

THE HELMSMAN

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

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NAS Richmond Sea Cadets



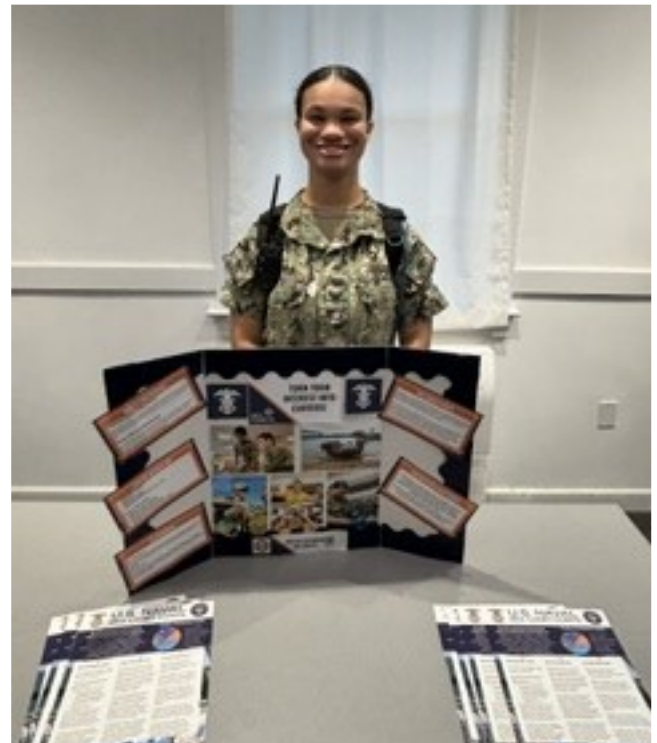
One of our newer Adopted Units, NAS Richmond Sea Cadet unit, held an open House on August 29th at the Miami-Dade Military Museum and Memorial. Council Director Rich Fournier attended representing BCNL.

NAS Richmond is proud to be one of the fastest-growing and most recognized units in the region, having earned the National Most Improved Unit Award for two consecutive years and serving as the home of the South Area Junior Sea Cadet of the Year.

The purpose of the open house was to raise awareness of the purpose and activities of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps. As a by-product of the open house we also learned of the summer training activities of a number of the cadets.



Cadet Maddox Bacallao did his summer training at Camp Lemoore where he underwent aviation related training.



Ivania Zamora presenting on her summer training in cyber security at the University of Indiana

President's Message

Welcome back from our Summer Break. Even though we had no formal meetings, we stayed busy, including welcoming a number of new members that have



signed on to the Council and look forward to seeing them at future events. As I noted in the last newsletter, summer transfer season is now over and our adopted units have a number of new crewmembers. Our Membership Chair Rich Fournier represented us at the Open House

held by the NAS Richmond Sea Cadet Division at the Miami-Dade Military Museum. While they are a much smaller Sea Cadet unit than the USS Fort Lauderdale unit, they are growing and their cadets spoke about their summer training program experiences. We will be working with the unit to set up a visit for Council members.

I was unable to attend since I had the privilege of serving as a Guardian for a former Navy Vietnam Era Veteran during the South Florida Honor Flight trip to Washington, DC that same day. It was my third time serving as a Guardian, and another rewarding experience as volunteers from South Florida Honor Flight #39 escorted 65 veterans from the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War era to visit the memorials in Washington DC and Northern Virginia. For many of the vets it was their first time visiting DC.

On September 20th, we joined forces with the Fort Lauderdale Council and had a great member turnout for the annual joint dinner meeting to hear from some of the Sea Cadets from the USS Fort Lauderdale Division as they spoke about their summer training programs. It's always amazing to hear the reports on the life-changing experiences of the Sea Cadets that take their summer vacation time to attend one or more training programs. Whether they decide to join the military or pursue other career paths, these are the country's future leaders, and the training they receive as sea cadets better prepares them for whatever path they choose.

I also represented the Council at the community kick-off meeting for Fleet Week Fort Lauderdale 2027. The Navy has confirmed their intent to return to Port Everglades from April 20th to April 27, 2027, for what is shaping up to be a great series of events. While always subject to change due to operational constraints, we expect four US Navy ships, led by an amphibious assault ship, cruiser, destroyer, and submarine, and a Coast Guard cutter. J.W. and the Broward Navy Days Team is planning a number of new events along with the favorites we have enjoyed over the last 30+ years.

