



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council United States Navy League

A Word from the President



Now Hear This,

Tonight the waters of the Atlantic Ocean are being churned by the effects of Tropical Storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike—hard to believe when only four days ago, at the invitation of Captain Wally Lovely, 213 guests were aboard the Council's adopted ship "Sammy B" sailing those same calm waters.

The family day cruise organized by Captain Lovely and his crew included 22 Navy Leaguers from our Council and eight very enthusiastic members of our Sea Cadet unit. Our thanks to everyone aboard "Sammy B" for taking time from their busy pre-deployment training schedule to make the cruise a major success.

Ladies and gentlemen, this year began with an outstanding performance by the United States Coast Guard Band. Early in the year Council members participated in the christening of USCGC Sea Dragon and in late March USS Georgia was Returned To Service in a weeklong series of events. USS Roosevelt was in Savannah for St. Patrick's Day festivities and we celebrated July 4th with a reception onboard USS Barry. Interspersed among these ship activities have been a

number of award and recognition ceremonies for our adopted Navy and Marine Corps aviation units at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station. We also sponsored a baseball game and picnic for our five adopted Coast Guard units and their families. The official adoption ceremony for Samuel B. Roberts was held in Mayport in early April. Along the way the Savannah Council has been well represented at change of command ceremonies at which commanders of local military units have been recognized for many exceptional contributions during their respective tours of duty in the greater Savannah area.

Are we having a good year? I believe most Council members believe we are adhering to our mission statement and working in a positive way insofar as implementing our stated goals. However, there are many areas where improvement is needed and the Council leadership needs your help. Fresh faces and new ideas are required not only to maintain the current momentum but to get us to the next level as we transition to 2009. Please consider how your interests and talents can best fit into our organizational structure which has various openings for directors, officers and committee members. Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee . . . *Continued on Page 3*

Sept 23rd Dinner Meeting 6:00 P.M. Hunter Club

We are pleased to announce that Sheila M. McNeill, former National President of the Navy League, is our dinner speaker this month.

Sheila M. McNeill was the National President of the Navy League of the United States from 2003-2005. The Georgia native is the first woman to hold this position since the league was founded in 1902.

McNeill served as a national vice president responsible for the organization's legislative affairs activities. McNeill also served as a national director of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. She was elected a national vice president in July 1999.



Because of her long history of active involvement with the sea services; she served on the executive committee for the Defense . . . *Continued on Page 3*

Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 or e-mail RSalty2@aol.com to reserve your seat, by Sun. Sept 21st.

Navy Leaguers Ride the Sammy B.

Members of the Savannah Navy League enjoyed a cruise on Labor Day aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts along with families of the ship's crew. This is known as a "Tiger Cruise" and is designed to acquaint families and friends of Navy ships with shipboard routine and life.

Savannah Navy Leaguers boarded a bus at 0500 for the ride to Mayport, arriving at the ship about 0745. The ship shoved off shortly after 0800 and steamed due



East out to the continental shelf which is about 25 miles off shore. We went on a speed run of 25 knots, which is something to experience on the fantail!

We had a great lunch on the fantail cooked on a commercial barbeque, which had been hoisted aboard for the occasion. The menu included hamburgers, chicken, and ribs including all the regular side dishes you would expect at a first-class barbeque.

We all had the run of the ship with crewmembers giving us guided tours and details of their jobs at sea and the ships operation. We arrived back at the dock right on schedule at 1500.

CO Wally Lovely treated us like family and we all had a good time. There was also a bit of adventure on the return trip when the bus ran out of gas. However, everyone took it "in stride" and we arrived in Savannah tired and happy around 2000. Really a fun day!

--Gary Johnson

Recognition Awards

On August 29, Jim Morison and Hugh Robinson visited the MALS-31 squadron at the Beaufort Marine Corps Air Station to present awards from Savannah Council as part of our recognition program. Each of the recognized marines and sailors received books from the Marine Commandant's and Navy's reading lists, along with a US Savings Bond. Receiving awards were:

William T. Hall, Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter
Jennifer N. Morales, Marine of the Quarter
Ronald C. Withrow, Sailor of the Quarter
Shaton R. Robinson, Junior Sailor of the Quarter
Michael T. Wilson, Blue Jacket of the Quarter

Selections for these awards are made quarterly by special boards of senior level sergeants and chief petty officers.

