



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

EDITOR: LEE FIGLIUOLO, LEEFIG@AOL.COM, (386) 447-3640

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FROM THE BRIDGE:

Greetings Navy Leaguers,



As the adventure of 2020 draws to a close, I want to thank each of you for your support and dedication to our Nation, our Naval Services, and our own Navy League Council. 2020 put to the test, when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Furthermore, to any of us that have had a particularly tough 2020 with the pandemic, other health issues, employment/financial issues, and so may have been temporarily sidelined, I would remind you "They also serve who... stand and wait."

Fortunately, the core public service mission of our Council persevered through the year. Although procedures adjusted due to the pandemic, support to our Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard units was sustained. Our Sea Cadet partners have consolidated and powered through. Our finances are strong, in fact strongest ever.

Strong finances have put the Council in a position to provide extra support to area Veterans. Also, you may be pleased to hear, **local Council dues for 2021 have been waived.** This waiver does not affect National Navy League dues, which are still in effect.

As 2020 has forced a change in routine through many aspects of personal and professional life, it does give us all an opportunity to identify and pursue other methods of support to the Naval Services. The Navy League has great resources to help Councils and members to provide grass roots support. Please see: <https://navyleague.quorum.us/homepage/>

One example, is grass root support for protecting the Jones Act, a vital Merchant Marine related law. At the Navy League site, they have prepared sample letters that you can send in as is, or tailor as you wish. It all can be done easily through the Navy League site:

Dear Senator ()

As your constituent, you should know many livelihoods depend on the Jones Act. The Jones Act is the fundamental law of the American maritime industry. This law ensures that cargo transported by water between two points in the United States moves on American built vessels crewed by American workers. The Jones Act provides important national, homeland and economic security benefits.

I hope you will support America's Jones Act and oppose efforts like the CBP's October 23, 2019 bulletin on vessel definitions that will weaken the law. I support the Jones Act, as do U.S. military and homeland security officials. Importantly, the domestic maritime industry creates more than 650,000 American jobs with an annual economic impact of more than \$150 billion.

I know you have many important responsibilities in Congress but few could be more important than keeping our nation safe. The Jones Act keeps America secure. Thank you for all you do for our country and for your support for the Jones Act.

(your name)

So as we say goodbye to 2020 (don't let the door slam you, etc.) let's make it a great 2021.
Happy New Year!

Patrick McCormack

President

SA-PC Council

Navy League of the United States

USCG SECTOR JAX & USCG ANT



USCG recognized members within their family who recently advanced to the next pay grade. Congratulations to Chief Operations Specialist Andzelik & Petty Officer 1st Class Diaz, both assigned to Sector Jax, & Chief Boatswain's Mate Burgess & Petty Officer 2nd Class Gutierrez, both from U.S. Coast Guard ANT Jacksonville Beach.



PO2 Diaz advances 1st Class



Family pinning the Anchors on CPO Andzelik



CPO Burgess receiving his Anchors from his family



PO3 Gutierrez advances to 2nd Class

USCGC HAMMER (WLIC-75302)

The Cutter HAMMER is shown hard at work rebuilding "Kingsley Creek Light 7" in 12 feet of water, or "by the mark 2". In the days long before electronic depth finders, soundings were taken with a lead line, which was heaved out in front of a vessel as it advanced cautiously in shallow waters. The lead would sink to the bottom as the Leadsman watched for distinct markings on the line placed every 6 feet or 1 fathom.



USCG WOMEN HOLD LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM



Sector Jacksonville hosted a Women's Leadership Symposium today that was attended by nearly 50 members from various local Commands including U.S. Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) Jacksonville, CGC VALIANT, U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Force Protection Unit (MFPU) King's Bay, U.S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team (MSST) King's Bay, & many Sector subunits.

CAPT Vlaun provided opening remarks, which touched on the importance of valuing diversity within our workforce, fostering belonging amongst our ranks, & retaining our most valuable resource: each other.



