

ANCHOR LINE

SARASOTA – MANATEE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE
APRIL-JUNE 2019

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February Dinner

On February 27 at the Bird Key Yacht Club, nearly 50 Council members and friends met for dinner and an unusual and fascinating presentation by guest Speaker Mr. Larry Stults regarding efforts underway to create an artificial reef in the Gulf of Mexico dedicated In Sarasota to the over 4000 U.S. Navy officers and men and 65 U.S. Submarines lost Since 1900. An ambitious undertaking, the “On Eternal Patrol Memorial Reef” would place a collection of environmentally friendly large reef balls representing the first ever undersea memorial to honor those crews and submarines that never returned. Mr.Stults was accompanied by his family many of whom are members of this Council here pictured. We were pleased to have as our guests, the new Engineering Petty Officer of Coast Guard Station Cortez, MM1 Tarvaris Mason USCG and his lovely wife Deidre and son Micah.



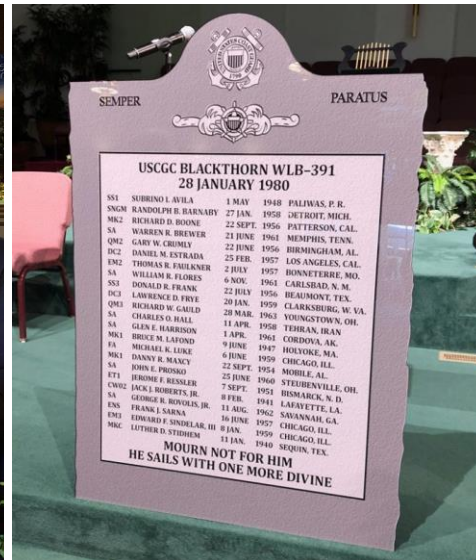
January Dinner

On January 23 at Bird Key Yacht Club over 50 Councilmembers and guests attended our monthly dinner meeting. Our guest speaker was LCDR Ramesh Haytasingh USN (ret), a retired US Navy SEAL. LCDR Haytasingh has an incredible background, including combat tours as a SEAL in Iraq and Afghanistan, service as a explosive ordnance disposal tech, mammal handler and combat corpsman. He has earned two masters degrees and a PhD, and in retirement he is now a staff writer for the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. He spoke at length of his personal journey of triumph over adversity from his time as a wayward youth to his current life with his beautiful wife Crystal and 3 children, punctuated by stories of his career as a Navy SEAL. A wonderful presentation! We were blessed by the presence of the Captain of the USCGC Resolute, one of our adopted Coast Guard Cutters, Commander Roy Brubaker USCG and his wife Kristi. We also celebrated the 95th Birthday of one of our most beloved members RADM Don Harvey USN (ret).



Blackthorn Memorial

January 28th, was the 39th anniversary of the loss of the USCGC Blackthorn. Blackthorn (WLB 391), a 180 foot seagoing buoy tender. On January 28, 1980 she collided with the tanker SS Capricorn at the entrance to Tampa Bay and 23 precious Coast Guardsmen were lost. There is a memorial to the disaster at the rest area on the north side of the Skyway Bridge. Each year there is a gathering to remember those lost. Today, January 28, 2019 that gathering took place at the Liberty Baptist Church in St. Petersburg because the area of the monument near the bridge is under construction. VADM Peterman USCG (ret) was the guest speaker. A memorial wreath from Sarasota-Manatee Council was presented by Jerry St. Germain and Tim Rocklein. The construction will be completed soon. Suggest you stop at that rest area and pay your respects at the beautiful memorial honoring the Coasties that lost their lives.





Dear Navy League Members & Friends:

As I say so long to our seasonal members I look forward to their return. Those of us who will be here throughout, let's hope for a mild hurricane season (remember now is the time to prepare). I would also like to welcome our new members and look forward to their continued attendance to Navy League Lunches and Dinners.

We continue to seek volunteers to participate in a committee in an as needed basis for many activities so if you are able, please reach out to any board member and let us know of your availability. On behalf of the Board members, I hope the monthly dinners and speakers have continued to be enjoyable and informative. As our April Luncheon approaches, we look forward to awarding a fantastic group of scholarships to our supported youth groups; don't miss it.

- **2019 Fund Raising.** We need your help to support our 2019 budget! As you know, we are a non-profit organization, and all our funds are used to directly support our mission with the exception of very minimal administration costs, e.g., postal, printing, etc. We no longer host our annual golf fund raising tournament and there is no local "giving challenge" this year, so we must depend entirely on your individual donations to support our 2019 mission. You will soon be receiving a letter from me asking for you financial assistance. Thank you in advance for supporting your Sarasota Navy League Council.

- **Membership.** Membership nationwide is not what it has been in the past, so we must do our part locally by recruiting members whenever we come upon someone that may be willing to join and support what we do.

- **We remain a great council.** We continue to provide scholarships to our supported youth organization and assistance to US Coast Guard vessels and stations, while being a contributing partner with our community.

Thank you.

Dennis Turner

President

**SARASOTA MANATEE COUNCIL
of the NAVY LEAGUE of the United States
OUR VISION STATEMENT**

We seek to be a reliable and helpful source of information to the public and governmental leaders about sea service issues and a known and respected civilian supporter and resource to local active duty sea service units and organizations and local sea service youth organizations

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Our Council's Mission is to support America's sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and US - flag Merchant Marine in Southwest Florida. We do this through: local programs and meetings where our Council provides a voice to educate the public and local members of Congress on the importance of our Sea Services to our nation's defense, well-being and economic prosperity and :to support to our active Sea services personnel such as the U.S. Coast Guard and their families youth programs such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Junior ROTC and Young Marines, that expose young people to the values of our sea services.

