



ANCHOR LINE OCT-DEC 2025

*Moving Forward with Growth and Innovation...
Supporting our Sea Services and Youth Groups*

This Issue:

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Supported Units and Youth Groups

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Fellow Navy Leaguers, Shipmates, and Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to report that the Sarasota–Manatee Council of the Navy League closes the year in a position of exceptional strength and momentum. Thanks to the dedication of our Board, volunteers, partners, and members, we are entering 2026 with operations fully funded and a clear path forward.

Our most significant achievement has been establishing a sound and sustainable financial footing. The Council's transition from event-driven fundraising to long-term partnerships is proving successful, providing greater stability while strengthening our ability to support our mission. Continued growth of our investment account further positions the Council for long-term success.

Our membership continues to grow, and our retention remains among the strongest in the Navy League nationwide—reflecting the value of meaningful engagement, thoughtful programming, and a strong sense of community.

This year we expanded our outreach across Sarasota and Manatee counties, strengthened support for NJROTC, MCJROTC, CGJROTC, Sea Cadets, and Young Marines, and will add our tenth supported youth group in early 2026. Scholarships and National Flight Academy sponsorships remain central to our mission.

Our commitment to the U.S. Coast Guard and Sea Services remains strong, with continued support to our adopted units and plans to solidify adoption of Air Station Clearwater in early 2026.

Our dinners, guest speakers, Get Togethers, community events, the Navy Ball, and Wreaths Across America provided meaningful opportunities for fellowship, education, and outreach, while national recognition affirmed the strength of our Council.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your commitment and service. Together, we are making a difference.

Gene Mora

Council President



Our Supported Groups

SEA SERVICES

USCG Sector St. Petersburg
USCG Air Station Clearwater
USCG Cutter Resolute
USCG Cutter Venturous
USCG Station Cortez



YOUTH GROUPS

NJROTC North Port High School	CGJROTC Pinellas Park High School
US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles	Young Marines Venice Middle School
NJROTC Lemon Bay High School	NJROTC Port Charlotte High School
Charlotte High School NJROTC	Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC
Young Marines Imagine School North Port	



Recent SMC Events

The Sarasota-Manatee Council-Navy League of the US (SMC) hosted an unforgettable Holiday Dinner at The Lake Club on December 10th—an evening filled with camaraderie, celebration, and a powerful sense of purpose. SMC President Gene Moran opened the night with an inspiring recap of our council's banner year, highlighting major strides in fundraising, expanded support for our youth programs and adopted U.S. Coast Guard commands, and a remarkable surge in membership. A proud milestone of the evening was the announcement of our newly elected Officers of the SMC Board—setting the stage for another year of strong leadership and service. Our guest speaker, CDR Ian Starr, Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute delivered a compelling presentation on the cutter's recent counter-narcotics successes and the evolving role of the U.S. Coast Guard in combating international drug trafficking. His insights were both eye-opening and deeply appreciated. We were honored by a strong Coast Guard presence—Commanding Officers, enlisted crew, and unit staff—whose partnership remains at the heart of our mission. SMC President Moran also proudly recognized the Sailors of the Quarter:

- SN McKenzie Cherry – U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute
- PO Zach Davis – U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Venturous
- SN Daniel Balint – U.S. Coast Guard Sector St Petersburg
- PO Michael Hidalgo – U.S. Coast Guard Station Cortez

We were also privileged to welcome distinguished guests including VADM (ret.) Doug Crowder and Mrs. Crowder, RADM (ret.) Larry Chambers and Mrs. Chambers, RADM (ret.) Richard Buchanan, CDR Cate Gillen Middleton (CO, USCGC Venturous), CDR Ben Stanley (Sector St. Petersburg), and Chief Derek Waters (Station Cortez). Adding to the evening's spirit of patriotism, the Venice Middle School Young Marines delivered an outstanding Color Guard presentation—setting a dignified and inspiring tone for the night.



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Recent SMC Events

Our Council President, Gene Moran, met with Captain David McCown, Commander of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, and CDR Dave McCarthy, together with Jennifer Anderson, President of the Tampa Bay Navy League, to explore ways our councils can collaborate more closely to support Air Station Clearwater. Their discussion centered on strengthening support for the Air Station's nearly 500 service members and partnering on the Station's upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration in 2026. We look forward to building a more unified effort that expands recognition, outreach, and support for the dedicated men and women serving at Air Station Clearwater.



This December Vice President Lorna Ow-Elroy, and her husband Pete Elroy, graciously opened their home for a warm and festive year-end appreciation gathering honoring our Board of Directors and volunteers. It was a wonderful evening celebrating the dedication that made 2025 such an extraordinary year. With gratitude in our hearts and momentum on our side, we're already looking forward to an even brighter 2026.



