



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

BOSUN'S LOCKER

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Fellow Navy Leaguers,

I hope you had a great Christmas with family and friends. It's unfortunate so many of our military are unable to be with their families at this time of year especially those who are deployed at sea or in a combat area. Please remember to pray for their safe return.

Our Council has had another great year supporting our Sea Services and our JROTC and Sea Cadets. We were fortunate this year to pick up a sponsor for our Sailor of the Year hotel billet and signing up a new member as well. Renee Gurr, General Manager for the Ponce Hotel committed to providing rooms for our SOY selectees and signed up as a new member. We greatly appreciate their benevolent gesture.

Our membership increased significantly this year thanks to the efforts of many of our members reaching out to friends and acquaintances and the leadership of Claude Caviness and his team.

Our golf tournament again this year was a huge success thanks to the leadership and organizational expertise of Lee Figliuolo. It is the lifeblood of our Council in providing the funds for all that we do throughout the year for our adopted units.

Certainly the highest achievement of the year has been the growth in our Sea Cadet program. Thanks to the leadership of Joe & Shannon Giammanco and Larry & Sherryl Mull, our Sea Cadet Battalion has reached its highest ever cadet strength of 55 members. This can only be achieved by providing great leadership and a program that interests and entices our youth to want to join.

At our January meeting, we will install our new officer board for 2019. Patrick McCormack will take the helm next year and our Council could not be in more capable hands. I have been very honored to have served as the President of this dynamic organization for the past 4 years. Working with each of you has made serving as your President a real pleasure and serving our men and women of the Sea Services especially rewarding. I will continue to serve in any way I can to help further the Council's service to our adopted units.

Nancy and I wish each of you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and thank you for your service to our men and women in uniform.

Respectfully,

Bill Dudley
President



Renee Gurr - GM Ponce Hotel:



Ms. Renee Gurr, General Manager, Ponce Hotel in St. Augustine is shown receiving her St. Augustine-Palm Coast Navy League Council membership certificate from Council President, Bill Dudley during our Christmas luncheon

Ms. Gurr recently committed to providing rooms as part of the award package for our Sailor of the Year (SOY) selectees.



SEA CADETS:



When CPO William Israelson witnessed his older brother graduate boot camp at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, a new interest was forged, he said, "I want that!" After some research we discovered the Sea Cadet Organization. In February 2015 Wil attended his first drill at Battleship Missouri Division in St Louis at fourteen years old. In a short amount of time it was easy to see this was a program he respected and wanted to do well in. He loved the structure and the challenges that were put in front of him. Wil did well at his RT receiving several awards and compliments from his staff leader. He attended POLA, and again caught the eye of the staff and leaders.

In 2016 Wil and family moved to Jacksonville, Florida and Sea Cadets became more than an extracurricular activity. Wil joined the St. Augustine Battalion which became a second family for us. Wil has benefited from all the great instructors and their military knowledge. He had the opportunity to staff several trainings over the past couple of years and worked with leaders from other divisions. After meeting all the necessary requirements, Wil became a Chief Petty Officer on September 23, 2018. He was given a beautiful Pinning Ceremony in which the entire St. Augustine Sea Cadet Battalion was in attendance. Wil's older brother, who is stationed nearby at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, was on hand to perform the official CPO pinning.



Instructor Shannon Israelson with son, CPO Wil Israelson.



Shannon Israelson - Instructor & Mom

GOLF TOURNAMENT:

Our 2018 fund raising golf tournament was again held at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast on Monday, October 29th. The tournament was a huge success in that we fielded 140 golfers, 56 of whom were active duty Navy, Coast Guard & Marines. This was the largest number of military ever hosted at our tournament. Golfing fees and luncheon costs for the military were covered by us, the only thing they had to pay was \$20/person for a Game Day Pass, which made them eligible for all tournament contests & prizes.

Hyundai of St. Augustine was again our primary sponsor in that they provided for Hole-in-One insurance for the Hyundai Genesis which was the prize on hole #17, and they also sponsored a military foursome to play in the tournament. Unfortunately, no one was able to drive away with the prize car. Claude Caviness and Pat Ray were Platinum Sponsors (\$2,000) for the fourth consecutive year, and the Figliuolo family, Diana, Lee & Son Michael were Gold (\$1,000) & Silver (\$500) sponsors. Additional Silver sponsors were Gerling Travel in Palm Coast and NCA Financial Planners in Cleveland, Ohio. At the end of the day, the council made a profit of \$14,100, which will be used to fund our military support activities in 2019.