Our Council will once again host the Junior Officer party at the Quarterdeck on Wednesday, April 21st, and will also be setting up our tables to sell soda, water, and snacks to the guests coming for ship tours; we'll be looking for volunteers for both as the dates gets closer. The first planning meeting with the Navy is scheduled for the morning of December 8th at the Port Everglades Administration Building, so please add that to your calendars.

For upcoming events, we will be holding our Oktoberfest gathering at Old Heidelberg in Fort Lauderdale on October 28th at 6 PM. For those that have never attended, this is not a formal meeting, but just a time for our members to get together to enjoy fellowship and great German food. On Veterans Day (November 11th), we expect to be out at the Mission Barbeque on Commercial Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale with our table set up to recruit new members. Carey and her team at Mission Barbecue put together a great event honoring veterans (and the free lunch is nice too). While I am still working on a speaker, our next dinner meeting will be November 12th at Tropical Acres. On Friday, December 4th from 6-9 PM we will host our annual Coast Guard Holiday Party at the Quarterdeck on 17th Street in Fort Lauderdale. Both the Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days will join us in what is always a fun event. Finally, we will once again join the Fort Lauderdale Council for a joint meeting on Tuesday, December 15th at the Lauderdale Yacht Club for the annual US Marine Corps Toys for Tots event.

As we get closer to the end of the year, it will be time to put the Board for 2027 in place. While all of the officers from 2026 have agreed to stay on for another year, we are looking for members willing to join the Board and assist with our many events. This is your Council, so please do let me know if you are ready to step forward or have any questions, comments, or ideas on what we should focus on.

Glenn A Wiltshire, President BCNL

Did you Know?

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

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

NAS Richmond Sea Cadets - con't



NAS Richmond Color Guard



Sea Cadets Francisco Piedra, Kylie McCord, Marc Donovan and Kendrick Connor, discussing their summer RT (recruit training)



Joe Bacallao, Unit Executive Officer; Marlene Morales, Sea Cadet Regional Director; and BCNL Director Rich Fournier



Rich Fournier being recognized as a Vietnam Era veteran by the host Miami-Dade Military Museum Executive Director, Dr. Anthony Atwood during the open house



Working on our knot tying skills



Learning CPR

Odds and Ends

Coasties' photos used on stamps honoring Coast Guard Academy's 150th



A new U.S. Postal Service stamp honors the U.S. Coast Guard Academy's 150th anniversary. It features photos taken by two Coast Guard photographers. (U.S. Postal Service)

In September the USPS released a new forever stamp honoring the 150th anniversary of the US Coast Guard Academy.

The stamp features photos of the Legend-class national security cutter Bertholf, as well as the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle, the academy's primary training vessel since 1946.

The photos were taken by members of the Coast Guard. Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Thieme took the photo of the Eagle that's featured on the stamp and Petty Officer 1st Class Steven Strohmaier took the photo of the Bertholf.

"The stamp highlights, by featuring the two Coast Guard vessels ... the tradition of training academy cadets on both traditional sailing ships as well as the latest in contemporary ship design and technology.

About the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is the nation's premier maritime-based youth leadership development program, serving young people ages 10-18. The Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered nonprofit youth organization sponsored by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard. The mission of the Sea Cadet Corps is to build leaders of character by imbuing in our cadets the highest ideals of honor, respect, commitment, and service. Through leadership training, community service, physical fitness, STEM exploration, military history and heritage education, and hands-on experiences, Sea Cadets develop the confidence, discipline, and character needed to become tomorrow's leaders.

The program provides young people with opportunities to develop leadership, self-discipline, teamwork, citizenship, and career awareness while participating in a variety of maritime, aviation, STEM, and community service activities.

Importantly, there is no military obligation or commitment required to participate. The program focuses on preparing young people for success in school, careers, and life while fostering a spirit of service and patriotism.

