



Imperial Valley

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services



UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 3 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Moose Lodge, Imperial, CA
- 13 248th US Navy Birthday
- 27 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit | Noon—7 pm
Historic Downtown, Yuma AZ
- 28 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit | 11 am—5 pm
Historic Downtown, Yuma AZ

November

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Moose Lodge, Imperial, CA
- 10 Veterans Day
- 10 248th USMC Birthday
- TBD Joint Operation Give Thanks:
Thanksgiving Turkey Distribution

December

- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Moose Lodge, Imperial, CA

T-Bone Dinners held on the 1st Tuesday of each month:

Moose Lodge #1033
2310 Myrtle Road
Imperial, CA 92251
6:30 p.m.

Navy League of the United States

Imperial Valley Council

PO Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244
(760) 791-7345
ivnavyleague@yahoo.com
ivnavyleague.org



2023 | October

OCTOBER SPEAKER | Captain Michael D. Lee, USN

Commanding Officer, Naval Air Facility El Centro

Captain Michael D. Lee, a native of Honolulu, Hawaii, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1997 receiving his commission and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. He completed flight training and was designated a Naval Aviator in 1999. In 2006 he earned his Executive Masters in Business Administration from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Lee's sea duty assignments include flying the LAMPS MK III SH-60B Seahawk helicopter with Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron Light (HSL-47), during which he deployed aboard USS Antietam (CG-54) and twice aboard USS John Young (DD-973). He was selected as aide-de-camp to Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG-2), who forward deployed to Bahrain as Expeditionary Force/Contingency Force (TF-59) and Combined Task Force 158 (CTF-158). He served as Officer-in-Charge of HSL-49 Detachment 3 aboard USS Jarrett (FFG-33) and later as the squadron's operation officer.



[Continues on Page 2]

Tunnel To Towers | 9/11 Never Forget Mobile Exhibit, Yuma

The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit, which has traveled to nearly 50 states and Canada, has welcomed in over 600,000. The 83-foot tractor-trailer, which transforms into a 1,100-square-foot exhibit, is a tool to further educate citizens throughout the country about the events of that tragic day.

The Stephen Siller Foundation of Tunnels to Towers, in coordination with the City of Yuma, the Yuma Council of the Navy League, of the United States, and the Yuma County Fire Officer's Association will host this two-day mobile exhibit that is free to all ages.

In 2013, the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation created this mobile exhibit as a tribute to all those whose lives were sacrificed on September 11, 2001. Welcomed around the country, from the Tampa, Florida to Yuma, Arizona, the memorial provides interactive

[Continues on Page 2]



Tunnel to Towers Foundation
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN YUMA

9/11 NEVER FORGET MOBILE EXHIBIT

Friday, October 27
1:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 28, 2023
11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Historic Downtown, Main Street
Yuma AZ

All ages invited.

OUR ADOPTED COMMANDS



NAVAL AIR FACILITY EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND CONUS WEST DET



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC MAINT UNIT EL CENTRO DET



USMC VMFA-214 BLACKSHEEP



USCGC PETRAL WPB 87350



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

Captain Lee Bio [cont. from Page 1]

Lee also served as the air boss aboard USS Essex (LHD-2), overseeing the first combat deployment of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter to U.S. 5th Fleet.

Ashore, Lee completed an instructor pilot tour with HSL-41; served as deputy safety officer (N45A) for Commander, Naval Air Forces; commanded Navy Recruiting District (NRD) Los Angeles; and led the Naval Leadership and Ethics Command, San Diego as both the executive officer and interim commanding officer.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), as well as various campaign and unit awards.

Tunnel To Towers Exhibit [cont. from Page 1]

education; including artifacts such as steel beams from the towers, documentary videos, and recordings of first responder radio transmissions. Interactive guided tours are carried out by FDNY firefighters who provide firsthand accounts of the day and its aftermath. The 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit, which has traveled to nearly 50 states and Canada, has welcomed in over 600,000 people to date. The high-tech, 83-foot tractor-trailer, which transforms into a 1,100-square-foot exhibit, is a tool to further educate citizens throughout the country about the events of that tragic day.

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is committed to ensuring WE NEVER FORGET. This event is open to the public, and is FREE of charge.