As in past years we divided the field of golfers into two flights, the Blue and the Gold. Each of the flight winners were presented our traditional trophy which is a shadow box with the unit or challenge coins from each of the military units our council sponsors, and a Grand Haven pro shop gift certificate for \$75. Second and third place winners were each awarded a \$50 or \$25 gift certificate. Closest to the Pin and Long Drive winners for both men and women were each awarded a small trophy with our Council coin and a \$25 gift certificate. We are already planning for our 2019 tournament, which will most likely be held at Grand Haven in late October or early November.



Gold Flight Champions
Chris Searcy, Jason Olmstead, Bill Soltesz, Travis Francisco,



Blue Flight Champions
Stephen Harstfield, Rick Myers, Jack Hinsch, Camille Hinsch

Lee Figliuolo - Tournament Chairman

COUNCIL CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON:



Rather than having an evening Christmas celebration as in past years, we held a Christmas luncheon. This year's event was held at the Grand Haven Golf Club in Palm Coast, site of our annual golf tournament. The Grand Haven catering staff did a wonderful job. Everyone enjoyed their meal of either Chicken Piccata or Herb Finished Salmon.

During the luncheon Council President Bill Dudley presented awards to Joe & Shannon Giammanco (pictured on the left) for their superb leadership of our Youth Programs and Larry & Sheryl Mull for their leadership (pictured on the right) of our Sea Cadet Battalion.,



USCGC MARIA BRAY (WLM 562):



BM3 Jonathan Gonzales was honored aboard the Maria Bray at USCG Station Mayport as the Sailor of the 4th Quarter 2018, by Commanding Officer CWO Michael Tomasi, on October 10, 2018. Petty Officer Gonzales, originally from San Antonio, TX has been in the Coast Guard for 5 years. He reported aboard the CGC MARIA BRAY in July of 2017. He recently qualified as a Buoy Deck Supervisor, (the highest position on the buoy deck) after many months of training and studying. He also led the charge in the preservation of 500 square feet of deck space by prepping, priming and painting, conducting inspections on over 100 pieces of buoy deck rigging equipment, ensuring the Cutter was able to respond in the event it was called to assist in the recovery efforts of Hurricane Florence. In addition, while he was conducting a routine round of the Cutter, he found that a heat pump was malfunctioning. He quickly identified the problem, secured the equipment and applied a patch to stop the leak on the auxiliary supply water line saving thousands of dollars in repairs.

Chief Warrant Officer Michael Tomasi is the Commanding Officer of the Maria Bray. He currently has 29 year of service and is due to retire in December of 2019.

The Coast Guard has identified Tomasi's replacement that is due in late July 2019, as Chief Warrant Officer Michael Brandt. Brandt is currently teaching at the Coast Guard Academy's Leadership and Development Center located in New London, CT. Commanding Officer Tomasi hosted a luncheon aboard ship for Navy Leaguers Claude Caviness, Garry Cohn, Sally Nichols and Jared Whetstone (a former BM3 aboard Maria Bray, who has joined the USCGR and applied for Officer's Candidate School through his Reserve Unit at USCG Ponce Inlet).



Aboard USCGC Maria Bray are Sally Nichols NL, Claude Caviness NL, BM3 Jonathan Gonzales, CWO Michael Tomasi, Garry Cohn NL and Jared Whetstone new Navy Leaguer and former Maria Bray crewman.

Claude Caviness - VP Membership

USCGC VALIANT (WMEC 621):



CGC VALIANT held their SOQ presentation on October 18, 2018. LCDR Jon Potterton, along with liaison Sally Watson, presented SOQ plaques to BM2 Sean F. Crowley (2nd Quarter) and MK3 Carlos A. Barrios (3rd Quarter). In attendance were Council members Garry Cohn, and Larry and Sherryl Mull to congratulate the winners. VALIANT has been busy since their return in mid October. However it's not all work, the ship had two foursomes compete in our annual golf tournament on October 29th.

Their major focus this in port stay has been preparing for and completing their biennial training and assessment for readiness. They have gone through three weeks of training and evaluations with Coast Guard inspectors reviewing their ability to effectively conduct damage control, navigation, seamanship, and weapons exercises.

After sharing a blessed Thanksgiving with family and friends, VALIANT departed December 18 for a six week patrol. Sally Watson, Stan Gilewicz and Garry Cohn were dockside to wish them "fair skies and following seas".



Sally Watson - Liaison USCGC Valiant

BILL KORACH - MEMORIAL SERVICE:



On Wednesday , October 17, 2018, a memorial service was held for Council member Bill Korach. Bill, who served as Council President in 2010, had recently passed away after a lengthy illness.

He will always be remembered for his outgoing and gregarious personality as well as his firm handshake and ready smile.

