



Savannah Steamer

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Savannah Council United States Navy League A Word from the President

NOW HEAR THIS,

Savannah Council has received word from US Navy 2nd Fleet Headquarters that a US Navy ship has been designated to participate in Savannah's Oktoberfest weekend activities. Additionally, we expect a US Navy ship to be in port in December to celebrate Christmas on the River and participate in Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Needless to say these announcements come as most welcome news inasmuch as we'll be afforded the opportunity to once again express appreciation to the men and women of the US Navy for their outstanding and dedicated commitment in maintaining freedom throughout the world.

In addition to preparing for the visit of US Navy ships, now is the time for the Council to begin giving thoughtful consideration to the composition of next year's leadership team. This year's Nominating Committee currently is being constituted and will be finalized at the August dinner meeting. Shortly thereafter the Committee will begin interviewing candidates for a number of officer and director positions for 2010. Ladies and gentlemen, this is OUR opportunity to become involved with the affairs of OUR Savannah Council. The Board of Directors consists of 18 positions all of which are necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the Council.

Please contact me or a member of the Nominating Committee if you or someone you know could fill one of the key positions on the Council's Board. Opportunities are available in all areas including secretary, speakers, awards and recognition ceremonies, public relations, youth programs and parade organization. Additionally, administrative assistance is needed in the areas of finance, membership, newsletter preparation, website maintenance, dinner meetings and scrapbook preparation. In which areas can we count on YOUR help?

Please note changes for the following meeting dates:

Board of Directors-Rescheduled from
1 September to **8 September**

Savannah Council Dinner-Rescheduled from
24 November to **17 November**

Times and locations of both meetings remain unchanged.

Join us at the Hunter Club on **25 August** when our speaker will be US Navy CAPT Kent Flowers, CO of SSU NROTC. Please remember that dinner reservations are required by NOON on Friday, 21 August. Thanks for your cooperation.

That Is All. Carry On.

Jim Keller

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

Captain Kent V. Flowers
United States Navy
Commanding Officer,
Savannah State University NROTC

(See CAPT Flowers' Bio on p. 3)



Call Sybil Cannon at 964-5366 or e-mail RSalty2@att.net to reserve your seat, by Fri. Aug. 21st.

From Our July 28th Meeting

After calling the meeting to order, President Jim Keller recognized two Guardians of the Quarter who were in attendance. He then remarked that this was the birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard which was established as the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service on August 4, 1790. Long time Navy Leaguer Paul Morrow turned 90 years old on August 3 and he assisted our speaker in cutting the birthday cake.



Captain Donna Cottrell, USCG receiving a gift from the Savannah Council. Presented by Jim Keller, Council president.

With an easy confidence that reflected her 26 year career in the Coast Guard, CAPT Donna Cottrell, Commanding Officer of Air Station Savannah, discussed the scope and range of her responsibilities. Since 1963 Air Station Savannah has provided search and rescue (SAR) coverage 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Its primary area of responsibility extends from Charleston, SC to Jacksonville, FL.

Air Station Savannah has 27 officers, 86 enlisted, 3 civilians and 80 members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Aircraft include 5 MH-65 Dolphin helicopters. Each of these flies 645 hours/year for a total of 3,225 hours/year for the Dolphins. CAPT Cottrell briefly discussed some future challenges including the Panama Canal expansion that will result in Panamax II container ships that will carry 12,000 TEUs versus the present 5,000.



Captain Donna Cottrell and Paul Morrow cutting the Coast Guard Birthday Cake.

August 25 Speaker, Captain Kent V. Flowers, USN

A native of Chicago, IL CAPT Flowers is a 1981 graduate of the University of Virginia. He received his commission in May 1981 through the NROTC program.

His first tour was in USS MIDWAY (CV 41) from July 1982 to October 1984. He was then assigned to a second sea tour in USS BRONSTEIN (FF 1037) from January 1985 to August 1986. He reported to the U.S. Naval Academy in August 1986 where he served as an admissions counselor until October 1988. From June 1989 to November 1992 he served in USS COOK (FF 1083) and USS HALSEY (CG 23).

CAPT Flowers entered the College of Naval Command and Staff in November 1992, graduating with an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies. From February 1994 to October 2005 he served in a number of assignments both at sea and ashore that included USS ESTOCIN (FFG 15), USS PELELIU (LHA 5), USS ANCHORAGE (LSD 36), and Surface Warfare Officer's School. CAPT Flowers assumed command of Southern University Naval ROTC unit in November 2005. In August 2008 he assumed command of Savannah State University Naval ROTC unit.

