

Imperial Valley Council

T-Bone Tidbits

Volume 2015 Issue 7 July 2015



UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY

- 4 25th Annual Freedom Fest
Imperial Valley College | Dusk
- 7 No Meeting Fundraiser
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps
- 9 Miramar National Cemetery Burial
Sgt Charles Schroeter | 9:00 am

AUGUST

- 4 No Meeting Fundraiser
U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps

SEPTEMBER

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

Navy League of the United States

Citizens in Support of the Sea Services

Navy League National Convention Highlights

Skip Witunski elected Navy League National President

Tampa, Florida was the site of the National convention. There were many highlights, the first of which was the election of Tampa resident, Skip Witunski as the Navy League's 48th National President. Skip was elected as the President-Elect at the November 2014 Board of Director's meeting in Linthicum, Md, and has spent the past eight months preparing for the presidency while visiting councils throughout the country.

Also elected to new terms were the National Vice Presidents, National Officers, Board of Directors and Region and Area Presidents.



2015-2016 Navy League National Officers Front Row: Donald Mooers, David Todd, National President Skip Witunski, Past-National President James H. Offutt, Maria-Isabel Dickey, Eleanor Samuels.

Second Row: Lisa Gallinat, Geoffrey Prosch, Warren Savage, John D. Stegman, Thomas Jaffa.

Third Row: Pamela Ammerman, Joseph Lissenden, Alan Kaplan, David Reilly.

Missing from photo: John Jay Donnelly

Imperial Valley Council receives Award

Our council was one of 11 councils out of 245 councils worldwide to receive the "Outstanding Council Award" in recognition for the work we've been doing in our community that meet the mission of the Navy League which is to enhance the morale of active duty personnel and their families; to inform Congress and the American public on the importance of strong sea services; and to support youth through programs such as the Naval Sea Cadet Corps, that expose young people to the values of our sea services. Thanks to you, our members and volunteers, who tirelessly volunteer your time. We couldn't have done it without you — *Congratulations!*



Ted Gallinat accepts the Outstanding Council Award from National President Jim Offutt.



U.S. Navy



U.S. Marine Corps



U.S. Coast Guard



U.S.-flag
Merchant Marine

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
WMEC 720



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

Blacksheep Change of Command, Retirement, and Appointments

Marine Attack Squadron VMA-214 leaders relinquish posts in ceremonies

MCAS YUMA — Commanding Officer Lt Col Mark W. Elfers retired from the United States Marine Corps after 25 years of faithful and honorable service in a change of command and retirement ceremony on June 12, 2015. Elfers relinquished command of the squadron to Lt Col Duane Rivera who most recently was assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 13 as the F-35B Readiness Officer at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma.

Just days prior, on June 10, 2015, the Blacksheep held a Relief and Appointment ceremony where Command Sergeant Major Charles Williams relinquished his post to Sergeant Major Michael S. Burke, a native of San Diego, California. Burke has served throughout the U.S. Central Command area of operations with 3d Battalion, 3d Marines and Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team (FAST) Company Bahrain. He most recently served as the Inspector and Instructor sergeant major with 3d Battalion, 25th Marines in Brook Park, Ohio.

Similar to a change of command, the Relief and Appointment Ceremony though not specifically prescribed by U.S. Navy Regulations, is an honored product of the rich heritage of Naval tradition. It is designed to strengthen authority and respect which is vital to any military organization. In the enlisted ranks, the heart of the ceremony is passing of the organization Noncommissioned Officer Sword by the Activity Commander from the outgoing Sergeant Major to the new Sergeant Major. The passing of the sword signifies the transfer of responsibility which entails the transfer of total accountability and authority from one individual to another.