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Recent SMC Events



All About Drones! On November 9th, the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council was honored to present and demonstrate “All About Drones” to the US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles Division from the Manatee School for the Arts in Parrish, FL. The presentation was led by Board Member and Premier Drone Productions owner Robert McChesney, accompanied by 1st Vice President Lorna N. Ow-Elroy and Board Member Andre (Andy) Morabe. The interactive session explored

topics: What drones are and their uses across air, land, sea, and space - Drone safety protocols -The pathway to becoming an FAA Part 107 Certified Drone Pilot. Cadets had the exciting opportunity to take flight under Bob’s guidance, as he led hands-on drone operations in the courtyard — giving each cadet the chance to experience flight control firsthand. The Maritime Eagles are the only Sea Cadet unit in the Manatee–Sarasota area. The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), authorized by the Secretary of the Navy, provides youth ages 10–17 with a foundation in naval life, leadership, and character development in a drug- and gang-free environment. A special thank-you to CO LCDR Tina Brown and her dedicated staff for hosting us and inspiring tomorrow’s leaders. Bravo Zulu!

On Oct 15, our 1st Vice President Lorna Ow-Elroy together with members of the Sarasota-Manatee Council-Navy League of the US attended the 250th U.S. Navy Birthday Ball, hosted by the Tampa Bay Navy League and Blue Star Families. It was a wonderful evening honoring our Navy’s proud heritage and those who continue to serve with courage and commitment. The event was well attended, featuring an inspiring keynote from Admiral Frank “Mitch” Bradley, Commander of United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) who shared powerful reflections on service, leadership, and unity. A special thank you to Jennifer Anderson, President of the Tampa Bay Navy League and Suzy Malloy, Executive Director of the Blue Star Families (Tampa Bay Chapter) for their outstanding work and dedication in organizing such a memorable celebration, your efforts made the evening truly exceptional. We’re proud to celebrate this milestone together - 250 years strong and still forging ahead!



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Recent SMC Events

The Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council was proud to take part in the 2025 Florida International Air Show at Punta Gorda Airport! In early November. It was an incredible weekend featuring thrilling flight demonstrations, including a breathtaking finale by three Vietnam-era MiG-17 fighter jets. We were inspired by the Imagine High School at North Port Young Marines and the Charlotte High School Fighting Tarpons Color Guard for their moving flag presentations, and proud to celebrate the 250th Birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps with a special cake-cutting ceremony. Thank you to everyone who stopped by our booth to learn more.



On Oct 28th, the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council proudly took part in the Sarasota Nonprofit Expo at the University Park Country Club! Our board members shared our mission and community initiatives with attendees. We're dedicated to educating, advocating for, and supporting America's sea services — the US Navy, United States Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine. Locally, we proudly support nine youth programs (including NJROTC, Young Marines, Sea Cadets, and USCG JROTC) as well as our operational Coast Guard units in Cortez, Clearwater, and St. Petersburg. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who visited our booth and took the time to learn about our mission. Together, we can continue to make waves of positive impact across Sarasota and Manatee Counties!



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Recent SMC Events

In October, the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League proudly joined U.S. Coast Guard shipmates to celebrate the 235th birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard at the iconic Swordfish Grill and Tiki Cortez, Florida. The celebration brought together an impressive group of distinguished guests, including Sector Commander CAPT Courtney (Corrie) Sergeant, Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater CAPT David McCown, Chief Derek Waters and Coast Guard members from U.S. Coast Guard Station Cortez, Sector St. Petersburg, U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute,

along with past Coast Guard veterans. Council President Gene Moran presented Sailor of the Quarter awards to BM2 Brandon J. Ramirez and FN Natalee A. Petty of Station Cortez, honoring their outstanding dedication and service. We were also honored by the presence of RADM Larry Chambers (Ret.) and Sarah Chambers, Jennifer Anderson (President, Tampa Bay Navy League), and Sector Command Master Chief Keith Naker. A highlight of the evening came when Seaman Broxton, the youngest Coast Guardsman in attendance, joined RADM Chambers, SMC President Moran, and CAPT McCown for the ceremonial cake cutting—a cherished tradition that symbolizes the Coast Guard's proud heritage. Filled with camaraderie, recognition, and tradition, the evening was a true reflection of the Coast Guard motto: Semper Paratus — Always Ready.





During October's Sea Cadets Drill, our Council President Gene Moran, led a dynamic session on leadership, sharing insights drawn from real-world naval and professional experiences. The day began with early morning physical training, followed by classroom instruction where the Cadets were eager and engaged, asking thoughtful questions about shipboard life and what it truly means to lead with purpose. These outstanding young men and women are part of the Maritime Eagles Division, led by LCDR Tina Brown, whose dedication and guidance continue to inspire the next generation of maritime leaders. We were also delighted to have Board Member Andre (Andy) Morabe and his wife, Diana Morabe, both proud members of our council, join in support and participate in the session. We're honored to support the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps and help shape tomorrow's leaders through mentorship, education, and community engagement.

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Recent SMC Events

In December, SMC honored America's heroes through Wreaths Across America. On Saturday, December 13, wreaths were placed by the US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles, Young Marines Northport, Young Marines Venice Middle School, and volunteers at Sarasota National Cemetery. When you sponsor a veteran's wreath through the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council's link, not only are you honoring veterans and their families — \$5 from every wreath also supports local military units, youth programs, and scholarships. Thank for your donations this year.





