

# THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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## MARCH DINNER

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Tropical Acres Restaurant  
2500 Griffin Road, Fort Lauderdale

### PROGRAM:

Captain Megan Dean  
Sector Commander  
Coast Guard Sector Miami

We'll be honoring all new Council members

Cocktail hour 6:30pm Dinner 7:15 pm

### Choice of:

Prime Rib of Beef or Salmon

Members and Guests - \$35

Active Military and Spouses: \$25

Please RSVP your dinner choice on or  
before March 8 by e-mailing  
[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com) or  
calling Joan at 561-336-3610



## GUEST SPEAKER



Captain Megan Dean  
Sector Commander  
Coast Guard Sector Miami

As Sector Commander, Captain Megan Dean serves as Captain of the Port, Officer in Charge of Marine Inspection, Search and Rescue Mission Coordinator, Federal Maritime Security Coordinator and Federal On Scene Coordinator while directing Coast Guard operations along a 182 mile stretch of Southeast Florida from Sebastian Inlet, to the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line.

Captain Dean reported to Sector Miami following completion of a National Security Fellowship at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Other assignments include Deputy Sector Commander at Sector Baltimore, Military Aide to the Secretary of Homeland Security and Commanding Officer of USCGC WALNUT, in Honolulu, Hawaii. Captain Dean is a 1993 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Government. She also holds a Masters in Public Administration from The George Washington University.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The partial government shutdown is now over-what a relief! Although it was a stressful month with employees not being paid, the American public rallied to their aide regardless of any party affiliation. The Coast Guard is part of Homeland Security; therefore, they did not receive paychecks although they continued to serve our country. The Broward County Navy League has adopted locally four Coast Guard Cutters and four units and so the impact of the shutdown became personal for us as we know so many officers and crew. In our effort to support the Coast Guard, our council purchased gas gift cards. Thanks to all those who sent in checks to help with the purchase. Also, board member, Joe Giambone was instrumental in having Omaha Steaks donate 8,000 meals to major Coast Guard installations around the country including South Florida. Thanks Joe and Omaha Steaks!

Commander Robby Trotter was the featured speaker at the Installation of Officers luncheon aboard the Royal Princess. We will see Commander Trotter more this year as preparations for the commissioning of the destroyer, Paul Ignatius, will take place in Port Everglades in July. With his busy schedule and huge responsibility as Commanding Officer of the Ignatius and the upcoming commissioning, we are grateful he could join us for the afternoon. Also we are thankful to Princess Cruise Lines for sharing one of their spectacular ships for our Installation.

Preparations are being made for the 29th Fleet Week – April 29 to May 6. Five Navy ships plus Coast Guard will be in port for tour and community activities. Navy Band Southeast alone has over a dozen local performances planned. Come out and meet those serving in our sea services-Navy, Coast Guard and Marines.

And, finally, a reminder of our upcoming dinner meeting on March 14th at Tropical Acres. We are looking forward to our speaker, Captain Megan Dean, Sector Commander for Coast Guard Sector Miami. I am sure this will be a most interesting meeting and one you will not want to miss.

Again, thanks to all who helped support the Coast Guard during the shutdown and I hope to see you at our March 14th dinner meeting

Larry M. Ott  
Council President



# USCGC FORWARD

Council Board Member Erwin Sefton visited the USCGC Forward (WMEC911) when they arrived at Port Everglades on Sunday, February 3. The cutter was here for a press conference involving the Coast Guard Commandant's announcement on February 5 about the recent drug seizures. The Forward had been on deployment since Christmas and were ready to relax and watch the Super Bowl. They reached out to Board Member Senior Chief Alan Starr who was able to arrange the use of nearby VFW Post 1966.



