



Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

54-06 | June 2024

BREAKFAST EVENT

June 7, 2024

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;
CAPT THOMAS "SMOKEY" BUTTS, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER,
HELICOPTER SEA COMBAT SQUADRON
(HSC) 3 "MERLINS"

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace."

—President Theodore Roosevelt

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NAVY HERITAGE

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron THREE (HSC 3) Merlins is a Fleet Replacement Squadron providing training for Naval Aviators and Naval Aircrewmen in the MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter for the Commander, Helicopter Sea Combat Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet. HSC 3 (previously Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE) is a United States Navy multi-role combat helicopter squadron based at Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California. The squadron was established on 1 September 1967 at Naval Air Station Imperial Beach with the Boeing Vertol CH-46 Sea Knight to provide vertical replenishment on the West Coast, and was redesignated HSC 3 on 1 April 2005. HSC 3 produces the finest fleet replacement pilots and aircrewmen in the world, ready to fly into harm's ways in support of our nation's interests.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who joined our May's Breakfast Event. We had a wonderful turnout with 90 guests in attendance. Our guest speaker, Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski, Deputy Commander, Chief of Naval Education & Training Command - Force Development provided an enlightening presentation on our Navy's Warfighting Strategy, Culture of Excellence 2.0, Get Real Get Better, Navy Leadership Development Framework 3.0 and Recruiting/Retention initiatives. During this event RADM Nowakowski, Command Third Fleet Command Master Chief Trenton Schmidt and Retired Master Chief of the Navy Russ Smith joined us recognizing our 2024 Sea Service Member of the Year Award Winners and Finalist Nominees amongst the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. A special shout-out goes to LC Embroidery for its invaluable breakfast sponsorship and support of our recognition program. I want to thank our Sea Service Committee with the recent awards presentation aboard USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91); Homecoming Committee in attending Operation Honor Flight in welcoming over 50 Korean & Vietnam Veterans; and Scholarship Committee with its preparation for our upcoming 2024/2025 Scholarship Selection Board. Our Council are volunteers who serve as Board of Directors and Navy League Members and are committed to supporting our Maritime Forces in the community. During this next month or so, we have a productive schedule ahead of us with awards being presented aboard USS FITZGERALD, and Youth Medal Awards to NJROTC Cadets at Point Loma, Ramona and Westview High Schools. We will also be having the National Navy League Convention at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel from 5 to 8 June 2024. I would like to remind everyone our July Breakfast Event will be held on July 12th after the 4th of July holiday weekend. Additionally, I encourage everyone to visit our website with our upcoming Golf Tournament, Thurs, July 18th at the Admiral Baker Golf Course (North Course). The first 32 Active Duty Service Members signed up is FREE!, and we have an "Early Bird" Ticket Sale for the Navy Birthday Ball on Oct 12th at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. Your contribution shapes the future of our organization and I look forward to seeing everyone at our future events — Tracy Owens, President



SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Community Appreciation Partnership Award was presented to LC Embroidery's Owners; Rolan & Virginia Patzi for their strong support of the council's sea service programs. Special thank you for the generous donation of \$5,000.00 in support of our sea services.



BREAKFAST SPEAKER

JUNE 7TH

Captain Thomas Butts is a native of Erlanger, KY. He enlisted in the Navy in 1995 as a Radioman and was later selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program. He graduated from the University of North Florida in 2002 and was designated a Naval Aviator in December 2004. After receiving his "Wings of Gold" he reported to the "Merlins" of HSC-3 for initial training in the MH-60S Knighthawk.



CAPT Butts has completed operational flying tours with the "Island Knights" of HSC-25 (Junior Officer) and the "Sea Knights" of HSC-22 (Department Head). He served his disassociated tour as the Air Boss on USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD-17).

His shore assignments include two Fleet Replacement Squadron flight instructor tours with the "Fleet Angels" of HSC-2 as well as a joint tour assignment on the Joint Staff in the J-7 Directorate where he worked in the Joint Exercise Division directly supporting the Chairman's Exercise Program and United States Transportation Command. Post O5 command he was assigned to the OPNAV N98 Staff where he served as the MH-60S Requirements Officer.

He is a graduate of the Naval Postgraduate School's Executive MBA program, completed JPME Phase I through the Air Force Air Command and Staff College and in residence JPME Phase II at the Joint Forces Staff College.

In command at sea, he led the 2021 Battle "E" award winning HSC-25 "Island Knights" and the HSC-7 "Dusty Dogs".

