



Upcoming Events

December

- 1 Holiday Parade of Lights | 5:30 pm
NAF El Centro
- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 7 National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day | Fly your Flag
Annual Holiday Party | 6:00pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

January 2018

No Dinner Meeting—Dark

February 2018

- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 5:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
Blue Angels Night—Early start
- 23-24 Desert Outing 2018

March 2018

- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 5:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 9 NAF El Centro Food Fest
- 10 NAF El Centro Airshow
Featuring US Navy Blue Angels

Navy League of the United States

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



U.S. Navy



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S.-flag
Merchant Marine

Vietnam War Commemoration: Thank a Veteran!

Navy League Partners with 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. During our Navy League national convention in June, we became a Commemorative Partner.

Traditionally, the Council has honored our WWII Veterans during our December dinner — it was fitting that we did so, as our dinner often coincided with the anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

It is increasingly difficult to engage these WWII Veterans for speaking engagements. With this new partnership, it is fitting that we turn to our Vietnam Veterans and give them the recognition for their service that has long gone without proper acknowledgement.

Our December program welcomes four local Vietnam Veterans representing five branches of our military services. Our very own Dennis James, served in the United States Navy and Coast Guard, who will speak about his two tours in Vietnam. Dennis will be joined by Thomas Henderson, United States Army, Richard Ortega United States Air Force, and Phil Valenzuela, United States Marine Corps.

I encourage you to hear about their experience, and show your support to these Veterans.



About the Commemoration

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181 § 598) empowered the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, “The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration” was formed.

By presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

(Commemoration Continued on Page 2)

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
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US NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS



USCGC PETRAL
WPB 87350

Commemoration (continued from Page 1)

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9 million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately 7 million are living today. To reach these large numbers, the Commemoration has enlisted

the assistance of many thousands of Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct hometown- centric events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their local communities.

Description of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Seal:

"The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" is the official title given to the Department of Defense program in the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act. A representation of the Vietnam Service Medal (ribbon) rests below the inner rings of the Seal.

The red, white, and blue inner rings represent the flag of the United States of America and recognize all Americans, both military and civilian, who served or contributed to the Vietnam War effort.

The outer black ring serves as a reminder of those who were killed in action, held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action during the Vietnam War. The black ring surrounds the red, white and blue rings to call attention to their sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and the defense of our nation's freedom.

Within the blue ring are the words "Service, Valor, and Sacrifice"; virtues demonstrated by our veterans during the Vietnam War. The gold-rimmed white star located between the words "Service" and "Valor" represents hope for the families of those veterans for which there has not been a full accounting. The blue-rimmed gold star located between the words "Valor" and "Sacrifice" represents the families of those veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the war. The blue star at the bottom of the inner blue ring represents the families of all veterans and symbolizes their support from home.

At the bottom of the inner blue ring are six white stars, three on each side of the blue star. These six white stars symbolize the contributions and sacrifices made by the United States and its Allies Australia, New Zealand, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

The center circle contains a map of Vietnam in black outline relief, signifying both the country and the Vietnamese veterans who stood with our veterans. The subdued outlines of Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and surrounding waters represent the area of operation where U.S. Armed Forces served. The white number "50th" emblazoned over the map, and the outer and inner gold rings which make traditional use of the color to signify the 50th anniversary, symbolize the specific mission of the Department of Defense program as outlined in the Congressional language "to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War."

The green laurel wreath signifies honor for all who served. The seal's blue background is the same color as the canton in the United States Flag.

Looking for the Perfect Gift?

Worried about finding the perfect gift for the person who has it all?

Don't let your holiday shopping list get out of control.

It's a wrap! Give the gift of Membership.

Perfect for family, friends or colleagues, and lasts beyond the holiday season.

Ask us how, or visit us online at

Join.navyleague.org



It's coming...

Save the Date

Desert Outing

February 23-24, 2018

Giving Thanks

Whether you donate money or time, giving back is beneficial — and not just for the recipients. It's the smile on someone's face, and heartfelt gestures of appreciation that shows you're really making a difference in someone's life. I think you'll agree, there's no greater feeling.

For the past two months we asked for your support of Joint Operation Give Thanks 2017. This is our annual campaign to provide a Thanksgiving turkey to the active duty families stationed at Naval Air Facility El Centro. Again, your partnership and generous donations totaling \$640 made a difference. We were able to purchase 170 turkeys for Sailors, and Army and Air Force Recruiters, as well as 11 gift cards for our USCGC PETREL families for a total project expense of \$3,242.30.

We extend our heartfelt thanks for your giving heart of your time and money to underwrite this annual event to show our gratitude to our military families. We want to give special thanks to NAF El Centro's Commissary staff who always goes above and beyond to help us coordinate this large undertaking. Not only do they make putting on this event a whole lot of fun, they donated \$3 gift coupons for each turkey we purchased. Their generosity significantly reduced our total cost for turkeys. And for that, we couldn't be more thankful.