OUR GOALS

To enhance the morale of local sea service personnel and their families through national and council level programs. We:

- * Educate national leaders and the nation
- * Support the men & women of the sea services
- * Support youth programs
- * Provide assistance to sea service families

**SARASOTA – MANATEE COUNCIL
2019 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

President

Dennis Turner

First Vice President & Operations

Tim Rocklein

Treasurer

Gerard St. Germain*

Corresponding and Recording Secretary

Tina Brown

Judge Advocate

Steven Horton

*National Director & President of Florida Central Area.

Upcoming Events—Mark your Calendar (watch for flyers)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme/Subject</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Venue</u>
April	17 1130am- 130 pm	Youth Awards	LtCol Robert Bartanowicz. USAF, Ret	Plantation G and CC 500 Rockley Blvd, Venice, FL 34293
April	24	Operation Frequent Wind	RADM Larry Chambers USN (ret)	Military Heritage Museum Punta Gorda, FL
May	22	TBD	TBD	Bird Key Yacht Club Sarasota,FL
June	TBD	Sea Service Academy Appointees and NROTC Scholars	TBD	Sara Bay Country Club 7011 Willow St, Sarasota, FL 34243

Interested in a Fun and Educational Afternoon at the New Military Heritage Museum in Punta Gorda?

Councilmember and Distinguished USNA Graduate RADM Larry Chambers USN (ret) USNA '52 will be speaking at the new Military Heritage Museum at 900 W. Marion Ave. in Punta Gorda on April 24th. The cost of Lunch is \$30 and it will be served from 1130-1230 buffet style with beer and wine available for purchase. At 1230 attendees will move to the auditorium for RADM Chambers brief on Operation Frequent Wind (the 1975 Evacuation of Vietnam). Larry Chambers is a living treasure. He has a very interesting background and is an entertaining and engaging speaker with a wonderful sense of humor.

Included in the price is a one-day membership to the museum so that attendees can experience all areas of the Museum like the flight simulator flying aircraft from 1975, and a virtual reality tour of the USS Midway (Chamber's command).

To make reservations and to pay, Navy Leaguers should go to the website "www.freedomisntfree.org/" and navigate to events and select the event "Rear Admiral Lawrence Chambers USN (Ret) speaking engagement on Operation Frequent Wind April 24, 2019 at 1100". The website is up and running and making reservations is really easy. For anyone having trouble with it, they can call the museum number and one of their staff will get on the website and fill it out for them. Ph (941) 575-9002

It will be a worthwhile trip for anyone to come down from Sarasota and Bradenton. In addition, Punta Gorda is a charming small city to visit and tour.

NEWS FROM OUR ADOPTED AND SUPPORTED UNITS

USCG CUTTER RESOLUTE

On Wednesday, February 6, Jerry St. Germain representing the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League participated in quarters aboard the USCGC Resolute. Awards were presented to the Sailors of the Quarter for last quarter and this quarter. BM2 Wilson (left) and EM2 Ardoin (right) with the Commanding Officer, Commander Roy Brubaker. BZ guys!



NORTH PORT HS NJROTC

On February 2nd, 2019, North port High school NJROTC hosted our annual orienteering competition. North port high invited other JROTC groups from around the local region to compete in the event as well as a civilian section. The course started off at the eastern side of our campus eventually wrapping around underneath a bridge on west Price Boulevard and continuing behind the Morgan family community center. Our very own North Port high orienteering team managed to walk away with a 2nd place overall trophy beating ourselves from last year's third place overall standing

On March 2nd, 2019 11 cadets traveled to Fort DeSoto Park to compete in the Florida gulf coast NJROTC orienteering championship. The courses and paths the cadets ran were like nothing they had seen before. The cadets changed terrain frequently going from running on the beach to the wetlands as well as bike paths and roads.

Four cadets took part in presenting the colors at the North port hosted Sarasota county school board meeting held March 5th, 2019. The cadets participating were C/Senior Chief Petty officer Hardman, C/Petty officer 2nd class Nguyen-Do, C/Lieutenant Weinberger, and C/Lieutenant commander Krizen.

On March 7th, 2019 the cadets of North Port High schools NJROTC traveled to Tampa to take part in a presentation run by the USF NROTC unit. In this presentation the cadets learned about the NROTC program and its benefits as well as the application process. The cadets were able to gain a sense of what a day as a NROTC midshipman would be like if they were to attend USF. After the visit at USF the cadets loaded back onto the bus heading to Orlando. The next day the cadets were rewarded for all their hard work and effort shown throughout the year with a trip to universal studios and universal island of adventure.

C/LT Weinberger presents LT Habib with a North Port High NJROTC unit shirt as a thank you for his presentation



The start line at North Port orienteering meet



MARITIME EAGLES SEA CADETS NEW HOMEPORT?

LT(jg) Tina Brown USNSCC and son Cadet Mike Brown of the Maritime Eagles Division make a presentation to the Faculty and Students and Venice Christian School on February 15. The Maritime Eagles are seeking to "home port" there for drills and are reaching out to parents and students and faculty to join and participate.



VENICE HIGH SCHOOL MCJROTC

The VHS MCJROTC has plans well underway to build an Obstacle Course on the VHS campus. Here is a scale model on left made by the MCJROTC Cadets vs what the real-life end result might look similar to. Successful fundraising for this project is critical and the unit is short of the \$100k needed. If you would like to contribute to this worthy cause please contact Capt. Dean Krom USMC (ret), Senior Military Instructor at Dean.Krom@sarasotacountyschools.net. It's a worthy cause which will benefit not just the Cadets in the MCJROTC but also the other students at VHS and other JROTC Units that come to compete at VHS.

