



NAVY LEAGUE NEWS

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL

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In Memory of George W. Thorne & Randolph (RJ) Bieczczak

Seventy years separated George and RJ. The former was an RAF bomber pilot in WWII who became an American citizen and lived a full, productive and joy filled life during his 87 years. The Spruance Division Sea Cadet building was named in his honor several years ago. Family and friends celebrated his life there on 8/20/11. RJ was an energized, 17 year old Spruance Division Sea Cadet just at the start of a promising life when he was tragically taken from his family and friends while doing something he loved. We mourned his passing and *what might have been* on 8/24/11. Our hearts go out to his father Randy, a Sea Cadet Training Officer, his mother Annalisa and his sister Annamarie.

I look forward to seeing all of you on Wednesday 9/21 at the CYRC. It will be Sea Cadet Night and you will again be hearing some of the Cadets great training experiences and sharing their pleasure in their summer travels. Please mark your calendars.

On 9/7, Immediate Past President Chuck Black accompanied Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler on a trip to Washington to visit with Secretary of the Navy Raymond Maybus. They

broached a matter that could have a long term benefit for the city and which was positively received....but will be some time in the future if put in effect. They also visited with Representatives Allen West and Debbie Wasserman Schultz while in town and had them (separately) sign a document of agreement for their visit's aims. Both the Mayor and Chuck were pleased with the results. Finally, at a meeting in Annapolis, Admiral Michael Miller, Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy, agreed to be our Guest of Honor at our January 2012 Gala. Well done Chuck!

On 9/8, national Navy League President Dan Branch held a meeting at the Plantation Preserve Golf Club sponsored through the monthly Broward County Council dinner. In attendance were the Southeast Florida Council Presidents and many Board members. Dan was accompanied by National President Elect Phil Dunmire, Florida President Bill Dudley and Area President Joe Giambrone. There were also several Coast Guard flag officers in attendance as well as Navy and CG area commanders and Southcom officers.

Dan's presentation focused on membership and budgets: he indicated that although the Sea-Air-Space Exposition this past April was the most successful ever, the Navy League itself is suffering financially from the continued loss of a great many members. He emphasized how NLUS Councils need to generate new members, but especially through the means of the Community Affiliate Pro-

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USS Cole (DDG 67) visited Port Everglades August 18, 2011

IN MEMORY OF GEORGE W. THORNE

March 2, 1924 - August 14, 2011

George W. Thorne, a resident of Fort Lauderdale for over 40 years, passed away Sunday, August 14th. Born March 2nd, 1924 in London, England. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He had an infectious zest for life and people. He especially enjoyed entertaining people with his gifts of a musical ear and quick wit. He is survived by his loving wife of over 50 years, Veronika, and his daughters Tatiana (Gary) Grotendorst, and Valerie (Lee) Hediger, grandchildren, Alexei, Anastasia, Nicholas & Sasha. In 1938, George began his plastics career in London as an apprentice toolmaker. In 1942, he joined the Royal Air Force (RAF) and saw action in the Bomber and Coastal Command. While in the RAF, he attended the third School of Technical Training and the London Polytechnic Institute. George was an avid traveler due to his personal and professional interests. He installed plastic equipment and trained personnel in India, Africa, many South American countries, Mexico, and the United States. He received many patents on plastic parts and helped the medical profession in the design of plastic medical products. George served on the Executive Committee of the Society of Plastics Engineers for twelve years and was elected their fiftieth President in 1992. In 1999 George was presented with their most