DO GOOD TWICE

You're doing good twice - Honoring our veterans and their families, while strengthening your community through the Navy League's important work


SPONSOR a veteran's wreath at Sarasota National Cemetery, Arlington National Cemetery, or a national cemetery of your choice.

\$17 For each wreath sponsored through the Sarasota-Manatee Council link, our Council receives \$5 back to support military units, youth groups, and scholarship funds.

Order deadline: Thanksgiving week

Join us in honoring America's heroes through Wreaths Across America. Wreaths will be placed on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

**REMEMBER the Fallen
HONOR those who Serve
TEACH our Children the Value of Freedom!**



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OUR SUPPORTED SEA SERVICES

USCG Sector St. Petersburg

December 22nd, after the District and Sector St. Petersburg made the difficult decision to suspend operations for the case involving two missing boaters, we want to take this time to emphasize the importance of wearing life jackets and having emergency Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) for both yourselves and Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB) for your vessels, they save lives. We all want to see you return safely, especially during the holidays. We also want to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of both Mr. Spivey and Mr. Billmaier during this difficult time. Thank you to our crews and all those involved who helped search around the clock for the missing boaters.



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OUR SUPPORTED SEA SERVICES

USCG Sector St. Petersburg



US Coast Guard Station St Petersburg boat crew rescued a boater after their vessel capsized near Sunshine Skyway Bridge. The boater was safely transported back to Gandy boat ramp with no reported injuries and is coordinating the vessel's recovery. Our Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg watchstanders maintain a continuous watch while monitoring VHF Channel 16 and direct coordination with partner agencies to deploy Coast Guard assets at a moments notice for emergent search and rescue cases.

Dec 13th, USCG Auxiliary - Hudson Florida had the honor of witnessing our very own M. Copeland sworn in as Division Commander for 2026. Congratulations to Matt Copeland Tom Maloof on their appointments as Division Commander and Division Vice Commander. The ceremony was led by our guest of honor, Captain Sergeant, Commanding Officer of U.S. Coast Guard Sector St Petersburg, accompanied by Chief Petty Officer from U.S. Coast Guard Station Sand Key. Captain Sergeant also swore in the Flotilla Commanders and Flotilla Vice Commanders who will make up the 2026 bridge. Congratulations to all, and best wishes as we chart the course for the year ahead!



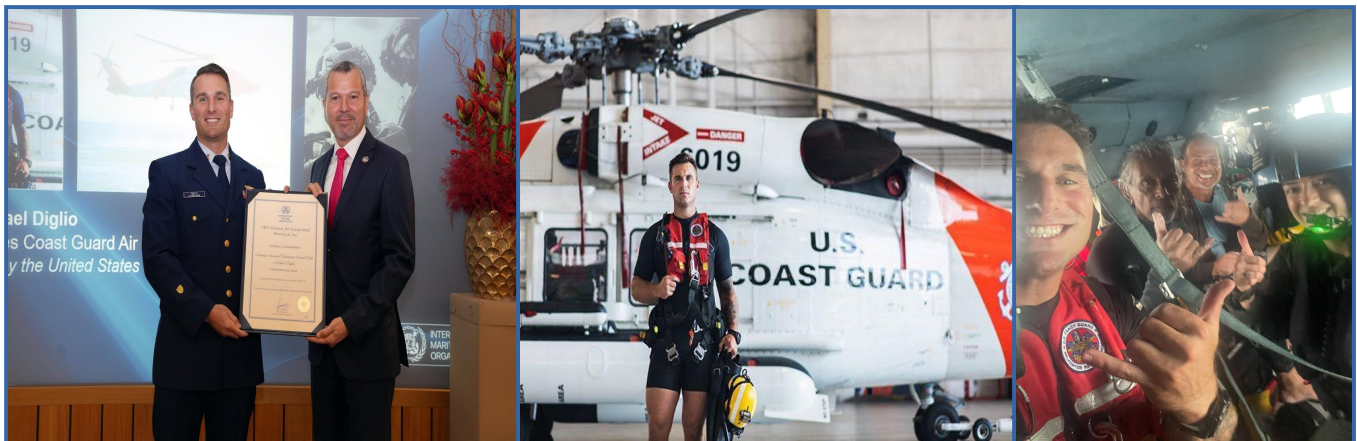
OUR SUPPORTED SEA SERVICES

USCG Air Station Clearwater

U.S. Coast Guard Southeast District Sector St Petersburg watchstanders maintain a continuous watch of the Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Track. Reacting to an alert they deployed a U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater MH-60 Jayhawk helicopter and the crew rescued a boater after their commercial fishing vessel caught fire approximately 100 miles west of Clearwater, Sunday. The boater was in stable condition and did not require medical attention. The boater was able to quickly deploy a life raft and abandon their burning vessel. Through quick actions and the utilization of an emergency position indicating radio beacon our aircrew was able to narrow the searching system and direct coordination with partner agencies to deploy Coast Guard assets at a moment's notice for emergent search and rescue cases. BZ to the Jayhawk crew: LCDR Nate Jones, LT Justin Kane, AMT2 Hunter Kendall, and AST2 Zach Sowers



Big news for a Clearwater alumnus — AST1 Michael Diglio has been awarded the 2025 International Maritime Organization - IMO Certificate of Commendation for a dynamic rescue he executed during Hurricane Debby while serving at Air Station Clearwater. Bravo Zulu, AST1!



