



# BLUE & GOLD

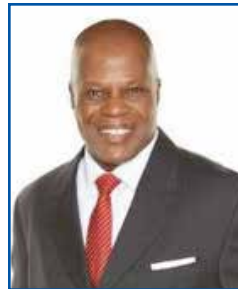
Navy League Of The United States San Diego Council 50-03 | March 2020

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TONY JOHNSON

Hello members! I hope you had a fabulous February! We, as a council, were busy that month.

We had USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72) return from a ten-month deployment. They also were moving homeports from Norfolk, Virginia to San Diego. As always, our homecoming team led by Jay Rindler, did a marvelous job of supporting the friends and family members that came from all over the nation to greet their returning Sailors.



Our Sea Services team had the privilege of recognizing members from three of our maritime forces with Certificates of Appreciation, gifts cards and coins. Thanks to Ernie Belmares, Marty Magana, Matt Ruane, Jay Rindler and past President Jon Berg-Johnsen for representing the council at MCAS Miramar's, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and the Naval Medical Center San Diego's quarterly and yearly award ceremonies.

The Sea Cadet units have been busy as well! The Challenger Division, under the command of Shannon Ward, had their annual awards banquet, which was truly a remarkable event. The Fort Fisher Division, under the command Melissa Haskins, brought holiday cookies to and had an event interacting with a few local San Diego and Chula Vista fire departments. Our youths are amazing and continue to develop as they grow, learn and become leaders in their realm.

I want to thank Captain Tim Slentz, United States Navy, Commanding Officer of Naval Base Coronado for taking time out to be our guest speaker at February's breakfast meeting. He gave the council insight on his responsibilities as the Commander, not only for Naval Air Station North Island, Coronado (NASNI) and Naval Amphibious Base, Coronado (NAB), but on his six other installations within Southern California; especially the Silver Strand Training Complex-South, Coronado (SSTC-South) which will be the new training facility for the special operation forces.

March will be one our busiest yet! AFCEA WEST is March 2-3 at the convention center. We need member support in staffing our table. For more information, please contact Jay Rindler at karlort@aol.com. This month we are delighted to have Captain Jennifer L. Ellinger, United States Navy, Commodore of Amphibious Squadron Seven (CPR7) as our monthly breakfast guest speaker. This is a new and upcoming command and it will be a great opportunity to learn more about the development of this organization and its prospective tasking in the future.

Since this is "Women's Appreciation month", as well, it is an opportunity to hear from one of our senior female leaders in the area and learn about her journey up to this point. We have the Enlisted Women of the Year luncheon on 31 March. For more details, please contact our event chairperson Phyllis Barber at vp@navyleague-sd.com.

Continued on page 3

## Breakfast Meeting

March 6, 2020

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

GUEST SPEAKER

CAPTAIN JENNIFER L. ELLINGER

COMMODORE,

COMPHIBRON SEVEN (CPR7)

“ Whatever goals we set for ourselves, we know we can go higher. ”

— Adm. Michelle Howard, 38th Vice Chief of Naval Operations

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# RECOGNITIONS



Council President present the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal to Cadet CPO Cody Ward for his Outstanding Performance of Duty by being selected as the Challenger Division's Cadet of the Year.



(l-r) Council President Tony Johnson, ME2 Francisco Martinez, Coast Guard Sector San Diego's Enlisted Person of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter; MK1 Jason Bravo, Coast Guard Sector San Diego's 2019 Enlisted Person of the Year; ET2 Matthew S. Dinnerman Coast Guard Sector San Diego's 2019 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year and David Dearie, USAA awards sponsor representative. Missing from the photo is OS2 Ronni Sylvester, Coast Guard Sector San Diego's Enlisted Person of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter. Her award was sponsored by Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego.



Council Member Matt Ruane presented Sailor of the Quarter awards to Sailors of Naval Medical Center San Diego for their professional excellence.



Lockheed Martin awards sponsor representative Jon Berg-Johnsen on the left and council member Marty Magaña presented Marine's and Sailor's of the Year and Quarter from 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar awards for their professional excellence.



Council President Tony Johnson presents Derek Barksdale, Managing Partner of Aligned Mortgage their Community Affiliate Plaque. Welcome Aboard!!!



Captain Tim Slentz, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Coronado briefs the members on his area of responsibility as the CO of the base.