--Tom Latham

Nominating Committee News

The nominating committee members for 2009 officers and directors have been named. They are: Tom Wright, Joost Gompels, Gary Johnson, Gene Buttle and Bob Gephart.

This committee is due to report to the board at the October Board Meeting. The nominees will be presented to the membership in November with the election to be held at the regular dinner meeting in November.

We have 6 director and 3 officer positions to fill. If you would like to serve or recommend someone, please contact one of the nominating committee members.

We need interested members to step up and provide leadership to carry on our mission to support the sea services of the United States. We hope you will be one of them.

--Gary Johnson

Oktoberfest Ship Visit



We'll welcome a US Navy Destroyer for Oktoberfest. The warship will receive a cannon salute from Old Fort Jackson and assist with the WienerDawg Races on River Street. We're planning a reception for 6 PM Friday, October 3rd, and will post information on Savannah Navy League's website as soon as planning and security permits. Please contact Tom Wright, twright3@hotmail.com for any questions.

--Tom Wright

Dinner Speaker . . . Continued from Page 1

Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). During her three-year DACOWITS tour, McNeill visited 45 U.S. Military installations throughout the world.

In her home state of Georgia, McNeill serves as a member of the Executive Board of the Governor's statewide Military Affairs Coordinating Committee. McNeill was commissioning president of the St. Mary's Submarine Museum and Charter Chairman of the Military Community Council. She was co-chairman of the USS Bancroft Sail Exhibit at Kings Bay Submarine Base to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Submarine Force. She is the sponsor of the USCGC SEA HORSE (WPB 87361) and served as Chairman of the USS GEORGIA (SSGN 729) Return to Service Committee.

Up Coming Events

September 23 – Dinner Meeting
Mrs. Sheila McNeill,
former National NL President
Chair, USS Georgia Return to Service
Committee

October 7
Board of Directors Meeting

October 13
U.S. Navy birthday

Mid – October
Date to be announced
USCG Picnic

October 28 – Dinner Meeting
Speaker TBA

October 27-31
National Navy League Convention
Kansas City, MO

December 20
Savannah Council Christmas Party
Savannah Yacht Club

President's Message . . . Continued from Page 1

or me to learn more about where your talents can best be utilized.

Please join us for the next dinner meeting on September 23rd at the Hunter Club to hear from a truly outstanding Navy Leaguer—Mrs. Sheila McNeill, past national president of the Navy League of the United States.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller
President

In Case You Missed It

Since President James Keller was away from Savannah, the meeting was expertly conducted by Vice President Tom Latham. Before introducing our speaker he advised those in attendance that a nominating committee was being established, two members of which are to be chosen by the membership. The names of Gene Buttle and Joost Gompels were placed in nomination from the floor, and they were elected by voice vote.

Before a crowd of 87 members and guests Vice President Latham then welcomed our speaker, CAPT Brian A. McIlvaine, USN, Commanding Officer of USS Georgia (SSGN 729) who was accompanied by his charming wife Shirlee. In his introduction Tom reviewed many of the assignments and accomplishments of this impressive 1984 graduate of the US Naval Academy.

CAPT McIlvaine characterized US Submarines as a global force throughout the world that operates across the whole spectrum from Peace to Warfare. There are now four SSGNs in the fleet, two home ported in St. Marys, GA and two in Bangor, WA. Each is manned by two crews and two to three are on strategic patrol all the time. In the global war on terror they can provide land support, sea access, littoral operations, special forces inserts and counter narcotics operations. He mentioned the proliferation of diesel submarines, and 38 countries now have 386 in service.



CAPT McIlvaine and Tom Latham

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Save the date!
December 20, 2008
Savannah Yacht Club
Details to follow

Pictures from the Sammy B.

2008 Officers and Directors

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Jim Keller

Vice Presidents
Tom Latham
Sam McLaughlin
James Morison
Mike Campbell

Secretary
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First Past President
Gary Johnson

Newsletter Editors
Phil Kirk
Jim Ristuccia

Photographer
Lynn Wright



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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