



Savannah Steamer

2009 Mackie Award Winner

Founded May 15th, 1957

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Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

President's Message

Honoring Those Who Serve

Although I am composing this on Independence Day, July 4, by the time you read it, this will be another holiday past. But it's never too late to think about the sacrifices the men and women of the sea services make for us. Today, and later when you read this, both of our adopted U.S. Navy ships, USS *Alaska* (SSBN-732) and USS *Samuel*



B. Roberts (FFG-58), will be deployed at sea, far from family and friends. USS *Alaska* – Gold Crew has been gone since early May, and will not likely see “the light of day” for quite some time. The “Sammy B” is in the midst of a six-month deployment to the East African Coast. “Sammy B” will not return to Mayport until almost Christmas. Even many of our local US Coast Guard personnel are pulling extra duty this holiday weekend to support possible Search and Rescue missions due to heavier than usual on-the-water activities over the Fourth. We should also remember all the families who are missing their loved ones over this holiday weekend – hundreds and hundreds are impacted as they celebrate our country's birthday without that person. And why are all these American service men and women deployed on these missions? **To keep us safe, and to protect our freedoms!** The safety and freedoms most of us take for granted are only due to these American patriots, and those who have served before them. Please remember them in your prayers, and help your Savannah Council support them all, every chance we get.

Bob

July Dinner Meeting

“Movie Night” Casual Attire and Heavy Hors d'Oeuvres

Join us at the Hunter Club on Tuesday, July 26th as we relax with heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar and watch a 20-minute movie about our adopted ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58). The film includes the story of the ship's namesake, Coxswain Samuel Booker Roberts, and the other ships which have borne his name: heroic WWII destroyer escort DE 413 and Gearing-class destroyer DD 823. Also detailed is FFG 58's amazing survival after striking an Iranian mine in the Persian Gulf in 1988. We will close the screening with Michael Jordan's footage of our Sammy B's departure

from Mayport last month to begin a six-month deployment to East Africa. Michael will provide details about his upcoming TV show on the Sammy B.

Since we're not serving a full dinner this month, **the cost is \$15 per person** vs. the usual \$20. Dress this month is CASUAL, so leave your coat and tie at home! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, July 22nd.

**July 26th
Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm,
Hunter Club - Hunter AAF**

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, July 22nd. The cost is \$15 per person. Please contact Sybil Cannon at (912) 964-5366 or RSlaty2@att.net to reserve your place.

Farewell to Jimmy Kehoe ***Former Savannah Council President***

We bid a sad farewell to longtime Savannah Navy Leaguer James Kehoe, Jr., who passed away on April 15th after a brief illness. A Korean War veteran who went on to serve 25 years in the US Air Force, Jimmy eventually earned a PhD in economics. As a Navy Leaguer, Jimmy served as Savannah Council President, Georgia State President and a National Director, and was instrumental in the christening of four US Navy ships in the Port of Savannah.



USCG Marine Safety Unit Golf Tournament ***Sea Cadets Report***

Event Raises Almost \$1800



The Savannah Council was proud to help with the Inaugural Captain of the Port Golf Tournament on May 7th at the Cross Winds Golf Course. There were twenty-four teams with a total of ninety players. Two Navy League members had teams in the tournament.

Twenty firms and individuals sponsored holes, including our partner, the Propeller Club of Savannah. Several firms and individuals made contributions. As a result of these contributions, the Savannah Council was able to contribute \$1157.00 to the Sea Cadets Program and \$600.00 to Savannah Hospice for their veterans program.

Cross Winds provided lunch after the tournament, and there was also a flyover by a chopper from Air Station Savannah. A special thanks to Joe Tillman for all his work supporting the event.

To see photos from the tourney, check out our Facebook page.

New Flag, Grants and Donations for Sea Cadets

It's been a blockbuster quarter for our Savannah Sea Cadet Squadron. The cadets proudly carried a new flag when they marched in the Stand Up For America Parade in Port Wentworth on April 30th, 2011. Thanks to Charlotte Hulse of Savannah Sails & Rails for making the flag for us at 1/2 off the normal price!



The cadets also recently received a \$500 Grant from the nationwide Kim Komando radio show. One of the cadets' instructors, Kim McCumber, applied for the grant, which will be used to send Cadets to summer training camps. The Kim Komando Show runs on more than 450 radio stations and has almost 10 million listeners weekly.

We're also thrilled to report that the squadron received \$800 in donations after Executive Officer Alexia Pittas spoke to the Skidaway Island Kiwanis Club in February--\$300 directly from the Skidaway Kiwanis Club and another \$500 from individual club members.

Finally, the squadron also received a whopping \$1,157 donation from the proceeds of the US Coast Guard Captain of the Port Golf Tournament on May 7th!

