



# Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

51-04 | April 2021

## ZOOM MEETING

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

*No event in American history is more misunderstood than the Vietnam War. It was misreported then, and it is misremembered now.*

—President Richard M. Nixon  
New York Times, Mar. 28, 1985

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Greetings, members and friends of the San Diego Council. What an exciting time to be a part of a family in service to our Maritime Service men and women! It is truly an honor and privilege to serve in this capacity. I want to thank each of you who are making a difference. You are great Americans!

April is the Month of the Military Child. “Purple Up! For Military Kids” is a day for DODEA Communities to wear purple to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Purple indicates that all branches of the military are supported. Air Force blue, Army green, Navy blue, Marine red, and Coast Guard blue all are thought to combine together as a single color, purple.

March was productive month. The council had its first monthly meeting in a year held through Zoom. I want to thank everyone. We had Captain Troy A. Fendrick, the Commanding Officer of the USNS Miguel Keith (ESB-5) MILCREW (BLUE), which will be commissioned on May 8th and will be renamed USS Miguel Keith. The brief was very informative, and the attendees had the opportunity to ask the Captain questions. We are working to provide the brief for everyone’s review on social media. The commissioning will be held, as indicated above on May 8th, and attendance will be limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. If you would like to find our more information or to make a donation, please click on our [www.navyleague-sd.com](http://www.navyleague-sd.com).

The council is looking at holding another Zoom membership meeting in May with another guest speaker. We hope you will be able to join us. More details to follow.

I want to thank Ernie Belmares and the USS Fitzgerald Alumni Association for attending the USS Fitzgerald Sailor of the Year and Sailor of the Quarter recognition ceremony and providing each honoree a Certificate of Appreciation and a gift card.

Upcoming events in May and June are the Sea Service Member of the Year Award, which will be held on May 20th, and the other upcoming event is the San Diego Council Golf Tournament which will be held on June 4th at The Vineyard Escondido. More details to follow on each. If you are interested in playing or assisting with the golf tournament, please contact Gene Pierce at 619 908-0993.

I am excited that we have now moved into the Red Tier. As more individuals get their vaccines, we might be able to start holding in person meetings around the June or July timeframe.

Look forward to in person meetings again soon.  
Be well and safe.

Phyllis Barber  
President

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# USNS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5)

# ON THIS DATE IN...

APRIL

The USNS Miguel Keith (ESB 5) will be commissioned next month. Once commissioned it will be redesignated USS Miguel Keith and will be assigned to the 7th Fleet. Named in honor of Lance Corporal Miguel Keith a U.S. Marine Corps Machine Gunner for actions on May 8, 1970 in Quang Ngai Province, Republic of Vietnam. LCpl Keith is a Medal of Honor Recipient.

The events supporting the commissioning week are not paid for by the U. S. Government but are privately funded by your donations which are managed by the San Diego Council of the Navy League which is an IRS Registered 501(c) (3) Non-Profit Organization, Federal Tax ID 95-3864195.



## PLEASE DONATE NOW TO SUPPORT THE COMMISSIONING

### Corporate Gold - \$10,000 +

Premier Recognition in Commissioning Day Sponsor List  
Personalized Honorary Plank Owner Plaque and Certificate  
8 USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) Ball Caps  
8 Commemorative Commissioning Coins

### Corporate Silver - \$7500+

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6 Commemorative Commissioning Coins

### Chairman's Circle - \$5,000+

Priority Recognition in Commissioning Day Sponsor List  
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4 Commemorative Commissioning Coins

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2 Commemorative Commissioning Coins

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USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) Ball Caps  
2 Commemorative Commissioning Coins

### Captain - \$250+

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Personalized Honorary Plank Owner Certificate  
Commemorative Commissioning Coin  
USS MIGUEL KEITH (ESB 5) Ball Cap

### Commander - \$100+

Recognition in Commissioning Day Sponsor List  
Personalized Honorary Plank Owner Certificate  
Commemorative Commissioning Coin

This button will take you to the San Diego Navy League page (<https://navyleague-sd.com/product/uss-miguel-keith-esb-5-commissioning-shipment/>) with information on mailing in donations and for secure online donations.

**Apr 1, 1893** - Navy General Order 409 of 25 February 1893 establishes the rate of Chief Petty Officer.

**Apr 1, 1945** - Over 1200 Navy ships, Coast Guard boats and Army troops begin the invasion of Okinawa.

**Apr 1, 1967** - The Coast Guard ended its 177-year association in the Treasury Department to enter the newly-created Department of Transportation.

