





SARASOTA – MANATEE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE

AUGUST 2023-DECEMBER 2023

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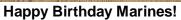
MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY

This year the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League celebrated the Marine Corps' birthday on November 14th at Gecko's Grill and Pub in Sarasota with Capt. Dean Krom USMC (ret), Senior Military Instructor of Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC speaking. We had a lively crowd at Gecko's which proved to be an appropriate venue for a celebration. Capt. Krom gave an explanation of the Marine Corps readiness in the Middle East and talked about his JROTC unit at Venice High School.

The U. S. Marine Corps was 248 years old on November 10, 2023. As close to that date as possible, Marines and their fellow comrades-in-arms gather to celebrate the Corps' past achievements, but also to focus on its future roles and missions. The Cake Cutting Ceremony plays a central role in these celebrations. The Marine Corps' birthday celebrations date from 1921. That year the 13th Commandant, General John A. Lejeune, issued Marine Corps Order #47, Series 1921. He directed that the order be read to all Marines on November 10th to honor the founding of the Corps. These gatherings soon evolved into celebrations of the Corps' past achievements. The Cake Cutting Ceremony, a central feature of these gatherings, was formalized in 1950.

The cake is cut with a Mamaluke Sword, the ceremonial sword of Marine Corps officers. The tradition is the first piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine present in recognition of the Corps' past achievements. The second piece of cake is passed from the oldest Marine to the youngest Marine present in recognition the Marine Corps as the force "most ready when the nation is least ready." With the ceremony completed, all present were invited to have a piece of the ceremonial cake. This year's oldest Marine present was Col. George Hoffman USMC (ret) and the youngest Marine present was Capt. Dean Krom USMC (ret). Other Marines present were Councilmembers Kath Ashton and Ted Smith. The Marine Corps Hymn was sung to commemorate the occasion. With the Cake Cutting Ceremony concluded, the Marine Corps' cake was enjoyed by all.







248 Birthday Coin



Capt. Krom speaks



Cutting the Cake



Four Marines and President Carl Cramb More Photos on Facebook

NAVY BIRTHDAY/FOUNDERS DAY CRUISE

On Tuesday October 17, 2023, the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League and the Florida Suncoast Chapter of the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association celebrated the 248th Birthday of the U.S. Navy and the 178th Birthday of the United States Naval Academy (known as Founders' Day). The celebration was held as a dinner cruise aboard the Marina Jack II, a large cruise boat out of Sarasota. Fifty-two cruisers made up of Navy Leaguers and Alumni and their spouses and friends departed the pier aboard Marina Jack II at 6pm for a wonderful two-hour sunset cruise around Sarasota Bay.

After Chapter President Al Burda welcomed everyone aboard, Council Chaplain Don Roser led in the Pledge of Allegiance and offered a blessing. A sumptuous Prime Rib and Salmon buffet dinner was served followed by delicious Birthday cake and Marina Jack's own incredible desserts. A raffle was held for gift cards and four cruisers were the winners.

Rear Admiral Rick Buchanan USN (ret), the keynote speaker, gave a short but informative and celebratory presentation about the history of the U.S. Navy and the founding of the U.S. Naval Academy. He also celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the All-Volunteer Force.

We were also blessed by the attendance of one of our senior statesmen and USNA Distinguished Graduates in RADM Larry Chambers. As the oldest officer present, he shared cutting the ceremonial Birthday cake with David Fuson, the youngest officer.

After two hours' cruising and a delicious dinner, the Marina Jack II made its way back to the pier. A wonderful evening among friends of the Navy and the Naval Academy.





Marina Jack II

Birthday Cake







Rick Buchanan

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Sarasota Manatee Council hosted its 15th annual golf tournament on Monday, October 16th at the beautiful Lakewood National Golf Course. The weather was fantastic, our MC, Weatherman Bob Harrigan saw to that, and the course was in great shape thanks to the great work of the staff at the course. The food as outstanding and a great time was had by all. This tournament is our primary fundraiser to support our programs and it was a great success in that regard as well. The Colors were presented by the Color Guard from the Venice High School Marine Corps JROTC Program.



