



IMPERIAL VALLEY

Supporting the Sea Services since 1949



April 2023

## Taco Tuesday? Oh nooooo...Make it T-Bone Tuesday!

**Tuesday, April 4th | 6:30 p.m.**

Check out our new digs! T-Bone Dinners now being held at:

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**

### **Reservations Strongly 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.](#)

## April Speaker

**Command Sergeant Major Nicole Brooks, USMC VMFA-214**

We are pleased to welcome the Blacksheep's Command Sergeant Major as our April guest speaker. Several of you have met her at our dinner meetings over the past year. We have an exception opportunity now to hear how she has come to be the senior enlisted advisor for the squadron. Please join us next week.



Sergeant Major Brooks enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in April 2004 and reported to recruit training at MCRD Parris Island, SC. SgtMaj Brooks was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class graduating from boot camp in July 2004. SgtMaj Brooks then attended Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, NC. Upon completion SgtMaj Brooks attended Intelligence Specialist Training at the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center.

[Read full Bio here](#)

## It was March Madness. We were Black and Blue All Over.

We've said it before, and it's worth saying again. We are fortunate to sponsor and support, not just one "famous" and historic squadron, but in fact we are fortunate to sponsor two famous squadrons -- the US Navy and Marine Corps' Blue Angels, and the US Marine Corps' Blacksheep.

It was our honor to host the Blue Angels' Men in Black, who are the Senior Enlisted personnel to represent and speak at our March dinner. We also recognized two outstanding Blacksheep who are excelling in the squadron. BZ Blacksheep on your performance, and BZ Blue Angels for the "zero" airshow cancellation in your squadron's history due to your commitment to excellence.



The Blue Angels MIB Maintenance Chiefs (Left to Right): ATC Joseph Bishop, ATCS Jose Pulgarin, AVCM Maintenance Master Chief Hector Viramontes, AMC Carolina Berrio, AECS Alejandro Benito.



Congratulations to the Blacksheep's Green to Gold Selectee, 2nd LT Joshua Green, USMC who has been selected to transition from the Enlisted ranks to the Officer ranks.



Congratulations to Gunnery Sergeant Bruce E. Crumedy, USMC who was selected for the Blacksheep's Skull Crusher Award.

## The MOC (Maritime Operations Center)

### Reflections on Ukraine's Place in the European Order

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, Lisa Aronsson, a research fellow for Europe and NATO, analyzes the importance of Ukraine's place in the European security architecture. She writes that while Russia's war on the neighboring country continues, the West should finally consider accepting Ukraine into NATO. [Read her thoughts here.](#)

### Subscribe to the Center for Maritime Strategy Weekly Newsletter

Keep up with the latest Center for Maritime Strategy (CMS) content by [subscribing to the CMS Weekly Newsletter](#), such as upcoming events, op-eds, and podcasts, by subscribing to the CMS Weekly Newsletter. Learn more about how the think tank is expanding awareness of America's maritime needs [at their website.](#)

## Legislative Affairs Update

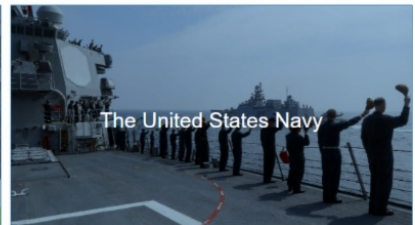
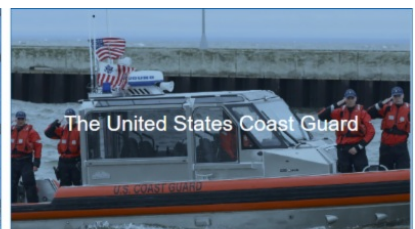
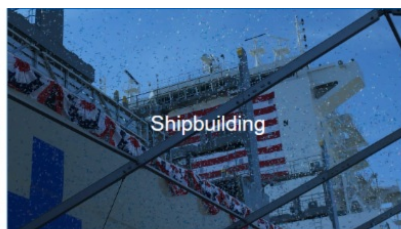
**DoD Budget Request; USS Cooperstown Saves Stranded Mariner**

The Department of Defense has released its detailed budget request. Some of the more important highlights include a top line increase that doesn't match inflation, absence of new amphibious vessels for the Marine Corps, and a 5.2% pay raise.

The USS Cooperstown, a Freedom-variant Littoral Combat Ship, is already making headlines weeks before its official commissioning. Conducting routine operations off the coast of South Carolina last Saturday, the ship's crew received a distress call. The crew diverted course to rescue a stranded mariner. The USS Cooperstown finished construction last year and was transferred to the Navy. It will be making a trip to New York for its official commissioning in May. [Read the full article here.](#)

Debate has already begun around the Navy's lack of new funding for additional amphibious vessels in their budget request. Chief of Naval Operations Gilday has stated plainly that cost is a major factor driving the decision, with ongoing evaluation of the amphib question still needed. Commandant of the Marine Corps Berger has also spoken publicly on the matter, stating that the current price of amphibious vessel construction has been reduced significantly and even more so when you factor in inflation. While this question is discussed publicly, the onus has clearly been placed on Congress to decide if they will step in and demand funding for new amphibious vessels.

## 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

Spring has Spring with Supporting our Sea Services

The 2023 Blue Angels have successfully completed winter training over Imperial Valley's skies. With the El Centro airshow under their belts, they have commenced their official show season to display their flying skills across our nation to inspire all those who will see them.



With the Blues' departure, we're excited to turn our focus on our next annual events -- the Blacksheep BBQ, and the Coast Guard's Birthday ballgame at Petco Park.

March came roaring in as we shared T-bones with the MIBs and Blacksheep at the Moose Lodge in Imperial, and supported NAF El Centro's Airshow mid-March before leaving like a lamb with all quiet as we end the month. We're not resting on our laurels though. There will be plenty of planning for our Blacksheep BBQ and baseball game.

We've been contacted by NAF El Centro's Community Recreation department to support their upcoming Easter Egg Hunt for active duty families. We'll provide \$200 in financial support to enable them to purchase supplies and surprises for their egg hunt.

We are on schedule to hold our April, May and June dinners at the Imperial Moose Lodge. As we said last month, our dinner set-up will be a little different than you're used to experiencing, we'll do our best to make sure you're appreciated, and valued as a member.

We are requesting that you place your dinner reservation and payment online. You can use this link to reserve your spot at this very popular dinner.

Placing your reservation and payment online helps us immeasurably in our steak orders, and ensures you'll get a steak when you show up -- which reduces our costs. We are still required to pay out of pocket for uneaten meals when reservations are made and guests don't show. We need, and want to be conscious of how manage donor dollars.

We look forward to having you join us for T-bones Tuesday to gather with some of our sea service members on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the Moose Lodge, in Imperial.

Until we "Meat" again,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted Gallinat". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ted Gallinat, President  
Imperial Valley Council  
Navy League of the U.S.  
[www.ivnavyleague.org](http://www.ivnavyleague.org)

## Upcoming T-Bone Dinners and Events

### APRIL 2023

**4 | Navy League Dinner | 6:30 pm**

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

### 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

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## Follow Us Whenever, and Wherever We Go!



## Welcome New and Renewing Members in March

Lee Quarcelino

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## 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!**

[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

## Sailor Award Sponsors

**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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# SEAPOW

## 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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