

ANCHOR LINE

SARASOTA – MANATEE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE
NOVEMBER 2020-JANUARY 2021

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COMBINED NAVY AND MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

KT McFARLAND SPEAKS



On October 28, with a great deal of social distancing, masks and hand sanitizer, the Sarasota-Manatee Council held its annual dinner to celebrate the 245th Birthday of the US Navy at Bird Key Yacht Club. We were fortunate to have an outstanding speaker for this event - K T McFarland - who has served our nation under several administrations, most recently, as Deputy National Security Advisor. She gave an excellent presentation into the national and world situation of the present and where we might be headed in the future. China was a primary focus. We had the ceremonial cutting of the Navy Birthday cake by the oldest and youngest who have served in the Navy-Andy Anderson and Fiona McFarland. Then we invited our oldest former servicemember to join them. He was a Marine and fought at Guadalcanal and he is now 100 years old--Mr. Ralph Franklin.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

During the past few months, several Council members have been honored to be selected for awards and elected to public office. Steve Horton was elected to serve on the Sarasota County Soil and Water Conservation Board. Fiona McFarland was elected to the office of State Representative for State House District 72 to the Florida House of Representatives where she will represent much of Sarasota. Dick Petrucci was selected for the prestigious the Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award. The Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award is the most prestigious award the FAA issues to pilots certified under Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations (14 CFR) part 61. This award is named after the Wright Brothers, the first US pilots, to recognize individuals who have exhibited professionalism, skill, and aviation expertise for at least 50 years while piloting aircraft as "Master Pilots".

A hearty congratulations to Steve, Fiona, and Dick!!



Once again, I hope this issue of *Anchor Line* finds you, and yours, safe and healthy. Perhaps there's a glimmer of hope that we may turn the corner on the pandemic, with encouraging news on a vaccine.

As most of you know, we as a council "ventured out" on October 28, with a Navy Birthday celebration at Bird Key Yacht Club. It was not a decision we took lightly, even with the masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing. But it was a great event and gave due recognition to the Navy's 245th birthday, complete with the (modified) ceremonial cake-cutting. Our speaker at the celebration was former Deputy National Security Advisor KT McFarland, who gave a terrific speech on American values and patriotism. Following her address, which was non-partisan, apolitical and *very* uplifting, she received a standing ovation, and several members commented that hers was the best presentation we'd ever had at a Navy League event. To cap the evening, KT autographed copies of her latest book, *REVOLUTION: Trump, Washington and "We the People"*.

Our schedule remains unclear. Sadly, there will be no Marine Corps birthday celebration this year, but we are planning to hold our annual membership luncheon on Saturday, December 12 at the Bird Key Yacht Club. More info will be coming out on that shortly, but in the meantime, please save the date and time: 11:30, December 12.

As the pandemic situation evolves, the board will continue to create and adjust our upcoming schedule, and notify the membership as plans evolve.

In the meantime, stay safe and healthy.

Tim

NAVY LEAGUE MEETINGS FOR REMAINDER OF 2020

WHAT: ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

WHEN: 1130 am SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

WHERE: BIRD KEY YACHT CLUB.

MORE INFO WILL BE COMING OUT SHORTLY

NAVY LEAGUE BENEFITS

NLUS has been working hard to increase member benefits. Many of you are unaware of your NAVY League benefits. Here is a link to the member benefits page. <https://www.navyleague.org/member-resources/login?bm=1163047980>

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

We welcome new member, Marsha Grogan and a new transfer to our Council, Carl Cramb. Our membership remains at 97.

OUR COUNCIL CARES

As some of you may know, in late October a fire destroyed several residences occupied by Coast Guard families assigned to Cape Hatteras Inlet CGS in North Carolina. Four family members of one Coastie were killed, and at least four families were completely burned out. We are raising money to help buy necessities for the victims, and at our Navy Birthday dinner we asked for contributions, with the understanding that our council would match contributions up to \$250. We raised \$466 at our dinner meeting *without* our match and subsequently members pledged or donated an additional \$1600. As a result, we hope to provide over \$2300 in relief funds to Hatteras Coast Guard families.

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

2019 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Tim Rocklein
First Vice President & Operations
Dennis Turner
Treasurer
Gerard St. Germain*
Corresponding and Recording Secretary
Nel Rocklein
Judge Advocate
Steven Horton
Directors
Fundraising and VIP Speakers- John Osterweil
Young Marines and Venice MCJROTC—Al Burda
Membership—Jeannine Rusch
Publicity-- - Bo Hamrick
Youth and Scholarships, and Anchor Line--- Al Burda
Legislative Affairs and Facebook- Roger Betts**
NJROTC--- Steve Bartek
Golf/Fundraising - Dr. John Hanna
Chaplain-Don Roser
*National Director & President of Florida Central Area.
** National Director Emeritus

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Why not take a pleasant trip to Punta Gorda and spend a day visiting the Military Heritage Museum? The Museum is located at 900 West Marion Ave. convenient to the many restaurants and shops at Fisherman's Village. With 30,000-plus historic artifacts, veteran-led tours and thousands of oral histories, the Military Heritage Museum provides visitors an opportunity to fully understand and experience military history in an authentic and personal way. By hearing the big story of military history through small individual stories, visitors learn about well-known events from an entirely new perspective—and about events and viewpoints they never knew. The second-floor activity areas create a realistic and fun experience while providing visitors unique hands-on educational opportunities e.g there are two flight simulators and one ship simulator for use by visitors. The Museum is open TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There are capacity limits and mandatory coronavirus protocols in place for your safety. Admission is \$12 per person, \$10 for veterans and military active duty, \$9 for youth ages 5-13, \$5 for Annual Members and NO fee for children under 5. Questions? Give them a call at 941.575.9002.