CAPT Flower's decorations include the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal and other service awards. He is married to the former Deborah Goodman of Memphis, TN and they have two children.

Change of Command - Submarine Squadron Sixteen

A change of command and retirement ceremony took place on July 27th for Captain Daniel Mack, USN. Captain Tracy Howard relieved him as Commanding Officer of Submarine Squadron Sixteen. Jim and Debbie Keller, Gary Johnson and Judy Roddy, and Tom and Ginny Latham attended the ceremony from Savannah Council.

CAPT Mack has been a good friend to the Navy League and has been a speaker at one of our monthly meetings. We hope to continue this relationship with CAPT Howard and look forward to having him come to Savannah soon.

Legislative Affairs Report - August 2009



NLUS Presentation #2 was reviewed with Congressman Jack Kingston in his Savannah office Tuesday, August 4, by Bob Gephart, Jim Keller and Tom Wright. Congressman Kingston had his military aide in his DC office, CDR Axel Spens, wired into the discussion via phone conference.

This presentation was put together by National to solicit support of members of Congress for increased funding of the Navy and Coast Guard. The specific target for the Navy is to increase shipbuilding to 10 – 11 ships per year from the recent schedule of 6 – 8 ships per year. The Coast Guard objective is to increase funding for their Deepwater Program. Jack was receptive to our presentation and seemed interested in the ideas and statistics we discussed.

The photo was taken as we departed his office.

A similar meeting with Congressman John Barrow is scheduled for August 26.

Membership Corner - August 2009

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our newest member **Angela C. Hines**, sponsored by **Mary Nelson Adams**. Please make her feel welcome.

Savannah Council National USNL Memberships as of August 7, 2009 are 287. This number includes 14 new members this year. We started the year with 298 members and we are currently down 11 members. We are losing current members. Are any of your buddies missing?

We realize that with the economy in the situation that it is right now, we all may have to think about renewing our membership to the Navy League, instead of "just writing the check." Now more than ever your support is so very important. Please put your Navy League Membership "at the top of the list" of your bills to be paid.

If you are in need of a membership application for a prospective member, or just need a little help renewing your membership, please contact me and I will see that you receive the assistance you need. Debbie Keller, 912-598-0940 or dtkeller29@aol.com.

-- Debbie Keller

Upcoming Events

August 25
Dinner Meeting
CAPT Kent Flowers, USN
Savannah State University – NROTC

September 8 (new date)
Board of Directors
Savannah State University

September 22
Dinner Meeting
LTC Jose Aguilar, USA
Garrison Commander
Hunter Army Airfield

October 3 – 5
Oktoberfest on the River

October 6
Board of Directors
Savannah State University

October 20
Dinner Meeting
Harbor Pilots

November 3
Board of Directors
Savannah State University

November 17 (new date)
Dinner Meeting
CAPT Mark Bernier, USN
CO, Naval Hospital Beaufort

December 1
Board of Directors
Savannah State University

December 7
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
U.S. Navy ship visit

SAVE THE DATE:
Annual Savannah Council
Christmas Party
Friday, December 11, 2009
at the
Savannah Yacht Club

In Memoriam **CAPT ROBERT S. JONES, USN, (Ret)**

Guardian of the Quarter - Air Station



**AMT Adrian Widner
and his wife Delores**

Guardian of the Quarter - MSU



MST Nathan Christensen

Treasurer's Report August 2009

Through the first seven months of 2009, Savannah Council has generated income of \$13,688 with total expenditures of \$8,604, yielding a gain of \$5,084. Our cash position remains strong with approximately \$25,000 in the bank. It is important for every council member to know that our finances have been substantially bolstered in July through a generous grant from the City of Savannah and a most generous contribution from Georgia Ports Authority. We received the second of two 2009 payments of \$2,500 from the city to help fund our sea service programs. We also received \$2,500 from Georgia Ports Authority to co-sponsor this month's Coast Guard family outing at Grayson Stadium. GPA has been a loyal supporter of this event as one way of thanking USCG for their valuable work in protecting our port.

We had an attendance of 51 members and guests at last month's dinner meeting which helped celebrate the birthday of the USCG.

-- Cliff Angers

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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and Directors

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