

# THE HELMSMAN

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



Larry Ott, President  
Marianne Giambrone, Editor

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[www.bcnavyleague.org](http://www.bcnavyleague.org)

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## HOLIDAY PARTY



**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2019**  
**6:00—8:00 PM**

**BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL  
BROWARD NAVY DAYS  
FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL  
HONOR  
ALL LOCAL COAST GUARD UNITS**

**McSORLEY'S BEACH PUB  
837 N FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH BLVD  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Located on A1A facing Fort Lauderdale  
Beach - (south of Sunrise Blvd on the  
corner of NE 9th St)**

**TWO FREE DRINKS FOR COAST GUARD  
PERSONNEL AND THEIR SPOUSE/GUEST**

**CASH BAR FOR CIVILIANS**

**FREE BUFFET FOR ALL**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**CASUAL HOLIDAY ATTIRE  
UNIFORM NOT REQUIRED**

## DINNER SOCIAL

Broward County and Fort Lauderdale Councils  
invite you to join us for our holiday dinner social

Guest Speaker:

First Sergeant Alkedra Tyler USMC  
First Sergeant of Inspector-Instructor  
4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group  
Hialeah Florida

Wednesday, December 18, 2019

Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
2800 Yacht Club Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale

6:00—7:00 PM Cash Bar  
7:00 PM—Dinner and Meeting

\$42 per person  
Checks should be made payable to  
Fort Lauderdale Council NLUS

Please phone your RSVP to 954-522-8995 no  
later than 9AM on Monday, December 16  
Admittance by reservation only

This is a Toys for Tots event

Please be generous and bring  
new unwrapped toys



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our November dinner meeting with Rear Admiral Poulin proved to be most interesting. Serving as the U.S. Southern Command's (Southcom) Director of Operations, Admiral Poulin presented an overview of the mission and influence in South America, Central America and the Caribbean. He also spoke about the humanitarian influence that our hospital ship, USNS Comfort, provides with a full range of medical services to the countries in the area. After his presentation, Admiral Poulin answered many questions from those attending.

Prior to the dinner, we had the election of Council officers for 2020. The vote was presented, and the following officers were elected: Larry Ott, President; Tom Melville, 1st Vice President; Bruce Gottsch, 2nd Vice President, Bob Marks, Vice President of Legislative Affairs; Tom Carney, Treasurer; and Shelley Beck, Secretary.

Speaking of Legislative Affairs, Navy League members from across the country participated in the national "Fly In" in Washington DC. The mission and concerns of the Navy League were presented to Members of Congress and/or their staff members and they were thanked for the support they have already provided.

I was pleased to welcome two of our new members at the meeting: Richard Fournier and Rick Braswell. By the way, Rick Braswell is a Coast Guard Auxiliary chaplain and will now serve our council as chaplain. Furthermore, I was also glad to present one of the plaques from the National Convention this summer to Wayne McLaren. This presentation was a Mackie Award in recognition of our website that Wayne designed and maintains. Thanks Wayne for your devotion to our website.

Coming up on Friday, December 13th our council in partnership with the Fort Lauderdale Council and Broward Navy Days will host the annual Holiday Party for the local Coast Guard units. Last year this was held at McSorley's on Lauderdale Beach and it will be held there again this year. This is just a relaxing fun time to spend with those who serve in the local Coast Guard units.

On Wednesday, December 18, our Council will join with the Fort Lauderdale Council for their holiday dinner meeting at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. This event will include a Toys for Tots drive so bring a new unwrapped toy for a child.

Hope everyone stays well and safe during this holiday season.

Don't forget December 13th and 18th.

Larry M. Ott

Council President



## COUNCIL OFFICERS

The following Council Officers were elected at the November 14 dinner meeting.

President: Larry Ott

First Vice President: Tom Melville

Second Vice President: Bruce Gottsch

Vice President, Legislative Affairs: Robert Marks

Secretary: Shelley Beck

Treasurer: Tom Carney

## NEW MEMBER

Welcome to new Council member

Sandra Cathey of Pompano Beach

You are encouraged to invite your friends and family members to join our Council. An e-membership is only \$25! The Navy League depends on citizens to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. At the national level, membership allows you to help our legislative affairs team fight on behalf of our sea services and educate government officials.

