



BLUE & GOLD

Navy League Of The United States

San Diego Council

50-05 | May 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

TONY JOHNSON

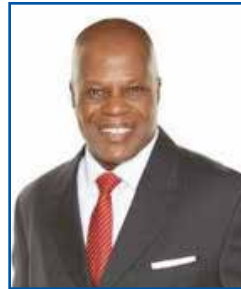
Hello members! Well, it is May and I hope you are still taking care of yourselves and others by following the guidance presented by the CDC and our local, state and government leaders in regards to the Coronavirus crisis! As you can see from the news, we are not clear of this yet and therefore we will not have our May morning breakfast.

With that said, the council is still doing what we can to support our local maritime forces. Although we did not have our Annual Enlisted Women of the Year Luncheon, we still had a committee complete the selection process. I am pleased to announce that the Enlisted Women of the Year the committee has selected HM1(FMF) Meghan Halisky from Marine Wing Support Staff Squadron 374 as the Senior Enlisted Woman of the Year and HM3 Deja Blandino from Naval Medical Center San Diego as the Junior Enlisted Woman of the Year. These Sailors represent the best that the local San Diego area has to offer. Because of the Pandemic crisis, we will be submitting the awards, certificates and gifts to the winners through their perspective commands for presentation.

The council is still supporting the Sailor of the Year programs for Naval Air Force Pacific, Naval Surface Force Pacific, Naval Submarine Force Pacific and Third Fleet. Congratulations to Naval Surface Force, Pacific, Sea Sailor of the Year, YN1(SW) Vinish Nair from USS DECATUR (DDG 73) and Shore Sailor of the Year, NC1(SW/AW) Brenda Lemas from LCS Squadron ONE. Congratulations also to Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific Sea Sailor of the Year, MMN1(SS) Britany Acker, serving onboard USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727) (BLUE) and Shore Sailor of the Year, MA1 Ardis Finley, serving on the staff of Naval Submarine Support Command, Pearl Harbor, HI.

In closing, the month of May has a few significant events such as Spouse Appreciation day on the eighth, Mother's Day on the 10th and Memorial Day on the 25th. Obviously, this year you will have to celebrate these events differently then you have in the past. So be innovative and take care of yourselves in doing what you can to recognize the occasions while swaying on the side of caution and being considerate to others by staying at home whenever possible. The council will continue to keep a very close watch for any information that is publicized from local, state and federal leaders that may affect our Coast Guardsmen, Marines and Sailors and their families. From the news reports, the majority of our country is doing the right things when it comes to mitigating the impact of COVID-19. I would urge us all to continue fighting this pandemic. Stay safe!

Tony Johnson
President



Breakfast Meeting

Due to health concerns and in keeping with the mandates of local and national officials, our breakfast meetings are cancelled until further notice.

“Veterans are a symbol of what makes our nation great, and we must never forget all they have done to ensure our freedom.”

— Rodney Frelinghuysen

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DECORATION DAY

On May 5, 1868, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day is observed on the last Monday of May and it became an official federal holiday in 1971.



Decoration Day

Sleep, comrades, sleep and rest
On this Field of the Grounded Arms,
Where foes o more molest,
Nor sentry's shot alarms!

Ye have slept on the ground before,
And started to your feet
At the cannon's sudden roar,
Or the drum's redoubling beat.

But in this camp of Death
No sound our slumber breaks;
Here is no fevered breath,
No wound that bleeds and aches.

All is repose and peace,
Untrampled lies the sod;
The shouts of battle cease,
It is the Truce of God!

Rest, comrade, rest and sleep!
The thoughts of men shall be
As sentinels to keep
Your rest from danger free...

Your silent tents of green
We deck with fragrant flowers
Yours has the suffering been,
The memory shall be ours.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“ *The patriot's
blood is the seed
of freedom's tree.* ”
— Thomas Campbell

ON THIS DATE IN...

MAY

May 1, 1951 – USS *Princeton* aircraft attack Hwachon Dam using aerial torpedoes, the only use of this weapon in the Korean War.

May 1 – LOYALTY DAY!!! *Loyalty Day is a special day for people to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom.*

May 2, 1946 – Marines from Treasure Island Marin Barracks aided in suppressing the three-day prison riot at Alcatraz Penitentiary in San Francisco Bay.

May 2, 1975 – US Navy departs Vietnamese waters at the end of evacuation from Vietnam.

May 1, 1992 – Marines from Camp Pendleton helped quell the Los Angeles riots.

May 4, 1942 – Battle of Coral Sea begins. It's the first carrier vs. carrier battle.

