



Savannah Steamer

2009 MACKIE AWARD WINNER

Founded May 15th, 1957

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Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

A Word from the President



Tom Latham, President Savannah Council, Navy League of the United States

What a fantastic year! Selected by National as an Outstanding Council, with awards for Savannah Council's newsletter and membership retention achievement – along with creative meetings like the Coast Guard demonstrating water rescues and a presentation of the excellent work done by the Navy's hospital ship in the aftermath of the earthquake and resulting humanitarian crisis in Haiti. 2010 has definitely been one for the record books.

How did that happen?

Easy answer – we are blessed with a high quality membership consisting of people who are committed to achieving our goals in support of the sea services.

As I leave the position as President of Savannah Council, I thank the many members who worked hard to make this excellent year happen.

I know that Bob Gephart, our incoming president, can count on the continuing support of our many excellent people who are proud Navy League members.

Tom

A Look Back at 2010

RECOGNITION PROGRAMS



We presented recognition awards for outstanding performance to members of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and participants in the Sea Cadets, Navy NROTC, NJROTC and Marine Corps ROTC programs.



USCG Marine Safety Unit
USCG Air Station Savannah
USCG Station Tybee
USCG Aids to Navigation



USS *Samuel B. Roberts* (FFG-58)
MALS-31 – Marine Air Logistics Squadron, Beaufort MCAS
VFA-86 – Navy Strike Fighter Squadron, MCAS Beaufort



Savannah Sea Cadet Squadron
South Effingham NJROTC
Savannah State NROTC
Jenkins High School NJROTC

SHIP VISITS and RECEPTIONS



USS *Monterey* (CG-61)

USS *Taylor* (FFG-50)

USCGC *Key Biscayne*
(WPB 1339)



USCGC *Yellowfin*
(WPB 87319)

USCGC *Barque Eagle*



USCGC *Sea Dog*

USCGC *Zephyr*

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CHANGES of COMMAND



USCG Air Station Savannah

USCGC *Key Biscayne*

USCG Station Tybee

Naval Hospital Beaufort

USS *Georgia* (SSGN 729)
Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay

USMC 4th Landing Support Battalion
Hunter AAF

USCG Sector Charleston
Citadel, Charleston

SUPPORT ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

Board of Directors Planning Retreat

Vietnam Veterans Remembrance Service



Legislative Interaction –
Congressman Jack Kingston
Congressman John Barrow
Kathryn Murph –
US Senator Chambliss' Staff
Jared Downs –
US Senator Isakson's Staff



Two new community affiliates recruited

Navy League Presentations –
Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club
Skidaway Island Kiwanis Club



United States Sea Chanters Concert

United States Navy Band Performance



Returning Warriors Retreat

Navy League National Convention
Jacksonville, Florida

USMC Silent Drill Platoon

Navy League South Atlantic Coast
Regional Meeting
Columbia, South Carolina



Coast Guard Water Rescue Demo
and Dinner USCG Station
Tybee/Air Station Savannah

Sea Cadets – Veteran's Day Parade

Jasper Green Ceremony



Membership Social Mixer

St. Patrick's Day Parade Entry

Coast Guard Picnic at Sand Gnats
baseball game



Massing of the Colors

VFA-86 Christmas Party, with
NL Recognition Awards



Support – USCG Station Tybee, MSU,
and Aids to Navigation units' morale
funds.

Savannah Council Toys for Tots
Christmas Party

Raffle for flag flown in Afghanistan

Savannah State University NROTC
Spring Review and Sailing Program



Sea Cadets Guardian Challenge,
Annual Inspection and training with
CG Reserve

Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Ceremony

WW II Memorial Dedication

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A Look Back at 2010

GUEST SPEAKERS



CDR Nick Bartolotta
Air Station Savannah

Michael Jordan
Television Journalist

CDR Everett Tumblin
Retired Navy Chaplain



CDR Chuck Sellers
USS *Samuel B. Roberts*

Brigadier General Larry Dudney, Jr.
Georgia Army National Guard



CDR Lonnie Harrison
USCG Marine Safety Unit

CAPT James J. Ware
USNS *Comfort*

COL Todd Freese
GA Air Nat'l. Combat Training
Readiness Center



James Scott, Author
Attack On The Liberty

Alexia Pittas-Webster
Savannah Sea Cadets

Our Next Dinner Meeting - Speaker, Greg McFall, Research Director Gray's Reef

Next month's speaker will combine dazzling photos of shipwrecks and colorful marine life with dramatic stories of deep dives in our nation's National Marine Sanctuaries--America's "underwater national parks." Greg McFall is a former US Navy diver who now works as Research Director at NOAA's Grays Reef, the marine sanctuary located just off the Georgia coast. Greg is also a talented underwater photographer who takes stunning

photographs of sea life, from the largest manta rays to the tiniest coral reef inhabitants.

