



## Navy League of the United States St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council

# BOSUN'S LOCKER

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### FROM THE BRIDGE:



Fellow Navy Leaguers:

As we reach the end of 2016, I think it is time to reflect back over the year and to focus on some of the Council's achievements. Although our new member goals were not realized, the Council was successful in achieving many of its other goals. Support of our adopted ships and units was high on our list and we met that goal unquestionably thanks to our liaisons.

Our Sea Cadets continued their successful achievements participating in many local and state competitions. They demonstrated exemplary performance during Hurricane Matthew by reaching out to the community to volunteer their time to help and assist in cleanup of individual's yards. They also performed color guard duty at many events during the year and helped support PAL DAY at the Elks Lodge.

Our golf tournament this year was an overwhelming success, raising over \$16,000 for our Council. We are deeply appreciative to our golf committee chaired by Lee Figliuolo for making this year such a huge success. The funds raised by our golf tournament help us support our adopted units throughout the year as well as our Sea Cadet and JROTC programs.

This year's Christmas Dinner was one of the best I can ever remember attending in all my years as a Navy League member. Thanks to Ian Pollitt as the committee chairman and his team that made this year's event such a memorable occasion. Of special significance was the salute to our special guest, Medal of Honor recipient Cpl. Dwayne Dewey. A big shout out to our Marine, Navy and Coast Guard sailor and to RADM Sean Buck who manned the detail and paid honors to Cpl. Dewey.

Our New Officers and Board members will be installed during our January meeting. We look forward to another successful year under the leadership of this Officer Board.

Our regularly scheduled meetings for 2017 have been changed to Tuesdays due to a scheduling conflict with the Southeast Branch Library. I will put out a meeting announcement several days in advance of each meeting along with the agenda and scheduled speaker. The dates and times for all 2017 meetings is already posted on our web site calendar.

Our focus this year will be on building the Council's membership. Under the leadership of our newly appointed VP of Membership, Claude Caviness, we expect to accomplish our goal. Please contact Claude at 904-535-7832 or ccaviness@gmail.com if you have anyone who interested in joining the Navy League.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our liaisons, committee members, officers and Board members who have worked tirelessly this year to make our Council so successful.

*Bill Dudley*

**President  
SA-PC Council  
Navy League of the United States**

### EDITORS NOTE:

A collage of the pictures from our Christmas Party are on page 5. All of the pictures from the party and all other past events are on the web site under the Gallery Tab.

Wishing all of our members a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous new year in 2017.

**Lee Figliuolo - VP Communications**



## NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL:



Our SA-PC Navy League Council partnered with the Navy League Councils of Mayport and Jacksonville to sponsor the Tri-Base (NAS JAX, NS Mayport and NSB Kings Bay) Navy Ball, celebrating the 241st Navy Birthday. The event, held at the Renaissance World Golf Village Resort on the evening of Saturday, October 1, 2016, was attended by some 900 military and civilian guests. The guest of honor and principal speaker was Admiral Kurt W. Tidd Commander United States Southern Command who performed the swearing-in ceremony for 11 new recruits to a resounding ovation from the 900. Also making remarks of introduction were retiring Congressman Ander Crenshaw of Florida's Fourth District as well as Rear Admiral Sean S. Buck, Commander U. S. Naval Forces Southern Command, U. S. Fourth Fleet (Mayport). The evening's warmest reception was for CPO Bill Ingram USN (Ret.) of Tom Brokaw's "greatest generation". Bill was on the torpedoed USS Houston (CA-30) on March 2, 1942 and became a severely beaten POW of the Japanese. He was taken to Java in a prisoner mass to work for 3-1/2 years of death and horror, on a railroad project to build a "bridge over the River Kwai" in Thailand.

Pat Ray was hostess for a table that included BMC Casey Currey, Officer In Charge of our adopted USCG Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) and his teammate FN Nicholas Maricio. Also hosted were PO2 Jonathan Mcwain, USN an aircrewman from our adopted VR-58 and his squadron-mate PO3 Cole Harrington. Claude Caviness is the NL Liaison for ANT and the Asst. Liaison (to Gene Finck) for the VR-58 Sunseekers. Claude also is pleased to be an Honorary member of the VR-58 CPO Mess. St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver favored us with a table-visit to meet, greet and thank the uniformed guests for their service. Mayor Shaver proudly wears the mini-medals of her late naval officer father, also a member of the WW-II "greatest generation". Joining the Pat Ray table were SA-PC NL new members Jane and Dave Singleton of Orange Park. SA-PC NL members also attending the Ball were President Bill and Nancy Dudley, Daphne & Jerry Coleman, Ellie & George Grech, Pat & Dave Sullivan as well as USMC BIC Liaison Jana Teehan.