Passing of the Sword

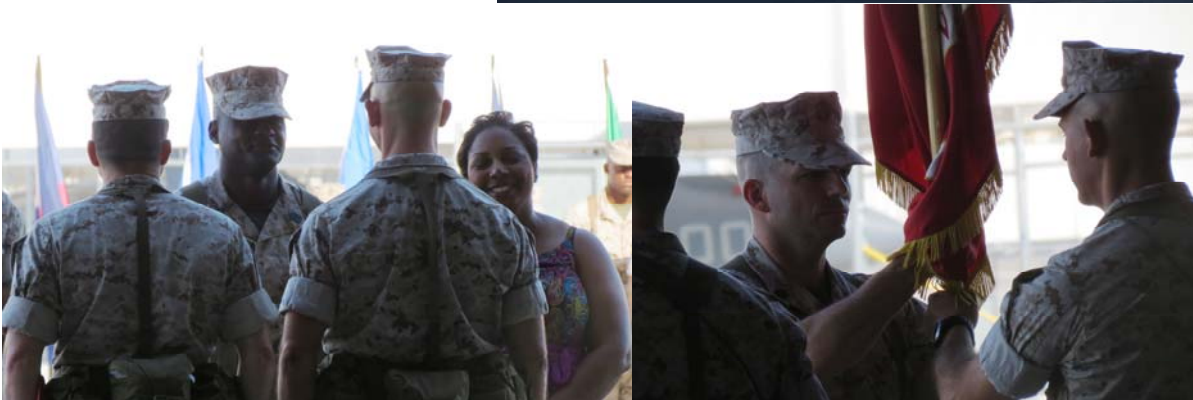
In 1875 the Senior Noncommissioned Officers acquired the sword from their commissioned brothers-in-arms. It is the same weapon, with only minor alterations, which is still carried in Marine Parade formations by Senior Noncommissioned Officers of the corps today. In the early days of the corps when advancement was slow, the Senior Noncommissioned Officer represented many years of serve and their position in the Corps carried great prestige. In the barracks or the field their prerogatives were unquestioned. Their right to carry such an important emblem was a privilege that, in the eyes of the lower ranks, personified the august position to which they had attained. Today a Sergeant Major's primary duty is to lead, and not too shoot.

The sword thus continues as the personification of military tradition and has been entrusted to those most responsible for maintaining it. Its use is now symbolic and limited by regulations to when in charge of troops on ceremonial occasions. Today the emblematic passing of the sword between Sergeant Majors signifies the transfer of this most sacred position and the ecclesiastical benefice, which incurs "Lest We Forget," the sword of today may be just a symbol, but it is a proud one worthy of keeping as part of the Marine Tradition, which has and shall continue to stand the test of time, and which serves as a vital incentive to the young Leather necks of tomorrow.

Semper Parati



L-R: Sgt Maj Michael Burke, Lt Col Mark Elfers, Sgt Maj Charles Williams



Lost to History for 94 Years, Medal of Honor Recipient to be Buried at Miramar National Cemetery, July 9, 2015

He was forgotten, and his remains went unclaimed for almost a century, but Army Sgt. Charles Schroeter – who was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry in an 1869 battle during the Indian Wars – will finally be buried with full military honors at 9 a.m., Thursday, July 9, 2015, at San Diego's Miramar National Cemetery. Schroeter will be the first Medal of Honor recipient to be buried at Miramar.

An honor guard of the 11th Armored Cavalry from Fort Irwin, Calif., led by Brig. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, will join the Miramar National Cemetery Support Foundation at the service, scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in the Memorial Circle.

Veterans, active duty personnel, and the public are invited to attend the historic ceremony. Parking will be on cemetery streets. Miramar National Cemetery is located at 5795 Nobel Dr., between I-805 and Miramar Road.

At the beginning of the ceremony, a horse-drawn hearse – preceded by an Army band and accompanied by an honor guard – will transport an urn with Schroeter's remains to the cemetery's Memorial Circle. The urn will be placed in front of the podium, where it will rest throughout the service.

A rifle squad will fire a salute at the conclusion of the ceremony, and a bugler will play "Taps". The honor guard will conduct a ceremonial flag folding, and will present the flag to the cemetery director, acting as next-of-kin.

Schroeter's urn then will be transported by the hearse to graveside near Committal Shelter A at the north side of the cemetery. The urn will be buried at the foot of a white marble gravestone marked in gold inscription with Schroeter's name, service, birth and death dates, and with the Medal of Honor insignia.

