



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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3Q2020
Volume 2020 Number 3

FROM THE BRIDGE:

Greetings Navy Leaguers,



In the American system of government, the highest position is citizen. A fundamental responsibility of a good citizen is to vote whenever eligible. With all the challenges of active duty service, unfortunately, the voting registration rate for active duty military (2018) was 12 percentage points lower than the general population when adjusting for demographic differences between service members and civilians (age, gender, education, etc.) These figures are provided by FVAB (Federal Voting Assistance Program) which is working hard to increase our active duty voting participation.

For Navy Leaguers here in Florida, we need to do better. Our County Supervisors of Elections (particularly in Flagler and St. Johns) provide abundant information to make voting convenient and safe.

If you are registered and ready to vote Flagler County information can be found at <https://www.flaglerelections.com> and St. Johns County information can be found at votesjc.com. Familiarize yourself with the local, state, and federal candidates you are eligible to vote for. Remember, the 2000 presidential election came down to a difference of 537 votes in Florida. Some local elections in the last ten years have come down to single digit differences in the voting count.

MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT!

Our Council, meeting by Zoom, has had a series of great speakers presenting to our members at our monthly meetings. In July, we had RADM Sinclair Harris (USN, Ret.), who gave a great presentation of a variety of issues facing our Navy (particularly personnel), and National defense (see the article on page 2). Admiral Harris also serves as the Navy League's national vice president of military affairs, and you may have seen the July 2020 Seapower article: Link: <https://seapowermagazine.org/navy-leagues-harris-lays-out-musts-for-maritime-dominance/>

In August, our guest speaker was Ray Collins, Executive Director for the Florida Defense Task Force. Ray outlined the Task Force's mission to promote and protect Florida's military installations and programs. Without this vital effort, Florida's military facilities would face increase risk of encroachment, budget cuts, or outright program cuts. Detailed information on the Florida Defense Support Task Force is available at: <https://www.enterpriseoflouisiana.com/fdstf/>



Next up (October 12) is Jim Kuzma, Senior Vice President & GM Manager of Space Florida. Mr. Kuzma manages operations and client fulfillment functions, including Space Florida's increasing responsibilities for aerospace facilities and infrastructure, spaceport operations, technology advancement, talent, supply - chain initiatives and education programs. This should be a fascinating presentation, and I hope all of you can join in.

Detailed information about Space Florida is available at <https://www.spaceflorida.gov/>

Patrick McCormack

President
SA-PC Council
Navy League of the United States

RADM Sinclair Harris:

On July 13th, the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council hosted RADM Sinclair Harris USN ret. and currently NLUS Vice President, Maritime Policy as our guest speaker for the evening Membership meeting. Joining the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council were members from the Mayport Council, as well as the Jacksonville Council, to hear Admiral Harris' remarks.

The SAPC Council has been unable to conduct live meetings since the outbreak of the COVID-19 epidemic, but have been conducting virtual BOD and Membership meetings by use of Zoom video conferencing. This worked out very well as Admiral Harris and others were able to join us remotely.



Sinc Harris is currently LMI's client relations executive for the defense sector. He retired as a rear admiral after a 34-year career in the U.S. Navy. His service culminated as the vice director for operations to chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During his distinguished career, he led joint, combined, multinational, and interagency organizations both at sea and ashore across all aspects of defense, including full-spectrum operations, program management, strategic planning, and execution. He also commanded the U.S. Fourth Fleet, leading U.S. naval forces assigned to the U.S. Southern Command.

Sinc has been published in numerous journals on the topics of surface warfare, combat logistics, irregular warfare, and leadership. He earned a bachelor's in economics from James Madison University, a master's in operations research from the Naval Postgraduate School, and a master's in defense and strategic studies from the University of Madras, India. Sinc voluntarily serves as national vice president of the Navy League of the United States, chair of the National Defense Industrial Association's Expeditionary Warfare Division, president of the National Naval Officers Association, board member for the Surface Navy Association, and member of the Northern Virginia Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association.

The Admiral's remarks concerning the current state of the USN, the effects COVID-19 is having on operational performance, future needs of the Navy and other matters of interest were well received by all in attendance. Admiral Harris also commented on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on NLUS and how it has altered operations at headquarters. As expected, the Admiral's presentation was both highly informative and highly engaging.

