



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President



Now Hear This,

Once again weather prognosticators (those Irish or otherwise) are forecasting pleasant, seasonable weather for the Savannah's 2009 St. Patrick's Day festivities. This

year Savannah Council is pleased and honored to welcome USCGC *Tarpon* from Station Tybee and USCGC *Sea Dragon* from Kings Bay, along with RADM Robert Branham, Coast Guard District Seven Commander from Miami. The cutters are scheduled to arrive on Sunday afternoon, March 15th after having received a cannon salute at Old Fort Jackson. Tours of USCGC *Sea Dragon* will be available to Navy Leaguers and guests beginning at 4:00 PM on Sunday, one hour prior to the 5:00 PM commencement of a reception at Kevin Barry's Pub (117 West River Street, 2nd floor). The reception will afford Savannah Council an opportunity to pay tribute to members of our local and visiting sea services, Parade Committee and fellow Navy Leaguers.

Please send an email to Tom Wright, twright3@hotmail.com, if you plan to tour USCGC *Sea Dragon* and/or attend the reception. Please mail a contribution of \$5 for each guest to Savannah Council Navy League, PO Box 16918, Savannah, GA 31416.

Our visiting and local sea service personnel will participate in the Jasper Greene Ceremony in Madison Square at 4:30 PM, Monday, March 16th. Navy Leaguers are welcome and the Parade Committee will sponsor a reception in the Knights of Columbus Hall after the ceremony.

Tuesday's parade will include representatives of local and visiting Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard units. Please enjoy the festivities and have a safe St. Patrick's Day weekend.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller-Savannah Council President

**March 24th Dinner Meeting
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club**

Colonel Jeffery M. Peterson, USMC
Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Eastern Recruiting Region



***For more details
on page 3 . . .***

Upcoming

March 15

Tour USCGC Sea Dragon
Reception Kevin Barry's Pub

March 17

St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 24 Dinner Meeting

Colonel Jeff Peterson, USMC
Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Eastern Recruiting Region

April 7

Board of Directors Meeting

April 28 Dinner Meeting

Lt. Col. Fred Craig, USMC
(Retired)
Blue Angel

May 26 Dinner Meeting

Colonel Gregg Brinegar
CO, Marine Air Group 31

St. Patrick's Day Activities



The Navy League is pleased to announce that USCGC *Tarpon* from Station Tybee and USCGC *Sea Dragon* from Kings Bay will participate in Savannah's St. Patrick's Day activities, along with RADM Robert Branham, Coast Guard District Seven Commander from Miami. The Navy League will have a social period/reception 5-6:30 PM, Sunday, March 15th, on the second floor at Kevin Barry's for our visiting and local sea services, the Parade Committee and Navy Leaguers.

The cutters are scheduled to arrive Sunday afternoon, March 15th, receive cannon salutes at Old Fort Jackson and berth on River Street, either just east or just west of the Hyatt Regency. USCGC *Sea Dragon* was commissioned in Kings Bay last year with Libby Kingston as her sponsor. *Sea Dragon* will open to Navy Leaguers for tours at 4 PM, one hour before the start of the reception on Sunday. Navy League members and guests are welcome at all activities. Please send an email to Tom Wright, twright3@hotmail.com, if you plan to attend the reception.

Please mail a contribution of \$5 for member guests to Savannah

Council Navy League, PO Box 16918, Savannah, GA 31416.

Our visiting and local sea services will participate in the Jasper Greene Ceremony in Madison Square at 4:30 PM, Monday, March 16th. Navy Leaguers are welcome and the Parade Committee sponsors a reception in the Knights of Columbus Hall after the ceremony. Tom Latham is working with USCG Marine Safety Unit Savannah to coordinate sea service participation.

Coast Guard Softball



The Savannah Council has an objective of increasing our support of our local Coast Guard units in 2009. One area that has recently arisen is the cost these units incur for participation in local softball leagues. In the past, members paid most of the cost supplemented by the unit morale fund.

Recently, league costs have increased, putting a strain on Coast Guard participation. The Savannah Council Board of Directors has voted to make a donation to both Station Tybee and Marine Safety Unit (MSU) morale funds to support these activities.

MSU has invited all Navy League members to attend their intramural softball game, pitting the Officers vs. Enlisted, on Friday, March 13. The game will start about 8:30 AM and go most of the morning, with pizza and cokes / water following about 11 AM. The game will be held at HAAF, just past the Hunter Club on the right side of the road, entering from Montgomery Gate.
--Bob Gephart



Our Next Speaker:

March 24th Dinner Meeting
6:00 P.M., Hunter Club

Colonel Jeffery M. Peterson
USMC

Chief of Staff
Marine Corps Recruit Depot
Eastern Recruiting Region

Born in 1961, Col. Peterson graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. degree in business and economics from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1982. He attended the Platoon Leaders Course in Quantico, VA and was commissioned second lieutenant in December 1982.

Following graduation from The Basic School in 1983 he attended the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course at Fort Sill, OK. In 1984 he reported to Battery E, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment as artillery forward observer and fire direction officer.

In 1986, first lieutenant Peterson reported to 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade at Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He was promoted to captain in 1988 and was selected to attend Navy Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA. He graduated with distinction with an M.S. and earned the faculty award for academic excellence.

In 1990, CPT Peterson reported to Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington, D.C. and in 1993 he reported to 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit in Okinawa, Japan, for duty as the adjutant. He was promoted to major in 1994 and assumed duties as commanding officer, Recruiting Station Montgomery AL. MAJ Peterson attended Marine Corps Command and Staff College, 1998-1999, and then reported to Marine Corps Headquarters, Quantico, VA in June 1999. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1999 and was assigned to Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC from 2000 to 2002. He subsequently attended U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, PA, graduating in June 2003.