Yuma Council extends an invitation to attend to all Imperial Valley Navy Leaguers, and their guests.

From Navy Leaguer to United States Navy | Navy Leaguer Joins Navy

Wait...What?

We're used to active duty members of our sea services joining our organization following their military service, but it's a rarer occurrence that a civilian Navy Leaguer enters into service.

Our Navy League council member, Andrew Neel, recently applied for, and was accepted into the Navy's Officer Candidate School. Andrew has been a strong supporter of our Navy League mission, and now, we'll get to take care of him and his family as they enter service. Congratulations Andrew, and the Neel family!



New / Returning Members

Traci George
Board of Supervisors
County of Imperial

[Join Online](#)

Ready to JOIN?

The Navy League depends on passionate individuals like you to support those currently serving and advocate for the sea services. Locally, we adopt ships and shore commands, reward and honor enlisted personnel, host dinners and celebrations for military personnel, and support family members left behind when spouses and parents are deployed.

At the national level, membership allows you to help our legislative affairs team fight on behalf of our sea services and educate government officials. No prior military service is required to be a member. Join us at www.navyleague.org #

Unit Sponsorship Opportunity

Consider sponsoring one of our units. Sponsors underwrite special events and awards. Ask us how.

- NAF EL CENTRO | SFWPMU EL CENTRO
- NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
- USS FITZGERALD | VMFA-214
- USCGC PETREL

Table Sponsors

Table sponsorships underwrite the cost of our speakers and active duty award recipient's dinners. Want to lend your support? Contact us to find out how, and become a sponsor today!

THE DAHM TEAM REAL ESTATE CO.
USAA
BRUCE & AVA CROWDER
PREMIER TOWING

Catch These Highlights From Our Last Dinner

Coast Guard Update, Sailors and Marines Recognized

We were honored to have United States Coast Guard Sector Commander, Captain John W. Spitler, USCGC join us as our September speaker.

Captain Spitler related some of the law enforcement challenges they have encountered along our southern California coasts. Despite these challenges, the Coast Guard continues to succeed with search and rescue missions, and drug and smuggling interventions.

We've convinced Captain Spitler to return for another T-bone dinner next year, and provide another "state of the Coast Guard" address to our members. We look forward to seeing him again.



It's always a good feeling to know that our nation is in good hands, when we get to meet to meet the Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard who excel in their duties, and are being recognized for the exceptionalism.

Last month we recognized the following Sailors and Marines for their outstanding devotion to duty:

Navy Munitions Command, Conus West, Detachment El Centro

Senior Sailor 2nd QTR: AOC (SEL) (AW/SW) Thomas Tse, USN
Sailor 3rd QTR: AO2(AW/SW) Jacques Satterwhite, USN

NAF El Centro

Blue Jacket 3rd QTR: HM3 Andres Gonzalez

VMFA-214

Gunnery Sergeant Marc A. Longoria, USMC
Chief Warrant Officer 3 Bryce A. Mackey, USMC

Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit El Centro

Senior Sailor 2nd QTR: AM1 Jeramie Race, USN



Photo Credit: Dave Reider #

Dinner 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. Reservations accepted online at:

<https://www.ivnavyleague.org/t-bone-dinner>

President's Message

October is just days away and we are starting to head outside more often because the temperatures are getting below triple digits for the high heat of the day.

If you missed the T-bone dinner in September, we had an excellent guest speaker in Captain Spittler the Coast Guard Sector Commander and I am not sure if it was him or we just had a few extra members show up to break bread with us, but that was one of the best attended T-Bone dinner meeting in the Month of September that we have had in over a decade. Thank you for your support!

Also, if you missed that dinner, one of our Council's member applied for and was accepted to Naval Officer Candidate's School in Newport Rhode Island. We are praying for success for Andrew Neel and his family as he embarks on his new career as Ensign Neel, USN.

You will have noticed in the last newsletter, and meeting we began our annual Joint Operation Give Thanks campaign. This is your opportunity to partner with us as we "Give Thanks" by way of providing Thanksgiving turkeys to the active duty. With the cost of groceries and other consumables rising, I know these turkeys will help ease the burden of families as they prepare for their family feasts. Please consider giving generously for this project.

