



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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FROM THE BRIDGE:

Greetings Navy Leaguers,



While the St. Augustine Memorial Day 2020 ceremony was described by the local media, as “subdued,” it was nonetheless vitally important, and our own Bill Dudley (in his role as President of the St. Johns Veterans Council) was a central organizer. In recent weeks, some distinguished veterans (including George Washington and Ulysses Grant, among many others) have had statues, markers, or other memorial sites destroyed or desecrated. Even the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. has been defaced.

Did you know that there are at least 17 foreign countries with memorials to the brave American military personnel who fought and died overseas? Of course, you know about the cemeteries and memorials in France, Italy, Belgium, and the Philippines. But did you know there is a monument to fallen US soldiers in Cuba? Not in Guantanamo, but in communist controlled Cuba? It’s located in Santiago, Cuba, and commemorates American soldiers serving in that area during the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Now, the Cuban government, since 1960, has not exactly been an American ally. Some might call the relationship between the US and Cuba strongly adversarial, or worse. Yet even in the 1960’s, and to this day, even the Cuban government has protected and recognized the sanctity of the memorial site commemorating American servicemen, on Cuban soil.

Yet today, we have fellow Americans who wish to desecrate and cancel the memory of certain fallen American soldiers and service members. If we (meaning us Navy Leaguers) do not stand up and protect the sacred memories of America’s veterans, all of them, of all wars, in all uniforms, there is any easy path to the desecration and cancellation of the fallen and veteran American personnel of all wars.

Patrick McCormack

President
SA-PC Council
Navy League of the United States

2020 COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE:

Our council Membership Meeting and Board of Directors meeting schedule will follow the same format as in 2019. Membership meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month from 5:30 - 7:00pm, and Board meetings will be held from 4:30 – 5:30pm every three months. However, until further notice all meetings will be conducted over the Zoom video conferencing service. We have already conducted two BOD meetings using Zoom, and in June we held a very lightly attended membership meeting via Zoom.

Once the COVID restrictions are lifted, we will resume having our meetings at Christ the King Anglican Church at 6900 US 1, St. Augustine. Meeting dates for 2020 are as follows, dates in red indicate there is also a Board meeting scheduled on that date.

~~4/12~~, 2/10, 3/9, ~~4/13~~, 5/11, 6/8, ~~7/13~~, 8/10, 9/14, ~~10/12~~, 11/9, 12/14

Let’s all work to increase participation at the remainder of our meetings during the rest of the year.

Dealing with COVID-19 Quarantine:



VALIANT returned from patrol late February only to find the Coronavirus was starting to change our lives. While happy to be reunited with their families, they soon found themselves self-isolating like all Floridians. Cdr. Waldron and his wife Kamil enjoyed spending time together without the busy routine of life. Watching Netflix, and the Crown eventually got old, so he decided to overhaul and paint his old beach cruiser. The transformation is a Coastie's dream and a work of art. Bravo Zulu!!!! See the before and after pictures.



BEFORE



Cdr. Waldron described what he has done. "The pin striping is the actual international orange & blue paint for CG cutters. Green/red "sidelights" on the spokes." "There are 21 cocaine & one SPSS interdiction stickers taken directly from District 11 templates representing all the drug busts I've been a part of in my career. All 6 cutters I've been stationed at are listed on the chain guard" "Cuttermen & command pins, and I got some very helpful input from the BMs & DCs on how to do the painting and bend the cutterman's pin onto the bike frame. As always, this was a team effort! This was a great project during this in-port to keep me busy."

USCGC HAMMER - At Work:

Ever wonder about those green "can" and red "nun" buoys? In a nutshell, they are regulatory markers to ensure safe navigation on the water. CGC HAMMER made the trek up north to conduct Aids to Navigation maintenance on those very buoys in Altamaha Sound, GA. All in a day's work!



USCGC HERON - Rescue:



Coast Guard crews rescued three boaters Saturday May 9, after their vessel sank 18-miles east of Cumberland Island, Georgia. The boaters' use of a VHF radio and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon led to a rapid rescue.

