



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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FROM THE BRIDGE:



Fellow Navy Leaguers,

First, some sad news.

Herbie Wiles Passing. Our Navy League Council and the St. Johns – Flagler County community has lost a WWII veteran, long time leader, family patriarch, and friend to many, Mr. Herbie Wiles.

At age 92, and throughout his life, Herbie was a model of civic participation and leadership. After founding a successful business in 1961 which employs and serves many even today, Herbie went on to serve as a three term St. Johns County Commissioner (1966-1978), in addition to service in many community groups, including the St. Augustine – Palm Coast Navy League Council. Herbie was a founding member of the St. Augustine Council which was established in Oct. 1975. He had been a strong supporter both financially and with personal involvement over the years. He has been a mentor, sounding board, and exemplary citizen. He will be dearly missed. Fair winds and following seas will be always now for Herbie in his eternal life with Heavenly God.

Herbie Wiles led a long, productive, and wonderful life. Of course none of us know how much time we have on the eternal clock, and all will face surprises, good and bad, during our time here. Herbie, after a career in the insurance industry, certainly knew all about that. This summer, our Council hosted a presentation by attorney Megan Wall pertaining to legal aspects to unexpected financial challenges for anyone, and particularly our senior cohort.

Upcoming Council activities include, but are not limited to:

Summer in October Picnic: Originally the Council had planned a Labor Day picnic at the St. Augustine Yacht Club, but had to reschedule because of the threatening weather expected from hurricane Dorian. The new date for our picnic is Saturday, October 5th.

Annual Golf Tournament: The Council will host our annual fund raising golf tournament on Monday, October 28th at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast. Tournament Chairman, Lee Figliuolo, is now accepting applications to play in the event. More importantly he is seeking donations to sponsor active duty military members to play. At present we are far behind last years level of donations. If you'd like to sponsor a military player, contact Lee at leefig@aol.com.

Veterans Day Ceremony: The MOAA & Veterans Council of St. Johns County are hosting a Veterans Day ceremony at the Anastasia Baptist Church on Monday, November 11, 2019. Event starts at 9:00am.

Council Christmas Luncheon: The Council will hold its annual Christmas celebration with a luncheon at the Grand Haven Golf Club on Saturday, December 7th. We held this event last year at Grand haven and all participants were very much in favor of a repeat performance. The meal and service provided by the Grand Haven staff was outstanding. If you'd like more information about the event please contact the event coordinator, Ken Moffa at rxkenram@gmail.com.

As a gentle reminder, to Navy Leaguers who have not yet remitted their local Council dues, please do so. Let's keep 2019 going strong!

Patrick McCormack
President
SA-PC Council
Navy League of the United States

USMC Blount Island Command (BIC):



On May 3, 2019 a group of Marines from the Blount Island Command met with representatives from our council at the Clyde Lassen Veterans nursing home for a luncheon and presentation of the NCO of the Year award.

Council Chaplain, Fr. David Alert gave the invocation and the Keynote speech was given by Colonel Andrew Bergen, Commanding Officer BIC. Liaison Stan Gilewicz presented the award plaque SGT Robert Simms, while representatives from Congressman John Rutherford and Senator Marco Rubio presented SGT Simms with letters of recognition. In attendance were Council President Patrick McCormack, and members Jana Teehan, Bill Dudley, Garry Cohn, and Doug Lileks.



SGT Simms accepting his award from BIC Liaison Stan Gilewicz

Stan Gilewicz - USMC Blount Island Command Liaison

Navy League of the United States - Membership:



In early July, Sarah Potterton, wife of VALIANT XO Jon Potterton, became the first active duty spouse member of the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council. Sarah was recruited by Valiant Liaison, Sally Watson.

Recently Navy League of the United States offered a complimentary electronic membership to the spouse of a military member currently serving in one of the sea services. Navy League would like to give back to our sea service members and feel this is one way to do so. This membership entitles spouses to access 30 discount programs, membership in the local council, invitations to local events and ship commissioning's, ability to join national committees, relevant and timely news and information as well as an electronic subscription to Seapower magazine. This is a trial program. In October 2019, a survey will be sent to all participants and council presidents with participants as members. Depending on the results of feedback, the program may or may not become permanent.