Veronika and George



George with Chuck Black

prestigious award for outstanding service to the Plastics Industry by the Society of Plastics Industries (SPI). He was also a member of the Plastics Pioneers and the Plastics Academy of America. George was the CEO of Industrial Plastic Products, Inc. of Miami Lakes, Florida for over 30 years. George also contributed to the community. He was an active member of the Royal Knights for Cancer Research, Broward Sheriff's Advisory Council, Seafarer's House, CRYC, Florida Grand Opera, and Symphony of the Americas Society. He was also a member, and served as president of the United States Navy League, Fort Lauderdale Council. George passionately supported their Sea Cadet Youth Program, as he was instrumental in obtaining a permanent Headquarters for the Cadets. A celebration of his life will be held at the Sea Cadet Headquarters, 300 SW 25th Street, Fort Lauderdale, (behind Lester's Diner, St Road 84), on Saturday, August 20th, 3:00-6:00. Please bring your memories to share. A private family church service was held on August 14th in Miami. In lieu of flowers, to honor George Thorne, donations can be made to Naval Sea Cadets, "SPRUANCE DIVISION USNSC," PO Box 21101, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315. Condolences may be shared at www.fredhunters.com

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gram which focuses on signing up businesses and their employees. Four of our BOD members have had their companies signed up for some time. The Broward Council, the hosts of the evening's dinner, are now up to 12 affiliates.

Dan also discussed the pressure that the Navy and Coast Guard budgets are under. He made the point that the Army and Marines can be reduced in size when we are out of Iraq and Afghanistan, but that the Navy must be maintained... ..and increased. Its fundamental job is to maintain the sea lanes around the world through which 95% of all goods and services flow. And he stressed that the present 1916 level of navy ships (275) is far too inadequate for the needs; and a \$25 Billion a year ship building budget is too low to achieve the desired level of 325 ships or even current levels: the Navy League's messages to Congress must be constant and pointed in this regard. As members of the Navy League we must attempt individually and collectively to try and achieve these goals.

It is my pleasure to let all of you know that on October 25th two of our Fort Lauderdale Council members – Mary Kay Follin and Alan M. Starr have been selected as *Style and Substance Honorees* by Fort Lauderdale's Symphony of the Americas Society: "honoring outstanding men and women who have enriched our community through commitment to service and dedication to improving the quality of life for others." Their selection committee obviously has made excellent choices in the case of these two outstanding members. The luncheon on the 25th will be held at: Hyatt Regency Pier 66 beginning at 11:00 AM.

Again, I look forward to seeing you on the 21st at our monthly dinner,

Rudy Otting
President

IN MEMORY OF RANDOLPH JOSEPH (RJ) BIEZCZAK

October 14, 1993 - August 21, 2011



*Randolph Joseph "RJ" Bieczczak
October 14, 1993 - August 21, 2011*

Randolph Joseph "RJ" Bieczczak, 17 years old of Coral Springs, Florida, and Taravella High School Senior, was received into the Kingdom of Heaven and was gently embraced by our Lord, Jesus Christ, on Sunday, August 21, 2011.

In the perfect words of RJ's aunt, Tina, "Pickup Drivin', Bocephus Blarin', Back Road Ridin', Camo Wearin', Country Lovin', Backwoods Muddin', Sea-Life Lovin' ... that was RJ!"

As difficult as it is to let go of this young soul, it gives the family comfort in knowing that RJ lived a fun-filled, active life, and regularly did what he loved to do, and that was to have fun under the sun and in the water; always enjoying nature and good times with friends and family. A true patriot at heart, RJ dedicated the last 7 years of his life to the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps, where he participated in countless adventures, community service efforts, had many technical trainings, and as Color Guard Commander, participated in numerous formal ceremonies. RJ's goal was to finish high school this year and enter into the United States Coast Guard.

Undoubtedly, RJ will continue to live in the hearts of all the people he touched in such a profound way because of his loyal, kind, fun, and adventurous spirit. RJ was more than a son to his loving parents, Annalisa and Randy, and more than a brother to his loving sister, Annamarie, he was their best friend, their buddy...

Amidst the confusion, devastation, anger, and unanswered questions this untimely death has caused, let us remember our faith. Let us remember that God's promise is not that we will not face storms, but that when we do, God will be there to help us through...

Isaiah 43:2 "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not perish. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God."

RJ was an organ donor and has given the gift of physical healing to others, while also leaving a legacy of youthfulness and vitality behind. RJ will never be forgotten; he will live on, in the hearts of many, forever...

