



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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FROM THE BRIDGE:



Fellow Navy Leaguers:

The SA-PC Council has been very busy over the past few months with many events for our sponsored units. In April we held our last Individual Augmentee Appreciation luncheon at NAS/JAX Officers Club. Our keynote speaker was RADM Jack Scorby. Having Admiral Scorby as speaker was certainly a nostalgic moment for many of us who reminisced about the first ever IA Luncheon that was held in April 2008, when the good Admiral was the NAS/JAX Base Commander and responsible for launching the program which went viral around the country.

In May we hosted the USMC NCO of the Year from Blount Island Command at the St. Francis Barracks Officer's Club. Liaison Jana Teehan did an outstanding job of organizing the award ceremony for Sgt. Renee Harvey. We were honored by having the C.O., Col. Brian Hughes give us an update on happenings at BIC. This command has grown exponentially over the last few years and is now one of the most important units the Marine Corps has for updating and refurbishing their fighting assets.

In June we held our annual USCG Awards ceremony at the Solarium at Flagler College. VP Military Affairs Ian Pollitt and the Coast Guard Liaisons did an awesome job of honoring all the selected Coasties for this year's awards. The event was well attended by members from the Sector and the individual units being recognized. The speaker for the evening was Capt. Jeff Dixon, Commanding Officer USCG Sector. Capt. Dixon gave an excellent briefing on the Sectors activities. We were also privileged to have Capt. Kevin Gavin, Commanding Officer, USCG HITRON as our guest for the evening.

Our annual 3 July 2016 Picnic will be held this year at the St. Augustine Rod and Gun Club. We have a terrific program planned with our special guest, Patrick Henry to address our Council with a message as important today as it was when he spoke those famous words in 1775. We also have a special presentation as we honor three of our veterans. A fried chicken buffet dinner will be catered by Ralph Wells and music provided by Joe Jones Ban, "Reload". As of this writing, we still need more of our Council members to sign up and join us for this event. Your picnic committee has worked tirelessly to put together a great social gathering with good food and entertainment. Please do your part and come out and join us.

Our National Convention was held in Charleston, S.C. this year and one of the best I have attended in several years. New National Officers were elected by the Board of Directors and By-Law changes which have been on the agenda for the past several years were finally voted on and passed. Our financial position is much improved with operating expenses being met from operating income without having to borrow from our line of credit. For the first time in several years our membership has stabilized and has shown a net increase over the past quarter. Under the leadership of our National President Skip Witunski, operations at headquarters are looking much improved.

Bill Dudley
President
SA-PC Council
Navy League of the United States

ST. AUGUSTINE SEA CADET BATTALION:



The St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion achieved the top score of 3.72 and is therefore now ranked number 1 in our region.

Inspection scores take in to account all aspects of our units effectiveness to include cadet training, cadet correspondence coursework completion, cadet military bearing and knowledge, as well as the effectiveness and quality of our unit drills and administrative documentation maintained by instructors.



BZ to cadets and officers who worked so hard this year to make our 2015 inspection a great success!

LTJG Eric Johnson - NSCC Commanding Officer

ST. AUGUSTINE BATTALION

Individual Augmentee Recognition



For the eighth year on April 28th, Individual Augmentees (IA) received recognition during a luncheon, sponsored by Naval Air Station Jacksonville and the Navy League Councils of St. Augustine-Palm Coast, Jacksonville and Mayport.

The event was held at the River Cove Catering and Conference Center aboard NAS Jax. Fifty IAs from base and tenant commands were recognized. The luncheon kicked off with singing of the national anthem by AWO2 (NAC/AW) Tonya Wright, and the invocation by NAS Jacksonville Cmdr. Dennis Andrews, command chaplain.

NAS Jax Commanding Officer Capt. Howard Wanamaker welcomed everyone and thanked the awardees for their service. "We are a maritime nation at war and these courageous Sailors stood tall in defense of our country by contributing their unique skills and answered a call that only the bravest can," Wanamaker said. "We also want to recognize their families who supported them while they were thousands of miles away from home." Wanamaker then shared Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus's recent remarks, "Our Sailors and Marines are a superb fighting force, which can be lethal or compassionate, patient or quick, as situations dictate." He then introduced commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic (CNRMA), Rear Adm. Jack Scorby Jr, as the guest speaker.

"Where heroism is often based on money, achievements or fame, in reality though, you are all the real heroes out there," Scorby said. "We have many career fields and rates represented here today, but you all have one thing in common – you're the real heroes who stepped up to the plate when the Navy needed you to serve."

