



IMPERIAL VALLEY
Supporting the Sea Services since 1949



May 2023

Still the Best T-Bone in Town

Next Dinner: May 2, 2023, 6:30 pm

Reservations Recommended

Our steaks are specially hand-cut for us each dinner meeting. Due to our inability to store extra steaks at our new meeting site, we will only order as many steaks as we have reservations for. We typically have 1-2 extra steaks on hand, but cannot guarantee you a steak dinner without an advance reservation.

[Call or email us if you have questions.](#)

New Location:

Imperial Moose Lodge
2310 Myrtle Rd
Imperial, CA 92251

Pay in Advance.

Pay in advance by cash or check, or click the link below to pay with our Square Card site. *There is a \$2.00 credit card convenience fee.*

Reserve a T-Bone
Dinner \$30.00

Reserve a
Vegetarian
Dinner \$15.00

May Speaker

Commander Jim Kidrick, USN Retired
President/CEO San Diego Air & Space Museum



A former naval aviator, Jim Kidrick is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Air & Space Museum where he is responsible for the fundraising and management of one of our nation's most significant aero-themed institutions. The Museum is American Alliance of Museums accredited, a Smithsonian Affiliate and California's "Official Air &

Center.”

Kidrick joined the Museum as the Foundation’s Executive Director in January of 2006 and still fills that role, and is also the President of the San Diego Air & Space Technology Center (Wind Tunnel), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Museum. He became President & CEO of the Museum in March of 2007.

Kidrick has over 25 years of non-profit leadership as an Executive Director or President and led the most successful family festival/powerboat competition in the country, San Diego Bayfair’s World Series of Powerboat Racing. He also founded the Fallon Air Show as its Director for five years and was Event Manager for the Kern County Air Show for six years. Mr. Kidrick also produced the San Diego Grand Prix and the Jet Ski World Championships.

He has an extensive aviation background, and is a retired Navy Commander, a fighter pilot for 21 years with over 4,250 accident free hours of military flight time flying from our Navy’s aircraft carriers. During his naval career he flew air combat with and against Navy Top Gun students as an adversary in the Douglas A-4 Skyhawk.

In addition to his naval flying, he is an FAA rated commercial, instrument and multi-engine pilot. Kidrick has a significant background in aviation, and the aerospace industry. He worked as Senior Program Manager for L3/Titan Corporation as a member of the company’s Defense Programs Division - Senior Leadership Team and as Director of the Electronic Combat Range, China Lake, California. He also is an experienced defense and corporate consultant, representing military consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton before he accepted the position with the San Diego Air & Space Museum.

Kidrick is a native of Washington State, and holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science from the University of Puget Sound and advance courses on aviation safety from the Navy Post Graduate School, Monterey. He has lectured and consulted on special event development and operation, including sponsorship creation and return-on-investment strategies. Kidrick is a proponent of advancing programs, which encourage our nation’s youth to pursue the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) academic disciplines.

Upcoming Events...Get Involved!

It's that time of year for our annual BBQ supporting our Marines at Lake Martinez, and Padres Baseball at Petco Park to celebrate the United States Coast Guard's Birthday with the crew and families of the USCGC PETREL and USCGC SEA OTTER.

Tickets for the Baseball game are selling out fast. Sign up now!

IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE
and
VMFA-214

LAKE MARTINEZ
Bash
& BBQ

THURSDAY • 15 JUNE 2023

LET'S | FEED | MARINES

CARAVAN DEPARTS EL CENTRO 7AM • SERVE AT 11AM
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SET-UP, BBQ, SERVE, CLEAN-UP
SIGN UP (760) 791-7345
WWW.IVNAVYLEAGUE.ORG

IMPERIAL VALLEY
NAVY LEAGUE

Join us for a day of Baseball with the
crew and families of
USCGC PETREL & USCGC SEA OTTER

BASEBALL
GAME

AUG 23, 2023
1:10 PM

PADRES VS MARLINS

\$45 LIMITED TICKETS

CALL TO RESERVE 760.791.6918

Sponsored by USAA

www.ivnavyleague.org

In Case You Missed It | April Recap

We had the honor of recognizing exceptional Sailors and Marines at last month's T-bone dinner. Two of Naval Air Facility El Centro Sailors of the Year, and three of their Sailors of the Quarter, and three VMFA-214 Marines were recognized — all who are making a difference by their dedication and leadership.

