



# BLUE & GOLD

Navy League Of The United States

San Diego Council

47-08 | August 2017

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JON BERG-JOHNSEN

Among other notable events in August, this is the month we celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Coast Guard. In many ways, this signifies one of the most recognizable of the four Sea Services Navy League supports. The U.S. Coast Guard, certainly for those that live near the Coastal areas and major waterways of the U.S., we see the Coast Guard in action almost non-stop. In San Diego, they are a major player in the protection and preservation of our harbors and waterways, and prevention of illegal trafficking and smuggling into the area. They also ensure the safety of all waterborne craft from the smallest sailboat to the largest commercial ships and of course our military surface ships transiting in and out of our ports by maintaining navigation aids and providing notification of hazards. If that wasn't enough, the Coast Guard reaches deeper into the communities everywhere they serve than most of us realize.



On August 4th, I encourage all of you to attend our Monthly Breakfast to hear CAPT Joseph Buzzella, Commander, Sector San Diego, talk about the Coast Guard, and celebrate the birth date of this incredibly important organization. You will learn about all that they do with a ridiculously tiny budget, and very small numbers of people, ships and aircraft. It will make you scratch your head and wonder how do they do it, and why isn't there more funding provided!? Please sign up and make this special birthday celebration the biggest and best we have had. Show CAPT Buzzella why San Diego was designated a Coast Guard City and how much we appreciate all his fellow Coast Guard men and women!

A few weeks back, we were fortunate to have RADM Christian "Boris" Becker, Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (aka SPAWAR) speak at our July Monthly Breakfast. For those that attended, we were treated to some candid and insightful information about the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations guidance, the role of SPAWAR (correctly pronounced: Spay' War), and some really cool historical facts that emphasized the United States Navy's focus on innovation and its people. We also recognized our Marine Corps Drill Instructors of the Quarter from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego that provide the leadership and support for those brave and patriotic men that accept the challenge of becoming a Marine.

Lastly, Joan Mitchell, Navy League Pacific Southwest Region President presented awards for our Council, including the Douglas Mackie Award for our very own "Blue and Gold" as the Best Newsletter in Large Council Category, and for being an Outstanding Council for 2016.

Continued on page 3

## Breakfast Meeting August 4, 2017

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER

**CAPT Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.**  
**United States Coast Guard**  
 Sector Commander and Captain  
 of the Port of San Diego,

“Adaptability is a characteristic of the American fighting man that has enabled this country's Armed Forces to emerge triumphant in every major war we have fought. Adaptability is synonymous with operations of the United States Coast Guard.”

— Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

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# RECOGNITIONS



RADM Christian Becker, Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command joins Pacific Southwest Region President Joan Mitchell as she presents Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen a Certificate of Appreciation from then-National President Skip Witunski, for his stalwart leadership in keeping the council on a steady course in 2016 and 2017.



(l-r) Sea Services VP Bob Berman; Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen; MCRD San Diego Senior Drill Instructor of the Quarter Sgt Arthur F. Renteria and Lockheed Martin awards sponsor representative Fred Becker. Missing from the photo is SSgt Jevon D. McKinnon, the Drill Instructor of the Quarter.



Pacific Southwest Region President Joan Mitchell presents the Navy League's 1st Place – Large Council Donald M. Mackie Award – Newsletter to Executive Director Jay Lott and Council President Jon Berg-Johnson. Thanks to Jeff, Tricia and Eugene at San Diego Copy, with whom we share this award.



Pacific Southwest Region President Joan Mitchell presents Council President Jon Berg-Johnsen with the Navy League's 2016 Outstanding Council Award.



RADM Christian Becker, Commander, Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command addresses the members at the July Breakfast Meeting.

Looking ahead, we have a busy schedule to include a Board of Directors Meeting and Bylaws review on Saturday, 26 August at the Veteran Museum in Balboa Park, and a Members Reception at the ADM Baker Golf Clubhouse on 15 September. We will be participating once again in the Miramar Air Show with a Chalet on the flight line, and the best views of the Marine Corps Air and Ground Task Force (MAGTF) Demonstration, and of course the Blue Angels, among many other flight and ground based attractions! This is the largest Military Air Show in the World. We have a 150 person tent this year thanks to our sponsors many of whom have already signed up. If you want to attend please contact Jay Lott. Sign up now and buy your ticket.

There still is much work to do and we need you to pitch in to support our Council. Join us. Get involved. You can make a difference!