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USCG Station Cortez

A Coast Guard Station Cortez boat crew rescued eight boaters Nov 16th, after their 26-foot vessel became disabled, approximately 35 miles west of Venice. The boaters and vessel were brought back to a Venice Inlet boat ramp with no reported injuries. "Before going out on the water make sure you tell someone where you are going and when you will be back," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Tyler Beasley, a Station Cortez boarding officer. "We recommend being as specific as possible so rescue crews have a reliable place to start searching in case of emergency. Boaters should always have Coast Guard approved life jackets, VHF radio, signaling devices and an emergency position locator beacon or personal locator beacon."



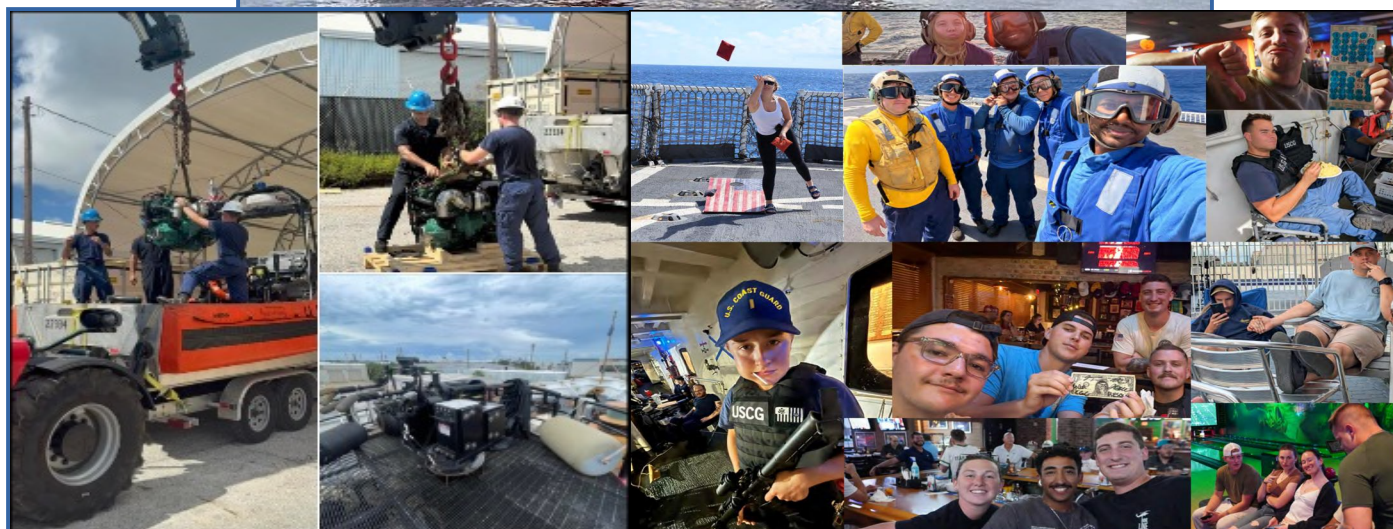
Outstanding work, U.S. Coast Guard Station Cortez! The Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council is incredibly proud to support such a highly skilled and dedicated crew. Their swift response and successful rescue of all eight boaters is a testament to your professionalism, readiness, and unwavering commitment to keeping our waters safe. Bravo Zulu to the entire team for another job exceptionally well done. Semper Paratus!



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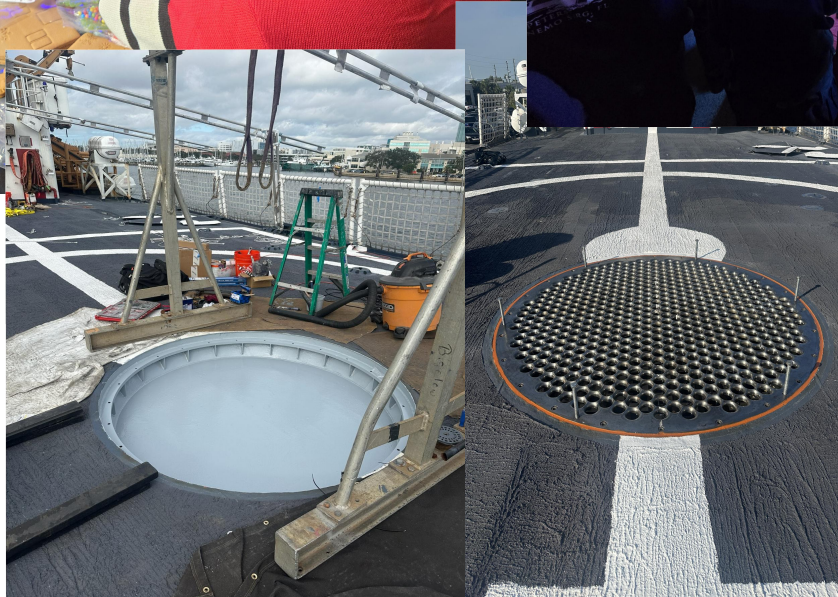
USCG Cutter Resolute