Continuing our celebration of women in Aviation, VMFA-214's SgtMaj Brooks was our guest speaker with an update on our adopted squadron, and her role in the unit. Navy Leaguer Spencer McNamara won the Easter basket opportunity drawing, the winning ticket was drawn by Sgt. Major Brooks.





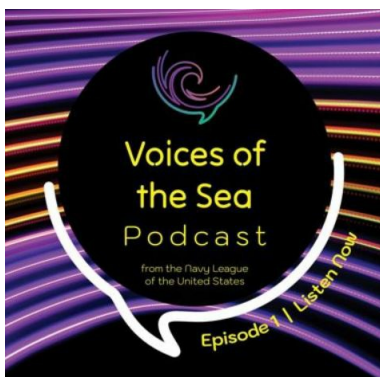
Photo credit: Dave Reider and Sue Caldwell

NAF El Centro Eggstravaganza was Eggs-tra Special!

We mentioned last month that we were financially supporting the NAF El Centro Morale, Welfare and Recreation department's Eggstravaganza event on Easter weekend. As you can see from these photos, this was a great success to boost morale with the families stationed at the Base.



Listen to the Voices of the Sea: A Navy League Podcast



Introducing a brand-new podcast from the Navy League, Voices of the Sea (VoS)! Hosted by Seapower Editor-in-Chief Ann Tropea, VoS is a fresh take on the Navy League mission, telling the real stories of sea service members and their families from across the globe. The podcast will also highlight future Navy League events and give listeners an idea of what goes on at headquarters.

[Listen to our pilot episode](#) and spread the good word. We're already planning our next episode, so please look forward to that. If you know active-duty personnel with an incredible story or want to share your own, please email us at voicesofthesea@navyleague.org. You just might be our next guest!

You can find VoS on Apple, Spotify, Amazon, Google, Stitcher, or where ever else you listen to podcasts. Be sure to leave a review after listening.

The MOC | EU and the Language of Power

Introducing [The MOC \(Maritime Operations Center\)](#), an online journal from the Center for Maritime Strategy (CMS). The journal features articles that critically engage with pressing maritime-related defense issues.

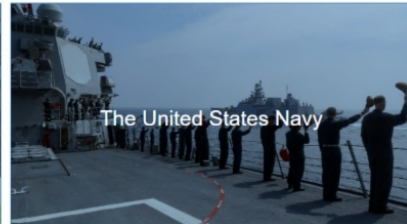
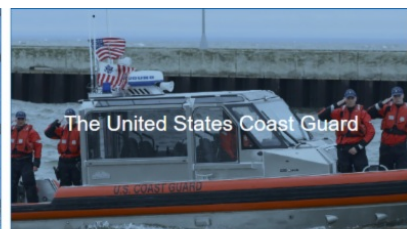
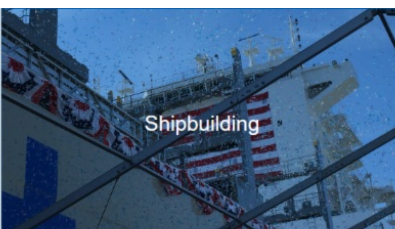
Recently in the MOC, Gonzalo Vázquez, two analysts expressed their expectations and concerns for the upcoming renewal of the EU Maritime Security Strategy, its first update in almost a decade. Read more about [their thoughts here](#).

The Center for Maritime Strategy (CMS) is a non-profit, non-partisan think tank and research institution dedicated to studying maritime issues and their context within wider American national security policy. Through its research and analysis, external outreach, publications, and high-level events, CMS engages key stakeholders across government, academia, and industry.

Their mission is to strengthen American national security through its sea services, conducting policy-driven research, advocacy, and education on the relationship between maritime power and national security policy.

The Navy League of the United States sponsors the Center for Maritime Strategy, furnishing operational support and leveraging its 120-year history of supporting the American sea services with nearly 200 local chapters throughout the globe.

Your Voice Matters | Letters to Congress



We have many pressing issues facing our sea services. If we don't make our voices heard to our Congressional and Senate leadership, who will? Our sea services rely on us being their voice to our elected representatives.