Scorby also spoke about how the IA luncheons were started in 2008 when he was the NAS Jax base commanding officer. "I received a letter from the commanding officer of an IA who was serving in Afghanistan and wanted to share the hardships he endured. The intent of this letter was to bring to my attention that the Sailor was neither out of sight nor out of mind; he was out front leading." Since 2008, more than 1,000 IAs and hundreds of spouses have been recognized at NAS Jacksonville.

Scorby and Wanamaker highlighted the support they have received for the luncheon from the Northeast Florida Navy League and specifically recognized Bill Dudley, national board member and president of the St. Augustine-Palm Coast council. Other sponsors of the lunch include Orange Park Sunrise Rotary and Anastasia Baptist Church.

IA warrior speaker, Capt. William Todd, Naval Hospital Jacksonville's executive officer, has served with five Navy Hospital ship missions, aboard USNS Comfort and USNS Mercy, working in 17 countries as part of 34 in-country missions. Remarking on Continuing Promise 2015, Todd said, "We treated more than 122,000 patients and performed more than 1,500 surgeries. The most beautiful thing is the face-to-face encounters that will last a lifetime." Todd observed that many of the countries visited are isolated; "After we operated on one child in the Philippines, the mother said, 'I never knew Christians could be so kind.'" Todd recalled that in Colombia in the late afternoons when the medical site was full, "We would stop the line, and the people would just smile, sit down right where they were and say, 'Tomorrow I will be first!' They waited in the sun for the rest of the day and slept on the sidewalk through the night."

Julie M. Lucas - NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs

CNSS SEA & SHORE SAILORS OF THE YEAR:

On April 18th members of our council participated in the presentation of the Sea and Shore sailor of the year awards for CNSS



On July 31, 2015. Destroyer Squadron 14 and Cruiser Destroyer Readiness Support Detachment Mayport merged to form the newest tenant command on board Naval Station Mayport, **Commander Naval Surface Squadron 14 (CNSS 14)**.

On April 18, 2016, a little less than a year since its inception, CNSS awarded the Shore Sailor of the Year and Sea Sailor of the Year awards to two outstanding sailors. CNSS Commanding Officer, CAPT Glenn Kuffel, with assistance from council members Bill Dudley, Ian Pollitt and Gary Cohn presented the two awards.



The Shore SOY presentation to LN1 Shallon Davis was conducted at SURFRON 14 Headquarters, and the Sea SOY presentation was made to FC1(SW) Charles Valenciana on board his duty station, The USS Roosevelt (DDG 80)



HAPPY HOUR:



On April 22nd, the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council celebrated Happy Hour in honor of Radm. Ed Winters III USN (Ret.) at the St. Augustine Officer's Club. Radm Winters, former Commander of the Naval Special Warfare Command (seals), was welcomed by Council President Bill Dudley, as well as Past Presidents Bill Korach, Dave Sullivan and Mike Zollar. Special greeter for the Navy League was Pete Banaszak, 13-year Running Back with the Oakland Raiders. St. Augustine Mayor, Nancy Shaver welcomed the Admiral as did BG Jim Eifert, Commander FLANG; MOAA President, George Leonardos; American Legion President, Mick Barnes; SAAPA President, Len Tucker; QB KM Dave Singleton; Forward March's Dan Sullivan; SASJC Sports Club's Henry Warner and Officer's Club President, Phil Topcik.



Randy Thurston, Mayor Shaver, Radm. Winters, Julian Jacobson, Jeff Walton, Scott Eder



Jim Eifert & Pete Banaszak

Event Chairman, Claude Caviness arranged a "fraternal surprise" for the Admiral with the appearance of former "Shipmate" Randy Thurston (Seal Team-6) and alumni representatives from the CIA, Scott Eder; FBI, Julian Jacobson and NCIS, Jeff Walton.

Special guests were Joe MacDonald, the council's sole surviving member of Tom Brokaw's WW-II "Greatest Generation" who saw action at D-Day, Iwo-Jima and Okinawa, and Capt. Dan McCue, Delta Airlines (Ret.) who has 35,000 flight hours and, for 40 years, has flown (is flying) "War Birds" in organized air shows.



Mike Zollar, Radm Winters, Charles Saarela

The SA-PC NL Council was also represented by Jerry Coleman, Gary & Flo Karsner, Paul & Melody Kimmel, Bob & Barbara Price and Charles Saarela.

