



Savannah Steamer

2009 and 2010 Mackie Award

Founded May 15th, 1957

4th Quarter, 2011 Vol. 37 Issue 6

Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

President's Message

WOW! It's hard to believe, but another year is drawing to a close. When you receive this you will probably be getting ready for Trick or Treaters. Then comes Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Pearl Harbor Day, and then Christmas! And during almost all this time, our two adopted ships will remain deployed in defense of our country and freedom of the seas.



USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG-58), which deployed in May, won't be returning from the Indian Ocean until almost Christmas, and USS *Alaska* – Blue (SSBN-732) is gone until sometime around the end of this year. USS *Alaska* – Gold returned to Kings Bay last month after an extended patrol of 104 days- second longest ever for an SSBN out of Kings Bay.

Our Savannah Council still has activities available for our

members to enjoy this year. We are especially looking forward to welcoming back Captain Donna Cottrell at our October 25 dinner meeting at the Pirates' House. Captain Cottrell was Commanding Officer of USCG Air Station Savannah 2007 – 2009, and is now stationed in Jacksonville.

We will be electing Officers and new Directors at our November 15 meeting, also at the Pirates' House – note the earlier than usual date – November 15 – so as not to conflict with Thanksgiving week. The slate of nominees is further in this newsletter. And - keep your fingers crossed – we are scheduled to have a US Navy cruiser visit Savannah in early December, followed closely by our annual Toys for Tots Christmas Party. Along the way we also hope to present some awards to local Coast Guard Sailors of the Quarter .

I hope you can take advantage of these opportunities to enjoy your Navy League membership, and please remember to keep all our sea service personnel and their families in your thoughts and prayers. See you soon!

Bob

PO 2nd Class Michael Walker McCumber

Sea Cadets Month/ Sea Cadet of the Year

September was Sea Cadets Month, and is the time when our Savannah Sea Cadets Squadron names its Cadet of the Year and awards this outstanding young person the Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal. This year's Cadet of the year is Michael Walker McCumber, Jr.



Petty Officer 2nd Class McCumber was born and raised in Savannah, and is a junior at Savannah Christian Preparatory School. Michael decided several years ago that he wanted to serve his country by attending the Naval Academy and then becoming a Navy or Marine Corps officer.

Being a very pragmatic young man, Michael planned well and took steps years in advance to ensure his dream would become a reality. Joining the Savannah Squadron in late 2009, Michael has climbed the ranks quickly, now serving as the Squadron's Leading Petty Officer (LPO). He has attended Recruit Training, Petty Officer Leadership Academy,

Helicopter Combat school, and Advanced Medical training, and has also served as a staff cadet, helping to train others. Michael has earned ribbons for physical fitness, community service, academic achievement, color guard, and more.

McCumber is also very active at school where he serves on Student Council and Student Government, runs cross country and track, wrestles, and is an active member of the Key Club. He is the son of Kim McCumber and Michael McCumber. He is the grandson of Annette D. Wardlaw and Barbara and Walker McCumber.



Sea Cadet of the Year LPO Michael McCumber, Jr. appeared with Savannah Council President Bob Gephart on WTOC-TV's Mid-Morning Live program on Thursday, October 6th.

Council Honors

Savannah Council Garner's National Recognitions

The Savannah Council has earned a 2010 Outstanding Council Award. This award goes to only the very top councils of the Navy League. It is great recognition of the leadership of Tom Latham - President of our council in 2010, and the work of so many of our council members during the past year. Key components leading to this award are the many recognition awards our council presents to



Navy, Marine, and Coast Guard units in our area. Other factors are events we organize, like the Sand Gnats picnic / ballgame for Coast Guard units, our participation in Change of Command events, and our strong, continuing support of our local Sea Cadets unit. All of our membership should celebrate this very positive recognition of our Savannah Council. Thanks to all who made this possible.

In early August, we also learned that our newsletter, the *Savannah Steamer*, received 3rd place in this year's Donald M. Mackie Award competition for Best Medium Council Newsletter.

Both awards will be presented at the Hall of Fame and Honors Luncheon on Thursday, October 27, 2011 during the NLUS National Convention in Chattanooga, TN.

Slate of 2012 Council Leaders

Time to Select New Council Leaders!

The following individuals have agreed to serve in leadership positions in our council in the coming year. As directed in our by-laws, we will be voting to approve this slate at our November 15th dinner meeting. Thanks to all who volunteered to serve, and to the members of our nominating committee for doing the yeoman's work of pulling this list together.

