

THE HELMSMAN

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

Glenn Wiltshire, President
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President's Message



It has been a busy few months since our last newsletter. The big news is that the Council once again took home a number of awards at the Navy League National Convention held in Norfolk in early June. Board Secretary and Navy League South Florida Area President Shelley Beck attended and was able to personally accept the following awards: Platinum Award for Council Newsletter; Silver Award for Social Media; and Bronze Award for Council Website. Shelley has the lead with our social media presence, and Board member Wayne McLaren continues to be our Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. The Council was also recognized for Member Retention, with the Council's efforts led by our Membership Chair Rich Fournier. Finally, we were recognized with the Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award for our program supporting US Navy and US Coast Guard units and JROTC programs.



One of our adopted units, the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER, recently returned after a long shipyard period for engine repairs. As was noted in our last newsletter, the Council made a donation to the WEBBER's MWR fund to defray the cost of new unit ball caps since the crew was swapped from the USCGC PAUL CLARK. The WEBBER CO, CWO Brad Bishop, recently sent us a photo showing the crew in their new headgear. We appreciated the opportunity to assist.



Continued on next page

President's Message (con't)

In May we joined the Fort Lauderdale Council for their dinner meeting. At that meeting, we presented the Theodore Roosevelt Medal to Sea Cadet PO2 Maddox Bacallao from the NAS Richmond Sea Cadet Division. Our Council previously supported that Division until there were some changes in personnel and we lost touch but have now linked back up with them. Our Council presents that medal each year to a cadet selected by the Sea Cadet Division and the NJROTC and MCJROTC programs we support, and Council First Vice President Tom Melville coordinates that program and personally presents those awards when he can.

That was followed by our June dinner meeting at Tropical Acres that featured CAPT Aaron Ortenzio, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Miami, as our guest speaker. CAPT Ortenzio filled us in on all of the great things going on at our largest adopted Coast Guard unit. We also received an update from the XO of the NAS Richmond Sea Cadet Division on their unit activities and made a donation to that unit to defray some of the expenses of their cadet summer training. We will be setting up some visits to their unit in the Fall to get to know them better.

One other special event the Council participated in was the visit by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall in Davie. As a retired Navy Commander, Tom Melville represented the Navy and Council at the event and was one of the featured guest speakers, providing very moving remarks about the 17 deceased service members whose names are on the wall that served on the USS CORAL SEA, many that Tom knew personally during his tours of duty on the carrier.

It is now summer transfer season, and we had Council representatives at the Change of Command ceremonies for the Aids to Navigation Team Fort Lauderdale where Officer-In-Charge BMCS Cassandra McGuigan was relieved by BMC Dru Sistrunk, and for Station Fort Lauderdale where LT Justin Dadlani was relieved by LT John Jarrett.

We also welcomed LT Richard Rodriguez as CO of the USCGC Robert Yered and LCDR William Lowe as CO of the USCGC Margaret Norvell.

We wish safe travel for them and any other crew members leaving our adopted units and welcome any new members.

We are now taking our summer break, and hope that you will be able to join us at our next joint dinner meeting with the Fort Lauderdale Council at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on Tuesday, September 22nd, where we will hear the reports from the USS Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets on the results of their summer training programs. In closing, this is your Council, so please do let me know if you have any questions, comments, or ideas on what we should focus on.

Very Respectfully,

Glenn A Wiltshire
President
Broward County Council

Coming Events

September 22nd

Sea Cadet night

Did you Know?

Dinner meetings may be paid for prior to the event by going to

<https://square.link/u/XXBtEvAA>

June Dinner Meeting



BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL – NAVY LEAGUE

**Dinner Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2026**

**PROGRAM:
Featuring CAPT Aaron Ortenzio
Commanding Officer
US Coast Guard Air Station Miami**



CAPT Ortenzio and staff



Glenn with CAPT Ortenzio



Glenn with CDR Cepa and wife

June Dinner Meeting – con't

Sea Cadets



At the meeting we also welcomed Sea Cadets and guests the NAS Richmond Sea Cadet Division.

June Dinner Meeting – con't

New Members being introduced and displaying their new BCNL badges



Sightings



June Dinner Meeting—con't

Members and Guests having a good time



June Dinner Meeting—con't



Adopted Unit News

Aids to Navigation

As Glenn often does he visits our local adopted units to make council awards to outstanding members of the respective unit.

Recently he visited adopted Coast Guard Unit Aids to Navigation Team, Fort Lauderdale to make an EPOY (Enlisted Person of the Year) presentation.



Glenn presenting ANT EPOY award to MK2 Robert Borowski. MK2 Borowski was recognized for his efforts to keep their boats operational and for his volunteer efforts. On the right is Officer-In-Charge, BMCS Casandra McGuigan



While there Glenn was able to get a photo with the entire unit.