Claude Caviness - Event Chairman

USMC BLOUNT ISLAND COMMAND:



Col. Hughes, Sgt Harvey, Jana Teehan

The council presented the USMC BIC NCO/year award on May 9th at the Florida National Guard Headquarters. The honoree was Sgt. Renee Harvey, USMC. Sgt. Harvey enlisted in the Corps in Oceanside, CA on June 6, 2011 and attended recruit training. She served as Ammunitions Chief, and received the Co. Iron Woman Award for physical fitness. Upon graduation she was transferred to Camp Johnson N.C. In Dec. 2011 she was transferred to Okinawa where she worked as supply clerk. While there she was promoted to Corporal and received "Letter of Recognition" for outstanding performance and was presented the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. She was then transferred to 3rd Marine Air Wing as supply clerk. In August she was promoted to Sergeant. In August 2014 she was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

In Feb. 2015 she transferred to Blount Island Command where she is currently assigned as the Quality Assurance Specialist within the Supply Container Management Branch. Sgt. Harvey was awarded a Meritorious Mast in December 2015 for achieving a perfect 300 on the Combat Fitness Test. In January 2016, Sergeant Harvey was recognized as the BIC NCO 1Q and subsequently selected to represent all of LOGCOM. Attendees included 7 members of the USMC including the CO, Colonel Brian Hughes. Awards and gifts were presented to Sgt. Harvey, followed by a talk by the Col., explaining the goals, mission and work that is done by AD Marines at Blount Island Command.



Mrs. Jana Teehan - USMC BIC Liaison.

2016 Golf Tournament:

Our major annual fund raising golf tournament will again be held at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast on Monday, October 10, 2016. This will be the 20th anniversary of this event and it will be the seventh year in a row that it will be held at Grand Haven. The members at the Grand Haven Golf Club have adopted our tournament as one of their own which is evidenced by the large turnout of club members each year. This year, in addition to seeking prize sponsors, hole sponsors (\$100) and sponsors for military players (\$85), we are seeking three additional levels of sponsorship, they are:



Platinum - \$2,000 - Sponsors lunch for players and volunteers. Recognized in all promotional materials, sign posted in the club house, a foursome registration in the tournament, receives a sponsor appreciation plaque.

Gold - \$1,000 - Receives a foursome registration in the tournament, recognition in all promotional material, a hole sponsor sign with logo, sponsor recognition plaque and recognition in the tournament brochure.

Silver - \$500 - Receive a two player registration in the tournament, hole sponsor sign, recognition plaque and recognition in the tournament brochure.

Help us make this the most successful tournament in our history. Find ways to get friends and businesses you interact with interested in providing support for our council and in our efforts to support the men and women of our sea services, our Sea Cadet Battalion and our High School Junior ROTC programs.

USCG SOY AWARDS:



MK3 Filip Malec & Kim Reeves

The St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League (SAPCNL) Council presented Sailor of the Year awards to the following Coast Guardsmen at the Flagler College Solarium on June 9, 2016: MK3 Filip Malec of the USCGC HAMMER by Liaison Kim Reeves, BM2 Jason Vega of the USCGC SAWFISH by Liaison Don Manson, ET2 Benjamin Dwyer of the USCGC MARIA BRAY by Liaison Barbara Price, and SN Nicholas Mandozzi of the AIDS TO NAVIGATION Team by the Liaison team of Pete Banaszak (former Oakland Raider), Claude Caviness, Joe MacDonald (D-Day, Iwo Jima & Okinawa) and Dr. Harland Trofholz. The award packages include a plaque, a recognition certificate for the sailor's permanent service record, letters of appreciation from area congressional members, dinner at one of numerous participating restaurants, passes to local area attractions and the tourist trolley, a City parking pass, \$100 cash and a two night courtesy lodging from Jalamaram Hotels.



BM2 Jason Vega & Don Manson

The council was honored to have in attendance Capt. Jeff Dixon USCG Commander Sector Jacksonville. Capt. Kevin Gavin USCG Commanding Officer of HITRON, Ms. Adele Griffin (Senator Rubio's office), LT Michael Leath CO USCGC SAWFISH, CWO Michael Lemay CO USCGC MARIA BRAY, BMCM Marcus Evans USCGC HAMMER, BMCS Chris Stover EPO USCGC MARIA BRAY, BM1 Eric Smith EPO USCG ANT and M/M Jacek Malec parents of SOY Filip Malec of the HAMMER.



ET2 Ben Dwyer & Barbara Price

The council expresses its appreciation to Flagler College President William Abare for his consideration of our using the Solarium facility. We are reminded that during WW II the Flagler College Administration Building was used by the USCG as an Officer's Candidate School (OCS) and female living quarters.

