

September 2011



# Briefing

The Publication of the Navy League of the United States, Jacksonville Council



## Tackling Mission No. 1

By Tom Watson, Co-Chair Salute to Veterans 2011

Got a minute? I want to pass along some thoughts about the health of our nation and our Navy League council.

It is no secret that our great country is currently struggling to solve what has become the root cause of our national and international problems...money.

I believe most of our problems with national security, our economy, our standard of living, and our general "national malaise" can be attributed to running out of money. We have a huge national debt burden, which coupled with persistent overspending has strangled our ability to flourish as a great and healthy nation.



Tom Watson

You may ask, "What does that have to do with our Navy League council?"

Glad you asked! It seems to me our council's financial house at present is in a somewhat similar condition to Uncle Sam's, with some differences.

First, we do not indulge in overspending (if you think we do, we would like to talk to you about serving on the board next year!) Yet it takes a reasonable supply of cash to do the things that make our council, and your membership, worth-while. Our primary regular income source—dues—"keeps the lights on," covering routine operating costs such as office expenses, postage, and producing this newsletter.

But the things that give us purpose—  
*(Continued on page 4)*

## 'Hands-on' Tour to Visit Cecil, HITRON Sept. 22

If you happen to be one of the unfortunate souls who has made drug-running a career choice, the one thing you absolutely never want to see is a bright orange MH-65 Dolphin helicopter hovering over your go-fast drug boat on the open water. Once those guys show up, you run out of options pretty quick.



HITRON Jacksonville MH-65 aircraft

Upon intercepting a suspect vessel, the crew from the Coast Guard's Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON) will confirm the boat's nationality or lack of nation status and whether it is in fact a suspected smuggling vessel. If the boat fails to stop after visual and verbal warnings and shots across the bow, the HITRON crew's aerial gunner will proceed to disable the vessel by shooting out its engines with a .50 caliber precision rifle. End of pursuit.

Though its assets are deployed to coastal locations around the country, the home of America's sole HITRON can be found right here in Jacksonville at Cecil Field Commerce Center. Jax-Council Navy League members and guests will have an opportunity to see HITRON aircraft and crew members up close and personal as well as take a "windshield tour" of the commerce

center, formerly NAS Cecil Field, Sept. 22 from 9:45 a.m. to noon.

The tour will begin from HITRON's Hangar 13 at the southern end of New World Avenue at the commerce center. To reach Cecil, take I-10 west to Cecil Commerce Center Parkway or Normandy Boulevard or 103rd Street to New World Avenue. Please arrive by 9:45 a.m. so we can start on time.

Call **425-5691** to RSVP, so we'll know how many to expect.

**Hands-on Tour**  
**HITRON Jacksonville**  
**& Cecil Commerce**  
**Center**

**9:45 a.m., Sept. 22**  
**Cecil Field, Hangar 13**  
**RSVP: 425-5691**

## At Last: The Sounds of Autumn

By Alan R. Joyce, President

The summer sun has finally begun to set as the temperature slowly falls, and the familiar sounds of autumn are heard all around: “Go Gators!” “Come on, Jags!” and “Here come the Noles!”

“Thank you, Veterans!” is another sound of the season we’ll have in mind as we kick off the ticket sales campaign for our big Salute to Veterans/George Linville Memorial Drawing fund-raiser scheduled for Nov. 9 at the Florida Yacht Club. This will be a great event with many superb prizes including a European vacation, big screen TV, two iPad 2s, and many other great items. See Tom Watson’s article beginning on page 1. We need every member’s help on this effort to ensure our event meets our \$25,000 goal for funding council activities next year.

Our events calendar continues to be packed with meetings, mixers and tours. Our next Hands-on visit away is to Cecil Field and the HITRON complex, Sept. 22.

## Can You Help Our Council in 2012?

By Dolly Sedwick, Chair  
2012 Nominating Committee

The Jacksonville Council of the Navy League functions largely through the efforts of its volunteer Board of Directors and members who serve on its committees.

Our programs, tours, mixers, special events and service to the fleet are all the result of council officers and board members devoting some of their time and talent to make them happen. We have no paid staff nor funds to pay one...we are a council of volunteers.

I mention this because we are now

There you will see recent developments at the commerce center and learn how “Coast Guard Air” works to protect our shores against multiple threats, seen and unseen. The HITRON visit follows squadron C.O. Capt. Donna Cottrell’s speaking appearance at our August mixer. Speaking of which, our next mixer will be Oct. 20 at the NAS Jax T-Bar.