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

Adopted Unit News

USS Daniel Inouye DDG 118

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) returned to Pearl Harbor on April 23, 2026. Hawaii Regional Maintenance Center completed a complex maintenance period of the Inouye eight days ahead of schedule, providing a significant boost to fleet readiness. PHNSY & IMF's mission is to keep the Navy's fleet "Fit to Fight" by repairing, maintaining, and modernizing the Navy's fast-attack submarines and surface ships. Strategically located in the heart of the Pacific, it is the most comprehensive fleet repair and maintenance facility between the U.S. West Coast and the Far East.



Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) rejoined the Pacific Fleet in April after completing a complex maintenance period eight days ahead of schedule. (U.S. Navy photo by Mike Wilson)

Capt. Brian Ryglowski, Hawaii Regional Maintenance Center (HRMC) deputy commander praised the ship's crew for their "culture, mindset, and positive attitude," which allowed them to seamlessly integrate with nearly 20 different maintenance activities.

USCG Air Station Miami



CAPT Aaron Ortenzio, CG Air Station Miami Commanding Officer, Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class Jessica M. Conrad, and BCNL Director Rich Fournier

Early last month Council Director Rich Fournier traveled to USCG Air Station Miami to honor the stations Enlisted Person Of the Quarter (EPOQ), Jessica M. Conrad. Rich presented her with a BCNL certificate, gift card and council challenge coin.

New Members

Welcome Aboard!

The Council is pleased to welcome new members

Joseph Bacallao
Richard Collura
Anita Fournier
Guillermo Montoya

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

Adopted Unit News

USCG Station Fort Landerdale



Unit CO LT John Jarrett, Glenn, BM2 Mitchell and CPO Michael Kocenski

Glenn recently had the pleasure of honoring the stations EPOQ, BM2 Miriam Mitchell. BM2 Mitchell was recognized for her efforts to certify Station crewmembers on boat crew and weapons qualifications.

Coming Events

Wednesday October 28th

Oktoberfest Old Heidelberg Restaurant

Thursday November 12th

Dinner Meeting Tropical Acres Restaurant

Friday December 4th

Once again we return to the Quarterdeck Restaurant for the annual Coast Guard Holiday Party

Tuesday December 15th

US Marine Corps Toys for Tots event with Ft Lauderdale Council at Lauderdale Yacht Club

April 20-27, 2027

Fleet Week returns to Port Everglades

USCGC William Griessler in the news

From SeaPower Magazine

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter Winslow Griessler and two Dominican Republic Navy vessels rescued 61 alien migrants Monday morning from a grossly overloaded, sinking vessel in Atlantic Ocean waters off Dominican Republic.



Coast Guard Cutter Winslow Griessler's Over the Horizon small boat on scene (U.S. Coast Guard photo)

At approximately 5:50 a.m., the crew of the Winslow Griessler detected a suspect, 30-foot makeshift vessel taking on water, approximately 12 nautical miles northwest of Cabo Cabron, Dominican Republic. Cutter Winslow Griessler spotted the makeshift vessel while transiting through Dominican Republic territorial waters under our joint nation bi-lateral agreement to help deter unlawful maritime migration.

Upon arriving alongside, the cutter crew confirmed the makeshift vessel was rapidly taking on water and immediately began embarking the passengers. Coast Guard watch standers also deployed an MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter crew from Air Station Borinquen to provide overhead rescue support, while a Dominican Air Force aircraft also responded.

Shortly after, the Dominican Republic Navy patrol boats Capella CG-108 and Algenib LI-169 arrived on scene to assist with the rescue. Together, the crews safely embarked all 61 survivors.

and in closing...



The Old Heidelberg Restaurant
October 28, 2026 6:00 PM





COAST GUARD HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 4, 2026

Sponsored by:

Broward County Navy League Council

Broward Navy Days

Fort Lauderdale Navy League Council

**HONORS AND WELCOMES
ALL LOCAL COAST GUARD UNITS and
GUEST**

THE QUARTERDECK RESTAURANT

1035 SE 17TH STREET

FORT LAUDERDALE

LOCATED JUST NORTH OF 17TH STREET

(East of SE 10th Ave.)

Festivities begin 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM or ???

Please RSVP your Attendance on or before
December 1st by e-mailing browardnavyleague@gmail.com or
calling Shelley at 954-224-3687