Bravo Zulu to the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Resolute! The Sarasota-Manatee Council-Navy League of the US is proud to support and adopt such an outstanding cutter and crew. Their dedication during the 70-day in port—tackling everything from a full engine replacement on the interceptor boat to ensuring the 25mm is mission ready—truly reflects their professionalism and unwavering commitment to readiness. As they head into TSTA and onward to their Caribbean patrol, our Council continues to stand firmly behind them. We thank them for their hard work, sacrifice, and service to our nation. Stay safe, Resolute crew—we are cheering you on every step of the way!



USCG Cutter Venturous

In October, following their return from a 60-day Eastern Pacific counter-drug patrol, the crew of USCGC VENTUROUS began major maintenance projects including hull restoration, communication and aviation system upgrades, main diesel engine repairs, and a full renovation of the ship's flight deck. These projects were accomplished while also meeting administrative and logistics needs, and conducting training for damage control, force protection, law enforcement, and emergency medical response. Amidst all the maintenance and training, VENTUROUS's crew still found time to celebrate the holidays with a workday Christmas party that featured ugly sweaters, a holiday baking contest, and fierce-but-friendly gingerbread ship-building competition.



OUR SUPPORTED YOUTH GROUPS UPDATES

- NJROTC North Port High School
- CGJROTC Pinellas Park High School
- US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles-
Manatee School for the Arts Palmetto
- Young Marines Venice Middle School
- Young Marines Imagine School North Port
- NJROTC Lemon Bay High School
- NJROTC Port Charlotte High School
- NJROTC Charlotte High School
- Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC



Youth Groups Activities

- CGJROTC Pinellas Park High School
- NJROTC Port Charlotte High School
- US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles-Manatee School for the Arts Palmetto
- Young Marines Venice Middle School
- NJROTC Lemon Bay High School
- NJROTC North Port High School
- NJROTC Charlotte High School
- Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC
- Young Marines Imagine School North Port

Coast Guard JROTC Pinellas Park High School - Master Chief Mike Collis

2nd Overall National Raider competition in Molena, GA.

Cadet LCDR Lilly DaCunha Rotary Club Student of the month Pinellas Park

2 of our Academic teams qualified for the JROTC Leadership Academic Bowl level II competition

We have over 500 community service hours this school year

We now have a \$90,000 professional obstacle course on campus

We had a Raider competition at Manatee High School on December 13, 0800-1300.

We participated in the Pinellas Park Holiday Parade on December 13 1800.

NJROTC Charlotte High School

November

1st - Northport Brain Brawl - 2nd place out of 32 teams

2nd - Florida Air Show - Color Guard Presentation

2nd - Florida Air Show Community Service Clean up

5th - Navy recruiter visited our classroom

11th - Veteran's Day Color Guard at Blue Heron Pines Community

17th - JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl First Competition

22nd - Color Guard Presentation at Botanical Gardens

December

3rd - Fundraiser at Qdoba in Port Charlotte

5th - Community Service for PG tree lighting ceremony

9th - Coast Guard recruiter visiting

12th - Unit Christmas Party

13th - First Orienteering Competition

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SMC Youth Groups News Items

Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC - MGySgt (RET) Rodriguez Jarvis

- Selected as the **ONLY** school in Region 7 to earn the Naval Honor School Designation.
- Selected as the **BEST MEGA** School in the Nation
- on as we were awarded the Marine Corps Reserve Association Award for Excellence.

Color Guard

2 Color Guard presentations on Nov 10

7 Color Guard presentations on Nov 11

Color Guard for a home playoff football game Nov 18

Color Guard for Turkey Trout supporting the TWIG organization

Community Support / Service

Supported Venice High School Parking for the Boat Festival Dec 6

Supported the Venice Soccer home game with Toys for Tots Dec 18

City of Venice Holiday Parade setup/staging – Dec 21-22

Training / Workouts

Hosted a 2-day Venice Baseball Workout with the team (Nov 12–13)

