

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

F O R T L A U D E R D A L E C O U N C I L

February 2024



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Saturday, January 27th, the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League hosted our annual Seven Seas Gala, themed "Grecian Odyssey." It was a night of elegance and camaraderie as we welcomed our valued Council Members, distinguished guests, Sea Cadets, and esteemed

military representatives from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Space Force, and Merchant Marines.

The Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets, led by Commanding Officer LTJG Rosa Ryan, USNSCC, showcased exceptional professionalism in presenting the official party, Colors, POW Table, and Silent Drill Team. We were honored to have Rear Admiral Douglas M. Schofield, USCG, the Seventh District Commander (D7), as our guest speaker. His enlightening account of his extensive career in the Coast Guard truly captivated the audience.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Gala Committee and sponsors, including Chair Lynn Atkinson, Elaine Hogg, Elaine Nasta, Alan & Joey Stotsky, Oscar & Alicia Romano, Gary & Vicky Pirtle, and Zane & Barbara Kelleher, whose diligent efforts ensured the resounding success of the Gala. Special thanks also go to Westin Fort Lauderdale for their impeccable service.

We encourage all members to bring a guest to our upcoming dinner meeting on Wednesday, February 21st, 2024, at 6 PM at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. We eagerly anticipate meeting and hearing from our Guest Speaker, Captain Sam Stephenson, J.D., USCG Master Mariner, and Senior Harbor Pilot at Port Everglades. Your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

Lastly, I express gratitude to all members and staff

for their unwavering support, which continuously elevates the Fort Lauderdale Navy League to national prominence. Together, we strive to uphold our commitment to excellence in service and advocacy.

Sincerely,
Abiud "Abi" Montes
President Fort Lauderdale Council
Navy League of the United States



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GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR FEBRUARY 21ST DINNER MEETING CAPTAIN SAM STEPHENSON, J.D., USCG MASTER MARINER AND SENIOR HARBOR PILOT, PORT EVERGLADES



Captain Stephenson, J.D. is a licensed USCG — Master Mariner of Any Gross Tons and licensed as a state & federal pilot for Port Everglades, Florida. Captain Stephenson has years of seagoing experience as captain on ships of unlimited tonnage and is currently a Senior Harbor Pilot in Port Everglades routinely navigating the largest cruise ship(s) in the world in & out of Port Everglades in addition to oil tankers, containerships, US Naval ships, etc.

He is a lead instructor at Resolve Maritime Academy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and has developed senior level courses for captains/senior officers and pilots including COLREGS, BRM-Pilots, Advanced Shiphandling, Podded Propulsion, etc. In 2015, Captain Stephenson was appointed to the USCG-Navigation Safety Advisory Committee. In 2016, he was appointed President of the Florida State Harbor Pilots Association.

Prior to becoming a Port Everglades Pilot, Captain Stephenson was Commandant of Cadets at Texas A&M Maritime Academy and Captain on the United States Training Ship Texas Clipper II. He was in charge of the discipline, safety & training of hundreds of maritime cadets at the academy.

Captain Stephenson has been an avid boater and fisherman his entire life. At the age of six, he started racing optimist prams, and in high school at Admiral Farragut Academy in Toms River, N.J. raced Lasers. In college, he won the US Navy Southwest Laser Championship, and was skipper in the Texas Ocean Racing Circuit. He grew up fishing and diving off the coast of Florida, activities which he continues to do on a regular basis when he isn't piloting ships.

Captain Stephenson served 21 years in the United States Naval Reserve and retired as Commander. He resides in Boca Raton, Florida with his wife and four children. He has been retained as a maritime expert for over 25 years in civil & criminal cases in federal & state court.

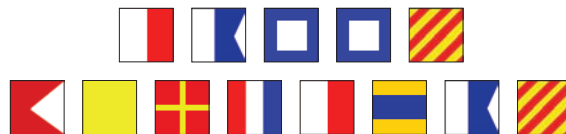
MEMBERSHIP

To join and maintain membership in a Navy League council, an individual must be a member in good standing with the Navy League of the United States. It is incumbent upon the member to maintain current national membership.

