



# Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

54-12 | December 2024

## BREAKFAST EVENT

December 6, 2024  
7:30 am - 9:00 am  
Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;  
CAPT LADISLAW "MONTY" MONTERO, USN  
COMMANDING OFFICER,  
NAVAL BASE CORONADO

## NAVY HERITAGE

On Sunday Morning December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked U.S. Navy Base in Pearl Harbor killing 2,403 Americans. The raid by aircraft carrier-borne warplanes sunk or damaged 21 U.S. warships — including the USS Arizona and USS Oklahoma, destroyed or damaged 347 aircraft. Japan, and Nazi Germany had conquered much of Asia, Europe and North Africa by the end of 1941. The shape of the future world began to turn in the midst of the attack on Pearl Harbor, where America overcame the shock of sudden attack and began to fight back. Fifteen Sailors and one Marine earned the Medal of Honor for heroic actions that day alone. Among them were Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd, who died commanding the defense from the bridge of USS Arizona, the first U.S. flag officer killed in any war; Captain Mervyn Bennon, who remained in command of USS West Virginia, saving the ship despite mortal wounds; and Chief Boatswain Edwin Hill, whose remarkable heroics freed the USS Nevada while under attack. USS Nevada was the only battleship to set sail that morning. She went on to distinguished service in the war and helped lead the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944 and the final attacks on the Japanese home islands in the summer of 1945. USS West Virginia also survived the Pearl Harbor attack, but at the loss of 106 Sailors, and was able to triumphantly sail into Tokyo Bay to witness the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II aboard USS Missouri as Japan formally signed documents of surrender on September 2, 1945, with the ceremony lasting only 23 minutes. Yet it ended more than a total decade of devastating global conflict that killed 60 million people or more in Asia, Europe and Africa, and in other battles fought on land, air and sea around the world. "Today, the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won," U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in an international radio address while officiating during the ceremonies aboard USS Missouri. Today, USS Missouri still serves the country in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where she is the centerpiece of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



*"December 7th,  
1941. A date  
which will live  
in infamy"*

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Congratulations to our San Diego Council in winning its third consecutive National "Outstanding Council" and "Donald Mackie" Awards for Excellence in Platinum Newsletter, and Gold for Social Media and Website. The awards were announced at our 2024 National Convention held a few months ago for our Council's outstanding support of our sea services in the community. It included winning our first "Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award in the "Extra-Large" Category" post covid era. The "Back to Back to Back" awards were presented on behalf of the National Navy League to Vice President; Marty Magana and our Committee Chairmen; Homecoming - Jay Rindler, Sea Services & Youth Programs - Shane Steinfeld; and Scholarships - Jeff Wylie. Bravo Zulu to our Elected Officers, Board of Directors, Committee Members and Volunteers! Tracy Owens, President



## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Community Appreciation Awards were presented to Pastrana Group Business Owner; Carlos Pastrana, Parker Aerospace Mgr, Tradeshows & Comms Director; Elizabeth Butterfield and Lockheed Martin Govt. Affairs & Senior Mgr Aviation Programs; CAPT AI Worthy, USN(Ret) for their strong support of the San Diego Council.

Council President presented \$2, 250.00 donation to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar; MSgt Mark Stone III, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39; Sgt Zachary Kavanaugh and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion; Sgt Jerry Lopez in support of their 2024 Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration that was held in November.



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## BREAKFAST SPEAKER

DECEMBER 6TH



CAPT Ladislao R. Montero is a native of Nogales AZ. He enlisted in the Navy in 1988 and served over 5 years as an avionics technician. He completed his active service then utilized his GI bill benefits to graduate from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1998. He also received a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 2010

Designated a Naval Flight Officer in April 2001, CAPT Montero completed seven operational carrier deployments flying the S-3B Viking, EA-6B Prowler and EA-18G Growler. During his first tour with the "Redtails" of VS-21 where he flew the S-3B, he deployed onboard the USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) forward deployed in Atsugi, Japan completing two Western Pacific and one Arabian gulf deployments.