Thank you—*Jon Berg-Johnsen*

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

What: Council Members\* Reception

When: September 15, 2017

Where: Admiral Baker Clubhouse

Time: 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Dress: Casual

Cost: Member—\$5.00

\*Non-Members—\$15.00

(plus you get one drink ticket)

You MUST be a member in good standing in our Council and you MUST RSVP to attend to [jay@navyleague-sd.com](mailto:jay@navyleague-sd.com)

Paying online satisfies the RSVP

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**242ND NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL**

**SAN DIEGO MARRIOTT MARQUIS**  
**OCTOBER 14, 2017**

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW

## ON THIS DATE IN...

**AUGUST**

**Aug 3, 1950** – Eight Corsairs of VMF-214, the famed “Black Sheep” squadron of World War II, launched from the USS *Sicily* and executed the first Marine aviation mission in the Korean war in a raid against enemy installations near Inchon.

**Aug 4 – HAPPY 227th BIRTHDAY  
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD!!!**

**Aug 4, 1846** – Sailors and Marines from USS *Congress* capture Santa Barbara.

**Aug 4 – HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY  
MEDICAL SERVICES CORPS!!!**

**Aug 4, 1949** – Congress approved Public Law 207, which revised, codified and enacted into law Title 14 of the U. S. Code, confirming that the Coast Guard was a branch of the armed forces.

**Aug 6, 1990** – President George Bush orders Operation Desert Shield, the largest overseas deployment since Vietnam, to protect Saudi Arabia after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.

**Aug 7, 1782** – Badge of Military Merit (Purple Heart) is established.

**Aug 8, 1972** – Women are authorized for sea duty as regular ship’s company.

**Aug 9, 1942** – With the Guadalcanal airstrip secure after heavy fighting with the Japanese, the 1st Engineer Battalion commenced work on the runway using captured equipment. Three days later, the first plane landed on Henderson Field.

**Aug 9, 1949** – The first use of pilot-ejection seat is U.S. made by LT Jack I. Fruin of VF-171.

**Aug 9, 1950** – Congress enacted Public Law 679, which charged the Coast Guard with the function of port security.

**Aug 10, 1923** – MCRD at Mare Island transferred to present location in San Diego.

**Aug 11, 1921** – Carrier arresting gear first tested at Hampton Roads.

**Aug 12, 1918** – Opha M. Johnson enlisted, becoming the first woman Marine.

**Aug 12, 1958** – USS *Nautilus* (SSN-571) arrives Portland, England completing the first under ice cruise from Pacific to Atlantic Oceans.

**Aug 13, 1945** – V-J Day. President Harry Truman announced the unconditional surrender of the Japanese.

**Aug 15, 1845** – U.S. Naval Academy established at Annapolis, MD on former site of Ft. Severn.

**Aug 17, 1942** – Submarines USS *Nautilus* and USS *Argonaut* land 222 Marines on Makin Island.

**Aug 18, 1911** – The first Navy Nurse Corps Superintendent, Esther Voorhees Hasson is appointed.

**Aug 19, 1990** – At the request of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Transportation and the Commandant of the Coast Guard committed Coast Guard boarding teams to operation Desert Shield.

**Aug 21, 1800** – U.S. Marine Corps Band gave its first concert in Washington, D.C.

**Aug 21, 1968** – PFC James Anderson, Jr. was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor by Secretary of the Navy, Paul R. Ignatius, for heroism in Vietnam. This was the first Medal of Honor presented to an African-American Marine.

**Aug 22 – HAPPY 105th BIRTHDAY DENTAL CORPS!!!**

**CAPT Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr.  
United States Coast Guard**

Captain Buzzella is the Sector Commander and Captain of the Port of San Diego, California. In this role, he is the senior Coast Guard Officer in the Southwest region of the United States responsible for leading operations to ensure maritime safety, security, and environmental protection covering from the US-Mexico Maritime Border northward to Dana Point, CA, and inland to include Lakes Havasu, Meade, Mohave, Powell, and the Colorado River.



Captain Joseph R. Buzzella, Jr. hails from Miami, Florida. After completing Coast Guard Enlisted Basic Training at Cape May, New Jersey in 1986, he was assigned to Coast Guard Base Miami Beach, Florida. He is a 1988 graduate of the Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS) and a 1992 graduate of the Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Management and an officer commission. Following graduation from the Coast Guard Academy, Captain Buzzella served as a Deck Watch Officer aboard the USCGC Spencer and USCGC Vindicator. Upon completion of U.S. Naval Flight Training in Pensacola, Florida, he was designated a Coast Guard Aviator in 1996. He then reported to Coast Guard Air Station Miami, Florida where he flew the HH-65A Dauphin Helicopter and later the HU-25A Falcon Jet where he maintained a dual airframe qualification conducting search and rescue, alien migrant interdictions, and counter drug missions. In 2000, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Massachusetts where he flew HU-25A Falcon Jets conducting search and rescue and New England fisheries enforcement missions. In 2005, he was assigned under the Department of Homeland Security Chief Financial Officer in Washington D.C., where he served as an Assistant Director & Budget Program Reviewer providing oversight of more than \$26 billion in annual appropriations. In 2007, he reported to Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco, California where he held the positions of Operations Officer and Executive Officer. In 2011, he served as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, Michigan. His last assignment, Captain Buzzella served at the Pentagon as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Deputy Director of the Chairman's Action Group (CAG) under General Martin Dempsey, USA and General Joseph Dunford, USMC.

