



# Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

52-12 | December 2022

## BREAKFAST EVENT

December 9, 2022

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;

CAPT TOM CHEKOURAS

COMMODORE,

DESTROYER SQUADRON 1

*“December 7th, 1941. A Date which will live in infamy.”*

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt

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## NAVY HERITAGE

Destroyer Squadron ONE (DESRON1) is a squadron of warships in the United States Navy. DESRON1 was initially listed in the U.S. Navy's order of battle in the Navy Directories of 1919, but disappeared from the Naval Register in 1927. In 1937, Destroyer Squadron Twenty was re-designated as DESRON1 and was present during the Attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941. Its destroyers served as part of Task Force 11 in the aborted relief efforts for Wake Island and many other significant campaigns; Battle of Coral Sea, Battle of Midway, Battle of the Eastern Solomons as part of Task Force 16 and the initial phase of the Guadalcanal campaign, to include many others. In September 1943, the squadron returned to the West Coast for overhaul. DESRON1 has subsequently participated in the Korean War and the Taiwan Strait Patrols. The Destroyer Squadron was re-designated as Reserve Destroyer Squadron 27, established on January 13, 1958, which was subsequently re-designated Destroyer Squadron 27 in 1970 and Surface Squadron 1 in 1980 before being returned to its original designation of Destroyer Squadron One in October 1993. DESRON1 has participated in the Gulf Wars; Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and New Dawn. Today, it serves an operational component of Carrier Strike Group One and is administratively responsible to Commander, Naval Surface Forces Pacific. Its Destroyers operates in the Third Fleet Area of Responsibility and deploys to the Middle East as part of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, Western Pacific as part of the U.S. Seventh Fleet, and regularly support Joint Task Force North counter-drug operations in South America and the Caribbean Sea, as well as other fleet commitments. The Squadron Headquarters is located at Naval Base San Diego and its current composition of warships in the squadron includes: USS O'KANE (DDG-77), USS McCAMPBELL (DDG-85), USS MUSTIN (DDG-89), USS KIDD (DDG-100), USS STERETT (DDG-104), USS STOCKDALE (DDG-106) and USS WILLIAM P. LAWRENCE (DDG 110).



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Friends and Family of the San Diego Navy League, November was yet another busy month, beginning with the celebration of the U.S. Marine Corps 247th Birthday at our monthly breakfast event, with over 100 guests in attendance! We had the privilege of having LtCol Michael W. White, Commanding Officer, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Miramar as our guest speaker to help us celebrate the U.S. Marine Corps Birthday. Our Council Members also attended, the MCAS Miramar Birthday Celebration and 12th Marine Corps District Birthday Ball. In addition, our Sea Service Committee presented awards to deserving Sailors on board USS FITZGERALD and USS MICHAEL MONSOOR and our Homecoming Committee welcomed the crew of USS ZUMWALT and the "Flying Tigers" Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 from their overseas deployment. Lastly, we finished off the month with our council's VP (Tracy Owens) and myself attending this year's 2022 Fleet Week Festivities at San Diego Sea World. Our last breakfast event for the year is scheduled for December 9th, we will be recognizing all our sponsors for all their support they have given us throughout the year. So, come on over and join your NLSD for breakfast at the Admiral Baker Golf Course and enjoy the festivities. Don't forget to check out page 4 of this B&G newsletter for our 2023 Breakfast dates and Guest Speakers' schedule. As always, I want to thank the entire NLSD Team, our Chairs, Board of Directors, Councilmembers and let's not forget our Sponsors for all the hard work and support they provide our mission! Ed Naranjo, President.



## SAN DIEGO COUNCIL - 2022 FLEET WEEK

### 2022 Fleet Week Enlisted Recognition Luncheon

Well done to the Coasties, Marines and Sailors who were recognized for their outstanding performance at the Nautilus Amphitheater, Sea World San Diego on Nov 8, 2022.



## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special Thank You to USAA Military Representative - SgtMaj Tim Haney, USMC(Ret) in donating \$1,500 to the San Diego Council in support of meeting its mission to its Sea Services in the local community.



Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports America's sea services through Award Recognition, Operation Welcome Home, Scholarships and Cadets Youth Programs. EIN# 95-3864195

CAPT Tom Chekouras is a native of Boulder Creek, California. He's a 1998 graduate of the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, receiving his Bachelor of Science in Financing and earned his commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps program. CAPT Chekouras earned a Master in Business Administration from Salve Regina University, Newport, Rhode Island and Joint Professional Military Education Phase I from the Naval War College.

His sea assignments include Damage Control Assistant, USS FORD (FFG 54); Training Officer, USS ROOSEVELT (DD 80); Chief Engineer, USS NITZE (DDG 94); Commanding Officer, Patrol Coastal Crew Charlie; Flag Secretary to Commander, Carrier Strike Group Two; Executive Officer and Commanding Officer, USS LASSEN (DDG 82); and Assistant Chief of Staff (Force Generation, Fleet Scheduling and Fleet Training) to Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet.

