



Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

54-08 | August 2024

BREAKFAST EVENT

August 9, 2024

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;

CAPTAIN JAMES SPITLER, USCG

COMMANDING OFFICER,

U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR SAN DIEGO

NAVY HERITAGE

At the request of Alexander Hamilton, the head of the Revenue-Marine, on August 4, 1790, Congress approved the construction of ten vessels to protect the coast of the United States of America with enforcing tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress. Up until 1798, when the Navy was re-instated, these ten Coast Guard vessels were the only naval force in the U.S. Early Coast Guard crews' duties included transporting government officials and sometimes they even carried mail. The Coast Guard as we know it today was formed in 1915 with the merging of the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life Saving Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws. Eventually, the Coast Guard became so essential in protecting the United States, that it was moved from its original place at the Department of the Treasury to the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, in order to aid the United States efforts against terrorist attacks. In times of war, the Coast Guard has occasionally operated as a service of the U.S. Navy. The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the six Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security. The Coast Guard has protected the United States throughout its long history and served proudly in every one of the nation's conflicts. Happy 234th Birthday U.S. Coast Guard!



“The Coast Guard has long been known, as the armed service that gets more done for less.”

—Howard Coble

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who joined our July's Breakfast Event. We had a wonderful turnout with 64 guests in attendance. A special thank you to our guest speaker, LtCol Ramon Gonzalez, Commanding Officer, 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion. We thank you for your insight and enlightening presentation and appreciate the time you took to share with our council. A special shout-out goes to RCP Block & Brick, San Diego Sockers and USAA for the breakfast sponsorship and awards recognition to the Maritime Forces service members attached to local commands from the community. I want to acknowledge and thank our Navy League Golf Committee Chairman; Greg Via in leading this year's 4th Annual Sea Services Golf Tournament that hosted 80 Golfers in attendance and our 16 Sponsors & Supporters for a successful event. Our Golf Committee Team of Volunteers; Sheldon Margolis, Nick Wallace, and Nick Rivera were super fantastic! Lastly, I would like to invite everyone to attend our September 6th breakfast event where we will be honoring our military spouses who serve as OMBUDSMAN & Family Advisors. Our Early Bird Tickets for the Navy Birthday Ball on Sat, Oct 12, 2024 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel are still available on our website. I want to thank 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



SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thank you to RCP Block & Brick for their generous donation of \$750.00 in support of the 2024 Sea Services Golf Tournament and the San Diego Socker's \$3,400 donation from its March Military Jersey Charity Fundraiser towards Awards Recognition.

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BREAKFAST SPEAKER

AUGUST 9TH



Captain James Spitler assumed command of Coast Guard Sector San Diego in July 2022. As Sector Commander and Captain of the Port of San Diego, California, he is the senior Coast Guard Officer in the Southwest region of the United States. He is responsible for leading maritime operations to ensure the safety, security, law enforcement, and environmental protection from the U.S. - Mexico Maritime Border northward to Dana Point, CA, and east to the Colorado River, and inland navigable lakes of Arizona and southern areas of Utah and Nevada.

Prior to Sector San Diego, he served as the Chief, Domestic Operations Division, Directorate of Operations, United States Northern Command, Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado. In this role, he was responsible for the Defense Support of Civil Authorities and Personnel Recovery (PR)/SAR programs from strategic to tactical across the USNORTHCOM area of responsibility.

Graduating from the Academy in 1997 with a degree in Civil Engineering, he was assigned as the Operations Officer aboard the USCGC PLANETREE (WLB-307), a 180-foot seagoing buoy tender home-ported in Ketchikan, AK. Captain Spitler received orders to Navy Flight School in Pensacola, FL, earning his wings in 2000. He then transitioned to the HU-25 Falcon jet and was stationed in Miami, FL, and achieved the designation of Instructor Pilot (IP) while conducting Coast Guard statutory missions throughout the Southeast United States and the Caribbean.