The NAS Jacksonville Blue Angels Air Show Nov. 5-6 will be a fantastic event to celebrate 100 years of Naval Aviation. Similar events around the country have been hugely successful with thousands attending. We have an opportunity for a co-sponsorship of our VIP Chalet across from the Blue Angels flight line with refreshments and covered seating. Contact me or any board member if you or your company may have an interest.

A final note: NAS Jacksonville will host a Centennial of Naval Aviation ceremony honoring all Distinguished Flying Cross recipients Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. If you are or know of a DFC recipient

seeking members to help lead this council in 2012. For various reasons, several current board members will not be returning next year. Incoming President Chuck Tamblyn will need a strong board to support him in continuing the opportunities to serve and interact with the Sea Services we have enjoyed this year.

As Nominating Committee chair, I hope you consider lending your ability to council leadership for a year or two, or more if you wish. Please contact me at [dsedwick@goodwilljax.org](mailto:dsedwick@goodwilljax.org) or 626-9972 for more information.

## Welcome to Navy League!

Hats off to the newest members of the Navy League Jacksonville Council:

James Bays

William “Bugs” Blacklidge

Don Boland

John Bush

Moody Chisholm

Peter Denoncourt

Mark Fitzgerald

Paul Greene

Kathleen Haley

Ronald Haley

William Hallowes

Jack Helmick

Tim Hinson

Michael Hume

Terry Hungate

Donna Johnson

Randy Madison

Jodie Marchman

Dave Phillips

John Pope

Mark Schlueter

Joe Snowberger

Larry Weber III

Al Wells



President Alan Joyce, left, presents a Navy League history book to Adm. Mark Fitzgerald after the recently retired Commander Naval Forces Europe addressed the Jacksonville Council May 12 at the River Club.

living in this area, please contact the NAS Jacksonville Public Affairs Office at 542-2415 or 542-5588 as soon as possible.

I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

## 2011 Calendar

Upcoming events for JaxCouncil members and guests:

**Sept. 22:** Cecil Commerce Center/HITRON Jacksonville Hands-on tour, 9:45 a.m., Hanger 13, Cecil Commerce Center

**Sept. 28:** Individual Augmentee (I.A.) Luncheon, 11 a.m., NS Mayport Ocean Breeze Club. \$15. RSVP to 425-5691 by Sept. 16

**Oct. 20:** Meet the Fleet Mixer, 5 p.m., T-Bar, NAS Jacksonville

**Nov. 5-6:** Centennial of Naval Aviation Blue Angels Air Show / Navy League VIP Chalet, NAS Jacksonville

**Nov. 9:** Salute to Veterans Dinner & George Linville Memorial Drawing, 6 p.m., Florida Yacht Club

**Dec. 8:** World War II Commemorative Luncheon, noon, the River Club

# A Touch of 'Home' for Our Sub's Sailors

The fast attack nuclear submarine *USS Jacksonville (SSN-699)* is the only warship ever to bear the name of one of America's premier Navy towns. Yet, because she has never been homeported here, many of the sub's 138 officers and enlisted crew know little of their vessel's namesake city.

After her commissioning in 1981, *Jacksonville* set up housekeeping at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., which would be her home through 2009 when she would be transferred to the Pacific Fleet and Naval Station Pearl Harbor, Hi.

Though never based here, "The Bold One" maintained a relationship with the city as an "adopted" ship of the Jacksonville Navy League council. However, with the passage of time and numerous crew rotations, the relationship waned over the years.

Enter Frank Upton, a new JaxCouncil board member with a special interest in our Navy League providing more direct assistance to the fleet. Through correspondence in May with Cdr. Nathan Sukols, *Jacksonville's* commanding officer, and Culinary Specialist First Class Robert Pare, the petty officer in charge of the sub's galley and mess deck, Frank discovered the crew had an identity crisis: Most of them knew little about the city for which their boat is named... its history, its highlights, its sports teams, its people. Together, the three set about to correct that problem.

With the generous support of the City, Jaguars, Suns and Tournament Players Championship, Frank's Adopt-a-Ship Committee obtained and delivered local memorabilia to be placed in a new display case aboard the submarine. Moreover, the council worked with a local sign company to adorn seven otherwise unattractive metal and plexiglass access doors on the boat's mess deck bulkheads with graphic displays depicting various highlights of the River City.