His ashore assignments include Damage Control Assistant Instructor, Surface Warfare Officer School in Newport, Rhode Island; Branch Chief for Logistic Operations for North & East Africa, Special Operations Command Africa in Stuttgart, Germany; and Branch Head, Officer Promotions & Policy to Chief of Naval Personnel.

CAPT Chekouras assumed the duties of Deputy Commodore of Destroyer Squadron One in July 2021. His awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Joint Achievement Medal, Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), and several unit awards.



## BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GRAND | HYATT  
MANCHESTER GRAND HYATT  
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"Discover the beauty of San Diego when you stay on the waterfront in the heart of downtown at Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego. This iconic hotel features 1,628 guestrooms and 320,000 square feet of event space with stunning Pacific Ocean, San Diego Bay and city views. The premier location, steps from Gaslamp Quarter and the city's top attractions, puts the very best of San Diego at your doorstep. Two rooftop pools, a 24-hour Fitness Center, onsite dining options including the 40th floor Top of the Hyatt and waterfront Sally's Fish House & Bar, and more combine to make this waterfront escape a destination unlike any other." Manchester Grand Hyatt is a strong supporter of the military, military families, and veterans in the San Diego area and has a long time presence in the community.

## RECOGNITIONS



Fitzgerald Alumni Committee Members; Shane Steinfeld, Ernie Belmares, Rolan Patzi, Jeff Wylie and Charles Clark visited USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) to recognize the Sailor of the Quarter (1st, 2nd and 3rd Qtr) Award Winners for professional excellence on Oct 26, 2022. Congratulations to 1st Qtr; BSOQ GM3 Wilson Castro, JSOQ GSM3 Aldo Francis, SOQ IT2(SW/IW) Kayla Minnick, and SSOQ FC1(SW) Zachary Wilder. 2nd Qtr; BSOQ BMSN Emmanuel Henry, JSOQ LS3(SW) Samantha Manderson, SOQ GSE2 Robert Smith and SSOQ QM1(SW/AW) Clarissa Moore. 3rd Qtr; BSOQ LSSN(SW) Rhose Swanigan, JSOQ DC3 Matthew Gentile, SOQ OS2(SW) Thomas Bartlett and SSOQ OSC(SW/AW) Tory Denzel. Award Winners received; Certificate of Appreciation, Ball Caps, Patches, Coins and \$50 Navy Exchange Gift Card sponsored by USS Fitzgerald Alumni's and LC Embroidery.

Access to all photos at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/uss-fitzgerald-ddg-62/>

Sea Service Committee Members; Rolan Patzi, Jay Rindler, Shane Steinfeld, Charles Clark and Executive Director Ernie Belmares visited USS MICHAEL MONSOOR (DDG 1001) to recognize the Sailor of the Quarter (3rd & 4th Qtr) Award Winners for professional excellence on Nov 3, 2022. Congratulations to 3rd Qtr; BSOQ DC3 Emily Coop, SOQ IT2 Omar Atra, and SSOQ EN1 David Koberling. 4th Qtr; BSOQ GM3 Kenneth Johnson, SOQ MM2 Samuel Thompson and SSOQ IT1 Michael Dixon. Award Winners received; Certificate of Appreciation, Ball Caps, Patches, Coins and \$50 Visa Gift Card sponsored by LC Embroidery.

Access to all photos at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/council-photos/>







## WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

San Diego Corporate Members  
& Community Affiliates

### CORPORATE GOLD

General Atomics  
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### COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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Fast Signs  
Flower Island  
Fotex  
Geico  
Haichris Inc  
Image Design & Graphic (IDG)  
Minuteman Press Kearny Mesa  
Pacific Pizza San Diego  
San Diego Padres  
San Diego Wave Futbol Club  
TRIADA Tactical Inc.  
Trident Coffee

Special Thank you to Lockheed Martin's Military Representative Rear Admiral David Steindl, USN(Ret) in sponsoring November's Breakfast for 50 Marines and award recognitions with presenting awards to the Marine of the Quarter award winners attached to Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, 12th Marine Corps District, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. Awardees received certificates, ball caps coins, and \$50 gift cards. Including swag bags sponsored by USAA. Additional recognition was given to USS FITZGERALD Culinary Specialists for their outstanding presentation of the birthday cake. BZ to all.



Guest Speaker CO, Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron; LtCol White provided insight on his command's role and how it supports National Tasking. President Ed Naranjo presented "Patriot, Prisoner, Survivor: An American Family At War" autobiography book on behalf of Jim Bedinger.

San Diego Council celebrated the Marine Corps 247th Birthday during its November's Breakfast Event hosting 100 guests in attendance. Special honors with cutting the cake from the oldest to the youngest Marine was MALS11; CWO4 Samuel Shelhamer and HQ&HS MCAS Miramar; Lcpl Ariel Salcedo. Special thank you to USS FITZGERALD's Culinary Specialists; CS2 Marina Rankins and CS1(SW) Rodolph Rocabela in presentation of the Birthday Cake.