Sally Watson - USCGC VALIANT Liaison

USCGC HAMMER & SAWFISH - Sailor of the Year Awards:

The SOY awards for Coast Guard Cutters HAMMER & SAWFISH were held at the USCG Annex, Mayport on July 8, 2019.



The SOY for the **SAWFISH** was Culinary Specialist Caitlin Hall. CS2 Hall, a native of Desallemands, LA, earned an Associate of Science degree in Culinary Arts and joined the USCG in May of 2016. She went to Culinary Specialist "A" School and earned the coveted title of Honor Graduate. Petty Officer Hall is currently the Independent Duty Food Service Officer of USCGC HERON (WPB 87344), homeported in Atlantic Beach, FL.

The SOY for the **HAMMER** was BM2 Dustin Madden. PO Madden enlisted in August 2014 out of Texas. After "A" school he reported to CGC WALNUT in Honolulu, HI. PO Madden has consistently performed above his rank and is very involved in Community Outreach. He visits children's hospitals; his group raised over \$2000 to help build wheel chairs, and volunteered for many events ranging from veterans to breast cancer. He is a great team player and enjoys training and teaching younger members of the crew.



Congressional Representatives attending the ceremony were Hunter Anderson (Senator Scott), Mathew Dew (Senator Rubio), and Jackie Smith, (Congressman John Rutherford). Navy League members attending were Claude Caviness, Gary Cohn, George Costa, Bill Dudley, Ian Pollitt, David and Jane Singleton, and Sally Watson.

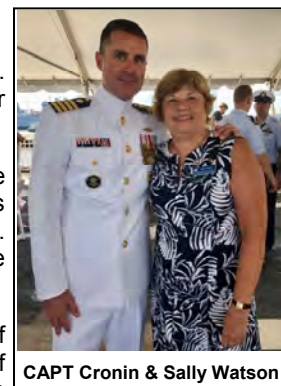
Dave and Jane Singleton - Liaisons for USCG Cutters, HERON, HAMMER, and RIDLEY

USCGC HAMILTON (WMSL 753):



On July 11, 2019 Captain Tim Cronin assumed command of the USCGC HAMILTON. Capt. Cronin served as CO of VALIANT from July 2015-2017. He was then assigned to National War College where he earned a Master of Science in National Security Strategy.

I was honored to be invited to his Change of Command. Capt. Cronin was the first CO I had the pleasure of working with when I became Navy League Liaison to VALIANT. Working with Tim and XO Chris Davis, we solidified the relationship between SAPC Navy League and VALIANT that continues today. Capt. Cronin relieved Capt. Mark Gordon, who is transferring to Atlantic Area command where he will hold the position of Chief of Operations.



CAPT Cronin & Sally Watson

The impressive ceremony and reception took place on the fantail of the HAMILTON. Family and friends of CAPT Cronin and CAPT Gordon were in attendance as well as a number of current and former members of the VALIANT. The great, great, great, great grandson of Alexander Hamilton and his family were there to celebrate the occasion. HAMILTON's sponsor, Linda Papp and her husband former Coast Guard Commandant Robert J. Papp, Jr., came from Washington, DC. There were also representatives from the various Congressional offices present.

CAPT Cronin said "I am excited to work alongside the impressive HAMILTON crew," said Cronin. "The cutter has an outstanding reputation and I am humbled to serve as her next Commanding Officer. I look forward to being part of the local Charleston community and working alongside our partners to execute the Coast Guard's mission at home and at sea." BRAVO ZULU Captain Cronin.

Sally Watson - USCGC VALIANT Liaison

USCGC MARIA BRAY (WLM562) - Change of Command:



The United States Coast Guard Cutter MARIA BRAY (WLM-562) celebrated her Change of Command at the ship's Mayport pier side on Friday July 26, 2019. CWO4 Michael E. Thomasi, who is retiring from the Coast Guard, was relieved of command by CWO3 Michael S. Brandt, as declared to their reporting senior, Captain Mark R. Vlaun USCG, Commander, Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville. Jared Whetstone is our Navy League liaison to the MARIA BRAY and was represented by Dave and Jane Singleton and Claude Caviness.

