



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,

Time flies when you're having fun. Here it is September already and we are in to our busy fall schedule. This month's Speaker is the CO of our Marine adopted unit and I'm sure you will all enjoy meeting him and learning about MALS 31 and

what they do. Jim Morison and Tom Latham will be going to Beaufort early in October to present Marine and Sailor of the quarter awards again. This will be the third time since we started last spring.

The anniversary committee has been hard at work getting ready for the October 23rd special event. Invitations are going out to our guests and members this week and the program is set. The Commanding Officer of the USS Georgia, Commander Rod Hutton, will present a program on the Georgia's conversion from a ballistic Trident submarine to a long-range strike submarine carrying Tomahawk cruise missiles. We are

also fortunate to have been able to get Bill Cathcart to be our MC for the evening. There are a lot of other things planned to make for a memorable meeting. Local and national government officials are being invited as well as many military commanders and CO's. We hope to have 125 to 150 attend the dinner. You will be receiving more details in the coming weeks but be sure to reserve that date on your calendar.

I just got back from my ship's reunion in Portland, Maine. The ship was the USS Borderlon, DDR 881, a WWII vintage Gearing class destroyer. It was commissioned in 1945 and served until 1977. The youngest person there was 55 and was onboard during the seventies. The ship saw a lot of action over its life and a lot of the world, both east and west.

Don't forget about the ship visit October 5th thru the 7th. We will be having a reception onboard the 5th.

Hope to you at our next meeting September 25th.

--Gary Johnson

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

MALS-31 Commanding Officer, LTC Charles M. Dunne, USMC is our dinner meeting speaker for September.

LTC Charles M. Dunne graduated from The Citadel with a B.S Degree and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the USMC in July 1990. He completed The Basic School in May 1991 and was assigned to Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 32, Cherry Point, NC. After completing Aviation Supply Basic Officer Course in 1991, 2LT Dunne returned to MALS-32. Promoted to First Lieutenant in July 1992, he arrived



at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC in August 1994 and assumed command of a Recruit Training Company on 1 December 1995.

He attended the Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, VA and then was assigned as a Platoon Commander for the Officer Candidate Course. In October

1998, he returned to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing in New River, NC. Captain Dunne...*Continued Page 3*

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

USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58)

This is our first report from ENS Molly Harris USN, who has recently taken over as Public Affairs Officer from ENS Christy Campbell.

COLON, Panama – Sailors from the USS Samuel B. Roberts took some time to remember that multi-nation exercises are more than what happens on the high seas but also about the community and residents of those nations. Forty sailors from the Roberts, USS WASP (LHD 1) and USS MITSCHER (DDG 57) recently spent an afternoon helping to renovate Colon's local boxing facility, Academia de Boxeo Ismail Laguna, named after the two-time lightweight world champion and Panama native.

An outlet for impoverished youth to engage in physical and mental challenges, the gymnasium was in dire need of infrastructural upgrades such as a patched roof and new flooring, as well as esthetics such as sanding and painting. Using their skills as craftsmen they were able to help fix the gym's leaky roof, assemble new benches and equipment, and install new light fixtures. The project was coordinated by the US Embassy in Panama City and the local Navy League that provided financial support for the renovations. The opportunity to contribute to the communities in which they find themselves and learn something about the local culture while working off the ship is testimony to the reach of today's US Navy.

The Samuel B. Roberts is currently operating in the Central Caribbean as part of the annual multi-nation PANAMAX exercise, an event that seeks cooperation amongst regional navies with the goal of continued security of the Panama Canal.

--ENS Molly Harris

Photo? Memorabilia?

Exhibits are being planned for display at the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Please help by looking through your closets and favorite displays for photos and memorabilia that will help tell the Savannah Navy League story. Call Tom Latham at 598-9179 to arrange for pickup, display and the return of your treasures.

Coast Guard

The annual Coast Guard/Navy League picnic is coming up on October 27, 2007 and everyone has been notified. The commanders of each unit, and in most cases the executive officers, have received notice of the picnic and of the need to select their choices for Coast Guardsman/woman of the year. I am seeking a copy of the official rules of volleyball for several games between the units in attendance. Possibly wives or older kids may want to play also. Gary has volunteered to be the net judge.

Plans are progressing for the Coast Guard band concert on January 26, 2008 at the Civic Center. We expect to sell advertising space in the program, and a plan has been designed. A letter to potential advertisers, signed by Gary Johnson, will be sent in November.

--Hugh Robinson

Ship Visit Oct 5th

The Navy League will welcome USS Hawes (FFG-53) for Oktoberfest. Hawes is a guided missile frigate from Norfolk, VA, and just returned from a Middle East deployment in support of the Global War on Terror. Hawes is named for RADM Richard E. Hawes, USN, a submarine salvage expert from Thomson, GA. We hope that several of RADM Hawes' descendants will attend our reception, planned for 6-8 PM, Friday, October 5th at Ocean Terminal.