USCGC MARIA BRAY (WLM 562):

The Crew from the CGC MARIA BRAY, the Industrial Production Depot, and special guest, Chief Grant from District 7, were at the Sector Jacksonville Annex in Mayport today working on sinkers for future ATON projects. They will load these on the CGC MARIA BRAY, a 175 foot coastal buoy tender, to help keep floating aids on their assigned position.



USCGC HERON (WPB 87344):



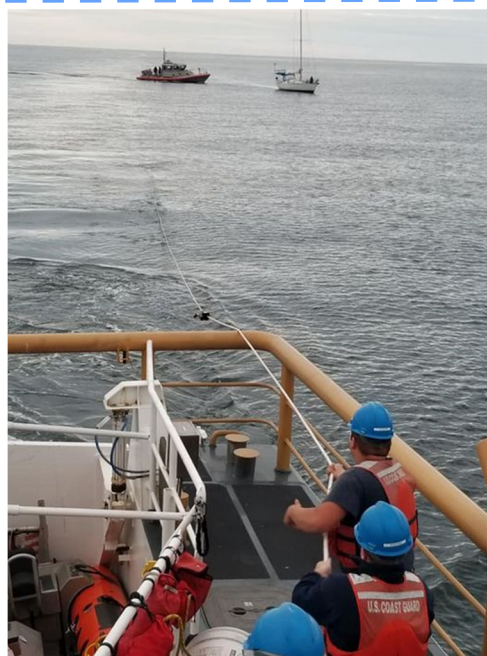
While on patrol, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter HERON terminated the voyage of a 48-foot Commercial Fishing Vessel (CFV) offshore Brunswick, GA for especially hazardous conditions. Always remember that it's imperative to have adequate firefighting equipment prior to going to sea. It's for the safety of your crew, catch, & vessel.

While escorting the CFV back into port, HERON was diverted for an overturned 20-25 foot recreational vessel appx 30 miles offshore. No signs of distress were observed in the immediate area, & the overturned vessel has no identifying markings. Good job to the HERON crew on what appears to be an eventful patrol!



The HERON also assisted a 45-foot sailing vessel with one person onboard.

The S/V was dismasted, had a fouled propeller, and was adrift 90 nautical miles offshore Savannah, GA. After the S/V transmitted a distress alert offshore, Cutter Heron arrived on scene & safely put the S/V in tow. Here is Cutter Heron transferring the tow to Coast Guard Station Mayport, which safely assisted the S/V to a safe haven, BZ to Cutter Heron & Station Mayport!



HERON ASSISTS WITH DRAGONS' MISSION TO SPACE:

Packed house at U.S. Coast Guard Station Port Canaveral as U. S. Coast Guard Maritime Safety & Security Team Houston - 91104 & U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Heron make preps to get underway for the launch of Crew Dragon's first operational mission with 4 astronauts onboard.



USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621):



Coast Guard Cutter VALIANT returned to Mayport October 12th. Due to COVID restrictions there was no homecoming ceremony, but the families were anxiously waiting in the parking lot to greet their loved ones.

Since then they have been busy. Cdr. Jeffrey Payne wrote the following to liaison, Sally Watson.

Since getting back from patrol, we have had our Biannual Command Assessment of Readiness and Training (CART) Inspection, a Comprehensive Law Enforcement Assessment (CLEAR), a visit from the Maintenance Augmentation Team (MAT), a small boat standardization Assessment, and renewal of our main gun. Next week we have more including Main Engine Diesel work and a visit from our bosses at Atlantic Area and SFLC in Virginia. Additionally, we are in the middle of a contracted Dockside Maintenance Period where a small army of contractors are performing Depot level maintenance and repair that is beyond Coast Guard ability including overhauling both our anchors, overhauling our ammo hoist, inspecting all our fuel and water tanks and hundreds of hours of welding and structural work. That is all on top of the normal crew level maintenance, training, range, medical and other tasks that occur during any inport period. Trying to accomplish all of that while maintaining COVID safe protocols is challenging to say the least. No telework options for us! We won't leave the local area until the end of January but start various COVID restrictions and work-ups that will take us in and out of port in the beginning of January. Luckily we will be home for the holidays.



