



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 3 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
- 30 Memorial Day Ceremonies | 10:30 am
El Centro Elk's Lodge, Main Street



JUNE

- 7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
- 14-18 National Convention, Charleston, SC

JULY

- 4 Freedom Fest
Imperial Valley College | Dusk
- 5 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
No Meeting Fundraiser

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

Medal of Honor Candidate to Speak

Lt Col W. Dean Hunter, USAF, Retired

Eagle Scout. USMC Rifleman. USAF Pilot. College Professor. Coach. Author. Motivational Speaker. Docent. These are just a few of Dr. Dean Hunter's accomplishments.

Dr. Dean Hunter, a Palm Springs Air Museum docent, began his military career as an enlisted Marine, earned an Air Force commission and flew 166 combat missions in the Vietnam War with the 1st Air Commando Squadron from 1963-1964 using a modified T-28 that was combat configured.

Hunter wrote a book about his experiences detailing his life in a book, *For Love of Life and Country*, his invincible beliefs, his love of life, and devotion to his country. The book captures his twenty-year service as an Air Force pilot, including five years as a fighter pilot in the Southeast Asia conflict. From growing up in a small American town during the trying times of World War II, to serving his country.



On June 25, 1964, U.S. Air Force Captain Dean Hunter flew three missions in nine hours enduring heavy fire from the Vietcong through heavy rain, stopping only for maintenance on his T-28 aircraft then returning to the air as quickly as possible. He was even shot down during one of these missions, but was uninjured. He got his plane fixed and returned to the air, making low passes, barely clearing tree tops as he delivered blows, "annihilating over 400 to 13,00 attacking Viet Cong," preventing the overrun and capture of American forces under attack on the ground. He knew that each time he went back, his odds of making it out alive lessened, but his focus was on the job at hand. "Our mission was to protect these A-teams on the ground; these were Americans and you know when they call you and they say the VC are 50 yards out, 30 yards out, we need your help...you don't leave Americans down there," Hunter said. "I couldn't leave anybody down there. No matter what."

He became the 22nd recipient and the first living recipient of the Silver Star for that mission. He is a candidate for the Medal of Honor for that night, nominated by his former squadron commander, Col. John M. Porter. Due to the classified nature of the operation, Hunter could not be recommended for the Medal of Honor until recently. He is one of the highest decorated officers in the Air Force, also receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star, both with the "V" for valor, among many other medals and commendations. He is a veteran of the Korean, Vietnam and Cold Wars.

Dr. Hunter will conduct a book signing before and after the program.



Lt Col W. Dean Hunter, USAF Retired



**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



Council Hosts Crew of USCGC Petrel

Crew Members and Families make maiden trip to El Centro

Ten crew members and their families from the USCGC PETREL were our guests last month. We enjoyed meeting them, and crew enjoyed a warm Imperial Valley welcome. Master Chief Boatswain's Mate John Bowen was our guest speaker, and presented President Ted with a framed ship's flag.

We are planning a cruise and barbeque in San Diego with our newly adopted ship this summer. We hope you'll make plans to join us then.



Making a Difference

Pennies for Troops: Imperial Frank Wright Middle School makes Donation to Navy League

For the past few months, 941 students at Imperial's Frank Wright Middle School have been saving their pennies. In a show of "giving back" to the men and women who serve our Nation, these students wanted to make a difference by donating their raised funds to Navy League who will use their pennies to make difference in the lives of our Troops.

The students who fundraised through the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) presented President Ted Gallinat with a check in the amount of \$425!

We say BZ Frank Wright Middle School!



Imperial PTO Member, Mrs. Pat Currie and Frank Wright Middle School Student, Megan Currie, present President Ted Gallinat with a Pennies for Troops donation.

Imperial County Sheriff's Aero Squadron sponsors VFA-122 Detachment El Centro "Flying Eagles"

Last month the Imperial County Sheriff's Aero Squadron renewed their sponsorship of our program to support the El Centro Detachment of Strike Fighter Squadron One Two Two by presenting the Council with a check in the amount of \$1600.

Their support of this program goes a long way to helping us continue to support and recognize the outstanding Sailors attached to VFA-122.

