



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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Fellow Navy Leaguers,

As we move into the Fall season, hopefully many of our snowbird's will return and we will see an increase in attendance at our monthly meetings and military support activities. Our events during the summer have had only moderate attendance.

One of the bright spots in our SAPCNL Council is our Sea Cadet Battalion. The growth in cadet membership has been phenomenal. This past Sunday, Sept. 23 our Sea Cadet's conducted their Chief Petty Officer pinning, NLCC Fleet Up, Promotions and Awards Ceremony. The event was held at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office which is their new meeting venue. This was an outstanding event with all of our 53 battalion cadets in attendance and a room filled with proud parents and other guests. This is one

of the major tenets of our Navy League Council and we are very proud of our Sea Cadet St. Augustine Battalion. It is extremely rewarding to see the leadership training that these young people are receiving to prepare them for life's journey.

Our Council is preparing for nomination of Officers for next year to lead the Council for another year. Mr. Patrick McCormack has been appointed as the nomination committee chairman. If you would like to volunteer for one of the offices of the Council, please contact Patrick at patrickmccormack@bellsouth.net and let him know the position you would like to volunteer for.

On October 29, our Council will be hosting it's annual golf tournament. This is our main source of income for our Council to support all it's activities throughout the year, especially our youth programs. Lee Figliuolo is looking for the following volunteers to help with the tournament:

- 2 People to handle raffle and Silent Auction from 7:00am until 9:00am
- 4 People to monitor the Hole-in-One contests on holes #5 & #17 (2 people per hole) from 9:00am until approximately 2:00pm

If you are able to help, please contact Lee at leefig@aol.com and let him know you would like to volunteer.

Thank you for your support of the Navy League.

Respectfully,

Bill Dudley

President

SA-PC Council

Navy League of the United States

**This issue of the Bosuns Locker is primarily a people issue,
giving you details about several of our distinguished council members.**

Who is this Navy Leaguer ?

He was a mid-sixties USNR Weekend Warrior Plane Captain (Flight Engineer = USAF) on a "chocolate bomber" and "rum runner";

He was an A4 "Scooter" driver in early seventies;

He was an Ag pilot in the Eighties;

He was an Acro pilot in the Nineties;

He has logged over 7,000 flight hours, most of it 7-ft. off the deck;

He is still flying aerobatics and, until recently, flew a SIS Pitts biplane out of Flagler County;

Who is that Naval Aviator and Navy Leaguer . . . seen most frequently helping out with wife Barbara at the USCG Solarium event?

If you can guess who this is, Claude Caviness will buy you a Sea Cadet tee shirt.

By the way, he no longer looks as dashing as in his PR photo to the right.

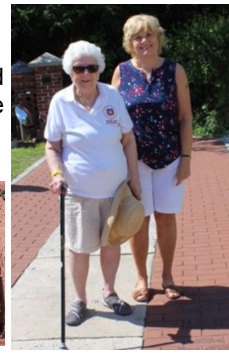


PUBLIC RELATIONS:



Council member Sally Watson has been a very busy person since she joined our Council. She has taken on the role of Recording Secretary, Liaison to the USCGC Valiant and she is the overall cheerleader for anything Coast Guard.

Back in July of this year she escorted a former WWII Coast Guard SPAR, Mrs. Ruth Burns to the St. Augustine Lighthouse. The Lighthouse staff rolled out the red carpet for Ruth, giving her the grand tour of the facility, where she also viewed the walkway brick dedicated to her and her former husband, Robert M. Burns USAAC.



OLD & NEW:

At our July Council meeting we were introduced to two new council members. They go on record as our youngest member, Brandon Patty and our oldest member Clarence Hesser at 100.

