



Upcoming Events

September

- 4 Labor Day!
- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

October

- 3 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 13 Navy Ball | 6:00 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 27 Navy Day

November

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 11 Veterans Day Parade | 10:00 am
5th Street, Holtville, CA

December

- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club

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

Navy's Gold Star Program Honors Families

Providing long-term support to surviving families of service members

This summer I had an opportunity to attend a Gold Star Program presentation aboard USS MIDWAY Museum in San Diego. The presentation had a big impact on me, such that I wanted you to hear it too. I have invited the Navy's Regional Coordinator for the program to speak to us in September.

The Navy's Gold Star Program is the official program for providing long-term support to the surviving families of Sailors who pass away while on Active Duty.

Ms. Sabrina Griffin, who is the program coordinator for Navy Region Southwest will join us at our next dinner to tell our members more about the program. Believe me when I say, that this presentation was eye-opening for me. Many of us know a family who has lost a friend or relative in a war. There are resources available to these families for as long as they need them. If you're unfamiliar with the program, I encourage you to visiting their website at www.navygoldstar.com/ to learn more.

*Ted Gallinat, President
Imperial Valley Council*



The Navy Gold Star is the Navy's official program for providing long-term support to surviving families of Sailors who pass while on Active Duty.

The Navy Gold Star Program ensures that surviving families of deceased service members are not forgotten and remain part of the Navy family for as long as they desire. Survivors tell them that one of the greatest challenges they face in their grief journey is rebuilding resiliency as they transition to their new normal. A huge help in the resiliency building process for survivors is the reassurance that their loved one will never be forgotten and that they still can maintain their link to the Navy culture. Navy Gold Star's mission is to deliver survivor assistance programs and services through a holistic approach.

Navy Gold Star coordinators connect survivors to support groups and grief and bereavement counselors, provide benefits milestone management, request copies of documents, and offer information and referral services, while providing survivors a safe and compassionate environment to experience their own unique grief.

Additionally, in times of emotional distress, figuring out what to do about finances can create a heavy burden. Personal financial counselors can provide education on investing, basic budgeting and a variety of other financial topics. Financial counselors are there when survivors need them, for as long as they need them. Our counselors are committed to assisting survivors in creating financial success and ensuring they are provided the information necessary to make sound decisions.

The program uses an all-inclusive approach to delivering services through a combination of both available government and non-government programs and organizations, i.e., chaplain services, personal financial counseling, school liaison assistance, family employment, and clinical counseling. (Continued on Page 2)

**OUR ADOPTED
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AND UNITS**



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USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



USMC
ATTACK SQUADRON 214



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DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON
ESCONDIDO BATTALION
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



USCGC PETREL WPB 87350

Navy Gold Star Program *(Continued from Page 1)*

Eligible personnel include the widow, parents, and the next of kin of deceased service members. The term “widow” includes widowers. The term “parents” includes the mother, father, step-mother, stepfather, mother through adoption, father through adoption, and foster parents who stood in loco parentis. The term “next of kin” only includes children, brothers, sisters, half-brothers, and half-sisters. The term “children” includes stepchildren and children through adoption.

Who to Contact

Navy Gold Star coordinators function as the long-term support personnel for survivors. They facilitate support groups, provide life skills education, and connect survivors with counseling resources. The coordinators work closely with existing organizations and programs to deliver the best possible service at the right time.

If you, your extended family or friend are eligible to participate in this program, and are not currently connected, we encourage you to reach out to a coordinator today. Call 1-888-509-8759 for support or to just ask a question. They are specifically designated and trained to assist families.

Sabrina Griffin, Gold Star Family Coordinator, Navy Region Southwest



Sabrina Griffin, Gold Star Families

Sabrina Griffin hails from Maryland, and is a graduate of Towson University, where she studied public relations and integrated communications. After working alongside the military both overseas and stateside with the United Service Organizations and United States Marine Corps, Sabrina is currently furthering her education in the pursuit of obtaining her Masters of Business Administration with a focus in marketing at Florida Tech University.

Currently Sabrina serves Navy Region Southwest as the Region Gold Star Coordinator where she manages, develops, implements, presents, and monitors Navy Gold Star Program operations throughout the region which encompasses six states, Commander, Navy Region (CNR) Hawaii, and Guam Marianas. Sabrina focuses on the programs long-term objective of providing long-term casualty case assistance and support to families of fallen service members.

As a military spouse and coming from a lineage of family members serving in the armed forces, Sabrina feels a level of responsibility and dedication to give back to a community she is so closely connected to. Understanding the sacrifice and commitment of our men in women in uniform, it is of highest regard to those who have fallen to provide ongoing services to the families left behind.

Sabrina aims to make a difference in the lives she touches. In life, they honor their country; in death, their country honors them.

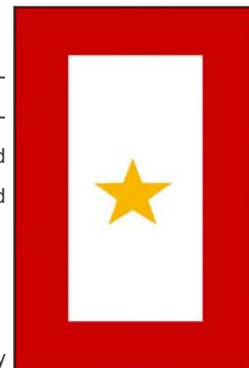
Remembering our Fallen

This summer has been a difficult one for our nation. Our Navy families in particular have suffered great loss of life at sea in the collisions involving USS JOHN McCAIN, and our adopted USS FITZGERALD.

The Marine Corps too suffered tragedy in the crash of a Marine Corps C-130 in route to our area, and our US Coast Guard and Navy League families in Texas are continuing to be affected by catastrophic flooding.

In each of these situations, we pause to give our humble thanks and respect to these Sailors and Marines who selflessly gave their lives for us in service to our nation.