Reserve Your Seat Today!

Please contact Aunette Shipes at (912) 330-9232 or savfoxy@bellsouth.net
NO LATER THAN MARCH 22nd.

From Our Feb. 24th Meeting



BM1 Poden "Pete" Pedrus, Guardian of the Quarter - MSU



AMT3 Andre Blanchard, Guardian of the Year 2008 - Air Station

NOT PICTURED: Michael S. Rohland, Enlisted Person of the Year - MSU
AST1 Charles Fowler, Guardian of the Quarter - Air Station

In the absence of President Jim Keller, First Past President Gary Johnson presided at the meeting. In his introduction Gary confirmed that there will not be a U.S. Navy ship visit for St. Patrick's Day or a shipboard reception on March 15th. He introduced our vibrant and engaging speaker for the evening, Major General Tony Cucolo, US Army. MG Cucolo is Commanding General, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield, GA.

With 35,000 military personnel and civilian employees, Fort Stewart is the largest military installation east of the Mississippi River. 20% of the military families live on post. Its local economic impact is about \$4.33 billion per year, which is greater than that of tourism.

The foot soldier is the basic element of the 3rd ID, which is now being structured into a modular organization based on integrated brigades. A fifth brigade of 3,500 soldiers is scheduled to arrive next year. With the expected growth there will be an extreme need for off-post housing.

The 3rd ID began in 1917 on a bend in the river Marne where it did not yield position to an onslaught by German troops, and it has since been known as the "Rock of the Marne". Over the years, 51 recipients of the Medal of Honor have been members of the 3rd ID.

Vets May Now Salute the Flag

A Congressional Amendment sponsored by Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2009 specifically states that "members of the Armed Forces and Veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute." Veterans can salute the flag during the National Anthem as well as during "the hoisting, lowering and passing of the flag." "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform. The U.S. Code is now consistent for Veterans and all service members in regards to the symbolic gesture of the military salute."



Membership Corner

WOW!! "You guys" (can you tell I am from "the Alabama part of Pennsylvania") are doing a great job of signing up new members. Keep up the tremendous effort. We currently have 311 members on our rolls at National, plus a few whose applications are still in the works. The following members have joined our ranks since our last newsletter:

New Members

Gayla Baker
Ben T. Franklin
Robert R. Howell
Jettie Johnson
Thomas S. Johnson
Dannie Meeker
Marcia Wills

Sponsors

Jack Grument
Edwin Feiler
Unknown
Jim Morison
Jim Morison
Unknown
Lawrence Wills



Please continue to make our new members feel welcome.

Also, keep those local dues coming; we are currently at 192 and counting. We have quite a few folks who paid local dues last year, but have yet to do so for 2009. Local dues are used to provide funding for the projects of SCNL right here in Savannah, i.e., ship receptions, St. Patrick's Day Parade and other parade entry fees, military awards programs, and Sea Cadets, just to mention a few. It is not too late to pay now.

If you are in need of an application for a friend or have a question about your membership, please contact Debbie Keller, Membership Chair, at dtkeller29@aol.com or 912-598-0940.

USS Roberts Update

The new CO of the *Roberts*, CDR Chuck Sellers, reported that the *Roberts* is currently still deployed and should be returning to Mayport early spring. He assumed command of the *Roberts* in December 2008 from CDR Wally Lovely who went to a new duty station in Hawaii

Congratulations to the Sammy B for winning the "Battle E" Award this past year. This award recognizes ships that have sustained superior performance in operational environment and sustained continuous readiness throughout the year. Kudos to the crew for winning this coveted award.

The Savannah Council will be participating in the Sammy B's award ceremonies after its return to port.

CDR Sellers said the "The Claw", the ship's newsletter, will be coming out this month and will be available to us so that we can all share in the life and experiences of the ship. He also said that he looks forward to coming to one of our meetings in the near future so we will be able to get know each other better. Smooth sailing to Sammy B.

--Gary Johnson



CDR Chuck Sellers, new CO of the USS *Roberts* (FFG-58), the Savannah Council's adopted ship.

Treasurer's Report

2009 Officers And Directors

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Jim Keller

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Bob Gephart
Jim Morison
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Larry Wills

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Gary Johnson

Newsletter Editors
Phil Kirk
Michael Jordan

Photographer
Lynn Wright

RESULTS TO-DATE: Revenue year-to-date is \$4,069 against expenses of \$1,876, yielding a \$2,193 positive balance. These results are primarily due to returns from our local dues drive. The February 24th dinner meeting with Major General Cucolo as the featured speaker was a huge success with paid attendance at 115. We had a small loss from that meeting with comps given to the General and staff as well as our Sea Cadets.

Other expenses were related to savings bond awards, sponsorship of a forthcoming MSU softball game, participation in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and our quarterly grant to the Sea Cadets.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE: While we have received 2009 local dues from the large majority of our membership list a good number of you have still not sent in your dues. If your remittance has somehow escaped you, please send in your \$15.00 check right away. Send it to Cliff Angers, Treasurer, 202 Wickersham Dr. Savannah, GA 31411. (And remember, it is a requirement for all local members to also be a National Navy League Member. If you were a national member last year you will automatically receive a separate renewal notice on your anniversary date. (If you were /are not a member please contact Debbie Keller.)

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>

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Savannah Navy
League
PO Box 31006
Savannah, GA 31410