Clarence Eugene Hesser of Church Ferry, North Dakota was already in the Navy at the time of Pearl Harbor, he had completed Recruit Training and was learning to be an airman in Pensacola, Florida. He was a Navy metalsmith who served 20-1/2 years in Naval Aviation including 18 months in the New Hebrides, a French Island nation, 1,100 miles east of Australia. Clarence remembers that tour as being "a backwater with all the negatives of being overseas (canned food, insects and infrequent mail-service . . . but none of the excitement or accomplishment of combat)".

He recalls his most interesting duty as being with VP-61 in the mid-sixties when they were "photo-snooping" behind the curtain with the Navy's North American AJ "Savage", an unusual aircraft powered by twin props and a jet engine in the rear of the fuselage. Clarence's most rewarding Navy memory was when, with HU-1 (Helicopter Utility) in San Diego's Reem Field from '57 - '60 where he was made the Squadron Leading Chief . . . equivalent to today's prestigious Command Master Chief. It was during an earlier '46 tour in San Diego when Clarence Hesser earned his private pilot's license and was "bitten by the flying-bug".



After Navy retirement in '62, Clarence relocated to St. Augustine, working with Fairchild Engine and Airplane Corporation until their 1974 closing when he concluded his working years with a five-year tour at Washac Inc. of St. Augustine, making parts for the TSC-1A2 Teal II aircraft. During his working years, Clarence continued building his flight experience and enjoying aircraft ownership. On July 29, 2017 at the age of 97, Clarence made his "omega" flight . . . carefully choosing for his co-pilot, Capt. Harry Ruhsam, AA (Ret.) a longtime friend of the Navy League who, in February 2018, was the recipient of the FAA's prestigious Wright Brothers Award for contribution to aviation.

Clarence is a member of the St. Augustine Airport Pilot's Association as well as the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council of the Navy League. Local aviators consider Clarence Eugene Hesser to be "the man" due to his knowledge of aircraft, experience and longevity as a pilot. On June 5, 2018 the St. John's County Commission officially recognized 100-year old Navy Leaguer Clarence Hesser as the **oldest living pilot in St. Johns County.**

Brandon Patty is a second-generation Floridian, U.S. Navy Reserve Officer and business consultant. He worked his way through high school and community college at Publix and was the first member of his family to graduate from college. He graduated from George Washington University in 2005 with a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and graduated from the London School of Economics in 2011 with a Masters degree in Theory and History of International Affairs.



Brandon has worked for some of Florida's finest leaders. In 2005, Brandon served in Governor Jeb Bush's organization as special events coordinator before his appointment as a special assistant to North Florida until January 2007. He then joined Mitt Romney's presidential campaign and led several local campaigns in Jacksonville, before joining Marco Rubio's campaign for U.S. Senate in August 2009. Ultimately serving as policy director, Brandon was instrumental in advising the candidate on issues and developing his policy agenda until September 2010 when he matriculated to the London School of Economics.

As his career progressed, Brandon sought opportunities to serve his country and broaden his experience and knowledge of national security issues. He joined the U.S. Navy as a reserve officer in 2008, and in 2011 accepted active duty orders at the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office in Washington, DC where he advised the office's director on Middle East issues and managed a variety of projects through 2012. His active duty service continued in 2013 when he volunteered for a mobilization to the Middle East. While deployed, he supported operations throughout the region and closely tracked our adversaries' efforts to spread violence and destabilize our allies.

When he returned home from Operation Enduring Freedom in June 2014, Brandon focused on politics and business. He joined Ed Gillespie's campaign for the U.S. Senate as a policy advisor focusing on defense and foreign policy issues in 2014 and then accepted a position as a senior consultant at Deloitte in November 2014. He left the firm in December 2015 before announcing his campaign for Congress in Florida's 6th Congressional District. When the seat's incumbent decided to run for reelection, Brandon stepped aside and endorsed in June 2016. He has stayed engaged since then in supporting conservative candidates and causes.