Included drill movements and physical training

Competitions

Best Raiders Competition – Newsome High School, Dec 6

JV Raiders Competition – Manatee High School, Dec 13

Alafia River Orienteering Competition, Dec 13

Charlotte High School NJROTC

November

1st - Northport Brain Brawl - 2nd place out of 32 teams

2nd - Florida Air Show - Color Guard Presentation

2nd - Florida Air Show Community Service Clean up

5th - Navy recruiter visited our classroom

11th - Veteran's Day Color Guard at Blue Heron Pines Community

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December

3rd - Fundraiser at Qdoba in Port Charlotte

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SMC Youth Groups News Items

Lemon Bay High School NJROTC

11 Nov - Flag Raising ceremony for Boca Grande Historical Society
11 Nov - Color Guard for Lemon Bay High School Veterans Day Ceremony, Englewood, FL
11 Nov - Color Guard for South Gulf Cove Veterans Day Ceremony, Englewood, FL
13 Nov - Color Guard for Oak Forest Community Center Veterans Day Ceremony, Englewood, FL
18 Nov - Lemon Bay HS AMI
18 Nov - JLAB Test
19 Nov - Virtual Drone Race (A new STEM program for us)
20-21 Nov - Cadets held doors to support Lemon Bay HS Theater Performance
06 Dec - Color Guard for Rotonda Xmas Parade
06 Dec - Fandango Sanctuary (manage parking for event) - Community Service
07 Dec - Support for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, Veterans Park, Englewood, FL
13 Dec - Wreaths Across America, Englewood, FL - Honor Guard

North Port High School NJROTC

**** Congrats to LCDR Dempsey Barnes for his selection as the NPHS Teacher of the Year! ****

November:

- Hosted Academic Brain Brawl
- Competed in Numerous Marksmanship Competition (CMP) marking a very successful outcome and high ranking in our grouping.
- Competed in 2 Rounds with our Cyber Team for Cyber Patriot
- Competed in Brain Brawl in Dunedin & Gaither (took 5th place)
- Assisted in several community service events to assist North Port & North Port High School.

December:

- Participating in the North Port Christmas Parade on 12/6
- Hosting a Marksmanship Competition on 12/13
- Competing in Orienteering Competition in Lakewood Ranch on 12/13.
- Also prepping for Color Guard Performance at the Florida Everblades Hockey Game on 1/3.

US Naval Sea Cadets Maritime Eagles

06 DEC – Local parade

Wreaths Across America

E-4 Franco US Army will lead PT and speak about being in the US Military DEC

Color Guards for our events:

1 NOV ISNP – Airshow

2 NOV CHS – Airshow

10 DEC – Dinner VMS

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SMC Youth Groups News Items

Port Charlotte High School NJROTC

Started both a Drone Team and Sea Perch Team, moving the STEM needle at PCHS.

PT Team cadets traveled to Brooksville, FL to compete against 25 JROTC units from across the state at the Iron Bear Challenge taking top 3 finishes in three events.

Academic team traveled to Tampa and North Port to compete in brain brawl competitions; Color Guard supported 8 events to include a Veterans' Day color guard detail and Pirate Company will support the Veterans Day parade in Port Charlotte.

The Cadets successfully conducted our Annual Military Inspection (AMI) with 10 cadets earning the exemplary appearance award.

Pirate Company continues to press on with dedication to the unit and academics and making in impact within our community and support our local veterans.

Young Marines Imagine School North Port

December 3- 8th Unit is going to Pearl Harbor Remembrance Parade. 15 Young Marines are going with 3 Adult Volunteers.

Dec.4th Ms. Lewis at Imagine needs 3 YM's for Skills for Life Workshop

Dec. 6th Poinsettia Parada @ 5pm in North Port.

Dec. 13th. Wreaths Across America 05:30 - 14:00 Sarasota National Cemetery.x

Dec.13th. Toys for Tots @ North Port Performing Arts Center. Need 4 YM's to collect donations from people coming in.

Dec. 20th Gallery of North Port. Visit the Veterans and enjoy games and lunch with them. 10:30-1:00pm