Coast Guard Sector Charleston Command Center watch-standers received a radio distress call at 8:18 a.m. from the crew of the 54-foot vessel "Bacchus" reporting their vessel was taking on water and they were deploying their life raft.

Watch-standers diverted crews from the Coast Guard Cutter Heron, an 87-foot patrol boat, a Coast Guard Station Brunswick 45-foot Response Boat-Medium, and an MH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter from Air Station Savannah.



The response crews arrived on scene and were able to rescue all three boaters who were wearing life jackets from the life raft. The boaters were reported to be in good condition and taken to Station Brunswick.

"This case showed how quickly an emergency can happen on the water," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Brad Derflinger, Sector Charleston Command Duty Officer. "Fortunately, these mariners were well prepared for the unexpected. They were wearing their lifejackets, communicated their distress over VHF radio, initiated their EPIRB, and safely entered a life raft before the vessel sank."

IN THE NEWS:



The [Navy's](#) vision and mission scope for its emerging new combat-capable frigate includes the ability to [destroy swarming small boat attacks](#), operate undersea and aerial drones, support carrier strike groups, conduct disaggregated operations, attack enemies with an over-the-horizon missile and engage in advanced surface and [anti-submarine warfare](#).

These plans for the ship are taking a large step forward, following the Navy's recent ship development award to Marinette Marine Corp. for up to 10 new Guided Missile Frigates (FFX(X)). Concepts for the ship include an advanced, heavily armed frigate with a stronger, reinforced hull, space armor, over-the-horizon missiles and a wider complement of additional high-tech weapons. Sure enough, according to Navy officials, the ship is now being designed as much more than a "toughened" [Littoral Combat Ship](#), but a ship with an even wider combat scope to include additional air-defenses, [AEGIS](#) radar systems and major missile attack options with Mk 41 Vertical Launch Systems.

Following years of [debate and deliberation](#) regarding what particular weapons and technology configuration would ultimately take shape for the new vessel, the service appears to have identified a handful of specifics. In a Navy report, service officials identified some of the intended missions and weapons applications for the ship. Initial specs include Enterprise Air Surveillance Radar, a Baseline Ten AEGIS Combat System, a Mk 41 Vertical Launch System (VLS) and MK 57 Gun Weapon Systems, among other things. This kind of baseline configuration is of course engineered with the technical foundation necessary to integrate new weapons, computer technology, electronics and information warfare systems as they emerge. The Navy [described](#) it as having "countermeasures and added capability in the EW/IO (Electronic Warfare/Information Operations) area with design flexibility for future growth."

Upon initial conception, it was not instantly determined that the new ship would include VLS; clearly the service saw the need to more heavily arm the new ship, in keeping with its increased lethality and Distributed Maritime Operations strategic approach for aggressively arming its surface fleet for major warfare on the open seas.



An artist rendering of the guided-missile frigate FFG(X)
(U.S. Navy graphic/Released)

Navy officials said that the new FFG (X) "will have multi-mission capability to conduct air warfare, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and information operations." As part of its attack strategy for the ship, Navy officials add the ship will "will incorporate Standard Navy systems across the radar; combat system; command, control, communications, computers and intelligence; and launcher elements." Along these lines, arming the ship with EASR radar is consistent with this plan, as the radar is also arming amphibians and some carriers as a Raytheon-built multi-mission air-defense system.

The deal, which is a contract for detailed design and construction, includes a measure of flexibility, meaning the Navy and its industry partners are likely to continue refining requirements and potential weapons and technology for the ship as it further comes to fruition.

Significantly, the Navy's emerging weapons and technology structure for its frigate seem to align with some of the service's initial requirements, mission scope and technology for the ship. A Navy statement several years ago said the platform will "employ unmanned systems to penetrate and dwell in contested environments, operating at greater risk to gain sensor and weapons advantages over the adversary." A well-armed ship, which is what the emerging structure of the ship clearly seems to be, is consistent with the Navy's previously articulated plan for the ship, which envisioned a platform that could travel in substantial aggregated combat scenarios such as Carrier Strike Groups and Expeditionary Strike Groups. In addition, it is clear that the service seeks a ship able to function autonomously, control undersea and aerial drones and perform disaggregated or more independent missions.