Following his overseas tour, he transferred to Naval Air Station Whidbey Island to transition to the might EA-6B. Assigned to the "Patriots" of VAQ-140, he deployed onboard the USS Eisenhower (CVN 69) for an eight-month combat deployment.

Upon completing his second operational tour, CAPT Montero was selected as an Individual Augmentee and deployed with the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division as an Electronic Warfare Officer working in the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) defeat cell. His ten months "boots on the ground" were CAPT Montero's third tour in Iraq.

Following his third combat deployment, CAPT Montero attended the Naval War College prior to his selection as department head. For his department head tour, he served as Safety Officer, Administrative Officer and Maintenance Officer, completing a deployment onboard the USS George Washington (CVN 73) with the "The Gauntlets" of VAQ-136 and the transition to the EA-18G Growler. On his most recent operational deployment as the Commanding Officer of the "Cougars" of VAQ-139, CAPT Montero led his squadron to his fourth combat deployment onboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) to the Indo-Pacific and Arabian gulf area of responsibility.

CAPT Montero's shore tours include Fighter Intercept Control Officer at NATO Combined Air Operations Center Torrejón de Ardoz in Madrid Spain and most recently served as the Military Deputy to the Electronic Warfare Director, Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, Platform and Weapons Portfolio Management, Electronic Warfare in The Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

His accomplishments include recognition as Commander, Electronic Attack Wing, Pacific, Junior Officer "Seadog Fodor" leadership award for 2007. Additionally, during this CO and XO tour, the "Cougars" of VAQ-139 were the recipients of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 Battle Efficiency Award.

CAPT Montero has accumulated over 2,600 total hours flying the S-3B, EA-6B and EA-18G in support of Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Enduring Sentinel. He has totaled over 600 arrested landings on six different aircraft carriers and has received multiple individual and campaign awards including the Bronze Star, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Service Medal, and Strike/Flight Air Medal (4 awards).

## BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

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 has a long history as a San Diego Council Community Partner in supporting it's Maritime Forces and their families in the community.

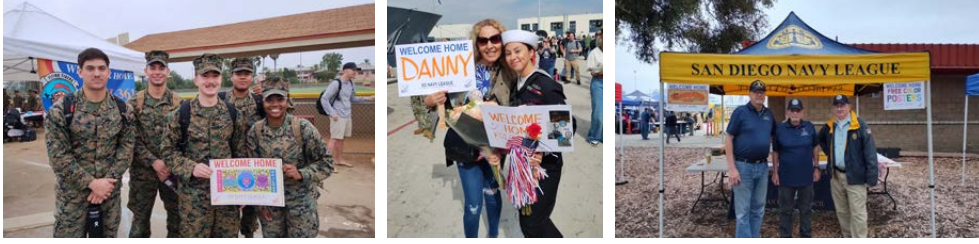


## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

San Diego Council collaborated and supported USS FITZGERALD Ship Reunion Oct 18-20, 2024, where over 134 Alumni's participated in social events, dinner reception and ship tour aboard USS FITZGERALD at Naval Base San Diego. The Ship Reunion included the award recognition of FITZ Sailor of the Quarter (4th Qtr) Award Winners; STGSN Mason Hall, HM3 Sirius Steele, GSE2 Anthony Gonzalez and NC1 Andrew Shipman and CS3 Sharelynn Skiwo in the presentation of the ship's birthday cake. Well done to Board of Directors - Sea Services; Shane Steinfeld, Scholarships; Jeff Wylie and Executive Director; Ernie Belmares. Thank you to local sponsors; LC Embroidery, Your New Gate Company, El Cid Brewery, Protector Brewery and VFW Post 7420 and special thank you to FITZ CO; CDR Jayson Larsen & FITZ CMC; CMDCM Ron Aleman and crew in support of celebrating 29 years of excellence.



