



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH

- 3 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm  
Mirage Club
- 7 5th Annual Blue Angels 10k Run/Walk  
Sunbeam Lake | 8:00 am
- 13 NAF El Centro Food Fest | 5:30 pm  
Hangar 8  
Pre-Air Show Party | 9pm-1:30 am  
Sundowner Club
- 14 Blue Angels Air Show | 9:00 am

### APRIL

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm  
Mirage Club

### NATIONAL NAVY LEAGUE

April 13-15

Sea-Air-Space Exposition  
National Harbor, Maryland

June 16-21

National Convention, Ship  
Commissioning & Cruise  
Tampa, Florida



U.S. Navy



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S.-flag  
Merchant Marine

## The Blue Angels “Men in Black”

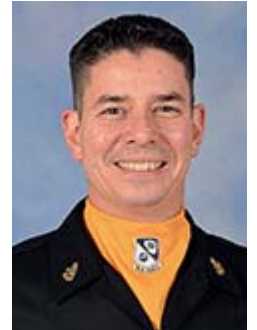
For the past several years, we have been fortunate to host the Blue Angels senior enlisted personnel at our March dinner meeting. It is certainly a sight to see those Blue and Gold jets streaking across our skylines, but you may not give much thought to how those aging jets stay in the air. Wonder no more. The senior enlisted personnel that the Blue Angels dub as the “Men in Black” or “MIBs” who are responsible for the team’s approximately 100 enlisted Sailors and Marines — and for keeping those jets flying.

Our March speaker will be Senior Chief Bill Rhodes who joined the Blue Angels in 2013, and is the Quality Assurance Supervisor. Senior Chief Rhodes is a native of Tampa, Florida and attended Tampa Bay Vo-Tech High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in July 1994 and completed Navy ‘boot camp’ at Recruit Training Command Great Lakes, Illinois.

Bill then completed Aviation Electronics Technician “A” School in Millington, Tenn., and reported to Naval Air Station (NAS) Cecil Field for Lockheed Martin S-3B Viking advanced avionics training and wire connector repair.

Bill’s previous duty stations include: Sea Control Squadron 22 (VS-22), the “Checkmates;” Naval Aviation Maintenance Training Detachment Jacksonville, Florida; and Sea Control Squadron 24 (VS-24), the “Scouts” where he advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer in 2005. Bill then reported to Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 30 (VX-30), the “Bloodhounds,” Point Mugu, CA. in March of 2006. Bill also served at Carrier Airborne Early Warning Squadron 117 (VAW-117), the “Wallbangers;” and Scientific Development Squadron 1 (VXS-1) the “Warlocks” where he advanced to the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer.

Bill has a Bachelor’s of Science degree in Computer Science from The University of Maryland University College and his decorations include one Navy Commendation Medal, seven Navy Achievement Medals, and various other personal and unit awards.



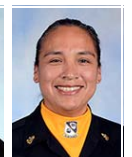
CMDCM  
Cole



ADCS  
Currey



AZCS  
Belt



YNC  
Gingrich

### 2015 BLUE ANGELS SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS



AMC  
Baylor



LSC  
Burmeister



GySgt  
Chapman



NCC  
Schatzle

**OUR ADOPTED  
COMMANDS  
AND UNITS**



NAVAL AIR FACILITY  
EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



USMC MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON  
VMA-214



VFA-122  
THE FLYING EAGLES



USCGC SHERMAN  
WHEC 720



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

## Legislative Alert! The Coast Guard needs our help **NOW**

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security has been on a continuing resolution since October, and its current funding runs out Feb. 27. Coast Guard active-duty personnel will continue working without pay during the lapse to ensure our safety on the sea, protection from threats delivered by the sea and protection of the sea itself.

Asking the Coast Guard to protect us while remaining unpaid is no way to show the gratitude of the American people. The potential shutdown or even another continuing resolution would have devastating impacts for the Coast Guard. In addition to bringing down morale, the cost of work on USCG recapitalization efforts would rise as contracts are delayed and new construction cannot begin. Retirees suffer as well - retiree pay will be withheld from veterans who have served this country honorably.