# GUEST SPEAKER – DECEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



First Sergeant  
Alkedra Tyler USMC  
First Sergeant of  
Inspector-Instructor  
4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group  
Hialeah Florida

First Sergeant Tyler is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and graduated from Northeastern High School in Elizabeth City, North Carolina in 2001. She en-

listed in the United States Marine Corps in May 2002. Upon completion of recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, South Carolina, Private First Class Tyler was assigned to the School of Infantry at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina where she attended Marine Combat Training. After completing Marine Combat Training, First Sergeant Tyler attended the Electrical Equipment Repair Course at Courthouse Bay on Camp Lejeune where she was promoted to Lance Corporal.

In February 2003 First Sergeant Tyler received orders to 2<sup>nd</sup> FSSG, 2<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Battalion, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina as a generator mechanic. During her tour at Camp Lejeune, she participated in Operation Enduring Freedom. After returning from Operation Enduring Freedom, First Sergeant Tyler received orders to Marine Security Guard Battalion in Quantico, Virginia.

Upon completion of Marine Security Guard School, First Sergeant Tyler received orders to American Consulate Port of Spain, Trinidad where she was recognized as Marine of the Quarter for 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter FY-05. She was promoted to Corporal May 2004. While in Port of Spain, she also served as the MWR and Training NCO. During this time, she also participated with the Presidential visit in Brussels, Belgium. Upon completion of her tour in Trinidad, In July 2005, First Sergeant Tyler received orders to American Embassy Berlin, Germany where served as the Training and React NCO. During her tour in Germany, she also participated with the Secretary of State visit providing security for Condoleezza Rice and Colon Powell. As a result of effortlessly duty as a Marine Security Guard, First Sergeant Tyler received a Navy Achievement Medal.

During September 2006, she was transferred to MWSG-17, Marine Wing Support Squadron (MWSS) 171 MCAS, Iwakuni, Japan. While being with MWSS 171 she deployed to Yechon, Korea in support of 1<sup>st</sup>

Marine Air Wing exercise Foal Eagle in 2007, Camp Mujuk Korea in support of exercise Ulchi Focus Lens 2007 and Operation Iraq Freedom in 2008. During this time First Sergeant Tyler worked in several maintenance billets to include Quality Control, Floor Chief, and Maintenance Chief.

In July 2009, First Sergeant Tyler received orders to 2<sup>d</sup> Maintenance Battalion. In February 2010, First Sergeant Tyler was promoted to First Sergeant Tyler and took on the billet as Generator Section Head and Utilities Chief. While with 2<sup>d</sup> Maintenance Battalion, she deployed to Afghanistan from September 2011 to April 2012 and served as the Utilities Chief for Maintenance Company, Camp Dwyer .

In February 2013, First Sergeant Tyler received orders to SNCO Academy Camp Lejeune and served as Corporal's Course Faculty Advisor, Chief Instructor and SNCOIC as well as a Faculty Advisor and the Physical Training Instructor for Sergeant's Course.

In October 2015, First Sergeant Tyler reported to Drill Instructor School Class 1-16 MCRD Parris Island and was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant. At Parris Island she served as a Drill Instructor, Senior Drill Instructor, Chief Drill Instructor, Battalion Drill Master and Company 1stSgt.

First Sergeant Tyler was selected to her current rank and received orders to Hialeah Florida in March 2019 to serve as the First Sergeant of Inspector-Instructor 4<sup>th</sup> Civil Affairs Group.

First Sergeant Tyler's personal awards include two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and one Navy Commendation Medal. She received her Bachelors in Science in Computer Information Systems in 2006 and MBA in Technology Management in 2009. First Sergeant Tyler is currently working on her PhD in Project Management.



# IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of  
*Nancy Lindberg*  
May 17, 1950 - November 21, 2019



On November 20, long-time Navy League member and Council board member Nancy Lindberg passed away after a long struggle with multiple sclerosis. Nancy was a very active member of our Council since the 1990s. Even as her health started to decline, she still made every effort to attend Board meetings and Council events. She will be missed by her many Navy League friends. Our condolences go out to Nancy's family.

The following message and photo were provided by Beverly Childs, Nancy's sister.

This past year has been especially difficult for Nancy, battling numerous illnesses, infections, and countless trips to doctors and the hospital.

Nancy was born in McKeesport PA. She was a teacher with the School Board of Broward County for 35 years. But it was the Navy League that she loved. It was an important part of Nancy's life. She was honored to be on the Board and was happy to serve in whatever capacity that she was able.