St. Augustine Sea Cadets:



I am a Sea Cadet with St. Augustine Battalion, and I am taking an Anti-Drug and Alcohol virtual training this summer. Part of the training includes writing an article about the topic and sending it to local news publications. I am submitting my article to you for publication in the quarterly Bosuns Locker newsletter.

Very Respectfully,
PO2 Isabella Giammanco

Alcohol, Drugs, and Peer Pressure: A Perfect Prescription for Addiction

About 21 million Americans have an addiction and are substance abusers. Did you know only 10% of addicts seek out and receive treatment? Did you know people between the ages of 18-25 are the biggest age group to develop addictive personalities? This coupled with the availability of drugs and alcohol and the social pressures to fit in, make teens an easy target for addiction. Teenagers nowadays constantly struggle with peer pressure. As a teenager, I feel these pressures on a daily basis. Teens are succumbing to the influences of their environments and are not allowing their inner confidence to guide their actions.

The cool thing now is vaping, even though teens have absolutely no idea what they are putting in their bodies. As a public high school student walking around the school, I witness other students trying to hide their vapes in their bags so they will not be caught by teachers and staff. Teens are often hiding in the restrooms or in the back of classrooms, trying to get their fix of nicotine... or whatever poison they are trying to put in their bodies. Vaping is not the only thing going on in schools, students also attempt to smoke weed and drink alcohol in the restrooms. Unfortunately, most do not get caught and continue their addictive habits. Not getting caught doing drugs and alcohol at school makes many teens feel there are no consequences for their actions, and they can get away with anything. Going into my senior year of high school, I look back at some of the friendships I have had. I now realize those friendships fell apart because the friend chose to abuse drugs and alcohol over our relationship. I have known people who have had college scholarships for sports or academics taken away; lost it in one night for partying with drugs and alcohol. Everything went down the drain because they could not stand up to peer pressure and do the right thing. Do you truly know the ramifications of being an abuser of drugs and alcohol? Teens have to think before lighting that cigarette, pouring that drink, or opening that pill bottle. Abusing alcohol and drugs takes a toll on mental and physical health. Mental health can plummet drastically, causing depression, anxiety, paranoia, and even psychosis. Drugs and alcohol can also impact physical health by causing seizures, heart attacks, strokes, and respiratory or cardiac failure.

In conclusion, teens must resist the peer pressure to do drugs and alcohol. They can lead teens down the lonely path of addiction, consuming their dreams, and possibly their life.

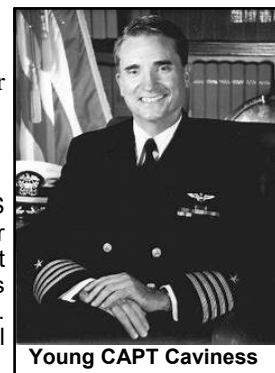
Isabella Giammanco
Color Guard Commander
Assistant Leading Petty Officer
St. Augustine Battalion
7.27.2020

Travelling in Circles:

The following was submitted by Council member and VP Membership, Claude Caviness, to the Patriot Reader for their Veterans Day publication in response to the question:

"What is the farthest you have ever traveled?"

A trip of 25,000 miles aboard the USS Midway CV-41 beginning three days before Christmas '54 at NAS Mayport, FL ending eight days after the Fourth of July '55 at NAS Alameda in San Francisco. There, our planes were off-loaded by crane, then commencing our ocean-to-ocean flight to Jacksonville. On East Coast arrival, our flight leader (of four planes) flew us from overhead Jacksonville's Cecil Field the additional 39 miles out to Mayport (and back) . . . just so that we could claim to have been all the way around the world . . . and . . . to 'show-off' by flying at (FAA approved) 1,500' along the St. Johns River over downtown . . . in a beautiful sunset . . . on a Friday-the-13th !



Young CAPT Caviness

First Coast Honor Flight:



Council member Selena Hennandez-Haines, CDR USN(Ret) was the guest speaker at our August 10th (Zoom) membership meeting. She gave us the following presentation about her new organization, of which she is President, "**First Coast Honor Flight**".



