



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Imperial Valley

August 2020

Coast Guard Celebrates 230 Years

It was 230 years ago on August 4, 1790 when Congress authorized then Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton to build ten cutters to protect the new nation's revenues.

Hamilton is considered the father of the U.S. Coast Guard, as he was a driving force in its formation. It was Hamilton's vision that *"A few armed vessels, judiciously stationed at the entrances of our ports, might at a small expense be made useful sentinels of the laws."*



From its formation, the Coast Guard has evolved from enforcing tariff laws and smuggling interdiction, to a multi-mission force that is not only a law enforcement and regulatory agency, but is also a first-responder that provides maritime security safety.

The Coast Guard continues to be a small force of just over 50,000 members, operating a fleet of 259 Cutters, 200 fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, and over 1600 boats.

We celebrate the dedicated men and women of the Coast Guard, and wish them a Happy 230th Birthday.

Watch as Commander Cynthia Kane, U.S. Navy, deputy chaplain of the Coast Guard, [blesses the Coast Guard personnel and their missions.](#)

Padres Baseball Outing -- Cancelled

For the past few years we have been hosting the USCGC PETREL crew and families to an evening of Padres baseball at PETCO park. As shutdown orders were being lifted, the San Diego Padres ballclub believed there was still an opportunity for us to have in-person attendance at ballgames. Unfortunately, this wasn't the case, and we have permanently cancelled the event as a limited baseball season now resumes.



Welcoming USS FITZGERALD (DDG-62) with Treats for Troops



Our adopted ship, the USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) arrived at its homeport in San Diego last month. To welcome them home, the Board of Directors put together 292 treat bags for the ship's crew.

On behalf of the council, President Ted and his wife Lisa, presented the Treats aboard the ship to the Fitz's Executive Officer, Commander Chris Kennedy, Command Master Chief Eli Robles and Petty Officer

Futch.

The Fitzgerald rejoined the fleet in mid-June following more than two years in the shipyard. We're excited to have them return to San Diego, and looking forward to fully resuming our support to the ship and its crew.

Navy League National News

Highlighting Our Heroes on the Navy League Blog: Bill Balabanow

Our "Highlighting Our Heroes" blog is back with a new entry. Bill Balabanow, a World War II Merchant Marine veteran, continues his fight to recognize Merchant Marine as war heroes. Read about his service and efforts: <https://blog.navyleague.org/blog/highlighting-our-heroes-bill-balabanow>.

Join the Navy League Advocates Team

Interested in helping the Navy League support the sea services in Congress? Last year our Navy League advocates completed more than 80 meetings nationwide, and over 250 during our biennial November Fly-In. Join our Grassroots Legislative Initiative training on the Navy Budget Monday, June 29 at 2:00 p.m. ET by emailing Director of Government Affairs Ryan Simon at rsimon@navyleague.org. You'll receive everything you need to become a fully prepared advocate and build and capitalize on strong relationships with your members of Congress and their staff to support our Sailors, Marines, Coasties and Mariners!

Ask Congress to Help Build Our Submarine Fleet

The Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Mike Gilday has stated that if Congress could give him another ship today, any ship, he would choose a second Virginia-class submarine. Unfortunately, the Senate has chosen to put more funding into the F-35 program instead of a second Virginia hull. According to Mackenzie Eaglen of AEI, "This leaves many worried that shipyards in Connecticut and Virginia will have to lay off workers next year, potentially delaying work on the Navy's other new boomer submarine — the Columbia. The shipbuilding industry has been hard hit by the pandemic and a strike continues at Bath Iron Works, further adding to the disruption." [Act now to prioritize our submarine fleet in FY21!](#)

Ask Congress to Reinforce America's Tanker Fleet

While American forces were able to utilize foreign-flagged tankers in the past, the strategic environment has fundamentally changed. China might have been willing to supply Chinese-flagged tankers when our conflicts were in the Middle East, but they certainly won't be willing to help when our engagements are in the South China Sea. For this reason, and many more, Congress and the White House must work together to establish and fund a fleet of Tanker Security Program ships capable of meeting the needs of a forward-postured American naval and Marine presence. Like our other U.S.-flagged vessels, this program would provide a stipend to tankers in exchange for their commitment to answer the call when America's national security interests demand it. Both the House and Senate National Defense Authorization Act bills include this authorizing language, and we hope the president signs it into law.

President's Message

Fellow Navy Leaguers,

It's during these dog days of summer that we're typically taking a summer vacation away from the heat, and rejuvenating from cooler weather as we prepare for the cooler months ahead. As the summer heat beats down, so does the virus. California (and our local community) continues to be hotspot for the virus. We're not certain our outlook, but from all indications, we will likely not be able to meet again for the remainder of the year.

We have many events that we will continue to support as we enter this second half of the year, despite not being able to enjoy one another's company over a T-bone steak dinner.

Our Navy community was saddened as we all watched the news of the USS Bonhomme Richard burn for days in San Diego. I served aboard the BHR and to see the battles being waged to suppress the fire, were equally suppressing my hope that the ship would sail again. We were most thankful that despite the intensity of the fire and resulting damage, that all ship's crew were accounted for. Please keep your thoughts and prayers with those who served aboard her.

Lisa and I had an opportunity to visit the USS Fitzgerald who is berthed near the Bonhomme Richard (yes, we saw the damage), as we delivered nearly 300 treat bags to the ship to officially welcome the Fitzgerald crew to San Diego. We're looking forward to resuming our support activities with them, and hosting the command in El Centro for a steak dinner when we receive permission that it's safe to proceed. I know you'll want to meet them.

Until we are able to meet again, I wish you all good health.

Ted

Ted Gallinat, President
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Upcoming T-Bone Dinners and Events

NOTICE: All T-Bone dinner meetings have been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions



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WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
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USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



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The Official Publication of the Navy League

In print since 1902, Seapower provides Navy League members, sea service chiefs and members of Congress with the most relevant news affecting the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

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