# FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL February 2025



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Navy League Members,

I am excited about the opportunities and initiatives awaiting us this year as we continue our mission of supporting Sea Services and fostering camaraderie among our members.

We recently hosted our Seven Seas Gala, themed "Evening in Thailand," on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach. It was an unforgettable evening filled with tradition, excellence, and celebration. We welcomed Vice Admiral Yvette Marie Davids, USN, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, as our distinguished guest. Vice Admiral Davids is a true trailblazer—she is the first Hispanic American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship and the first female Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, a role she assumed on January 11, 2024. Her inspiring leadership and unwavering commitment to service resonated deeply with all in attendance.

A special highlight of the evening was the **Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets**, who did an **outstanding** job presenting the **Colors** during the **National Anthem**. Their precision and professionalism were remarkable. Additionally, Vice Admiral Davids was **excited** to witness our **Sea Cadets perform the Silent Drill Team**, a moment that genuinely showcased their dedication and discipline.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the **Gala Committee**, **sponsors**, **and volunteers** whose dedication and hard work ensured the success of this remarkable evening.

I encourage all members to attend our upcoming General Dinner Meeting on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at the Lauderdale Yacht Club. We are honored to host Lieutenant Justin Dadlani, USCG, Commanding Officer of USCG Station Fort Lauderdale, as our guest speaker. Lieutenant Dadlani brings a wealth of experience from his distinguished Coast Guard career, including leadership roles in boat operations, joint harbor security, and mission coordination. It promises to be an insightful evening, and I would like you to please bring a guest and participate in the conversation. As always, I sincerely thank each of you for your steadfast support of the Fort Lauderdale Navy League. Your commitment strengthens our mission, honors our servicemen and women, and ensures our continued impact in the maritime community. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

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



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President: Abiud Montes First Vice President: Gary Pirtle Second Vice President: Barbara Kelleher Third Vice President: Aaron Bresnahan Treasurer: Diana Molina Secretary: Elaine Nasta

#### MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new active duty service members who have joined the Fort Lauderdale Council. Each of them brings talents and stories that enhance our membership roster. We hope they'll attend our dinner meetings and events throughout the year.

Gifard Alexis, USMC Keldon Back, USCG Richard Byars, USCG Patrick Caiaccio, USCG Christopher Caputo, USN Felix Cedeno, USCG Heather Clark, USCG

- Brendon Clements, USN Dante Deshauteurs, USCG Ashley Glover, USN Eric Glover, USN Ivenley Gourdet, USMC Xavier Kenney, USMC Brennan Leung, USCG
- Canyon Mahaffey, USMC Jack Marquand, USCG Anthony Martinez, USCG Earl Mcclelland, USCG Cheyenne Solis Headlam, USCG Jodi Stoiber, USCG Stephanie Thomas, USCG Ariayanna Val, USCG

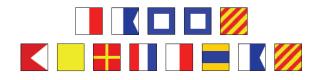
To join and maintain membership in a Navy League council, an individual must be a member in good standing with the Navy League of the United States. It is incumbent upon the member to maintain current national membership.

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."

Join the Navy League: FtlNavyLeague.org/JoinUs https://ftlnavyleague.org/joinus

#### NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



| Bill Bohler    | 2/2  |
|----------------|------|
| Bill Schmidlin | 2/21 |
| Gordon James   | 2/24 |

## GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR FEBRUARY 12TH DINNER MEETING LIEUTENANT JUSTIN B. DADLANI, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDING OFFICER, USCG STATION FORT LAUDERDALE

Lieutenant Justin Dadlani is the Commanding Officer of USCG Station Fort Lauderdale, FL. As one of the largest boat stations in the USCG, it is one of the largest boat stations in the service and boasts nearly 100 members, both Active Duty and Reserve.

Lieutenant Dadlani was previously assigned to the USCG's Office of Boat Forces where he served as the Platform Manager for the Response Boat – Small fleet, as well as the entire aids to navigation boat fleet. Lieutenant Dadlani laid the groundwork for the next generation fleet to include the Response Boat – Small, 3rd Generation, Trailerable Aids to Navigation Boat, 2nd Generation, and Aids to Navigation Boat – Large.

From 2017 to 2020, Lieutenant Dadlani was assigned as a permanent Command Duty Officer in the Joint Harbor Operations Center at USCG Sector San Diego, CA.

