



Savannah Steamer

50th Anniversary Founded May 15th, 1957

Newsletter: April 2006

Volume 32 Issue 3

Savannah Council United States Navy League

A Word from the President



Hello Navy Leaguers,

We had a record turnout last month, 141 members and guest. It was a great program and we were very fortunate to get MGEN Webster to speak to us. This was largely due to Robert Cannon's efforts who asked MG Webster to come and speak to us as he got off plane from Iraq. Robert and Sybil volunteers with the USO and were meeting the troops as they returned. We were all glad to see Robert at the meeting as he has been battling cancer for several months.

We have several events in April that you can read

about in the newsletter. A ship visit April 24th. and our regular monthly meeting April 25th. Hope we have a big turnout for both events. For the ship visit we have invited the St. Patrick's Day Committee and we also expect some Navy League members from Hilton Head to visits to come.

I need some help from the membership with the Sea Cadets. I would like to have 2 or 3 volunteers to work on the Sea Cadet Committee. They need some assistance in several areas and if you're interested in learning more about it please contact me. No obligation.

Gary Johnson

April 25th Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M. Hunter Club

National Director and Vice President James H. Offutt will speak to us at our April meeting on the Navy Leagues newly published "Maritime Policy" 2006-2007 and Naval Air in Vietnam



This Maritime policy supports a funding strategy to ensure that the sea services are equipped, manned, and trained to deliver the ever expanding array of results that are demanded off them. It covers the Navy/Marine Corps team, Coast Guard, Marine Industry and Personnel policies. Mr. Offutt will explain these policies, how they were developed and the importance of them to our national safety and defense. A number of the Policy books will be

available to members at the meeting.

Jim Offutt is a retired Navy Aviator who served four tours in Vietnam and flew over 200 missions. As an added bonus he will show several videos from aboard an aircraft carrier and talk about his favorite airplane the Grumman A6 Intruder and operations during Vietnam.

Mr. Offutt served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot and weapon systems acquisition manager. His tours included: Director, Systems Architecture, Strategic Defense Initiative Organization (now Missile Defense Agency) where he managed the start-up of SDI system analysis projects including Architecture, BM/C3, National Test Bed and Theater Missile Defense. As Director, Theater Missile Defense Programs, he managed international theater missile defense projects including Israeli Missile development, UK Architecture and NATO Missile Defense studies. *Continued on p.3*

Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 or reservations@navyleague.us to reserve your seat, by Sun April 23rd.

In the News

Navy League member Michael Jordan is planning a half-hour television special on two Beaufort-based fighter squadrons deploying in May aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*. The special will air at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 29, 2006 on WSAV-TV 3. He will be traveling to Naples, Italy to join the *Enterprise* as it starts its transit through the Suez and the Gulf.

Michael is a freelance reporter and finances these projects by offering sponsorships to various businesses and organizations such as the Navy League. The board has endorsed an offer from Michael to do the following as part of his project.



The Savannah Council will receive **three 30-second commercial spots** in the half-hour special on July 29th. **Mr. Jordan will shoot, write, and edit this commercial at no cost to the League.** In addition, the Council will be mentioned at the beginning and

end of the television special and the Council's logo will be displayed on screen then, as well as in any web-based promotion for the program. A limited number of DVD copies of the program will be given to the Council for use as raffle prizes and gifts for future speakers at monthly Council meetings.

The board feels that this would be a great asset to have the DVD for promoting the Navy League and to promote membership in Savannah..

We are urging all members who would like to support this project to send a check, made out to Savannah Navy League and marked Michael Jordan Project, to the Savannah Navy League,

PO Box 31006, Savannah, GA 31410. Thank you and we hope to be able to raise at least \$ 2000 to support Michael's work. Checks should be sent ASAP as Michael will be leaving the Middle of May.

Sea Cadet News

The Joseph H. Blumenthal Division of the US Naval Sea Cadets will be honoring our veterans this summer as the Color Guard for the Missing Man Ceremony hosted by the Savannah Chapter of the Veterans Association. We wish to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Gene Buttle for his "above and beyond the call of duty" donation of a brand new parade flag for the Cadet Division which was requested for this event. More details will be released in the months to come.

Due to the generous support of the US Navy League Savannah Chapter, up and coming generations of Coast Guard, Navy and Merchant Mariners will be getting the training and discipline needed for careers in these services. The cadets are looking to acquire used or new sports equipment in the form of soccer balls, footballs, volleyballs and basketballs. There are facilities at the Coast Guard Air Station for these sports which the cadets have been given the authority to use.

If you would like more information about the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps in the Savannah area contact Mr. Russell Parmerter at (912) 308-8051.

Savannah Wins Outstanding Council Award

The list below reflects the Outstanding Council Award winners for 2005.

