

THE HELMSMAN

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

Glenn Wiltshire, President
Wayne McLaren, Editor

Q2 2025
Volume 37 Issue 2

www.bcnavyleague.org

browardnavyleague@gmail.com



Fleet Week 2025



USS Cole DDG -57



USS New York LPD-21



USCGC Tampa WMEC-902



USS New Hampshire SSN -778

President's Message

Wow, it was a very busy April for our Council. First up was our annual Easter Egg Hunt for US Coast Guard families at the Coast Guard Station at Dania Beach on April 12th. The weather was outstanding, and we had a great turnout of families to enjoy the hunt, bounce house, face painting, and other games. A special thanks once again to Council member Bob Giacin for his generous contribution to defray the cost of that event, to Shelley Beck for making all of the logistics arrangements, and to all the volunteers that came out to help.

That was followed by a great Fleet Week Fort Lauderdale at Port Everglades. J.W. Arnold and his team at Broward Navy Days went all out this year to welcome the USS NEW YORK, USS COLE, USS NEW HAMPSHIRE, and USCGC TAMPA to town with a full week of activities. Because of changes to the security screening requirements from previous years, the ships were able to host over 10,000 visitors during the week they were in Port. Once again, Shelley did an amazing job representing our Council as Volunteer Coordinator. The Junior Officer Party we hosted at the Quarterdeck on 17th Street was one of our best ever, and all had fun as each contingent sang their service songs and I awarded Council coins to the most junior and senior JOs from each service. A special thanks to Tom Carney for coordinating all of the logistics for the event as well as to one of our newest Council members and Quarterdeck owner Paul Flanigan and his team for their hospitality. My thanks as well to the Council volunteers that provided donations and staffed our soda/water/snack table throughout the week, where we brought in enough \$ to cover the cost of the JO Party and more. While there were a lot of rumors floating around about what the Navy intends to do next year, rest assured that whatever that may, be we will be ready to provide support.

Some of us were also able to represent the Council at the Sector Miami Change of Command ceremony on April 24th where Captain Chris Cederholm was relieved by Captain Frank Florio. CAPT Florio moves up from the Deputy Sector Commander position, and many may recall that prior to that he was Commanding Officer of one of our other adopted units, TACLET South in Opa Locka.

Our next dinner meeting will be on June 12th at Tropical Acres, so keep an eye out for the flyer for that dinner. I am working on lining up a great speaker and look forward to a large turnout before we take our summer break. Shelley will be representing the Council at the Navy League National Convention in Jacksonville the weekend before as she once again has been nominated to serve as South Florida Area President and will fill us in on what's up at the National level. On June 27th, many of us will be in Opa Locka at our largest adopted Coast Guard unit, Air Station Miami, to bid Captain Eric Smith farewell as he turns over command to incoming Captain Aaron Ortezio and retires from the Coast Guard. We all wish he and all others transferring this summer safe travels as they move on to their next assignments or career changes.

This is your Council, so please do let me know if you have any thoughts on areas we should focus on for the rest of the year. As I indicated in our last newsletter, we are still looking for members that are willing to step forward to join the Board as well as new officer candidates for 2026. Please do let me know if interested.

Regards,

Glenn A. Wiltshire
President



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

New SecNav

The Honorable John Phelan was sworn in as the 79th Secretary of the Navy on March 25, 2025. Secretary Phelan oversees the well-being, readiness and development of nearly one million Sailors, Marines, reservists and civilian personnel in the Department of the Navy and manages an annual budget of \$263.5 billion and balance sheet assets totaling \$922 billion. His departmental priorities focus on strengthening shipbuilding and the maritime industrial base; fostering an adaptive, accountable and warfighting culture; and improving the health, welfare and training of our people.



Secretary Phelan holds an MBA from Harvard Business School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa, cum laude with distinction from Southern Methodist University (SMU) with a B.A. in Economics and Political Science. He also earned a General Course degree in Economics and International Relations from the London School of Economics (LSE).