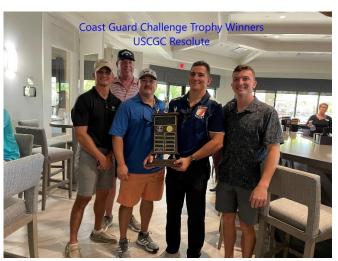
VHS MCJROTC Color Guard

The tournament championship was won by a team from Coast Guard Sector St. Pete. They are from left to right: LT Adam Scheetz, OS1 Brian Haley, our President, Carl Cramb, Club Pro Jeff Miller, LCDR Erik Heithaus and LT Eric Proveaux. The Coast Guard Challenge Trophy was won by the team from Coast Guard Cutter Resolute. That picture includes, left to right: ENS Christian Burzycki, our President, Carl Cramb, EM2 Alex Ornelas, LT Joseph Rizzardi, and ENS Kurt Huebschman.

There was a large raffle with fantastic prizes and a silent auction with some great items.



Tournament Champs



Coast Guard Challenge Winners

HEROES DINNER



On Wednesday night September 27, 2023, at Sara Bay the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League celebrated volunteer heroes from the Council's sponsored units for their exemplary service to others in the Sea Services. After a brief welcome to the large crowd of attendees by Council President Carl Cramb and Posting of the Colors by the Imagine School of North Port Young Marines Color Guard, attendees recited the Pledge and heard the Invocation from Chaplain Don Roser. Dinner was exceptional and it included a celebratory cake.

The event's Speaker was CAPT Michael Kahle USCG, Commander Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg and Captain of the Port of Tampa. He was accompanied by his Command Master Chief William Kelly USCG. They explained the extent of the Sector's duties and responsibilities and responded to questions from the sixty- some attendees.

Then came the main event, a celebration of Sea Services Heroes with Council Member Joe Hayden as Master of Ceremonies.



Carl Cramb and Don Roser



NP Imagine School YM Color Guard





CAPT Kahle and CMC Kelly

Master of Ceremonies Joe Hayden

Our heroes are from:

- USCG SECTOR ST. PETERSBURG -LCDR EUNICE JAMES USCG
- USCGC RESOLUTE- EM3 BENJAMIN DURNA USCG
- USCG STATION CORTEZ- ME3 ANGEL CISNERO USCG
- USCGC SHRIKE- SEAMAN MEGAN PFAFF USCG (Absent)
- MARITIME EAGLES NAVAL SEA CADETS- LT TINA BROWN USSCC
- NORTH PORT HS NJROTC- DR. AGNES PELOPIDA
- VENICE HS MCJROTC-ERIN KROM
- PINELLAS PARK HS CGJROTC-CGJROTC LCDR MADY CORCORAN
- VENICE MIDDLE YMs- BILL FRANKLIN
- IMAGINE SCHOOL YMs- DR. STEVE BLACK

Each hero was given a Certificate of Appreciation, a Council Challenge Coin, a Medal, and a floral bouquet and was accompanied by their sponsor. A Letter of Congratulations was given to each hero from U.S. Senator Rick Scott. After honoring each hero, the celebratory cake was presented and cut and served as dessert.

Many thanks to these heroes and to Council Member Marsha Grogan who organized and planned this event and to Joe Hayden for making all arrangements with the Country Club.



"Our Heroes"







Heroes Cutting the Cake

RADM BUZBY SPEAKS AT US COAST GUARD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On Tuesday August 22 at beautiful Sara Bay Country Club, where Bobby Jones once played Walter Hagen in match play, the Council celebrated the 233rd birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. The colors were presented by Young Marines of the Imagine School of North Port. On hand were Coast Guardsmen from CG Sector St. Pete, USCG Cutter Shrike and CG Station Cortez to celebrate. The keynote speaker was RADM Mark Buzby USN (ret) former Administrator of the Maritime Administration (MARAD). There was a nice birthday cake which was cut by CAPT Kahle USCG, CO of CG Sector St. Pete and BM3 Stonestreet USCG, oldest and youngest Coastguardsmen. During the dinner meeting the USCG Cutter Shrike was adopted by our Council.



RADM Buzby



Happy Birthday Coast Guard!



Cutting the Cake



Adoption of USCGC Shrike



IND NOW A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT...

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer whether you stayed close to Florida or traveled out of the area. It continues to be unseasonably warm as we approach the holiday season with some minor breaks. Hopefully, we'll get some needed rain soon.

Our Council activities resumed in earnest this fall with celebrations of the Coast Guard birthday, Navy Birthday and Marine Corps Birthday along with the Second Annual Sea Services Heroes dinner. Each event was well attended and very enjoyable. We have been very fortunate to have some excellent speakers and the opportunity to honor some incredible performers.

On 16 October we held the 15th Annual Earl Fowler Golf Tournament at the Lakewood National Golf Club. Once again this annual fundraiser was a highly successful event and enjoyed by everyone in attendance. We are very blessed to have raised enough money this year to cover our operational expenses for 2024.