Biography of Council Member, Commander John C Leslie Jr, USN (Ret)



John Leslie was born in Sacramento, California in 1945, and graduated from California State Polytechnic College, San Luis Obispo in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Later that year he started Aviation Officer and flight training with the US Navy and was designated as a Naval Aviator in February 1969. During his twenty-one years of active duty John served as an Instructor Pilot in the Advanced Training Command and in A-7E Corsair and F/A-18 Hornet Fleet Replacement Squadrons. He flew 105 A-7E combat missions in Vietnam flying from the USS Enterprise as a member of Light Attack Squadron 97 (VA-97). He attended the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School in 1975, and later served as an Operational Test Pilot and Test Director in Air Test and Evaluation Squadron Five (VX-5). John transitioned to the F/A-18 early in its fleet introduction and was the Commanding Officer of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 (VFA-25) during the first extended carrier deployment for the F/A-18 Hornet embarked in the USS Constellation (CV-64). Following this CO tour, John was assigned as Special Assistant to the Commander in Chief, US Pacific Fleet for Strike Warfare. He later held command of VFA-125, the F/A-18 Fleet Replacement Squadron. John retired from the Navy in October 1988 and began his second career in November that same year as an Experimental Test Pilot with the Grumman Aerospace Corporation in Calverton, New York.

As a civilian Test Pilot for Grumman, John flew the F-14D, A-6E, EA-6B, Siai Marchetti S211, and the E-2C aircraft. While employed with Grumman John also earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Dowling College in Oakdale, New York.

Grumman in the summer of 2006. He and his wife Pat reside in St. Augustine Beach. They have two children and six grand-children. Grumman transferred John to the Grumman St. Augustine facility in 1994 to assume duties as the Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Operations. John shifted duties in 2000 to become the Integrated Team Leader for all aircraft modification and overhaul programs at the St. Augustine facility for Northrop Grumman. He retired from Northrop

All-in-all John worked on behalf of the U.S. Navy for 39 years, with slightly more than 21 years on active duty and slightly less than 18 years as a civilian. He accrued 6310 hours of flight time with 672 carrier arrested landings in 34 different aircraft type/models. His individual military awards include a Distinguished Flying Cross, three Meritorious Service Medals; seven Strike/Flight Air Medals, and two Navy Commendation Medals (with Combat V authorized), and the Vietnam Service Medal (4th).

In addition to being a member of the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League council, John is the President of the Vietnam Veterans Association.

St. Augustine Lighthouse & Maritime Museum: (Facebook Page 09/21/2018)

WOMEN MAKING HISTORY // On November 23, 1942, Congress passed Public Law 773 creating the Women's Reserve as a branch of the Coast Guard. These women became known as SPARS: Taken from the motto of the Coast Guard, "Semper Paratus" (Always Prepared). One the first members of SPARS in St. Augustine was Marian Barnett (Stenger). She ran away from home at the age of 21 to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Like Marian, over 10,000 women joined SPARS between 1942 and 1946 to aid in the war effort. She resided in the Coast Guard Training Center (formerly the Hotel Ponce de Leon) with other SPARS. In all there were 60 SPARs and roughly 6,000 men serving in the Coast Guard in St. Augustine during the war. [#WomenMakingHistory](#) [#MuseumDay](#) [Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day](#)



Marian Barnett

USCGC Valiant (WMEC 621):



Commanding Officer, Timothy Cronin was relieved of his command by Cmdr. Matthew J. Waldron on July 19th, in a ceremony dockside. Several Navy League members were in attendance with liaison, Sally Watson.

It was an intimate ceremony with family members, crew and guests. Cmdr. Cronin recognized the Navy League members and thanked them for their invaluable support. He mentioned the donation of MWR gear, SOQ and SOY recognition, greeting them on return home from patrol, the many e-mails to keep in touch when they are on patrol or in port. He recognized liaison, Sally Watson, and called her a "shipmate".