Designated as an Aeronautical Engineer in 2005, Captain Spitler served as the Assistant Engineering Officer and an IP at the Coast Guard's Aviation Training Center in Mobile, AL. Captain Spitler also led the Medium Range Surveillance Engineering Branch Chief at the Coast Guard's Aviation Logistic Center (ALC) in Elizabeth City, NC, where he was responsible for the airworthiness, engineering, technical, and maintenance/overhaul support for the fleet of HC-144 and legacy HU-25 aircraft. After ALC, he was Sector Corpus Christi's Engineering Officer and responsible for the maintenance and operations of six aircraft, four cutters, and 26 small boats.

Following Sector Corpus Christi, he transitioned from fixed to rotary wing and assumed command of Air Station Houston, Texas from 2017-2019. As the Commanding Officer, he was responsible for the Coast Guard's aviation response during Hurricane Harvey, resulting in over 1,700 lives saved.

Advanced degrees include a Masters of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies with distinction from the Naval War College, a Master of Science degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics from Purdue University, and a Master of Business Administration degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is also designated as a Professional Engineer in Texas and North Carolina.

Captain Spitler achieved pilot designations in the HU-25A/C/D, HC-144A, MH-65D and MH-60T airframes, and FAA certifications as an Airline Transport Pilot (FW/RW), Certified Flight Instrument Instructor (FW), Airframe & Powerplant mechanic and others. His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medals and an Air Medal, as well as various other military decorations.

BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



In the early 1950s, Air Force Lt. Col. Carroll Payne worked closely with the families of several crew members killed in a series of training flights. Saddened by the survivors' financial difficulties, he began laying the groundwork for the company that would become First Command. In 1958, First Command was founded with a simple goal: to improve the financial well-being of service members and their families. Today, more than 60 years later, First Command offers comprehensive financial plans consisting of what were referred to as the "three cardinal cornerstones" - savings, investments and life insurance. To include; the First Command Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to the children of active duty military members. First Command Bank, an online bank based in the company's Home Office in Fort Worth, Texas and has become a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA), a legal designation that requires firms to act as a fiduciary. A lot of things have changed in the time since Lt. Col. Payne founded First Command, but its focus on fulfilling his vision has not. First Command is committed to its Mission of "Coaching those who serve in their pursuit of financial security" and our Vision of "Lifelong financial security for our Nation's military families. First Command has a long history of benefitting the community through the sponsorship of many local organizations and is a strong supporter of the military, veterans and its families. The San Diego Council is honored to have their support as a Community Partner.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Congratulations to the 2024 Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal Award Winners; NJROTC Ramona High School - Cadet Ensign Sierra McCowin on June 2, 2024 and Westview High School - Cadet Petty Officer Third Class Peter Ruocco on June 3, 2024. Bravo Zulu to Youth Programs Chairman; Shane Steinfeld and VP; Marty Magana in presenting the awards.

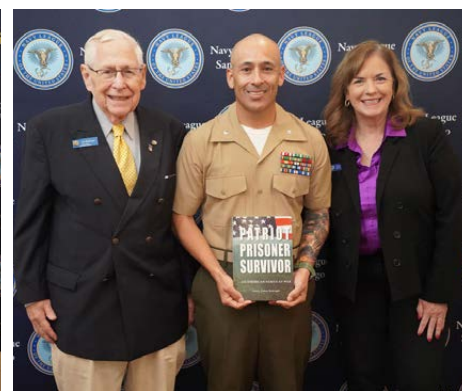


Executive Director; Ernie Belmares visited with Naval Service Training Command; Command Master Chief Andrew Hochgraver to get insight and a preview on its annual indoctrination and training program for its Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Instructors during the 2024 Maritime JROTC Leadership Symposium held at Admiral Kidd Club at Pt. Loma Naval Base in San Diego, CA on July 16, 2024. Very impressive and BZ across the board!