Our meeting will take place at 6pm on Tuesday, January 25th at the Hunter Club.



Female Officers to Serve Aboard USS *Georgia*

The Navy has announced that the Kings Bay-based nuclear submarine USS *Georgia* (SSGN 729) will be one of the first four American submarines to integrate female officers into its crew. The other subs affected are the USS *Wyoming* (SSBN 742), USS *Maine* (SSBN 741), and USS *Ohio* (SSGN 726). All four are large *Ohio*-class subs, rather than the more-cramped fast-attack submarines.

ply officer. All three will share a stateroom. The lone bathroom for officers will bear a reversible sign letting men know that it's in use by women and vice versa.

The blue and gold crews of the four submarines will each be assigned three female officers. Two of the women will be submarine officers, and the third female officer will be a warfare qualified sup-



USS GEORGIA on patrol.

LAST CALL FOR EMAIL ADDRESSES

The *Savannah Steamer* newsletter is going E-Mail! The Savannah Council would like to send as many members as possible their *Savannah Steamer* Newsletter by E-Mail. This will allow us to cut down on the expense of printing and mailing hard copies of the newsletter, which is currently the largest administrative expense we have. Other plusses of E-Mail distribution are that you will be receiving your newsletter **sooner** and it will be a more **attractive** (you'll see it in vibrant, full color!).

In an effort to prepare for this conversion, if you have changed your E-Mail address or have an E-Mail address but have not given it to us....now is the time to send it to dtkeller29@aol.com so you will be included as we move forward into the age of electronics.

Welcome Aboard to our new members: Megan Federal; Richard Merrey; Richard A. Nelson; Richard L. Noel; Charles T. Sitrin; Dan P. Tice; Alan and Pat Yovich. WOW!! They bring the NLUS Savannah Council membership to 289. The Membership Mixer is working.

We still have time in 2010 to sign up a few more members. Have you thought about giving a Navy League membership to a friend or family member this Holiday Season? No shopping required and you could win The Membership Contest.

- Each membership you send in will enter YOU into a drawing for \$500!
- Each membership you've submitted between 10/01/2010 and 12/31/2010 will provide another opportunity for you to win.
- Please add the priority code: 4Q2010 to any application you have and this will flag it for the Membership Service folks for priority handling.
- The winner will be announced on Feb. 1, 2011.

As always, if you are in need of an application for a friend or have a question about your membership please contact Debbie Keller, Membership Chair, dtkeller29@aol.com 912-598-0940, or look for a member of the Membership Team at the back of the meeting room at our next dinner meeting.

A big thanks to our Alexia Pittas-Webster, lead instructor for the Savannah Sea Cadets Squadron, who gave a fascinating presentation about all the exciting things our Sea Cadets have been doing over the past year. It was especially rewarding to meet the cadets who attended the meeting, and learn about the many ways the program has made a difference in their lives. Way to go, guys!

Since no Marines were present, two of our Sea Cadets cut a cake to celebrate the Corps' 235th birthday. Happy Birthday, Marines!





Sea Cadets Boston Butt Sale Fundraiser



The Savannah Squadron Sea Cadet need your help to raise funds for their activities in 2011--and they've come up with a tasty way for you to help out. The squadron is offering fully cooked, delicious Boston Butts for \$20 each. Contact Instructor K. McCumber at (912) 660-7844 or kmc333@comcast.net, or mail a check to 1 Hammock St., Savannah, GA 31419 (Please make all checks payable to Savannah Squadron, USNSCC).

You may pick up your purchase at Jones Red & White grocery between 9am and 6pm on Saturday, January 29th.

USS *Taylor* (FFG-50) Visits Savannah



The guided-missile frigate USS *Taylor* (FFG-50) slid up the Savannah River on December 2nd to enjoy our city and take part in the Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance Ceremony. The Savannah Council and guests gathered for a reception aboard ship on December 3rd.



Sea Cadets March in Veterans Day Parade



Members of our Sea Cadets squadron proudly marched in the recent Savannah Veterans Day Parade, resplendent in their best dress uniforms. Thanks to this excellent group for representing us at such an important community event.



