

## USCGC Blackthorn Remembered at January 28 Memorial Service

Coast Guardsmen lost in the sinking of the cutter *Blackthorn* were remembered in a memorial service on January 28th. It was the 33rd anniversary of that tragic event and the Sarasota - Manatee Council presented a wreath as part of the solemn remembrance.

The *Blackthorn* sank near the Sunshine Skyway on the evening of

January 28, 1980, after colliding with the tanker *Capricorn*. Of the 50 Coast Guardsmen aboard, 23 were lost. One of those, Seaman Apprentice William Flores was posthumously awarded the Coast Guard Medal, the service's highest award for heroism in peacetime: As the ship capsized, SA Flores used his belt to hold open the door of a life jacket locker; his

actions helped save several of his shipmates but cost him his life.

The memorial to those lost on the *Blackthorn* is in a park on the Sunshine Skyway causeway north of the main span and is a fitting tribute. Plan to pay a quiet visit, and be reminded of the sacrifices sometimes made for us by "...those in peril on the sea."

## US Coast Guard Station CORTEZ

Greetings from Station Cortez. Station Cortez recently went through a Standardization Team Inspection in the month of January. The Unit received a 44 out of 50 points; one point away from the highly coveted Sumner I. Kimball award. Senior Chief Travis Park, the Officer in Charge was quoted in saying "In my eyes, today we are a Kimball Unit." Upon completion of this inspection, Station Cortez was recertified for another year as Ready for Operations. This achievement cannot be attributed to just one person but as the unit coming together as a team and getting the job done. One member in particular stood out amongst the ranks, Petty Officer Danahey. MK3 Danahey was selected as the Sailor of the Quarter from October 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 through December 31, 2012. Petty Officer Danahey's high level of work ethic and professional specialty knowledge in the field of mechanics was a causative factor in receiving the high marks during the STAN inspection. MK3 also assisted the Engineering Petty Officer with

maintenance on the Station 45 RB-M. MK3 Danahey's Coast Guard mechanical knowledge coupled with his past experience with jet driven propulsion system made him a vital assist in this kind of Depot level maintenance, not normally conducted at the station level. He is an

invaluable asset to our Station and the Coast Guard congratulates him and the rest of the crew for their outstanding performance over the last few months. Bravo Zulu.

*BMCS Travis Park*



*USCG Cutter Blackthorn Memorial - Lest We Forget*

## US Coast Guard Cutter CROCODILE

Our XPO BMC Pedzich is currently attending the Boat Forces Command Cadre School in New London, CT in preparation for his next job as Officer in Charge of the Small Boat Station in Niagara

• CROCODILE just wrapped up a 6 week dockside maintenance period and is looking forward to returning to a robust operational schedule.

• MK2 Kevin Moore was named the CROCODILE'S sailor of the year for 2012 and has been selected to attend the Air Force Senior Enlisted academy at MACDILL AFB in May. This is a 6 week school.

• BM2 Bure and his wife are expecting their first baby any day now.

• The CROCODILE crew attended the annual CGC BLACKTHORN memorial.

## Please Remember Our Endowment Fund

We as a Council do a lot of good "stuff." Support for JROTC, Young Marines, and Sea Cadet units; scholarships for outstanding high school students; recognition for local Coast Guard personnel, and much more. To that end,

we've finalized our 2013 budget and have allocated nearly \$12,000 this year for charitable causes. We should be proud of our giving.

Most of our funding for these causes comes from the generosity of our local

members and from our annual charity golf tournament and I trust that we will continue to see the generosity and hard work continue through the upcoming years. But we don't want to depend, year-

*continued on next page*



## ...from the Council President

*a time to celebrate, reflect and look forward*

# 2013 Program

It's already been a pretty busy year for the Council, with the Installation Dinner in January and the joint meeting with the Manatee Propeller Club this month. And there's more to come, beginning with our March 20 dinner at the Bird Key Yacht Club, where we'll honor the Coast Guard, and the April 17th luncheon for JROTC scholarship presentations at the Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice. Please reserve those dates on your March and April calendars and plan to attend those events.

Beyond April the calendar gets a little fuzzy, but here's a rough plan:

We'll hold our regular dinner meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. (The exceptions have been July and August, when we normally hold informal luncheons, usually at the Field Club.) Please mark your calendars.

Favorite sites for our dinners seem to be the Bird Key Yacht Club and the Sarasota Yacht Club, but other possibilities include the Sara Bay Country Club and Heritage Oaks CC.

