



Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

54-07 | July 2024

BREAKFAST EVENT

July 12, 2024

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;

LT COL RAMON D. GONZALEZ, USMC

COMMANDING OFFICER,

3D LOW ALTITUDE AIR DEFENSE BATTALION

MARINE AIR CONTROL GROUP 38, 3D

MARINE AIR WING

NAVY HERITAGE

United States Ships named in honor of United States of America and its Independence. On July 4, 1776, the 13 colonies claimed their independence from England, which led to the formation of the United States of America. Its first six frigates were named; United States, Constellation, Constitution, Chesapeake, Congress, and President. Independence would take its namesake place aboard six different classes of ships; Sloop of War, Ship of the Line, Steamer, Light Aircraft Carrier (CVL 22), Aircraft Carrier (CV 62) and Littoral Combat Ship (LCS 2) that was decommissioned in 2021. Today, USS Constitution, (aka Old Ironsides) is one of the six original frigates still serving in the U.S. Navy and the world's oldest ship, homeported in Newport, RI. USS Constellation (FFG 62) will be the lead ship of its Guided Missile Class Frigate and the fifth ship to bear the namesake scheduled to be commissioned in 2027. However, nothing compares to the namesake - AMERICA. There has been five different ships that have bear the name; Ship of the Line, a Racing Yacht during the Civil War, an Ocean Liner, Troop Transport and an Aircraft Carrier (CV 66) from 1965 to 1996, The Aircraft Carrier America was the only supercarrier to be used as a target for training and the largest warship to ever to be sunk. Today AMERICA's name lives on; USS AMERICA (LHA 6), the first of its amphibious assault class ships, commissioned in 2014. Her mission is to act as the flagship of an Expeditionary Strike Group, carrying part of a Marine expeditionary unit into battle and putting them ashore with helicopters and V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, supported by F-35B Lightning II aircraft and helicopters. AMERICA's original homeport was San Diego, California, until it changed to Sasebo, Japan in 2019. AMERICA is scheduled to return to San Diego homeport in late 2024.



“United we fought, and united we prevail.”
—Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who joined our June's Breakfast Event. We had a wonderful turnout with 51 guests in attendance. A special thank you to our guest speaker, Captain Thomas Butts, Commanding Officer, Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3. We appreciate the time you took to share your insight with the council on your presentation. A special shout-out goes to Navy Federal Credit Union for its invaluable breakfast sponsorship and congratulations to HSC3 Sailor of the Quarter Award Winners. Additional thank you to our Navy League Pacific Southwest Region President; Kevin Button and council members; Laura Chigos and Rich Mitrovich in donation of breakfast seats in support of our June's Breakfast Event. Special thank you and acknowledgement to the Manchester Grand Hyatt in hosting this year's National Navy League Convention and well done to Rick Mitrovich and his team for the exceptional services provided, and to our council members; Dave Grundies, Suzie Johnson, Sheldon Margolis, Jay Rindler, Charles Clark, Marty Magana and Ernie Belmares for the support provided during the four day event. Congratulations to our 2024/2025 Alexander Kreiglawa Scholarship Award Winners and thank you to our Scholarship Selection Board Members in volunteering for this year's event. As a friendly reminder, our July Breakfast Event will be held on the 12th after the 4th of July holiday weekend. Our 5th Annual Golf Tournament is Thursday, July 18th at Admiral Baker Golf (North) Course, with spots still available for golfers and sponsorship. The first 32 Active Duty Service Members registered is FREE! Our "Early Bird" Navy Birthday Ball Ticket Sale is up online for Oct 12th at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. I want to thank all our members and sponsors for volunteering support and generous donations that continue to contribute towards our mission in serving and honoring our brave servicemen and women. I look forward to seeing everyone at our future events. - Tracy Owens, President



SAN DIEGO COUNCIL - NATIONAL EXCELLENCE

National Navy League President & Chairman of the Board; CDR Christopher Townsend, USN(Ret) and National Navy League Chief Executive Officer; MCPON Mike Stevens, USN(Ret) recognized the San Diego Council during the 2024 National Convention for its outstanding support of its Sea Service in presenting the Council President; LCDR Tracy Owens, USN(Ret) the Donald Mackie, Outstanding Council Performance and Sea Service Adoption Excellence Awards for 2023. Bravo Zulu!



SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Community Appreciation Partnership Award was presented to Navy Federal Credit Union; Bryan Geluz for their strong support of the council's sea service programs and special thank you for their generous donation of \$500.00 in support for our awards recognition and June Breakfast Event Sponsorship.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Navy Heritage Cover
- President Message Cover
- National Excellence Cover
- Special Thank You Cover
- Breakfast Speaker & Sponsor2
- Community Involvement2
- Recognitions3
- Breakfast Event Schedule4
- Membership4

BREAKFAST SPEAKER

JULY 12TH



Lieutenant Colonel Gonzalez is a native of Las Vegas, Nevada. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1997 and served as a Navigational Aids Technician with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374 and Marine Air Control Squadron 1 (MACS-1). In 2003, he was accepted to the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program and attended California State University San Marcos while attached to Naval Reserve Training Officer Corps San Diego.

After completing The Basic School and Air Defense Control Officer Course, Second Lieutenant Gonzalez reported to MACS-1 in 2007. He served as the Operations Section Officer in Charge (OIC) and Executive Officer (XO) of the Early Warning and Control Detachment. In 2010, First Lieutenant Gonzalez deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while serving as Crew OIC and Senior Traffic Director of the Tactical Air Operations Center (TAOC).

From 2011-2012, Captain Gonzalez attended Expeditionary Warfare School in residence and the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course. He was subsequently transferred to Marine Tactical Air Command Squadron 18 in Okinawa, Japan. In 2013, Captain Gonzalez was reassigned to MACS-4, where he served as the TAOC Detachment Commander for two years.

Following his tour in Japan, Captain Gonzalez reported to Marine Corps Embassy Security Group, Region 8, in Frankfurt, Germany. There he served as an Inspecting Officer and Region XO, providing oversight and support to 19 consulates and embassies throughout Central Europe and the Balkan Peninsula.

From 2017-2020, Major Gonzalez returned to MACS-4, where he served as the squadron Operations Officer and XO. In the summer of 2020, Major Gonzalez was transferred to Headquarters Marine Corps, Department of Aviation. While at Aviation, he served as an Air Defense Officer in the Aviation Expeditionary Enablers branch and the Cunningham Group. Lieutenant Colonel Gonzalez was promoted to his current rank in October 2022 and took command of 3d LAAD Bn on 7 July 2023.

His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (with a gold star in lieu of 2nd award), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with a gold star in lieu of 2nd award), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (w/two gold stars in lieu of 3rd award)

He is married with three children.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

In the spirit of honoring our Maritime Forces in celebration of our independence month, July's Breakfast Event will have multiple sponsors supporting our awards recognition for Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard service members. Our San Diego Council values our relationships with our community affiliates that are derived from various organizations amongst private, public and nonprofit organizations, with many being family veteran owned or veteran operated businesses, A special thank you goes out to our community partners sponsoring July's breakfast event,.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Well Done to USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62) Sailor of the Quarter Award Winners (1st Qtr); SN Melanie Palacios, DC3 Madison Hernandez, GM2 Chase Allen, and EM1 Julia Cardenas. (2nd Qtr); BMSA Timothy Teah, QM3 Vincereuben LS2 Gerardo Sordia Englaterra and BM1 Jezreil Pineda. Special thank you to awards sponsor; FITZ Alumni's and LC Embroidery, Director of Operations & Public Relations; Rolan Patzi Jr and Executive Director Ernie Belmares in presenting the awards on May 9, 2024.



President of Enlisted Leadership Foundation (ELF) David Dearie interviewed San Diego Council Executive Director; Ernie Belmares on its Radio Talk Show & Podcast "The Answer" FM96.1/AM1170 on May 9th to discuss the Council programs and its role it serves in the community. ELF is dedicated to "Building America's Leaders", where David connects with business leaders and nonprofit organizations programs available to support military and veterans in the community. To include, those on active duty transitioning from the military to the civilian sector.



Congrats to the 2024 Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal Award Winners; MCJROTC Oceanside High School - Cadet Cpl Abraham Solorio on May 14, 2024 and NJROTC Pt. Loma High School - Cadet PO2 Class Layla Hutchins on May 23, 2024 and the 2024 Graduate Class Midshipmen assigned to NROTC San Diego Consortium who will be serving as Navy & Marine Corps commissioned officers in the fleet this year. BZ to our Board of Directors; Jay Rindler, Charles Clark and Sheldon Margolis in support with the awards and University Graduates.