For instance, the Navy's Request for Information for the Frigate released several years ago states: "concepts of employment for this type of ship will include integrated operations with area air defense capable destroyers and cruisers as well as independent operations while connected and contributing to the fleet tactical grid. Additionally, this platform must defend against raids of small boats."

The ship will be manned with a crew of up to 200 sailors, Navy officials say. A follow-on deal is planned for 2026.

NASA Astronauts:

Six of the nine NASA astronauts who will be the first to fly American-made commercial spacecraft to and from the Int'l Space Station are from Sea Service backgrounds. They are CAPT Christopher Ferguson USN (Ret.); LtCol Nicole Mann USMC; CDR Josh Cassada USN; CAPT Sunita Williams USN (Ret.); COL Douglas Hurley USMC (former); and CDR Victor Glover USN.

LtCol Mann, CDR Cassada, CAPT Sunita (Suni) Williams, COL Hurley and CDR Glover all are test pilots. LtCol Nicole Mann has over 2,500 flight hours in over 25 different aircraft and will be making her first space flight. CAPT Sunita Williams has been an astronaut since 1998, has spent 322 days aboard the International Space Station, has commanded the Space Station and has performed seven spacewalks. High-time among the six Naval Aviators is CDR Josh Cassada with 3,500 hours and for carrier landings (with 400) and combat missions (with 24), those honors go to CDR Victor Glover who, with CDR Cassada, will be making their first space flights. We in the SA-PC NL can be justifiably proud of these Sea Service Naval Aviators.



Newly assigned Astronauts, from left to right: Suni Williams, Josh Cassada, Eric Boe, Nicole Annappu Mann, Chris Ferguson, Doug Hurley, Bob Behnken, Mike Hopkins and Victor Glover

Claude Caviness - VP Membership

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC-621):



The Valiant returned home to Naval Station Mayport, Florida, on June 22nd after completing a 9-week patrol. Unlike previous Homecomings, the families were not allowed on the pier. They patiently waited in their cars for their Coastie to find them.

Valiant has been conducting operations in the Windward Passage between Haiti and Cuba in support of Coast Guard 7th District and Operation Southeast Watch. She patrolled over 11,000 nautical miles in the Caribbean, working closely with the Navy and Coast Guard Cutters Diligence (WMEC-616), Resolute (WMEC-620), Kathleen Moore (WPC-1109), William Trump (WPC-1111), and Raymond Evans (WPC-1110).

The Valiant increased Coast Guard presence along the northern coasts of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Cuba, and the Windward Passage, working to prevent an anticipated surge of illegal immigration and human smuggling amidst the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Throughout this patrol, Valiant served as the Cutter Tasking Unit, directing all Coast Guard assets supporting Operation Southeast Watch in the Windward Passage. In order to deter an illegal exodus from Haiti, Valiant maintained an overt presence by frequently transiting the Canal de la Tortue, a heavily trafficked, deep-water passage between the Tortuga Island and the Northern Haitian coastline.

Early in the patrol, Valiant conducted vital training with two MH-65 Dolphin helicopters from Air Station Miami. The first evolution involved a vertical replenishment between the cutter and an airborne helicopter and aided in the qualification of Valiant's flight deck crew as well as two pilots for shipboard operations in preparation for hurricane season. The second evolution included multiple day and night touch and go's, as well as a helicopter in-flight refueling, ultimately leading to the qualification of numerous crew members.

Valiant unloaded nearly 14,000 pounds of cocaine and marijuana and nine detained suspected drug smugglers during the patrol. The contraband and detainees were seized by multiple Coast Guard and Navy assets and transferred to other Coast Guard cutters for future disposition stateside.

Valiant also assisted in the transfer of a Coast Guard 45' Response Boat-Medium (RB-M) from Coast Guard Sector Miami to Coast Guard Sector San Juan. The Valiant crew took on the tow of the RB-M from Coast Guard Cutter Diligence in the Windward Passage and towed the vessel the remaining 360 nautical miles to Sector San Juan, saving the Coast Guard over \$100,000 in shipping costs.

