



2013 Outstanding Council Award

Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States



Christmas Party December 11, 2014
Savannah Yacht Club



USS ALASKA GOLF TEAM



Bill Herbst, Corey Smith, John Suszynski, Apollo Pederson



Dinner Meetings



Our Dinner Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:45 pm. All dinner meetings are at Carey Hilliard's Banquet Center unless otherwise announced. 1111 Abercorn Ext. (across from Home Depot)

First meeting of 2015 is January 20th. Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, January 16th. The cost is \$22 per person. Please contact Aunette Shipes Foxy1931@gmail.com or call 912-330-0932 to reserve your place.

President's Reflections



Happy New Year!!! We are blessed in so many ways – and the “best of all” is having all of our Navy League members participating at any level for our events – it’s “heartwarming” to see. And to think that last January, 2014, we were just starting our Family Support Program – which a year later IS in “full swing” with 4 FRG (Family Readiness Groups). Yes, we are blessed, but more importantly, we are blessing the lives of many families of our Sea Services.

As I reflect back on the year, one of many highlights was being invited onboard our adopted ship, the USS Samuel B. Roberts last January, for a Burial at Sea, to closing out the year in December with the LAST Homecoming of the Sammy B in Mayport! She will be decommissioned in May, 2015. The BEST part is the involvement of so many of YOU!

2015 Promises to be just as exciting and active - starting with our Recognition/Awards at our January 20th dinner, a few tours/field trips in the planning, and more involvement with our NJROTC Programs at the High Schools, and a growing, solvent Sea Cadet program – starting with 3 last January and last count

is 19 in December of 2014, and of course, more activity with the Family Readiness Groups! It’s so much fun to be with the wives and children of our Sea Services. Can’t forget St. Patrick’s Day with additional Navy crews and families participating! Many crew comments have been “the St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Savannah was the highlight of my career—never been “in or to” anything like that before.”

Enjoy all the pictures reflecting the articles in this Steamer, be on the look-out for those Constant Contact email messages – they will be keeping you up to date on all the activities. (If you are not receiving them, please contact Chuck Towles, email: chuk1t@msn.com), and be sure to “Like” the Savannah Navy League on Facebook – another great way to keep up on our activities.

Everyone - have a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year and we look forward to seeing you all soon. And “bring a friend”.....our membership is increasing, too, AND we welcome your assistance with the many projects/programs for this upcoming year.

Thank You All!

WE WILL MISS TWO OF OUR STALWARTS

2014 was a wonderful year for your Council. However, sadly, we lost two of our truly most stalwart members, Larry Maurer and Jim Morison.

Larry passed away unexpectedly on October 24. He was a very active and supportive current VP-Board member who always was ready to help out whenever needed. Prior to joining the Savannah Council he was also a valued member of the Atlanta Council. Larry was a Navy vet who served 3 tours in Vietnam. Jim passed away on June 21 after a brave fight with cancer. He was a past VP-Board member and active supporter of the Savannah Council for many years. Jim was a Marine vet who was best known for his love of and support of the USMC. Larry and Jim will be well remembered and sorely missed.

Treasurer's Report

Cliff Angers, Treasurer

I am happy to report that 2014 was a good year financially for your Council. With a combination of responsible fiscal management by your Board and strong contribution support from Council members we ended the year on budget and basically at a breakeven position. Total income for the year was \$ 40,877 against total expenses of \$ 41,316 for a net loss of only \$ 442 (budgeted loss was \$ 575). Positive highlights for 2014 versus budget were: **1** - Individual contributions exceeded budget by \$ 2,266 or +73% **2** - City of Savannah finally came through with an additional grant of \$ 2500 for Sea Cadet and youth programs (thanks to dogged persistence by Tom Latham) **3** - Special events netted a gain of \$ 1,267 **4** - Program expenses were within 4% of budget and **5** - Management expenses were within 7% of budget. The only real negative for the year was Corporate Sponsorships, which missed budget by 30%. Hopefully we can do better in this arena in 2015.

Extra Bonus: Through the active support of our members the Savannah Council has accumulated \$ 2900 worth of Savannah Morning News advertising to use in 2015. Thank you all who participated in this promotion opportunity.

2015 Dues & Contribution Drive: We are off to a good start with our current Dues and Contribution Drive. Just in the final weeks of December we have collected \$1245 in dues and \$ 1485 in special contributions. Thanks to all who have already responded and to the rest of our membership please do send in your checks to Jeff Zureick (17 Lake Heron Court West, Pooler, GA 31322-4041) right away, before you forget or the dues letter slips in behind some big old pile !

