

NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

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

January 2025



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! As we enter **2025**, I want to extend my warmest wishes to each of you for a year filled with health, happiness, and continued success.

Reflecting on December, our **Holiday Dinner Meeting** was memorable, thanks to our guest speaker, **Eric Dawicki, President of Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI)**. His insights on leadership and maritime excellence left a lasting impact on all of us. Eric's dedication to shaping the future of maritime leaders aligns perfectly with our mission, and we're grateful for his time and wisdom.

I'm excited about the opportunities and initiatives awaiting us this year. Mark your calendars for our much-anticipated **Seven Seas Gala, "Evening in Thailand," on Saturday, January 25, 2025, at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach**. It promises to be an unforgettable evening as we honor **Vice Admiral Yvette Marie Davids, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy**. Vice Admiral Davids is a trailblazer, having been the **first Hispanic American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship** and serving as the **first female Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy since January 11, 2024**. We are truly honored to have her join us and share her incredible journey of leadership and resilience.

I would also like to acknowledge the unwavering dedication of our **Board of Directors**, whose tireless efforts continue to drive our initiatives forward. Thanks to **Lynn Drucker, Alan Stotsky, Elaine Hogg, Oscar Romano, Gary Pirtle, Elaine Nasta, Rosa Ryan, and the Sea Cadet Staff** for their behind-the-scenes contributions that keep our council thriving.

As we continue our **Brick Fundraiser**, I encourage each of you to support these meaningful projects that will leave a lasting legacy for future generations. Details are in this Newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support, dedication, and passion for our shared mission. We will make **2025** a

remarkable year for the **Navy League Fort Lauderdale Council**.

Stay safe, stay inspired, and may God bless you and our great nation.

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



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THE FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL 2025 OFFICERS

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

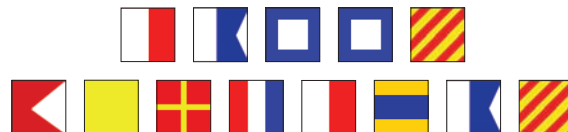
To join and maintain membership in a Navy League council, an individual must be a member in good standing with the Navy League of the United States. It is incumbent upon the member to maintain current national membership.

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)
<https://ftlnavyleague.org/joinus>

NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Diana Molina	1/6	Kathy Mayhew	1/16
Alan Stotsky	1/8	Monika Lent	1/18
Bob Alden	1/15	Carolyn Mulhern	1/25

Evening in Thailand

at the Seven Seas Gala

Saturday, January 25, 2025

Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort



RSVP @ www.FtLNavyLeague.org/Gala-2025

MARILYN JOHANSEN ARTIST AND AUTHOR

To the Navy League:

My name is Marilyn Johansen. I'm a local artist and raised in a military family. My Soldier Stories paintings were used in 2022 to publicize the commissioning of the Navy ship, The USS Fort Lauderdale (LPD 28). There were several exhibitions locally, the Galleria Mall, The L.A Lee/ Mizel YMCA and the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport. Currently the paintings are up again at the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport to educate everyone about a Navy ship named for our city.

My Memoir, *My Father's Secrets*, was just released. Would you be interested in book signings and reading events? Below is a description of the book. Many people think that the military family experience is the surprise reunion when in fact it is so much more. This is why I wrote this memoir.

I grew up the daughter of an Air Force fighter pilot. My family moved around the world with my father's assignments! I lived in many places in the U.S. along with assignments in Europe and Asia. My book is about my family and the history and times we lived and the wars my father fought. Most Military kids live on the front row of history not able to let anyone know where and when or why they move. All this is to protect our country! My book is now available on Amazon and Barnes and Noble website.

Overview

My Father's Secrets is a compelling memoir of a child raised in an Air Force military family living through the Korean War, the Cold War, and into the Vietnam Era. Her father had been in WWII as a P-38 pilot and then a POW; his career would span three wars as a fighter pilot.

As the daughter of a career Air Force pilot, world events would come to dictate her life. She never knew where she would live next. She was the "kid from nowhere and everywhere."

Marilyn Johansen grew up in the front row of history. In *My Father's Secrets*, she tells the fascinating story of her family's struggles and joys, as well as her father's hidden intelligence gathering activities during reconnaissance flights and secret missions. There was an "invisible" military family, living in far-flung locales across the world, always aware that the quality of their lives came second to the importance of protecting the United States — whether during wartime or peacetime.

Sincerely,

Marilyn Johansen 954-646-8698



GUEST SPEAKER AT OUR FEBRUARY 12TH DINNER MEETING LIEUTENANT JUSTIN B. DADLANI, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD COMMANDING OFFICER, 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, Trailable 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.





United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps

FORT LAUDERDALE DIVISION & TRAINING SHIP RADFORD

Sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of the Navy League of the United States

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 21101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33335-1101

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

The Fort Lauderdale Division Sea Cadets had a very active month in December. On December 7th, we celebrated with our annual Holiday Party at Sea Cadet Headquarters, catered by Mission Barbecue. Cadets and Staff decorated



A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE continued

the Archer 40 ft. Bayliner boat with a patriotic theme, including red, white, and blue lights and an American flag, in preparation for the Winterfest Boat Parade. The December 14th parade was a big success, with the Cadets manning the rails in their dress white uniforms as they passed the Judging Stand. Cadets also participated in “Wreaths Across America” at the Pompano Beach Cemetery. Cadets had liberty for the Christmas and New Year’s holidays!





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

Navy League Day at the Races Saturday, March 8th, 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
- 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

**Please
RSVP by
March
5th**

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



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.*

Credit Card Visa MasterCard American Express

Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

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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DECEMBER 18TH 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 18th. Our guest speaker was Mr. Eric Dawicki, President and CEO of Northeast Maritime Institute. We all enjoyed his presentation immensely.



DECEMBER 18TH HOLIDAY DINNER MEETING LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB CONTINUED

The Lauderdale Yacht Club did an excellent job with beautiful holiday décor and a delicious buffet dinner. At this meeting, the 2025 Council Officers were elected and sworn in. We were honored to have guests from NTAG Miami, USCG District 7, US Southern Command, and USMC Recruiting. Council President Abiud Montes collected the Toys for Tots on behalf of the Marine Corps. It was a delightful evening of camaraderie and laughter.





Navy League of the United States Fort Lauderdale Council

Social Calendar 2025

Saturday, January 25, 2025, Seven Seas Gala, Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach
Guest of Honor: Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy

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, Navy League Day at the Races, Gulfstream Park

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

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



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United Realty Group
newman183@aol.com



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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, February 5th 3:30 PM EDT
Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 835 3219 1823
Passcode: GoNavy

**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

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

EVENING IN THAILAND
AT THE SEVEN SEAS GALA
SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2025
WESTIN FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH RESORT
GUEST OF HONOR

**FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, USN
Superintendent, U.S. Naval Academy

Space is limited. Please R.S.V.P. by January 18, 2025
Contact Lynn Atkinson for information:
954-325-9102 or lynn@druckermail.com
Online payment at: <https://FtLNavyLeague.org/Gala-2025>

visit us on the web at www.ftlnavyleague.org

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