



# Savannah Steamer

Newsletter: July 2005

Volume 26 Issue 7

## Savannah Council United States Navy league

### Rhumb Line . . . . . Hugh Robinson, President

We were reminded at our board meeting this July that it is not too early to start thinking about electing a nominating committee for the officers and directors to be elected for 2006 by you at our regular November meeting. Referring to our by-laws, the president appoints one member of the nominating committee, the Board elects two members and members-at-large nominate two members at our regular meeting in July.



John Findeis who has served these last two years on our Board as the Immediate Past President was appointed by your President to serve on the Nominating Committee as his representative. The Board of Directors then appointed Gilbert Wells who has served faithfully on the Board of Directors these last three years and will not be available to run as a Director again per our by-laws. Gilbert also has served on our Audit Committee these last two years. Also

appointed by the Board was Dick Falcone who is serving his last year of a three-year term on the Board and has served as Chairman of the Budget Committee these last two years.

I cannot stress the importance of the Nominating Committee, and their core responsibility in seeking suitable candidates willing to serve in a multitude of functions within our organization. Their job is compounded by the multifunctional organization we belong to. We have an active Sea Cadet Organization, a speaker's bureau not only for our own meetings but a willingness to go out and represent the Navy League, a strong legislative affairs group, and contacts in the local military and citizens' groups. Until one puts together the annual report of our Navy League Council, one has no concept of the scope and breadth of our proactive Navy League Council. The future success of our Navy League Council rests on the Nominating Committee finding willing participants in our Council. How about you? If you have talents we can use and you are willing to commit the time and effort to contribute "body and soul" to our noble cause, do not hesitate to contact one of these gentlemen.

### July Meeting

**We will meet at the Hunter Club on July 26th starting with a social hour at 6:00pm. The cost is \$16.00. Call Sybil Cannon for reservations at 964-5366. Our speaker will be member John Snedeker who will address us on**

### "Challenges Facing the US Navy in the Era of Transformation"

**John C. Snedeker**, Chairman & CEO of Synergistic Dynamics, Inc. ("SDI"), a professional services firm that has been serving clients in the maritime, aerospace and defense industries since 1983. John attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and Cornell University where he received a degree in mechanical Engineering and a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve. He served aboard a merchant vessel and a Navy escort carrier. He was employed by units of the **Grumman Corporation** (now Northrop Grumman) before founding SDI, John has over 40 years of experience with the U.S. Navy. He has appeared as an expert witness in Federal courts in matters related to Navy and Coast Guard shipbuilding and ship repair contracts. John has been a member of the Navy League for over 20 years. He is now Vice President, Legislative Affairs for the South Atlantic Coast Region, a National Director Emeritus and a member of the Merchant Marine Affairs Committee



Professional affiliations include the American Bar Association (Associate, Section of Public Contract Law), National Contract Management Association, Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers, Society of Energy Engineers, Connecticut Maritime Association, Propeller Club-Port of Savannah, Shipbuilders' Council of America and the U.S. Maritime Administration's Short Sea Shipping Cooperative Program.

## Independence Day Celebration

The Savannah Council welcomed USS Carr (FFG 52) for Independence Day festivities on the Savannah River. Old Fort Jackson fired a cannon salute to honor Carr and over 200 Navy Leaguers and guests enjoyed a reception on the flight deck. Council President Hugh Robinson greeted CDR Pete Pagano and his crew and representatives from Savannah's Coast Guard, Marine Corps Reserve Center and NROTC Unit, Savannah State University. The Navy League was pleased that Congressman John Barrow, GA12, attended the festivities along with Chatham County Commission Chairman Peter Liakakas, a member of the Savannah Council.



## Legislative Report by Gene Buttle

It was thought we needed to give newly elected John Barrow as the representative of the 12th District of Ga. to Congress a high priority because he was really unknown to many Navy Leaguers. Congressman Barrow was spending most of his time in Washington but in April he opened an office in Savannah.