Schroeter's remains were located only recently, when the Congressional Medal of Honor Historical Society traced them to San Diego's Greenwood Memorial Park, where they had rested since 1921. The remains were interred in an unmarked crypt, along with other unclaimed remains.

Acting on information from the Historical Society, and other sources, the Support Foundation successfully sought approval from the Department of Veterans Affairs to have Schroeter's remains re-interred at Miramar National Cemetery. The Foundation also notified the Army command at Fort Irwin, which enthusiastically agreed to participate in a burial and honors ceremony.

Born on the Fourth of July

Charles Schroeter was born on the Fourth of July, 1837, a native of Lüneburg, Germany, but a man who would make his mark in United States history. He immigrated to this country in 1860, eventually locating in St. Louis.

In 1863, he joined the 1st Volunteer Missouri Cavalry Regiment and fought in many Civil War battles against Confederate forces in Arkansas. Following the War, Schroeter joined the U.S. 8th Cavalry and, for many years served in the West as a cavalryman and infantryman.

Schroeter was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Battle of Rocky Mesa on Oct. 20, 1869. The battle followed an Apache attack on a stagecoach that left two civilians and four troopers dead.

Then a private, Schroeter and his comrades – under the command of Capt. Reuben Bernard – tracked the Apaches, led by the great Chief Cochise, into the Chiricahua Mountains of southeast Arizona.

Called the Campaign of Rocky Mesa, the battle was fought on a miserably cold and rainy day. The Apaches had the high ground, and the troopers were hard-pressed to survive the rifle fire that rained down on them from above. Two men were killed and one wounded before darkness brought an end to the fighting.

Schroeter also served five years in the Marine Corps, mostly aboard a Navy ship in the Mediterranean. In total, he gave 30 years, seven months of military service to his adopted country.



Life in Retirement

After retirement, Schroeter and a partner – Edwin Hoopes – opened a confectionary and tobacco store in Buffalo, N.Y. The old soldier never married and had no immediate family, so he lived with the Hoopes family. Edwin Hoopes died in 1913, but Schroeter continued to live with Hoopes' son, Charles. In 1918, Charles and his family – and Schroeter – relocated to San Diego, where they lived in a house on Jackdaw Street in Mission Hills.

Sgt. Charles Schroeter died on Jan. 27, 1921. San Diego Masonic Lodge 35 conducted a memorial service. His remains were cremated at Greenwood Cemetery. There was no funeral, and the remains were never claimed.

"Charles Schroeter fought in fierce battles to preserve the Union, and to free an enslaved people," said Dennis A. Schoville, President & CEO of the Support Foundation. "He fought to protect Americans as they moved west across a vast and hostile continent. He was among the bravest of men and, during 30 years of military service, remained devoted to his adopted country. Charles Schroeter was a true American hero, and patriot, who deserves to finally rest with honor."



Miramar National Cemetery

Thursday, July 9, 2015

9:00 a.m.

USS Fitzgerald to Experience Life Down Under

By Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Patrick Dionne, USS Fitzgerald Public Affairs

The Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile-destroyer USS Fitzgerald (DDG 62) arrived in Brisbane for a port visit, June 25. The port visit will provide Fitzgerald Sailors time to unwind and the opportunity to explore Australia and its culture.

"This presents a unique opportunity for the crew to enjoy some liberty after a very busy year," said Master Chief Brice Baldwin, command master chief of Fitzgerald. "The crew will be able to experience the local culture, history and animal life that has made Brisbane such an important part of Australia."

Fitzgerald's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) committee organized several tours in order to help make the crews' Australia experience as rewarding as possible.

"The tours provide Sailors with a great way to get off the ship and see what Brisbane has to offer," said Chief Interior Communications Electrician Mauricio Donalds. "Some of the opportunities include the Australia zoo, a local amusement park 'Brisbane Dreamworld' and the rainforest and ecosystem, where Sailors will get the chance to interact with wildlife."

Many Fitzgerald Sailors have expressed enthusiasm about the rare opportunity to explore Australia.

"I'm really looking forward to Australia, it's going to be so much fun," said Quartermaster 3rd Class Christiana Casillas. "I never imagined that I would ever have the experience to go to Australia and it will be good to get off the ship and do some sightseeing."

