



Imperial Valley

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Moose Lodge, Imperial, CA
- 10 248th USMC Birthday
- 11 Veterans Day
- 16 Joint Operation Give Thanks:
Thanksgiving Turkey
Distribution @ NAF El Centro

December

- 1 NAFEC Holiday Light Parade
- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Moose Lodge, Imperial, CA

January 2024

- 2 NO MEETING | Dark
- TBD USN Blue Angels Arrival for
Winter Training

February 2024

- 6 Blue Angels Night | 5:30 pm
Emerald Seed Company

T-Bone Dinners held on the 1st Tuesday of each month:

Moose Lodge #1033
2310 Myrtle Road
Imperial, CA 92251
6:30 p.m.

Navy League of the United States

Imperial Valley Council

PO Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244
(760) 791-7345
ivnavyleague@yahoo.com
ivnavyleague.org



2023 | November

NOVEMBER SPEAKER | Captain Robert Marshall, USMC

Vietnam Veteran

Born and raised in Venice CA, Mr. Robert “Bob” Marshall graduated from UCLA with a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemistry. During his senior year at UCLA, he joined the United States Marine Corps. He attended Officer Candidate School at Quantico VA, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant.

He received orders to Pensacola FL where he received his flight training, and flew T34 and T28 single engine trainers before transitioning to helicopters. It was there in Pensacola, that he married his college sweetheart, the former Toni Zaragoza of Holtville.

He flew Jet Rangers, and was in the second class to fly the Huey as a basic trainer. Mr. Marshall stated, “These Huey’s were second-hand from the Army, complete with patched up bullet holes.” After receiving his Naval Aviator Wings, he received orders to Marine Corps Air Facility Santa Ana for transition training in the H46 Sea Knight helicopter. It was during the last few weeks of this three-month course that he received orders to



[Continues on Page 2]

SAVE THE DATE | Desert Outing 2024

We’re working out the details, and waiting on final authorization to hold the event. In the meantime, we’re asking you to “pencil in” the date, and plan to join us in 2024!



OUR ADOPTED COMMANDS



NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND CONUS WEST DET



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC MAINT UNIT EL CENTRO DET



USMC VMFA-214 BLACKSHEEP



USCGC PETREL WPB 87350



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON ESCONDIDO BATTALION TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON US NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

Captain Marshall Bio [cont. from Page 1]

WestPac with Fleet Marine Forces in Vietnam.

He arrived in DaNang in a packed full DC-8 in the middle of the night, and was hustled to a bunker to avoid any possible rocket fire as airliners were prime targets. Though they didn't receive any rocket fire, there was an attack on the wire surrounding their quarters that night, along with very loud machine gun fire.

The following morning the new arrivals were carted off to Marble Mountain Air Facility (MMAF), which lies just south and east of DaNang, and on the South China beach. It was there that he would fly over 400 hours in the H-46, earning 26 air medals representing over 500 missions.

During that time, he flew all types of missions: Logistics (passenger hauls), resupply (both internal loads consisting of personnel, and "sling loads" consisting of ammunition and food); Strikes, which were multi-plane troop assaults from the air, complete with jet fighter bombers, and occasional shore bombardment from Navy destroyers; and Reconnaissance insertions and extractions. His favorite missions were medical evacuations, both day and night.

Marshall's final mission was a night medevac to rescue three wounded Marines during a firefight along the coast south of Marble Mountain. The first time into the zone, they landed in a wet rice paddy, and through a miscommunication while under fire, they took off thinking they had the wounded aboard. In fact, they did not. Unfortunately, they had the escorting Cobra helicopters reattack the enemy fire, so they could go in the second time for the extraction. This time "We were able to get the wounded aboard, again under heavy machine gun and mortar fire. As I lifted from the zone, my controls were shot out and we were completely out of control. We crashed into the rice paddy." The crash killed his copilot, and wounded Marines. Marshall was badly wounded with both arms, and femurs in both legs broken. Their escort H-46 was able to swoop down, and pick everyone up, evacuating them to the Army 95th Evacuation Hospital at China Beach.