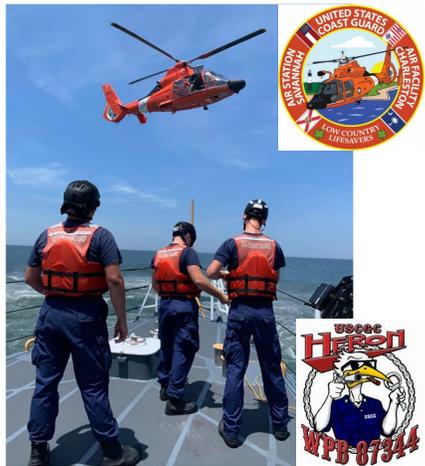
"Valiant's crew has a unique ability to be at their best in the most challenging of times, and this patrol was no exception," said Cmdr. Matthew Waldron, Valiant's Commanding Officer. "Demonstrating exceptional fortitude, they adapted and overcame all challenges associated with the worldwide pandemic to safely conduct a two-month patrol in the Windward Passage. Using overt presence to deter migrant departures from Haiti, we prevented attempts of dangerous and illegal maritime voyages to the Bahamas and Florida. The crew's efforts proved highly effective, as migrant departures from Haiti were kept well below historic norms during this period, allowing first responders in the U.S. and the Bahamas to focus on pandemic response efforts."



Sally Watson - Liaison USCGC Valiant

USCGC HERON (WPB-87344):

GC HERON conducted offshore hoist training with an Air Station Savannah MH-65. Proficient interoperability with Coast Guard air crews is critical for our Patrol Boats in best preparing for an urgent Search & Rescue (SAR) or Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) type scenario. We train, maintain and operate.



USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG-68):



Cmdr. David L. Burkett relieved Cmdr. Patrick Eliason as the commanding officer of the guided missile destroyer USS THE SULLIVANS (DDG 68) during a change of command ceremony at Naval Station Mayport, June 12. The ceremony also served as the retirement ceremony for Cmdr. Eliason.

Capt. Richard Meyer, Commander, Naval Surface Squadron Fourteen, who oversaw the change of command, welcomed Cmdr. Burkett, and praised Cmdr. Eliason for his successful tour onboard.

Cmdr. Eliason served onboard THE SULLIVANS as the executive officer before taking command in Nov. 2018 as part of the Surface Navy's fleet-up program. He shared his perspective with the crew on the ship and her legacy.



USMC Blount Island Command (BIC):

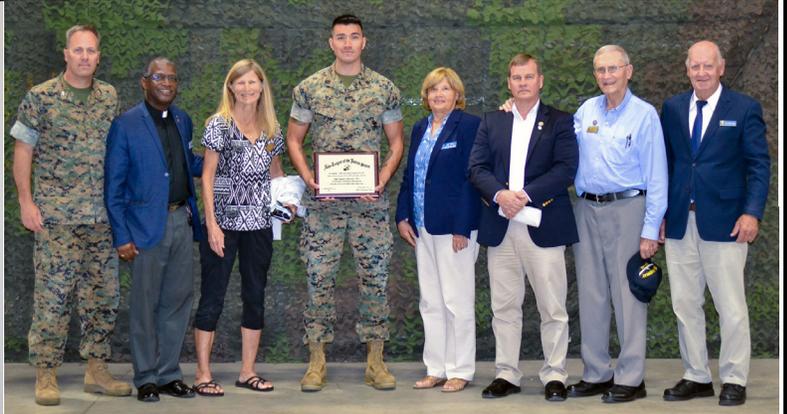


On 5 June 2020 the Navy League of the United States, St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council, presented the United States Marine Corps Blount Island Command (BIC) their Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year award for fiscal year 2019. Representing our Council were Claude Caviness, Sally Nichols, Father David Allert, Sally Watson, Gary Cohn, and the Council Liaison to the Blount Island Command, Doug Lileks. Hosting our Council was Commanding Officer Colonel Michael Livingston, First Sergeant Ean Gragg, and approximately fifty US Marines, Sailors, and civilian personnel.