Monthly Meetings



We've had a fantastic slate of speakers at our recent dinner meetings. At the **April** meeting, Savannah native and retired US Navy Captain Frank Butler, Jr. told gripping stories about his days as a leading Joint Special Forces medical officer in Afghanistan--and how his efforts to increase the use of tourniquets on the battlefield are saving thousands of American lives today. Capt. Butler also told us about a new hi-tech handcuff that allows Special Forces troops to immobilize any locals who stumble across their team behind enemy lines; the computerized cuffs are programmed to talk to the detainees in their native language, then release them at a predetermined time.

Cadets from the South Effingham High School NJROTC unit provided the presentation at our **May** meeting. We learned how these inspiring and motivated young people are using our grant to make great strides in their summer programs.



SPECIAL NOTE: In regards to our upcoming meetings, we have recently learned that the Hunter Club will be closed from August through November. Our August meeting will take place at the Pirate's House on East Broad St. downtown. We will notify everyone via email and our monthly e-newsletter about the locations of future meetings.

From the Ho Chi Minh Trail to the Mountains of Afghanistan:

Dinner Speakers Provide Widely Varied Presentations at Recent Meetings



Retired Special Operations officer, and current civilian manager of Hunter Army Airfield, Colonel Jack Dibrell spoke at our **June** meeting. Colonel Dibrell's fascinating career has included stints as a Special Operations helicopter pilot and a helicopter battalion commander, but his presentation focused on the latter portion of his three decades in uniform, when Dibrell led missions along the former Ho Chi Minh Trail in an effort to account for missing American service members from the Vietnam War.



News from Our Adopted Ships

“Sammy B” Heads to Sea

USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58), one of Savannah Council’s two adopted ships, began a six-month deployment to Africa on Tuesday, June 14th. Several days prior to the Sammy B’s departure, Savannah Council President Bob Gephart visited the ship at its homeport in Mayport, FL to recognize Sailor of the Year IC1 (SW) James Whitehead, Junior Sailor of the Year STG2(SW) Justin Salem, and Blue Jacket of the Year



EM3(SW) Grant Khanbalinov. Each sailor received a US Savings Bond and a book.



----- **AFRICOM JULY 2011** -----



USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732) Adoption

Several members of our council trekked down to Naval Submarine Station Kings Bay on Saturday, May 7th to officially adopt “our” submarine, USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732). We had a brief ceremony outside the main gate of the base, during which we presented books and savings bonds to the Blue Crew Sailor and Junior Sailor of the Year.



Afterwards, we broke up into small groups and enjoyed guided tours of the sub. The highlight of the evening was dinner with the Commanding Officers, Executive Officers, and Chiefs of the Boat for both the Gold and Blue Crews,



along with their spouses. We look forward to a long and enjoyable relationship with this proud submarine and her officers and men.

Savannah Navy Leaguers Tour Georgia Ports Authority



Thanks to Savannah Council Board Member Danica Grone for setting up a great tour of the Georgia Ports Authority's Garden City Terminal for our members on June 16, 2011. Two groups of 14 had the opportunity to see firsthand the operations of the fourth busiest and one of the fastest growing container terminals in the nation. Savannah Navy Leaguers visited one of two on-terminal rail facilities, drove through the container yard, and watched vessels working along the nearly two-mile container berth. The 1,200 acre facility is the largest single-terminal operation in the U.S.

Treasurer's Report - First Six Months

Thru the first six months of 2011, Savannah Council's total revenues were \$19,384 and expenses were \$16,001, leaving a net gain of \$3,383. These figures include revenue and costs associated with the 1st annual Captain of the Port Golf Event as well as other special events. If we excluded the impact of special events, the Council's first half income would be \$11,049, with expenses of \$8,471, netting a gain of \$2,581.

It is important to note that thru the first half of the year 70% of regular expenses have gone toward program expenses directly supporting the sea services. Savannah Council had \$ 21,946 in the Savannah Bank at the end of June.

The Savannah Council of the Navy League is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax deductible.



Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats

August 17

Make plans now to attend the Savannah Council's annual Coast Guard Night at the Ball Park as the Gnats take on the Asheville, NC Tourists on Wednesday evening, August 17th. More details will follow soon.

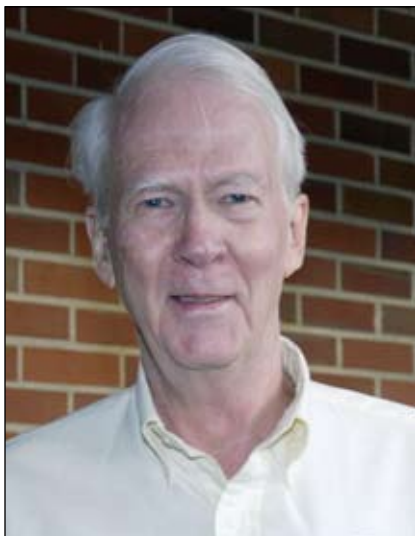


Have you invited a potential member to Navy League using your Be My Guest Card? Each paid member is entitled to two cards. Use them to recruit new SNL members!