VFA-86

Sidewinders to Leave Beaufort for West Coast Home

The Navy has announced that the last remaining Navy F-18 Hornet squadron based at Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, the "Sidewinders" of VFA-86, will permanently depart the Low Country base no later than June 1st of 2011. A Navy official told the *Navy Times* that the move to Naval Air Station Lemoore, California will allow the squadron to transition from Hornets to more advanced Super Hornet fighter/attack aircraft. It will also place the Sidewinders closer to the San Diego-based carrier battle group with which they've been deploying in recent years. Additionally, the squadron's departure makes more room in Beaufort for the upcoming arrival of F-35 Joint Strike Fighter squadrons.



Naval History Trivia



Did you guess the answer to last month's naval history trivia question? Here it is again:

Name the ancient Greek warship manned by 170 oarsmen and capable of traveling at speeds of up to 10 knots.

The answer: The **trireme** (from Latin *triremis*, literally "three-oarer").

This was one serious rowboat, bristling with 170 oars arranged in three rows, with one man per oar. On a good day, the oarsmen, rowing for 6–8 hours, could propel the ship between fifty and sixty miles. Classical sources indicate that the trireme was capable of sustained speeds of around 6 knots at a relatively leisurely pace.

NOW HERE'S NEXT MONTH'S TRIVIA QUESTION:

As regional leaders debate the proposed deepening of Savannah's harbor, their deliberations include the wreckage of the *CSS Georgia*, a Civil War ironclad warship resting on the riverbed adjacent to Old Fort Jackson National Historic Landmark. **What is the most popular nick-name of this vessel?** (hint: it derives from the gender of the Savannahians who funded its construction).



Savannah Commemorates Pearl Harbor Attack

A crowd of about 300, with 19 WWII veterans, turned out for the annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day ceremony, co-organized by the Savannah Council and the Fleet Reserve Association at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Pooler on December 5th. Sailors from the visiting frigate *USS Taylor* (FFG-50) and members of the Savannah Sea Cadets Squadron took part, and Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander LTC Jose Aguilar gave the keynote address. Thanks to Savannah Council member **Gary Johnson** for all his hard work making this meaningful event such a success.



2010 Officers & Directors

President	Tom Latham
Vice President	John Innes
Vice President	Frank McCarthy
Vice President	Debbie Keller
Vice President	Michael Jordan
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Bob Gephart
Directors	
JEB Harper	Mick McCay
Seth Kovensky	Warren Onken
Louis Hohenstein	Jeff Zureich
Tom Johnston	Larry Wills
Larry Maurer	
Immediate Past President	Jim Keller

Savannah Steamer Newsletter

Editor	Michael Jordan
Layout	Mick McCay
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.

2011 Officers & Directors

President	Bob Gephart
First Vice President	Michael Jordan
Vice President - Legislative Affairs	Frank McCarthy
Vice President	Mick McCay
Vice President	Larry Wills
Judge Advocate	Ed Robb
Treasurer	Cliff Angers
Secretary	Frank McCarthy
Directors	
Danica Grone	Larry Maurer
J.E.B. Harper	Joe Tillman
Louis Hohenstein	Jeff Zureich
Jerry Hogan	Alexia Pittas Webster
John Innes	

Immediate Past President, Tom Latham

NOTE: This slate of officers and directors elected at the November meeting will be sworn-in at the January 25th meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Cliff Angers, Treasurer

Through the first eleven months of 2010, Savannah Council's **income** was \$ 13,521, with total **expenses** for this same period of \$18,091. Our **loss year to-date** is \$4,570. Program expenses in support of the sea services have accounted for 80 percent of our total expenses.

We thank those of you who have already sent in your dues and generous special contributions. Local dues for the calendar year 2011 will continue to be \$15.00 per member. While the dues for 2011 are payable no later than the first week in March, we urge you to send in your checks as soon as possible if you have not already done so. And, as others already have, please be generous with your special contributions to keep your Council on track for another strong year in supporting our sea services.

Our Navy League Community Partners -

- The Propeller Club • Crescent Towing • Savannah Riverfront
- Savannah Maritime Assn. • Savannah Marine Repair
- Whitmarsh Beverage Center & Catering Service

Visit our website at www.savannah.navyleague.us

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**SAVANNAH
COUNCIL**

Recipient of the Outstanding Council Award

Remember Your 2011 Dues!