Lieutenant Dadlani's primary duty was to act as the Sector Commander's direct representative by ensuring proper planning, execution, and notification regarding all mission response in the San Diego area of responsibility.



Lieutenant Dadlani enlisted in the Coast Guard in November of 2011, and after completing Recruit Training, was assigned to USCG Station Port Canaveral, FL from 2012 to 2017 as a Boat Crewman and Boarding Team Member. Before leaving his first unit, Lieutenant Dadlani was advanced to Boatswain's Mate Second Class and held certifications as Tactical Coxswain, Boarding Officer, and Station Officer of the Day.

Lieutenant Dadlani is a proud graduate of Officer Candidate School class 2-17, receiving his Commission on 09 May 2017. He holds a Master of Business Administration specializing in Project Management from Florida Institute of Technology. His awards include three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and other personal and unit awards. He has also earned the Advanced Boat Forces Insignia and the Response Operations Ashore Insignia.

Lieutenant Dadlani and his wife, Jessica, are natives of Coral Springs, FL. They have two sons, Nicholas and Daniel.







The Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council Invites you to join us for

Navy League Day at the Races Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:00 noon





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

#### **Racing Package Includes:**

• Sumptuous Buffet Luncheon at scenic trackside Ten Palms Restaurant

Please

**RSVP** by

March

5th

- Air-conditioned trackside reserved seating for the afternoon
- One (1) complimentary glass of red or white wine per person
- Daily race day program for each attendee
- One (1) \$2.00 betting voucher per person
- \$60 per person

**RSVP & Pay Online:** <u>FtLNavyLeague.org/RaceDay</u>

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 |
|-------|-------------|-----------------|
|       |             |                 |



"Evening in Thailand" at the Seven Seas Gala, on January 25<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort, was a great success! We were honored to have Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, USN, the Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy as our Guest of Honor. Arriving guests enjoyed the thai signature cocktails and delicious Thai themed hors d'oeuvres. Guests then entered the Ballroom, decorated with gold and green 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.



Council President Abi Montes



Lynn Atkinson, VADM Davids, Abiud Montes



USMC Recruiting District, Lina & Abi Montes



Missing Man Ceremony



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 Davids reviewed the Sea Cadets Rifle Drill Team performance, which was excellent.



Guest of Honor, VADM Davids, VIP Guests



Event Chair Lynn Atkinson



Sea Cadet Color Guard



Rifle Team Performance



Guests enjoyed a delicious Thai-themed dinner and danced to the tunes of DJ Mikey. Admiral Davids gave an inspiring speech about her career as a surface warfare officer. The fabulous auction featured a variety of luxury prize baskets! Many thanks to our Sponsors and our Gala Committee for all the hard work they put into making it such a wonderful evening!



Coast Guard Guests



CO Rosa Ryan, Cadet Fuentes CPO promotion



Sea Cadets & Staff, VADM Davids

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS - 7



# Hnited States Naval Sea Cadets Corps fort lauderdale division & training ship radford

Sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Nay League of the United States Mailing Address: P.O. Box 21101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-1101 Headquarters: 300 S.W. 25<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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!

# FORT LAUDERDALE SEA CADETS AT THE GALA





# **380+ TOTAL UNITS** IN 47 STATES,



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** 

# **1,000** CADETS FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND GRADUATE FROM THE USNSCC



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\*\*
- Naval Academy\*\* 100+ Are Accepted to Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC)\*

- **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

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 uahead





**NAVY LEAGUE NEWS – 9** 

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

Architect's rendering of 300 SW 25<sup>th</sup> 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/



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)

| \$100/\$105*                                  | One character (<br>*additional \$5 ch                   | <b>how you want</b> y<br>letter, number,<br>narge for engrave | <b>your <u>4 x 8-incl</u><br/>punctuation n<br/>ed symbols</b> | <u>n</u> brick engra<br>nark or spac       | ived.<br>e) PER SPACE |
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THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES, FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL WAS FOUNDED IN 1959 AND HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AS A 501(c)(3) CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, FEI#59-1412425. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE WITHIN THE STATE: 1-800-435-7352. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA



## 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.



| ● \$100 ● \$500 ● \$1,000 ● \$5,000 ● \$10,000 ● | 🗢 \$25,000 🛛 🗢 \$50,000 🔍 Ot | her 💲 |
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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.

