

THE HELMSMAN

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

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Bravo Zulu BCNL

San Diego - At this year's National Convention of the United States Navy League, our Council was recognized 5 times for achievements in various award categories. We were one of only a few Councils to receive 5 awards. Congratulations Council!

Council Performance Award

Council Performance Awards recognize councils that strived for excellence in multiple areas throughout the prior calendar year. These awards are judged based on entries in a council's annual report, which details all of a council's activities throughout the year.

***Honorable
Mention***

Mackie Award

The Mackie Awards are a series of three different awards given to Navy League councils for their communications efforts.

Newsletter

Gold

Website

Silver

Social Media

Silver

Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award

The Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards are presented annually to councils that have demonstrated the strongest commitment to direct support of sea service units through robust adoption and youth programs. The award is inclusive of support to all types of adopted sea service units, including youth groups. This award is a singular award based on council size.

***Medium
Council***

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Navy Leaguers,

I hope that everyone is enjoying the hot summer days in South Florida and are celebrating the Florida Panthers winning the Stanley Cup! I am pleased to report that the Council received multiple awards at the recent Navy League National Convention in San Diego. That included an Honorable Mention Council Performance Award, the Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award in the Medium Council Category, and Donald M. Mackie Awards for our Newsletter (Gold), Website (Silver), and Social Media (Silver). Former Council members Joe and Marianne Giambrone were at the Convention and were able to pass on the great news. The awards reflect the results of our many Council activities in 2023 and only exist because of the participation of our members. A special thanks to Wayne McLaren for his efforts maintaining our web site and putting together our quarterly newsletter, and to Shelley Beck for her continual postings on social media.

We had a great dinner meeting at Tropical Acres in May and heard from LT Farouk Smith from the Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Miami (formerly known as Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Miami). LT Smith spoke about some of the challenges that the Navy faces in recruiting a diverse workforce to meet the staffing needs of the Navy to accomplish all of the mission taskings. We had a number of staff from the NTAG join us for the dinner meeting as well as CAPT Tina Pena, the Coast Guard Seventh District Chief of Staff, who is departing for a special assignment with the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City. We also bid farewell to Air Station Miami Command Master Chief Bryan Salazar, who is departing for a new assignment at CG Air Station New Orleans.

Some of our Council members were able to assist the Navy with Fleet Week 2024 in Miami. Shelley Beck filled a critical leadership role coordinating the volunteers assisting with the ship visits. I was also able to pass on Sailor of the Quarter and Year awards to the Command Master Chiefs from two of our adopted units, the USS BATAAN and USS LEYTE GULF, that participated in Fleet Week Miami. For those that aren't aware, the LEYTE GULF is scheduled to be decommissioned in September. Many Council members participated in that ship's commissioning ceremony in Port Everglades in 1987, and we will provide additional information on that as we get it. Most importantly, the Navy has announced that Fleet Week 2025 will be back in Port Everglades. While the dates are still being worked on, it will likely be in the latter part of April.

Finally, I was proud to represent the Council at the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce Leadership Hollywood Foundation Graduation Gala on June 21, 2024, where Council member Bob Giacini was honored by the Chamber with the Spirit of Leadership award for his 50 years of support to the Chamber. For those that don't know Bob, he has been a member of our Council for many years, donates each year to support our Easter Egg Hunt and Fleet Week events, and still finds the time to volunteer to sell drinks and snacks during Fleet Week.

Although things slow down for the summer, please mark your calendar for our next joint meeting on September 18th with the Fort Lauderdale Council at the Lauderdale Yacht Club for the Sea Cadets report on their summer training activities. Until then, please enjoy the summer and stay safe and healthy.

Very Respectfully,

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

Coming Events

Wednesday September 18th

Sea Cadet Night at the Lauderdale Yacht Club.

Come hear some of our Sea Cadets recount their summer training experiences

December 2024

Our annual Coast Guard Holiday Party

2024 Officers

Thanks for serving!

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

May Dinner Meeting

On May 23rd we held our May dinner Meeting at Tropical Acres Restaurant on Griffin Rd.

Our featured speaker was Lt Farouk Smith, from the US Navy Talent Acquisition Group Miami. Lt Smith provided us with an update on US Navy recruiting.

During the meeting, BCNL President Glenn Wiltshire also recognized CAPT Pena and CMC Salazar for their Meritorious Service.



Lt Smith presenting

We were also honored to have Capt Tina Pena join us. Capt Pena is the Chief of Staff for the Seventh Coast Guard District.



Capt Pena and Jim Pena

During the meeting BCNL President Glenn Wiltshire recognized Capt Pena for her Meritorious Service.



CMC Brian Salazar, Capt Pena, Glenn

Also honored at the meeting was Shelley Beck, our Council Secretary and NLUS South Florida Area President .

She received recognition from the Navy League of the United States for her years of service and dedication.



President Glenn Wiltshire presenting Shelley with her certificate.