**Claude Caviness - USCG ANT Liaison**

## GOLF TOURNAMENT:

On Monday, October 31st, the St. Augustine – Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the United States held its 20th annual fund raising golf tournament at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast. The tournament was originally scheduled for Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, but hurricane Matthew had other plans for us. Originally we had 108 players scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>. After the cancelation notice was sent out we dropped to 96 players, but then had a resurgence and wound up fielding 114 golfers

The 114 golfer field for this year's golf tournament was one of the largest in the recent past, just missing last year's mark of 120. There were 36 active duty Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen participating in this year's event.



The tournament had two flights, the Blue and the Gold. The Blue flight, pictured on the left, was won by a Grand Haven member, Jim Lynch a helicopter pilot in the Viet Nam war, plus three members of USCG HITRON. Second and third place were teams made up of Grand Haven members.

A Navy foursome from VR-58 (pictured on the right) won the Gold flight. Second place in the Gold flight was taken by a team of former NFL players including our own Pete Banaszak and the principal of Matanzas High School, Earl Johnson. 3rd place was won by another team from VR-58.



There were also contests for Long Drive and Closest to the Pin for both men and women:  
 LONG DRIVE Men – Eric Jaramo - USCGC Valiant) Women – B. J. Mott  
 CLOSEST TO PIN Men – Matt Farquhar – HITRON Women – B. J. Mott



By all measures the tournament was a huge success in that it raised just under \$16,000 for the council and awarded over 50 raffle prizes (golf foursomes & golf equipment) in addition to prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in each flight and Men's & Ladies Long Drive and Closest to the pin. For the 7th year in a row, the Hyundai Equus – Ultimate went unclaimed on Hole #17.

**Lee Figliuolo - Golf Tournament Chairman**



## **USCGC Valiant:**



Council member Gary Cohn and Valiant Liaison Sally Watson met with the BM2 Evan Ward in early December to make the arrangements for him to enjoy the SOY package he was awarded as the Valiant's 2015 SOY. Since that time he has been selected as the USCG Active Duty SOY for 2015. Below is a write up of Wards accomplishments.

The Coast Guard prides itself on the professionalism of the men and women in its ranks. Once a year, a member of the Coast Guard is selected as the top performer in the service for the active duty element through the enlisted person of the year program. For 2015 the active duty honor was awarded to Petty Officer 2nd Class Evan Ward.



As a boatswain's mate aboard the USCG Cutter Valiant for nearly four years, Ward has participated in various missions and unit activities. Yet over the past year, Ward consistently undertook duties and responsibilities above his pay grade. In addition to earning qualifications as a deck watch officer, an officer of the day and a small boat operator, Ward led seven counter-drug pursuits, resulting in the seizure of five vessels, arrests of 16 smugglers, and the recovery of \$116 million worth of narcotics.

During one chase, Ward pursued drug smugglers for more than 110 miles, resulting in their eventual capture. Ward also participated in migrant interdictions, one of which received international media attention, with articles being published as far away as Japan.



Adm. Paul Zukunft, commandant of the Coast Guard, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell present Petty Officer 2nd Class Evan Ward the citation to accompany his Coast Guard Commendation Medal during the 2015 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., April 28, 2016.

"One of the biggest things about being a coxswain is the safety of your crew," Ward said. "It feels good to help prevent this material from coming in. It helps make an impact on the community by keeping people from getting affected by drugs."

When he wasn't chasing after smugglers, Ward helped with administrative tasks at his unit. He oversaw the maintenance of more than 700 nautical charts, which assisted in the ship's navigation. He also participated in his unit's leadership and diversity advisory council by organizing displays, presentations and special meals for six cultural observances. He volunteered to attend the senior bridge management course, further sharpening his rating knowledge. As the deck watch officer, Ward managed navigational operations as the ship transited through the Panama Canal more than once, including a night transit.

A native of Fernandina Beach, Ward frequently volunteers in the local community at different events. Some of the events he's participated in include a Mayport Beach clean-up and a Special Olympics surfing competition.

"We, as Coast Guardsmen, have an obligation to step outside our normal duties and help our local communities," Ward said. In addition to helping his community, Ward also took time to speak to students at a school for children diagnosed with autism and other disabilities. In December 2015, Ward assisted in organizing a Toys for Tots drive aboard the Cutter Valiant as well as helped cook dinner for more than 400 homeless people at a Jacksonville shelter.

"To me, BM2 Ward is that perfect mix of the hard worker, great shipmate and ideal Coast Guard representative," said Cmdr. Adam Chamie, commanding officer of the Cutter Valiant. "Having served with BM2 for the past two years, I know he will make a phenomenal representative for our service. I'm extremely proud of him and grateful for all his contributions to our ship and the community."

Ward also dedicated his time during a port call in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he and several of his crewmembers delivered donated toys and books to the children there.

"That had the biggest emotional effect on me," Ward said. "You see how much these kids are in need. I felt humbled by the experience and grateful for what we did. That experience helped put things into perspective."

In the spirit of giving back to his community, Ward wants to continue to serve his country. Looking toward the future, one of his career goals is to apply for, and attend, the Coast Guard's Officer Candidate School.