Officers:

<i>President</i>	Bob Gephart
<i>First Vice President</i>	Michael Jordan
<i>Second Vice President</i>	Larry Wills
<i>Vice President – Legislative Affairs</i>	Tom Wright
<i>Vice President</i>	Mick McCay
<i>Judge Advocate</i>	Ed Robb
<i>Treasurer</i>	Cliff Angers
<i>Secretary</i>	Frank McCarthy

Directors:

Class of 2012	Class of 2013	Class of 2014
Jeff Zureick	Danica Grone	Gary Johnson
Larry Maurer	Joe Tillman	Ed Lavish
Pat Yovich	Alexia Pittas, Esq.	John Innes

Nominating Committee:

Larry Maurer, Chairman
Members: Larry Wills, Lynn Wright, Sam McLaughlin, and Gary Johnson.

Helping Those Who Help Us:

Effort Continues to Aid Injured Coast Guardsman

Our council continues to help the family of MK2 Sean Bretz, a 23-year-old Coast Guardsman who suffered a brain aneurism in June. Bretz, a Chatham County native, is receiving treatment undergoing surgery. Sean is responding well and getting stronger every day, but his house on Wilmington Island here in Savannah needs a lot of work to prepare for his arrival and longer-term care.

Savannah Council member Joe Tillman has spent many hours surveying the Bretz's home and developing specific engineering drawings and material lists for the home's redesign and construction. Our Immediate Past President Tom Latham helped obtain a \$2,000 donation from the Landings Military Family Relief Fund. This, coupled with donations from Coast Guard Air Station Savannah and a recent fundraiser, have helped close the gap.



Joe Tillman and Command Master Chief Eric Evans of Air Station Savannah are almost ready to begin work on Bretz's home. If you would like to contribute, or help out with the construction work, please contact Joe at (912) 658-1694 or ctsinsav@comcast.net

October Dinner Meeting

A Friend Returns

Capt. Donna Cottrell, who was a regular attendee at our council's events when she was the Commanding Officer at Coast Guard Air Station Savannah not too long ago, will return as the speaker at our next dinner meeting at 6pm on Tuesday night, October 25th, at the Pirates' House Restaurant on E. Broad St. in downtown Savannah.



Capt. Cottrell is now in charge of the Jacksonville, FL-based HITRON, the Coast Guard's only armed helo squadron, charged with interdicting drug smugglers in offshore waters. Since its inception, HITRON has stopped 122 drug smuggling vessels and confiscated over 162 tons of cocaine and over 7 tons of marijuana for a street value estimated at \$8.6 billion.

This month's meeting will again be at the Pirates' House, 20 E. Broad St., since the Hunter Club is still not available.

Naval History Trivia Question

Last Quarter's 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."

Answer:

Flag Officer Josiah Tattnall, Confederate States Navy.



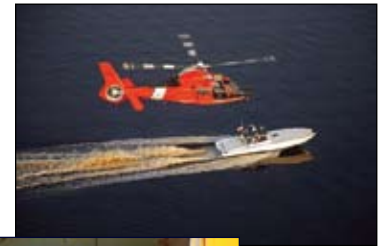
In 1859, while still a Commodore in the US Navy, Tattnall ordered his vessel, USS *Toeywan*, to come unexpectedly to the aid of a British squadron engaged in attack on the Chinese at the mouth of the Pei-ho River. When the US Secretary of the Navy later asked for an explanation, Tattnall replied, "Blood is thicker than water – presumably meaning that the Anglo-American blood coursing through his

veins was stronger than the Atlantic Ocean separating the US and Great Britain. While Tattnall catapulted the statement into popular use, it had appeared as early as 1670 in a book of Scottish proverbs.

Tattnall was a noted, high-ranking US Navy officer in his late sixties at the outbreak of the Civil War, with service dating to the War of 1812. Along with many of his fellow Southerners, Tattnall, the son of a former Georgia governor, resigned his commission and cast his lot with the new Confederacy. He is buried in Bonaventure Cemetery, site of his family's former plantation.

Now Here's Our Next Question: Name the other nation in the Western Hemisphere whose navy has an aircraft carrier utilizing catapults and arresting cables.

We'll have the answer in January in the next quarterly edition of the Savannah Steamer.



October 25th Dinner Meeting 6:00 pm, The Pirates' House

Reserve your seat today! Reservations are due no later than close of business on Friday, Oct. 21st. The cost is \$22 per person. Please contact Sybil Cannon at (912) 964-5366 or RSlaty2@att.net to reserve your place.

Treasurer's Report

Thru the first nine months of 2011, Savannah Council's total revenues were \$24,063 and expenses were \$23,936, leaving a net gain of \$127. These figures include revenue and costs associated with the 1st annual Captain of the Port Golf Event and the Coast Guard Sand Gnats Picnic. It is important to note that thru September, 70% of regular expenses have gone toward program expenses directly supporting the sea services.

Our cash position remains pretty healthy with \$18,745 in the bank on September 30. However, it is no secret that until we begin to receive proceeds from our 2012 dues drive cash will only be going one way—and that of course is out. Already we are experiencing a reduction in rebate income from NLUS. We will have to have a very successful 2012 drive for dues and contributions in order to continue our strong support of sea service programs.