From page 2-10 of the Navy League of the United States Operations Manual revised November 6, 2021:

“II.D.6. A council may establish local dues or membership fees as it may deem to be appropriate but such dues or fees must be in addition to, not in lieu of, the national dues.”

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



Bill Bohler	2/2	Bill Schmidlin	2/21
Jeff Randall	2/19	Gordon James	2/24
Robert Brauser	2/21	Marilena Montanez	2/24



The Navy League of the United States
 Fort Lauderdale Council
 Invites you to join us for
Navy League Day at the Races
Saturday, March 9th, 12:00 noon



 **Ten Palms Restaurant**
GULFSTREAM
PARK 901 S. Federal Highway,
 Hallandale Beach, FL 33009

Enjoy a day at the beautiful Gulfstream Park racetrack with your friends!

Racing Package Includes:

- Sumptuous Buffet Luncheon at scenic trackside Ten Palms Restaurant
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- Daily race day program for each attendee
- One (1) \$2.00 betting voucher per person
- \$60 per person



RSVP & Pay Online: FtLNavyLeague.org/RaceDay



Please detach and return with your check made payable to:
NLUS Fort Lauderdale Council

Lynn Atkinson, 845 S. Southlake Drive, Hollywood, FL 33019
 954-325-9102 lynn@druckermail.com

Name: _____ # attending _____ \$60 per person

GRECIAN ODYSSEY

AT THE SEVEN SEAS GALA 2024

“Grecian Odyssey” at the Seven Seas Gala, on January 27th at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, was a great success! We were honored to have Rear Admiral Douglas M. Schofield, USCG, Commander of Coast Guard District Seven as our Guest of Honor. Arriving guests enjoyed the blue Santorini signature cocktails and delicious Grecian themed hors d’oeuvres. Guests then entered the Ballroom, decorated with blue and white linens and beautiful floral arrangements. Council Vice President Gary Pirtle orchestrated the arrival of the Official Party with two columns of saluting Sea Cadets flanking the military guests as they entered the ballroom.

Guests included many active-duty military members from the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps as well as Navy League members, Naval Academy parents, Sea Cadet Parents, Sea Cadet Staff and Sea Cadets. The Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets presented the colors and Oscar Romano delivered an inspiring invocation. Sea Cadets also presented the POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony. Admiral Schofield reviewed the Sea Cadets Rifle Drill Team performance, which was excellent and received a standing ovation from the crowd.



Council President Abi Montes



Admiral Schofield and Mrs. Schofield



Rear Admiral Schofield - Guest of Honor

GRECIAN ODYSSEY

AT THE SEVEN SEAS GALA 2024

CONTINUED



VIP Table with Guest of Honor



Rear Adm Schofield and Vice Adm Holsey - SouthCom



Council President Abi Montes, Gala Chair Lynn Atkinson, Rear Admiral Schofield and Mrs. Schofield



Distinguished Guests

View and Download all the Gala photos and video from our website at:
<https://FtLNavyLeague.org/Gala2024>

The Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous support of our Seven Seas Gala 2024.

GRECIAN ODYSSEY
AT THE SEVEN SEAS GALA
JANUARY 27, 2024



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Headquarters: 300 S.W. 25th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315



LTJG Rosa Ryan, USNSCC
Commanding Officer

A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE **U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division**

This has been an active month for our Cadets. The Fort Lauderdale Division Cadets were showcased at the Seven Seas Gala on January 27th. They served as side boys for the arrival of the Official Party, presented the colors, put on an excellent rifle drill team performance, and recited the POW/MIA Commemoration Ceremony. The Cadets did an excellent job!



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Fort Lauderdale Division continued



DECEMBER 21ST HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB

Our annual holiday dinner meeting and Toys for Tots drive was held at the Lauderdale Yacht Club on December 21st. The Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets did an excellent job of presenting the colors. Our guest speaker was Captain Tina Pena, USCG, Chief of Staff, Coast Guard District Seven. Captain Pena gave an inspiring presentation about her career in the Coast Guard. We all enjoyed her presentation immensely.