RJ is survived by his mother, Annalisa Schiavo, father, Edward Randolph Bieczczak, sister, Annamarie Bieczczak, Grandparents, Joseph and Marcia Schiavo, Fred and Ginger Speier, and Edward Charles Bieczczak, as well as loving Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

The Bieczczak and Schiavo families are eternally grateful for all the love and support from family members, friends, and co-workers. In Lieu of flowers, donations to the family would be greatly appreciated. Please make donations to the "RJ Memorial Fund Trust" – donations can be mailed to 8208 NW 100th Way, Tamarac, Florida 33321, tel (954) 638-5260.



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

by Oscar Romano



Rip Gibson, LTJG Allysia Hood, USN,
Chuck Black



CDR Scott Sciretta, USN and
Alicia Romano

The change of Command of the USS JASON DUNHAM (DDG 109), took place on Friday, June 17th in Norfolk, Virginia. Several of our Council members had the opportunity to travel to Norfolk to be present at the farewell for our friend CDR Scott Sciretta, USN, who departed as the first Commanding Officer of the JASON DUNHAM. We will always keep the good memories of the commissioning ceremony this past November at Port Everglades. We wish the best for Scott, his wife Sharon and their 2 sons, James and Adam.

On July 12, a Royal Navy ship, the HMS Dauntless (D33), unexpectedly arrived to Port Everglades for a technical visit. The Commanding Officer invited the Navy League and other local organizations for a reception on board. The Dauntless is the second ship of the Type 45 class, also known as Daring or "D" class. Commissioned on June 3, 2010, it was designed with the most advanced stealth capabilities in the world. She sailed to Norfolk, Virginia, to take part in a war game exercise between France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States.



Oscar Romano, Capt. Richard Powell, RN, CO HMS
Dauntless (D33), Rudy Oetting, Peter Caspari

Council members attended a reception at Briny Irish Pub for the USS COLE (DDG 67) on August 18, 2011. The pub was packed, not only with members of the Navy League and other local organizations, but with the general public, that came to pay tribute to the good ship that suffered a terrorist attack on October 12, 2000 while it was harbored in the Yemeni port of Aden. Seventeen American sailors were killed, and 39 were injured. Our president, Rudy Oetting, presented a plaque to the Commanding Officer, CDR Andrew C. Ehlers, USN.



Rudy Oetting, Oscar Romano, CDR Andrew C. Ehlers, USN,
CO USS COLE (DDG 67), Peter Swanson, James Black



Jack Seiler, Fort Lauderdale Mayor
and Alan Adler, US Navy League



One of our members, Abi Montes, hosted a party on August 27 for friends and family to celebrate his appointment to rank as Master Sergeant in the Reserve of the United States Marine Corps. Several Council members were in attendance. It was a lovely evening. Congratulations to Abi and his Family!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES CONTINUED

On a Saturday afternoon, July 23, we enjoyed the traditional Council Beach Party due to the generosity of the Pearsons and the Wikbergs, who again allowed us to use the great facilities at the Surf Club on Fort Lauderdale Beach. It was a sunny day and the party was attended by many members and guests who shared plenty of good food and friendship.



*Oscar Romano and National President
Daniel B. Branch, Jr.*

To close the summer activities, we had a visit to South Florida on September 8 by our National President, Daniel B. Branch, Jr. In his speech, the president emphasized the need to continue the presentations to our members of Congress of the need for a stronger Navy in the face of present and future challenges around the world, especially when we have the certainty of cuts all across in the national budget that will affect the Department of Defense. He also spoke about the membership issue that is affecting all the councils and talked about reaching more Corporate or Community Affiliate to incorporate as members.