USS ALASKA AWARDS

Savannah Navy League attended an awards ceremony at Kings Bay on Dec 3, and presented recognition awards to newly pinned Chiefs and recent Sailors of the Quarter.



Left to Right: New Chiefs - ETC Kaimen Goodwin, EMC James Ross, MMC Cleveland congratulated by Navy League's Tom Latham.



Left to Right: STS2 Ian McManus - Junior Sailor of the Quarter, ET3 Jonathan Demarco - Blue Jacket of the Quarter.



Left to Right: MM1 Michael Ford - Junior Sailor of the Quarter, MM1 David Fialkovic - Sailor of the Year

NAS JAX Holiday Party

Tom Latham, Pat Yovich, and Joe Tillman were guests of Rear Admiral Mary M. Jackson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast at a Holiday Reception at NAS/JAX on November 8.



Sub Group 10 Holiday Reception

Tom Latham was a guest of RDML Charles Richard and his wife, Lisa, at the Sub Group 10 Holiday Reception at Kings Bay on December 11.



News from Our Adopted Surface Ship

Sammy B Homecoming - 15 December

The USS *Samuel B. Roberts* returned to Mayport Naval Base on December 15 after a six month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea. This was the final voyage of the Sammy B. She is to be decommissioned May 22, 2015.



Above: Families and friends of Sammy B sailors gathered in the Mayport Chapel Dec 14 for a vigil service, offering prayers and thanksgiving for the safe return of their loved ones.



On October 27th Savannah Navy League Board members visited with the Family Support Group of our adopted surface ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* to help plan for Homecoming activities.

To the members of the Savannah Navy League,



We want to thank you for your sponsorship of the USS *Samuel B. Roberts*, and the support you've given to our

Family Support Group. Being a military family is very hard; it means a lot to us to know that there are members of the community standing with us. Your visit to our meeting, the sweet gifts for new babies, and the very generous date night prize that you donated all served to help boost our morale over the long days of the deployment. When you support us, you help us to support our sailors. We were honored by your presence at our Vigil Ceremony and our Homecoming. As our sailors prepare for the decommissioning of the Sammy B. and begin to scatter to our various new commands, please know that we appreciate all that you have done for us!

With Many Thanks from the USS *Samuel B. Roberts* Board:
Cindy Martin, Presiden; Kristen Lozen, Vice President;
Chelsie Schuster, Treasurer; Adrienne Gager, Secretary



A joyous group jammed the pier to welcome the Sammy B and her crew back to her homeport of Mayport Naval Station on Dec 15.



News from Our Marines

Marines of the Quarter

Awards were presented to Marines of the Quarter for the Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 45 on Sunday October 5. Marines receiving awards - 3rd Quarter 2014 LCpl Justin Bignault; 4th Quarter 2014 LCpl David Marti.

Commanding Officer, Major Ken Harrison, USMCR, presided over the ceremony. Major Harrison will be leaving the unit shortly for duty in New Orleans.



Left to Right: LCpl David Marti, SGT Bridger, Tom Latham - Navy League, Major Ken Harrison, Commanding Officer, O. C. Fowler - Navy League, LCpl Justin Bignault, LCpl Baudinet.

New Littoral Combat Ship Squadron

Capt. Paul Young assumed command of the newly formed Littoral Combat Ship Squadron (LCSRON) 2 during a ceremony held at Naval Station Mayport, Florida, Nov. 7. Savannah Navy League members Pat and Alan Yovich, Joe Tillman, and Ed Robb attended the ceremony.



Ed Robb, Pat Yovich, Alan Yovich, CAPT and Mrs Paul Young, and Joe Tillman. CAPT Young is the Commodore of LCSRON 2.

USMC 239th Birthday



Navy League Marine Corps veterans Jim Innes, Mick McCay, Kent Shockey, and Alan Yovich celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday with a cake cutting at the November dinner meeting with our guest speaker, LTC Chad Hoare, Executive Officer, Parris Island MCRD.

Pearl Harbor Day Commemoration

Over 200 in Attendance at Ceremony



This is the eleventh year for this event which has grown in popularity every year. The ceremony took place at the National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force at 2 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th. Our principal speaker was RDML Charles A. Richard, Commander, Submarine Group 10. Richard said that the acts of sacrifice, bravery and victory by those who served in WWII and Pearl Harbor set an example for generations to come.

Thanks to all our participants including Benedictine Cadet Chorus, South Effingham JNROTC, WWII Chatham County Veterans, CMD Everett Tumblin USN (RET), Judy Roddy Navy League, Third ID Firing Party and Bugler, our Pearl Harbor survivors, Fleet Reserve and the Mighty Eighth for providing the wonderful venue for the event.

This ceremony is co-sponsored by the Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States, the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force and the Fleet Reserve Association.