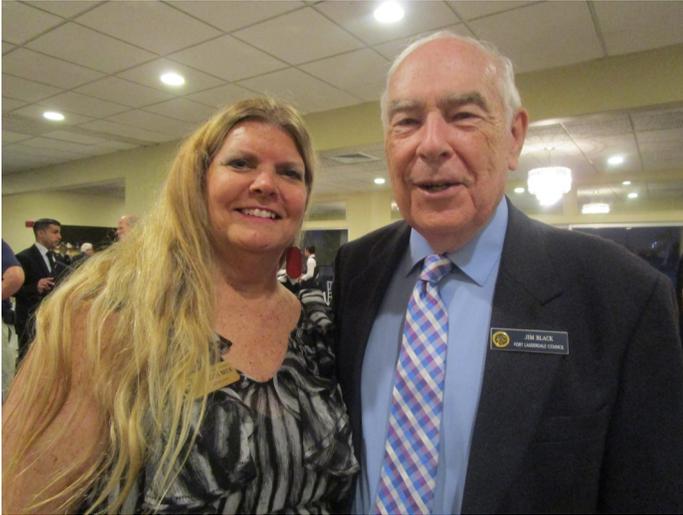
Chief Warrant Officer Shawn Tolson with Erwin



The USCGC Forward had pallets of confiscated drugs on the helo deck, waiting to be unloaded

# FEBRUARY DINNER

On February 20, our Council joined Fort Lauderdale Council for a dinner at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The guest speaker was Captain Michael E. Platt, USCG, Commanding Officer of our adopted unit, USCG Air Station Miami. Captain Platt gave a very moving talk about a major injury he recently received and how he has recovered. He also spoke about past experiences in the Coast Guard. The Spruance Division Sea Cadets presented the colors.



Shelley Beck and Jim Black



Council President Larry Ott, Captain Platt and Abby Montes, Fort Lauderdale Council President (photo provided by Oscar Romano)



Janelle Thunhorst and CPO Roderick Hanson from Air Station Miami



Joanne and Tom Melville with National Treasurer Joe Giambrone



Sпруанс Division Sea Cadets presented colors

# USCGC MARGARET NORVELL

COAST GUARD NEWS RELEASE  
dated January 31, 2019

On February 19, Past President Glenn Wiltshire visited our adopted unit USCGC Margaret Norvell. Glenn recognized the achievements of their Enlisted Person of the Quarter CS3 Taylor Littler as well as their Enlisted Person of the Year MK1 Shawn Durgin. The cutter recently returned from a successful patrol in Puerto Rico (see excerpt from January 31<sup>st</sup> Coast Guard news release). Glenn and LT Chris O'Meara, Commanding Officer, are in both photos which were provided by Glenn.



Above— CS3 Taylor Littler

Below—MK1 Shawn Durgin



SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Margaret Norvell (WPC-1105) offloaded 200 pounds of cocaine Wednesday evening and transferred custody of four suspected smugglers to U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agents in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico. Coast Guard and Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG) law enforcement authorities seized the \$3 million dollar cocaine shipment and apprehended the suspected smugglers, following the interdiction of a go-fast vessel Tuesday night in waters north of Arecibo, Puerto Rico. This interdiction is the result of ongoing multi-agency law enforcement efforts in support of Operation Caribbean Guard, the Caribbean Border Interagency Group and the Caribbean Corridor Strike Force (CCSF). The suspected smugglers are Dominican nationals, who are facing likely federal prosecution by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Puerto Rico.

While on a routine patrol, the crew of a HC-144 Ocean Sentry aircraft from Air Station Miami detected a suspicious go-fast vessel late Tuesday night transiting with four people onboard, approximately 20 nautical miles north of Isabela, Puerto Rico. The go-fast was transiting southeast without the use of navigational lights. Coast Guard Watchstanders in Sector San Juan alerted CBIG partner agencies, launched a MH-65 Dolphin helicopter to provide air support and diverted the Coast Guard Cutter Margaret Norvell to interdict the gofast. The crew of a Puerto Rico Police Department FURA marine unit also responded and supported the interdiction. Throughout the pursuit, the Coast Guard aircrews vectored-in the cutter Margaret Norvell to the go-fast's position. Once on scene, the Norvell's crew launched the cutter's Over the Horizon Boat IV that closed-in and interdicted the suspect vessel. During the pursuit, the HC-144 Ocean Sentry crew observed multiple bales jettisoned into the water from the go-fast. The Coast Guard helicopter also vectored-in the crew of the Puerto Rico Police Department marine unit to the area of the jettisoned cargo, where the crew recovered three bales with 200 pounds of cocaine. The Norvell crew embarked the suspected smugglers along with the seized contraband.