Fitzgerald is on patrol in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility supporting security and stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



Marines on target with F-35 live-weapons release By Cpl. Alissa Schuning | 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

MCAS MIRAMAR — Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 121, also known as the "Green Knights," conducted the first F-35B operational ordnance expenditures, June 22 to 26. Pilots employed the ordnance in Restricted Area 2507 in southeastern California. A total of 14 pilots used six F-35Bs to employ both inert and high-explosive munitions. In total, 18 Guided Bomb Unit (GBU) 12s, and 12 GBU-32s were employed during the training.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Beard, ordnance officer with VMFA-121, the munitions employed by the pilots were the same as those dropped by legacy Marine Corps fixed-wing aircraft, but the dimensions, installation and technology that targets and employs them were different. "The training was hugely successful," said Beard. "We showed that we could employ the weapons that were supposed to be employed, and that we have sound weapon employment systems at this point."

In accordance with the guidelines set by U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation, Lt. Gen. Jon Davis, fleet F-35Bs need to demonstrate the ability to employ ordnance for the squadron to declare Initial Operating Capability (IOC). "The ordnance employment was one of the last pieces the squadron needed for the IOC declaration," said Maj. Brendan Walsh, operations officer and a pilot with VMFA-121. "This training validated the simulated procedures pilots have been training for, and gave us confidence in the jet's ability to perform with real weaponry." The squadron, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, will continue to employ ordnance in the future as it will become part of their normal training cycle, according to Walsh.

"This is an exciting time to be flying this aircraft," said Walsh. "We look forward to continuing to train and exercise its capabilities for combat."

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBER HAL J PARADIS

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Steve Benton, President

Questions or Comments? Website: www.ivnavyleague.org
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Navy League National Convention



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

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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
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OF THE U.S.
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Dear Members,

There will be no meeting in July or August. As has become our tradition these past few years, we'll be conducting our annual "No Meeting Fundraiser" to help sponsor our Sea Cadets units.

Here's how it works: In lieu of attending the monthly dinner meeting in July and August, we would ask you to send an amount equal to the dinner (or any amount you choose) as your tax-deductible donation to the Council for this fundraiser.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a federally chartered nonprofit civilian youth organization for ages 11 to 17.

The program is sponsored by the Navy League of the United States and supported by the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard. It conducts training programs designed to develop an interest and ability in seamanship and seagoing skills, instill good citizenship and strong moral principles, and expose cadets to the value of public service and a variety of career paths. They also focus on developing an appreciation for the country's rich naval history, customs and traditions.

So fall in and join us in investing in our youth. *Thank you for your support!*

Steve Benton

Steve Benton, President

Navy League of the U.S., Imperial Valley Council

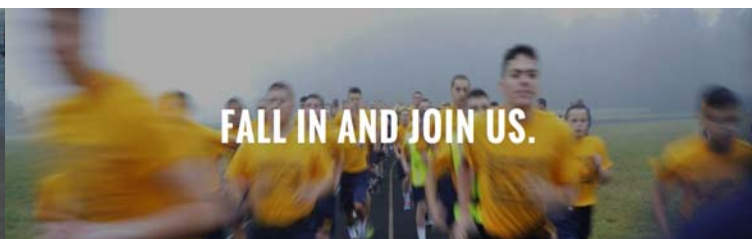
Help us invest in our youth

Yes, I would like to donate \$_____ to the Sea Cadets! Your tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more is appreciated. Please mail your donation to:

I.V. Navy League
P.O. Box 3834
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

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Name:		
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City:	State:	Zip:
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Happy Birthday 72nd Birthday NAF El Centro

Originally the planned site of the Imperial County airport, the Navy leased the facility for use as a Marine Corps Air Station in 1942. The formal establishment of the installation took place on July 24, 1943. The installation operated as a Marine Corp Air Station until disestablishment and subsequent re-establishment to the Navy in May 1946. In 1979 the facility was designated Naval Air Facility El Centro.

Though the planes have changed, the mission has not — to maintain, train and equip combat-ready Naval forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression and maintain freedom of the seas.



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

SEPTEMBER 1st

6:30 PM