They have selected the last two candidates for Sailor-of-the-Quarter for 2020. They are EM2 Michael Gallo SOQ 3rd qtr and HS2 Rashan Smith for the 4th qtr. The plaques will be given to Cdr Payne for presentation as we cannot go aboard because of COVID restrictions..

The pictures are from small boat training the VALIANT participated in. Yes, those are cold weather anti-exposure coveralls the boat crews are wearing! Contrary to popular belief, Florida cutters do own Cold Weather gear and occasionally have use for it.

Sally Watson -Liaison USCGC Valiant



USCG HITRON:



December 16, Sector Jacksonville & U.S. Coast Guard HITRON Jacksonville volunteered at Greater Jacksonville Florida Area USO to help pack 565 bags containing holiday gift baskets & toys. These holiday gift bags will bring smiles to Active Duty military families throughout the greater Jacksonville area, just in time for the holiday season.



St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion:



January 10, 2021 at 0830 we will have a very special guest speaker joining us. Krista Keating-Joseph is a Gold Star mom.

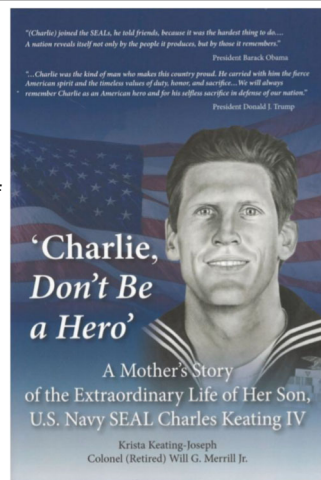
Her son, Charles Keating IV was a Navy Seal who died in combat.

After Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Charles H. Keating IV, died on May 3, 2016 in Tall Usquf, Iraq, of combat related causes, this Gold Star Mother's life wasn't anything like she'd imagined. She wrote a memoir about her son Charlie. The book is called *Charlie Don't be a Hero*.

She and her family will be coming to our drill to talk about the Navy, experiences she knows about, leadership, and much more.

If would like to attend please RSVP by emailing me at, lmullstaugseacadets@gmail.com.

Location: St Johns County Sherriff's Office (Enter by Giant Flag Pole off of A Street)
4015 Lewis Speed Way St. Augustine, FL 32084



Wreaths Across America:

This year's Wreaths Across America program was much different than in year's past. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions imposed by the VA National Cemetery Administration, the Veterans Council was restricted to only 50 volunteers to help lay the wreaths on the 1240 headstones in our St. Augustine National Cemetery.

However, on Friday, Dec. 18, the community stepped up in a big way and volunteers from various organizations, individuals, and members of the Florida National Guard stepped in and made short work of the placing of the wreaths on each of the headstones in our National Cemetery. A local moving company, Two Men and a Truck has assisted each year for the past several years of delivering the wreaths on a no charge basis and this year was no exception.

After the wreaths were all placed on each of the headstones, a short wreath laying ceremony was conducted with a ceremonial wreath representing each of the military service branches by a veteran who had previously served in that branch of service. This ceremony was followed by the playing of TAPS by Sgt. John Donlon from the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.

The wreaths that anoint the headstones are sold by the Veterans Council of St. Johns County each year and they depend on the public as well as local organizations to purchase the wreaths in order that they can continue to support the Wreaths Across America program. The St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council made a generous donation of \$150 which provided 15 wreaths. The sales this year exceeded goal and resulted in a carryover for 2021.

The Veterans Council has also launched a campaign to reach out to needy veterans during this Holiday Season. Due to the COVID – 19 virus that has hit our community with a disturbing impact on our less fortunate, we find many of our veterans are suffering at a disproportionate level from many others. Some have become homeless, some food insecure, many with unpaid rent, mortgages, and utilities or in need of home repairs which they cannot financially manage.