The go-fast was destroyed as a hazard to navigation. The detainees and seized contraband were transferred to the custody of DEA Special Agents assigned to CCSF, who are leading the investigation into this case.

# USS PAUL IGNATIUS

For the 31st time, Ingalls Shipbuilding has handed the Navy a new Arleigh Burke-class Aegis destroyer, the Paul Ignatius (DDG 117). With the Ignatius crew looking on, Ingalls and Navy representatives signed the DD 250 documents which officially transfer ownership of DDG 117 to the Navy during shipboard ceremony Friday morning (February 22) at the Pascagoula shipyard. Speaking on behalf of the thousands of Ingalls employees who worked on DDG 117, DDG program manager George Nungesser noted that the Ingalls motto of "What you do today matters" aligns well with the new ship's motto of "Always ready, fight on."

The ship is named in honor of former Secretary of the Navy and Assistant Secretary of Defense Paul Ignatius.

In his remarks, Cmdr. Robbie Trotter, the Ignatius' prospective commanding officer, noted Ignatius was in poor health and unable to attend Friday's ceremony, adding that he would be traveling to visit Ignatius next month. "To the families and crew that eagerly awaits to bring this ship to life, this amazing masterpiece we call Paul Ignatius, I could not have prayed for a better crew, to humbly lead and proudly serve," Trotter said. "I want to thank all of you from the bottom of my heart." He closed his remarks by leading the crew in their chant "Be the best," then asked them to repeat it in honor of the late Nancy Ignatius, Paul Ignatius' wife and ship sponsor who died last month at the age of 93.

Fabrication on the Ignatius began in October 2015. Keel authentication was done in October 2015 and the ship was launched in November 2016. The ship was christened in April 2017, with both Paul and Nancy Ignatius in attendance. (excerpt of article and photo from Mississippi Press GulfLive.com)



Signing the official documents transferring ownership are (left to right): Cmdr. Robbie Trotter, Ignatius prospective commanding officer; Cmdr. Robbie Williams, DDG 51 program manager representative; and Ingalls' Donny Dorsey, DDG Ship Program Manager.

# MEMBER PORTAL

All Navy League members are urged to register for the Navy League Portal and become familiar with the resources that are available. You can access the portal at [portal.navyleague.org](http://portal.navyleague.org) where you will need to create a user name and password.

While you may not be interested in some of the resources available there, the Portal will make it convenient for you to renew your membership, update your personal information and view the list of member benefits (not available on the Navy League website). National has worked hard to team up with many companies to offer discounts to its members.

# BUSINESS CARD ADS

Do you own your own business or know someone that does? Please consider supporting the Council by placing a business card ad in the Council's newsletter, the Helmsman. For \$125, your ad will appear in the newsletter for an entire year (normally 10 issues). The Helmsman is sent out to more than 300 people including local politicians, military personnel and other military-related organizations.

For more information, please contact Marianne Giambrone at [browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com).

Larry M. Ott  
Funeral Director

**Kraeer-Fairchild  
Funeral Home  
and Cremation Center**

4061 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-565-5591  
Fax 954-565-7899  
[larry.ott@sci-us.com](mailto:larry.ott@sci-us.com)



**BCNL Member  
Discount with  
this ad**

# SEA SERVICE NEWS



On Saturday, February 16, members from Station Fort Lauderdale, Aids to Navigation Fort Lauderdale, and Coast Guard Auxiliary members attended a

local Scouts BSA Scoutmasters event with more than 3,000 scouts in attendance. Throughout the day, they discussed boating safety, provided tours of a 26-foot TANB (Trailerable Aids to Navigation Boat), and gave an insight into their duties and missions they carry out each day to keep Southeast Florida ports safe. (from US Sector Miami Facebook page)