The picture on the left was taken during the service for Bill. It shows our Sea Cadet Color Guard in front with Council President Bill Dudley in the background, saluting the colors.

The picture on the right is of Bill accepting the ships plaque from CDR Scott Smith, C.O. of the USS Klakring (FFG 42). The presentation was made during the celebration of our Council's 35th anniversary.



Rest in Peace, Bill.

Sea Cadets:



Our rapidly growing Sea Cadet Battalion has worked very hard this past year on all of their required qualifications. In addition, as evidenced by the following pictures, taken during their Halloween Party, they also know how to play hard.



I fear that in addition to a uniform shortage, the Battalion may now also be suffering a toilet paper shortage.

USMC, Blount Island Command:



Council member and Blount Island Command Liaison, Stan Gilewicz, and his wife attended a retirement ceremony for 1st Sgt Chavez on Friday, November 26th at Blount Island Command.

The accompanying photos show the Blount Island garrison in attendance at the retirement ceremony and the second is of 1st Sgt Chavez receiving a Meritorious Service award from his Commanding Officer during his most recent Afghanistan deployment.



CAPT PATRICK MCCORMACK (USNR-R):

Patrick McCormack will be sworn in as President of the St. Augustine-Palm Coast Council of the Navy League of the United States at our January 2019 Council meeting. The following is a short biography of both his military and civilian experience.



Captain Patrick F. McCormack (USNR-R) grew up in East Granby, Connecticut and is a graduate of Hamilton College. After graduating from Aviation Officer Candidate School and receiving his commission in 1983, McCormack was designated a naval flight officer (NFO) in 1984.

McCormack's active duty operational assignments include three overseas deployments in Patrol Squadron Two-Six (VP-26), followed by shore duty as an Operational Test Director at Air Test and Evaluation Squadron One (VX-1).

Transitioning to the Navy Reserve, McCormack graduated from the University of Florida, College of Law, and served tours in VP-62, and VP-94, including overseas duty in Operations Sharp Guard (blockade on shipments to the former Yugoslavia) and Enduring Freedom (Haiti area support). McCormack later served as commanding officer of Patrol Wing 1174.

Mobilized for active duty in 2003 as part of Operation Enduring Freedom with Commander, Sixth Fleet, McCormack provided planning and reporting services for 6th Fleet operations and attacks.

Assigned to Chief of Naval Operations - Management and Analysis (CNOMA) reserve unit as chief of staff, Captain McCormack oversaw numerous management efficiency studies for Director, Navy Staff.

Patrick has served as County Attorney for St. Johns County, Florida, since 2006. Previously, Mr. McCormack was the Deputy County Attorney for Flagler County, Florida, and had served as an Assistant County Attorney in St. Johns County. In the private sector, Mr. McCormack practiced land use law and conducted general litigation. Mr. McCormack is Board Certified in City, County, and Local Government Law.



2019 Slate of Council Officers:

The following have been nominated for Council Officer positions for 2019. Swearing in will be at our January Council meeting.

President	Patrick McCormack	VP, Youth Affairs	Joe/Shannon Giammanco
Treasurer	Jerry Cameron	VP, Military Affairs	Ian Pollitt
Secretary	Sally Watson	VP, Membership	Claude Caviness
Judge Advocate	Patrick McCormack	VP, Communications	Lee Figliuolo
Chaplin	Fr. David Alert	VP, Legislative Affairs	Brandon Patty

CDR SELENA HERNANDEZ-HAINES, USN (RET):

CDR Selena Hernandez-Haines, a native of Jacksonville, Florida, served in the United States Navy from 1985 until 2006. She spent the first 12 years of her career in an antisubmarine warfare specialty area, the Integrated Undersea Surveillance System, culminating with a tour as Officer in Charge of a Navy detachment in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.



Other assignments included Aide to the Director of Operations, Plans, and Policy at Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Norfolk, Virginia; Deputy Director for Resource and Human Capital Management at Naval Network Warfare Command, Norfolk, Virginia, and Commanding Officer of the Knoxville, Tennessee Military Entrance Processing Station.

Following her naval career, CDR Hernandez-Haines spent more than five years as a federal civilian with the U.S. Coast Guard, focusing on strategic planning and training at the Coast Guard's primary financial management command.

In late 2013 she was invited to join the faculty of Flagler College, her undergraduate alma mater, to teach leadership, ethics, and other topics in the Public Administration program.



In June 2016 CDR Hernandez-Haines was appointed Flagler College's first Director of Military Recruitment. In this role she leads development and implementation of military- and veteran-friendly policies at the College, with the dual goals of increasing campus diversity by recruiting students with military experience, and assisting veterans to move forward with their career aspirations by completing a college degree.