A memorial service was held in her honor on Sunday, November 24th at T. M. Ralph Funeral Home in Plantation. Burial was in McKeesport PA. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to MS Views and News at [www.donations/MSViewsandNews.org](http://www.donations/MSViewsandNews.org).

# DECEMBER EVENTS

The 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Flight 19 memorial ceremony will be held at the Naval Air Station Museum on Thursday, December 5 at 12:00 Noon. Flight 19 is one of the great aviation mysteries and gave birth to the legend of the Bermuda Triangle. The memorial ceremony honors the 14 crewmen from the five TBM Avenger airplanes and the 13 crewmen from the Mariner rescue sea plane who all vanished on December 5, 1945. The memorial also remembers the 95 service members who died while training at NAS Fort Lauderdale between 1942 and 1946 and the heroes of WWII. The Naval Air Station Museum is located at 4000 West Perimeter Road in Fort Lauderdale. The public is invited to attend.

The annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance will be held on December 8 at 2PM at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale. Captain Jo-Ann Burdian, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami will be the guest speaker. The event is hosted by Broward Navy Days. This is always a very moving tribute to those who lost their lives and to the few survivors. The public is invited to attend.

# SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION



Captain James Passarelli, Coast Guard District Seven Chief of Staff recently notified the Council of the formation of a local official chapter of the Surface Navy Association (SNA). SNA is a professional military association for Surface Warfare Officers/Enlisted (SWOs/SWEs) and Cuttermen to promote the seagoing ratings within the Coast Guard and Navy and to provide professional development to young sailors. More information about this non-profit organization can be found on SNA's website [navysna.org](http://navysna.org).

The new local chapter can be found on Facebook—search Surface Navy Association Miami/Ft Lauderdale. Retired SWOs/SWEs are encouraged to visit and like the Facebook page.

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# 2020 LOCAL DUES / DONATIONS

Each year, we ask our Council members to pay local dues or to make a donation to the Council. If you wonder why we need these funds, the following is a sampling of the support we provide to our sea service units and youth groups.

**USS PAUL IGNATIUS**—Council participated in commissioning event; many served on the commissioning committee. Council made donation for the commissioning. Council adopted the ship after it was commissioned and gave the ship a check for its MWR fund. Shortly thereafter, the Council honored its four sailors of the quarter with monetary awards. It will continue to honor its sailors of the quarter as well as its sailors of the year.

**USS BATAAN and USS LEYTE GULF**— Each quarter, the Council honors the four sailors of the quarter from the USS Bataan and the three sailors of the quarter from the USS Leyte Gulf with monetary awards. Each ship's sailors of the year are also provided with monetary awards.

**USCGC MANATEE**— Council adopted this cutter and provided a check for its MWR fund.

**USCGC PAUL CLARK, USCGC MARGARET NORVELL, USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER and USCGC ROBERT YERED** — The Council honors each cutter's enlisted person of the quarter and enlisted person of the year with a monetary award.

**COAST GUARD STATION FORT LAUDERDALE, COAST GUARD AIR STATION MIAMI, COAST GUARD TACLET SOUTH** - The Council honors each unit's enlisted person of the quarter and enlisted person of the year with a monetary award.

**COAST GUARD AIDS TO NAVIGATION (ANT)** - The Council honors the unit's enlisted person of the year with a monetary award.

**COAST GUARD EASTER EGG HUNT & BBQ**—The Council hosts this annual event that is attended free of charge by approximately 150 Coast Guard personnel and their families. There are games and face painting for the children along with a bounce house. Everyone in attendance enjoys great food. Prizes are given out to the children and each child leaves with several small toys.

**COAST GUARD HOLIDAY PARTY**—Each year the Council hosts a holiday part for local Coast Guard personnel and their spouse/guest. The event is co-hosted with Broward Navy Days and Fort Lauderdale. Each Coast Guard attendee is provided with two free drinks and all in attendance are provided with a buffet dinner.

**COOPER CITY HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC, FLANAGAN HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC, NOVA HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC, STRANAHAN HIGH SCHOOL MCJROTC, TARAVELLA HIGH SCHOOL NJROTS** - The outstanding cadet from each high school's JROTC unit is presented a Navy League Youth Medal aka Teddy Roosevelt medal.

**FLEET WEEK**—Council members served on Fleet Week planning committee. Many members served as volunteers at various events. Monetary donation was made to Broward Navy Days. Council hosted a **FLEET WEEK JUNIOR OFFICERS PARTY** providing each attendee with two free drinks; all in attendance were provided with a buffet dinner.

