



CAMDEN- KINGS BAY COUNCIL
Navy League of the United States

NEWSLETTER

<http://www.kingsbaynavyleague.org/>

DECEMBER, 2009

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HOLIDAY SOCIAL

Sunday, December 6th
Laurel Island Links
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

BUFFET MENU

Omelette Station
Sliced Ham
Country Fried Potatoes
Vegetable Medley
Biscuits
Fruit Tray
Sheet Cake
Coffee, Iced or Hot Tea

Price \$15.00 per person

Reservations: (912) 729 -7327 or e-mail to navyleaguedinner@yahoo.com
Deadline for reservations is Sunday, 29 November No shows will be billed!

PROGRAM
HOLIDAY BRUNCH BENEFITTING
'TOYS FOR TOTS'
AND VA HOME VETERANS

President's Message . . .

A big thank you goes out to all of you who came to our November Dinner meeting on the 12th, all 78 of you! We had a great turnout to welcome and hear Coast Guard CDR Joe Raymond, Commander of the Maritime Force Protection Unit Kings Bay, provide us with a wonderful update on what our Coast Guard is doing around the world today, and more specifically what his men and women do here for us in Kings Bay.

At our meeting we also had the opportunity to honor and recognize EM2 Brandon Shortencarrier, USCG, who was married two days later to his fiancé Amanda at the Base Chapel, as our Coast Guardsmen of the Month.



I was honored to represent all of you at our National Navy League Convention in Corpus Christi, Texas last month. It was a wonderful week, and I was thrilled to accept our Meritorious Council Award on behalf of all of our membership for our outstanding work supporting the men and women and their families who called Camden County home in 2008. I also recently attended the Navy and Marine Corps Birthday Balls In Jacksonville, both of which our Council Supported. Our Board of Directors also voted to support the St Marys Submarine Museum with a donation of \$500.00. We have also moved our Board Meeting to the Museum and held our first meeting there on November 10th.

I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving as you gather with family and friends here and elsewhere across the country. For those of you hitting the trail out of town by car, plane, foot, rickshaw or whatever means, I wish you safe travels and a joyous time with those you gather and celebrate with. As I always do, I ask that you keep our men and women in uniform serving us around the globe in your thoughts and prayers as you gather together. They are at the tip of Freedom's Spear and they need and deserve our continued love and support wherever they are, as do their families who await their return back home. In this newsletter issue you will see an opportunity to reach out to some of these American Heroes, in a program sponsored by Xerox called 'Lets Say Thanks' and I hope you will avail yourselves to this unique and needed program.

I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year. I know you all will enjoy our gathering and fellowship at Laurel Island Country Club on December 6th as we honor a Marine of the Month and gather toys for the children of Camden County and supplies for our Veterans in Dublin who long ago served our nation. I am sorry I will not be able to join you all. I will be taking my Dad, who celebrated his 80th birthday this year, on a cruise to celebrate with the rest of my family. I wish all of you the best Holiday Season and look forward to seeing you at our first event in the New Year on February 11th.

Keith

About our Program . . .

Our annual event to support the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots program in Camden County and our Veterans at the VA Home in Dublin, Georgia, will be held again this year at Laurel Island Country Club on Sunday December 6th from 1 to 3 PM. Those of you who attended this event last year know what a wonderful time we had together, and what an impact we had on the lives of children in our community. Please mark your calendar, and call in to 729-SEAS (7327) or email your reservations to navyleaguedinner@yahoo.com today!



Youth Services. . .

NJROTC: The Camden county High school NJROTC unit will hold its annual Christmas ball on 11 December. Contact Jerry O'Donoghue at 882-3882 if you would like to attend.

SEA CADETS: The Kings Bay Sea Cadet Division will hold its annual awards ceremony on Saturday 5 December at 1000 at Trident Training Facility auditorium.

On Saturday morning 3 October, the Kings Bay Sea Cadet Division color guard and unit led the Kiwanis Club's 37th Annual Rock Shrimp Festival parade in St. Marys. After lunch, the cadets assisted the festival organizers with preparing food, serving box lunches and cleaning up the area after the event.



From Our Georgia Area President . . .