The ICSO aero squadron is a group of volunteer pilots and observers who monitor activity in the areas around the Colorado River and the wide-open desert regions of Imperial County.



L-R: ICSO Aero Squadron Members Eddie Lutz, Rick Klicka, Yvonne Naud, Brian Floyd, Steve Reeves, Mike Sullivan, Felipe Irigoyen, and Dan Laughrin with Ted Gallinat.

Facebook's Blue Angels Tribute Page donates \$300 with T-Shirt fundraiser

During the month of February, Navy League member, and Blue Angels fan extraordinaire, Ray Congdon who manages Facebook's Blue Angels Tribute Page was promoting a "I'm a Blue Angels Tribute Page Contributor" T-shirt. The proceeds from the shirt were donated to Navy League to the tune of



Sending a Video Message to VMA-214 Blacksheep on Deployment

The families of our Blacksheep collected over 100 short video messages and put them together to send their love, best wishes and appreciation to our deployed Marines — including our message we taped for the collection. You'll find the video link on our Facebook page. We had a great time doing our part. We salute our Marines, and wish them a safe deployment!



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

This is what EXCELLENCE looks like



Brawley Union High School Students Cannon Walker and Alexander Campbell were recognized for their scholastic achievement appreciation by Ted Gallinat and Doug Dahm



NC1 Carl Ross (left) and MA2 Christopher Parrish were recognized with Certificates of Appreciation for their outstanding contributions to Desert Outing 2016.

In Memorium ~ Fair Winds and Following Seas

JOHN D. "JD" SEARLE

1938 - 2016

Past-President, Imperial Valley Council 1998, 1999
Life Member

RICHARD LAUGHRIN

1932- 2016

Member since 1971

JERRY PITCHIE

1938 - 2016

Member since 1993

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Escondido Battalion & Training Ship Kit Carson

LTJG Patrick Healey

(315) 254-7598

www.escondidobattalion.org

Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?

Contact us at: (760) 791-7345

Email: contact@ivnavyleague.org

Website: www.ivnavyleague.org

Mail: P O Box 3834

El Centro, CA 92244-3834

Blue Angels Memorial Project at Naval Air Facility El Centro

Fundraising has taken flight!

Each month we will report on our fundraising progress to construct our memorial to fallen Blue Angels. To date, we've received \$2,331 toward our goal of \$175,000.

It was 70 years ago on April 24, 1946 that Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz ordered the formation of a flight demonstration team to keep the public interested in Naval aviation. During that 70 years, there have been 27 Blue Angels have lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial will honor these fallen Blue Angels.

We have a long way to go in our fundraising effort, but know that with your help, we'll be able to bring this vision into reality.

Donate

Your donations to fund this important project are tax-deductible, and are much-needed to meet our deadline. Make checks payable to: Imperial Valley Navy League

Mail to: Imperial Valley Navy League
P O Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

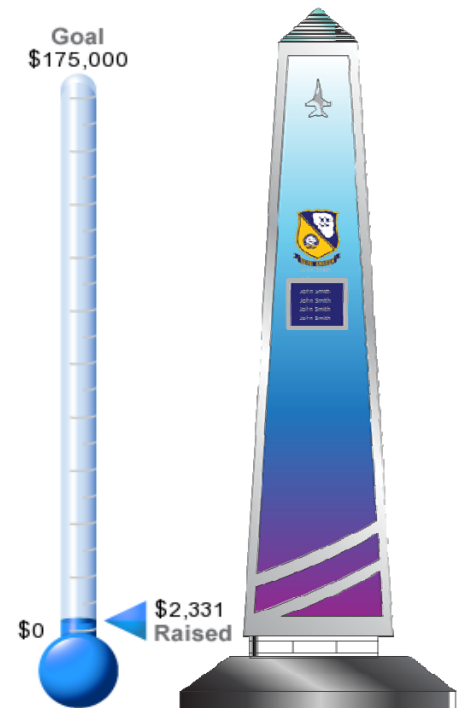
Contact Us

For more information:
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Email: blueangelsmemorial@gmail.com

Facebook: [Blue Angels Memorial](#)



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

MAY 3rd

6:30 PM