



# Savannah Steamer

***Founded May 15th, 1957***

September 2009

Volume 35 Issue 9

## Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President



**Now Hear This,**

**NOW HEAR THIS,**

Navy Leaguers, mark your calendars for two upcoming special events. At our dinner meeting on 22 September, as part of National Sea Cadet month, we'll be recognizing our local unit, the Admiral Adolph H. Blumenfeld Division. Having been in operation for some 25 years, the Blumenfeld unit is authorized to display on its unit flag a 25<sup>th</sup> year silver steamer which will be presented at the meeting. Twenty fifth year ribbons also will be presented to qualifying cadets by the unit's Commanding Officer, Kevin Hay. In addition, the Blumenfeld Division's Cadet of the Year will be announced and presented with the NLUS's "Teddy Roosevelt Medal" for all-around excellence in academics, extra-curricular activities and outstanding participation in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

The second upcoming special event will be a reception on board a US Navy Cruiser on Friday, 2 October from 6 to 8 PM. We expect that the ship, moored at GPA, will participate in Savannah's annual Oktoberfest weekend activities. All Navy Leaguers are welcome. Please contact Tom Wright, [twright3@hotmail.com](mailto:twright3@hotmail.com), if you have questions or would like to bring guests.

Are we having a good year? I believe most Council members believe we are adhering to our mission statement and working in a positive way insofar as implementing our stated goals. However, there are areas where improvements are needed and the Council leadership needs your help. Fresh faces and new ideas are required not only to maintain the current momentum but to get us to the next level as we transition to 2010. Please consider how your interests and talents can best fit into our organizational structure which has openings for directors, officers and committee members. Please contact any member of the 2009 Nominating Committee (Bob Gephart, Gary Johnson, Michael Jordan, Debbie Keller and Hugh Robinson) or me to learn more about where your talents can be best utilized. The Report of the Nominating Committee will be presented to the Council at its dinner meeting on 27 October.

Join us at the Hunter Club on 22 September when our speaker will be LTC Jose Aguilar USA, Garrison Commander of Hunter AAF. Please remember that dinner reservations are required by NOON on Friday, 18 September. Thanks for your cooperation.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller, President

## Upcoming

September 22  
Dinner Meeting  
LTC Jose Aguilar, USA  
Garrison Commander  
Hunter Army Airfield

October 3 – 5  
Oktoberfest on the River

October 6  
Board of Directors  
Savannah State University

October 18  
Sea Cadets  
Drill competition  
Hunter Army Airfield

October 20  
Dinner Meeting  
Harbor Pilots

November 3  
Board of Directors  
Savannah State University

November 17 (new date)  
Dinner Meeting  
CAPT Mark Bernier, USN  
CO, Naval Hospital Beaufort

December 1  
Board of Directors  
Savannah State University

December 7  
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
U.S. Navy ship visit

December 11  
Savannah Council Christmas Party  
Savannah Yacht Club



## Membership Corner

Welcome Back!! Summer is over and many of us are returning to Savannah from our vacations, rested and ready for a fall full of Navy League activities. We offer a special welcome to Anne Hohenstein, wife of Lou, as a new transfer member to Savannah from the Atlanta Council. I wish I had a long list of new members to share with you, but such is not the case. We all need to invite new friends to join SCNL and encourage current members to renew memberships in a timely manner.

If you are in need of a membership application for a prospective member, or just need a little help renewing your membership, please contact me and I will see that you receive the assistance you need. Debbie Keller, 912-598-0940 or [dtkeller29@aol.com](mailto:dtkeller29@aol.com).

## Your Chance To Serve

A nominating committee has been formed to recommend candidates for board and officer positions that are open for 2010.

The nominating committee is made up of five members, two from the board, two from the membership at large and one appointed by the President. They are Bob Gephart, Gary Johnson, Debbie Keller, Hugh Robinson and Michael Jordan. The committee will report their recommendations to the board in October and the election will be held at our regular dinner meeting in November.

There are three director positions open as well as all officer positions. Directors serve for three-year terms and officers for one year.

Please contact any of the committee members if you would like to recommend someone or if you would be interested in serving yourself. The candidate names and recommended position will be published in the October newsletter.



## Our Next Speaker

Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dinner Meeting  
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club

Lieutenant Colonel Jose L. Aguilar, USA

**Garrison Commander, Hunter Army Airfield**

LTC Jose L. Aguilar currently serves as the Garrison Commander, Hunter Army Airfield. He received his U.S. Army commission in 1991 and has served in numerous leadership and staff positions in Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Prior to joining the HAAF Team, he served as the Deputy Commander, Portland District, US Army Corps of Engineers. He holds a B.S. degree in civil engineering from the United States Military Academy and an MBA from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. His military education includes the engineer officer's basic and advanced courses and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff Course. His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal (1 Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Achievement Medal (4 Oak Leaf Clusters) and other service awards. LTC Aguilar is married to the former Suzanne Calahong from San Francisco, CA and they have three children.