Our Coast Guard is undergoing some significant funding shortages and we were recently told that our supported unit, USCGC SHRIKE would be decommissioned in 2024. In addition, some of the missions of the Coast Guard will be put on hold based on their funding shortfalls. I encourage everyone to contact their elected officials about this significant national security issue.

On a serious note, Cadet Brennan Buys from the MCJROTC program at Venice High School is undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia. As you can imagine this is having a significant monetary impact on his family. A Go Fund Me page has been developed to help the family in this difficult time. Community support is so important for this family. Information on the Go Fund Me page is available in the newsletter. Any contributions will be appreciated.

A Nominating Committee led by Al Burda has been busy developing the slate of officers to fill the five primary Board positions for 2024. The Committee has developed the following slate of officers:

President – Gene Moran Vice President – Steve Bartek Secretary – Don Roser Treasurer – Jerry St Germain Judge Advocate General – Steve Horton

We will elect our Board for 2024 at our Annual Meeting on 05 December at Sara Bay Country Club.

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have served as the President for the last two years and I am very appreciative of all the support provided by so many. I am very thankful to Gene Moran for volunteering to serve as your President in 2024.

The ability of the Council to Advocate, Educate and Support requires all members of the Council pulling together to help us meet our stated priorities. Whether you recruit a new member, participate in a fundraising event, actively support a committee, or provide actionable ideas you are helping to make the Sarasota-Manatee Council a beacon in our community. Thank you for all you do.

Best, Carl,

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

2023 OFFICERS

President

Carl Cramb

First Vice President & Operations

Steve Bartek

Treasurer

Gerard St. Germain*

Corresponding and Recording Secretary/Chaplain

Don Roser

Judge Advocate

Steven Horton

Joe Hayden - Membership, Dinner Meeting
Coordination

Roger Betts - Legislative Affairs

Steve Bartek - Youth Programs Chair, Sarasota County Fair Fundraiser

Al Burda - Anchor Line, Youth Programs Support

Adam Scheetz (LT, USCG) - Public Affairs, Membership Support, Golf Tournament Support

VADM Doug Crowder, USN (Ret) - Fundraising and Membership Support

Dennis Turner - Sea Cadet Program

Bo Hamrick - Merchant Marine, Fundraising support

George Hofmann - Marine Corps programs

Marsha Grogan - Sea Service Heroes Program, Coast Guard Program Support, Fundraising and Membership Support, Golf Tournament Support, May Picnic Coordination

Jerry St Germain – Coast Guard Programs, Golf Tournament Finances

Tim Rocklein – Dinner Meeting Coordination Support

Gene Moran—Fundraising and Membership Support

*National Delegate ** National Director Emeritus

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On Tuesday December 5, 2023, at Sarabay Country Club, the Sarasota Manatee Council of the Navy League will hold its annual meeting to elect and install Officers for the Calendar Year 2024.. The Council's 2024 Nominating Committee consisting of Chair Al Burda, Board Members Roger Betts and Marsha Grogan and Council Members Craig Harvey and James Brengle have developed a preliminary slate of Council Members who desire to run for the elected Council offices for 2024. The members who have chosen to run for Office are as follows: President, Gene Moran; Vice President, Steve Bartek; Treasurer, Jerry St. Germain; Secretary, Don Roser; and Judge Advocate, Steve Horton. If anyone else wishes to run for Office, please contact Al Burda as soon as possible at alburda3@verizon.net. Election of Officers will be held at the Annual Meeting on December 5, 2023. You must be present to vote.

UPCOMING EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR (WATCH FOR FLYERS)

<u>Date</u>	Theme/Subject	<u>Speaker</u>	Venue and other
14 Nov	Marine Corps Birthday	Capt. Dean Krom USMC (ret)	Gecko's
		VHS USMC JROTC	
05 Dec	Annual Meeting	BMC Waters USCG	Sara Bay CC
		USCGCSTA Cortez	Lunch
24 Jan	Navy	Christopher Townsend	Sarabay CC
		President NLUS	Dinner

NEW SARASOTA MANATEE COUNCIL CHALLENGE COINS

You've noticed on the Header on Page 1 includes images of the Council's handsome Challenge Coins, They will be available for ordering for purchase in the Fall. Watch for further communications on pricing and ordering.