Cliff Angers, Treasurer



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!

An Active Quarter

There are numerous Coast Guard commands in Chatham County, and our members have enjoyed the privilege of interacting with all of them over the past quarter.

We continued our tradition of helping honor outstanding Coast Guard personnel from each of the commands. On Monday, July 11, Bob Gephart, Tom Latham, and Joe Tillman helped recognize Guardian of the Quarter YN1 Stephanie Fomby at Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Savannah. On Wednesday, July 13th, the trio helped recognize AMT1 Michael Keohane at Air Station Savannah. Tillman and Gephart helped recognize BM3 Timothy L. Steigner, USCG Station Tybee Sailor of the Quarter, at a ceremony on July 27th, and Mike Campbell joined Gephart to honor USCG Aids to Navigation Team Tybee Sailor of the Quarter SN Garrett Tuller on August 26th. Each of our Coast Guard honorees received a book from the Commandant's reading list and a \$100 US Savings Bond. Congratulations to these great Coast Guard personnel! Tom Wright also attended most of these events and provide some fine photos.

Our annual Coast Guard night out at the ballpark on August 17th was a huge success, with 248 Coast Guard members and their families attending.

MSTC Mark Henricksen of Marine Safety Unit Savannah threw out the first pitch, and the crowd at Grayson Stadium thrilled to a fly-by from one of the helos from Air Station Savannah. Thanks to the Sand Gnats and Georgia Ports Authority for helping the Savannah Council make this special evening possible.

When Hurricane Irene passed up the East Coast, five Coast Guard cutters from throughout the region took refuge by docking on River Street. Our council hosted a reception honoring them at Kevin Barry's Pub on August 26th. The group included the cutters *Oak* and *Yellowfin* from Charleston, *Block Island* from Atlantic Beach, NC, *Beluga* from Hampton Roads, VA, and Tybee Island's own *Tarpon*.



YN1 Stephanie Fomby, at left



SN Garrett Tuller, center



BM3 Timothy L. Steigner, at left



AMT1 Michael Keohane, at right



Young Devon Lauters nabs a prize foul ball at the Gnats Coast Guard Night in August.



Third Quarter Dinner Meetings

Meetings Wrap-Up

We began the third quarter with a relaxed “movie night” at the Hunter Club on July 26th, enjoying heavy snacks and a screening of the History Channel “Hero Ships” series episode about our adopted surface ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58), and the other two warships which have borne Roberts’ name.

A big thanks to CDR Tim Tobiasz, CO of Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, who agreed to be the speaker for our August 23rd dinner meeting when our scheduled speakers had to back out at the last minute. CDR Tobiasz gave a fascinating presentation about his efforts leading the helicopter rescue efforts during Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans in 2005. It was fitting that we had a Coast Guard speaker, as we also cut a Coast Guard birthday cake for dessert.

Our scheduled speakers, the Blue Crew leadership from USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732) were forced to cancel their visit when sub group commanders ordered the sub to stay in port awaiting possible orders to divert around approaching Hurricane Irene. We hope to bring them back to one of our meetings sometime early next year.

Our meeting took place at the Pirates’ House on East Broad Street downtown, a new location we’re trying out because the Hunter Club, our usual dinner spot, is closed for renovations. Thanks much to the Pirates’ House crew for an awesome meal and great service all around! We’ll be meeting at the Pirate’s House again this month.

Our next dinner meeting took place at Coast Guard Station Tybee Island on Tuesday evening, September 27th. We enjoyed a shrimp boil and BBQ from Barnes Restaurants, and were treated to a rescue demonstration from Coast Guard Air Station Savannah.



News from Our Adopted Ships

USS Alaska Change of Command



Rear Admiral Joseph P. Mulloy, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for Budget Director, Fiscal Management Division, awards the Meritorious Service Medal to CDR Cory Jackson, outgoing commanding officer, USS Alaska (SSBN 732) (Gold), on Sept. 23 at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class(SW) James Kimber) US Navy

It's been a busy and exciting time for the Savannah Council and our adopted submarine USS *Alaska* (SSBN 732). On Wednesday, September 21st, our group helped officially recognize several outstanding sailors from both crews, and presented the sub with a Rosetta Stone foreign language training program to use during their deployments. Recognized at the event were Blue Crew Sailors of the Quarter Kevin Huguely and Ryan Koller and Junior Sailors of the Quarter Jake Pendergrass and Matthew Ryals, as well as Gold Crew Sailors of the Quarter Stephen Brown and John Pine and Junior Sailors of the Quarter Scott Butler and Jerome Green.

Two days later, members of our Council went back to Kings

Bay to take part in the Change of Command ceremony for *Alaska's* Gold Crew. CDR Robert Wirth assumed command, relieving outgoing Commanding Officer, CDR Cory Jackson, who received the Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony.

