



IMPERIAL VALLEY COUNCIL
Supporting the Sea Services since 1949

October 2019

IV Navy League Dinner | October 1 at 6:30 pm

Mirage Club, Naval Air Facility El Centro

William A. Gay, Author | October Speaker

Our October speaker is William A. "Bill" Gay, Commander, USN (retired). Bill is the author of *Unseen Body Blows* – the true story of life aboard one of the first WWII tank landing ships as it operated in seven Pacific campaigns from 1943 through 1945.

The LST landed soldiers and Marines with their equipment throughout the Pacific. Bill will tell us about LST 479 in a gripping “you are there” story of a group of very inexperienced crewmembers who saw service aboard her.

Bill was commissioned as an ensign in the Navy in 1968 upon graduation from the University of Missouri Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps. He served nearly four years as a Surface Warfare Officer, first aboard the USS Portage (PCE 902) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and then the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga (CVS 14) on the West Coast. Bill transitioned to the Selected Reserve after active duty where he spent more than 20 years, most of it as a public affairs officer. He retired in 1994 with the rank of commander.

Following Bill's Navy service, he continued his career in journalism and public relations in the private and public sectors. From 1972 to 1997, Bill was a reporter,

**UNSEEN
BODY BLOWS**

THE "FIGHTING LST 479"
AND ITS SEVEN PACIFIC CAMPAIGNS,
1943-1945



William A. Gay

editor and finally general manager of the Imperial Valley Press. In 1997 Bill and his wife Sue founded their El Centro-based public relations agency, Reliance Public Relations, Inc.

In 2016, Reliance Public Relations commenced publishing Imperial Valley Alive, a quarterly lifestyle magazine that covers life in Imperial County.

Bill holds an Accreditation in Public Relations, and was inducted into the Public Relations Society of America's College of Fellows in 2014. He has a master of arts from the University of Redlands, Redlands, California, and a bachelor of journalism from the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

The Author will be conducting a book signing before and after the dinner.



For more than 30 years, the Imperial Valley Council has provided Thanksgiving turkeys to the active-duty servicemen and women and their families.

During our 2018 campaign we donate 202 turkeys and 12 gift cards to active duty families. We look forward to partnering with you this year to help us fund this important program.

Join us in supporting Joint Operation Give Thanks 2019, and help us "Give Thanks" to our service members and their families for their sacrifice to our nation. Your donations are tax deductible, and may be made online, or by downloading the form and submitting by check.

No Higher Honor

CELEBRATING THE U.S. NAVY'S 244TH BIRTHDAY

Happy 244th Birthday United States Navy!

It is the Council's pleasure to partner with USAA to support this year's Naval Air Facility El Centro 244th Birthday Ball celebration on October 11th.

Since 1972, each Chief of Naval Operations has encouraged a Navy-wide birthday celebration to enhance a greater appreciation of their Navy heritage, and to provide a positive influence toward pride and professionalism in the naval service.



At last month's dinner, President Ted presented Captain Brent Alfonzo, NAF El Centro's Commanding Officer with a check for \$2000.

URGENT: We Need Your Voice to Congress



Coast Guard Pay Parity Voice to Congress

With Congress back in session, the Senate will begin consideration of the Coast Guard Authorization bill. The bill includes a provision for pay parity, the idea that if other military services are paid during a shutdown, members of the Coast Guard should be as well. When the House passed their version of the bill in July, the provision was

removed. The same may happen in the Senate.

This provision is essential, however, as government funding runs out at the end of September. Without pay parity, the Coast Guard could find themselves in the same situation as back in January when the government shutdown, where they went unpaid and many were forced to rely on food banks to get by.

The Navy League is advocating for the final Coast Guard Authorization bill, which will provide the service with pay parity. We implore you to take action by participating in our [Voice to Congress campaign](#).

Voices to Congress Action Center. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

There are a number of other important issues we encourage you to make your voice heard. Visit our [Action Center](#) today to engage in our grassroots mission by writing a letter and voicing your support on the issues that matter to our sea services.