Access to all photos at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/recognition-support/>



Active Duty Service Members now eligible to join the Navy League at:  
<https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/active-duty-membership/join>



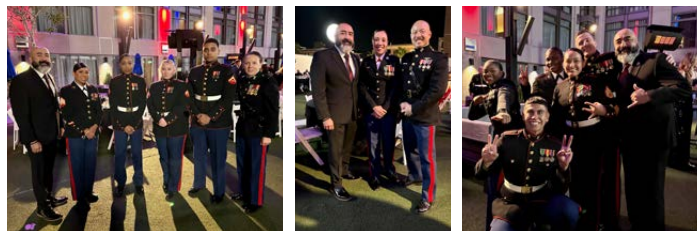
# MEMBERSHIP

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Casey Brunson  
Srinivasa Talla  
William Ryan  
Terrezene Brown  
Kim Owens  
Noreen Demers  
Jonas Litonjua-Oracle  
James Townsend  
Yaron Morali  
Reza Bokaiyan  
Herbert Blunt  
Jesus Buenrostro  
Kiveon Crawford  
Leshia Spikes  
Ravin Cheek  
Romel Cruz  
Curtis Sharon  
Michael Douglas  
Neil Zerbe  
Wendy Harrison  
John Green  
Froilan "Rolan" Patzi  
Romel Cruz  
Curtis Sharon  
Lee Martin

Sea Service Chairman Marty Magana attended the 12th Marine Corps District's Birthday Ball at the Hardrock Hotel on Nov 11, 2022, where San Diego Council participated in Table Sponsorship for Marines and presented \$1k check donation. Special thank you to 12MCD CO, Col Michael Ogden and Guest of Honor, MSgt Gerald Larsen, USMC(Ret) for hosting the Navy League San Diego Council.

Access to all photos at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery>



Homecoming Chairman Jay Rindler joined 3rd Marine Air Wing Deputy; BGen Robert Bodie and MCAS Miramar CO; Col Thomas Bedell in celebrating the Marine Corps 247th Birthday at the Bob Hope Theater on Nov 9, 2022

Access to all photos at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery>

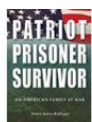


Homecoming Committee welcomes USS ZUMWALT (DDG 1000) and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 on Nov 10th & 14th from their overseas deployment.

Additional pics can be found at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/homecomings-gallery/>



Bring a brand new unwrapped toy on Fri, Dec 9th at our Breakfast Event and receive a ticket per toy for Door Prizes. You can bring as many toys you would like!



CDR Bedinger's accounts of his life, his service and imprisonment in Laos during the Vietnam War. It's a tale of heroism, endurance, and the shared struggle in the fight for freedom. Jim's book is available on Amazon and can be purchased using the QR Code. You will not be disappointed.



Year End Charitable Gift donation helps Service Members and their families in the San Diego metro area.

You can make a difference today by donating at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/product/donate-to-your-san-diego-navy-league-council/>



50 Years of freedom since the release of POWs held in Vietnam, 2023 will be the last official reunion for Vietnam POWs. You can support in donating to help offset the cost for POWs to attend the reunion at Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, California, 22-25 May, 2023. Use the QR Code to donate today!



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### 2023 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

### NO BREAKFAST EVENT IN JANUARY 2023

#### NO BREAKFAST EVENT IN JANUARY 2023

Feb 3	USCG Cutter Haddock (WPB 87347)
Mar 3	Construction Battalion Mobile Unit 303
Apr 7	USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62)
May 5	Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
Jun 2	Tactical Law Enforcement Team Pacific
Jul 7	Independence Celebration
Aug 4	Maritime Security Response Team West
Sep 8	Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD SD
Oct 6	United States Navy Birthday
Nov 3	12th Marine Corps District, MCRD SD
Dec 8	End of Year Recognition

## SUPPORT THE NAVY LEAGUE

You Can Make A Difference!

### BECOME A MEMBER

<https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/individual-membership/join>

### BREAKFAST MEMBERSHIP PROMO

\$40 - Includes Breakfast, 1 YR Membership and an additional complimentary breakfast.

- Breakfast for Non-Members; \$30
- Breakfast for Members; \$25

### ASK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AFFILIATE, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP.

Community Partnership includes; Business Advertisement, Awards Sponsorship, Social Media Marketing, numerous Complimentary Breakfast, Youth Programs Contribution Complimentary or Discounted tickets to Miramar Air Show, Navy Birthday Ball, Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon, and End of the Year Appreciation.

### SUPPORT & DONATE TODAY!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

On Sponsorship, Membership or Volunteering call us at: (619) 230-0301.

To subscribe to Blue & Gold Newsletter email: [executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com](mailto:executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com)