JaxCouncil has undertaken this project as a gift to the crew of the Navy vessel that has represented our city around the world for the past three decades. Though *Jacksonville* is in the

later years of her service life, local Navy League members want the men and women who take her to sea in protecting America and her freedoms to experience the sub's golden years in style.

Special thanks to LSI Inc., one of our community affiliate (small business)

members, for its \$500 donation, which has helped this project become reality.

Thanks as well to FASTSIGNS on Baymeadows for creating and sealing the outstanding door graphics now bringing Jacksonville, the city, home to *Jacksonville*, the submarine.



Frank Upton displays two completed *USS Jacksonville* door panels.



Memorabilia contributed by the city and its headline sports attractions for "our" submarine.



Door graphics bring scenes of Jacksonville home to *USS Jacksonville* sailors.

## Navy Leaguers Eligible for NAS Jax Vehicle Passes

With more and more Navy League events now being held aboard NAS Jacksonville, access to the base for members who do not have a Department of Defense (DOD) vehicle permit has become an issue, requiring a week's advance RSVP to arrange a one-day pass. That's about to change.

JaxCouncil members in good standing may now apply for a individual pass to enter the base in their vehicle, valid from Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. The application process will involve completing a brief form and scheduling a photo appointment at the base.

To obtain the application form, contact V.P. Programs Chuck Tamblyn at [cktamblyn@comcast.net](mailto:cktamblyn@comcast.net) or (904) 412-2795. Upon receiving completed forms, Chuck will setup photo appointments and contact applicants.

Note: These passes will be valid for the bearer only. Unless the vehicle has a current DOD permit, all occupants will need to display a pass or DOD ID card to enter the base.

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## STV Drawing to Define Council Course for 2012

*(Continued from page 1)*

funding our Sea Cadet units, supporting our fighting men and women with projects such as the *USS Jacksonville* mess deck upgrade (see page 3), and helping to finance the Tillie Fowler Memorial NROTC Scholarship Fund at Jacksonville University, among others—require an additional source of income.

Second, unlike our national situation, our council's financial condition can be strengthened quickly and decisively if we who comprise the membership are willing to pitch in and work together. That's where our Salute to Veterans fund-raiser comes in.

On Nov. 9, we will gather at the Florida Yacht Club to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, past and present, for their service and to remember a great patriot and Jacksonville civic leader, George M. Linville, who in 2009 left us far too soon.

A central part of the Salute to Veterans event will be a drawing for 25 or

more prizes ranging in value from \$300 to \$12,945. Our objective is to sell 5000 drawing tickets in the next six weeks; if we are successful, we will raise \$25,000 for our council treasury and fund all our needs for the coming year. Of all the things we are doing in 2011—and there are many—this is Mission No. 1. If we all pitch in, we can do it.

Here's the math: Our 20 board members are committed to sell 2000 tickets, leaving 3000 for the remaining council members to buy or sell. We offer ticket packages of 13 tickets for \$100, 6 tickets for \$50 and \$10 each for 1 to 5 tickets. I'm not a mathematician, but I recognize that these are pretty good odds for some pretty nice prizes.

Now here's how you can help: Buy some tickets and sell some tickets. If each member of our council accounts for 50 sold tickets, we will reach our goal.

In the near future, members may be contacted about doing their part in this council-wide effort. I hope you will say yes, and I hope your packet includes a winning ticket! Finally, I hope you will plan to join us Nov. 9 at the Yacht Club. It promises to be a great event.

*Retired Rear Admiral Tom Watson has been a member of the Navy League since 1992 and a board member of the Jacksonville Council since 1999.*



### 2011 STV Drawing Partial Prize List

- Grand Prize: 11-day trip to Europe for 2. (You select dates and places; includes airfare, hotel, some meals. Est. value \$12,945)
- Large-screen HDTV
- \$1000 cash
- Apple iPad 2 tablet computers (2)
- Tournament Players Championship 2012 week-long passes for 2
- Stearman vintage aircraft flight with former Navy pilot John "Lites" Leenhouts
- Stoerger 12-gauge automatic shotgun
- Amelia Island golf weekend
- Busch Gardens weekend - Hampton Inn
- White Oak Plantation golf plus lunch for 2
- TPC 18th hole flag signed by V. J. Singh
- Jaguars football signed by G.M. Gene Smith, Coach Jack Del Rio, Aaron Kampman, Mercedes Lewis, Paul Posluszny and Blaine Gabbert
- and many more.

### Salute to Veterans

#### Honors Dinner & George M. Linville Memorial Prize Drawing

6 p.m., Nov. 9, 2011  
Florida Yacht Club