Captain Buzzella holds a Master in National Security Strategy from the National War College, a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Master of Science in Quality Systems Management with a specialization in Homeland Security from the National Graduate School. He is a former Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Public Service Fellow.

Captain Buzzella is married to the former Patrice Spanier from Pittsfield, Massachusetts. They are the proud parents of 3 children.

# Welcome Home

**USS Raphael Peralta (DDG-115) } USS Gabriella Giffords (LCS-10)**





## **The MCAS Miramar Air Show!**

The San Diego Council of the Navy League is pleased to sponsor a private chalet for the Saturday September 23, 2017 matinee show at the MCAS Miramar Air Show. You can better enjoy the show with the following amenities of the chalet:

- Ample shaded tent area with patio-style seating
- Spacious and exclusive viewing area with theater-style seating
- Padded chairs
- Festival Style Food Booths and central bar
- 3 Bars-Beer/Wine

Domestic and Craft Beers, Assorted Wine Varietals

VIP Parking

VIP portable restroom facilities separate from the general public

Selecting one of the sponsorship opportunities below is an excellent way to support the sea services and to reward some of your top performers.

### **Gold Sponsor - \$3000**

- Signage in the chalet, website and in The Blue & Gold monthly newsletter
- Six (6) tickets to the event and VIP Parking
- A Special Gift & Certificate of Appreciation

### **Silver Sponsor - \$1500**

- Signage in the chalet, website and in The Blue & Gold monthly newsletter
- Four (4) tickets to the event and VIP Parking
- A Certificate of Appreciation

**If you are a Gold or Silver Sponsor, you may purchase Additional Tickets at \$125**

**Tickets are \$130 for Navy League members and \$150 for non-members.**

Please contact Jay Lott at (619) 230-0301 or [jay@navyleague-sd.com](mailto:jay@navyleague-sd.com) if you would like to participate or become a member of our council.

### BE A VOICE TO CONGRESS – COAST GUARD FUNDING

Although the U.S. Coast Guard recently dodged a bullet for a 14% budget cut, we must continue to have our voice heard to support funding as the proposed budget is far too small. As a military service with 11 statutory missions, including protecting our homeland from threats, they need to be sufficiently funded. With only 42,000 service members and a budget of \$9.1 billion, it is already the leanest service, doing far more to safeguard our security than its size would suggest. The Coast Guard provides the strongest American presence in the Arctic, against a backdrop of increasing Russian aggression in the region. On a typical day, the Coast Guard conducts 45 search-and-rescue missions, saving 10 lives. As the dominant maritime force in the Western Hemisphere, the Coast Guard is the primary military service responsible for all aspects of Western security, including combatting terror and drug networks, human traffic networks, securing maritime borders and safeguarding commerce. It is the only service that is both a military agency and law enforcement authority, and this unique capability must be strengthened. Some recent (2016) facts and accomplishments of the U.S. Coast Guard include interdicting more than 6,300 undocumented migrants, 201 metric tons of cocaine and 52,613 pounds of marijuana.



If the Trump administration is looking to strengthen border security, invest in our military and safeguard American lives, the right choice would be to invest more in the Coast Guard. Be a Voice to Congress! Please support ample funding for the U.S. Coast Guard by contacting your Representatives, and let them know you support funding for the program. The Navy League has a letter you can email to your politicians in one step by visiting: <http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/app/onestep-write-a-letter?5&engagementId=308793>



The crew of a single Coast Guard cutter, the Stratton, seized 34 tons of cocaine

# LCDR DWIGHT HODGE DEXTER GUADALCANAL'S "NAVAL OPERATING BASE CACTUS"

BY: WILLIAM H. THIESEN, PH.D.  
COAST GUARD ATLANTIC AREA HISTORIAN

If any battle marked the turning point of World War II in the Pacific, most experts agree that the six-month land, sea and air battle for Guadalcanal was the one. Initiated on August 7, 1942, Guadalcanal became a killing field that consumed thousands of men, hundreds of aircraft and dozens of front line warships. Even though the U.S. Navy had triumphed two months earlier in the pivotal naval battle at Midway, the struggle for Guadalcanal proved the first true test of all branches of the American military against determined enemy forces within Japanese-held territory. After Guadalcanal, the Allies would remain on the offensive for the rest of the war while the Japanese fought a lengthy retreat all the way back to the home islands.