You're probably aware that we try to have a "theme" for our meetings each month, and in keeping with past practices I suggest we plan on the following for our meetings thru the end of the year:

- May 15 – Naval and Marine Air
- Jun 19 –Sea Service Academy Appointments
- Jul & Aug –Informal luncheons with speakers/themes TBD

### Endowment Fund *continued*

in and year-out, on the generosity of our members and on the income from charitable events; that's where the Sarasota - Manatee Council Charity Endowment Fund comes in.

The Endowment was started by our Council several years ago for the purpose of building a trust whose income could be used to fund our charitable works. Over time the fund has grown to nearly \$40,000—historically-low interest rates have not helped much—and we're planning to deposit some of our golf tournament profits to help increase the Endowment's principal. But we need your help: PLEASE, as you do your financial and/or estate planning, consider allocating a portion

- Sep –Navy Surface and Submarines
- Oct – Navy Birthday
- Nov – Marine Corps Birthday
- Dec – Installation of Officers

We're open to suggestions so if you have a possible program or location for one of our meetings, please let us know. If we're to keep our membership informed we need to think of opportunities beyond our monthly get-togethers. To that end we're considering several other events:

- Apr/May –Luncheon with USCG Crocodile crew, and "at sea" cruise
- TBD – Central Command/SoCom Tour/Brief
- TBD – Trip to Pensacola, Tour Naval Aviation Museum & Flight Academy?
- TBD – Tour Port Manatee
- TBD – Tour Coast Guard Air Station St. Petersburg
- Oct 18 –Navy Birthday Ball, Tampa
- Nov 6 –Charity Golf Tournament, Heritage Oaks

I may have missed some opportunities here and our schedule will evolve as the year goes on. So please give us your input on events that you believe will help us to keep our membership growing, informed, and involved. Thanks!

*Tim*

to the Endowment. The funds that you give will live on to help our Council continue the charitable work for our youth and our local active duty personnel.

FYI: Our Council Board of Directors recently voted to move our Endowment funds to the Community Foundation of Sarasota, where they are being professionally-managed, by a local non-profit charitable organization with an excellent record of charitable management and giving. You can find out more about them at <https://www.cfsarasota.org/>

Thanks for thinking of our Endowment when you do your financial planning!

*Tim Rocklein*



**NAVY LEAGUE  
Of The United States**  
Sarasota/Manatee Council

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### **NAVY LEAGUE Of The United States**

#### VISION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States will be the preferred resource for the education of the United States Congress and the American Public on our sea services.

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people and their government that the United States of America is a maritime nation and that its national defense and economic well being are dependent upon strong sea services – United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard and United States Merchant Marine.

#### GOALS

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

# March Dinner will honor Coast Guard

Our dinner 20 March at the Bird Key Yacht Club to honor the Coast Guard will feature The Sector St. Petersburg Command Master Chief as our speaker.



**Master Chief Petty Officer Jason K. Wong**

Master Chief Petty Officer Jason K. Wong reported to Sector Saint Petersburg from the US Army Sergeants Major Academy, Fort Bliss, Texas. Master Chief Wong enlisted in the Coast Guard in September 1993 and attended recruit training at USCG Training Center Cape May, NJ.

Prior to attending the Sergeants Major Academy, Master Chief Wong was assigned to Recruit Training Center Cape May. He completed his tour at Cape May as the Battalion Commander. As the senior enlisted member in the Recruit Training Battalion, Master Chief Wong directly supervised 63 Company Commanders, and managed the day-to-day operations of recruit training. His other assignments include ISC Honolulu, HI; CGC Point Evans, HI; ISC Portsmouth, VA; CGC Vigilant, FL; and Training Center Cape May Health Services Center, NJ.

Master Chief Wong's military training include the USCG Chief Petty Officer Academy Class 124, USCG Senior Enlisted Leadership Course, USCG Company

Commander School, USCG Instructor Development Course, US Navy Independent Duty Corpsman School, US Army (91-C) Nursing Program, USCG Health Services "A" School, and Emergency Medical Technician School.

Master Chief Wong holds both a Masters and Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Care Management from Touro University International. In addition, he is currently pursuing a second Masters of Arts Degree in Education and Organizational Management from North Central University.