Cmdr. Cronin will be attending War College in Washington, DC. Cmdr. Matthew Waldron's last command was on CGC Stratton in California. Cmdr. Waldron is married with no children. The new Executive Officer is LCDR Jonathan H. Potterton. Potterton is married with one small daughter. A reception followed with welcomes and farewells. We look forward to having Cmdr. Waldron address us at a future meeting; and continuing the warm relationship between VALIANT and St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League. The VALIANT will return from patrol on October 3 and will have a foursome playing in our golf tournament.



NAVAL AVIATION HISTORY: (from FLY-BY the Naval Aviation Foundation magazine)



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of Operation *Rolling Thunder*, the intense Vietnam War air campaign in which Naval Aviation played an important role operating from aircraft carriers steaming in the Tonkin Gulf, and from air fields in South Vietnam. The service of one aircraft in the Museum's collection, A-1H *Skyraider* (Bureau Number 135300) spanned almost the entire course of *Rolling Thunder* and ended an era in Naval Aviation.

The development of the *Skyraider* has elements that would be unlikely in current aircraft procurement. Imagine in today's world a team of engineers arriving in Washington D.C. with a design for a new airplane in hand to present to Navy officers, who had already heard proposals from two competing companies. As the meeting progresses, it becomes apparent that everyone is at an impasse on the proposed design, at which time one of the engineers asks the Navy to cancel it and allow the company to use unexpended funds to have another design ready in 30 days. The Navy gives them until the next morning and overnight the engineers put together a new design in a hotel and convince the Navy to proceed with ordering a prototype.

That is essentially what happened in 1944, and the innovative spirit and determination of the Douglas Aircraft Company engineers led by Ed Heinemann resulted in the creation of the XBT2D-I, which evolved into the AD *Skyraider*. Like many naval aircraft in history, the *Skyraider* was known by more than its official nickname. Pilots borrowed from the AD acronym and called it the "Able Dog." Another universal nickname was the "Spad," which is somewhat odd. The "Spad" was a World War I French fighter, and as such its wood and fabric construction wouldn't remind anyone of the *Skyraider*. However, it was a reliable airplane and that was a characteristic intrinsic to the *Skyraider*.

Not only could the AD carry a greater ordnance load (8,000 lb.) than a four engine World War II B-17 *Flying Fortress* (5,000 lb.), it carried torpedoes during the famous attack on the Hwachon Dam during the Korean War and, as famous photographs show, unleashed a sink ("everything but the kitchen sink") and a toilet on the enemy in Korea and Vietnam respectively.

"My first impression was that I was in for the ride of my life. I was surrounded by noise and vibration ...," recalled one *Skyraider* pilot. "That first flight behind a 3350 radial all alone was something to behold." One aspect of the engine was that while taxiing, the tremendous torque required the pilot to exert tremendous right rudder pressure. The old joke was that you could tell a *Skyraider* pilot by the fact that his right leg was more muscular than his left!

There were some amazing flights involving the *Skyraider*. During the Korean War, where the airplane earned its reputation as one of the finest close air support airplanes ever built, Ensign John Higgins of Attack Squadron VA-729 took a round in his canopy and returned to land on the carrier USS *Antietam* (CV-36), the landing signal officer giving him guidance over the radio due to the fact that the shattered canopy allowed for no forward visibility. Upon landing, the lucky aviator found a five-inch long piece of shrapnel lodged in the headrest of his seat. It had just missed him!



When carriers had tactical nuclear weapons on board (guarding them was the primary responsibility of the Marine Detachment), AD *Skyraider* squadrons practiced long-range tactical nuclear weapons delivery missions that pilots called "butt busters." The idea was to make the run-in at low-level, pull up suddenly, and deliver using the loft bombing technique. Completing the Immelmann, the pilot would exit the area at maximum speed, hopefully creating as much distance as possible when the bomb detonated. No *Skyraider* pilot expected to survive the blast!