RECOGNITIONS

In the spirit of our independence, the San Diego Council recognized its Maritime Forces service members for their outstanding service at July's Breakfast Event. Congratulations to the U.S. Coast Guard's - Sector San Diego; YN3 Olga Quinero and YN3 Recinos. The Navy's - USS CHAFEE (DDG90); SR Nigeria Carraway, YN3 Giancarlo Bruschetta, IT2 Michael Hartley and IT1 Joseph Sousa. The Marine Corps - 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Marine Award Winners; NCO of the Qtr - Cpl Carolyn Harrison, and for Sustained Superior Performance - Cpl Adam Cross, Lcpl Nayelli Cruz and Cpl Juan-Carlos Cedano-Martel. Awards were sponsored by RCP Block & Brick, San Diego Sockers and USAA. During the Breakfast Event, Commanding Officer, 3dLAAD; LtCol Ramon Gonzalez 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 LtCol Gonzalez his autograph book in appreciation as our guest speaker. Link to pics: <https://navyleague-sd.com/recognition-support/>



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

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

COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- Admiral Baker Golf Course
- Any Budget Printing & Mailing
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- Brightline Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Buffalo Reclaimed Flag Co.
- CVN71 Reactor Department
- Diana Photography
- Elite Fund Raiser & Krank Driver
- Enlisted Leadership Foundation
- Fast Signs
- Flower Island Chula Vista
- Fotex
- Golf Galaxy
- Haichris Inc
- Imagine Design & Graphic (IDG)
- Impressions (DJ/MC) San Diego
- In & Out Burger
- JW Memorabilia
- LEPE Tendwell Group
- Liberty Military Housing
- Liberty Tobacco
- Lifer Dog Creations
- Minuteman Press Kearny Mesa
- Moog Aircraft Group
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- PENFED
- San Diego Legion
- 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

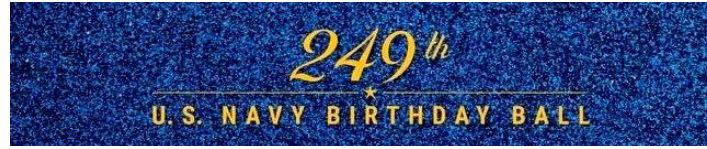
Active Duty can join Navy League at:
<https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/active-duty-membership/join>

MEMBERSHIP

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

Meredith Roderick
Edgar Gonzalez
James DeLoera
Larry Hagstrom

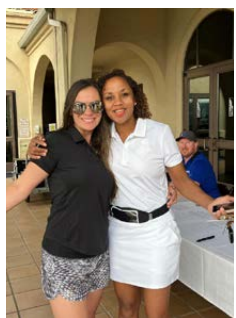
OMBUDSMAN Appreciation registration is open July 13th through August 30th. First 50 registered will receive complimentary breakfast, flowers, and ticket to win door prizes on Friday, September 6th at Adm Baker Golf Clubhouse from 0730-0900. To register email: executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com



October 12, 2024 at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. Early Bird Tickets now on sale at: <https://navyleague-sd.com/product-category/Navybirthdayball/>

San Diego Council hosted its 4th Annual Sea Services Golf Tournament at Admiral Baker Golf Course with 80 golfers in attendance on July 18th. Congrats to the Top Placed Winners; 1st - Fairbanks Fairway Fleet; Dr. Howard Short, Brandon Bol, Jim Brinson and Joel Bonnema. 2nd - Coast Guard Team; Dan Wishnoff, Tim Myerson, John Fox and Kevin Bentle. 3rd - Parker Aerospace; John Miles, Jim Ramirez, Oscar Barreras and Javier Paulino. Special Thank You to our Golf Sponsors & Supporters! Additional pics on website; <https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery/>

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2024 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

SEPTEMBER 6, 2024

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

CAPT ROBERT HEELEY, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER,
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.

To subscribe to Blue & Gold Newsletter email; executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com