



Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

55-11 | November 2025

BREAKFAST EVENT

November 7,, 2025

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

2400 ADMIRAL BAKER ROAD
SAN DIEGO, CA 92120

GUEST SPEAKER;
LT COL MARK W. "LURCH" BOCK JR.
COMMANDING OFFICER MARINE AERIAL
REFUELER TRANSPORT SQUADRON 352

*"Some people live
an entire lifetime
and wonder if they
have ever made a
difference in the
world, but the
Marines don't have
that problem."*

— President Ronald Reagan

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NAVY HERITAGE

Marines across the globe will recognize and acknowledge 250 years of service to their country, the sacrifices made to defend democracy, and the Marine Corps' enduring legacy as America's premier fighting force. The Marines are responsible for conducting expeditionary and amphibious operations with the United States Navy as well as the Army and Air Force. The Marine Corps annual tradition celebrates the establishment of the organization on November 10, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress. Following their role in the American Revolution, the Marines were abolished following the Treaty of Paris in April 1783. Then, on July 11, 1798, Congress ordered the creation of the Marine Corps signed by President John Adams and directed that it be available for service under the Secretary of the Navy. The birthday, also known as Marine Corps Day, was originally celebrated on July 11 from 1799 until 1921 when Major General Lejeune issued an order Number 47 to formalize the tradition and establish the official day to its original birthdate on November 10th to honor the birthday of the Marine Corps. The ceremony traditionally includes a guest of honor, a reading of Gen. Lejeune's birthday message and the current Commandant's message, recognition of the oldest and youngest Marine present, and a cake cutting ceremony. While the first cake ceremony is unknown, the first on record took place at Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C., in 1937. Major General Thomas Holcomb, the Commandant, presided at an open house for Marine Corps officers, including the cutting of a huge cake in the shape of Tun Tavern, the birthplace of the Marine Corps. Today the Marine Corps Birthday celebration has expanded by various organizations in the community in celebrating and recognizing Marines and its birthday through many special events, exhibits and parades, such as ours on November 7th, but on November 10th, regardless of where Marines are stationed, or deployed, whether they are still on Active Duty, Reserve, Veterans or Retired, you will always hear "Happy Birthday, Marine."



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who joined our October Breakfast Event and Navy Birthday Ball (NBB) in celebrating the U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday. Special thank you to Vice Admiral Brendan McLane, Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet in attending NBB as our guest speaker at the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel with our record breaking attendance of 1,136 guests. Well done to Commander Navy Region Southwest for their partnership in making our NBB celebration extraordinary and Bravo Zulu to Senior Chiefs; Dean Gushikuma & Walley Weekfall and the committee team in volunteering with the event that was very successful. We could have not held this event without our generous sponsors, table supporters and ticket donors. Well Done to Sheldon Margolis in re-establishing our MCAS Miramar Air Show that had 107 guests in attendance. Come join us at our next breakfast events; November 7th in celebrating the U.S. Marine Corps 250th Birthday and December 5th hosting our 4th Annual Toys-for-Tots Drive at Admiral Baker Golf Clubhouse. I look forward to seeing everyone at our future events —Tracy Owens, President



SAN DIEGO NATIONAL COUNCIL EXCELLENCE

San Diego Council wins the National Navy League coveted 2024 Donald M. Mackie Awards for Excellence; Platinum for Newsletter and Gold for Social Media.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to our 2025 MCAS Miramar Air Show Sponsors; Presidents, Vice Presidents and Business Owners; General Atomics (Electromagnetics); President; Scott Forney, VP; Rolf Ziesing and COO Alec Gordan, Walter Andersen; Ken Andersen and Parker Aerospace; John Miles in supporting the San Diego Council hosting 107 guests at its Chalet on Sept 27, 2025. Additional thank you to the generous donations received from Parker Aerospace of \$12,000.00 and the Straus Family Foundation, Northern Trusts Company of \$5,000.00 in support of our sea services.



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



LtCol Mark W. Bock Jr. was born in State College, PA, and raised in VA by his parents Mary Bock and CAPT Mark Bock Sr., USN (Ret). He graduated from Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA, in 2008, earning a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and completed the Officer Candidates School Platoon Leaders Class and received a commission as a 2nd LT in May 2008. Upon graduating from The Basic School at MCB Quantico in Jan 2009, he reported to NAS Pensacola for Aviation Preflight Indoctrination, where he completed primary flight training at VT-6 and was selected to fly the KC-130J Super Hercules.