He was hospitalized for approximately six months at Long Beach Naval Hospital, in a full body cast, and leg braces before being medically retired. Prior to his discharge, he was promoted to the rank of Captain.

During his "second" career, he became a general building contractor, then went on to becoming a city building inspector, and ultimately retired in 2014 as a building official for the City of Santa Maria CA Building Department. Not one to remain idle in retirement, he built an airplane from a kit, and started flying all over again.

Please join us in November as we welcome home Vietnam Veteran, Captain Robert Marshall, USMC.



WELCOME HOME

Ready to Join Us?

<https://www.navyleague.org>

Welcome New & Renewing Members!

Doug Dahm & Hilarie Dahm
Thomas Daniels & Paula Daniels

Unit Sponsorship Opportunity

Consider sponsoring one of our units. Sponsors underwrite special events and awards. Ask us how.

NAF EL CENTRO | SFWPMU EL CENTRO
NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
USS FITZGERALD | VMFA-214
USCGC PETREL

Table Sponsors

Table sponsorships underwrite the cost of our speakers and active duty award recipient's dinners. Want to lend your support? Contact us to find out how, and become a sponsor today!

THE DAHM TEAM REAL ESTATE CO.	USAA
BRUCE & AVA CROWDER	PREMIER TOWING

Catch These Highlights From Our Last Dinner

NAF El Centro State of the Navy

We welcomed Naval Air Facility El Centro's Commanding Officer, Captain Michael Lee, USN as our speaker. The Captain provided an overview on the state of the Navy on the world stage, as well as the status of recruiting forces, and a reflection on his own career highlights.



VMFA-214 Marine Corps Ball Donation

The Council donated \$1500 toward the Squadron's upcoming Marine Corps Ball to help them celebrate their 248th Birthday. Captain Lam, USMC, accepted the funds on behalf of the squadron.



Adopted Unit Award Recognitions

We continue to be impressed with Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard personnel who excel in their duties, and are being recognized for the exceptionalism. We were glad to be able to recognize the following exceptional members from our adopted units:

VMFA-214

Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Johnson, USMC
Corporal Alize De La Trinidad, USMC
Sergeant Michael Trippett, USMC
Sergeant Damian Folino, USMC
Sergeant Damian L. Folino, USMC

Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit El Centro

Senior Sailor of the 3rd QTR: AM1 John Epperson, USN
Sailor of the 3rd QTR: AME2 Jimmie Howard, USN

USCGC PETREL (WPB 87350)

Sailor of the 2nd QTR: MK3 Travis Kosner, USCG
Sailor of the 4th QTR: Seaman Adrian De La Rosa, USCG

NAF El Centro

2023 Superior Performance Recognition: AC3 Juan Haro



Dinner Reservations Strongly Recommended

Our steaks are specially aged, and 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. **24-hour notice prior to dinner is recommended.**

Call or email us if you have questions. Reservations accepted online at: <https://www.ivnavyleague.org/t-bone-dinner>

President's Message

My wife Lisa and I traveled 60 miles east to Yuma last weekend. Our neighbors to the east -- Navy League of Yuma had convinced the City of Yuma to sponsor an official stop for the Tunnel to Towers Foundation traveling 9/11 museum for a 3-day stop. We were grateful to have been invited, and were so glad to have attended this important exhibit.

Never Forget is boldly displayed on the sides of their semi-tractor trailer rig. This was a terrible day in our nation's history. It's also a reminder about maintaining eternal vigilance to safeguard our way of life. Whether it was those who wear the uniform of our military, fire, or law enforcement, or the individuals on an airplane that that attempted to thwart the efforts of those whose mission was to do harm – all, answered the call!

Halloween is upon us, so be mindful of the trick-or-treaters. As our west winds begin to blow in cooler weather, November is here for all practical purposes, and with it, we are still asking for your financial donation towards Joint Operation Give Thanks, as we provide a Thanksgiving turkey to all families stationed at NAF El Centro and our Coast Guard units. We'll be distributing turkeys on November 16th, so it's not too late for you to help to support this effort.

We had a great October turnout for NAF El Centro's Commanding Officer, Captain Lee who provided a really good snapshot of world issues from a Sea Service point of view.