May 4, 1942 – The Chief of Naval Operations, ordered the Coast Guard Auxiliary to organize into an anti-submarine patrol force.

May 5, 1948 – VF-17A becomes the first carrier qualified jet squadron on board USS *Saipan*.

May 5, 1950 – Congress approved the Uniform Code of Military Justice for the "government of the armed forces for the United States."

May 8 – HAPPY 109th BIRTHDAY NAVY AVIATION!!!

May 10 – MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY!!!

May 10 – HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!!!

May 12, 1975 – SS *Mayaguez* is seized by Khmer Rouge and escorted to Koh Tang Island.

**May 13, 1908 – HAPPY 112th BIRTHDAY
NAVY NURSE CORPS!!!**

May 13, 1964 – Organization and deployment of the world's first all nuclear-powered task group, USS *Enterprise*, USS *Long Beach*, and USS *Bainbridge*, to Sixth Fleet.

May 14, 1975 – Marines recapture SS *Mayaguez*, go ashore on Koh Tang Island and release the crew.

May 15 – PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY!!!
Fly your flag at half-staff until sunset.

May 16 – ARMED FORCES DAY!!!
Fly your flag proudly.

May 17, 1973 – The first woman to hold a major Navy command, Captain Robin Quigley assumes command of the Navy Service School, San Diego, CA

May 18, 1920 – Coast Guard officers and enlisted personnel were granted the same pay, allowances and increases as the Navy.

**May 22 – HAPPY 108th BIRTHDAY
MARINE AVIATION!!!**

May 25 – MEMORIAL DAY!!!
Fly your flag at half-staff until noon.

May 23, 1988 – The V-22 Osprey, the world's first production tilt-rotor aircraft, made its debut during rollout ceremonies at Bell Helicopter Textron' Arlington, TX facility.

May 27, 1943 – USCG Signalman First Class Douglas Munro's posthumous Medal of Honor was given to his parents by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in a ceremony at the White House.

May 28, 1980 – Fifty-five women become the first women graduates from the US Naval Academy.

May 31, 1948 – The Coast Guard assumed command of the former Navy base at Cape May, NJ, and formally established its east coast recruit training center there the next day.

While the country remains in quarantine, cadets and officers from Challenger Division/ Training Ship Columbia are staying connected through social media. Saturday 18 Apr 20, the unit held a virtual physical training session via zoom. Cadets and officers wore the uniform of the day- USNSCC PT gear- and exercised from their bedrooms, living rooms and front porches! The PT consisted of a blood-pumping warm up followed by exercises determined by playing cards! The randomness of the cards made it fun and exciting. For many, this was a welcomed event since we have predominantly been couch-potatoes for weeks. Through the computer, we got to see each other's faces and hear everyone's voice. Staying connected is very important, especially during these times!

The unit will be hosting more of these virtual sessions as we continue to be in quarantine. The cadets have been completing coursework, which is one of the requirements for advancement in rank. Though we cannot be together physically, Challenger Div/TS Columbia is using the power of the internet to stay connected. The USNSCC is adapting, along with the entire country, to make sure cadets' needs are being met and the program continues to thrive.



RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to the:

2019 San Diego County Enlisted Women of the Year

Senior Enlisted Woman of the Year HM1(FMF) Meghan E. Halisky
from Marine Wing Support Squadron 374(-)

Junior Enlisted Woman of the Year HM2 Deja A. Blandino
from Naval Medical Center San Diego

Commander, Naval Surface Forces, Pacific 2019 Sailors of the Year

Sea SOY - YN1(SW) Vinish Nair
serving onboard USS DECATUR (DDG 73)

Shore SOY - NC1(SW/AW) Brenda Lemas
serving onboard LCS Squadron ONE

Commander, Submarine Force, Pacific 2019 Sailors of the Year

Sea Sailor of the Year - MMN1(SS) Britany Acker
serving onboard USS MICHIGAN (SSGN 727) (BLUE)

Shore Sailor of the Year - MA1 Ardis Finley
Serving on the staff of Naval Submarine Support Command, Pearl Harbor

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.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

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San Diego Council,
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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.**

May 1, 2020 CANCELLED

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

Wesley Bennett
Crystal Brooks
Latosha Brown
Kyana Grady
Alecia Hennis
Leary Keller
Richard Lee
Osakpamwan Oriekhoe
Kimberley Ritchie
Vivek Shah
Daraka Shaheed
Joseph Underation
Sean Washington

* Life Members | @ New Community Affiliate

ANNIVERSARIES

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

Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

8 years

RCP Block & Brick, Inc.

17 years

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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You can make a difference and enroll on-line @ www.navyleague-sd.com!