Fellow Navy Leaguers,

I am writing to provide a brief update on the recent Navy League convention I attended as did our Council President and National Director-Keith Post. Sheila our past National and Tom Wright our Georgia Area president were also in attendance as well as many other members from across the South Atlantic Coast Region. Our Georgia area continues as one of the strongest areas in the country as evidenced by 3 of the 5 councils achieving meritorious and outstanding levels of performance for 2008. Keith and your Board of Directors led our council to its 3rd meritorious award in a row. Way to go Camden Kings Bay! Dan Branch was elected as our National President and relieved Mike McGrath as our National President. Mike has done a terrific job leading our Navy League through some really tough times. He deserves special thanks from all of us. One of Dan's major goals is to improve communications to councils. Watch for more on this topic.

The convention is a great way for one to connect with and understand the real importance of being a Navy Leaguer. The National committees meet and finalize action plans and finalize actions and reports for the current year. These meetings are open to all and provides a great opportunity for each of us to not only learn the inter workings of our Navy League but also an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the decisions being made. Next year's convention is in Jacksonville and offers each of us an excellent opportunity to attend without having to spend much money for travel and lodging. Plan to attend if you can. It will be toward the end of the month in October 2010.

As I close this I want to share a couple startling numbers that I heard during the convention. The first is that our membership has declined from 70,000 plus members to around 53,000 members. We all know there are several reasons for this type decline including the current recession, declining interest in civic organizations, the higher dues structure, etc. But we need members to do the great job that Teddy Roosevelt founded the Navy League to do over 100 years ago and that is to educate our politicians and population in general about the need for strong sea services. That leads me to the 2nd number that I want to share with you. The number is 288 ships. That is about where the Navy is today and it is the smallest our Navy has been since 1916. One only needs to recollect what we had to do after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 07, 1941. We had to build ships at a rate that was unprecedented and probably not possible today. The Navy's minimum number of ships required to carry out today's mission is 313. The GAO indicates that \$27 B in ship construction funds (SCN) would have to be allocated to reach 313 ships. The Navy League supports an SCN budget of \$20B. The budget request is only \$15B. Our Legislative Affairs Committee members are trying to visit every congressional office throughout the US to make sure the message about the need of the Sea Services is heard. Members are what provides them the leverage they need in convincing the senators and congressmen to listen.

Have a great holiday season and I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Dave Reilly

Have You Lapsed?

For Members whose membership lapsed prior to August 31, 2009, we want you back! And to encourage you to reinstate your membership, the Navy League is running a special promotion called the "Lapsed Member Campaign" whereby qualifying former members can rejoin at a bargain price. If you qualify, simply call the Navy League Membership Department at 1.800.356.5760 and tell them that you want to take advantage of the 3-year reinstatement deal for \$100.00. You must use a credit card to complete the registration.

Let's Say Thanks . . .

The XEROX Corporation has launched a wonderful program called Let's Say Thanks. The mission of this effort is to provide a way for individuals across the country to recognize U.S. troops stationed overseas. By submitting a message through this special website you have the opportunity to send a free personalized postcard greeting to deployed servicemen and women. The postcards, depicting patriotic scenes and hometown images, were selected from a pool of entries from children across the country. All you have to do is click on your favorite design and either select the message that best expresses your sentiment or draft a personal note. The postcards are then printed on the Xerox iGen3® Digital Production Press and mailed in care packages by the military support organization Give2theTroops®.

Xerox is committed to helping people across the nation express their gratitude to our troops overseas. The launch of this program is aimed at reminding them how much Americans appreciate their service. If you are not sure that something like this has any impact, visit the website and read the comments in the "from the troops" section. Please feel free to share this program with your friends. It costs you nothing to share your thanks and appreciation for our troops, the impact is priceless, and you will feel good about it as well! The website is www.lets saythanks.com and please visit it often!

Community Affiliates Honor Roll

AMERIS BANK ~ BENNETT SUZUKI
CAMDEN/CHARLTON BOARD OF REALTORS
FREEDOM SELF STORAGE ~ NORTHROP GRUMMAN
QC MANAGEMENT, INC. ~ SATILLA COMMUNITY BANK
SECURIGUARD, INC. ~ SONCEL
SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM
VT GRIFFIN SERVICES, INC.