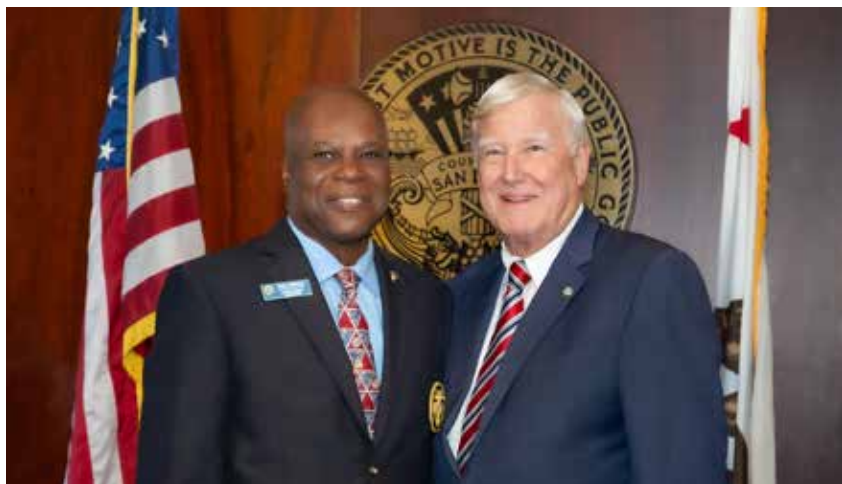
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our council is hosting the Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year announcement dinner to be held at the Air & Space Museum in Balboa Park on April 3. Normally this event is held in Hawaii; however, the command has asked our council to assist in supporting the coordination of recognizing the very best Sailors in the Pacific area of responsibility. I hope that our local members will seize the opportunity to attend this extraordinary event. There is further information on this event in the newsletter. You can go to our link on the website to register.

Mark your calendars to support the International Frigate Working Group event from 9 June to 16 June 2020 at the Admiral Kidd Club at Point Loma North Harbor Drive Annex in San Diego. We need members to volunteer in assisting with setup, registration and staffing our support table. For more details, please contact the event Chair Dave Grundies at, dgrundies@gmail.com.

Lastly members, we are doing a great deal of tremendous work throughout the weeks and months with limited resources. We always need more volunteers and donations. Without you and your support, we cannot carry out our mission. Look forward to seeing you around the fleet!

Tony Johnson  
President



Council President Tony Johnson stands with Chairman of San Diego County Supervisor Greg Cox. Tony attended a country meeting and was asked to lead the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## GOALS OF THE San Diego Council,

### Navy League Of The United States

Educate national leaders and the nation.

Support the men and women of the sea services.

Provide assistance to sea service families.

Support youth programs.

## ON THIS DATE IN...

### MARCH

**Mar 1, 2003** – Administrative control of the Coast Guard transferred to the newly created Department of Homeland Security from the Department of Transportation.

**Mar 2 – HAPPY 153rd BIRTHDAY  
CIVIL ENGINEER CORPS!!!**

**Mar 2, 1973** – Women begin pilot training in U.S. Navy.

**Mar 3 – HAPPY 149th BIRTHDAY  
NAVY MEDICAL CORPS!!!**

**Mar 3, 1915** – Office of Chief of Naval Operations is established.

**Mar 4, 1977** – ENS Janna Lambine, USCG becomes the Coast Guard's first female aviator.

**Mar 5, 1942** – Name "Seabees" and insignia officially established.

**Mar 7, 1958** – Commissioning of USS *Grayback*, the first submarine built from keel up with guided missile capability, to fire Regulus II missile.

**Mar 7, 1966** – Department of the Navy is reorganized not present structure under CNO.

**Mar 7, 1994** – Navy issues first orders to women assigned aboard a combat ship, USS *Eisenhower*.

**Mar 8 – DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS!!!**

**Mar 8, 1945** – Phyllis Daley becomes the first African-American Ensign in the Navy Nurse Corps.

**Mar 8, 1965** – The 9th Marine Expeditionary Brigade landed at DaNang, Republic of Vietnam as the first U.S. ground combat troops to be committed to the conflict.

**Mar 13, 1943** – The first group of Women Marine officer candidates arrived at the U.S. Midshipmen School (Women's Reserve) at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA.