YOUTH GROUPS

NORTH PORT HS NJROTC



On September 17th, a whole night to honor and celebrate our seniors at North Port High School started with a ceremony from our very own NJROTC Ceremonial Color Guard. Cadet Lieutenant Junior Grade Johnston, Kristin (middle left), entering her fourth and final year in the unit. Cadet Petty Officer 2nd Class Davis, Johnathan (furthest right) also entering his last year in the unit. Cadet Petty Officer 1st class Borchardt, Aiden (furthest left), and Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Kiddy, Sofia (middle right) practiced hours alongside our seniors in advance to show up, show out, and represent the best of the NJROTC unit.



As adjustments and improvements are ongoing during this school year, cadets continue to show their dedication, commitment and without failure they show up and show out, representing their school spirit. Once again, North Port High School's NJROTC Color Guard was asked to do the presentation of colors to open the October 20th, 2020 Sarasota County School Board Meeting. Presenting the colors for North Port High School were Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Stevanus, Emma (American Flag), Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Kiddy, Sofia (State Flag), Cadet Petty Officer 3rd Class Borchardt, Aiden (Right Rifle, furthest left), and last but not least, Cadet Petty Officer 3rd Class Watkins, Mckenna (left rifle, furthest right). Assistant Principal Julie King was more than proud to be represented by such fine cadets, as they received numerous compliments and praise from the community and board members. A rightful sense of achievement and respect was on full display and the cadets departed with a renewed feeling of Honor, Courage and Commitment. Go Bobcats!

VENICE MIDDLE YOUNG MARINES

RED RIBBON WEEK

A core value of the Young Marines is Drug Demand Reduction, and with that, we celebrate Red Ribbon Week every year from the 23-31st of October. Venice Middle Young Marines (VMYM) use this as an opportunity to spread awareness by conducting research and speeches on all types of commonly misused and abused drugs. Additionally, we participate in spirit week with the hope of getting the rest of our community actively engaged and involved in the cause. Our goal is to educate and encourage others to understand the short- and long-term effects of drugs and their everlasting influence.

Red Ribbon Week was established out of respect for the brutal kidnapping and eventual murder of Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agent Enrique “Kiki” Camarena in 1985. He worked to abolish the spread of illegal drugs brought in by cartels and traffickers. Furthermore, his efforts and perseverance led to the prosperity of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). In his remembrance, residents of his hometown Calexico, California, wear red ribbons in his honor during this same week, and this has become known as the worldwide symbol of drug prevention. Young Marines recognize Red Ribbon Week as an inspirational campaign that influences all of us to live and promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle!

By Young Marine Sgt. Merritt

IMAGINE SCHOOL YOUNG MARINES

Happy 245th Birthday USMC! While our Council was unable to celebrate the Marine Corps Birthday, The Young Marines at the North Port Imagine School had the traditional celebration with a Birthday Cake. According to Marine Corps tradition, the oldest member, YM PFC MacKenzie Marks (left), makes the 1st cut in cake, and the youngest member, YM Private Amya Sternquist, makes the 2nd cut.



NEWS FROM OUR ADOPTED AND SUPPORTED UNITS

COAST GUARD-CUTTER RESOLUTE

We are pleased that the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter Resolute, Commander Justin Vanden Heuvel, was able to attend our Navy Birthday dinner recently. Resolute has been very busy with operations and then an in-port period and are now ready to go on patrol again. They have recently acquired some new personnel including for the first time some female enlisted. This is the first time the ship has had women enlisted though they have had women officers for a few years. They are excited about having a mixed crew. They will soon be deploying to conduct migrant and drug interdiction operations in the Caribbean area and also a lot of crew training. Tim Rocklein and Jerry St. Germain went to St. Petersburg on Nov 2 to meet with CDR Vanden Heuvel and the XO, LCDR Ryan Ball. Because of Covid this was our first opportunity to discuss with them the ways in which the Navy League hopes to support them. They would like the crew to get to know the Navy League so will host Tim on the ship at Quarters to present awards. They will also support their SOQs attending dinners to receive their awards when schedules permit. Jerry and Tim also discussed the needs of the ship's MWR program. They indicated not only a willingness but a desire to support our youth groups—Sea Cadets, Young Marines and JROTC – by hosting them on the ship. We will talk with the units about these opportunities.

COAST GUARD-CUTTER BRANT

Our adopted cutter Brant recently returned from the yard where they underwent some maintenance. They were apart from their families for an extended period but are now back at homeport in St. Petersburg. They have had a significant turnover in crew recently and will be involved in training of the new crew members. On a recent patrol they stopped at the Dry Tortugas and conducted a Cutterman Ceremony at Ft. Jefferson for MK2 Bryce Hagerty. He received his permanent Cutterman Insignia for completing 5 years of sea time on board USCG Cutters. MK2 Hagerty was also selected as the Sailor of the Quarter for 4th quarter of 2020. Photos Below.