### Apr 2 - Good Friday!!!

**Apr 2, 1827** - The first Naval Hospital construction began in Portsmouth, VA.

**Apr 2, 1951** - The first Navy use of jet aircraft as a bomber, launched from USS *Princeton*.

**Apr 2, 1977** - The Coast Guard designated ENS Janna Lambine its first female Coast Guard aviator.

### Apr 4 - HAPPY EASTER!!!

**Apr 7, 1945** - The first two Navy flight nurses land on an active battlefield on Iwo Jima.

**Apr 7, 1979** - Launching of the first Trident submarine, USS *Ohio* (SSBN-726) at Groton, CT.

**Apr 8, 1925** - Navy conducts the first planned night landings on a carrier, USS *Langley*.

**Apr 11, 1900** - The Navy accepted its first submarine, USS *Holland*.

**Apr 12, 1975** - Marines evacuated Americans and Foreign nationals from Cambodia during Operation Eagle Pull.

**Apr 12, 1979** - LTJG Beverly Kelley assumed command of the CGC *Cape Newagen*.

**Apr 14, 1943** - Joseph C. Jenkins graduated as an ensign in the Coast Guard reserve, becoming the first commissioned African-American officer in the Coast Guard.

**Apr 15, 1918** - The first Marine Aviation Force is formed at Marine Flying Field, Miami, FL.

**Apr 15, 1962** - USS *Princeton* brought the first Marine helicopters to Vietnam. This was the first Marine advisory unit to arrive in South Vietnam.

**Apr 16, 1947** - An act of Congress gives the Navy Nurse Corps members commissioned rank.

**Apr 18, 1942** - USS *Hornet* launches Doolittle's Army bombers for the first attack on Japan.

**Apr 18, 1983** - One Marine Security Guard was killed and seven were wounded when a large car bomb exploded just outside the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon.

**Apr 21, 1951** - Marine aircraft from USS *Bataan* made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines.

**Apr 27, 1805** - Naval forces capture Derne, Tripoli. Lt Presley O'Bannon raised the U.S. flag over foreign soil.

**Apr 28, 1993** - SECDEF memo orders the Armed Forces to train and assign women on combat aircraft and most combat ships.

**Apr 29, 1975** - Marine helicopters evacuated 6,968 people from Vietnam during Operation Frequent Wind.

**Apr 30, 1975** - Saigon falls to North Vietnam forces.

# WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

San Diego Corporate Members  
& Community Affiliates



Cadets and officers completed their last school project this past drill. The cadets helped beautify the garden and walk-way by putting up a split-rail fence. Cadets learned how to build the fence given all the pieces- beginning with the posts. Cadets worked with a post hole digger tool, gravel, and cement to position the posts. They worked as a team to place the slats into the posts and make sure all the pieces fit together snugly. They gained a new appreciation for fence builders as it was hard manual labor and time-consuming. Cadets finished off the fences by spreading wood chips to give the area a “polished” look.

After all their hard work in the morning, we all took advantage of the beautiful weather San Diego has to offer and set off on a hike in the local mountains across the street from the drill site. The weather was perfect, and it felt good to be outside...away from computer screens. Cadets enjoyed themselves and the comradery amongst their shipmates.

## RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) Senior Sailor of the Year CS1 Dajuan Gross; Sailor of the Year HM2 Cortland Williams; Junior Sailor of the Year CTT3 Jordan Kelly; Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year CSSN Marina Rankins for their professional excellence in 2020. Awards were presented by donors Andrew & Heather Skale from our San Diego community.

Additional awards presented was USS Fitzgerald Senior Sailor of the Quarter FC1 Austin Young; Sailor of the Quarter HM2 Cortland Williams; Junior Sailor of the Quarter HM3 David Worrell and Blue Jacket Sailor of the Quarter CSSN Marina Rankins for their professional excellence for the 4th Quarter Fiscal Year 2020. Awards was presented by USS Fitzgerald Alumni Committee Members Rolan Patzi, Shane Steinfeld and Michael Paine.

Council, Sea Service Chairman Ernest Belmares, CMDCM, USN (Ret) was on hand to present the awards.



Council President Phyllis Barber stands with the Sailors of the Year and Sailors of the Quarter from San Diego Medical Center after presenting them with a Certificate of Appreciation and a council coin for their achievements.

### CORPORATE GOLD

BAE Systems  
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Lockheed Martin  
Northrop Grumman Corp.  
Raytheon Company

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 2115 Park Boulevard  
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## MEMBERSHIP

### 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.

## NEW MEMBERS

Veronica Acosta	Joseph Kagunyi
Noma Agbonifo	Melissa Marshall
Isaiah Anzewu	Paul Mccoy Jr.
Ferlander Booker	Bryan Melanson
Rebecca Brown	Elizabeth Pinkert
Sherldene Burke	Yalandra Robinson
Ali Cordova	Brenda Rogers
Chris Cupp	Jahelle Smith
Manuel Duarte	Reynaldo Suero
Eric Gilliam	Chyauila Washington
Lantz Harrell	Daniel Zambrano
Maria Iorga	

\* Life Members | @ New Community Affiliate

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

General Atomics 36 years  
 IXITech 12 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  
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