You can help! Tell Congress to give DHS a real appropriations bill now. Click [here](#) to quickly and easily email your Senators and Representatives and tell them you think the Coast Guard deserves to get paid, or visit our website directly at:

<http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague/> The link works for everyone, so please forward our message to any friend of the Coast Guard. If you do not have access to the internet, please pick up the phone instead and call Senators Barbara Boxer, Dianne Feinstein, and U.S. House of Representative Juan Vargas and urge them to pass a true appropriations bill for the Department of Homeland Security.

## Coast Guard Cutter SHERMAN Sets Sail for New Homeport in Hawai'i

On July 29, 2011 the Imperial Valley Council adopted the Coast Guard Cutter SHERMAN (WHEC 720) following the decommissioning of USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718). We have been informed that the Sherman departed its homeport of San Diego on Friday, January 16, 2015 for its new homeport of Honolulu, Hawai'i. It has been a pleasure supporting the ship, the crew and their families these past few years. We especially thank Wymore, Incorporated for their financial support in sponsoring the Quarterly Sailor recognition awards.

The Sherman and crew will transfer to Honolulu and take the Coast Guard Cutter Rush's duties, as Rush was decommissioned on February 3, 2015 after 46 years of dedicated service to the Coast Guard and country.

During the past year Capt. Kevin A. Jones, the current commanding officer of Sherman, and the Sherman crew conducted two Eastern Pacific patrols, a 4-month dry-dock period and participated in joint foreign naval exercises in Peru.

A change of command ceremony was held in Honolulu for Capt. Aldante Vinciguerra on Feb. 4. Captain Vinciguerra, the current commanding officer of Rush, will take command of Sherman.

The Rush and other Hamilton-class, High Endurance Cutters, are being replaced by the Legend-class, National Security Cutters (NSCs). The NCSs are better equipped, more durable, safer, and more efficient than their predecessor, and will allow the Coast Guard to deliver its unique blend of military capability, law enforcement authority, and lifesaving expertise wherever needed to protect American interests, today and for decades to come.

The Sherman moved from Alameda, Calif, to San Diego in May 2011 when the Coast Guard Cutters Chase and Hamilton were retired from service. Fair Winds and Following Seas USCGC Sherman and Crew.



*The Coast Guard Cutter Sherman departs San Diego for its final time as the cutter and crew depart their current home port and steam toward their new home port in Hawaii.* (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Connie Terrell)

# Recognizing the Leaders of Tomorrow—The R.I.M. Project

In late October of 2014, I was invited to attend a Board of Directors meeting for the Imperial Valley Council. The purpose of my attendance at the meeting was to present to the board, a new youth program named R.I.M. that could help promote several goals and needs of the local council. As is the case with most service organizations, dwindling membership and attendance to the local events had become a major issue. I felt that R.I.M. could help the Navy League by promoting new membership and interest in the local council's activities, which is part of Navy League's mission statement.

The main component that made R.I.M. so exciting and different to me, was that it focused on High School Seniors, and specifically on seniors with G.P.A.'s of 4.0 or higher. As a high school senior many years ago, it was this same concept that allowed me to become exposed to Navy League and its activities. The wonderful ideals and activities that Navy League promotes, creates strong foundations for our country, communities and citizens to live by. It was these very same fundamental building blocks, that had been instilled in me years ago, that bubbled to the surface and spawned the idea for the R.I.M. program.

The program's name, R.I.M., stands for **R**eward, **I**nform and **M**otivate. The main thrust of this program is to reward High School Seniors valley wide, for their high academic and leadership accomplishments. Additionally, I felt that by exposing these students to Navy League and its mission, we could expose them to career and educational opportunities that they might not otherwise consider upon graduation from high school. Lastly, I felt that the exposure to Navy League, the military personnel and its mission would encourage these students to return to their local communities upon completion of their academic careers, and motivate them to become positive, responsible and contributing members of their local communities. I've also invited local service organizations throughout the Imperial Valley to partner with us in this program to help defray the dinner cost for each student to attend one of our dinner meetings. The organizations that have contributed to date are: Brawley Masonic Lodge 402, Kiwanis Club of Brawley, Westmorland Lions Club, Moose Lodge #1033 El Centro, Kiwanis Club of Early Risers, El Centro Kiwanis Club and Holtville Rotary Club.