MEMBERSHIP

As of November 6, 2023, the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League of the United States (NLUS) has 109 active members per the official roster posted on the NLUS national website, an addition of two members from the October report. Welcome to new members Mr. Rodney Heard, SCPO Larry Goulet, USN (ret.) who transferred into our Council and who will be at the gathering on Nov. 14, and PO Alaina Stonestreet, USCG who is at USCG Station Cortez and who helped with the Golf Tournament

If you know someone who might be interested in joining the Navy League, please give them this link https://www.navyleague.org/become-a-member/individual-membership/?ga=2.263336715.661526697.1679350790-946691646.1679350790 and tell them e-membership is only \$25 per year.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA- WE ARE PARTICIPATING AGAIN!



REMEMBER the Fallen... HONOR those who Serve... TEACH our children the value of Freedom.

- Sponsor a veteran's wreath to be placed at Sarasota National, Arlington, or a national cemetery of your choice on Saturday December 16th, 2023.
- Sarasota Manatee Council receives \$5 back for each donated wreath to replenish the coffers which support our military units, youth groups, and scholarship funds.
- You're doing good twice... honoring veterans and their families while supporting your community via the Navy League's important work.
- Place your order now or no later than Thanksgiving week.

You may order wreaths using this QR code.



OR use this link:

www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/FL1074P

- Be sure to check out "Patriot Pairs" under "more options," one wreath shipped to the address of your choice with branch flag of your choosing and one donated wreath placed on the grave of an American hero.
- WAA will be placing 2.5 million wreaths at 3,500 National cemeteries and monuments on Saturday December 16th, 2023.
- Look for more information to follow later about participating in Wreaths Across America Day at Sarasota National.

Wreath Goals for Sarasota National: Veteran Graves: 27,000,Coverage Goal: 22,500,Wreaths So Far: 2.656. Let's do this!!

SUPPORTED ACTIVE DUTY UNITS

USCG STATION CORTEZ

Here's are photos from BM3 and NLSM member Alaina Stonestreet, for Chief Derek Waters, USCG Station Cortez, Station Cortez consists of approximately twenty-four active duty personnel and is primarily dedicated to search and rescue operations and ensuring maritime safety.





At sea at work

CGSTA Cortez Crew

USCGC RESOLUTE



One of the Navy League's missions is to support active duty Sea Service organizations. As an adopted unit of the Sarasota Manatee Council, Resolute is deserving of our support for all it does to keep us safe. The crew of Resolute is an amazing group of dedicated national security professionals. We honor their service and want them to know how much they are appreciated. The Resolute needed a new gas grill, so our Council gave her one. As a thank you, they invited us to the ship for a cookout. The XO, who had a two-year tour in the Embassy in Cuba asked Dick Petrucci give the crew his" World Famous" Cuban Missile Crisis presentation since he had first-hand experience in 1962. The cookout lunch that was served was delicious. After lunch, the crew gave Navy Leaguers a tour of the ship.



The Gas Grill







The Chow Line



Council VP Steve Bartek



Navy Leaguers and Crew



On the Bridge

USCGC SHRIKE

USCG Commandant Linda Fagan has announced that due to funding issues and not meeting staffing quotas, that the US Coast Guard now will be concentrating on two missions: Search and Rescue (SAR) and Marine Transportation. At the present time, we have been informed that at least two of our adoptees are affected.

CDR LT David DeMaio has let us know that our recently adopted 87 foot Cutter, the USCG SHRIKE located at Sector St. Petersburg is being sent to Baltimore, Maryland this summer without its crew and will be placed in a standby status. The SHRIKE crew will be reassigned.

USCG Station Cortez will decrease staff by four via attrition.

As we learn more, updates will follow.

YOUTH GROUPS VENICE HIGH SCHOOL MCJROTC

From Senior Military Instructor Capt. Dean Krom USMC (ret)

"VHS MCJROTC has been super busy with the Venice Indians Football Season. We are competing in our 9th Home Football Game and we have 4 more Playoff Games ahead of us. We do all the parking, Color Guards, Cannon, Smoke, Sirens, & Air Horns for the entire game. Additionally, we have been busy with a National Air Rifle Competition (2023 National Sporter Air Rifle League) that takes place every week where we shoot against other Teams across the Nation. We are currently in 3rd place out of ~25 Marine Corps Schools and 13th place out of over 60+ multi service Teams. We will be supporting the Celebrity Softball / Rodney Adkins Concert at the Braves Stadium on Sat. Nov. 4th along with closing our Wreath Sales Fundraiser on Mon. Nov. 6th. Then we'll do 7 Color Guards across the county over the next 6 days. During that time we will have our 248th Marine Corps Ball at the Plantation Golf and Country Club. The next week is our Career Week where we have all services represented each period so everyone gets the opportunity to see what each service has to offer. We invite all students to attend even if they are outside of JROTC. That takes us into Thanksgiving week where we will be supporting the Venice Holiday Parade with a large working party responsible for staging all the floats for the Parade. While I was typing, another request came in for us to support the TWIG as they are putting on a Turkey Trot 5K so we will do the parking for them on Sat. the 18th of Nov. as well."