The MARIA BRAY's compliment is one officer and 23 enlisted members. She boasts the latest in high-tech control, monitoring and navigation equipment; allowing her to operate with a minimum number of personnel. Due to her ability to remain stationary on "auto pilot", she is regularly scheduled to mark the overwater runway for the Navy's Blue Angels at their Jacksonville Beach air shows, MARIA BRAY is 175 long with a 36 foot beam and 8 foot draft. Her speed is just over 12 knots with a 3100 nautical mile operating range and a 3 day endurance.



CW04 Thomasi accepts his ships pennant from a crew member

The Mayport based MARIA BRAY is a " Keeper" Class coastal buoy tender and, like all ships of her class, is named after a famous light house keeper. In 1864 her namesake, Maria Bray who was the wife of the Rockport, Massachusetts keeper who was obliged to leave Maria in charge of the twin-tower installation while he went to the mainland on a medical emergency. For three nights high winds and drifting snow the marooned Maria Bray kept the lights burning despite trekking the 900 foot separation between the towers in threatening weather.

Claude Caviness - VP Membership & USCG ANT Liaison

USCG HITRON - Awards Ceremony:

September 9, 2019 was a great day for HITRON! An awards ceremony was held under the direction of CO, CAPT Mike Campbell, and the citations read by XO, CDR Broadhurst.



Crew certifications, promotions, the " golden Wrench" award, letters of commendation and other awards were presented at the commands All Hands meeting. Included in the presentations were the 2nd quarter EPOQ to SK2 Ashley Geisert (pictured left) and the Prestigious Perchard award to AMT2 Michael Trees (pictured right). The Navy League plaques to commemorate those two awards were presented by Navy League Liaison to HITRON, retired USAF BGen Paul Kimmel.

SA-PC Navy League members in attendance who took part in the ceremonies were Bill Dudley, George Costa and Sally Watson. A great majority of HITRON's more than 250 members were present as well as many families and friends of awardees.



CAPT Campbell was gratified to make so many presentations in recognition of outstanding performers. He called them collectively, the reason HITRON has a reputation throughout the Coast Guard as a unit that constantly performs at a level that is the envy of other flying units and the pride of USCG Leadership. Well done HITRON! The SA-PC Navy League is proud to sponsor you.

Paul Kimmel - USCG HITRON Liaison

VR-58 - Sailor of the Quarter Awards:

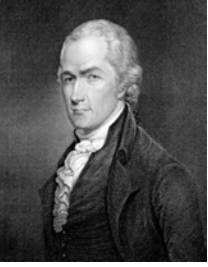
On July 13th, several Council Members participated in the VR-58 SOQ awards ceremony. Pictured below are the awardees with their supportive Council members standing behind.



**AMC (Sel) Fowler, AWF2 (NAC/AW) Hamilton, AT3 Russo, AMC (Sel) Rocheleau, YN1 (AW/IW) Mullins, LS3 Ayalaapointe and AT2 (AW) Gonzales
Rear: Claude Caviness, Garry Cohn, Eugene Finck, Jose Morrero, Pete Banaszak and Doug Lilaks**

United States Coast Guard- History:

Alexander Hamilton, Founder of the U. S. Coast Guard



After serving under Gen. George Washington in the Revolutionary War, Hamilton began studying law in 1782 and was elected to the Continental Congress. On June 9, 1784, he helped found the Bank of New York, establishing our nation's first currency system.

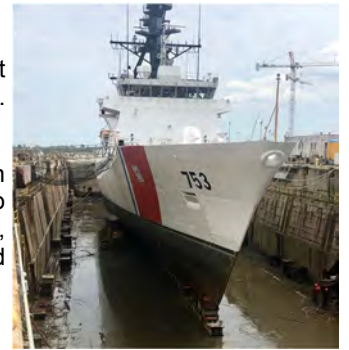
As the fledgling nation sought to combat smugglers seeking to avoid payment of import tariffs, Hamilton advised Congress to establish 10 cutters to help direct ships to specific ports of entry along the East Coast from New England to Georgia. Hamilton wanted those cutters to be armed with ten muskets and bayonets, twenty pistols, two chisels, one broad-ax and two lanterns. "A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the law," he wrote in the Federalist Paper No. 12. Later, this proved the basis for establishment of the Revenue Marine, also known as the Revenue Cutter Service in 1790 (renamed the Coast Guard in 1915). Since the Continental Navy disbanded following the conclusion of the American Revolution, the Revenue Marine served as the sole naval force of the new republic until 1794. He assigned revenue cutters to each of 10 eastern ports, allowing for import tariff collection, critically important to the economic viability of our nation. One vital mission of the Revenue Marine was to render aid and assistance as needed "for the protection of lives and property at sea," a humanitarian lifesaving role that helps define the Coast Guard to this day.