You've seen the decorations going up already at your local box warehouse and stores – Christmas! Yes, the holidays are just around the corner, and as in years' past, we become of some of our sea service families that need a little extra help to make the Christmas holiday more special. We have been preparing gift baskets for families with gift cards and presents to children for families that are struggling. I'll just cut right to the chase, this year is already hitting harder than years past, with the cost of living increasing dramatically, I believe that there is going to be a greater need for our Council to assist some more families than in the past.

With that – I am asking if you will consider contributing toward our Christmas gift program that is earmarked especially for the Christmas holiday. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

I am looking forward to seeing you next Tuesday October 3rd for another great T-Bone steak dinner, and excellent speaker in Captain M. Lee, Commanding Officer Naval Air Facility El Centro.

Until we "meat" again!

CMDM Theodore R. "Ted" Gallinat, USN, Retired
President



U.S. Senate Introduces "Pay Our Coast Guard Act"

The U.S. Senate just introduced the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" as a companion bill to similar legislation in the House of Representatives. The Navy League has advocated for provisions within this bill since 2019.

Will we ask the brave men and women protecting our maritime borders to do their jobs without pay? That's what happened in 2019, and we personally saw the members of our adopted unit, USCGC PETREL go without pay.

In an effort to assist our sponsored unit, we found that we were unable to provide direct funding to them, but we were able to purchase commissary gift cards for groceries. With gas prices now rising upward to \$6.00 per gallon, our service-members can little afford to fill their gas tanks to go to work, never mind putting food on the table or pay other monthly expenses.

We urge you to visit our VOICES TO CONGRESS webpage, and our companion article in this Newsletter, and send our elected officials your support of the "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" today!

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/48115/>



2022 National Awards Recognition

Imperial Valley Receives Outstanding Council Designation, Social Media and Website Awards

The Imperial Valley Council continues to meet, and exceed its mission goals in support of active duty members and their families, and communicating to the American public, and our elected leaders about the importance of our sea services.

There is no one individual who does this — but it is your council officers, board members, and council members who collectively all go above and beyond to contribute to our successes.

Having said that, our own national organization has recognized us for consistently meeting and exceeding our mission goals.

The Outstanding Council Award was awarded to the top councils across the Navy League. The top councils were: Atlanta Metropolitan, Bremerton-Olympic Peninsula, Central Florida, Imperial Valley, Denver, Greater Cincinnati, Honolulu, Key West, New York, Placer County, San Diego, and Yuma.

For the Donald M. Mackie communications awards, each council is measured by councils large and small across our great nation, as well as internationally. Imperial Valley is considered either small or medium in size based on the number of members in our council at any given time.

For its communications, the Council received the Donald M. Mackie Bronze Award for its website; and the Donald M. Mackie Silver Award for its social media content.

Congratulations Imperial Valley for your recognition!



YOUR VOICE MATTERS | Co-Sponsor the Pay Our Coast Guard Act!

Join our network of grassroots supporters and spread the word on why robust sea services are critical to our maritime nation. Visit our HQ website to learn about these issues, and how you can be our Voice to our elected leaders.

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/issues/>

While Congress has ensured that our men and women serving in the military do not experience any lapses in their paychecks despite potential lapses in government funding, there is currently no such mechanism for the Coast Guard.

During the last government shutdown, our men and women in the Coast Guard continued conducting dangerous missions to defend our nation while also worrying about when their next paycheck would arrive.

The Coast Guard service members should not have to worry about the wellbeing of themselves and their families while making a sacrifice to service our nation.

With one “click” you can sign on, and send our elected representatives your letter of support for our Coast Guard during government shutdowns. Please do this today.

<https://navyleague.quorum.us/campaign/48115/>



JOINT OPERATION

GIVE THANKS



**YOUR \$20 DONATION SPONSORS
A THANKSGIVING TURKEY
FOR ACTIVE DUTY FAMILIES**

YOUR DONATIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE.

JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO WEAR OUR NATION'S CLOTH THIS THANKSGIVING.

www.ivnavyleague.org

YES! I want to be a part of Joint Operation Give Thanks 2023

I want like to sponsor _____ turkeys at \$20 per turkey, for a total of \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to IMPERIAL VALLEY NAVY LEAGUE, and mail to:

**Imperial Valley Navy League
P O Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834**