Please help us continue our sea service support by paying local dues or making a donation.

## ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSES

We are excited to announce that The Navy League is continuing its offer of a complimentary e-membership for spouses of active duty U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard service men and women.

We hope all active duty spouses will take advantage of this free e-membership by registering on-line. Please remember to select BROWARD COUNTY COUNCIL as the Council of choice.

Please feel free to share this information with anyone you think may be interested even if they do not live in the South Florida area.

You can visit the Navy League website ([navyleague.org](http://navyleague.org)) for more information or to register.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to Membership Chairperson Marianne Giambrone at:

[browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com)



BROWARD COUNTY FLORIDA COUNCIL  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES RENEWAL — 2020

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: (changes only) \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2020:	INDIVIDUALS	\$35
	HUSBAND/WIFE	\$65

YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT AN ADOPTED/SPONSORED UNIT WITH AN ADDITIONAL DONATION  
(mark your choice):

- |                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ◇ USS BATAAN                        | ◇ USS LEYTE GULF               |
| ◇ USS PAUL IGNATIUS                 | ◇ USCG Aids to Navigation Team |
| ◇ USCG Station Fort Lauderdale      | ◇ USCG TACLET South            |
| ◇ USCG Air Station Miami            | ◇ USCGC MARGARET NORVELL       |
| ◇ USCG MANATEE                      | ◇ USCGC ROBERT YERED           |
| ◇ USCGC PAUL CLARK                  | ◇ USCGC BERNARD C WEBBER       |
| ◇ Coast Guard Holiday Party         | ◇ Youth Programs—Sea Cadets    |
| ◇ Coast Guard Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ | ◇ Youth Programs—JROTC         |

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Broward County Council Navy League or “BCNL”

Mail to: Marianne Giambrone  
Membership Chairperson  
1546 Barcelona Way  
Weston FL 33327

*THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MEN AND WOMEN  
THAT PROVIDE OUR SECURITY*

# RECOGNITION

The Council recently sent certificates of accomplishment and monetary awards to the outstanding crew members of our newest adopted ship, the USS PAUL IGNATIUS. We were proud to be a part of the commissioning of this ship and to continue to support them as one of the Council's adopted units.



Senior Sailor of the Quarter  
QM1 Traverious K. Lee

QM1 Lee enlisted in the Navy in 2010 and serves as the Navigation Department Leading Petty Officer. His decorations include Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3 awards) and Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.



Blue Jacket of the Quarter  
CSSN Deondre L. Powe

CSSN Powe enlisted in the Navy in 2017. In March 2019, he assisted in the grand opening of "Nancy's Diner," the ship's galley, and has prepared over 720 meals for the crew. He has taken on increased responsibilities in becoming assistant Jack of the Dust and S2 division records keeper. CSSN Powe also dedicates his time as a stretcher bearer, a member of the health promotion committee, and a member of the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD).

(photos and sailor information provided by CMDCM (SW/EXW) Alan D. Tapley of USS PAUL IGNASTIUS)



Sailor of the Quarter  
BM2 Donald E. Williams

BM2 Williams enlisted in the Navy in 2012. Since checking on board USS PAUL IGNATIUS, he has successfully built Deck Division's work center from the ground up and has qualified over 25 sailors in basic qualifications ensuring the ship is battle ready.



Coast Guard Station Fort  
Lauderdale  
Enlisted Person of the  
Quarter  
BM2 Victor Santos

In late October, Board member Alan Starr was on hand to recognize BM2 Victor Santos, the Enlisted Person of the Quarter for the Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019. BM2 Santos' primary role at Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale is to serve as a member of the unit's Training Staff. In just three months, he created numerous complex and dynamic training plans to expose both new and seasoned crew members to their search and rescue and high risk boat operations missions. His efforts contributed to unit personnel earning 24 new certifications. In addition to the time he spent both on and off duty helping others, he was able to earn his Boarding Officer and Pursuit Coxswain certifications on both of their underway platforms.

(photo and BM2 Santos' information appeared on the Station's Facebook page)



Junior Sailor of the Quarter  
RS3 Tyania M. Smith

RS3 Smith enlisted in the Navy in 2017. She has stepped heavily into leadership roles in the Sales and Service Division as the Work Center Supervisor and Service Supervisor, managing ship's laundry and barber shop where she enforces safety and sanitation standards while providing maximum support to the crew. A standout member of the command, RS3 Smith has shown her leadership and teamwork as a stretcher bearer and a member of the Junior Petty Officer Association.