Master Chief Wong's awards include three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, two Commandant's Letter of Commendation, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, five Good Conduct Medals, and numerous other individual and unit awards. He has earned the Permanent Cutterman and Company Commander Insignias.

Master Chief Wong hails from the beautiful state of Hawaii and is joined here with his wife Barbara of Harrison, New Jersey. They have three children, Patrick, Jasmine, and Lindsay.

In addition to our speaker, as Special Guests we will welcome Dorothy Kurtz and daughter Barbara Szymanski who love their life involving the Coast Guard—Mom, 89 year-old Dorothy Kurtz joined the SPARS in 1942 and is one of the last surviving original



**Dorothy Kurtz, SPAR, 1942**



**Dorothy Kurtz, today**

Coast Guard SPARS in Southwest Florida.

Daughter, Barbara Szymanski, works as director of nursing for Matrix Home Care in the Venice region and surrounding counties. Today, along with her leadership duties for Matrix, Barbara devotes her free time as a newly installed staff officer of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 92 located in Northport, Florida. Barbara's love for the military and desire to continue the legacy was inspired by her mother, Dorothy.

*On Nov. 23, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Public Law 772 of the 77th Congress, 2nd Session, creating the Women's Reserve of the Coast Guard. Navy LT Dorothy Stratton, former dean of women at Purdue University, agreed to transfer to the Coast Guard and, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander, became director of the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. An informal proposal to call the Coast Guard women WARGOGS was mercifully abandoned. Stratton suggested that the Women's Reserve be known by an acronym based on the Coast Guard motto: "Semper Paratus - Always Ready" SPARS.*

## North Port High School NJROTC Report

On Wednesday, 20 Feb 2013 Cadet Ensign Shawn Jacobs attended an awards luncheon with the Daughters of the American Revolution in Venice, FL. The DAR was honoring cadets from Venice High School, North Port High School and young writers (contest winners) from Epiphany



**Cadet Shawn Jacobs with his Mother Liz and his sister Bailey.**

Cathedral. Shawn Jacobs was recognized for his participation in the NJROTC during his high school career. Shawn was a member of the Color Guard, Armed Drill Team and

Athletic Team. Outside NJROTC he was a Varsity swimmer and lettered three years. Upon graduation, he will depart in August for Navy Basic Training and then on Special Warfare Combat Crew (SWCC). The SWCC drivers work with and deliver the SEALs and extract them from certain operations. To become a member of a SWCC team, he must pass Basic Underwater Demolition Team training, the same course the SEALs must pass.

## Venice High School MCJROTC News

The semester is almost over and students are rushing to get their grades up. In ROTC we are working hard practicing drill, knowledge, and bearing. be promoted. Our Marksmanship team recently had a competition here at Venice High School, and received an astonishing aggregate score of 911 out of 1200 which put them in first place! ROTC executed "Luminaries" along Venice Avenue, collected toys for tots,

greeted people, and helped the elderly cross the street throughout the night.

Currently they are practicing drill and knowledge about the Marine Corps history for the upcoming Regional Inspection March 4th, 2013. In addition, we will be starting to practice after school drill, knowledge, marksmanship, and raiders for State Competition. In January and February there are seven color guards: four are at "The Landings", one for the Military Officers Association of America, one for Venice Symphony, and one for a Walk-a-thon in Downtown Venice. The last marksmanship



**Cadet Sergeant Major Josh Mazza and Cadet Captain Tyler Adams**

match is at Sarasota Military Academy and we will compete in an orienteering meet at Oscar Scherer Park.

# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

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**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** Please remember to send your renewal dues at least two weeks before their expiration date. Include your ID# which is on your Sea Power Magazine address label. If you have any recent changes in your ROSTER information, please contact Jerry St. Germain at (941) 492-6266 or [gtgermain@concast.net](mailto:gtgermain@concast.net). ROSTER 2013 goes to press in March.

**ATTENTION TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS OF THE NAVY LEAGUE:** If you have any questions about the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the NAVY LEAGUE or request a membership application and/or dinner meeting reservation, please call June Moore, Vice President, Membership at (941) 388-3118 or email [junegemini@earthlink.net](mailto:junegemini@earthlink.net)

## COMING EVENTS

- 20 March 2013** – Dinner Meeting at Bird Key Yacht Club to Honor the US Coast Guard
- 17 April 2013** – Luncheon Meeting at Plantation Golf and Country Club to Honor our JROTC Cadets
- 15 May 2013** – Dinner Meeting



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