



Upcoming Events

NEW DINNER START TIME

Beginning in the month of April, we have shortened our Social, and begin our program at 7:00 pm, with dinner served at 7:15 pm. You must arrive prior to 7:00 pm to ensure we have your steak on the grill.

May

- 2 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 29 Memorial Day
Evergreen Cemetery | 9:00 am

June

- 6 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 20 Navy League National Convention
Milwaukee, WI

July

- 4 Independence Day
No Council Dinner

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

Wardrooms, Mess Decks & Galleys

It's all Right Here. Right Now on the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70)

Commissioned in 1982, and named for U.S. House of Representative Carl Vinson, this Nimitz-class nuclear aircraft carrier is 1092 feet in length, and represents over 100,000 tons of U.S. diplomacy. The Vinson is capable of being home to over 6000 crew members.

I don't know about you, but we can barely think about getting a meal prepared for two much less three meals a day for a floating city of 6000.

It's here where our story begins, and we introduce our May speaker — Chief Russ Tafuri, Mass Communications Specialist Chief onboard the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70).

While a nuclear aircraft carrier has the means of sustaining for 25 years without refueling, the warriors aboard need regular refueling. When tasked with churning out the what seems to be an unimaginable number of meals per day, the culinary specialist onboard take it in stride. They do however, enjoy "switching it up" and adding creative flair while still maintaining nutritious and flavorful meals to a hungry crew.



Russell C. Tafuri
Mass Communication Specialist Chief (SW/AW)

As a means to highlight and provide recognition to an otherwise taken for granted role of feeding the troops, Chief Tafuri brought his creative genius to spin off a popular television program — *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*, otherwise known as Triple-D starring Guy Fieri.

Chief Tafuri is the host to the Navy's video series *Wardrooms, Mess Decks & Galleys*. These videos are a must see. You'll definitely find some entertainment value here. More importantly, it spotlights the important role of the men and women who are the carrier's culinary specialists, and the critical role they play in our sea services.

We've saved the best for last though — let us tell you more about Chief Tafuri:

Chief Russ Tafuri is a native of Staten Island, New York and graduated from Monsignor Farrell High School in 1980 and graduated from Wagner College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration in 1985. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August 1993 and completed Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois. Russ enlisted as a Navy Journalist and completed the Navy Print, Photo and Broadcast Journalism "A" School at the Defense Information School, aka DINFOS, at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana.

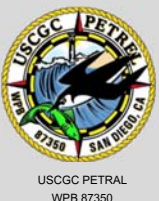
He then reported to NAS Whiting Field in Milton, Florida in July 1994. While serving as NAS Whiting Field's base journalist and command photographer, Russ earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) wings in December 1994, celebrated the birth of his second son, Vincenzo in August 1995, and graduated from Troy State University with a Master of Science degree in Business Organization Management in August 1998.

Russ reported to Whiting Field as a Journalist Seaman (E3) and completed that tour of duty three years later as a senior Journalist 2nd Class (E5) and decided to separate from service to the active duty Navy, and continued serving in the Naval Reserves.

While in the reserves, Russ, while employed with Allstate Insurance as a General Lines Claim Adjuster, promoted to Journalist 1st Class Petty Officer in the reserves.

On October 11, 2001, Russ volunteered to be recalled to active duty and in January 2002 reported to American Forces Network Sigonella at NAS Sigonella, Sicily. In 2005 Russ then reported to Naval Hospital Pensacola as

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



Blue Angels Announce New Boss

Commander Eric “Popeye” Doyle, USN Selected for 2018-2019 Season

During a news conference on April 4, 2017, the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on Tuesday announced Cmdr. Eric Doyle as the next leader of the elite flight demonstration squadron. Cmdr. Doyle will join the Blue Angels team for a two-year tour in November, taking over from current flight leader, Cmdr. Ryan Bernacchi.

Doyle was selected from a field of six finalists who interviewed for the position. Cmdr. Doyle stated, "It is absolutely an honor and a privilege. I'm still in shock after getting the news. It's still sinking in," Doyle said after learning he would lead the team through the 2018 and 2019 seasons.

Rear Adm. Dell Bull, the chief of naval air training, announced Doyle's selection and said all of the 11 applicants and six finalists for the post were highly qualified.

"The next Blue Angel (leader) must be an aviation expert, he must be in the top in his career and he must have the right personality to represent the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps," Bull said.

Doyle currently commands a fighter squadron of F/A-18 E Super Hornets based at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California. He is a native of League City, Texas, and a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Doyle's call sign is Popeye, taken from the character of Detective Jimmy "Popeye" Doyle in the movie "The French Connection." It is the same call sign used by his late father, an Air Force fighter jet pilot. Flying with the Blue Angels was a childhood dream, said Doyle, who recalled seeing the team fly for the first time at an air show in Texas.

Both Bernacchi and Doyle attended the Navy's TOPGUN fighter weapons school together. Both men were also instructors at the school in Fallon, Nevada.

Cmdr. Doyle will take over as flight leader of the Blue Angels in November in a change of command ceremony in Pensacola.



“Thank You” Seems Hardly Adequate

Imperial County Sheriff's Aero-Squadron Makes Donation

For the past three years, the Imperial County Sheriffs Aero-Squadron has donated sponsorship funds to augment our sponsorship of Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit, Detachment El Centro.

At our last T-Bone dinner, Squadron Commander, Steve Reeves presented President Ted with a check for \$1750. This is the Aero-Squadron's largest donation yet.