| Credit CardVisaMasterCardAmerican Express | I would like to make the following pledge:                    |
|---|---|
| Card #                                    | Name (as you would like to be recognized)                     |
| Exp. Date Security Code                   | In honor of   |
| Name on Card                              |   |
| Signature                                 | \$is enclosed.  |
| Address                                   | Total amount of \$ to be paid as follows:                     |
| City State Z                              | Zip         Amount \$ on (date)           Amount \$ on (date) |
| Phone Email                               | Amount \$ on (date)   |
| Signature                                 | Amount \$ on (date)   |

#### NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES - FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

P.O. Box 350625 | Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33335-0625 | 954.522.8995 | seacadetbuilding@gmail.com www.FTLNavyLeague.org | www.FTLSeaCadets.org

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# Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council

**Social Calendar 2025** 

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: LT Justin B. Dadlani, USCG, Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Station Fort Lauderdale

Saturday, March 8, 12:00 PM, Navy League Day at the Races, Gulfstream Park

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: ENS Mesha S. Wallace, USN, Chaplain Candidate Program Officer

Wednesday, April 23, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: LCDR Steph Wood, USCG, Executive Officer, Civil Engineering Unit (CEU), Miami

Wednesday, May 14, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: Guest Speaker: Damian Valdez, Account Executive, New Business Sales, Florida Panthers

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Annual Sea Cadet Night

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: TBD

Wednesday, December 16, 2025, Dinner Meeting, Lauderdale Yacht Club Guest Speaker: TBD

### GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR MARCH 19TH DINNER MEETING ENS MESHA S. WALLACE, USN CCPO

Ensign Mesha S. Wallace is a native of Jamaica, West Indies, and grew up in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She earned a Bachelor of Science from Grand Canyon University and holds a Masters in Educational Leadership. She is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity in Youth and Family Ministry from Liberty University, which is expected in 2025. She is ordained and endorsed by the Pentecostal Church of God.

Ensign Wallace was commissioned as a United States Chaplain Candidate in January 2024 and graduated from Naval Chaplain School in the winter of 2024.

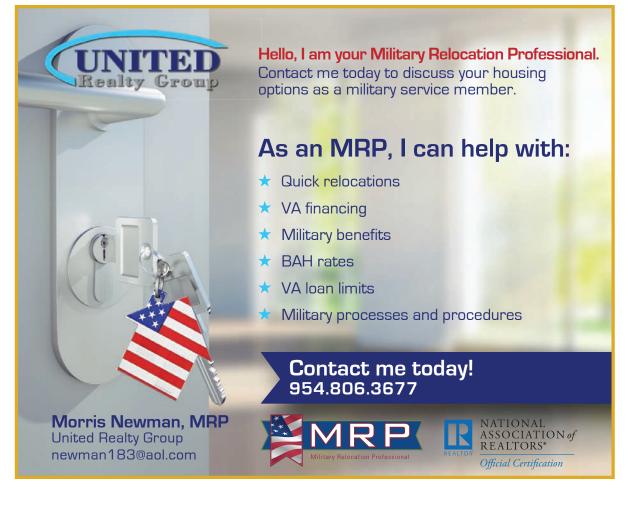




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#### **NAVY LEAGUE NEWS – 14**





NAVY LEAGUE NEWS - 15

#### **EDITORIAL STAFF**

Lynn Atkinson, Editor Jim Black Elaine Hogg **Elaine Nasta Oscar Romano** 

#### FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL **2025 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

#### FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peter Apol Lynn Atkinson **Jim Black** Pat Du Mont **Dan Gately Elaine Hogg** Alan Stotsky

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, March 5, 2025 3:30 PM EDT Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 835 3219 1823 Passcode: GoNavv

# **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 6-7 PM Cocktails • 7-9 PM Dinner Buffet LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB 1725 SE 12<sup>th</sup> Street Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33316

# **Guest Speaker** LIEUTENANT JUSTIN B. DADLANI. USCG **Commanding Officer, USCG Station Fort Lauderdale**

Guests \$55 per person

**RSVP Required!** Limited Seating! No later than noon, Friday prior to the meeting. Call 954-522-8995 or Online at www.ftlnavyleague.org/events

# visit us on the web at www.ftlnavyleague.org

# **COMMUNITY AFFILIATES**



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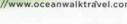


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