



Savannah Steamer

50th Anniversary Founded May 15th, 1957

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Savannah Council United States Navy League

A Word from the President



Hello Navy Leaguers,

We had a great meeting in February with 83 members and guests. Everyone liked the new room arrangement, which really improved the sight lines, and the new overhead projection system made it a lot easier to hear and see the presentation. Captain Fitzpatrick gave us the latest information on the Kennedy and decommissioning. Sounds like the Kennedy is history but what a great history she has had. It's pretty much an economic decision when you look at the cost and technological factors.

We have had some relatively new members "step up to the plate" to take on some important committee assignments. Jim Ristuccia, Newsletter

Editor and Tom Latham for the Program Committee. Tom Latham actually came up to me after the last meeting and said that he wanted to get involved. That's what I like to hear. I called him the next day and went over the openings with him and he chose programs.

We still have several unfilled committee jobs that I need to find the right people to do. In other words I'm looking for a few good men and women. Let me know if you are interested. I believe you will find it a rewarding and fun experience.

Hope to see you at the St. Patrick's Day activities. Be sure to go to the Jasper Green Ceremonies. I know you will enjoy it.

Gary Johnson

March 28th Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M. Hunter Club

Third Infantry Division Commanding General William Webster will speak to us at our March 28th dinner meeting.

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster Jr., commander of the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, just completed a year long deployment of 24,000 soldiers based at Fort Stewart near Savannah and Fort Benning near Columbus GA.

The Third Division conducted 8,000 combat missions and more than 170,000 patrols resulting in the capture of 5,000 detainees. Car bombings were reduced by half. Plus, the troops found roadside bombs and weapons caches.



Major General Webster, a Louisiana native, was commissioned an Armor officer and awarded a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1974.

He holds the Defense Superior Service Medal, five awards of the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, Joint Chief of Staff Identification Badge, National Defense Service Medal, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 to reserve your seat

Navy ROTC and JNROTC News

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

The Navy League will present The National Navy League Plaque and the Savannah Council Navy League Plaque to two outstanding Cadets during the ceremonies.

This event is colorful and very interesting to witness. ALL NAVY LEAGUE AND SEA CADET MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND!

Let's show our support for this important program. You will be favorably impressed.

The NROTC program conducted at SSU is a joint program with Cadets from Atlantic Armstrong State University and Cadets from Savannah State University



joining together to form the unit.

JNROTC

The Navy League, Savannah Council will present the Outstanding Cadet Certificate and the Theodore Roosevelt Medal to selected Cadets from the JNROTC programs. The Awards Programs are scheduled at Jenkins High School on May 8, Johnson High School, TBD and South Effingham High School on May 5.

The recipients of the JNROTC Awards will be invited to attend a future

Navy League dinner meeting and be recognized for their achievements

Jim Beck.

Sea Cadet News

Our adopted Sea Cadet Division has settled down at the USCG Air Station Savannah. Thanks to the husband/wife support team of Commander Kevin Hay, Instructor Nancy Hay as well as the local Coast Guard Air Station located at Hunter Army Airfield our local Sea Cadet program, the ADM Adolph H. Blumenfeld Division, has many interesting programs for teenagers looking for a career in the Navy, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine services.

Ages vary from 10 years of age sponsored by the Navy League to the 12-18 years of age Naval Sea Cadets sponsored youths. Not just for troubled or wayward souls the program is centered around training for active duty service. They meet on a monthly basis for one weekend a month just like an active reservist would be required to do. It gives cadets an edge over other applicants to the active duty military ranks with no prior training or experience often times allowing cadets to enlist and receive a paygrade advancement prior to joining

and upon graduation of basic training. The program promotes education, teamwork, good school grades, self esteem, accountability and gives local teens a chance to stand above the average. The cadets are required to complete courses within a certain time frame to continue their advancement and keep their cadet status.

The Blumenfeld Division has been blessed by three active duty military volunteers. They meet and train the cadets alongside Commander Hay. If you know of a young person looking for that edge which will help them to be a cut above the average get in touch with any of our Savannah Chapter Officers on how to get them involved. If you have some specialty experience from prior service that you would like to pass on to these young people class time can be arranged with prior notice.

Russell T. Parmereter
Sea Cadet Liaison Savannah Chapter US Navy League
E-mail : Russ@oceanliners.us

Membership Report

Thanks to your enthusiasm and support the Savannah Council has increased its membership rolls in the Navy League by over a dozen individuals since January 1, 2006. This level of membership activity places our local council among the leaders of all councils in the NLUS South Atlantic Coast Region. Navy League membership is part of a long, proud tradition: "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services." For over 100 years, Navy Leaguers around the world have espoused the following four goals: to educate our national leaders and the nation, to support the men and women of the sea services, to provide assistance to the sea service families and to support our youth programs.

The speakers at our January and February dinner meetings have been outstanding—their messages

informative, relevant and timely. During the next several months other excellent speakers have been invited to address our monthly meetings. These include General Webster of the 3rd ID, Captain McKinnon, Commander of the Kings Bay Submarine Base and representatives from the NLUS National Organization in Arlington, Virginia. Please invite your friends, neighbors and business colleagues to join us at these meetings and continue to encourage them to become members of the Navy League.

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

Jim Keller



St Patrick's Day Ship Canceled

Because of scheduling conflicts the ship visit for St Patrick's Day has been cancelled.

We still recommend going to The Sgt William Jasper Ceremony at 4:30 PM, Thursday, March 16th, in Madison Square. It's a casual and enjoyable gathering of all the local and visiting military units and is open to all Navy Leaguers.

The parade will still have Navy league representation with a car carrying our Navy Leaguer of the Year, John Findeis and Gary Johnson.

USCGC Eagle will arrive on March 16th and depart on March 18th. As far as we know there will not be any public visiting hours or activities.

When our St Patrick's Day visit was cancelled, the US Navy assigned two major combatants (DDGs or CGs) to come to Savannah in late April..



Here's Joyce Fisher from last year driving the visiting Navy Captains around in a Sebring convertible. This is the first time in 12 years that we won't have a Navy ship in for St Patricks Day.



Request from Mighty Eighth

The Museum Curator of Collections has asked if anyone in the Navy League would have a set of enlisted whites from WWII that they would be willing to donate for an exhibit they are planning. If you do it would be greatly appreciated. Call Gary Johnson at 644-7220 and he will contact the museum and make the arrangements.



Board Report

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and Directors**

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Aunette Shipes

First Past President
Hugh Robinson

Our February meeting attendance was 83 members and guests. We had reservations for 61 and had the Hunter Club setup for 80. This is a little risky in that we have to guarantee and pay for a minimum amount. Please try to get your reservations in early.

Our budget for the year is:

Budget Income: \$ 15,550	Actual	January thru February	\$ 3831.00
Budget Expense: \$ 14,870	Actual	Spent Thru February	\$ 2967.67

For those who haven't paid your local dues of \$ 15.00, the board urges you to do so ASAP. We still are about a thousand dollars short of our projected dues amount.

Don't forget we will be voting on the amendments to our bylaws at the March meeting. The board received the written audit report for the fiscal year ending 12/31/2005. Members Jim Keller and Dick Falcone performed the audit.

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.

Change of Address: Email Jim Ristuccia, jim@sayitright.org or call 786-5090

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

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