RECOGNITIONS

San Diego Council recognized Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 3 “Merlins” Sailor of the Quarter Award Winners at June’s Breakfast Event. Congratulations to LS3 Awa Fall, AM2(AW) Catherine Hooper and AWS1(NAC/AW) Luke Anderson. Awards were sponsored by Navy Federal Credit Union; Bryan Geluz & Marjorie Berarra. During the Breakfast Event, Commanding Officer, HSC3; CAPT Thomas “Smockey” Butts served as guest speaker, where he provided awareness on his command responsibilities and the role it plays in today’s modern era. Vietnam Prisoner of War Survivor Jim Bedinger presented CAPT Butts his autograph book in appreciation as our guest speaker. Link to pics: <https://navyleague-sd.com/recognition-support/>



Congratulations to Chrise Magtoto and Enzo Pilcher in being selected as the 2024/2025 Alexander Kreiglwa Scholarship Award Winners. Chrise and Enzo was 2 of 3 selected amongst 19 competitive applications. Both will receive up to \$15k towards their college education. Well done to our Scholarship Chairman; Jeff Wylie, CO-Chair; Jasmine Heide and the Selection Board Committee; Jay Rindler, Ira Heide, Christina Kane, Billy Kane, Nick Wallace, Abigail Woods, Miguel Neavez, Raymond Yau and Marty Magana for volunteering in selecting this year’s winners. Special Thank you to First Command’s Jason Surya for hosting this year’s board.



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
- Parker Aerospace
- San Diego Sockers
- USAA

BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

- ASYMCA San Diego
- Bank of America
- Boeing
- DoD Training Center San Diego
- Fairway Independent Mortgage
- First Command
- Hyatt Regency La Jolla
- International Auto Logistics
- Northrop Grumman
- RCP Block & Brick, Inc.
- Strategic Data Systems
- U.S. Navy Mustang Association

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- Admiral Baker Golf Course
- AggreGateway
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- 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

CMDCM Jose Pena
 Michael Fabel
 Thomas Wayne
 Orlando Fisher
 Brigette Carrington
 Julie Heflin
 Robert Joyce
 Michael Hackley
 Wendy Larin
 David Shaw
 Michael Eustace
 Jasmine Heide
 Ira Heide
 John Moody
 Brandon Doulaki
 Douglas Fawcett
 Chris Munson
 Matthew Hahun
 Christopher Schnese
 John Russell
 Marcis Berzins
 Peter Hekman
 John Sprague
 Ronald Klein
 Leonard Pool



Thursday, July 18th; Registration now open!
<https://navyleague-sd.com/product-category/golf-scramble/>



Friday, September 6th; Registration starts July 12 - Aug 30. First 50 Ombudsman registered is complimentary at executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com



Saturday, October 12; Early Bird Tickets available at <https://navyleaguesd.com/events-tickets>

The National Navy League held its Annual Convention at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel, June 5-8, 2024. The conference had distinguished visitors, council leaders and over 300 guests from across the globe in attendance. Its opening welcome reception was aboard Midway Museum with Navy Region Southwest Chief of Staff; CAPT Dwight Clemons as guest speaker. The conference allowed its leaders to connect and collaborate on best practices and building blocks to a successful council. It recognized Maritime Forces service members for their outstanding service. The conference included social events at the famous Navy Seal Pub "McP's" in Coronado and San Diego Padres ball game at Petco Park. Well done to President; Tracy Owens in leading this year's council support with the National Convention and council members, Marty Magana, Sheldon Margolis, Ernie Belmares, Jay Rindler, Charles Clark, Dave Grundies and Suzie Johnson in hosting the conference. [Link to pics: https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery/](https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery/)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2024 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE
AUGUST 9, 2024

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

CAPT JAMES SPITLER, USCG
COMMANDING OFFICER,
U.S. 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

Feb 7 - USCG
 Mar 7 - USMC
 Apr 4 - USN CPO Bday
 May 2 - USN SSMoY
 June 6 - USMC
 Jul 11 - USN Independence
 Aug 8 - USCG Bday
 Sep 5 - USN OMB Appreciation
 Oct 3 - USN Bday
 Nov 7 - USMC Bday
 Dec 5 - USN EoY & Toys for Tots Drive

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.



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