ON A VERY SERIOUS NOTE....

We have been contacted by Capt. Krom regarding one of his students, Cadet Brennan Buys, who was diagnosed with Leukemia about 4 weeks ago. Brennan has been undergoing an intense 35-day chemo treatment at Johns Hopkins. He came home last Friday evening, welcomed by the VHS MCJROTC Unit, (see below) and unfortunately had to return on Sunday evening due to complications. The MCJROTC unit CO is researching avenues of support for Brennan and the family. Our Navy League Council Leadership has also discussed and passed along possible avenues of support to be shared with the family. The medical bills that have begun for Brennan, along with me previously manageable conditions, are beginning to overwhelm the family as they look forward. Brennan's cousins have set up a Go Fund Me webpage where all donations will go toward the cancer treatments. In support of the request from Capt. Krom we respectfully request that you consider supporting Cadet Brennan Buys in this effort. The link, to the Go Fund Me page, follows;

https://gofund.me/7a7f79b0





VHS MCJROTC Support for Brennan Buys

VENICE MIDDLE YOUNG MARINES

Venice Middle Young Marines have had a busy fall. At start of school in August, VMYM held the Recruit Bootcamp and Uniform day. The 55 Recruits were led by the most senior YMs during boot camp. The Recruits learned all things VMYM! During the last 14 weeks YMs have completed PFTs, CRP, First Aid, Drug Demand Reduction (DDR), Land Navigation, PT three times a week, how to wear the uniform, and a vast array of other YM required skills and life skills. VMYMs tend to the chickens and garden daily.

This is the 11th year VMYM is participating in Wreaths Across America. Over the weekend of 11/4 - 11/5, 48 Young Marines collected donations at the local Publix stores raising \$5900 for wreaths. On Saturday, December 16th VMYM will take part in the wreath laying at Gulf Pines Memorial Park in Englewood. For many YMs and their families, this is a memorable community service project.

Under the direction of CAPT Fred Thompson and XO Kurt Schaefer and support from the VMYM Teachers Venice Middle Young Marines completed 7 Color Guards in the community and marched in the City of Sarasota Veterans Day Parade. The Color Guards include 6^{th,} 7th, and 8th graders. Some YMs completed 5 color guards!

On 11/4, VMYM presented the Colors at the Celebrity Softball Game, a charity event supporting My Warriors Place at Cool Today Park.On Tuesday 11/7 Colors were presented at Grand Living at Wellen Park's Veterans Day event. On Thursday, 11/9 VMYM presented the Colors at Garden Elementary's Veterans Day event and on Friday, 11/10 they presented at Taylor Ranch Elementary's event. On Friday afternoon VMYM presented at the Ledbetter Law Group Veterans Day event. On Saturday morning the VMYM marched in the City of Sarasota Veterans Day Parade. After the parade on Saturday, VMYM presented Colors at Country Club Estates and Island Walk. On Friday, 11/10 the VMYM Leadership classes celebrated the 248th Marine Corp birthday in all 6 classes. The YMs watched the Commandant's birthday message, learned the protocols and history of the ceremony, and enjoyed delicious cake. VMYM is looking forward to the YM Recruit Graduation on Thursday, December 7, the wreaths laying on December 16, and our 2nd Q event, a day of ice skating, on December 21st.



At Cool Today Park





In the Sarasota Veterans Day Parade At Venice Gardens Elementary School





At Island Walk

At Venice Elementary School

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 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 \$14 per person, \$12 for veterans and military active duty, \$9 for youth ages 5-13, \$5 for Annual Members and NO fee for children under five.

Or better yet, spend some of your time in retirement as a volunteer docent/guide or even as a Flight Simulator Instructor. Questions? Give the Museum a call on 941.575.9002.

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

Many people have contributed to this Anchor Line and thanks to all of them. Notably thanks to the following people for their articles and photos: Marsha Grogan, Jerry St. Germain, Dick Petrucci, George Hofmann, Joe Hayden, Dean Krom, Susan Maas-Lyon, Elizabeth Walters and Carl Cramb.