- BREMERTON-OLYMPIC PENINSULA (Roger Nance)
- GOLDEN ISLES (Hubert W. Lang III)
- HAMPTON ROADS (Owen B. Pickett)
- MAYPORT (Robert Lowenthal)
- NATIONAL CAPITAL (Al J. Bernard)
- PITTSBURGH (Paula Bozdech-Veater)
- SAN DIEGO (Curtis A. Beauchamp)
- SANTA BARBARA (Connie O. Los)
- SAVANNAH (Hugh L. Robinson)**
- SEATTLE (David A. Brumley)

Congratulations to Hugh Robinson and all the other contributors to this years scrapbook. The scrapbook will be on display at our meetings when it is returned from national.

Membership Report

As we enter the second quarter of 2006, members of the Savannah Council of the NLUS have another special opportunity. As more fully discussed elsewhere in this month's issue of The Savannah Steamer, two United States Navy ships will be visiting Savannah in late April after having been involved in extensive naval sea operations. Please take advantage of the opportunity to express appreciation to the personnel of these ships by joining in the reception to be held on April 24th. This also would be an excellent opportunity to introduce prospective members to one of the more significant benefits associated with membership in the United States Navy League.

During March, thanks to your enthusiasm and support, we continued to increase the roster of members in the Savannah Council with the addition of the following new members: Bruce and Elizabeth Ford, sponsored by Joyce Fischer; Krista Wiegand, sponsored by Michael Jordan and Jacob Riffe. Please extend a personal welcome to these folks when you see them at the next monthly meeting. As of the end of March, the Savannah Council has 304 active members.

As always, please contact me if there is any way I can assist you in our collective effort to increase participation and membership in the Savannah Council. -- Jim Keller

Navy ROTC and JNROTC News



The NROTC Spring Review is scheduled for Thursday April 20, 2006 at Wright Stadium, Savannah State University from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

All Navy Leaguers are invited to attend. **Call 356-2206 for details.**

Ship Visits

USS ANZIO (CG 68) and USS MASON (DDG 87) will visit Savannah at the end of April

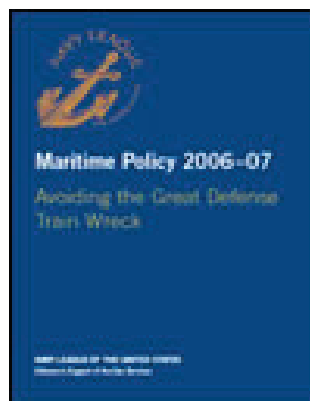
The ships will arrive on Monday April 24th.

We will have reception on the Anzio, for both ships from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. They will be at Ocean Pier one. Security will require that you be on the official membership list.

There is a charge for guest of \$5.00 per person and you should notify Tom Wright who keeps the guest list. Contact Tom at 912-897-1582 or twright3@hotmail.com.



Offutt, page 1... He was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal. As Commanding Officer, Office of Naval Research Detachment, Pasadena CA, he managed a sixty-person team engaged in R&D project management, technology transition, and contract administration. He developed future year program plans (POM) in OPNAV for Navy research, personnel and training programs. As a



pilot, he flew carrier-based aircraft for 4000 hours, participated in four Vietnam combat tours and flew 201 combat missions. He had increasing responsible positions in Navy Air squadrons including VA-196 Landing Signal Officer on USS Enterprise and Operations Officer in VS-37 on USS Constellation. His awards include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (10), and Navy Commendation Medal (3).

Board Report

2006 Officers
and Directors

President
Gary Johnson

Vice Presidents
Betty McCarthy
Charles Gibowicz
Ray Cuthbertson
Gene Buttle

Secretary
Debbie Keller

Treasurer
Ellen Snedeker

Judge Advocate
Gwendolyn Waring

Directors
Jim Chapman
Neil Bodenstein
Joost Gompels
Jim Beck

Al Naismith
David Dix
Robert Cannon

Pat Lynch
Jim Keller
Ed Robb
Aunette Shipes
Bill Edwards

First Past President
Hugh Robinson

Newsletter
Jim Ristuccia

The BOD met on Thursday April 6th. We received the report on the membership vote for the amendments to the bylaws.. The vote was 41 for the amendments and 4 against. We needed 25 yes votes for approval according to our bylaw provisions. A copy of the approved bylaws are on our website.

We received the resignation of Charles Gibowicz from the board. Charles is having some health problems and we will miss him greatly. The President nominated Jim Keller to take Charles position and the Board approved.

Our budget report year to date:

Annual Income Budget \$ 15,550 Received through March \$ 6631

Annual Expense Budget \$ 14,870 Spent through March \$ 3618

Our membership dues are a little slow coming in this year. We are \$ 500 short to date so please get your dues in if you haven't paid.

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>

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
Paid
Savannah, GA
Permit #213

SAVANNAH NAVY
LEAGUE
PO Box 31006
Savannah, GA 31410