Young Marines Venice Middle School - Jennifer Blanchard

Multiple color guards, both on campus and in the community

Promotion Ceremony of our Recruits

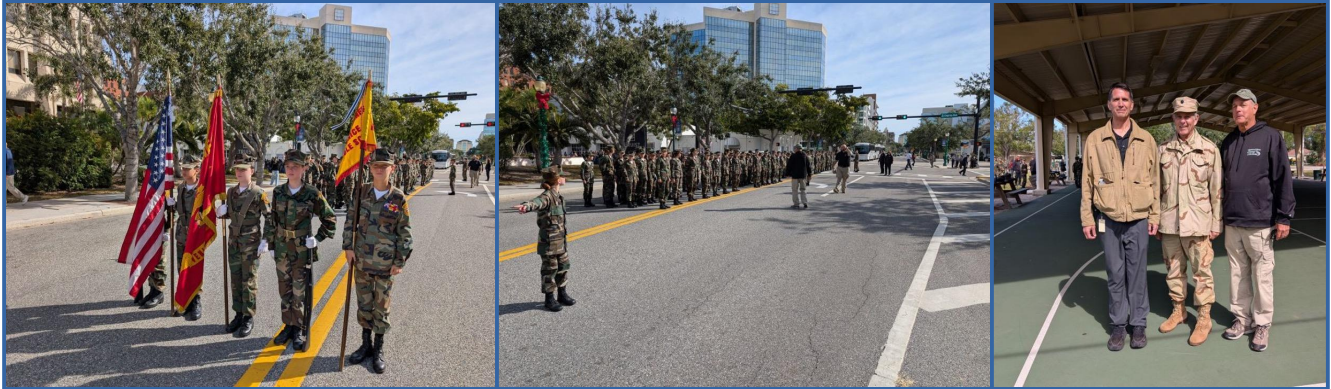
Harvesting our YM garden

Continuing to promote our VMS Casino Night

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SMC Youth Groups Posts

Honoring Veterans Day in Sarasota on November 11, 2025, Venice Middle School Principal Tomas Sean Dinverno and Unit Commanding Officer Capt. Fred Thompson joined 132 Young Marines Venice Middle School as they proudly participated in Sarasota's Veterans Day Parade. Despite chilly temperatures and gusty winds, the Young Marines marched with enthusiasm and spirit, earning cheers and gratitude from spectators along the route. CDR. Steve Bartek, USN (Ret.), SMC Council Vice President of Youth Programs proudly marched alongside the Young Marines.



On a November morning, as the sun rose, Charlotte High School held its Annual Military Inspection. The event featured a formal "Pass in Review" parade, followed by a detailed personnel inspection of the unit's 120 cadets. Representing the SMC Board Member CDR Steve Bartek served as one of the inspectors. Charlotte High School proudly boasts 72 first-year cadets, a strong sign of the program's continued growth and success. The unit is led by LT Heather Bove, USCG (Ret.), the school's Senior Naval Science Instructor.



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SMC Youth Groups Posts

Thank you to the North Port Police Department for their generous donation of 1500 dollars to the Imagine School Young Marines. I would also like to thank AMVETS POST 2000 and AMVETS POST 312 of North Port for their generous donations of over 5000 dollars to help fund the Imagine School Young Marines trip to Pearl Harbor in December . Thank you again for your generous donations. These Young Marines will remember this experience forever.



Great job to VHS Color Guard. We executed 7 Color Guard events on Veterans Day all over Sarasota County. The Veterans appreciated your professionalism. Additionally, VHS did a color guard and cake escort for The Marine Corps League's Birthday Ball.



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SMC Fund Raising Initiatives Update

We invite you to partner with the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council in supporting its vital mission to advocate for the Sea Services, Youth Groups and promote the welfare of our nation's maritime forces. We accept all major credit cards, Zelle, Venmo, and Bank Checks.

[Click Here to Connect to Our Partnership Web Page](#)

Invitation to Partner with Us

We invite you to partner with the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council in supporting its vital mission to advocate for the Sea Services and promote the welfare of our nation's maritime forces. By aligning with the Council, you will have the opportunity to contribute to programs that honor and benefit active-duty military personnel, veterans, and their families, as well as foster maritime education and youth development through initiatives like Naval Sea Cadet programs and JROTC scholarships. Your partnership will help ensure that our maritime community remains strong, connected, and prepared for the future. Together, we can make a meaningful impact in honoring and supporting those who serve.

**Partner with Us
Let's Make a Difference Together**



NLSMCPartnerships@gmail.com
<https://www.navyleague-sarasota-manatee.org/>



THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
(SARASOTA - MANATEE COUNCIL)

Partnership Tiers

Admiral's Club **Annual Partnership** \$5000 and Above

Benefits:

- Two (2) Memberships to Sarasota - Manatee Council
- Complimentary registration (s) for up to two (2) at all Sarasota - Manatee Council events
- Premium onsite event branding (Table Display) at selected events
- Navy League Admiral's Club Partner Name Tag
- Two (2) Navy League Lapel Pins
- Ten (10) Free Challenge Coins
- Named Scholarship

Acknowledgment for the time of your partnership:

- Main Web Page on the Sarasota - Manatee Council Website
- Anchor Line (Newsletter)
- Emails to membership
- Social media platform (Facebook / LinkedIn)
- Verbal recognition at all events

(Payment plan options available)

Captain's Club **Annual Partnership** \$1000

Benefits:

- One (1) Membership to Sarasota - Manatee Council
- Complimentary registration for one (1) at all Sarasota - Manatee Council events
- Premium onsite event branding (Table Display) at selected events
- Navy League Captain's Partners Name Tag
- One (1) Navy League Lapel Pin
- Five (5) Free Challenge Coins

Acknowledgment for the time of your partnership:

- Main Web Page on the Sarasota - Manatee Council Website
- Anchor Line (Newsletter)
- Social media platform (Facebook / LinkedIn)
- Verbal recognition at all events

Blue and Gold Club **Annual Partnership** \$500

Benefits:

- Navy League Blue and Gold Club Partner Name Tag
- One (1) Navy League Lapel Pin
- Two (2) Free Challenge Coins

Acknowledgment for the time of your partnership:

- Website on the Sarasota - Manatee Council Website
- Anchor Line (Newsletter)
- Social media platform (Facebook / LinkedIn)
- Verbal recognition at all events

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SMC Partnership Engagement Group Elevating Our Fund Raising and Out Reach to Record Levels

The SMC Board Engagement Team continues actively working through our outreach program to connect with local corporations, associations, businesses, and individual partners for funding support. We're excited to share that in 2025, we've welcomed new partners led by an annual \$10,000 contribution from the Smith Gift Fund. We also have signed on more new monthly Shipmate Partnerships.