Hamilton led a dramatic albeit short life, succumbing to a bullet fired by Aaron Burr in a duel along the banks of Weehawken, N.J. Despite his short life, Hamilton made an indelible mark in American history as the founding father of our nation and the U S Coast

USCGC HAMILTON - IN DRY DOCK

Former VALIANT, Captain Tim Cronin, took command of the HAMILTON on July 11. One of his first orders was to take the soon to be five year old cutter to Detyen's shipyard in Charleston for dry dock. HAMILTON is home-ported in Charleston, so it is a short 2 mile cruise up the river.

On August 6, CAPT Cronin and his crew, perfectly maneuvered 418' of steel into the shipyard in preparation for her dry dock availability. A dry dock is a time where a ship is pulled out of the water to have maintenance conducted on it. HAMILTON's dry dock will include projects such as hull preservation, rudder optimization, conduction of a 3D laser scan of the ship, preservation the anchor chains, and inspection and testing of all of the ship's installed firefighting systems.



Sally Watson - USCGC VALIANT Liaison

USCGC CONFIDENCE - Sailor of the Quarter:

Port Canaveral based USCGC CONFIDENCE returned home August 17 after spending several months in Jacksonville dry dock. VALIANT XO, Jon Potterton, attended the Coast Guard Academy with CONFIDENCE XO, Ryan Kelley. As former classmates do, Ryan contacted Jon, to let him know he would be in Jacksonville and hopefully they would get together. It was time for a SOQ on CONFIDENCE to be recognized and Jon suggested that LCDR Kelley contact VALIANT liaison, Sally Watson. When Sally heard that they had a SOQ to be recognized, she contacted the Board members for approval to have a plaque made.

On a hot, humid July 25th, Sally, Dave, and Jane Singleton went up to the shipyard to make the presentation. Decked out with hard hats they were greeted by LCDR Kelley. After taking a few pictures, and climbing up a tall, shaky staircase, they were escorted to the Ward Room. They were warmly met by Capt. Travis Emge and some of the officers. Two CG Academy seniors who spent their summer with the cutter presented a Power Point on the history of CONFIDENCE and answered our questions. From there we proceeded to the Mess to greet the crew. Chief Norman read the Letter of Commendation for SOQ, GM3 Jahmari J. Boynes. Sally then presented the plaque. GM3 Boynes coordinated the delivery of 13,000 rounds of small arms ammunition to Sector San Juan saving the CG more than \$5,000 in shipping costs, but also sustaining the readiness of their units. Prior to dry dock, he supervised the offload of more than 60,000 rounds of ammunition and pyrotechnics. He was commended for always having a positive, "can-do" attitude and his intense loyalty to the unit and shipmates. The Council members were each given a challenge coin and repeatedly thanked for making the trip up to recognize their SOQ. LCDR Kelley then took them to the bridge. Not wanting to get in the way of their work, they opted not to tour the ship. In a follow up e-mail from LCDR Kelley, he said that GM3 Boynes was humbled by the plaque and visit. LCDR Kelley has extended an invitation to the council anytime they want to go to Port Canaveral.



USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG68) - Reunion Ceremony:



The Sullivan brothers on board the USS Juneau (CL-52)
L to R: Joseph, Francis, Albert, Madison,
and George Sullivan

Kelly Sullivan, granddaughter of Albert Sullivan and ship sponsor for USS The Sullivans (DDG 68), and members of the Sullivans Association visited the Sullivans (DDG 68) for a namesake ship visit on Naval Station Mayport, Sept. 27.

The Sullivans (DD 537/DDG68) Association is a non-profit group that promotes the memory of the five Sullivan Brothers who gave their lives while serving in the Atlanta Class light cruiser USS Juneau (CL52) during WWII. The Sullivans (DDG 68), commissioned in April 19, 1997, in Staten Island, New York, is named to honor the five brothers from Waterloo, Iowa who served together aboard USS Juneau (CL 52) during World War II. The Sullivan brothers lost their lives during the Battle of Guadalcanal Nov. 13, 1942 when Juneau was sunk by a Japanese submarine.