Meet the BlackSheep of VMA-214

They say that everyone's got one — a BlackSheep of the family, but we feel especially blessed to have adopted ours into our Navy League family. The Council was proud to adopt the Marine Attack Squadron 214 in November of 2010.

The new Squadron Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Brett McGregor, his Executive Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Luke Jacobs, Command Sergeant Major Joshua A. MacGillivray, and their recipient of the Marine of the Third Quarter 2017, Lance Corporal Rolando Barron, Jr. attended our November dinner, and we got to introduce them to an Imperial Valley's hospitality.

Colonel McGregor provided an update on the squadron's deployment, and presented President Ted with a Harrier lithograph signed by the squadron's pilots.

As part of our ongoing support of the squadron, the Council presented the squadron with a check for \$1000 toward the funding of the Marine Corps Birthday Ball. We look forward to bringing you news of the squadron, and having them visit us often.



National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

December 7th

Each year on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Survivors, veterans, and visitors from all over the world join together to honor and remember the 2,403 service members and civilians who were killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. A further 1,178 people were injured in the attack, which permanently sank two U.S. Navy battleships (the USS Arizona and the USS Utah) and destroyed 188 aircraft.



In accordance with Public Law 103-308, President Trump will issue a proclamation for the American flag to be flown at half-staff on Thursday, December 7 in honor of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. You can do your part by flying your flag half-staff in honor of the individuals who died as a result of their serve at Pearl Harbor.

Don't Abandon the Coast Guard

The Coast Guard came to the rescue for us. Now it's our turn to help them.

When an unprecedented five hurricanes--four of which were Category 4---hit over 2,540 miles of American shoreline this year, the Coast Guard was our first responders. They rescued over 11,300 people, 1,500 pets, and assisted 3,623 grounded vessels. They put their lives at risk, damaged their scant equipment, and ignored the damage done to their own homes so they could put the safety of the American people first.

The Coast Guard's supplemental request, to refund operation costs was submitted to Congress by the White House on Tuesday. The Congressional members responded with such words "insufficient," "unacceptable," and "inadequate" to describe the request.

Why is this is important

This request DOES NOT fund what the Coast Guard needs to get them ready for the next big storm and it puts lives at risk. Senior Coast Guard officers told Congress in public hearings they are facing approximately a \$1 billion shortfall after their hurricane response. The emergency supplemental request is less than half of that, leaving a \$575.4 million shortfall—just like how their Hurricane Matthew request was short \$77 million. These budget shortfalls continue to build on each other and along with an anemic budget has severely impacted the Coast Guard's ability to respond to life saving operations. The Coast Guard is also facing \$1.6 billion dollar shortfall needed for urgent repairs for aging and damaged infrastructure.

What we need you do to

[Share with your Congressional representatives the critical importance of increasing the Coast Guard supplemental funding to \\$1 billion.](#)

The current supplemental request slaps a band-aid on the many Coast Guard unfunded problems such as leaving 700 Coast Guard families displaced after hurricanes damaged or destroyed aging housing. Not only is it morally reprehensible, it is short-sighted: the Coast Guard will not be ready when the next storm hits if we continue to underfund them. We need YOU to take action now!

Thank you for all you do to support the Navy League's mission to educate Congress and the American Public on the Coast Guard underfunding issue.

One Team - Mission Focused

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan".

Alan Kaplan, National President
Navy League of the United States

Still Shopping after Black Friday and Cyber Monday? AmazonSmile Gives Back

You can support Imperial Valley Navy League while shopping — it's not just for Christmas

Designate IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping.

Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com



Naval Air Facility El Centro

Annual Holiday Parade

Friday, December 1

Gates open 5:30 p.m.

FREE

See the base **LIGHT UP** with holiday cheer!



Are you ready for a mouth-watering T-Bone Steak? Let us put one on the grill for you. Guaranteed great meal, interesting speaker, and all-around good friends. \$25 per person

Tuesday, November 7, 2017

6:30 p.m.

Mirage Club, NAF El Centro



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www.escondidobattalion.org

Make a Difference

The **Navy League** is a qualified charity under the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Federal, civilian, postal and military personnel are eligible to make charitable contribu-



#58495

tions through payroll deductions until Dec 15. Tax deductible donations support the Navy League's worthy causes which is to support the men and women in uniform and their families, and youth programs. For more information, visit www.cfctoday.org

Please reference Campaign #58495.

You're invited!

Naval Air Facility El Centro

Annual Holiday Party

at the Mirage Club

White Snow in the Desert

December 7, 2017

6:00pm—Midnight

\$15 per person

Food * Drink * Entertainment

Dress to impress!

(760)604-8428 for Tickets

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Contact Gaylla Finnell to find out how you can support our programs.

Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?

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