Sammy B Christmas Ornaments are Here!

We now have 24 Christmas ornaments featuring our adopted surface ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58). We purchased the ornaments directly from the ship's Family Support Group as part of a fundraiser



for the sailors' families. Show your support by purchasing an ornament of your own at our dinner meeting on October 25th! Ornaments are just \$6.

New Documentary Premiers

At Sea Aboard the Sammy B

In August, Savannah Council First Vice President Michael Jordan spent more than two weeks at sea aboard our adopted surface ship, USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG 58) in the Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa. Michael, who is a filmmaker and television journalist, will be sharing this experience with the public in a two-part television series, "No Higher Honor," airing next month on local stations in Jacksonville and Savannah.

You may watch "No Higher Honor" at 6:00 pm on Saturday, November 19th and again from 6:30 pm on Saturday, November 26th on WTGS/FOX 28 in Savannah. Clips



from the show are posted online at www.nohigherhonor.net, and you may purchase DVDs of the series there as well.

Michael will be hosting a premier party from 6:30-9pm on Friday, November 4th at Moon River Brewing Company (21 W. Bay St. in downtown Savannah) to give us a sneak peak of the show. The event is free of charge, and the restaurant, which sponsored the show, will provide light hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

The Savannah Council is also sponsoring the show, and Michael will be making a 30-second TV commercial featuring our council to air during the broadcast. We will use this spot as a Public Service Announcement in the future.



*You are Invited
to the 2011
Navy League Christmas Party*

Date: Friday, Dec. 9th

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*Place: Billy's Place at McDonough's Pub
20 E. Perry St. behind The Savannah Theater (same as last year)*

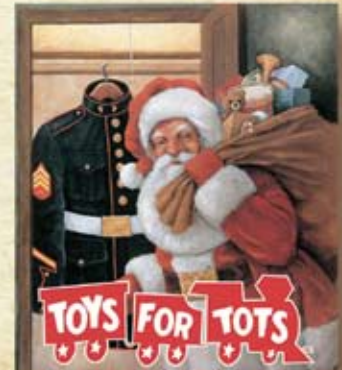
Cost: \$25.00 per person

Heavy Hors d'oeuvre Buffet

Cash Bar

Live Music

**Don't Forget to Bring a New
Unwrapped Toy or Gift Card for the
Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive**



*Reservations
and Payment
by Nov. 30th to:*

*Danaca Grone
P.O. Box 533
Savannah, GA 31402
Danica.Grone@gmail.com
tel: 912.308.2919
Make checks to
Savannah Navy League*

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 25 th, 6:00 pm

Monthly dinner meeting at the Pirates' House Restaurant
E. Broad at Bay St. in downtown Savannah

Sunday, November 6th, 5:30 pm

Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Service
Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Emmet Park

Tuesday, November 1st, 5:30 pm

Monthly board of directors meeting
Coast Guard Air Station Savannah

Friday, November 11th, 10:15 am

62nd Annual Savannah Veterans Day Parade

Sunday, November 13th, 4 pm

Massing of the Colors
Savannah Christian Church West of HWY 17 off Highway 204

Tuesday, November 15th, 6 pm

Monthly dinner meeting at the Pirates' House Restaurant
E. Broad at Bay St. in downtown Savannah

***Sunday, December 4th, 1 pm**

Annual Pearl Harbor Day Observance
Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, Pooler

Tuesday, December 6th, 5:30 pm

Monthly board of directors meeting
Coast Guard Air Station Savannah

****We are anticipating a US Navy ship visit in December
to coincide with the Pearl Harbor Day observances in
Savannah. Please stay tuned for more information!***

2011 Officers and Directors

President	Bob Gephart
First Vice President	Michael Jordan
Vice President	Frank McCarthy
Vice President	Mick McCay
Vice President	Larry Wills
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Frank McCarthy
Directors	
Danica Grone	Larry Maurer
JEB Harper	Joe Tillman
Louis Hohenstein	Alexia Pittas, Esq.
Jerry Hogan	Jeff Zureich
John Innes	
Immediate Past President	Tom Latham

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.

Membership

Welcome New Members in Calendar Year 2011 to date

John McKenna	Hays Clark Sr.
Louis & Jeanette Cason	Joseph Maggioni
Wayne & Janet Kuhn	Kim McCumber
Garvin McClain	Brianna Mercado
Larry & Mary Ellen Sprague	Donald Kipp
Crescent Towing	Dan Drake
Andrew White	William Milligan
Anthony Baker	

INVITE A GUEST TO NAVY LEAGUE!

Support Our Navy League Community Affiliates



Savannah Marine Repair
www.savannahmarinerepair.com

Savannah Riverfront
www.riverstreetsavannah.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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