Kelly Sullivan, accompanied by three generations of her family, along with former commanding officers and crew members of the Fletcher-class destroyer The Sullivans (DD 537), have gathered in the Jacksonville area as part of a multi-day reunion. "I've been doing this for quite a while and I think so much about what they've been through," said Kelly. "You see the ship and all these emotions come up. You see the Sailors and you see how hard they work and all they do. It's so hard to describe, but you always need that down time because it's so emotionally intense."

Jim Sullivan's father, Al, was the youngest of the five brothers who were killed. On Friday, Jim Sullivan walked on the ship named for his father and uncles for the first time in 23 years. "I haven't seen it since it was commissioned so I'm excited about being here," he said. As part of the ship tour, crew members unveiled their newly-restored mess decks that were renovated during their maintenance period and includes murals of the Sullivan brothers.



Kelly Sullivan 2nd from the left with her daughter Keleie on her right. To Kelly's left are her Dad - Jim, Brother John and nieces Madeline & Josephine



Kelly Sullivan with Garry Cohn, Council Liaison to the Sullivans



Members of the Sullivans Association, led by Kelly Sullivan as they head from pier to ship

"Job well done to the ship's leadership and supply department for seeing this project through," said Rear Adm. Roy I. Kitchener, commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic, who participated in the tour. "They ensured it highlights the significance of the Sullivan brothers and all they did for our nation." During the tour, the Sullivan family and the Sullivans Association shook hands and shared a cake with crew members.



The first Sullivans (DD 537), was commissioned September 30, 1943 and served until January 7, 1965. It was sponsored by Thomas F. Sullivan and Alleeta Sullivan, parents of the five Sullivan brothers. It was the first ship commissioned in the Navy that honored more than one person. The Sullivans Association periodically schedules reunions to foster fellowship and camaraderie among descendants of the Sullivans family and namesake ship's company.

This has been the largest group of Sullivan family members aboard since the ship was commissioned in 1997.

Garry Cohn - USS The Sullivans Liaison

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621) - Sailor of the Quarter:



August 7, Garry Cohn and liaison Sally Watson, were at Mayport to present MK1 Andrew D. Ross, with a plaque as Sailor of the Quarter for the third quarter.

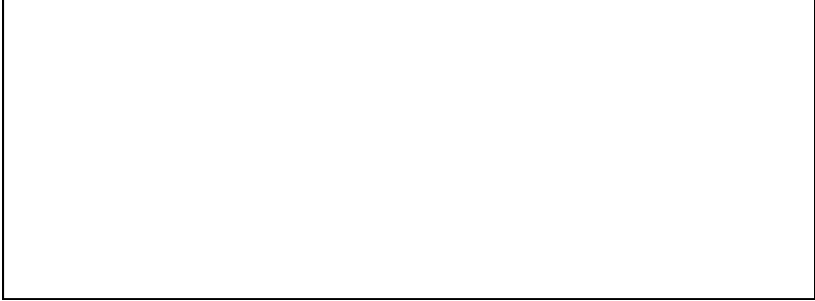
MK1 Ross has been crucial to keeping the 52 year old VALIANT running. When the air conditioning went out, MK1 Ross came in at night and worked until it was fixed. Nobody wants to come to work in Florida without air conditioning. The crew was grateful for his commitment to make sure they were comfortable, while he had to work without air conditioning to repair it.

The Semper Paratus (always ready) motto exemplifies MK1 Ross.

Sally Watson - USCGC Valiant Liaison



Sally Watson Presents Plaque to MK1 Andrew Ross



COMMUNITY AFFILIATE MEMBERS



BOARD of DIRECTORS

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VR 58	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
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USCGC Valiant	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
USCGC Maria Bray	Jared Whetstone	
USCGC Hammer	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
USCGC Heron	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
USCG ANT	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
USCGC Ridley (Tarpon)	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
CG HITRON	Paul Kimmel	386-986-8260
Marine Blount Island	Stanley Gilewicz	973-395-3820
JROTC Units	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944
Sea Cadets	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944

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	Boyd Guttery	904-471-1651
	Bob Price	904-718-2118

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