The Blue Angel Dinner meeting of Feb. 3, 2015, was the first dinner meeting where some of our R.I.M. students were in attendance. Representing Central Union High was Mariana Verdugo. Representing Southwest High School was: Andrew De La Torre, Stephan Leon, Kaitlyn Manuel, Vianey Rodriguez, Jimin Song and Mauryn Wilde. At the end of the evening, the smiles on the students' faces and the positive interaction of the Navy League members and the military personnel present, especially the Blue Angels, validated in my mind, that the anticipated goals and expectations of the R.I.M. program had been met and would continue to build into the future. Working with these students and helping them to enrich their lives in a positive manner has made this experience very worthwhile and satisfying to me. The best part of it is that we are just starting, and there is so much more to come.



Douglas Dahm  
Navy League Member  
R.I.M. Project Coordinator

## SAILOR AWARD SPONSORS

IMPERIAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S  
AERO-SQUADRO  
STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON VFA-122

WYMORE, INC.  
USCGC SHERMAN WHEC-720

## TABLE SPONSORS

PREMIER TOWING      ENTRAVISION  
CASTILLO CONSTRUCTION  
LAW OFFICES OF GREGORY MONTEGNA  
FAIRFIELD INN & TOWNEPLACE SUITES by MARRIOTT

### **Steve Benton, President**

Questions or Comments?

Email: [contact@ivnavyleague.org](mailto:contact@ivnavyleague.org)

Mail: P O Box 3834, El Centro, CA 92244-3834

Contact us at: (760) 791-7345

Website: [www.ivnavyleague.org](http://www.ivnavyleague.org)

### **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!**

Phone: (800) 356-5760

Website: [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)



# We had a great time! If you missed it, we've got another one coming up...Join us!

*Our T-bones are delicious, our friends are the best, you'll meet new people, and learn something new from our speakers. All that and more at our monthly dinner.*



## **Navy League of the U.S.**

Imperial Valley Council  
P.O. Box 3834  
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

**BLUE ANGELS  
ENLISTED NIGHT  
MARCH 3  
6:30 PM**

# Membership Application



**YES! PLEASE ENROLL ME AS A NAVY LEAGUER.**

## TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP (PLEASE CHECK ONE)

- \$65 INDIVIDUAL 1-YEAR
- \$65 ASSOCIATE 1-YEAR (NON-U.S. CITIZEN)
- \$30 ACTIVE DUTY SPOUSE
- \$25 STUDENT
- \$117 JOINT HUSBAND/WIFE 1-YEAR (SAVE \$13)\*
- \$117 INDIVIDUAL 2-YEAR (SAVE \$13)\*
- \$175 INDIVIDUAL 3-YEAR (SAVE \$20)\*
- \$500 LIFE (AGE 76 AND ABOVE)
- \$750 LIFE (AGES 56-75)
- \$1,000 LIFE (AGE 55 AND BELOW)

\* OVER REGULAR 1-YEAR RATE

DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your Dollars at work! Donations you make to the Navy League are tax-deductible and support programs like Sea Cadets, youth scholarships and Sea Services awards. The Navy League is a 501(c)(3) organization.

## MEMBER INFORMATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED COUNCIL\* **IMPERIAL VALLEY**

\*If you request a specific Council, they will be notified of your request to join them, and will contact you soon.

## METHOD OF PAYMENT

- CHECK ENCLOSED (MAKE PAYABLE TO NLUS)
- PLEASE CALL ME FOR PAYMENT INFORMATION
- CHARGE MY:**  VISA  MASTERCARD  AMEX  DISCOVER

BEST DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

CVV2 \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

The Navy League was founded in 1902 with a clear three-pronged mission: to support the members of the sea services and their families; to educate the American people and their elected leaders about the critical importance of sea power for their economic prosperity and national security; and to help build America's future through successful youth programs like the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. Whether you ever served in uniform or not, we invite you to join us today. Our mission, "Citizens in Support of the Sea Services," reflects both our commitment and our broad appeal to everyone concerned with support for our men and women in uniform. Every day, 43,000 members in 245 councils around the world continue to carry our message to the public and support the men and women of our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:**

NAVY LEAGUE  
OF THE U.S.  
PO BOX 1050  
CHARLOTTE, NC  
28201-9932

**FAX TO**  
703-528-2333

**CALL**  
800-356-5760

**JOIN ONLINE**  
[WWW.NAVYLEAGUE.ORG/JOIN\\_RENEW](http://WWW.NAVYLEAGUE.ORG/JOIN_RENEW)

# Member Benefits



We are pleased to present your expanded member benefits. Our partners are selected because they provide you with value-added or discounted merchandise & services not available to the general public.