We're taking reservations now for our November 7th dinner, with an excellent speaker on tap. Captain Bob Marshall, USMC, served in a MEDAVAC Pilot during the Vietnam War. His included bio is but a snapshot of in time in Uniform. Captain Marshall is a don't-miss speaker.

With the holidays fast-approaching, it's not too soon to start thinking about Christmas. For almost two decades we've been assisting some of the active duty families of our sponsored commands who are experiencing extraordinary hardships of during the Christmas holidays with gifts of meals and presents for their children. I don't have to go far to tell you, that our economy is stressed, and our military members financial resources are really stretched with higher food and fuel prices. Last year we made a real difference in the lives of five active duty families who would not have had a Christmas without our assistance. It really means the world to them to know that we care about them.

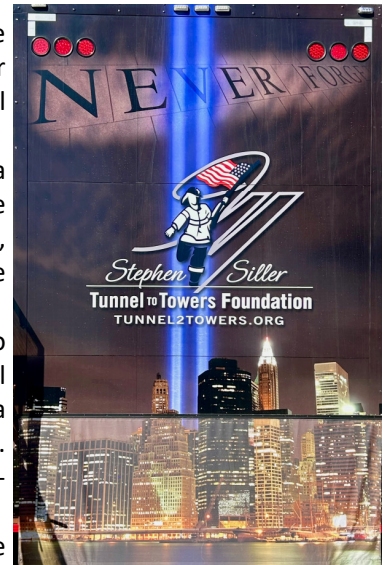
We are accepting donations for this Christmas Holiday fund if you would like to contribute towards a family. We are working with all of our adopted commands, so we won't know how many families we'll be assisting until later this month. I thank you for your thoughtful giving.

I'm looking forward to seeing you next Tuesday, November 7th!

Until we "meet" again!

CMDCM Theodore R. "Ted" Gallinat, USN, Retired

President



U.S. Senate Introduces "Pay Our Coast Guard Act"

The fiscal year appropriations to Federal agencies expires on November 17, 2023. Without a budget, the government will shut down, and our Coast Guard members will **not** receive a paycheck! We're asking you to send in your letter of support for this legislation. If you've already done it, great! If not, please do it today. Use the link below, or this QR code.

The U.S. Senate just introduced the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" as a companion bill to similar legislation in the House of Representatives. The Navy League has advocated for provisions within this bill since 2019.

Will we ask the brave men and women protecting our maritime borders to do their jobs without pay? That's what happened in 2019, and we personally saw the members of our adopted unit, USCGC PETREL go without pay.

In an effort to assist our sponsored unit, we found that we were unable to provide direct funding to them, but we were able to purchase commissary gift cards for groceries. With gas prices now rising upward to \$6.00 per gallon, our servicemembers can little afford to fill their gas tanks to go to work, never mind putting food on the table or pay other monthly expenses.

We urge you to visit our VOICES TO CONGRESS webpage, and our companion article in this Newsletter, and send our elected officials your support of the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" today!

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/48115/>



JOINT OPERATION **GIVE** THANKS



**YOUR \$20 DONATION SPONSORS
A THANKSGIVING TURKEY
FOR ACTIVE DUTY FAMILIES**

YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR OUR NATION'S CLOTH THIS THANKSGIVING.

www.ivnavyleague.org

YES! I want to be a part of Joint Operation Give Thanks 2023

I want like to sponsor _____ turkeys at \$20 per turkey, for a total of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE, and mail to:

**Imperial Valley Navy League
P O Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834**



CHRISTMAS

GIFT

PROGRAM

*for Active Duty Families
in need*

DONATE "SANTA"

We work with our adopted units to meet the needs of active duty families experiencing hardships during the holidays.

A donation in any amount will help us "adopt" a family this Christmas to ensure "Santa" makes a visit.

www.ivnavyleague.org

Make a tax-deductible gift payable to:

Imperial Valley Navy League

P O Box 3834

El Centro, CA 92244-3834

Or visit us online to make a donation at www.ivnavyleague.org

Reference "SANTA"