United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps

300 SW 25th Street • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE JULY – AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

The Cadets of Spruance Division began their exciting summer training sessions immediately after school ended. Ten League Cadets attended Orientation in Groveland, FL.; many were away from home for the first time. Eighteen Sea Cadets attended Recruit Training at the Palm Beach Sheriff's Eagle Academy, under the watchful eyes of LT Jorge Perez, LT Tim Diener, Midshipman Ryan McDaniel, and several of our senior Cadets who provided assistance as Staff Cadets. Midshipman Brandon Wascisko, formerly of Spruance Division received his appointment as Ensign during graduation ceremonies. Other training opportunities this summer included Submarine training at Kings Bay, GA, Master At Arms Training in Puerto Rico, Gunners Mate Training at Great Lakes Naval Station, Sea Bee Training in Calif., Aviation Training at Pensacola, Scuba Training, Field Operations in Michigan, Seamanship Training, Marksmanship Training, Underway Training on board the USNSCC Vessel Grey Fox, on the Great Lakes, and participation in an International Exchange for two Cadets with the Royal Canadian Navy Sea Cadets at Halifax, Nova Scotia. What a Summer! This is why the motto of the Sea Cadet Program is that "It is an adventure of a lifetime"!

We held an open house for new potential recruits in August, and had 22 applicants. They will now go through our screening process. We now have a total ship's company of 89 Cadets and Staff. We have made arrangements with the Veterans Post next door, for the Cadets to use their parking lot as a "Grinder" for morning PT. Our 68 Male Cadets will have the use of their hall to change into their uniforms following PT. This will save almost 40 minutes of our Training Time, where before we could only have 4-5 Cadets change at one time.

On a very sad note, we lost one of our greatest Navy League supporters. We held a Memorial Service for George Thorne, who was the driving force in getting our HQ Building from the City of Fort Lauderdale after it was abandoned by the Optimist Club. It was a celebration of his life and accomplishments.

Our entire Unit is still grieving over the tragic loss of Petty Officer Second Class R.J. Bieszczak, who was killed in a boating accident in a canal in Coral Springs. R.J. loved being on the water, and was beginning his Senior year in High School. He had his whole life ahead of him, with a goal to enlist in the US Coast Guard and sail with his best friend, Midshipman Ryan McDaniel who will be completing Coast Guard Boot Camp at Cape May, NJ. The Cadets and staff participated in the Memorial Service, and R.J. was laid to rest with full Military Honors.

Respectfully submitted,
LCDR Alan Starr, NSCC, Commanding Officer

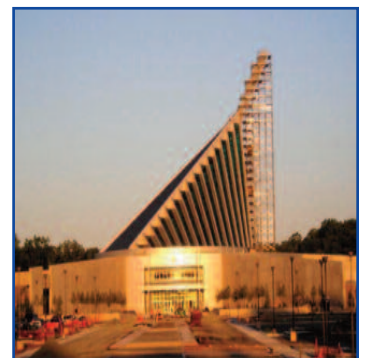
SUMMER TRAVEL LOG

Recently I traveled to Washington D.C. to attend my granddaughter's graduation from Georgetown University. During my visit I could not pass up the opportunity to tour the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

The museum is a "must see" for Navy Leaguers close to the area. It is located just outside the gates of the Quantico Marine Base, 36 miles south of DC, in Triangle, VA - an easy ride down I-75. The museum's appeal is not only for Marines but also for non-Marines because it depicts American history as seen through the eyes of individual Marines across nearly 235 years. The exhibits are exceptionally well done; each exhibit is in a separate room & depicts Marine Corps conflicts from 1775 thru Vietnam. For example the World War I exhibit has you pass through German lines in France at Belleau Wood, where Marines earned the nickname "Teufelhunder," better known as "Devil Dog." The reality of this immersion exhibit allows you to see, hear, feel, and smell the battle. For instance young Marines from Quantico star in a film that recreates the charge through the wheat field, but you see it from the perspective of the enemy.

I also visited the memorial chapel that is a part of the museum complex. While there I ran into an old Fort Lauderdale Council friend: General David C. Garza. He and his wife were attending a retirement ceremony for a Marine in his command. General Garza has just returned from Afghanistan and is assigned to the Pentagon. The General and his wife mentioned how much they enjoyed their tour in South Florida and wanted me to give their regards to all their friends in the Council.