CDR Hernandez-Haines' military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), Navy Unit Commendation, and other unit and service awards.

Nancy Shaver - Mayor, St. Augustine, FL:



St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Shaver, whose late father was a career Naval Officer of the WW-II Greatest Generation, is an active member of the SA-PC Navy League. She is received warmly aboard our Sea Service vessels and shore units and, on ceremonial occasions by entitlement, wears proudly her father's miniature medals.



Mayor Shaver, currently serves the people of St Augustine in her second term as Mayor. As Vice Chair of Resiliency Florida, she advocates for long-term planning and adaption strategies to address sea level rise. She received the 2017 Quality of Life Award from the Northeast Florida Regional Council for her work on sea level rise threats.



Mayor Shaver & C. O. Megan Thomas, USS Farragut (DDG 99)

Nancy's business experience is both national and global and includes leading a Fortune 500 marketing organization, as well as leadership in three technology "start-ups". A graduate of Wellesley College, she has served on boards of businesses and non-profits, and provided management guidance to small businesses on a pro-bono basis.

After moving to St. Augustine in 2009 she became an active citizen, using her business skills to help her fellow citizens be better informed on City decisions. Her work as a citizen activist to protect a city green space led her to her first run for political office, where a grass roots effort led to the defeat of a four term incumbent.

Nancy says that her best work has been her two children. Her son, Sean, whose work as an MD.PhD. has him leading global drug trials, lives in California with his family. Virginia is home to daughter Jenn, a marine biologist with NOAA, and her husband. And they all love to visit St. Augustine.

USCG Aids to Navigation (ANT), Jacksonville Beach:



BMC Kay A. Jones enlisted in the Coast Guard from FT. Myers, FL in December of 1999. After completing basic training in Cape May, NJ, she reported ashore to CG Station Fort Macon, Atlantic Beach, NC, where she completed the Boatswain's Mate striker program and advanced to Boatswain's Mate Third Class. She earned many qualifications and quickly rose through the ranks and departed the station as a Boatswain's Mate First Class. BMC Jones subsequent assignments include: USCGC Pea Island (WPB-1347) homeported in St. Petersburg, FL, USCGC Seahawk (WPB-87323) homeported in Carrabelle, FL, CG Station Washington, Washington, D.C., USCGC Monomoy (WPB-1326) homeported in Manama, Bahrain, USCGC Maria Bray (WLM-562) homeported in Atlantic Beach, FL, and CG Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) Charleston, SC.

BMC Jones personal awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, five Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and three Coast Guard Commandant Letter of Commendations, five good conduct awards and numerous service awards. She has earned her permanent Cutterman's Insignia, Coxswain Insignia, and Advanced Boat Forces Insignia.

BMC Jones is married to Daniel R. Jones, a native of Abbeville, SC. and currently serving as an active duty Chief Maritime Enforcement Specialist (MEC) in the USCG stationed in Charleston, SC.



BMC Jones stands between her husband Daniel and USCG Commandant ADM Karl Shultz



COMMUNITY AFFILIATE MEMBERS



BOARD of DIRECTORS

President	Bill Dudley	904-794-7814
President Elect	Jerry Cameron	904-804-6796
Chaplin	Dr. Nick Marziani	904-460-0535
Recording Secretary	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
Treasurer	Jamie Sawczyn	904-487-2332
Judge Advocate	Patrick McCormack	904-477-8021
VP Legislative Affairs	Dave Sullivan	386-447-3174
VP Military Affairs	Ian Pollitt	904-293-9868
VP Membership	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
VP Finance	Bob Price	904-718-2118
VP Communications	Lee Figliuolo	386-447-3640
VP Public Affairs	Christine Rodenbaugh	904-797-2940

MILITARY LIAISONS

USS Hue City	OPEN	
USS Farragut	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
VR 58	Gene Finck	904-489-2480
USS The Sullivans	Gary Cohn	904-797-5828
USCGC Valiant	Sally Watson	702-376-3753
USCGC Maria Bray	Jerry Cameron	904-814-6796
USCGC Hammer	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
USCGC Sawfish	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
USCG ANT	Claude Caviness	904-535-7832
USCGC Ridley	Dave & Jane Singleton	904-687-7463
CG HITRON	Paul Kimmel	386-986-8260
Marine Blount Island	Stanley Gilewicz	973-395-3820
JROTC Units	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944
Sea Cadets	Joe & Shannon Giammanco	904-295-3944

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman	Garry Karsner	904-540-4652
	Boyd Guttery	904-471-1651
	Bob Price	904-718-2118

ARCHIVES

	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