John Innes

EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS ARTICLE IS THE LATEST INSTALLMENT IN A QUARTERLY SERIES FEATURING MEMBERS OF OUR SAVANNAH COUNCIL.

Savannah Navy Leaguer John Innes began his affiliation with our nation's sea services more than five decades ago. After graduating from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1955, John left behind the snowy days of New England for the sunshine of Pensacola, Florida and the rigors of US Navy flight training. Commissioned an Ensign in 1956, John went on to attend the Special Weapons School in Norfolk and reported to his first squadron shortly thereafter.



pilot for the chairman of US Steel, then finished law school at Temple University. John became House Counsel for the largest aviation insurance pool in the world, then became a plaintiff attorney for aviation accidents worldwide. His remarkable corporate career included an assignment from Grumman Corporation to reorganize the company now known as Gulfstream Aerospace. Today, John still makes an impact in the corporate world through ACH Processing Company, which he started in 1998.



LT John Innes, Naval Aviator

When asked why he is involved in the Navy League, John replies that it's a continuation of his very rewarding time in the Navy. John enjoys the friends he and his wife Marianne

and son Jim have made in the Savannah Council over the years, and says his fervent hope for the council is that we can recruit more members in the future.

Naval History Trivia Question

Here's this Quarter's Question:

Name the first purely jet-powered aircraft to operate from a US Navy aircraft carrier.

Answer: McDonnell FH Phantom, which completed four successful takeoffs and landings on July 21, 1946, from USS *Franklin D. Roosevelt* near Norfolk, Virginia. At the time, *Roosevelt* was the largest carrier serving with the US Navy, allowing the aircraft to take off without assistance from a catapult.



A Phantom aboard USS Saipan, 1948



The Phantom in 1946

Now Here's Our Next Question:

Name the US Navy officer, Savannah native, and Confederate States Navy Flag Officer who coined the well-known phrase, "Blood is thicker than water."

We'll have the answer in October in the next quarterly edition of our full-color, printed *Savannah Steamer!*

Sea Services Recognitions

Singling Out the Best

Our Savannah Council continued its work of helping recognize outstanding members of local sea service units. This quarter, our members have participated in recognition ceremonies for our adopted ships USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) and USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732), MALS-31 aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, SC, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Savannah, and the Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) at Coast Guard Station Tybee. As the school year wound to a close in May and June, we also had the opportunity to make presentations to outstanding Naval Junior ROTC cadets at several area high schools, as well as take part in the Savannah State University NROTC Unit's annual Spring Review.

To see photos of these recognition ceremonies and more, visit our council's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/nlsavannah.



Changes of Command

Changes at the Top

New CO's at Several Important Local Sea Service Commands

This quarter brings new faces to the top jobs at several of area sea service commands that our council regularly supports.

Our adopted Marine Corps Unit, MALS-31, has a new Devil Dog in charge. Lt. Col. William Gray assumed command during a May 6th ceremony attended by Savannah Navy Leaguers aboard Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort. Outgoing CO Lt. Col. Russell Blauw has transferred to MALS-40, a unit deployed to Afghanistan.



At a change of command ceremony at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront on Friday morning, June 3rd, Cmdr. Joseph Loring relieved Cmdr. Lonnie Harrison, Jr. as commander of the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Unit Savannah. Harrison, who served as the commanding officer of MSU Savannah for three years, has reported for duty as Chief, Waterways Management, Coast Guard Fifth District in Portsmouth, VA.



At a change of command ceremony on Thursday, July 16th, Captain Clark Price, a native of the Washington, D. C. area, became the new Commanding Officer of the Naval ROTC program at Savannah State University. Price relieved the retiring Capt. Kent Flowers, who assumed command of the unit in August 2008.

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Savannah Steamer Newsletter

Editor	Michael Jordan
Layout	Mick McCay
Photographer	Lynn Wright

The Navy League of the United States is a civilian organization dedicated to informing the American people 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.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 2nd, 5:30pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room, Coast Guard Air Station
Savannah

Wednesday, August 17th

Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats

Tuesday, August 23rd, 6pm

Monthly Dinner Meeting
The Pirate's House Restaurant,
downtown Savannah

Tuesday, September 6th, 5:30pm

Board of Directors Meeting
Board Room, Coast Guard Air Station Savannah

Tuesday, September 27th, 6pm

Monthly Dinner Meeting
Location TBA

**INVITE A GUEST TO
NAVY LEAGUE!**

Our Navy League Community Affiliates



Savannah Marine Repair
www.savannahmarinerepair.com

Savannah Riverfront
www.riverstreetsavannah.com



Savannah Maritime Association
www.savannahmaritime.com



Crescent Towing www.crescenttowing.com

The full-color printed edition of the *Savannah Steamer* is published quarterly; in addition, an online E-Newsletter is published each month and posted on the Savannah Council's website and FaceBook page.

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

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Savannah Navy League
PO Box 16918
Savannah, GA 31416