CAPT Butts has accumulated 2,600 flight hours and was awarded the 2015 Navy and Marine Corps Leadership Award. His other awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (8 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5 awards) and various personal, unit and campaign awards.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Navy Federal was originally incorporated on 17 January 1933 as the Navy Department Employees' Credit Union of the District of Columbia. Only Navy Department employees who were members of the federal employees' labor union and members of their families were eligible to join. The next year, President Roosevelt signed into law the Federal Credit Union Act., which would eventually become the basis of business for the credit union. On July 17, 1947, the credit union was granted a federal charter as a credit union, named Navy Department Employees Federal Credit Union. It also expanded membership to include all Navy personnel in the Washington, D.C., area, both military and civilian.

In May 2008, Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) widened its membership to include the entire Department of Defense (DoD), which made eligible all active duty, retired, and reserve Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force personnel, as well as contractor and civilian personnel within the DoD. In March 2013, NFCU further widened its membership to include all Coast Guard members and employees and Space Force members in 2020.

Since 1933, NFCU has grown from 7 members to over 13.5 million members and \$171B in assets as of January 2024, holding distinction as the world's largest credit union since April 1962. NFCU is an American global credit union headquartered in Vienna, Virginia, chartered and regulated under the authority of the National Credit Union Administration, where NFCU puts its members financial needs first with low fees, great rates and discounts at any of the 355 branches, many located near military bases. NFCU is proud to be a member-owned, not for profit credit union supporting all branches of the military, DoD, veterans, and their families through every stage of life. The San Diego Council is honored to have NFCU as a community partner.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Sea Service Committee Member & Veteran Business Owner; Rolan Patzi and Board of Director; Jay Rindler presented Sailor of the Quarter (2nd Qtr, FY24) Awards aboard USS PINCKNEY (DDG 91) to; BSOQ; CTTSN Sean Irizarry, JSOQ; GSM3 Ashley Guiles, SOQ; DC2 Tamara Mills, and SSOQ; LS1(SW/AW) Phillip Turano on April 25, 2024. Awards sponsored by LC Embroidery.



Homecoming Committee joined family and friends in welcoming 50 Korean and Vietnam War Veterans on the Honor Flight return to San Diego on Apr 28, 2024. Well done to Homecoming Committee Chair; Jay Rindler and his team in attending this special event at the San Diego International Airport.



RECOGNITIONS

Special thank you to Naval Education & Training Command - Force Development Deputy Commander; Rear Admiral Robert Nowakowski, Commander, Third Fleet Command Master Chief Trenton Schmidt and Retired Master Chief of the Navy Russ Smith in joining us recognizing our 2024 Sea Service Member of the Year Awards Recognition Ceremony. Link to pics; <https://navyleague-sd.com/recognition-support/>



Congratulations to our 2024 Sea Service Member of the Year (SSMoY) Award Winners; Junior E4 Category; AO3 Modesty Perez-USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), E5 Category; HM2 Amir Horton-USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and Senior E6 Category; AE1 Vinh Nguyen-Fleet Logistics Multi-Mission Wing. Well done to all Finalist Nominees; PR3 Darrion Jackson-HSC3, MM3 Bryan Rodriguez-Lopez-USS Lake Erie (CG 70) and LCpl Dylan Studt-3D LAAD Battalion. HM2 Ronnie Delacruz-MAG16, HM2 Daniel Morales-Garcia-HMLA 369, AO2 Gisele Quintero-USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), Sgt Maaliyah Bagnerise- 3D LAAD Battalion, AZ2 Madison Wade- HSC3. LS1 Brittnee Brinkley-USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), AE1 Marianne De Silva-HSM 73, HM1 Raevin Estacio-MACG 38, AO1 Noel Etcheto-VFA 154, IT1 Joshua Lamp- USS Lake Erie (CG 70), AWS1 Justin Pickering-HSC3, GSM1 Ninoshka Santana-Illaraza-USS CHAFFE (DDG 90) and OS1 Amber Huther- USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70). Well done to VP Marty Magana, Sea Service Chair; Shane Steinfeld and the Selection Board Committee; Shay Fortson and Charles Clark for this year's SSMoY Boards, and breakfast sponsor LC Embroidery and NFCU and San Diego Sockers for the gift bag support.