The Veterans Council has been overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. Many organizations as well as individuals have made a significant contribution to help these veterans during this Christmas season. The St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council is such an organization... donating a check for \$5,000 to assist the veterans in need in our community. This generous gift will help buy food or assure some veterans children will have a deserving Christmas this year or provide for other needs they may have. The Veterans Council has 20 veteran families on our radar that we have been tracking for some time that we will be helping this Christmas. The benevolence of the St. Augustine- Palm Council as well as other organizations and individuals will assure that these veterans have a Christmas this year that otherwise would not have been possible.

Thank you for your generosity and for remembering our veterans and their families.

Bill Dudley

Chairman

Veterans Council of St. Johns County



Dear Members of the Navy League of the U.S.,

Wreaths Across America ~ St. Augustine National Cemetery thanks you for your generous donation. Because Wreaths Across America is reliant on financial, or in-kind, support from donors in our local community, your generosity helps make it possible for each service member buried in our National Cemetery to be remembered this Holiday Season.

The Wreaths Across America Program in St. Augustine will be very limited this year from preceding years. Due to the restrictions placed by NCA policies having to do with the Chinese Covid-19 pandemic, we are limited to a non-public ceremony. A very reduced number of volunteers will place the wreaths on the headstones so as to be sure we are properly maintaining personal spacing in

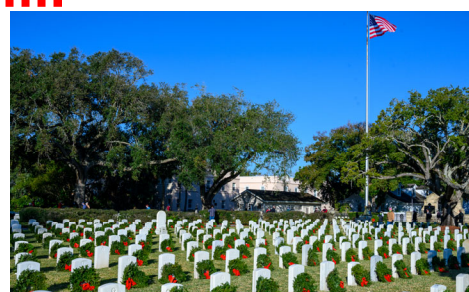
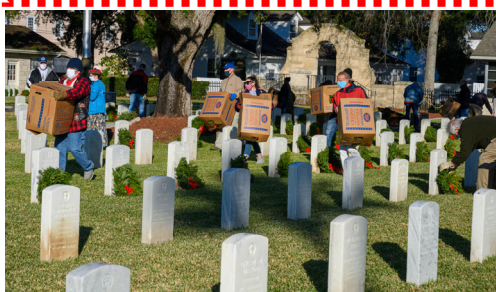
accordance with NCA guidelines. Ceremonial wreaths will be placed by a member from each service branch: USA, USN, USMC, USAF, USCG, USMM and POW/MIA. A Bugler will perform taps.

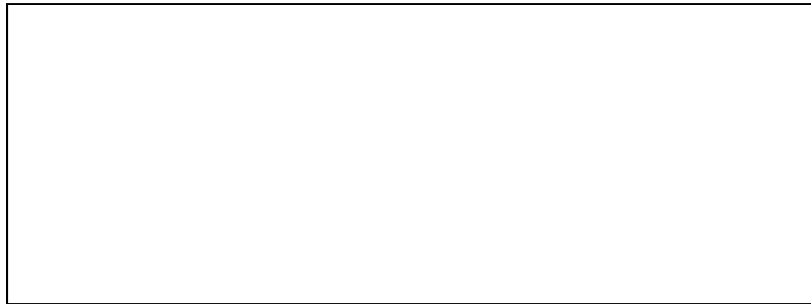
On behalf of our military families, and all the volunteers in the Wreaths Across America program, we thank you for your support and donation. Without you, remembering and honoring our deceased veterans with a wreath over the Holiday Season would not be possible.

Sincerely and With Kindest Regards,

George Linardos

*USA - CAPT (Tmr)
Wreaths Across America
St. Augustine Co-Chair*





COMMUNITY AFFILIATE MEM-



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USCGC Hammer	OPEN	
USCGC Heron	OPEN	
USCG Tarpon	OPEN	
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Sea Cadets	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944

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	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