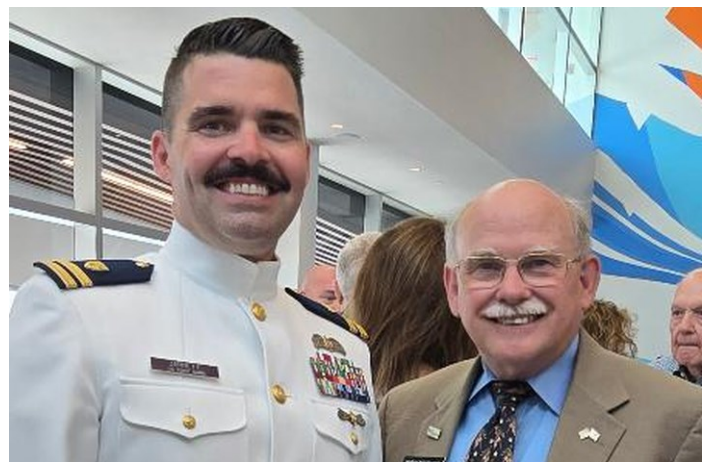
USCG Station Fort Lauderdale

An annual happening in the Coast Guard is each spring/summer select members are assigned to a new station and a new replacement assumes their role.

Earlier this month adopted unit Station Fort Lauderdale held a change of command ceremony which Glenn attended along with council Chaplain Rick Braswell



Council Chaplain Rick Braswell with incoming CO LT John Jarrett and outgoing CO LCDR Justin Dadlani



Glenn with new Station Fort Lauderdale CO, LT John Jarrett



Crew of Station Fort Lauderdale being presented a Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation by Sector Miami Deputy Commander, CAPT Christian Barger

Adopted Unit News

USCGC ROBERT YERED



Recently the USCGC ROBERT YERED held a change of command Ceremony. A photo of the crew at the ceremony



Change of Command photo where LT Richard Rodriguez relieved LCDR Luke Trautwein. Sector Miami Deputy Commander CAPT Christian Barger presided over the ceremony.

New Member

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome new member

Borja De La Rivaherrera

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

USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER



Presentation of Enlisted Person of the Quarter award to ET3 Braydon Parks aboard the USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER. Also in the photo is CO CWO2 Brad Bishop and XPO BMCS Justin Miller.

Adopted Unit News

USCGC MARGARET NORVELL

At the beginning of the month adopted unit USCGC Margaret Norvell had a change of command ceremony at Coast Guard Base Miami.

During the ceremony LCDR Charles Totten was relieved by incoming CO, LCDR William Lowe



Incoming CO, LCDR William Lowe (on the left), Sector Miami Commander CAPT Frank Florio, and outgoing CO, LCDR Charles Totten



The ship's commissioning pennant being presented to LCDR Totten by the most junior member of the crew

US Coast Guard News

Coast Guard to stand up special forces command

The U.S. Coast Guard is standing up a new Special Missions Command to consolidate its elite maritime response forces under a singular structure as the service said demand for specialized capabilities continues to grow.

The command, expected to be formally established in October 2026, will oversee units involved in high-risk operations like counterterrorism missions, drug interdictions and port security, the Coast Guard announced on Wednesday.

The service said the move is intended to better coordinate the service's special response forces, which include teams that board ships, respond to national disasters and deploy alongside military and law enforcement partners.

It will include maritime security response teams, tactical law enforcement teams, maritime safety and security teams, port security teams, regional dive lockers and the national strike force, which helps the joint force and other agencies prepare for and respond to complicated crises.

The command, which will be headquartered in Kearneysville, West Virginia, may incorporate other units in the future.

"The geo-political landscape is evolving and the demand for Coast Guard Deployable Specialized Forces is at an all-time high," said Capt. Robert Berry, the lead officer for the Special Missions Command transition.

"These forces are instrumental to the Coast Guard's readiness and its role as a global leader in maritime contingency response," he said. "The service has always turned to its specialized forces to respond to national threats and disasters, and establishing this command is the natural next step to enabling our forces to lead the way at the tip of the spear."



News from National



 **NAVY LEAGUE**
— OF THE UNITED STATES —
Citizens in Support of Sea Services

A New Era of Navy League Membership

★

4-Tier Membership Structure with New Benefits

 **LAUNCHING | JULY 1**

The Navy League has modernized its membership model. As of July 1, a new four-tier individual membership structure was launched that consolidates the existing nine categories into four clear options, designed to expand accessibility, reward commitment, and strengthen our ability to advocate for the sea services.

As a current member, your membership continues uninterrupted. Now you'll gain immediate access to a brand new portfolio of Premium Member discounts from carefully curated partners across multiple industries. When your membership comes up for renewal, you'll be invited to choose from the four new tiers. We'll reach out well in advance with everything you need to make the choice that fits you best.

2026 Officers

Thanks for serving!

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

Thank you!

From the editor

As you have just read BCNL was honored by US Navy League National for our Newsletter "The Helmsman". For the second straight year we were awarded the highest Mackie award for newsletters, the Platinum.

We would like to thank all those whom have contributed to our Newsletter. Especially Charlie and Diane Schmidt whose excellent photography make the newsletter so special.

and in closing...



and