A committed patriot and philanthropist, Secretary Phelan served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Third Option Foundation, the Spirit of America as well as Aspen Art Museum. He is a member of Business Executives for National Security. He also serves on the Board of Dean's

Prior to his appointment, Secretary Phelan was the Founder and Chairman of Rugger Management, LLC, a private investment firm based in Palm Beach, Florida. Before launching Rugger, he was a co-Founder and co-Managing Partner of MSD Capital, L.P., a private investment firm for Michael Dell, and MSD Partners, a SEC-registered investment advisor that managed investments for a select group of third-party investors. Under his leadership, MSD posted double-digit net returns, generated over \$20 billion in profits, and grew assets under management to over \$30 billion.

Advisors at Harvard Business School, the Investment Committee for the SMU Endowment, and the North American Advisory Board for LSE. In 2022, he received SMU's highest alumni honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award. Secretary Phelan and his wife, Amy, have endowed free admission to the Aspen Art Museum and recently established the Phelan U.S. Centre at LSE.

Coming Events

June 4-7 2025

Navy League National Convention will take place in Jacksonville

June 12 2025

BCNL Dinner Meeting at Tropical Acres on Griffin Rd

September 17 2025

Joint dinner meeting with Fort Lauderdale Council for our annual Sea Cadet night at Lauderdale Yacht Club

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome new members

Connor Bacon
Brian Anderson
Paul Flanigan

We look forward to greeting and meeting you in person at a Council social event soon.

Fleet Week 2025

Each year since 1990 there has been a US Navy presence in South Florida, primarily Ft. Lauderdale, called Fleet Week. It typically occurs somewhere in the April-May timeframe.

Fleet Week Fort Lauderdale is an annual event, led by Broward Navy Days and held in Port Everglades that celebrates and honors the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. The event provides an opportunity for the public to interact with service members, tour ships, and participate in various community activities.

BCNL has been a major supporter and participant along with a number of other local organizations, such as the Ft Lauderdale Navy League Council.

BCNL Water Table

Aside from dues and donations our council presently has only one other source of income and that is the water table which we set up each year to sell water, soda, snacks to Fleet Week attendees.

Many thanks to the folks who generously donated their time to staff this important function.



L-R Council Secretary Shelley Beck, Lawrence Denmark, Bill Hooker, Fran Shaw, Membership Director Richard Fournier

Each year we provide volunteers to assist with ship tours and other activities. In fact for the past number of years Council Secretary Shelley Beck has been the volunteer coordinator.

Aside from this we also host a party for the junior officers from the visiting ships. A very fun event.

As a Council fund raising activity we also stage a "water" table where visitors can purchase water, soda, snacks and council challenge coins as souvenirs.

In the pages that follow we will try to cover some of this years highlights.

Deerfield Beach MCROTC



Larry Ott, Rich Fournier and Patty Croonquist with our adopted MCROTC unit from Deerfield High School



Fleet Week 2025

JO Party



Council President Glenn Wiltshire sharing sea stories with some of the JO's



This year's venue was the Quarterdeck restaurant on 17th St. As can be seen here the turnout was quite good.



Here is Council member Fran Shaw with her granddaughter on the left and friends



We also had a nice US Marine turnout.

Fleet Week 2025

BCNL sightings



New member Bill Hooker posing next to a mannequin dressed out as a flight officer



Member Fran Shaw with a member of the Police detachment



Lawrence Denmark with Chaplain and staff from Seafarers House Port Everglades



*Distinguished Visitors luncheon onboard USS Cole DDG 67 with Cmdr. Matthew Faulkenberry, Cmdr. Christopher Gostel, XO
Attendees were President Glenn Wiltshire, Treasurer Tom Carney, Secretary Shelley Beck with Abi & Lina Montes, President of Fort Lauderdale NL Council along with other guests*



Glenn and Tom Carney aboard the USS COLE with the CO, XO, and Lead Fleet Planner from Navy Region Southeast.

Fleet Week 2025

USS Cole Memorial Plaque

On the morning of October 12th, 2000, the USS Cole DDG-67 was refueling in Aden Harbor, Yemen, when a boat loaded with explosives and piloted by suicide bombers detonated it along side the Cole, resulting in the deaths of 17 crew members and wounding 37 others.