Thanksgiving Day November 27th

A Fun Filled, Tummy Filled, time was had by all, as seen by the notes below and a front page spot in the Savannah Morning News the next morning! Joining in the festivities were the USMC, USCG, and a couple Navy wives from Kings Bay. And yes, we took all the food out to Tybee for 40+people! And a special thanks to Mary Jo Crowe and her committee for all the decorations and set up.



Coast Guard Air Station Savannah

This is the first unit that we've been to that does anything like this, and I have to say that I was taken aback with the generosity of the Navy League volunteers.

It was so comforting to see such an outpouring of support for the local area Coast Guard members and their families – particularly those who would otherwise have been spending Thanksgiving alone. It was wonderful to get a chance to meet and talk with the Navy League members who were there. Not only was it great to learn about their diverse backgrounds, but it was truly inspiring to hear the genuine enjoyment that each of them was getting by spending their holiday with our Coast Guard family.

Nancy Rivers (wife of C/O CDR John Rivers)

Station Tybee

Thank you very much for the dinner you and all of the Navy League members put together for the crew and family members of Station Tybee.

It was truly a great success! I don't know what we would have done without the Navy League's assistance. Both of my cooks were on leave and we had approximately 30 crew and family attend. Today's crew is enjoying the leftovers for lunch.

Again, Thank you very much

BMCS Ron McCready
Officer in Charge Station Tybee

Marine Safety Unit

As I sat down this past Thanksgiving with fellow Coastie MST3 Dan Turner who had reported to the Marine Safety Unit only a few weeks earlier and Navy League member Tom Latham and siblings, I remembered back to the First Thanksgiving I spent in the Coast Guard. I was stationed in Oregon and my family all lived on the East Coast. Since I was still trying to save money to pay off student loans I couldn't afford to fly back home. I was also fairly new to the unit, I didn't know a lot of people, and I didn't have anywhere to go for Thanksgiving so I decided I would try my hand at cooking a Cornish Hen...a turkey seemed too big for one person. It was a disaster and I ended up finding a fast food place that was open. It would have been nice if there was a Coast Guard/Navy League relationship in Oregon like the one here to save me from my bad cooking skills. Perhaps that first (and the following three Thanksgivings because I was still saving money) in Oregon wouldn't have been so lonely. While hanging out with your Commanding Officer may not be the ideal way to spend one's Thanksgiving, I hope MST3 Turner enjoyed the company of the Navy League at the table. He went back for seconds so I think that was good sign!

Cdr. Amy Beach, Commander Marine Safety Unit and
Captain of the Port

This very successful event was only possible thanks to the hard work and generosity of the following: Chairman - Terry West –Whitemarsh Beverage; Sam's Club – Pooler; Papas Restaurant; Siciliano's; Wiley's BBQ; Dickey's BBQ; Molly McPherson's; Miss Sophie's; United Distributing; The USO



The Savannah City Council presented an award for outstanding performance to all three Savannah USCG units for their rescue of over 100 persons from a stranded vessel in the Savannah River entrance.

USCG Children's Christmas Party

Savannah Navy League supported the USCG's Children's Christmas Party at Air Station Savannah on Dec. 6. Santa Claus (Navy Leaguer Mike Campbell) flew in from the North Pole in a USCG helicopter, much to the delight of the children. Other Navy Leaguers help the kids with crafts, read stories, brought food, and helped with arrangements.



Sailor of the Quarter Awards



USCG Air Station Savannah - YN1 Joshua Dixon



USCG Station Tybee - BM2 Tyler White



MST2 Audrey Gurganus, center, with CDR Amy Beach, CO of USCG Marine Safety Unit Savannah, and Captain of the Port, and NL Board member O.C. Fowler.

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The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well-being are dependent upon strong sea services-United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and United States Merchant Marine.

The full-color printed edition of the Savannah Steamer is published quarterly. Additional news to the members is posted via emails and updates to the Savannah Council's website and Facebook page.

The Savannah Council of the Navy League is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Upcoming Events

Jan 6	5:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	USCG Air Station
Jan 20	5:45 PM	Monthly Dinner Meeting	Carey Hilliard's – 11111 Abercorn St
Feb 3	5:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	USCG Air Station
Feb 17	5:45 PM	Monthly Dinner Meeting	Carey Hilliard's – 11111 Abercorn St
Mar 3	5:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	USCG Air Station
Mar 17	9:00 AM	St Patrick's Day Parade	South End of Forsyth Park
Mar 24	5:45 PM	Monthly Dinner Meeting	Carey Hilliard's – 11111 Abercorn St

Support Our Navy League Community Affiliates . . .

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