The Homecoming Committee joined over thousand family and friends in welcoming the THEODORE ROOSEVELT Carrier Strike Group from their overseas deployment with USS RUSSELL (DDG59), USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD49) and Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 361 from Oct 13 - 18, 2024. Well Done to Jay Rindler, Charles Clark, and Bob Berman.



Council President Tracy Owens and VP Marty Magana attended the Fleet Week San Diego Enlisted Recognition Luncheon at the iconic, Worlds Famous San Diego Zoo, where Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard service members were recognized for their outstanding service and professional excellence on Nov 1, 2024. Bravo Zulu to all service members and the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, from MCAS Miramar, CA. Oorah!

## RECOGNITIONS

San Diego Council celebrated the Marine Corps' 249th Birthday at its November Breakfast Event with Recruit Training Regiment, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion; SgtMaj Amina Saracay serving as guest speaker. SgtMaj Saracay participated in the cake cutting ceremony with 3d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion; Lcpl Cesar Leo-Fuentes with 70 guests in attendance. During this special event, Recruiter, Drill Instructor and Marine of the Quarter (4th Qtr) Award Winners were recognized for their outstanding service.

Well done; 12thMCD; SSgt Terrianna Hardy, SSgt Christian Deocampo, 3rdLAAD; Lcpl Davis Yalen and Lcpl Cesar Leo-Fuentes and MALS39; Sgt Alyjah Bogar, and special recognition to USS SOMERSET (LPD 25); CS1 Ruth Santana in volunteering to present the birthday cake.



# WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

## San Diego Corporate Members & Community Affiliates

### CORPORATE GOLD

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U.S. Navy Mustang Association

### COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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Imagine Design & Graphic (IDG)  
Impressions (DJ/MC) San Diego  
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# MEMBERSHIP

## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

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 Manuela Steuerwald  
 Rick Mitrovich  
 Monica Boldt  
 Nicole Boone  
 Gregory Seepersad  
 Paul Barnes  
 William Ryan  
 MCPON Russell Smith,  
 USN(Ret)  
 CAPT Jonathan Falcone  
 James Bryant  
 Michael Westenhaver  
 Michael Fuqua  
 James Sanders  
 Cynthia Knott



3rd Annual Toys for Tots Drive - Requesting everyone to bring a brand new unwrapped toy for children 12 and under at our Dec 6th Breakfast Event or you can drop off toy at First Command till Dec 5th at 2650 Camino Del

Rio North, Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92108. Point of contact; Katri Sjoblom, (619) 299-8772 (ext 234).



We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports America's sea services and their families through award recognition, homecomings, youth programs and scholarships. Your charitable donation may qualify for a tax deduction and encourage to provide them our Tax EIN#95-3864195. You can make a difference today by donating at; [https:// navyleague-sd.com/product/donate-to-your-sandiego-navy-league-council/](https://navyleague-sd.com/product/donate-to-your-sandiego-navy-league-council/)



Council celebrated the 2024 Marine Corps Birthday Ball with MCAS Miramar, 3rd LAAD Battalion, and MALS39 held at various locations; Marriott Marquis San Diego Marina, South Point Hotel, Las Vegas, NV, and Westing Anaheim Hotel. All photos at; [https:// navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery](https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### NO BREAKFAST EVENT IN JANUARY

### 2025 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

#### 2025 DATES

- Feb 7 - Maritime Security Response Team West
- Mar 7 - Marine Air Support Squadron 3
- Apr 4 - CNAF (N433)
- May 2 - COMPHIBRON FIVE
- June 6 - Marine Air Control Squadron 1
- Jul 11 - USN Independence
- Aug 8 - USCG Sector San Diego
- Sep 5 - CNSF
- Oct 3 - CHSCWPAC
- Nov 7- C3F USMC Component
- Dec 5 - USS SOMERSET (LPD 25)



## 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)