First Coast Honor Flight, Inc. (FCHF), a Florida 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, is a new Hub in the nationwide Honor Flight Network and the first to serve Northeast Florida Veterans. Established in March 2020, FCHF will serve St. Johns, Flagler, Duval, Clay, Putnam, Nassau, Baker, and Bradford counties, an area which is home to more than 169,000 veterans.

Since 2005 the nationwide Honor Flight Network has transported more than 244,000 elderly and ill military Veterans to Washington D.C. at no cost to them, to visit the memorials and monuments commemorating their service and sacrifices. Priority is given, in order, to seriously ill Veterans of any service era, then to World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War-era Veterans.

FCHF is excited about the opportunity to provide local Veterans with their "trip of a lifetime".

Our Honor Flights will depart from Jacksonville International Airport and be completed in one extraordinary day. Flights will include 25 Veterans, each accompanied by a trained Guardian. To ensure the safety and well-being of Veterans, Honor Flight groups include an M.D. and at least one EMT or RN, plus a handful of FCHF Staff to coordinate D.C.-area support and oversee trip execution.

FCHF is planning its inaugural Honor Flight for April 2021, on condition that it will be safe for Veterans and Guardians to travel then. The itinerary will include the World War II and Iwo Jima Memorials, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, front-row seats for the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, and more.

We are actively seeking applications from Veterans and prospective Guardians who would like to travel with us in 2021! We also seek applications from Volunteers to help with 2021 events such as Flight Orientations, departures and returns at Jacksonville International Airport, and Flight Reunions. To protect your personal information we ask that completed applications be mailed to the address shown on the forms, rather than submitted by email.

FCHF relies on generous donors' assistance to make Honor Flights possible for area Veterans. We estimate one First Coast Honor Flight will run approximately \$25,000, from pre-flight Orientation through post-flight Reunion. Remember, Honor Flights are absolutely no-cost to Veterans! Donations are tax-deductible and can be made by check or by PayPal on our website.

Visit firstcoasthonorflight.org to learn more about FCHF and download applications to request travel on an Honor Flight as a Veteran or Guardian, or to be a Volunteer.

You may also email info@firstcoasthonorflight.org for a personalized answer to any question.

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.

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

USCGC Valiant (WMEC 621):

During the pandemic shutdown we have had minimal exposure to the units our council supports. However, USCGC Valiant Liaison, Sally Watson, has stayed in touch with the ship through e-mail over the past few months. While on patrol, Valiant has been sending Sally updates on their travels through a weekly photo album of shipboard activities. This is just a sampling of what has been sent.



Machinery Technician First Class (MK1) Spence recalibrates the Number One Main Diesel Engine.



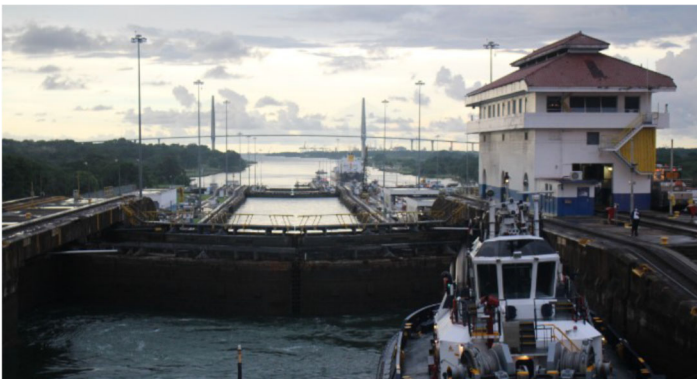
Electrician's Mate Second Class (EM2) Gallo and Seaman (SN) Whalen conduct Rescue Swimmer training.



BM3 Dickson is promoted to Boatswain's Mate Second Class Congratulations, BM2!



Maritime Law Enforcement Specialist (ME1) Sales conducts Defensive Tactics training for all law enforcement teams.



VALIANT traverses the Gatun Locks in the Panama Canal at sunset.



Bridge team members don masks while expertly navigating VALIANT through the Panama Canal.