Join Us and Support the Sea Services on Capitol Hill

Anchors Aweigh Congressional Fly-In



The Navy League is proud to announce its fourth Anchors Aweigh Congressional Fly-In on Nov. 14 in Washington, D.C. All Navy Leaguers are invited to participate as we meet members of Congress on Capitol Hill and present the Navy League's legislative priorities.

We will storm the hill Thursday, Nov. 14, the day before the national [Board of Directors Meeting](#). If you plan to attend, we encourage you to arrive for the legislative orientation in Arlington, Virginia, no later than 6:30 p.m. on Nov. 13 to be included in training.

Our Headquarters staff will provide training, messaging, and leave-behind documents and book all the meetings. Come join one of the most high-profile, mission-focused and high energy Navy League events.

Commissary and Exchange Access for Veterans Coming Soon



We are pleased to pass along news from the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs:

Starting Jan. 1, 2020, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war and all service-connected disabled veterans, regardless of rating, as well as caregivers enrolled in the VA's Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers program, will be able to shop at

Defense Commissary Agency stores and military exchanges.

These individuals will also have access to Morale, Recreation and Welfare amenities, such as golf courses, recreation areas, theaters, bowling alleys, campgrounds and lodging facilities that are operated by MWR. [Read more...](#)

Active Duty Spouse Membership

For All You Do ... Let Us Give Back to You

Spouses of those currently serving in the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Coast Guard are eligible for a complimentary electronic membership with the Navy League of the United States.

The Navy League is your partner supporting those currently serving and their families, advocating for the sea services and educating the public and government officials about the importance of a strong sea services. Offering a

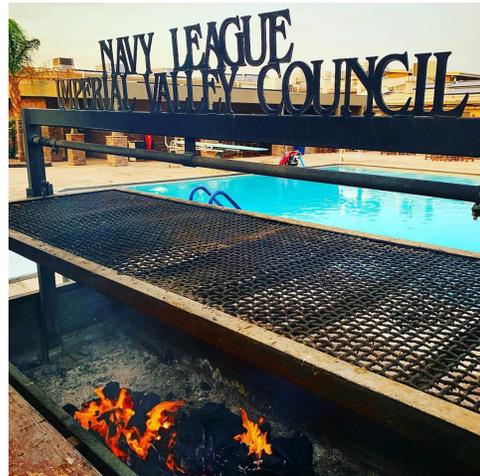
complimentary e-membership is just one more way we are here for you.



President's Message

We're fired up (and I don't just mean the grill). We have a lot in store for you in the coming months. We hope you'll come along for some great dinner meeting speakers, and an opportunity to hand out turkeys to our sea services as part of our Joint Operation Give Thanks.

This month we're welcoming Bill Gay who has recently authored the book *Unseen Body Blows*. Many of you know Bill for his long service in local journalistic circles -- having been the Editor of the Imperial Valley Press. Bill will have copies of his book on hand to personalize for you.



As I mentioned, [Joint Operation Give Thanks](#) is an excellent opportunity for you to give direct support to our sea services families with a Thanksgiving turkey. You can download a form online, or pick one up at the next dinner. We'll be running this campaign through Thanksgiving. Trust me, your \$20 donation goes a long way to saying "Thanks" to these families who give, and sacrifice so much for us.

We were notified today by our Yuma Council of an opportunity for you to participate in their upcoming golf fundraiser. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow Navy Leaguers. Last month, Lisa and I had an opportunity to spend a day at the Del Mar Races with several members of the Yuma Council. This is an annual outing, and a great chance to participate in a fun activity -- outside of the usual dinner meetings. They're a great bunch in Yuma, and we know you'll have a great time golfing.

Let us put a T-Bone steak on the grill for you next Tuesday, October 1st -- still only \$25. Dean Currie and Bob Shank are still grilling the best steaks in town.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Ted

Ted

Ted Gallinat, President
Imperial Valley Council
Navy League of the U.S.
www.ivnavyleague.org
ivnavyleague@yahoo.com

September Dinner Recap: Sailors.Steaks.Speakers



UPCOMING DINNER MEETINGS and EVENTS

Oct 1 | Navy League Dinner | Speaker: CDR William "Bill" Gay, USN (Ret.)