Their donation helps us fund Sailor awards and underwrites the dinners of each award recipient and their spouses. This is an important donation, and even more important program.

Our award recognition program allows us to fulfill our mission of supporting the sea services, and shows our appreciation to the men and women in uniform that we recognize their important contributions and dedication to duty.

Thank you Imperial County Sheriffs Aero-Squadron. It goes without say, that we truly couldn't do it without you!



No Military Funding after April 28th

A Message from Navy League Executive Director

I recently met with high-ranking defense officials, and what they had to tell me was alarming. The military must have an appropriation bill after the current continuing resolution funding runs out on April 28th. Like you, I've been closely following the issue of military spending: Sequestration, hiring freezes and continuing resolutions are all having detrimental impacts on our military services. But what they told me shocked me: Navy ships will stay home, Navy and Marine Corps pilots won't fly, four of nine Navy carrier air wings will be shut down entirely, no gas or maintenance for Navy ships, squadrons undermanned by up to 30 percent and pay could be cut. Hard-fought gains in Marine Corps aviation readiness - which the Navy League worked so hard for - will be reversed.



At a time of global instability, we can't afford these levels of uncertainty. I've never heard such pessimism about the military's future. They need our help. This is what the Navy League does. [Take action now to support our military before they run out of funding on April 28th.](#)

At a House Armed Services Committee hearing on the impacts of a continuing resolution, the service chiefs were clear: 15 years of war and budget stress are taking a toll on military readiness and military families alike. According to a survey by Blue Star Families, "Service members and their families feel the current optempo is unsustainable and threatens the health of their families ... 72% of active-duty and military spouse respondents indicated the current optempo exerts an unacceptable level of stress ..." A continuing resolution would only make this problem worse.

Will you help the sea services? They need a swell of grassroots support from people like you. They need you to raise the alarm.

Please write to your members of Congress now and ask them to fund the sea services and avoid devastating impacts to our men and women in service. It's easy - just click the link above, fill out your information and hit send. We're in a congressional district work period, so try to attend town halls in your community and ask about military funding. Write a letter to the editor of your paper. Not sure what to say? [Email us](#) and we can help with talking points unique to your community.

The sea services need you more than ever. On their behalf, I thank you for your help. ~ Cari B. Thomas, Executive Director

In Memorium ~ *Fair Winds and Following Seas*



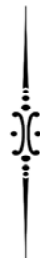
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WILLIAM DUBOIS

1916- 2017

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WWII



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El Centro, CA 92244-3834



EVERGREEN CEMETERY
Monday E May 29, 2017
9:00 am
201 East Gillett Road, El Centro
 Refreshments following the ceremony.

EL CENTRO ELKS LODGE #1325
Monday E May 29, 2017
10:30 am
631 West Main Street, El Centro
 Lunch served following Services

Volunteers and Refreshments Needed

In partnership with local Veterans groups, Navy League has committed to provide refreshments for the Memorial Day commemoration ceremony at Evergreen Cemetery and the Elks Lodge on Monday, May 29th.



Your help and contribution of cookies, water and ice chests would be of great help. Coffee has already been donated.

Please call (760) 791-7345 to let us know where you would like to help.

Welcome Aboard New Member!

Edelmino “Tom” Gonzales

Join or Renew your Membership online today.
join.navyleague.org

Coming Up...Tuesday, May 2nd

T-Bone Dinner at NAF El Centro Mirage Club
6:30 pm Social | 7:00 pm Dinner

Still searching for the perfect Mother’s Day gift?

You can support the Imperial Valley Navy League while shopping — and not just on Mother’s Day!

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 will result in a donation.

Visit smile.amazon.com today to get started!



Wardrooms, Mess Decks & Galleys—Chief Russ Tafuri | Continued from page 1

Deputy Public Affairs Officer. While serving at NH Pensacola, he deployed to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait where he served as Medical Task Force-Kuwait and Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait Public Affairs Officer. In 2006, the Navy combined a few other rates with the Navy Journalist (JO) rate and created the Mass Communication Specialist (MC) rate; so Russ would now become an MC1.

He then reported to Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, in 2009, and served on Flag Staff as the NAVCENT/FIFTH Fleet Public Affairs Leading Petty Officer. While serving on Flag Staff at NAVCENT, Russ decided to pursue a lifelong dream of being a Blue Angel and applied to the team for a spot in the Blue Angels Public Affairs office. Soon after applying, Russ advised one of his sharp Sailors at NAVCENT PAO to apply to the Blue Angels as well, and gave her his application as a go-by to help her with the application process. His thoughts were, “If I were the Blue Angels, I’d hire my MC2.” And so they did, and they hired Russ too.

He reported for duty with the Navy Flight Demonstration Team, the Blue Angels, in November 2010. While serving with the Blue Angels, Russ traveled to numerous cities throughout the country, deployed annually for more than two months to NAF El Centro, California and was promoted to Chief Petty Officer in September 2011. He would serve the remainder of a 4-year tour with the Blue Angels as their Public Affairs Chief.

On September 22, 2014, Russ caught a Carrier Onboard Delivery (COD) flight to report to his next command, the USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70), as it sailed off the coast of Guam, 30 days into a more than 9-month deployment. He would report for duty as the Carl Vinson Media Department Leading Chief Petty Officer (DLCPO). This is Russ’ first tour of duty on a ship. In April 2015, Russ earned his Enlisted Surface Warrior Specialist (ESWS) pin. His decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, seven Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and various personal and unit awards.