Receiving the 2019 NCO of the Year award was Staff Sergeant (E-6) Atewenniio Deer. In addition to receiving this award, Staff Sergeant Deer was meritoriously promoted to his present rank. S/Sgt. Deer is an exceptional NCO who sets the example to younger Marines with his leadership and mentoring. Outside of the command, S/Sgt. Deer is involved in his community to include coaching high school lacrosse. Our members were most welcomed by the Marines and have been invited for a formal tour of the command at some time in the future. Prior to leaving the command, we again congratulated S/Sgt. Deer and wished him much success in his Marine Corps career.



Liaison Doug Lileks and Col Livingston present S/Sgt Atewenniio with the 2019 NCO of the year Award



Col Livingston, Fr. Allert, Sally Nichols, S/Sgt Atewenniio, Sally Watson, Doug Lileks, Claude Caviness, Garry Cohn

Doug Lileks - Liaison USMC BIC

SA-PC NL Council History:



At our best Navy League Happy Hour at the O'Club L-R: Seal Randy Thurston; Madam Mayor Nancy Shaver; Seal "Boss" Radm. Ed Winters; FBI Julian Jacobson; NCIS Jeff Walton and CIA (0-9) Scott Eder. Each of these warriors is retired from their respective Corps. Nancy Shaver wears the reminder of her father who was a career-Navy WW-II 'Greatest Generation' member .



L-R: Hal Buell (Midway), Don Carragher (D-Day), Cliff Hussey (Anzio), J.D. Powell (Midway), Dan Suttelle (Okinawa) met on June 18, 2007 at the Officer's Club of the Florida National Guard Arsenal in St. Augustine. The five WWII veterans, all Navy men and members of the council, had been honored by the St. Augustine Record in their regular Monday feature story about WWII veterans.

We remember J.D. Powell' Best Line of WW-II: A rear-facing gunner in SBD's, he had experienced bailouts, ditchings and ship abandonings when he was sent back to the States in '45 to help sell War Bonds . . . after a particularly vivid presentation to a civilian audience . . . a matron asked, "Mr. Powell being in all that danger, weren't you ever afraid ? . . .

"yes ma'am, there was that one time . . . it lasted 34 months!"

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Because of the COVID-19 Pandemic we have had to cancel our annual fund raising golf tournament which was scheduled for late October. This is the first time in 24 years that we will not host this very successful fund raiser. Instead we will be soliciting donations and prizes from past sponsors. All donations will go to the council, any prizes (such as golf foursomes) will be raffled off to past years golfers who submit a donation to the council.



COMMUNITY AFFILIATE MEM-



BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Patrick McCormack	904-477-8021
Past President	Bill Dudley	904-806-4712
Chaplin	Fr. David Allert	904-377-3726
Recording Secretary	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
Treasurer	Bob Price	904-718-2118
Judge Advocate	Patrick McCormack	904-477-8021
VP Finance	Bob Price	904-718-2118
VP Legislative Affairs	Brandon Patty	904-599-8688
	Dave Sullivan	386-447-3174
VP Youth Affairs	Joe Giammanco	904-295-3944
	Shannon Giammanco	757-650-4946
VP Military Affairs	Ian Pollitt	904-293-9868
VP Membership	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
VP Communications	Lee Figliuolo	386-447-3640

MILITARY LIAISONS

USS Farragut	Gene Finck	908-489-2480
VR 58	Gene Finck	908-489-2480
USS The Sullivans	Garry Cohn	904-687-6806
USCGC Valiant	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
USCGC Maria Bray	OPEN	
USCGC Hammer	OPEN	
USCGC Heron	OPEN	
USCG Tarpon	OPEN	
USCG ANT	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
CG HITRON	Paul Kimmel	386-986-8260
USMC Blount Island	OPEN	
JROTC Units	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944
Sea Cadets	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Bob Price	904-718-2118
	Mike Zollar	904-460-1251

ARCHIVES

	Gary Cohn	904-687-6806
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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



St Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion



Nease HS NJROTC



St Augustine HS Matanzas HS AJROTC



Flagler/Palm Coast HS AFJROTC