Boatswain's Mate Second Class (BM2) Smith conducts coxswain training in "Blackjack" alongside VALIANT.



Boatswain's Mate Second Class (BM2) Dickson participates in line-throwing gun training under the supervision of Chief Gunner's Mate (GMC) Antonides

USCGC HERON (WPB 87344) & TARPON (WPB 87310):

On July 15, 2020, Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin, Atlantic Area Commander, and Master Chief Devin Spencer, Command Master Chief, visited crew members aboard the Coast Guard Cutters Heron & Tarpon



USCGC Ibis (WPB 87338), CHANGE OF COMMAND:

July 23, 2020, LTJG Karida Harris relieved Lt. James T. Martin to assume command of USCGC Ibis (WPB 87338). Ibis is homeported in Ft. Pierce, Florida and has a crew complement of 11. Harris became the second African-American female to command a ship in the Coast Guard.

"It is an honor to be entrusted with such a great deal of responsibility so early in my Coast Guard career," said Harris. "The crew of the Ibis demonstrates the utmost respect and commitment to each other, this ship, and the American people. I thank those who have and continue to break barriers and overcome obstacles, such Lt. Cdr. Felicia Thomas, the first black female to command afloat," said Harris. "I hope my efforts in this position serve to introduce and inspire more underrepresented men and women to the vast opportunities our nation has to offer."



Bravo Zulu Karida

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621), CHANGE OF COMMAND:

Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin, Atlantic Area Commander, presided over the Change of Command ceremony on July 15, 2020. CDR Jeffrey Payne relieved CDR Matthew Waldron of USCGC VALIANT. The ceremony was without fanfare on a hot, humid morning on the deck of the VALIANT. COVID-19 limited the number of family and friends in attendance. Sally Watson, SAPC Navy League Liaison was fortunate to be in attendance. Masks were in order with social distancing. CDR Waldron will be leaving for an Intelligence Fellowship in Washington, D.C., CDR Payne's most recent assignment was at the Surface Forces Logistics Center as the Patrol Boat Product Line Manager. He was responsible for all Engineering, Maintenance, Logistics, Discrepancy Response and Supply Support for the Coast Guard's entire WPB and WPC fleets world-wide.



CDR Waldron and Sally Watson



Cdr Waldron, VADM Poulin, CDR Payne



CDR Jeffrey Payne and family

Sally Watson - Liaison USCGC Valiant

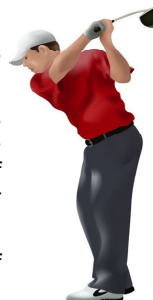
GOLF TOURNAMENT:

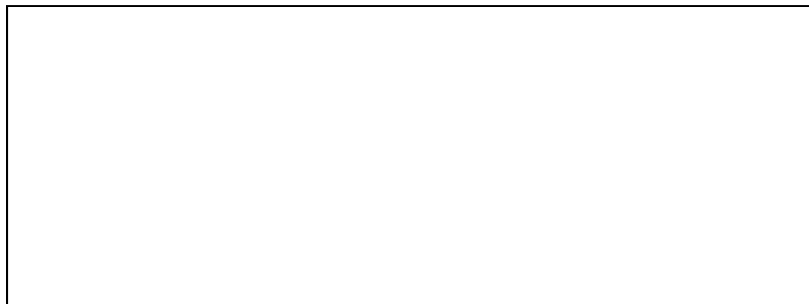
As previously reported, we cancelled our annual fund raising golf tournament because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the first time in 24 years that we will not host this very successful fund raiser.

Instead we are soliciting donations and prizes from past sponsors. All cash donations will go to the council, any prizes (such as golf foursomes, restaurant coupons, etc.) will be raffled off to past years golfers who submit a donation to the council. To date we have raised just under \$7,000, half of our average of \$14,000 raised each of the last ten years. Of that total close to \$2,000 came from former golfers, just under \$3,600 from nine Council Members and another disappointing \$1,300 from former Donors and Hole Sponsors.

Donors and Hole Sponsors are typically small businesses which is the group most severely impacted by the pandemic. If you know of anyone willing to provide a donation (monetary or prize) have them get in touch with me before October 15th.

Lee Figliuolo (386) 447-3640





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