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# RECOGNITION



Coast Guard Air Station Miami  
Enlisted Person of the Quarter  
HS1 Brooke Muniz

On November 6, Board members Alan Starr and Mark Lemay were on hand to recognize the achievements of Coast Guard Air Station Miami's Enlisted

Person of the Quarter. Alan presented HS1 Brooke Muniz with a certificate of accomplishment and a monetary award. (photo provided by Mark Lemay)

The Council recently sent certificates of accomplishment and monetary awards to the outstanding crew members of our adopted ship, the USS LEYTE GULF. We are proud to be able to support the LEYTE GULF which was commissioned in 1987 in Port Everglades. The following are the sailors of the quarter for the fourth quarter FY19 and the 2019 sailors of the year.



Sailor of the Year: EM1 Jon Lugo  
Junior Sailor of the Year: FCA2 Qunisha Lytch  
Bluejacket of the Year: OS3 Aiverson Mansapit

Congratulations !

(photo was posted on the USS LEYTE GULF's Facebook page)

Unfortunately, photos were not available for these outstanding LEYTE GULF sailors of the quarter.

Sailor of the Quarter: GSM1 Samuel Anderson  
Junior Sailor of the Quarter" STG2 Faith Wendelken  
Bluejacket of the Quarter: DC3 Juan Hernandez

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Congratulations to USCGC Margaret Norvell's Lieutenant (junior grade) Clara Wear on her promotion. LTJG Wear is the cutter's First Lieutenant and Weapons Officer. (from USCGC Margaret Norvell's Facebook page)



Congratulations to Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale's ENS Etienne (shown with Commanding Officer Lt Derek Wallin) who graduated from Officer Candidate School on November 19. The graduation ceremony was the culmination of 17 weeks of comprehensive training at the U. S. Coast Guard Leadership Development Center. (from the Coast Guard Station's Facebook page)



# KEEP CONNECTED

Don't forget to visit and like our Council's Facebook page where you will get up-to-date information about many of our adopted units, other sea service news as well as events we are hosting

[www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/](http://www.facebook.com/Browardcountynavyleague/)

Also visit our website where you can read about our adopted units, get the latest event news and find previous editions of The Helmsman. You'll also find links to other related websites such as Operation Homefront and Broward Veterans Coalition.

[bcnavyleague.org](http://bcnavyleague.org)

Don't forget to visit the Navy League website. You'll be able to utilize the Voice to Congress feature, learn more about Navy League programs, shop for Navy League merchandise and more. It is recommended that you create a user name and password that will enable you to view additional information that is not available to the general public. It will also enable you to easily pay your membership dues.

[Navyleague.org](http://Navyleague.org)

# BUSINESS CARD AD

Larry M. Ott  
Licensed Funeral Director

## Kraeer-Fairchild Funeral Home & Cremation Center

4061 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  
954-565-5591  
Fax 954-565-7899  
Larry.Ott@DignityMemorial.com  
[www.kraeerfairchild.com](http://www.kraeerfairchild.com)



BCNL member  
discount with  
this ad

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 Giambone at [browardnavyleague@gmail.com](mailto:browardnavyleague@gmail.com).

# SHIP VISIT

Council Treasurer Tom Carney had the opportunity to share his love of golf with members of the crew from the RFA MOUNTS BAY. The ship was pre-deployed by the British Government to help in the event of a hurricane, especially for British Territories. They were the first ones into Hurricane Dorian. They used the golf course on Treasure Cay as a helicopter base to rescue and resupply the initial rescue effort. They landed heavy machinery, lots of chainsaw crews and back-hoes to clear roads. Treasure Cay is a parcel of land connected to Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas.

In early September, one foursome and one threesome played golf at Jacaranda golf course in Plantation. Photo provided by Tom shows him with Mohan Thapa and Matt Needham, both members of 24th Command Royal Engineers, British Army.



Tom also provided the photo taken near the ship which shows Tom, Tom Booth, Mohan Thapa and Lee Holborn. Booth and Holborn are Royal Navy.



# NOVEMBER DINNER SOCIAL

The Council held its dinner social on November 14 at Tropical Acres Restaurant. Guest speaker Rear Admiral Steve Poulin, Director of Operations at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM). RADM Poulin explained SOUTHCOM's responsibilities in Central America, South American and the Caribbean. He also shared information about the USNS COMFORT that is currently on a five-month deployment to provide medical assistance to the Caribbean and South America. The audience had many questions for RADM Poulin after his presentation. The election of Council officers for 2020 also took place at the event.