**Mar 15, 1943** – Numbered fleet system is established.

**Mar 16, 1945** – Iwo Jima is declared secure.

**Mar 17 – HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY!!!**

**Mar 17, 1898** – USS *Holland*, the first practical submarine, is launched.

**Mar 17, 1967** – Master Sergeant Barbara Dulinsky USMC, is the first woman to report to Vietnam for duty.

**Mar 19 – FIRST DAY OF SPRING!!!**

**Mar 21, 1917** – Loretta Perfectus Walsh became America's first official enlisted woman when she joined the Navy and also the first female chief petty officer.

**Mar 22, 1917** – Third Lieutenant Elmer Stone, USCG became the Coast Guard's first aviator.

**Mar 29, 1973** - Operation Homecoming was completed when the last of 591 U.S. POW's from Vietnam were released and returned to the United States.

## Sea Cadet Annual Unit Awards Banquet

On January 25, 2020, Challenger Division & Training Ship Columbia held its Annual Unit Awards Banquet. Marine Korean War veteran, SSgt Don Krampe, was the guest speaker. Don's zest for life is contagious to all in his presence. Don delivered an inspirational message to the cadets. He spoke of being part of something bigger than yourself. That true happiness and purpose in life can be found with a life of service. He praised all of the cadets for being part of the Sea Cadet Program and encouraged them to continue to serve.



Several cadets received awards for military bearing, promise for the future, academic achievement both in the USNSCC as well as school, and the best shipmate-chosen by the cadets themselves. Chief Petty Officer Cody Ward, NSCC was chosen as Challenger Division's Cadet of the Year and awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal by San Diego Navy League Council President Tony Johnson.

We are proud of all of our cadets for their accomplishments in 2019, look forward to an exciting 2020 and what great things our cadets will do.

For February's drill, cadets began the first of a three-part medical training course. They learned how to assess scene safety, take a medical history and do primary and secondary assessments. The drill concluded with an introduction to CPR.



# U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS



By: HMCS(SW/AW/FMF) MELISSA HASKINS, USN, RET  
COMMANDING OFFICER, FORT FISHER/T.S ESSEX, U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

## Sea Cadets deliver cookies to Firefighters on Christmas Day

Sea Cadets from the Fort Fisher/Training Ship Essex unit at Naval Base San Diego, volunteered on Christmas Day to bake and deliver cookies to firefighters in San Diego and Chula Vista. While visiting with the Firefighters, Cadets gained insight about the life of firefighters and were given tours of the firehouse. This is a volunteer event that Fort Fisher/Training Ship Essex participates in every year. The cadets voted unanimously to volunteer on Christmas Day to honor the firefighters that protect our community every day. It is one of the Cadets favorite events.





**San Diego Council**

**48th PACIFIC FLEET SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS DINNER  
April 3, 2020 AT THE SAN DIEGO AIR & SPACE MUSUEM  
5 P.M. TO 8 P.M. TABLE SPONSORSHIP RESERVATION FORM**

**ADMIRAL (Event/Awards Sponsor) - \$6,000**

Four seats for your use at 2 table's of 10  
An honoree at each table  
Recognition and logo in program, on SDNL website and newsletter  
Invitation for 2 at the SOY VIP Icebreaker held earlier in the week

**COMMODORE - \$2500**

Four seats for your use at a table of 10  
An honoree at your table  
Recognition and logo in program, on SDNL website and newsletter

**CAPTAIN - \$1000**

Two seats for your use at a table of 10  
Recognition and logo in program, on SDNL website and newsletter

**Individual tickets—\$60 per person      Sponsor a service member tickets \$60**

**PLEASE RESPOND BY COB Wednesday March 25, 2020**

**Admiral**     **Commodore**     **Captain**     **Individual**     **Sponsor a service member**

Corporate Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Checks can be made payable to: San Diego Navy League and mailed to 2115 Park Blvd, San Diego, CA 92101

**CAPTAIN JENNIFER L. ELLINGER  
COMMODORE, COMPHIBRON SEVEN (CPR7)**

Captain Jen Ellinger graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1993 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in General Science. Shortly after receiving her commission, CAPT Ellinger reported aboard USS SHASTA (AE 33) in Alameda, California and served as the Second Division Deck Officer, Combat Information Center Officer, and Machinery and Boilers (M & B) Officer from April 1994 to March 1997. During her second Division Officer tour, she served as the Navigator and Admin Officer aboard USS BENFOLD (DDG 65) in San Diego, California, from March 1997 to September 1998.