During May's Breakfast, RADM Nowakowski provided awareness on the Navy's impressive efforts to modernize and incorporate innovative concepts that have improved the recruiting goals and force development of Sailors in today's modern era. Vietnam Prisoner of War Survivor; CDR Jim Bedinger and Council President Tracy Owens presented RADM Nowakowski a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the San Diego Council for his strong support of the Navy League.



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

San Diego Corporate Members & Community Affiliates

CORPORATE GOLD

- General Atomics (Electromagnetics)
- LC Embroidery & Cleaners
- Lockheed Martin
- Raytheon Technologies

CORPORATE

- Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
- North Island Credit Union
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- USAA

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

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- First Command
- Hyatt Regency La Jolla
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- Northrop Grumman
- RCP Block & Brick, Inc.
- Strategic Data Systems
- U.S. Navy Mustang Association

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- Admiral Baker Golf Course
- AggreGateway
- Any Budget Printing & Mailing
- Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Buffalo Reclaimed Flag Co.
- CVN71 Reactor Department
- Diana Photography
- Enlisted Leadership Foundation
- Farmers Insurance
- Fast Signs
- Flower Island Chula Vista
- Fotex
- Haichris Inc
- Imagine Design & Graphic (IDG)
- Impressions (DJ/MC) San Diego
- JW Memorabilia
- LEPE Tendwell Group
- Liberty Tobacco
- Lifer Dog Creations
- Liquid Death Mountain Water
- Minuteman Press Kearny Mesa
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- PRAVA Construction Services Inc
- Safariland
- San Diego Padres
- San Diego Wave Futbol Club
- San Diego Zoo
- Skateboard K9
- Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)
- TRIADA Tactical Inc.
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chp 472
- Walter Anderson Nursery

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

YN2 Jennifer Lalla
 HMC Nguyen Pham
 HMC Elias Sandoval
 Guy McDermott
 Chelsey Gray
 AO1 Brittney Robinson (CNAP Sea SOY)
 AWS1 Justin Pickering (CNAP Shore SOY)
 HM1 Joshua Moore (CNSP Sea SOY)
 BM1 Denver Burkly (CNSP Shore SOY)
 PS1 Richel Mila (C3F Sea SOY)
 OS1 DeEll Henderson (C3F Shore SOY)
 ETV1 Bryan Smith (CSP Sea SOY)
 MMA1 Jack Nemeth (CSP Shore SOY)
 HM1 John Drzemiecki (CNSWC SOY)
 MR2 Aaronanthony Avila (SRWMC)
 LTJG Matthew Quick (LPD22)
 Nasrin Gohar
 Nick Wallace
 Miguel Neaves

Congrats to the 2023 TYCOM Sailor of the Year Award Winners; Commander, Naval Air Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; (Sea) AO1 Brittney Robinson, USS Ronald Reagan (CVN76) and (Shore) AWS1 Justin Pickering, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3. Commander, Naval Surface Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; (Sea) HM1(SW/FMF) Joshua Moore, USS John P. Murtha and (Shore) BM1(SW) Denver Burkly, Afloat Training Group Middle Pacific. Commander, THIRD Fleet, (Sea) PS1(SW/AW) Richel Mila, Carrier Strike Group Eleven and (Shore) OS1(SW/AW) DeEll Henderson, Commander, Third Fleet. Commander, Submarine Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; (Sea) ETV (SS) Bryan Smith, USS Scranton and (Shore) MMA1(SS) Jack Nemeth, Submarine Readiness Squadron 33. Commander, Naval Special Warfare Command; HM1(DWS/PJ) John Drzemiecki, Naval Special Warfare Group 8. Special thank you to our Sponsors, Lockheed Martin's; David Steindl, Al Worthy and Fred Becker, Boeing's; Tim Slentz and MINT; Andrew & Heather Skale. Additional pics on website;
<https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery/>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**2024 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES
 AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE
 JULY 12, 2024**

**DOORS OPEN FOR SOCIAL NETWORK
 & REGISTRATION FROM 7:00-7:30AM**

**LT COL RAMON D. GONZALEZ, USMC
 COMMANDING OFFICER,
 3D LOW ALTITUDE AIR DEFENSE BATTALION
 MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 38, 3D
 MARINE AIR WING**

Aug 9 - US Coast Guard Sector San Diego
 Sep 6 - Naval Base San Diego
 Oct 4 - USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
 Nov 1 - 3rd Marine Air Wing
 Dec 6 - USS MICHAEL MONSOOR (DDG 1001)
 2025 DATES - Schedule TBA



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