Mack Madzinski
Graduate – Quantico OCS
Class of 1953



*National Museum of the
Marine Corps.*

CHUCK BLACK, CONGRESSMAN ALLEN WEST AND MAYOR JACK SEILER MEET WITH SECRETARY OF THE NAVY



On September 7th immediate Past President Chuck Black, Congressman Allen West, Secretary of the Navy Raymond Mabus and Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jack Seiler met in Washington, D.C. The reason for the meeting was to discuss the possibility of naming a Navy ship the USS Fort Lauderdale, and the proposal was positively received.

NEWS FROM THE YOUNG US NAVY AND OUR SEA CADET CORPS



Ensign Jessica Vance, student helicopter pilot, training at NAS Whiting field in Milton Florida



Ensign Tim Nasta, NAS Whiting Aerobatic Solo Flight, March 2011

Two of our own Sea Cadets, Jessica Vance and Tim Nasta, continue their training in US Naval Aviation. Tim is training for jets that will operate from carriers and Jessica is doing her training as a helicopter pilot. The Spruance Division of the US Naval Sea Cadet Corps has made a tradition, under the leadership of LCDR Alan Starr, USNSCC, of forming young individuals that excel in the Military, in the best American colleges and in any direction that they go in life. The Fort Lauderdale Council is working with the Sea Cadet Corps and all their supporters to provide the means for the program to grow and bring more opportunities to the youth of our community. We encourage all Council members to continue the outstanding support for this program.

**Fort Lauderdale Council
2011 OFFICERS**

President: Rudy Oetting
 1st Vice President: Oscar Romano
 2nd Vice President: James Black
 3rd Vice President: Alan Stotsky
 Secretary: Lynn A. Drucker
 Treasurer: Mack E. Madzinski III
 Asst. Treasurer: Rosemarie Dezolt
 Judge Advocate: Capt. Edward R. Fink
 Asst. Judge Advocate: Richard Chosid

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Wednesday, October 5th, 2011 at 3:30 PM

SEA CADET HEADQUARTERS

Located at:

300 S.W. 25th Street • Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315



EDITORIAL STAFF

Lynn Drucker
 Rudy Oetting
 Oscar Romano
 Vicki Samuels
 Chuck Black
 Jim Black
 Joyce Madzinski

ALL COPY DEADLINE:

Please provide any photos, along with copy, prior to the 1st day of the month for publication in the next newsletter.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, September 21st, 2011

Coral Ridge Yacht Club

6-7PM Cocktails • 7-9PM Dinner

Sea Cadet Night

RSVP Required!

Call 954-565-6778 no later than noon, Monday prior to the meeting.

visit us on the web at www.flnavyleague.org

FORT LAUDERDALE COUNCIL COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

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...we can do it!

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**Navy League of the United States
Fort Lauderdale Council**

**Social Calendar
2011-2012**

Wednesday, September 21st, 6pm—Sea Cadet Night @CRYC

Thursday, September 29th, 4-8 pm-Military Appreciation Night, Blue Martini

Thursday, October 13th, 6-10 pm, Oktoberfest @ Lauderdale Yacht Club

Thursday, October 20th, 4-8 pm, Military Appreciation Night @ Blue Martini

Friday, November 4th, 6pm, USMC Forces South Ball, Marriott Doral Resort

Wednesday, November 16th, 6pm, Dinner Meeting @ CRYC

Speaker: Brian Lilly, Organizer of 2012 Air Show

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 6pm-Holiday Dinner Meeting, CRYC

Speaker: Admiral William H. McCraven, USN

Sunday, January 8, noon, Navy League Day at the Races, Gulfstream Park

Saturday, Jan.28th, 7pm, Seven Seas Gala, Pier 66, Pier Top

Guest of Honor: Admiral Michael Miller, USN

Superintendent, US Naval Academy

Wednesday, Feb. 15th, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, CRYC

Wednesday, March 21st, Dinner Meeting, CRYC

Wednesday, April 18th, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, CRYC

April 25-30, Fleet Week, Port Everglades

April 28-29, Air & Sea Show, Fort Lauderdale Beach

Wednesday, May 16th, 6pm, Dinner Meeting, CRYC