Hawes plans to support and compete in the WienerDawg Races on River Street. Make sure you provide guest names to Tom Wright, twright3@hotmail.com or 897-1582, to meet the security requirements for access to GPA.

--Tom Wright



Come support USS Hawes' Weiner Dawg Racing Team!



Up Coming Events

September 25 Meeting
LTC Charles Dunne
CO, MALS-31

October 5
USS Hawes (FFG -53)
On board reception, 6-8 p.m.

October 23
50th Anniversary Special Event
CDR Rod Hutton, CO
U.S.S. Georgia

October 27
Coast Guard/Navy League Picnic

November 27
Guest speaker to be assigned by
U.S. Dept of Defense
"Why We Serve" Program

December 1
Christmas Party

DUNNE . . . deployed in January 1999 to Vaernes, Norway as the MALS Detachment Commander for Exercise Battle Griffin. Major Dunne served as the Operations Officer for MALS-29 from March 2000 to June 2001 and then transferred to Command and Staff College, Quantico, VA.

In June 2002, he graduated from Command and Staff College with a Masters of Military Studies Degree. In June 2002, MAJ Dunne assumed command of Recruiting Station Columbia, SC for three years. In January 2006, he integrated into MALS-16 (REIN) as Executive Officer and deployed to Al Asad, Iraq in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM 05-07. Upon returning, he resumed his duties as MALS-11 (REIN) Executive Officer. LTC Dunne checked into MAG-31 in February 2007 and assumed command of MALS-31 and "Stinger Nation" on June 1.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Savannah Council's 50th Anniversary is being celebrated in a very special way on Tuesday, October 23, 2007. We hope that you will be present for this milestone evening.

The support of our sea services for 50 years is significant and reflects much hard work and dedication on the part of our members. As such, this is a unique opportunity for you to join the Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States in celebration of this long term achievement.

A 50th Anniversary Fund has been established to help underwrite this event and support our expanding work on behalf of this nation's sea services.

This will be a special event. Our speaker will be the Commanding Officer of the USS Georgia who will report on that submarine's return to active service. When the Georgia was commissioned as a ballistic missile submarine (SSBN 729), she was the second US Navy ship to be named for this state. Currently, she is being converted to a guided missile submarine (SSGN 729). In 1863, the ironclad CSS Georgia was built here in Savannah. During the evacuation of Savannah in 1864, the CSS Georgia was burned and destroyed to prevent its capture. A shell from the CSS Georgia is carried in a special place aboard the USS Georgia.

Bill Cathcart, General Manager of WTOC, will be our Master of Ceremonies. A number of local dignitaries and other special guests are invited. An excellent table service dinner is planned – filet mignon and shrimp scampi. Included is live music during the social hour, hors d'oeuvres, a champagne toast, souvenir gifts, a commemoration program booklet, displays and memorabilia. A cash bar will be available.

Given the nature of this important event, we will need an RSVP from all who are planning on attending. During the last week of this month, all members will receive a letter with complete event details and an RSVP card to be returned. But, for now, please put this on your calendar!

-- Tom Latham



August's speaker and Savannah State Univ. alumni, Captain Bernard L. Jackson (left) receiving a certificate of appreciation from Savannah Navy League President, Gary Johnson (right).

Treasurer Report

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Philip Kirk

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John Findeis

We have received a few more contributions to our 50th Anniversary Fund this month. We have now received over \$2500. These contributions are making it possible to plan for a great celebration without dipping into our funds dedicated to support of our sea services. If we have any funds remaining after our 50th celebration, they will go directly to our planned celebration for the USS Samuel B. Roberts adoption ceremony in December. Our contributors as of September 14 are:

Mary Faye Kraft	CDR Jack Vogt	Chris Desa	Gary Johnson
Tom Latham	CAPT Al Naismith	Gene Buttle	Mac Storm
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Bob Gephart	Phil Kirk	Sybil Cannon	Ed Robb
Aunette Shipes	M/M Leon Campbell	Mrs. Ted Erickson	Scott Rasplicka

Donations are still welcome and needed. Please send your donations to Treasurer, **Savannah Navy League, P.O. Box 31006, Savannah, GA 31410**. Donations are tax deductible. Our finances continue on an "even keel" year to date. We have a number of support events planned for the Fall that include MALS-31 Recognition, the Coast Guard Picnic, an Octoberfest ship reception, and the "Sammy B" adoption celebration. These events are only possible by the continued financial support of all our local Savannah Council members. Thanks to all of YOU!!!

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