used toys. In 1980, only new toys were accepted, as reservists were no longer able to dedicate drill hours to refurbish toys as well as legal concerns and the mixed message of giving hand-me-downs as a message of hope. In 1991, the Secretary of Defense authorized the creation and affiliation with the non-profit charity foundation. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve.

# INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS

We hope you will come aboard the Regal Princess on Sunday, January 10, 2016, where you will enjoy cocktails in one of the ship's lounges. Our guest speaker is not yet confirmed but they will make a few remarks and then swear in our 2016 officers. The group will then head to one of the ship's beautiful dining rooms where we will enjoy a 3 course meal with wine. You will have time to explore the ship on your own before disembarking.

This is truly a special event in a beautiful atmosphere and is also one of the Council's major fundraisers. We hope you will plan on attending and bringing along family and/or friends.



Navy League of the United States  
Broward County Florida Council

Cordially invites you to join us for the  
Installation of Officers for 2016  
aboard the Regal Princess  
Port Everglades, Florida  
on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 11:30 AM

Guest Speaker: To Be Announced

The following officers will be installed:

President – Glenn Wiltshire  
First Vice President – Erwin Sefton  
Second Vice President – Marianne Giambrone  
VP Legislative Affairs – Robert “Bob” Marks  
Secretary – Shelley Beck  
Treasurer: Thomas “Tom” Carney

Boarding begins at approximately 10:30 AM  
followed by Installation and Luncheon  
\$35 per person

Please return security information\* along  
with your check no later  
than December 31, 2015

(reservations CANNOT be guaranteed  
after this date)

\*The following information is required for each  
guest attending the event:

*Full Name*  
*Date of Birth*  
*Drivers License (and State of Issue) or Passport Number*

Please make your check payable to BCNL and  
mail your payment (\$35 per person) along with the  
required security information no later than  
December 31, 2015 to:

Marianne Giambrone  
1546 Barcelona Way  
Weston FL 33327

## **FLIGHT 19 MEMORIAL**

On December 5, 1945 at 2:10 p.m., five U.S. Navy Avenger torpedo-bombers comprising Flight 19 take off from the Ft. Lauderdale Naval Air Station in Florida on a routine three-hour training mission. Flight 19 was scheduled to take them due east for 120 miles, north for 73 miles, and then back over a final 120-mile leg that would return them to the naval base. They never returned. Each year, a memorial ceremony is held at Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale. The public is invited to attend.

70th Anniversary of Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony

Saturday, December 5, 2015 at 1:00pm

Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum building  
400 West Perimeter Road Fort Lauderdale

Refreshments to follow

## **PEARL HARBOR DAY**

One of the most moving annual events hosted by Broward Navy Days is the Pearl Harbor memorial service held at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. As the number of survivors continues to dwindle, Broward Navy Days is dedicated to preserving the memory of the infamous attack that catapulted the United States into World War II.

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the American Army and Navy base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was attacked by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The attack came as a surprise and led to great losses of life and equipment. More than 2,000 American citizens were killed and more than 1,000 were injured. The Americans also lost a large proportion of their battle ships and nearly 200 aircraft that were stationed in the Pacific region. The Japanese military had hoped that the attack on Pearl Harbor would prevent the United States from increasing her influence in the Pacific. However, the events in Pearl Harbor actually led to the escalation of World War II. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan and so entered World War II.

This year's memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 6 at 2 PM at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. The public is invited to attend.

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

This holiday season, the Council was pleased to become a wreath sponsor and purchase 10 wreaths as part of the Wreaths Across America program. The Lighthouse Point Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution partnered with Wreaths Across America™ to place a wreath on the graves of veterans at the Pompano Beach Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America honors our veterans and their families who show unwavering commitment and love in their sacrifice for our nation and we agree there is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. This year's Remembrance Ceremony will be held on December 12, 2015 at 12pm at Pompano Beach Cemetery, 400 SE 23rd Avenue, Pompano Beach. Volunteers will place the wreaths we purchased on the grave of one of our service members.

If you would like to help, it's simple. Your gift of \$15 equals a wreath that will be placed on the grave of a fallen hero. Visit [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org) to get more information and to purchase wreaths on-line.

## **FLEET WEEK**

Broward Navy Days has already begun to receive inquiries about public ship tours during Fleet Week Port Everglades 2016. They are still waiting on confirmation of the visiting ships to determine capacity and they anticipate that online registrations will begin in mid-March. Slots will again be set aside for school, scout and church groups. If you haven't signed up for their email list already, that is the best way to get the earliest notification when registration is opened. Information will also be shared via the Council's email and website.

Visit their website at: [browardnavydaysinc.org](http://browardnavydaysinc.org).

There will be 3 important Fleet Week planning meetings held with Navy and Coast Guard officials as well as groups/individuals who will be participating in various events. Navy Leaguers are invited to attend these meetings which will be held at the Port Administration Building beginning at 9AM:

Wednesday, January 13

Wednesday, February 24

Wednesday, March 23

# NOVEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

On November 12, 2015, the Council hosted a dinner social at Tropical Acres Restaurant. The guest speaker was Lt. Earl H. Potter, Commanding Officer of the ship's adopted ship, USCGC Robert Yered.

During the event, Council President Glenn Wiltshire presented a Certificate of Achievement and monetary award to Enlisted Persons of the Quarter DC2 Ryan Koch and MK3 Tristan Dillmeier.



Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Council members



Lt Potter with President Glenn Wiltshire



DC2 Ryan Koch (center) with President Glenn Wiltshire and Executive Officer LTJG Brandon Belveal



LTJG Jessica Shafer (Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale) with her husband (far left) and members of Broward County Council



MK3 Tristan Dillmeier (2nd from right) with his family and President Glenn Wiltshire and Executive Officer LTJG Brandon Belveal

## USCGC ROBERT YERED

In early November, crew from the Council's adopted ship Coast Guard Cutter Robert Yered attended the culmination dinner for Chief's Call to Indoctrination (CCTI). FSC Preston Persaud went through CCTI for six weeks at Fort Pierce with ENS Taylor Tennyson as his Junior Officer partner. FSC Persaud was officially "indoctrinated" to the Chief's Mess at the dinner.

Thanks to Executive Officer LTJG Brandon Belveal for sharing the photo.



From left to right: MKC Rob Farmer, ENS Taylor Tennyson, FSC Preston Persaud, LTJG Brandon Belveal.

The purpose of Chief's Call to Indoctrination (CCTI) is to prepare Prospective Chief Petty Officers (PCPO) to perform their roles and responsibilities as a chief petty officer. This event also recognizes the achievement of a significant career milestone. CCTI reinforces the responsibility of all Chiefs as leaders and mentors. The lessons learned and/or reinforced at CCTI include (a) a formal introduction to the command and other chief petty officers; (b) Coast Guard core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty and relating these values to the chief petty officer community; (c) Coast Guard history and traditions; (d) teamwork and accountability; (e) effective communication.



## USS RAFAEL PERALTA



First in English, then in Spanish, the mother of a fallen Marine who shielded his comrades from an insurgent's grenade christened a new Navy destroyer in his honor. Hundreds gathered to watch the christening on October 31 of the USS Rafael Peralta DDG 115, constructed at Bath Iron Works. Peralta, who immigrated to the United States

from Mexico City as a child, enlisted in the Marines on the same day he earned his green card, according to U.S. Navy officials. He is believed to be the first serviceman born in Mexico to have a naval warship named in his honor. Peralta was denied the Medal of Honor but awarded the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest award for valor, after former Defense Secretary Robert Gates ruled the Marine lost consciousness after he was mortally wounded and his body smothered a grenade in Iraq in 2004, saving other lives. Naming the 510-foot guided-missile destroyer in the fallen Marine's honor has eased some of the bitterness, Peralta's family said. The DDG 115 is the 35th Arleigh Burke class missile destroyer that Bath Iron Works employees have built. It is the 65th ship of its class. Bath Iron Works celebrated Peralta's heritage by printing Saturday's program in English and Spanish, a first for such an event.



# SEA SERVICE NEWS



Coast Guardsmen on the Coast Guard Cutter Bernard C. Webber offloaded approximately 515 kilograms of cocaine worth an estimated wholesale value of \$17 million

which was interdicted in the Caribbean Sea as part of Operation Caribbean Venture. On November 15, a Joint Interagency Task Force South maritime patrol aircraft located a suspicious go-fast vessel with multiple packages aboard southeast of Isla Beata, Dominican Republic. The HNLMS Friesland, an off-shore patrol vessel from the Royal Netherlands Navy, responded to the report and interdicted the vessel with four suspected smugglers and suspicious packages on deck. A U.S. Coast Guard law enforcement detachment team deployed aboard the Friesland subsequently boarded the go-fast vessel and recovered 22 packages that tested positive for cocaine. The four suspected smugglers were transferred to U.S. authorities for prosecution. The Friesland transferred the suspects and contraband to the Coast Guard Cutter Bernard C. Webber who was returning home from a successful counterdrug patrol off of Puerto Rico in support of Operation Unified Resolve. The Coast Guard Cutter Bernard C. Webber is 154-foot Fast Response Cutter homeported in Miami.



On November 19, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Arlington (LPD 24) hosted distinguished visitors in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan during a reception in port Aqaba,

Jordan. Among the visitors was U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Alice G. Wells, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Vice Adm. Kevin M. Donagan, and Commander, Royal Jordanian Navy Brig. Gen. Qasem Fadeel Nahar Tanashat. During the reception, guests met members of the ship's crew and observed as a landing craft air cushion (LCAC) conducted demonstrations alongside the ship. Arlington's commanding officer, Capt. Sean R. Bailey, said he was honored to show off his ship's capabilities and people. "The United States shares a special relationship with Jordan, and they are a key strategic partner in the Middle East," Bailey said.



Service members came together from November 16-19 to participate in two joint

service events as part of Warrior Care Month. The first event was the Joint Service Wheelchair Rugby Exhibition hosted at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The second event was the Joint Service Sitting Volleyball Tournament hosted at the Pentagon. Warrior Care Month was established in November 2010 to help wounded, ill or injured service members heal and return to the fight. Attendees at the events included Marine Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Special Operations Command service members. The Joint Service Wheelchair Rugby Exhibition provided a unique opportunity for the wounded, ill or injured service members to take part in a full contact sport, while the Joint Service Sitting Volleyball Tournament gave the athletes a chance to compete against each other. The Wheelchair Rugby Exhibition match marked the first time wounded service members in the American military were able to participate in a full contact sport.



Los Angeles will begin hosting U.S. Navy vessels in an annual Fleet Week starting next year. Mayor Eric Garcetti and Navy

officials announced the plan on November 23 aboard the USS Iowa, a retired World War II-era battleship that is now on display in the Port of Los Angeles. Officials intend to make Los Angeles Fleet Week an end-of-summer tradition featuring active military ships in the days leading up to and through each Labor Day.

# NOVEMBER EVENT



Several Council members attended Fort Lauderdale Council's November 18th dinner meeting at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The guest speaker was Brigadier General Eric M. Smith, who assumed duties as Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South on June 29, 2015 where he serves as the Marine service component commander responsible to the Commander U.S. Southern Command for all Marine activities across Central and South America and the Caribbean.

In photo with Brigadier General Smith are Council President Glenn Wiltshire and Council Secretary Shelley Beck.

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