"I want to be an officer because I want to seek more responsibilities, more leadership challenges and continue to make an impact in the Coast Guard," said Ward.

From helping navigate his ship, performing administrative tasks, to pursuing smugglers, Ward has dedicated his time to his unit and his shipmates. His charity work extends to his local community as well as communities nationwide.

"I'm excited for the opportunities this recognition will provide me," said Ward. "It is an absolute honor to be recognized, but now the true challenge begins."

***Sally Watson - USCGC Valiant Liaison***

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### **JROTC**



The Nease High School NJROTC unit hosted the McFarland Inter-Service Drill Meet on October 22nd. Marines from the NAS JAX Aviation Maintenance class and local Marine recruiters assisted as judges. Hospitalmen from NAS JAX hospital also assisted with medical support.

The Terry Parker High School NJROTC unit won first place overall and Orange Park High School NJROTC came in second. Lee Spancake, my wife Delores attended the day long event with me.

James Geronimo Jr., a 2008 graduate of St. Augustine High School was promoted to Chief Petty Officer on September 16, 2016 at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC. I have been following his Navy career over the past 8 years since he graduated from high school. James was a cadet Colonel Brigade Commander in the St. Augustine HS AJROTC unit. He was the recipient of our Kirkpatrick scholarship award that year. James was the Lead Petty Officer on the USS Alabama where he was Sailor of the Year in 2014 and 2015. He is currently teaching nuclear reactor theory at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston. A great career in a short period of service. He is married with 2 children.

### **ST. AUGUSTINE NAVAL SEA CADET BATTALION**

The battalion volunteered at the St. Johns Cattlemen's Associations Cracker Day event on October 15th. The association donated \$300. to the battalion for their help in parking cars that day. In addition the battalion Marched in the Veterans Parade on November 11th, provided the color guard for a local church ceremony and our Council's Christmas Party on December 9th, and cleaned up debris at a retired Navy veteran's home after Hurricane Matthew. They also volunteered help to the Lighthouse grounds cleanup effort after Matthew.

On June 4, HITRON will be hosting the unit for the day conducting a wide range of activities. The annual inspection of the battalion will be held Jan. 5. Inspection will be conducted by the regional representative LCDR June Tillett.

**Bill Hamm** - VP of Youth Affairs



### **USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621)**

Ian Pollitt and I were invited to go out on the Valiant on December 14, while they conducted their last training drill. The scenario for the training drill was that two enemy planes approached Mayport. One attacked the base and the second one flew into the stern of the Valiant. The Valiant was on fire, the power was knocked out to the engine room and the ship was adrift. The crew practiced their fire-fighting skills and dropped anchor until the fire was out and power was restored.



Lookout watching enemy plane approach



Preparing to go below to assess the status of the fire



Crew member surveying the damage



Adjusting the raised anchor - that's one big wrench

**Sally Watson** - USCGC Valiant Liaison

### **USS FARRAGUT (DDG 99):**



On 15 December a large SAPCNL contingent descended on NAVSTA Mayport to witness the combined SOQ/SOY Ceremony for USS FARRAGUT (DDG 99). Council Liaison Gene Finck organized the event, which was a great success!



While onboard Council members had the opportunity to sit down with the Commanding Officer, CDR Megan Thomas, and get caught up on the ship's recent exploits and future plans, as well as go on a tour of the ship with the ship's First Lieutenant. The FARRAGUT is just completing a lengthy Dry-docking Selected Restricted Availability (DSRA) period where the ship was pulled from the water and her running gear overhauled, along with a full topside rehabilitation and combat systems upgrade which will see the ship through another decade of service to the fleet.



FARRAGUT will next embark on a lengthy redeployment workup period with other US and Coalition ships, before deploying again to the FIFTH FLEET area of responsibility in early 2018.

**Ian Pollitt** - VP Military Affairs







Bosun's Locker Bulletin  
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Legislative Affairs	Dave Sullivan	386-447-3174
Board Member	Don Manson	786-374-4921

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USS Farragut	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
VR 58	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
USS The Sullivans	Gary Cohn	904-797-5828
USCGC Valiant	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
USCGC Maria Bray	Barbara Price	904-874-1253
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USCGC Sawfish	Don Manson	786-374-4921
USCG ANT	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
USCGC Diamondback	Don Manson	786-374-4921
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CG HITRON	Paul Kimmel	386-986-8260
Marine Blount Island	Jana Teehan	904-824-9311
JROTC Units	Bill Hamm	386-447-5271
Sea Cadets	Bill Hamm	386-447-5271

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

OPEN

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Garry Karsner	904-540-4652
	Boyd Guttery	904-471-1651

**CHAPLAIN**

Nickolas Marziani	904-460-0535
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**ARCHIVES**

Gary Cohn	904-797-5828
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**MISSION STATEMENT**

The St. Augustine - Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the of the United States is a civilian organization whose mission is to: Support the objectives of the National Navy League of the United States and selected active duty Maritime Military units within our reach in the St. Augustine area and to support local High School JROTC programs