During the Guadalcanal offensive, the United States Coast Guard served an important role through its specialties in maritime transport, amphibious landing and small boat operations. At Guadalcanal, the Coast Guard worked seamlessly with its Navy and Marine Corps counterparts and, for the first time in its history, commanded and manned a U.S. Naval Operating Base (NOB). Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Dwight Hodge Dexter, later rear admiral, commanded NOB Cactus, the code name for Guadalcanal's naval operating base. At its peak, NOB Cactus included about thirty LCPs, also known as Higgins Boats, and a dozen bow-ramped tank lighters. About fifty officers and enlisted men manned the operation, which included an odd collection of coconut plantation buildings, homemade shacks, tents and dug out shelters for surviving air raids, naval bombardment and artillery shelling.

During Dexter's tenure as commander of NOB Cactus, from August 8 to November 5, 1942, Coast Guard personnel received a considerable number of combat awards and official recognition. These medals and ribbons included, Dexter's Silver Star Medal and four Silver Stars awarded to Coast Guard coxswains for combat landing operations in neighboring Tulagi. Official recognition received by other NOB personnel included the only Medal of Honor awarded to a Coast Guardsman, two Navy Crosses and a Bronze Star Medal. All who served at NOB Cactus received the Presidential Unit Citation due to their temporary assignment to Guadalcanal's First Marine Division commanded by Major General (later Marine Corps Commandant) Alexander Vandergrift.

By 1942, Dexter had been associated with the Coast Guard for nearly twenty years. He was the son of Dr. Edwin Dexter, who served in government diplomatic posts in Central America and Europe. In his early life, Dwight moved to various locations with his parents; however, in 1922 he received an appointment to the Coast Guard Academy. He returned to civilian life after two years at the Academy, but he re-entered the service as an ensign in 1926. For the next fifteen years, he served on the East Coast and in the Caribbean on board the Coast Guard manned Prohibition enforcement destroyer, USS PATTERSON, and the Coast Guard cutters CHAMPLAIN and MARION. After these sea assignments, he spent five years with the Coast Guard Rifle and Pistol Team, including three as commander. Early in 1941, as the prospect for war appeared imminent, Dexter received an appointment with Commander, Transport Division 3. After the December 1941 outbreak of the war, he transferred to the staff of Commander, Transport Group, South Pacific.

To read the complete story, click on to the link: [https://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Bulletin\\_Dexter\\_June\\_09.pdf](https://www.uscg.mil/history/people/Bulletin_Dexter_June_09.pdf)

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San Diego Council,  
Navy League Of The United States  
2115 Park Boulevard  
San Diego, CA 92101

Return Service Requested

## Membership

### Mark Your Calendar...

*THE MONTHLY BREAKFAST & LUNCH DATES AT  
ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE ARE LISTED BELOW:*

**BREAKFAST DATES**  
**7:00 a.m - 8:30 a.m.**

**August 4, 2017**

**September 8, 2017** Second Friday

**October 6, 2017**

**November 3, 2017**

**December 1, 2017**

**No lunch meetings until further  
notice.**

### NEW MEMBERS

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Carey Ash         | Kimberly Nolen    |
| Jeremiah Bostic   | Maria Sanchez     |
| Brandon Carter    | Yolanda Simms     |
| Keith Carter      | Richard Smith     |
| Natalie Chin      | Jaami Tellis      |
| James Christopher | Mark Tietz        |
| Julianne Ellis    | Angel Vizcarrondo |
| Wanda Fontanez    | Mallory Walker    |
| Tamara Jones      | Andre Walters     |
| Monroe Key        | Tarrece Williams  |
| David Lavigne     | Tammy Young       |
| Larry Nelson      |                   |

\* Life Members  
@ New Community Affiliate

# Husband & Wife Members  
^ Student  
+ Active Duty Spouse

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

*We thank the following Corporate Members  
& Community Affiliates for their continued  
support:*

## Be a Navy League Volunteer

Volunteers are needed on committees all year long. If you would like to volunteer to help make an event successful, contact Jay Lott at 619-230-0301

### CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGE

Have you moved? Changed your phone number, or Email Address?

### WE VALUE YOUR OPINION

The San Diego Navy League takes pride in its publications and seeks to continually improve upon them. We welcome your comments.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Please send your letters on all subject matters concerning the Navy League or our brave service men and women directly to:

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