The Lauderdale Yacht Club did an excellent job with beautiful holiday décor and a delicious buffet dinner. The 2024 Council Officers were elected at this meeting. We were honored to have guests from NTAG Miami, USCG District 7 and US Southern Command. Council President Abiud Montes collected the Toys for Tots on behalf of the Marine Corps. It was a delightful evening of camaraderie and laughter.





SEA CADETS BY THE NUMBERS

380+ TOTAL UNITS
IN 47 STATES,
Guam, & Puerto Rico

11,000+
CADETS SERVED ANNUALLY
AGES 10-18

3,000+ VOLUNTEERS FROM ACROSS THE NATION SPEND OVER 238,000 HOURS VOLUNTEERING EACH YEAR.



Our volunteers hail from diverse backgrounds. Many of our volunteers are active duty, reserve, or retired servicemembers. Over 360 of our volunteers are serving active duty and reserve in the U.S. Military. Our volunteers serve in a variety of areas including in their local units, during advanced trainings, and for their regional staff.



36% OF CADETS REPRESENT ETHNIC MINORITIES

23% OF CADETS COME FROM INNER CITY COMMUNITIES

23% OF CADETS ARE FEMALE

IN A TYPICAL YEAR:
1,000 CADETS FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADUATE FROM THE USNSCC

These remarkable young men and women often choose to serve in the military, attend universities and trade schools, or serve their local communities through frontline careers.



Cadets make great decisions about their futures
IN A TYPICAL YEAR:

U.S. NAVY

- 250 Enlist in the U.S. Navy*
- 130 Matriculate to the United States Naval Academy**
- 100+ Are Accepted to Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)*

*Source: NRC Analytics 2010-2018
**Source: USNA OIR 2010-2018

OTHER***

- 150 Enlist in other military branches
- 30 Matriculate to other service academies
- 30 Accepted to other ROTC programs
- 300+ Attend 2-4 year universities

***Source: Graduating Cadet Surveys 2015-2019

360+ MILITARY VOLUNTEERS
INCLUDING 230+ ACTIVE AND RESERVE
VOLUNTEERS FROM THE U.S. NAVY

ACCORDING TO THE U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY:
10% - 12%
OF EACH INCOMING CLASS OF MIDSHIPMEN
ARE FORMER U.S. NAVAL SEA CADETS.

While cadets are not required to join the military after graduation:
OVER 650 FORMER CADETS CHOOSE TO SERVE THEIR COUNTRY EVERY YEAR.
500 of these cadets choose to serve in the United States Navy



EACH SEA CADET SAVES THE U.S. NAVY \$14,000

IN RECRUITING & LIFE-CYCLE COSTS
-Former CNO Gary Roughead

Cadets who achieve the rank of E-3 as Sea Cadets are eligible to graduate U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard recruit training as an:

E-3 / SEAMAN

This encourages cadets to both join the U.S. Navy and remain in service longer while reducing life-cycle training costs per sailor.



U.S. NAVAL
SEA CADET CORPS
www.seacadets.org

The following statistics represent typical annual data from the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Spruance Division Buy-a-Brick Fundraiser



Architect's rendering of 300 SW 25th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale – North elevation

The **Navy League of the United States, Fort Lauderdale Council** invites you to become a permanent part of the new **Mary N. Porter Sea Cadet Training Center** by purchasing a commemorative brick; an easy way to leave a lasting family legacy.

Your custom brick could be engraved with your family name, a cadet or former cadet's name and year of graduation, your business name, your organization name, or you could choose to engrave a brick in honor of someone special, a veteran, or in memory of a loved one.

**Engraved symbols are an additional \$5. Choose from the symbol gallery:*

<https://www.bricksrus.com/products/symbols/>

Ask us about custom logos



Engraved bricks are available in two sizes:
4 x 8 = \$100/\$105* donation
8 x 8 = \$225/\$230* donation

Use the online ordering system at: www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/seacadets

or

Please **complete and mail the attached order form** with your check made payable to:

NLUS-FLC (Navy League of the U.S. Fort Lauderdale Council)

PO Box 350625, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-0625



(All donations are tax-deductible)



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE MARY N. PORTER SEA CADET TRAINING CENTER

BUILDING LEADERS BEGINS WITH YOU.