The airplane displayed in the Museum was delivered as an AD-6 on 29 June 1954. Its first operational squadron was the VA-55 "Warhorses," arriving as one of the new aircraft replacing the AD-4s that the squadron had been flying since 1949. The airplane remained in the squadron until May 1956, its service including a Western Pacific cruise on board USS *Philippine Sea* (CVA-47) in 1955. After some time in FASRON 12, the airplane joined the VA-115 "Arabs" in June 1957, remaining in the squadron until November 1958. This included a Western Pacific deployment on board USS *Shangri-La* (CVA-38) during which the squadron operated in support of the Republic of China when Communist Chinese forces shelled the island of Quemoy.

A fixture in the Museum since the first building on the current campus opened in 1975, the A-1H is displayed in the "Fist of the Fleet" markings, the squadron in which it flew into history in 1968.

USS Hue City - (CG 66):



On September 7th, VP Military Affairs, Ian Pollitt and Fr. David Allert, pastor of Christ the King Anglican Church in St. Augustine boarded the USS Hue City to present the 3Q2018 Sailor of the Quarter awards.

This is the this was a special occasion for Fr. Allert as he presented several of the awards. Fr. Allert has very graciously opened up his church's meeting facility for our monthly council meetings.



ANNUAL COUNCIL GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Our primary fund raiser for the council, our annual golf tournament, will be held on Monday, October 29th, at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast. Last year we raised over \$14,000 for the council and sponsored 48 active duty military players from the various units our council has adopted.

We need all council members to pitch in and help in securing donations for this event. There are various levels of sponsorship that individuals or businesses can sign up for, such as: Hole Sponsors, Military Player Sponsors, In-Kind Donations (i.e. Restaurant Gift Cards, Gift Baskets, etc.). Council members should consider soliciting support for this worthy event from businesses or professionals with whom they normally interact as you already have a relationship with them.

At present we still need several volunteers to work on the day of the event to handle golfer registration, selling of raffle tickets, and monitoring the Hole-in-One competition on holes #5 and #17, both of which have new automobiles as prizes.

Lee Figliuolo - Golf Tournament Chairman

SAVE THE DATE



Navy League of the United States
Saint Augustine - Palm Coast Council

22nd ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, October 29, 2018 at 9:00 AM



GOLF CLUB

500 Riverfront Drive, Palm Coast, FL 32137

Chairman, Lee Figliuolo

Honorary Chairman, Oakland Raider Great, Pete Banaszak

Proceeds to provide recognition for area active duty military personnel; support our Sea Cadet battalion; and provide scholarships for Nease, St. Augustine, Flagler Palm Coast & Matanzas High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) members.



\$110 Fee per Player
Captain's Choice Scramble



Registration - 8:00 AM, Shotgun Start - 9:00 AM

Teams may be made up of all Men, all Women or mixed (Men & Women).

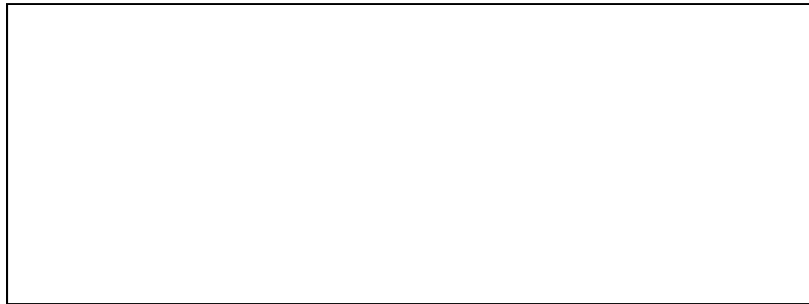
Team prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each flight

Prizes for Men's & Ladies' Closest to Pin & Longest Drive

Hole-in-One WINS a Genesis G-80 Auto or Cash

Contact Lee Figliuolo at 386-447-3640 or leefig@aol.com for more information
Visit us at www.sapcnavyleague.org

Bosun's Locker Bulletin
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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