Seated: Joanne Melville, Tom Melville, Carolyn Marks  
Standing: Rosa Reeves and Dianne Schmidt



Chaplain Rick Braswell, RADM Poulin and Larry Ott



Larry Ott and Mark Lemay with Shelley Beck



Larry Ott with new members Chaplain Rick Braswell and Richard Fournier



Larry Ott presented Wayne McLaren with Mackie Award plaque for outstanding website. Thanks for the great job for do Wayne as the Council's website coordinator!

All dinner social photos provided by Charlie Schmidt

## HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE

Past President Glenn Wiltshire has again volunteered to participate in Operation Homefront's holiday toy drive. This year, toys were donated by Dollar Tree Store customers from November 1 through December 5. Glenn picks up these small toys/holiday stocking stuffers from several local Dollar Tree Stores and distributes them to many local Navy and Coast Guard units. Operation Homefront is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors. Their holiday toy drive is just one of their many programs. Thanks for all your efforts Glenn!

## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Your Navy League membership is important for many reasons, one is your ability to educate our Congressional leaders on issues important to our Sea Services. The Navy League advocates on behalf of the sea services both in our communities and on Capitol Hill. Through our biennial Fly In event in Washington, D.C., our members get in-person time with their representatives. This year, on November 14, 87 Navy League members were able to visit with 265 members of Congress and/or their staff members. During the year, Navy Leaguers meet with their representatives in their home district. Our Council's Vice President of Legislative Affairs is Bob Marks who has already developed a relationship with Congressman Ted Deutch and Congresswoman Lois Frankel. The Council has also been assigned to contact Congressman Alcee Hastings and a meeting with him will take place sometime in 2020.

The best and easiest way for your voice to be heard is through the Navy League Voice to Congress feature. You can find current sea service issues on the Voice to Congress Navy League website (<https://www.votervoicenet.com/NavyLeague/Home>). You can read about each issue, its solution and why your help is needed. Once you enter your home address, the rest is easy. The correct political leaders for your district will appear as will a message, ready to be sent (you can modify it if you wish). You can also register to get notified when a new sea service issue needing your help is added.

## SEA SERVICE NEWS



The first female Marine has passed the Basic Reconnaissance Course (BRC) and earned the 0321 reconnaissance Marine military occupational specialty, or MOS, the Marine Corps has

confirmed. Lance Cpl. Alexa Barth graduated from the grueling 12-week course Nov. 7, 1st Lt. Sam Stephenson, Marine Corps spokesman, confirmed to Marine Corps Times Thursday. Barth still has a few more training schools to go through before joining her unit at 1st Recon Battalion at Camp Pendleton, California, said Maj. Kendra Motz, spokeswoman for 1st Marine Division. Barth is expected to arrive at her unit late spring 2020. The BRC provides Marines "with the basic knowledge of reconnaissance doctrine, concepts, and techniques with emphasis on amphibious entry, extraction, beach reconnaissance, Combat Rubber Reconnaissance Craft (CRR) operator skills and ground reconnaissance patrolling skills," according to a slide attached to the Reconnaissance Training Company website. (story and photo from Marine Corps Times)



The USS Bataan completed a live-fire exercise of its Rolling Airframe Missile (RAM) and NATO Sea Sparrow Missile against drone targets while underway Nov. 7, 2019. The ship,

part of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group (ARG), was underway conducting a Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). COMPTUEX is an intensive, month-long exercise designed to fully integrate a carrier strike group or ARG-MEU as a cohesive, multi-mission fighting force. It thoroughly tests the abilities of the Sailors and Marines assigned to the ARG and MEU to carry out sustained combat operations from the sea. During the live-fire exercise, the ship detected, tracked and conducted engagements using its RAM and NATO Sea Sparrow Missile against targets in order to validate the capabilities of the ship's weapons systems as well as demonstrate warfighting readiness with the watchstanders on board. Shown in photo are Fire Controlman 2nd Class Warren Golston (left) and Fire Controlman 2nd Class Nathanael Westcott (right). (story and photo appeared on the Bataan's Facebook page)

# NOVEMBER DINNER SOCIAL



George Reeves, Rear Admiral Steve Poulin, Bob Marks and Richard Fournier