The council was favored by closing remarks by Capt. Dixon reminding us of the USCG Sector Jacksonville's Area of Responsibility (AOR) as well as selected details of the operations of the command.



Ian Pollitt & Ms. Adele Griffin



SN Nicholas Mandozzi, Claude Caviness, Pete Banaszak



Sn Mandozzi, Joe MacDonald



Claude Caviness - USCG ANT Liaison

Youth Programs:



JROTC UNITS

We recently presented \$500 scholarships and NL Theodore Roosevelt Youth Awards to the 4 JROTC units we support. Lee Spancake assisted by presenting the awards at the Palm Coast Flagler Air Force JROTC unit. The picture on the left shows Cadet Anthony Delgado, Matanzas HS AJROTC accepting his award from Bill Hamm. The picture on the right shows Cadet Kyana Goodman, St. Augustine HS, Army JROTC accepting her award. Miss Goodman will be enrolling in Army ROTC at UF.



Master Chief John A. Duffy (U.S Navy Ret.) retired from the Nease Naval JROTC unit effective June 30 2016. He helped his NJROTC unit to several first place finishes in the Nationals.

ST AUGUSTINE NAVAL SEA CADET BATTALION



Battalion graduation day sent 7 of our seniors off to bright futures. One is headed to the Military Academy another to the Citadel, and the remaining five to various colleges with scholarships under their belts.

CPO Nolan Johnson won a \$2K scholarship by being a member of the Centurion Battalion of Winter Park, FL which took first place in the all service division at the CyberPatriot VIII National Finals Competition in Baltimore on April 11. This team is the first Navy associated team to place first in the competitions history. The all service division included 1,281 teams from JROTC, Civil Air Patrol and the Sea Cadet Programs. Sponsored by the Air Force Association, CyberPatriot prepares competitors for careers in computer security or related fields.



SCUBA Class Introduction

GREAT PORTAGE RACE..... Plans are in place to send 2 (5-man) teams to compete in the Great Portage Race in South Carolina in July. Bill Dudley secured a Navy van from NAS JAX for the trip which cuts down on having to rent a commercial vehicle. Last year we took second place in the event. Summer training is underway with CO Johnson heading up SCUBA certification under sponsorship of the Regional staff. Our new Cadets are in Recruit training at several locations.

Bill Hamm - VP Youth Programs

NAVAL AIR STATION JACKSONVILLE REOPENS RUNWAYS ON 27 JUNE 2016



On a beautiful Monday morning with clear skies and a light cooling breeze to flutter the flags, the Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS JAX) held a ceremony to mark the reopening of their runways after major reconstruction work to accommodate the new P-8 Poseidon ASW Patrol Aircraft being delivered and home ported there. Your SA-PC Navy League was there to support them!



The ceremony was conducted against the backdrop of the various types of aircraft that use the NAS JAX facilities. The principle speaker was NAS JAX Commanding Officer, Captain Howard Wanamaker, USN, who took great pleasure in highlighting all the various companies and their leaders who accomplished this major upgrade and made it happen on time. A special **Well Done** to LT Jamie Wallace, CEC, USN - the Runway Project Manager!

NAS JAX was established in 1940 and has supported a myriad of Naval Aviation aircraft ever since. Our air station is the home to all east coast patrol aircraft. When the Navy started delivery of the replacement for the venerable P-3 Orion aircraft with the heavier and much more capable P-8 Poseidon aircraft, the runway and other facilities had to be upgraded. Some upgrade facts:

- * Cost - \$51.9 million and roughly 500,000 man hours
- * Nearly 100,000 tons of concrete recycled + 1.2 million square feet of new concrete used
- * 2.2 million square feet of recycled asphalt (about 45.4 football fields worth) was used
- * Installed 1,200 new LED lights (projected annual estimated power savings of \$1 million)
- * 117 miles of power cables and 24 miles of duct banks (conduits)

While all this was being accomplished, about 2,000 NAS JAX personnel and their aircraft and support facilities were operating out of Cecil Airport and were superbly supported there!



The highlight of the ceremony and the morning was the touch-down of the first P-8 Poseidon patrol aircraft to use the new runway, named for VADM John Henry Towers, USN - Admiral Halsey's naval air commander and expert in the Pacific during World War II.

Last fact - did you know - NAS JAX was authorized by Walt Disney, decades ago, to use one of Donald Duck's nephews for a mascot and to this day - Dewey Duck is the NAS JAX mascot!