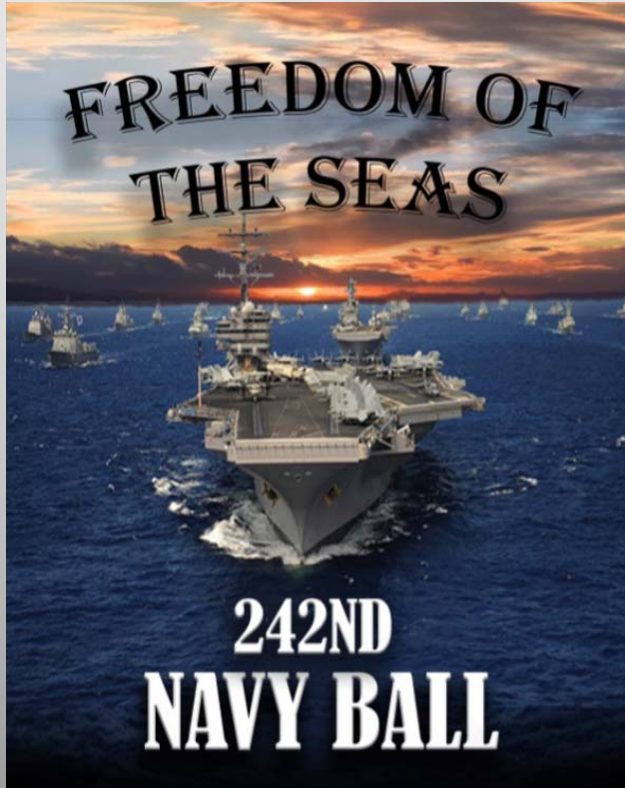
Please continue to keep their families in your thoughts and prayers.



The Gold Star Service Flag is displayed in memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.



You are cordially invited to attend



Naval Air Facility El Centro's Mirage Club

October 13, 2017

6:00 p.m. - Midnight

\$45 per person

Formal Attire

RSVP by October 4th to (760) 604-2016

Who's ready for a T-Bone?

If you're like us, you've been enjoying your summer away from the heat. School is back in session, vacations are over, football season has begun, and we're back and raring to go!



Rare...did someone say rare? Medium-rare? Well-done? No matter how you like it, our masters of the grill will have one of our famous 22-oz. T-bones on the grill for you. Come on out and join us for a great time. You'll be hard-pressed to find a better steak dinner in town for only \$25. The finest Mirage Club staff will be on-hand to greet you as well. We'll be hosting a number of Sailor and Coast Guard 3rd Quarter award recipients that I know you'll want to meet.

We can hardly wait to see you on **Tuesday, September 5th at 6:30 pm.** See you there!

Welcome New Members

Lisa Lamont
Shelli Kirschner

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www.join.navyleague.org

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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet and Navy Leaguer Cadet Corps

Desert Eagle Squadron
Instructor Brian Phillips
(760) 356-4570
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Escondido Battalion
LTJG Patrick Healey
(315) 254-7598
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Theodore Gallinat, President

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U.S. Naval Sea Cadet News

September is Sea Cadet Month

This month our National Sea Cadet turns 55. The longevity of our Sea Cadet program may be credited with the dedication of our volunteers, Sea Cadet parents and financial support from members like you who provide an opportunity to our young members, who learn the foundations of maritime service, seamanship and seagoing skills. The training and education these cadets receive prepares them exceptionally well for whatever career field they choose. The discipline, core values and teamwork these cadets learn form the basis of their lives as citizens and future leaders in their communities.



Annual Sea Cadet Scholarship Award Funding

We have the distinct privilege to support both our Desert Eagle Squadron, Escondido Battalion, and Training Ship Kit Carson. In honor of National Sea Cadet Month, the council has made the decision to create, and fund, an annual scholarship for graduating seniors in the Sea Cadet program. If you would like to help us endow this scholarship fund, please [contact us](#) today.



Desert Eagle Squadron Leadership Needed

We have been fortunate to have exceptional past leadership in our Desert Eagle Squadron. Our current Commanding Officer has had to step down, and we are seeking his replacement. Ideally this candidate will be a Veteran of military service, though not required. Please [contact us](#) today if you are interested in making a significant positive impact on a young person's life in this important program.

President's Message: We're Fired up, and in Full Swing!

I'm still not sure where the time goes. It seems I was just headed to our Navy League National Convention in Milwaukee a short time ago. I'm looking forward to giving you an update on what took place, and the awards our council received while I was at convention.

But here we are in September, which means cooler weather will soon be on the way, though I can't tell that from the temperature outside just yet.

We celebrated the Coast Guard's Birthday a few weeks ago with a cruise in San Diego Bay with our PETREL crew on a cool summer's day. Everyone had a great time, and we are always impressed with the crew, their knowledge and seamanship skills. Bravo Zulu PETREL for treating us to a day at sea!

Our calendar is quickly filling up. Our first dinner of the last half of 2017 will be next Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. I'm looking forward to seeing after the Labor Day holiday.

Up next is Naval Air Facility's 242nd Birthday celebration. I hope you will don your best attire, and help us celebrate in Navy-style.

Before you know it, we'll be ready to hand out turkeys for our annual Joint Operation Turkey. Last year we donated 201 turkeys to our Navy and Coast Guard families. Your generosity permits us to do this. We are thankful for your support, as we show our thanks to those who serve.

I don't know about you, but I've missed having my regular T-Bone steak dinner. I think I mentioned that football season has started -- if

you're a fan of the game, you'll want to make sure you pick up a raffle ticket for our Tailgate gift basket at our dinner next Tuesday.

Thank you for continuing to support the council, and our adopted units and commands.

Sincerely,

Ted Gallinat, President