Mirage Club, Naval Air Facility El Centro | 6:30 pm
T-Bone steak Dinner only \$25 pp

Oct 11 | NAF El Centro Navy Ball | 6:00 pm | \$60pp

Nov 5 | Navy League Dinner | Speaker: John Collver, War Dog Air Shows

Dec 3 | Navy League Dinner | Speaker: Capt Dan Pederson, USN (Ret)/ Top Gun

Dec 6 | NAF El Centro Holiday Parade



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO DO?

Nov 2 | 2nd Annual Heroes Honor 5k Run/Walk

Brawley Cattle Call Rotary Park | 6:30 am

Nov 15-16 | Yuma Golf Classic, Yuma Council of the Navy League

Nov 14 | Anchors Aweigh, Congressional Fly-in

Washington, DC



By Invite Only...

Golf for the Kids
Charity Golf Classic

You are cordially invited to participate in the 3rd Annual "Golf for the Kids Charity Golf Classic" presented by the Yuma Investment Group benefiting Yuma County Youth Leadership and Education Programs (Kofa MCJROTC, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, US Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines).

November 15th - November 16th, 2019
– *Yuma Golf & Country Club* –

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH
4:00pm - BLIND DRAW PAIRING FOR TOURNAMENT
(at Desert Hills Golf Course)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH
6:00pm - NO HOST COCKTAIL CALCUTTA EVENT

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH
9:00am - SHOT GUN START FOR THE 4-PERSON SCRAMBLE
(Two 4-person teams play in the same group)

1:00pm - BURGERS/HOT DOGS & PAYOUT CEREMONY

\$150 ENTRY FEE - Includes \$5000 added to charity payout and Extra Cash added to skins pot by Yuma Investment Group Wealth Management

To Enter, see flyer link at
www.YumaGolfClassic.com
or
www.yumanavyleague.com

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Yuma Golf Classic

It's always our pleasure to offer our members an opportunity to interact with Navy League members in other councils. Not only does this build relationships and creates opportunities to make new friends, but it also is a great way to support our Navy League mission.

Our neighbors to the east -- the Yuma Council is hosting [Golf for Kids](#) a charity golf tournament supporting their youth programs.

For more information, visit the Yuma Council website and sign up for a great time while supporting Sea Cadets, MCJROTC, Civil Air Patrol and Young Marines!

NAFEC Security Access | Don't have yours? Bringing a Guest?

If you haven't done so, NAF El Centro's Base Security



Office is standing by to help process your application for your DBIDS access card which will authorize you to to drive your vehicle on base for Navy League events.

To apply for your card, download and submit your application with this information:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [Download SECNAV 5512 form](#)
- Steps to submit SECNAV 5512 form
- Steps to receive DBIDS card

QUESTIONS?

Call: (760) 339-2524

Email: W_ELCN_BASE_ACCESS_GS@navy.mil

NAFEC OFFICE HOURS:

- Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Closed for lunch 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
- *Pass Office is closed on holidays and weekends*

NO CARD? NEW MEMBER? BRINGING A GUEST?

No problem! Let us know in advance and we'll make arrangements to sponsor you, or your guest on Base for the evening, and begin the paperwork for future visits.

We're a phone call away. **Call us at (760) 791-7345.**

DOD ID Holders are exempt from this policy.

Besides being a part of a great organization that serves others.
You receive benefits too!

Become A Member

OUR ADOPTED UNITS



NAVAL AIR FACILITY
EL CENTRO



US NAVY BLUE ANGELS
FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION
SQUADRON



USMC MARINE ATTACK
SQUADRON VMA-214



USCGC PETRAL
WPB 87350



NAVY MUNITIONS COMMAND
CONUS WEST DETACHMENT



STRIKE FIGHTER WING PACIFIC
MAINTENANCE UNIT EL CENTRO DETACHMENT



USS FITZGERALD DDG 62



DESERT EAGLE SQUADRON
ESCONDIDO BATTALION
TRAINING SHIP KIT CARSON



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Strike Fighter Wing Pacific Maintenance Unit

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SEAPOWDER

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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