The writer met him during the opening festivities and we had a cordial but brief talk. He was not familiar with the Navy League so I left him some of our literature and also gave him an invitation to be our guest aboard a visiting US Navy warship on July 4th. Obviously he could not commit at that time. He introduced me to his local Executive Director, Anne Hales. I also met Kristin Fulford, Constituent Outreach; Yvonne Davis, Office Staff and Charles Renwick Personal Assistant.



John Barrow

Over the next few weeks I had several phone conversations, e-mails and personal contacts with Anne Hales and left her copies of our "Steamer". Again, in writing, I invited the Congressman to the July 4th reception aboard the USS Carr. The last week in June he accepted. Also accepting were Yvonne Davis and her husband, Jerome. Ann Hales was not able to attend.

Suffice it to say the Congressman arrived on time with Charles Renwick and was escorted aboard and introduced to several Navy Leaguers, Cmdr. Pagano, CO and his Executive Officer. Arrangements were made for the Congressman to have a tour of the ship by an officer. After Evening Colors, Rep. Barrow was introduced to all assembled and presented with a plaque from the ship and a photo of the Carr passing Ft. Jackson that morning with the cannon salute. John Barrow was very pleased.

The ice is broken and I believe we can have good dialogue with Congressman John Barrow here or in his Washington office. He will be unable to attend our July 26th dinner but his Executive Director, Anne Halles has accepted and will be present as our guest.

## Membership Report by Charles Gibowicz

"Welcome Aboard" to new members Rhiannon Cassady and Cathy M. Glover. Give them a warm hello at our next meeting. We are doing well in adding new faces.

Evidently the June meeting went well with 92 attendees and an excellent speaker. The Fourth of July reception aboard USS Carr was also a great success. Events such as these are what our organization is all about. Bringing guests to these events will do much to encourage people to join our Council. Please feel free to bring a friend or acquaintance to our functions – this is the best way to show them what the Navy League is. We are a patriotic organization supporting our sea services but we are also an organization with interesting and fun activities. Please encourage others to join. In order to keep on growing, it takes the effort of each and every member to do his/her share in recruiting.

## Items of Interest

- **A Program to Support Military with Frequent Flyer Miles**

Go to our website to learn more about The Fisher House™ program which is a unique private-public partnership that supports America's military in their time of need. Our Board is recommending this program as an excellent way to support our military with unused frequent flyer points. If you have frequent flyer points "sitting" around that will not be used, you can donate them to Fisher House to help hospitalized military members and their families.

Fisher House™ is proud to partner with Hero Miles in support of our wounded and injured service men and women and their families. The following airlines are participating:

- AirTran Airways, Alaska Airways, America West Airlines, American Airlines, Continental, Delta, Independence Air, Northwest and USAirways.

Frequent flyers can donate their miles into a pool that will be used to fly wounded or injured service members from medical centers to their homes, or for their families to fly to a medical center to be by their bedside through the SkyWish® Program. A minimum donation is 5,000 miles. When making a donation, program members should contact the airlines listed above with their account number, the amount of miles to be donated and note that Fisher House is the charity that their miles will benefit. Under this program, Fisher House Foundation will make the reservations, pay the airport security fee, and provide an itinerary for an e-ticket.

- **Thanks to Bill Edwards**

Thanks to Bill Edwards and WTKS AM 1290 for publicizing the Navy League's support of our Sea Services. In fact, as a result of Bill's mentioning the Navy League on the air we have had several inquiries and a new member.



Bill is a staunch member of our Savannah Council and a great supporter of the Military. In May we were missing the flag for "The Pledge of Allegiance" and Bill came to the rescue as we all pledged to Bill's American Flag shirt he was wearing. Here he is interviewing our speaker Wyatt Chichester, XO of The Sullivan's.

Thanks again, Bill.

- **Upcoming Programs**

### August

**Rear Admiral Loose, Civil Engineer Corps, U.S. Navy is the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and Head of Seabee Forces.**

### Website

Be sure to check our website for news and updates. You can enter the [member's only section](#) by logging in as member for username and member for password, In this section you can view and print the member directory.

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**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. **Email [gary.john@comcast.net](mailto:gary.john@comcast.net) or call Gary Johnson (644-7220) with change of address or email.**

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