Nearly 200 injured U.S. Marines, veterans and international wounded warrior athletes are set to converge on Camp Pendleton to compete in a slew of different sports

during the ninth annual Marine Corps Trials Feb. 26 to March 9. The competitions include archery, cycling, rowing, shooting, power lifting, sitting volleyball and swimming along with track and field, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. (story and photo from American Military News)



Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic announced its fiscal year 2018 Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year (SOY) during a ceremony held on February 1 at the

Vista Point Conference Center on Naval Station Norfolk. Petty Officer First Class Reynaldo Eugenio, USS Bataan LHD 5 (shown in photo on far left), was selected as the Sea SOY and Petty Officer First Class Steffi Gutierrezlara, Surface Squadron 14 (SURFRON 14), was selected as the Shore SOY. Twelve Sailors competed and participated in boards, leadership events and luncheons. Eugenio and Gutierrezlara will now partici-

pate in the U.S. Fleet Forces Command SOY competition. The winner of that competition will be meritoriously promoted to the rank of chief petty officer and then compete at the Chief of Naval Operations SOY level. (story and photo from USS Bataan Facebook page)



On February 22, a Sailor assigned to Naval Hospital Pensacola was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action during a 2011 deployment. In October 2011, Hospital

Corpsman 2nd Class Steven Martin was a young hospitalman who had been deployed for only two weeks to Afghanistan when he suffered two concussions within 72 hours from separate improvised explosive device (IED) attacks during patrols while assigned to the 1st Marine Division. After the two IED explosions, Martin received the Bronze Star with Valor for his efforts as a corpsman and was approached by his leadership about the Purple Heart. (story and photo from Navy.mil)



The bill that avoided a second government shutdown finally provided the \$655 million for a badly needed new icebreaker for the Coast Guard and \$20 million more

for start of construction on a second one. Funding for the new icebreaker, to be called a "Polar Security Cutter," had been at risk of being diverted to construction of the southern border wall. The bill signed into law on Feb 15 by President Donald Trump earmarked money in the Department of Homeland Security's budget for a new ship to replace the Coast Guard's aging "Polar Star," the service's only functioning heavy icebreaker. It will be the service's first new icebreaker in 40 years, according to Stars and Stripes. The purpose of the new ships is "to provide the United States of America with access – access to a changing Arctic; access that we need to protect a wide, wide range of interests, whether it's domain awareness, whether it's search and rescue, whether it's protection of U.S. economic interests," Sen Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska said. (photo and excerpt of story from Military.com)

# EASTER EGG HUNT



## US COAST GUARD EASTER EGG HUNT / BBQ

You and your family are cordially invited to attend the annual  
US Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt/BBQ  
sponsored by the Broward County Council Navy League

Saturday, April 13, 2019

USCG Station Fort Lauderdale

10:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00 AM followed by picnic

\*coloring contest, bounce house, face painting, hula hoops\*

**\*\*don't forget to bring Easter basket to collect eggs\*\***

\$15 per civilian adult / civilian kids under 10 Free

Coast Guard Personnel and families – FREE

Coast Guard should RSVP (number of adults/children with ages) to:

[Shelleybeck@bellsouth.net](mailto:Shelleybeck@bellsouth.net)

Civilian RSVP by making checks out to Broward County Navy League

Please mail check to:

Shelley Beck

301 N. Pine Island Road, Apt. 262

Plantation, FL 33324

**\*\*If unable to attend, donations appreciated\*\***

**Directions: Dania Beach Blvd East and head North (A1A) to Dr. Von D. Mizell-Eula Johnson State Park, 6503 N. Ocean Drive, Dania Beach, FL 33004 (formerly John U. Lloyd Beach State Park)**

**At gate house, let them know you are heading to Coast Guard Station**

# FEBRUARY DINNER SOCIAL



Guest speaker Captain Michael Platt, CO, USCG Air Station Miami with Council Past President Glenn Wiltshire