You can be their voice by sending your letters on these important matters. Visit our [Voice to Congress site for active campaigns](#), and submit your letters. Your

responses really do make a difference.

President's Message



Building Relationships

As the year of 2023 continues, so is our Council, by renewing communications and building relationships with all of our adopted units.

Recently I made two trips to San Diego to renew our bond with the Crew of the "Fighting Fitz", USS Fitzgerald DDG 62. I attended the San Diego Navy League council's breakfast meeting to recognize some Fitz Sailors, and I then attended the ship's [Change of Command](#) onboard the USS Midway Museum. If you've never observed or attended a change of command, you can watch the event on the ship's [Facebook page](#) where CDR David Catterall is relieved by CDR Jayson Larsen.

As a result of these interactions, several of the Fitzgerald crew will be coming over the hill to join us for our May T-bone dinner at the Moose Lodge. This will be a wonderful time to break bread with some "Tin Can Sailors". But this will be the first time the Fitz crew has been able to visit El Centro since their return to the west coast homeporting from Japan. I'm excited they'll be joining us. They're looking forward to meeting all of you too, so I hope you will join us to welcome them to Imperial Valley.

We'll continue building relationships as we prepare to feed Marines in June, and spend the day with the Coast Guard in August. I hope you'll take advantage of these two great opportunities to actively participate in showing your individual support of our sea services. The details of the events have been finalized, and you can download the flyers.

Our May Guest Speaker is Jim Kidrick. It wasn't until recently, that Jim and I realized that we served together on both the USS Midway, and the USS Carl Vinson. Though I don't believe we have ever met in person, I am looking forward to meeting him in El Centro to hear his sea stories. Though Jim left Naval service, he is still serving our country, but now as the President and CEO of the San Diego Air and Space Museum, which we'll hear about too.

I expect our May dinner to be a great meet-up, and of course, the dinner is as outstanding as always.

As a reminder, your advance dinner reservation is important to us. Because our set-up is a bit different, it helps us immeasurably to get our steak orders correctly, and ensures you'll get a steak when you show up. Please use the links at the top of the Newsletter for your reservation and payment.

Let's "Meat" again on Tuesday, May 2nd at 6:30p.m. at the Imperial Moose Lodge. You won't be disappointed!



Ted Gallinat, President
Imperial Valley Council
Navy League of the U.S.
www.ivnavyleague.org
ivnavyleague@yahoo.com

Upcoming T-Bone Dinners and Events

MAY 2023

2 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm

Location: Imperial Moose Lodge, 2310 Myrtle Rd, Imperial, CA 92251

29 | Memorial Day

JUNE 2023

6 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm

Location: Imperial Moose Lodge, 2310 Myrtle Rd, Imperial, CA 92251

15 | VMFA-214 Bash & BBQ | Depart El Centro at 7:00 am

Location: Lake Martinez, Yuma AZ

JULY 2023

4 | Happy Independence Day!

AUGUST 2023

23 | USCG Birthday & Padres Baseball Game | 1:10 pm

Location: Petco Park, San Diego

Follow Us Whenever, and Wherever We Go!

Ready to Join us?

The Navy League gives civilians, veterans and active duty servicemembers the opportunity to serve those that serve others.

We depend on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. Local councils adopt ships and shore commands, reward and honor enlisted personnel, host dinners and celebrations for military personnel, and support family members.

**Besides being a part of a great organization that serves others.
You receive benefits too!**

Membership now open to all active duty service members

[Download an Application](#)

[Join Online](#)

Our Supported Units



NAVAL AIR FACILITY
EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS FLIGHT
DEMONSTRATION SQUADRON



USMC MARINE FIGHTER ATTACK
SQUADRON VMFA-214



USCGC PETREL
WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC
MAINTENANCE UNIT EL CENTRO



NAVAL BRANCH MEDICAL
EL CENTRO



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON
ESCONDIDO BATTALION
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



CALEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

Become a Unit Sponsors

USS FITZGERALD (DDG-62)

USCGC PETREL

VMFA-214

Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit
Navy Munitions Command (Weapons) Detachment El Centro

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SEAPOWERS

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.

Navy League of the United States

Imperial Valley Council

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