Thank you to all our partners. Your generous contributions directly support the funding of scholarships, provide opportunities for National Flight Academy recipients, strengthen our NINE Youth Programs, and assist our dedicated USCG Units and members.

Together, we are making a meaningful difference!

Our Partners



**THANK YOU
TO OUR
ANNUAL PARTNERS**

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
(SARASOTA-MANATEE COUNCIL)

ADMIRAL'S CLUB

Smith Gift Fund

CAPTAIN'S CLUB

BLUE & GOLD'S CLUB

GENE MORAN
CDR. Steve Bartek, USN (Ret.)
Judge S. Jay Plager
Mdm. Marsha Grogan

VADM. Doug Crowder, USN (Ret.)
Mrs. Susan Crowder

CAPT. Tim Rocklein, USN (Ret.)
CDR. Nel Rocklein, USN (Ret.)

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Mr. James Orr

Mr. Gerard St. Germain
Mrs. Frances St. Germain

Mr. Andy Morabe
Mrs. Diana Morabe

**PREMIER DRONE
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SMC Fund Raising Initiatives Update

We invite you to partner with the Navy League Sarasota-Manatee Council in supporting its vital mission to advocate for the Sea Services, Youth Groups and promote the welfare of our nation's maritime forces. We accept all major credit cards, Zelle, Venmo, and Bank Checks.

[Click Here to Connect to Our Shipmate Partnership Web Page](#)

Join the \$25 for 2026: Small Gift, Big Change!

The Shipmate Partnership is a philanthropic initiative created to provide ongoing support for both our active-duty sea services personnel and the youth programs that help develop future leaders. This program invites individuals to become monthly donors by contributing \$25. The goal is to build a dependable stream of funding that supports the unique needs of active-duty sailors in the Sarasota-Manatee region, as well as the families of those who serve. Additionally, contributions will support youth organizations like the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Junior ROTC, and Young Marines—programs that teach young people about the values and responsibilities of our nation's maritime services.

The Navy League of the United States is committed to supporting our nation's sea services, including the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. The Sarasota-Manatee Council plays a critical role in this mission, particularly with several active-duty Coast Guard units stationed in our region. The Shipmate Partnership unites supporters who value patriotism, community service, and maritime strength, ensuring our active-duty personnel, their families, and the next generation of service members are supported in both their professional and personal growth.

Your monthly donation, whether \$10 or \$25, will help make a significant impact on those who serve and their families, as well as provide life-changing opportunities for the next generation of maritime leaders.

Join us in making 2026 a year of gratitude and generosity.
Together, we can make a real difference!



NLSMCPartnerships@gmail.com
<https://www.navyleague-sarasota-manatee.org/>

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
(SARASOTA - MANATEE COUNCIL)

Shipmate Partnership

Monthly Contribution
\$10 or \$25

Sign up once and sustain the giving throughout the year.
Donors have the flexibility to cancel or adjust their participation at any time.

Benefits for Donors:

- **Recognition:** Your name will be prominently featured on our website, showing your commitment to supporting our U.S. Coast Guard and maritime youth programs.
- **Navy League e-Membership:** One-year e-membership with exclusive content and updates.
- **Personalized Navy League Name Tag:** A name tag to proudly display your support for those who serve.

Your contributions have already made a significant impact, funding projects such as:

- **Enhanced Communication for Deployed Personnel:** Providing sailors with access to entertainment and communication while deployed, such as network interfaces for personal devices, helping to maintain morale and connections with loved ones.
- **MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) Items:** Supplying much-needed resources for ships and Station Cortez.
- **Recognition of Outstanding Service:** Celebrating excellence through certificates for shipwide accomplishments, special dinners for on-duty sailors, and gift cards for exceptional personnel like Sailors of the Quarter.
- **Expanded Programs:** Programs provide young men and women with the opportunity to learn about teamwork, leadership, and service to their country, while also offering valuable skills that will serve them in both their personal and professional lives.

How to Join:

- Visit: Navigate to the Sarasota-Manatee Council's partnership portal.
- Select: Choose the Shipmate Partnership option.
- Subscribe: Set up a recurring \$10 or \$25 monthly payment.
- Connect: Enjoy the rewards of being a dedicated supporter and stay engaged with our activities and community.

Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our active-duty personnel and the next generation of maritime leaders. Support our sea services and their communities today!

THANK YOU TO OUR MONTHLY DONORS

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES
(SARASOTA-MANATEE COUNCIL)

SHIPMATE PARTNERSHIP

MR. BOB MCCHESENEY
MR. AL BURDA
MR. MATTHEW WOODDALL
MR. ALEX CARDOZ
MR. DON ROSER
MR. JAMES BLASKO
MRS. LORNA OW-ELROY



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<mailto:NLSarasota@gmail.com>

Stayed tuned for our next events

<https://www.navyleague-sarasota-manatee.org/>

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