Lt Col Bock completed advanced aviation training at VT-31 at NAS Corpus Christi, where he earned his Naval Aviator wings on the Commodore's List with Distinction on 11 Feb 2011. He reported to the KC-130J Aviation Training Unit at MCAS Miramar to earn designation as a KC-130J pilot and was subsequently assigned to VMGR-352, the Raiders. As a Raider, from Aug 2011 through Jun 2014, he executed two combat deployments in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, flying both assault support missions and close air support missions as a Harvest HAWK pilot and fire control operator. LtCol Bock also flew humanitarian aid missions in the Philippines as part of Operation Damayan and attended the Aviation Safety Officer Course in NAS Pensacola. His billets included adjutant, detachment director of safety and standardization, and aviation safety officer.

His follow on assignments include; KC-130J Fleet Replacement Detachment at MCAS Cherry Point, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One at MCAS Yuma. In 2021, he was selected by the Commandant's Professional Intermediate-Level Education Board to attend Command and Staff College at MCB Quantico, where he was a distinguished graduate and a Gray Scholar. In Jul 2022, he reported to VMGR-352 where he served as the Aircraft Maintenance Officer (AMO) and Executive Officer. As AMO, he led the effort to configure three special mission aircraft for the first service-supported transpacific air-to-air refueling mission of USMC fighter aircraft in 40 years. In Nov 2023 LtCol Bock was assigned to the MAG-11 Headquarters staff to prepare for command assignment.

LtCol Bock's personal awards include Air Medal with eleven Strike Flight Awards, three Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Bock holds a Master of Science in economics from Purdue University and a Master of Military Studies from Marine Corps University

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, and is the Triple Crown Navy League of the Year Award Winner from 2022-2024.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Well done to Homecoming Committee in joining over thousand family & friends in the return of Marine Medium Tilt Rotor Squadron 161 from its overseas deployment on Sept 19, USS AMERICA homeport change to San Diego on Sept 25 and Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352 from its overseas deployment at MCAS Miramar on Oct 9, 2025.



RECOGNITIONS

Council celebrated the Navy's 250th Birthday at its October Breakfast Event, where its Sponsors from the community provided awareness on its services they provide to military families and clients in the community. Well done; First Command, Frontwave Credit Union, LC Embroidery, Image Design & Graphics, Navy Federal Credit Union, Parker Aerospace, Spotlight Strategies, Military Order of the World Wars, San Diego Sockers and San Diego Clippers. During this celebration, Council President Tracy Owens and Vietnam Prisoner of War Survivor; CDR Jim Bedinger, USN(Ret) participated in the cake cutting ceremony. Council presented Parker Aerospace; John Miles the Community Appreciation print.



WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

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Your New Gate Company

MEMBERSHIP

NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

CDR Michael Ross, USCG
CDR Bryce Klaput, USN
CAPT Robert Tucker, USCG



Everyone is encouraged to bring a brand new unwrapped toy for children up to age 12 at our 4th Annual Toys for Tots Drive, Dec 5th Breakfast Event.

GIVING
TUESDAY

On Tues, Dec 2nd, You can make a difference supporting our servicemembers by donating at;

<https://navyleague-sd.com/product/donate-to-your-san-diego-navy-league-council/>

THANK YOU NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL SPONSORS, TABLE SUPPORTERS AND TICKET DONORS!

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NAVY BIRTHDAY BALL

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

DECEMBER 5, 2025

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

CAPT ANDY KOY, USN
COMMANDING OFFICER,
USS SOMERSET (LPD 25)

2026 DATES

Jan - No Event

Feb 6 - USCG

Mar 6 - USMC

Apr 3 - Surface Development Group 1

May 1 - Maritime Forces SSMoY

June 5 - USMC/USN

Jul 10 - Maritime Forces - Spirit of Indy

Aug 7 - US Coast Guard Sector San Diego

Sep 4 - Naval Base San Diego

Oct 2 - DCOM, NETC Force Development

Nov 6 - USMC Bday

Dec 4 - 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