Upon completion of Surface Warfare Department Head training, she served as Operations Officer aboard USS DECATUR (DDG 73) from 2002-2003, deploying in support of Operations ENDURING FREEDOM and IRAQI FREEDOM. During her follow-on Department Head tour, she served as Destroyer Squadron SEVEN (CDS 7) Operations Officer / N3 from December 2003 to July 2005, embarked aboard USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76). From December 2006 to June 2008, she served as Executive Officer in USS BARRY (DDG 52), home ported in Norfolk, Virginia. CAPT Ellinger reported to USS KIDD (DDG 100) as Executive Officer in October 2010 and fleeted-up to Commanding Officer, serving from June 2011- January 2013. While in command, KIDD deployed with the JOHN C. STENNIS Strike Group to the SEVENTH and FIFTH Fleet Areas of Responsibility, executed several Theater Security Cooperation missions and served as the flagship for CTF 151 in support of Counter-Piracy operations off the Horn of Africa. KIDD's deployment was highlighted by the rescue of 13 Iranian fishermen and capture of 15 Somali pirates. During her tenure, KIDD earned three consecutive Battle 'Es' and Retention Excellence Awards.

CAPT Ellinger served as Deputy Commodore, Destroyer Squadron TWENTY ONE (CDS 21) from August 2016 to September 2017. From September 2017 to June 2019, she served as Commanding Officer, USS LAKE CHAMPLAIN (CG 57), and Air Defense Commander for the CARL VINSON Strike Group, deployed to the SEVENTH and FOURTH Fleet AORs, and participated in the Summit of Americas,

Silent Forces Exercise (SIFOREX), and RIMPAC 2018. During her tenure, LKC earned two consecutive Retention Excellence Awards, the 2018 Unit Tactics Award, and 2018 VADM Thomas Copeman III Material Readiness Award.



CAPT Ellinger's assignments ashore include a tour as the Ground Operations Officer and Command Safety Officer at Assault Craft Unit FIVE (ACU 5) on Camp Pendleton, California from September 1997 to May 2001. Additionally, she served as Flag Secretary to the Commander, U.S. SECOND Fleet from June 2008 to December 2009; and Chief Staff Officer for Commander, Littoral Combat Ship (LCS) Squadron ONE, from February 2013 to December 2015.

CAPT Ellinger's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with four gold stars, the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal with gold star, as well as various campaign and unit awards. A distinguished graduate of the Surface Warfare Officer School's prospective Department Head and Executive Officer courses, she was the recipient of both the Arleigh Burke Leadership Award and Knachel Leadership Award, respectively. Additionally, she was a recipient of the Commander Naval Surfaces Forces Pacific 2004 Tactician of the Year Award, and the 2012 Freedom Alliance 'Service to America' Award. A graduate of the Naval War College's Command and Staff course, she completed JPME Phase I and earned a Master's Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies in 2006, and completed JPME Phase II at the Joint Forces Staff College in March 2016.

Commodore Ellinger reported to Expeditionary Strike Group THREE (ESG 3) in September 2019 to take command and re-establish Commander, Amphibious Squadron SEVEN (CPR 7) in San Diego, California.

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**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

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**June 9-16, 2020****International Frigate Working Group Meeting****POC Dave Grundies [dgrundies@dueregard.com](mailto:dgrundies@dueregard.com) | Admiral Kidd Catering**

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# Welcome Home

USS Gabrielle Giffords (LCS-10) Gold Crew Det A | HSC-23 Wildcards



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& Community Affiliates*

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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 DATES AT ADMIRAL  
BAKER CLUBHOUSE ARE LISTED BELOW:*

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

**March 6, 2020**

**April 3, 2020**

**May 1, 2020**

**June 5, 2020**

**July 10, 2020\***

**August 7, 2020**

**September 11, 2020\***

**October 2, 2020**

**November 6, 2020**

**December 4, 2020**

**\*\* Denotes 2nd Friday of the month**

### NEW MEMBERS

Brian Allen  
Jenny Audatte  
Anthony Bracey  
Talma Brown  
Kemar Cockburn  
Terry Heights  
Edward Jackson  
Eddie Lovos  
Kenyatta Savage-Belmer  
George Schuster  
Larry Thompkins  
Michael Walton  
Dimone Wiley  
Laveshia Williams  
Brian Smith

\* Life Members | @ New Community Affiliate

### WELCOME ABOARD

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

***Aligned Mortgage | Community Affiliate***

### 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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