A capital campaign to fund the construction of the Mary N. Porter Sea Cadet Training Center

- Yes, I want to support the Capital Campaign to build a new Sea Cadet Training Center in Fort Lauderdale. My gift will enable the Navy League of the U.S. to provide a home for excellent youth programs that foster leadership, academic skills and civic responsibility.
- Please contact me about naming opportunities at the new Mary N. Porter Sea Cadet Training Center.



I would like to make a one-time tax-deductible contribution in the amount of:

\$100
 \$500
 \$1,000
 \$5,000
 \$10,000
 \$25,000
 \$50,000
 Other \$

Make check payable to the Navy League of the United States - Fort Lauderdale Council.

Fill out the form below if you are paying with a credit card. *Contributions are tax deductible as provided by law.*

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 Signature _____

I would like to make the following pledge:

Name (as you would like to be recognized) _____
 In honor of _____
 In memory of _____
 \$ _____ is enclosed.
 Total amount of \$ _____ to be paid as follows:
 Amount \$ _____ on (date) _____
 Amount \$ _____ on (date) _____
 Amount \$ _____ on (date) _____
 Amount \$ _____ on (date) _____

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES - FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

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www.FTLNavyLeague.org | www.FTLSeaCadets.org

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Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council

Social Calendar 2024

Wednesday, February 21, 2024, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

**Guest Speaker: Captain Sam Stephenson, J.D., USCG Master Mariner and
Senior Harbor Pilot, Port Everglades**

Saturday, March 9, 2024, Navy League Day at the Races, Gulfstream Park

Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Captain Dennis Neutze, USN (Ret)

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: Ken Abramowitz

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker:

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, November 20, 2024, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club

Guest Speaker: TBD

GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR MARCH 20TH DINNER MEETING CAPTAIN DENNIS R NEUTZE, JAGC, USN (RET.)

Captain Neutze graduated from the Naval Academy in 1965. He was commissioned in the Supply Corps, and served as Supply Officer in USS Marshall (DD676). He then attended the University of Maryland School of Law where he graduated second in his class, was an editor of the Maryland Law Review, and was elected to the Order of the Coif. His first tour as a Judge Advocate was in the Republic of Vietnam. He next served at NAVSUPACT Naples and then as XO, US Naval Service Office Naples, Italy. He was then a student at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk VA. His next assignment was as a Legal Advisor to the Chief of Naval Personnel. He then attended George Washington University where he received a Master of Laws in International law. He served briefly in the International Law Division of Navy JAG and was then a Legal Advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations. Captain Neutze was next assigned as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, US Naval Forces Europe in London. He was then Commanding Officer, Naval Legal Service Office San Francisco. His final tour was as Commander Naval Investigative Service Area Europe in London. Following retirement after 28 years of active duty, he was a partner in the London Office of Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP and then Chadbourne & Parke LLP also in London. Since returning to the US in 2011, he has been the BGO Area Coordinator for the Naval Academy in South Florida. He and his wife of 52 years, Sunny, live in Aventura.



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 2024 3:30 PM EDT

Join Zoom Meeting:

Meeting ID: 857 4758 2766

Passcode: GoNavy

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL 2024 OFFICERS

President – Abiud Montes

1st Vice President – Gary Pirtle

2nd Vice President – Barbara Kelleher

3rd Vice President – Aaron Bresnahan

Treasurer – Diana Molina

Secretary – Elaine Nasta



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

6-7 PM Cocktails • 7-9 PM Dinner Buffet

LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB

1725 SE 12th Street

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

Guest Speaker

CAPTAIN SAM STEPHENSON, J.D.

Senior Harbor Pilot, Port Everglades

Guests \$45 per person

RSVP Required! Limited Seating!

No later than noon, Monday prior to the meeting.

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