May Dinner Meeting

Sightings



Alan Starr, Diane Schmidt, Joanne Melville



BCNL VP Bob Marks and Secretary Shelley Beck



Charlie Schmidt, Capt Pena, CMC Salazar



Glenn welcoming some of our guests



BCNL Director Rich Fournier with CMC Salazar



Member Corner

VP Tom Melville and Director Charlie Schmidt attend Vietnamese Veterans Association Celebration

A special thank you goes out to new member Diane Schmidt for providing us with these and many more pictures from the event

The Vietnamese Veterans Association of South Florida sponsored a celebration of Vietnam Military Day on June 9, 2024. The event was held at John Prince Park in Lake Worth, Fla. Invited were the members of the Vietnamese community and all American Viet Nam veterans of South Florida.

The program included military ceremonies with Vietnamese veterans who actually served in the war wearing their uniforms. In addition flag salutes and the National anthems of Viet Nam and America honored the men and women who fought for the freedom of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

Each American Viet Nam veteran was introduced and given a service cap for his branch of service. Broward County Navy League members Tom Melville and Charles Schmidt attended.

The program concluded with a music performance by members of the community and a delicious buffet luncheon of Vietnamese foods. It was a beautiful day to remember and honor the veterans of our nations.



A Viet Vet with a model of a battery position



A Music Program was presented



Charles Schmidt, Tom Melville, Tony Bianco



Vietnamese food was enjoyed



American Vietnam Vets

Member Corner

Bob Giacin Honored

The Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce honored BCNL member Bob Giacin from the Community Service Foundation of Broward County with the Spirit of Leadership Award at their annual gala, the Leadership Hollywood Graduation Gala.



The dedication stated “Bob's dedication and generous sponsorships have had an invaluable impact on the Leadership Hollywood program, enabling numerous community members to participate over the years.”

Adopted Unit News

Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

Recently Glenn traveled to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale to present an Enlisted Person of the Quarter award to BM2 Dylan Slaughter who was recognized for his performance at the unit.



Pictured here at the presentation is BMC Thompson, station XO Lt Truncale, BM2 Dylan Slaughter, CO LT Dadlani and MKC Gagnon.

News from our Adopted Units

USS Leyte Gulf – CG 55



The guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf (CG 55) returns to Naval Station Norfolk, May 17, 2024, marking their final deployment. (Manvir Gill/U.S. Navy)

From May Virginian-Pilot

Guided-missile cruiser USS Leyte Gulf returned Friday to Naval Station Norfolk for the last time as the Navy prepares to decommission the warship later this year.

The cruiser departed Jan. 28 from its Norfolk homeport to support drug interdiction security operations in the Caribbean for three and a half months. The 39-year-old ship, four years past its expected 35-year service life, is scheduled to be decommissioned in September, according to a spokesperson for Naval Surface Forces Atlantic.

“This is a profound final chapter for one of the Navy’s finest ships, and their crew should be proud of all they accomplished,” said Vice Adm. Doug Perry, commander of Norfolk-based U.S. 2nd Fleet.

Throughout its near four-decade lifespan, the Leyte Gulf has deployed to the Mediterranean, the Arabian Sea, Somalia and the Indian Ocean, the Navy said. Notably, it responded to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, setting sail for the coast of New York alongside aircraft carrier USS George Washington in support of defense and humanitarian efforts.



News from our Adopted Units

USS Bataan – LHD 5

Capt Paul Burkhardt, CO of the USS Bataan LHD 5 held an awards presentation recently to honor crew members for their exemplary service.



RP1 Courtney Timmons, Senior Sailor of the Year



MA2 Alyssa Stockwell, Sailor of the Quarter



AO3 Cameron Jones, Junior Sailor of the Year



AN Carena Cherisien, Blue Jacket of the Year



RS1 Christine Smith, Senior Sailor of the Year

odds & ends...

Mutts with a Mission

Mutts with a Mission is a non-profit that was founded in 2008 to help provide trained service dogs to Veterans with PTSD and other injuries.

Their mission statement is as follows:

To provide selected, specially trained Service/ Assistance Dogs to qualified Veterans, Wounded Warriors, Law Enforcement Officers, Federal Workers from agencies supporting the military or national security, and First Responders; to allow qualified candidates the opportunity to owner-train qualified dogs as Service Dogs; to solicit funds for the above purposes; and to help the Wounded Warriors, Veterans, Law Enforcement Officers, Federal Agents, and First Responders of the United States of America.

In addition to this, they have provided the USS Eisenhower a Lab Golden mix named Captain Demo. In their words

Demo, one of our skilled EOSC Facility dogs, has been deployed with the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower Strike Group since late last year. Demo's exceptional training and unwavering dedication have positioned him as an invaluable member of the team, providing crucial support to our military personnel. As a highly-trained EOSC Facility dog, Demo offers comfort, companionship, and vital therapeutic assistance, enhancing the well-being and morale of those serving on the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. We are incredibly proud of Demo's service and unwavering commitment to our armed forces, and we look forward to sharing more updates about his impactful work in the near future.



Demo

Birthdate: January 31, 2022

Sex: Male

Breed: Labrador Retriever x Golden Retriever

Color: Yellow

Placement: Expanded Operational Stress Control Facility Dog

Location: USS Eisenhower (CVN 69)

Rank: Captain

and in closing...



and

LABOR DAY