**Reserve Your Seat Today!**

**Reservations must be made by Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>  
by contacting Sybil Cannon at  
912-964-5366 or RSalty2@att.net.**

## Oktoberfest Ship Visit Scheduled



The Navy League is pleased to welcome a US Navy Guided Missile Cruiser to Savannah for Oktoberfest. Join us for a welcoming reception on board from 6 to 8 PM, Friday, October 2nd, at GA Ports Ocean Terminal. All current Navy League members are on the Security List. For member guests, please send names that match photo IDs to Tom Wright, [twright3@hotmail.com](mailto:twright3@hotmail.com) or 912-897-1582, by Monday, September 28, 2009, and please contribute \$5 for each member guest to the council at the next member meeting or by mail (not at the reception).

## From Our August 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting

We were treated to an engaging and energetic speaker. Clearly, CAPT Kent V. Flowers, USN enjoys what he is doing. He reviewed his rise from a tough poor neighborhood on Chicago's South Side to a successful career in the US Navy. Early on he recognized that a good education would be essential, and he was graduated in 1981 from the University of Virginia where he received a commission through the NROTC program.

He reviewed the history and organization of Savannah State University where he is now Commanding Officer of the NROTC program. He discussed what is required of applicants to get into and to graduate from the program. Scholarships are available after admittance, and graduates receive commissions in the US Navy or the US Marine Corps.

CAPT Flowers used a video presentation to highlight faculty scholars who have preceded him at SSU. Honored graduates include CAPT Bernard L. Jackson, USN, whose assignments included Commanding Officer, USS McFaul (DDG-74) and CDR Donnie Cochran, USN, who was the first African American to command the Blue Angels flight demonstration team. MG Walter Gaskin, USMC, is the highest ranking graduate of the SSU NROTC program.



Savannah Council Vice President Bob Gaphart presents a Navy League history book to CAPT Flowers following Flowers' presentation at the August 25th dinner meeting.

## Sammy B Awards Ceremony September 17<sup>th</sup>

A group of Navy Leaguers from our council made the trip to Mayport Naval Station to present awards to deserving crewmembers. Awards were given to the following:

- Robert Calvert, Sailor of the Quarter
- Mathew P Sidor, Junior Sailor of the Quarter
- Alan Motsinger, Blue Jacket of the Quarter

There was also a special award given to Lisa Johnson for her outstanding work as ombudsman in supporting families of the Sammy B. Lisa's husband is a chief Petty Officer aboard the Sammy B.

Those representing the Navy League included Gary Johnson, Larry Wills, Bob Gephart, Sam McLaughlin and Judy Roddy.



## Savannah Council Hosts Coast Guard Night at the Sand Gnats



Approximately 89 adults and more than 30 children from the local Coast Guard units attended the annual Coast Guard Night picnic and ballgame at Grayson Stadium on August 26. Funding for this annual event is provided by Georgia Ports Authority. There were also 17 Navy League members in attendance.

First pitch honors were shared by Chief James Bodenrader of Station Tybee and Marine Science Technician 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Aaron Cuadrado of MSU – Savannah. Both pitches were fast balls, right in there! There was also a spirited tug of war by the USCG children after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, resulting in a draw!



The weather was great, the food was good, the beer was cold, and a great time was had by all.  
--Bob Gephart

## Savannah Council Meets with Rep. Barrow

NLUS Presentation #2 was reviewed with Congressman John Barrow in his Savannah office, Wednesday, August 26 by Bob Gephart and Tom Wright. Congressman Barrow's Constituent Outreach Director, Ms. Kristin Fulford, also attended.

This presentation was put together by National to solicit support of members of Congress for increased funding of the Navy and Coast Guard. The specific target for the Navy is to increase shipbuilding to 10-11 ships per year from the recent schedule of 6-8 ships per year. The Coast Guard objective is to increase funding for their Deepwater Program.

Congressman Barrow gave us a full 30 minutes and was very engaged and supportive of our presentation. He was already conversant with the USCG Deepwater Program and especially interested in USCG port security.

--Bob Gephart



*Tom Wright, Rep. John Barrow, and Bob Gephart*

# Savannah Council Holiday Party

**DECEMBER 11, 2009**  
**6:30 – 10:30**  
**SAVANNAH YACHT CLUB**



**Entrée: Prime Rib or Tilapia**  
**Dessert: Chocolate Tower**  
**\$55.00 per Person--Cash Bar**  
**Entertainment: Savannah Steve**

## Treasurer's Report

Through the first eight months of 2009, Savannah Council has generated income amounting to \$14,825. With total expenditures of \$10,832 this yields a gain of \$3,993. Our cash position remains strong with approximately \$ 26,000 in the bank. Your Council continues to spend the great majority of its funds on programs which directly support our sea services. During August 81% of expenditures supported these programs.

We enjoyed an attendance of 71 members and guests at last month's dinner meeting to hear Captain Kent Flowers give us his insights into his career and into the SSU Navy ROTC Program.

**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.

Check our website at <http://savannah.navyleague.us>

### 2009 Officers And Directors

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Official Document: Savannah Council of the Navy League of the United States

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Savannah, GA  
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