**SEA-AIR-SPACE EXPOSITION:** The annual spring three-day event that brings together key military decision makers, the major players in the defense industry and Navy Leaguers for a look at the latest maritime technology.

**ONLINE COMMUNITY:** Accessible from our website, this members-only area features council homepages, news, a calendar of events, the membership directory, a “My profile” page, and reports (for qualified users). Registration is free and available only to current members.

**COURSE MILL:** Navy League members and employees will access Course Mill, a state of the art Learning Management System, to register for and complete Navy League focused online training courses, such as council and financial management, board member responsibilities, recruiting & retention, and new member orientation.

**ENGAGE:** Send your Navy League message directly to Congress! Visit [cqrcengage.com/navyleague](http://cqrcengage.com/navyleague) or follow the links from the Navy League’s home site. From there, you’ll get the latest Congressional news, be able to email your Congressional Representative and Senators with the click of a button, sign petitions, and share your actions with your friends online—and get them to help support the Navy League cause of advocating for stronger sea services to American leaders.

**NAVY LEAGUE MERCHANDISE:** Navy League Ship’s Store is the official provider of Navy League logo merchandise. For the online catalog visit [www.navyleague.org/membership/store](http://www.navyleague.org/membership/store)

**NAVY LEAGUE BUSINESS CARDS:** Official Navy League business cards are available through the [www.navyleague.org/membership/store](http://www.navyleague.org/membership/store)

**PENFED:** Navy League members and employees are eligible to join PenFed and apply for any of PenFed’s financial products. PenFed is one of the strongest and financially secure financial institutions in the world today with over a million members, and more than \$15 billion in assets. They are a member focused organization that strives to offer the most innovative and competitively priced products and interest rates available. When you become a member of PenFed, you will have instant access to an impressive selection of financial and mortgage services. PenFed is proud to serve the Navy League as their financial services provider for credit cards, auto loans and mortgages. To learn more about PenFed’s products and rates, go to [www.penfed.org/Navy-League](http://www.penfed.org/Navy-League) or call 800-247-5626.

**USAA:** USAA provides world-class insurance and financial services, including banking, investments and retirement products to members of the U.S. Military, veterans, and their families. Eligible NLUS members can benefit from USAA’s highly competitive rates, outstanding customer service and dedication to supporting the military community. To learn more about USAA call 866-936-6587 or visit [www.usaa/nlus](http://www.usaa/nlus)

**ALAMO:** Car rental discounts of up to 15% for members. For additional free discount coupons contact the Member Service Center. Visit [www.Alamo.com](http://www.Alamo.com) or call toll-free 800-354-2322 and mention ID #194678. Terms & Conditions Apply.

**BUDGET RENT A CAR SYSTEM, INC.:** Car rental discounts of up to 25% for members. To reserve online [www.budget.com](http://www.budget.com) and enter your coupon code or call toll-free 800-455-2848 and mention ID# X793100. Terms and conditions apply.

**USPT GEAR:** Offers members a 10% discount on officially-licensed logo merchandise for the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Call 800-797-6728 and identify yourself as a Navy League member. To shop online go to [www.navyleague.usptgear.com](http://www.navyleague.usptgear.com) then click on E-Store in the navigation menu.

## SEAPOWER MAGAZINE

Our monthly journal publishes a diverse range of authoritative and informative articles to educate the American people, their elected representatives, and industry on the need for robust naval and maritime forces. Feature interviews and articles — authored by respected experts in their fields and senior uniformed and civilian officials — document key developments in major ship, aircraft, weapons, and doctrinal programs. Monthly feature columns also convey current news relating to major naval policy and political developments, the sea services, the U.S. industrial base, and international developments.

## ALMANAC OF SEAPOWER

(published in January) is the official almanac of the Navy League of the United States. NLUS members, procurement decision-makers in the defense market, senior officials of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine, members of Congress, and the Departments of Defense and Transportation read and keep this informative publication.



CITIZENS IN SUPPORT OF THE SEA SERVICES