This year we were honored to have the USS Cole as part of our Fleet Week.

On board there are a number of remembrances from that horrific event. One of which is this plaque. The inscription on that plaque appears below.



At 1118 on the morning of October 12, 2000, as USS COLE (DDG 67) was refueling in Aden Harbor, Yemen, suicide bombers detonated an explosive-laden boat directly against the port side of the ship. The resulting blast killed 17 Sailors, wounded 37 others, and tore a hole forty by sixty feet in the ship's hull. In the aftermath of the explosion, the crew of USS COLE fought tirelessly to free shipmates trapped by the twisted wreckage and limit flooding that threatened to sink their ship. The crew's prompt actions to isolate damaged electrical systems and contain fuel oil ruptures prevented catastrophic fires that could have engulfed the ship and cost the lives of countless men and women. Skillful first aid and advanced medical treatment applied by the crew prevented additional death and eased the suffering of many others. Drawing upon their Navy training and discipline, the crew heroically conducted more than 96 hours of sustained damage control in conditions of extreme heat and stress. Deprived of sleep, food and shelter, they vigilantly battled to preserve a secure perimeter and restore stability to engineering systems that were vital to the ship's survival. As a permanent symbol of that strength and resolve, steel from the ship's damaged hull is forged into this plaque. By their sacrifice and bravery in the face of daunting adversity, the crew of USS COLE personified Honor, Courage, and Commitment.

Annual US Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ

On Saturday April 12th we had our annual Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ for Coast Guard families at Coast Guard Station Ft Lauderdale.

We enjoyed beautiful, fantastic weather to celebrate the Easter holiday with our Coast Guard, family, and their children. We had approximately 50 adults and 40 children.

There were an assortment of activities for everyone, aside from the BBQ and hunt.

Everyone had a wonderful time and it was such a pleasure and joy as just about every child came and thanked each of us individually.

A special thank you goes out to Bob Giacin for his generous donation to support this wonderful event.

Bounce House



Face Painting



BBQ



Annual US Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ

The Hunt!



Chief Bunny Glenn getting the egg hunters lined up and



And they're off!



So many eggs...

Annual US Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt and BBQ

Prizes



And the winners are...



Easter Bunny's Helpers



Did you Know?

The photos in our newsletters, such as the ones found in our coverage of events that are BCNL sourced, may also be found in the Gallery pages of our website. In fact many photos do not make the newsletter due to space limitations. So to see the ones you have missed go to...

www.BCNavyLeague.org

They are also available for download, thus should you find a particularly good picture you would like to use for a screen saver or whatever, its available there for download.

News from our Adopted Units

USCG Air Station Miami



Presentation of an award to Coast Guard Air Station Miami Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year AST2 Robert Santoyo. AST2 Santoyo was recognized for his accomplishments as a Rescue Swimmer and volunteer efforts in the community. Also in the photo is Air Station XO CDR Gagnon and CMC McClelland.

USS Paul Ignatius DDG-117



The USS Paul Ignatius - DDG 117 was in Malta's Grand Harbor from February 21-25. Homeported in Rota, Spain, the ship has been patrolling the Mediterranean to ensure freedom of navigation, safety, and security. During their stay, the U.S. Navy servicemembers welcomed aboard Maltese and diplomatic guests, volunteered with the Association for Abandoned Animals, played basketball with local teams, and enjoyed shore leave. Chargé d'Affaires Toko thanked Commander Joseph Phillips and his crew for their service, adding, "The United States and Malta have a shared interest in a stable and secure Mediterranean region, and we look forward to more port calls as the U.S. Navy works to maintain freedom of navigation and protect maritime commerce."



News from National



The Navy League National Convention 2025 will be held June 4-7th, Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

Registration is now open! Go to our National website and follow the links to National Convention.

If you are interested in attending contact Glenn.

and in closing...



Member Lawrence Denmark shares his creative skills with this Fleet Week collage featuring Council Secretary and Fleet Week Volunteer Coordinator Shelley Beck