

The Foc'sle



A publication of the Ingleside Area Council of the U.S. Navy League

President D. B. "Bull" Walker, INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL, P.O. Box 1046, Aransas Pass, Texas 78335-1046 dustybulltx@gmail.com

March & April
2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 01 **INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL**
Officer/Director's Meeting,
1130, Allegro Bay Restaurant
(formerly Hemingway's).
- May 09 Rockport-Fulton HS NJROTC
Awards
- May 14-17 Los Fresnos HS NJROTC,
San Benito VMA NJROTC, visit
Coast Guard station South
Padre Island, and McAllen HS
MCJROTC Ball & Awards.
- May 22 National Maritime Day
- May 24 Marine Military Academy
Parade and Awards
- May 26 Memorial Day
- Jun 05 **INGLESIDE AREA COUNCIL**
Officer/Director's Meeting,
1130, Allegro Bay Restaurant.

CONGRATULATIONS BM 1

Travis CONNICK on being awarded
the United States Coast Guard
Outstanding Coxswain of the Year (read
the entire article on pages 8 & 9)

AND

LT Patrick A. MARSHALL, AMT
1 Joseph A. ARMIJO and **FN**
Daniel KOERNER our Junior Officer,
Sailor, and Junior Sailor of the Year for
2013

ALL Officer/Director Meetings are OPEN to Council members! We appreciate your inputs on how to make our Council more efficient and fun. Our only request is to please tell Bull Walker [361-463-1201 or dustybulltx@gmail.com] in advance that you will be attending. We want to ensure we have ample space.

Welcome Aboard - no new members
this period.

Renewed: Phyllis & John LIBERTI (8
years, 03/31/14), **Vickie ABEGO (15
years)**

President's Corner
"Bull's Eye"



2013
Officers/Directors:

D.B. "Bull" Walker
(President)
(National Director)

Dusty Walker (Vice
President)

Felix Keeley
(Treasurer)
(National
Director)

Pete Perkins
(Secretary)

Bill Janeczek
(Honorary Director)
Steve Morehead

We are building to a crescendo late April into May. We just completed our 16th Annual Junior Officer/Sailor/Junior Sailor of the Year awards and BBQ at the Coast Guard Hangar #41 at NAS Corpus Christi on 25 April. What a turnout! It looked like we had about 140 Coast Guards men, women, and family members in attendance. We ran out of fajitas and tortillas, first time ever... Congratulations to the winners: **Lieutenant Patrick A. Marshall** (Junior Officer of the Year), **AMT 1 Joseph A. Armijo** (Sailor of the Year), and **Fireman Daniel Koerner** (Junior Sailor of the Year)! Pictures of the event are later in this issue, thanks to the **Coast Guard Public Affairs Department** and **LTJG Drake Thornton**! I can't thank enough those who helped put this event together and without their assistance it would not have happened: **Pat Rios, Steve Morehead, Dusty Walker, and LTJG Drake Thornton**. Thank you, thank you...

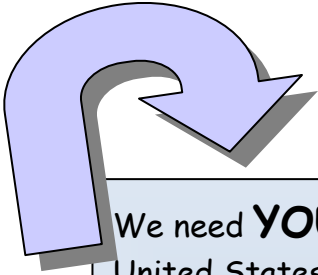
Next month we are off to the Valley twice to award Junior Reserve Officer Candidates the Navy League Theodore Roosevelt Youth Award to cadets from Los Fresnos, San Benito NJROTCs and McAllen MCJROTC. The following weekend we will return to the Valley for Marine Military Academy parade and awards ceremony. Hopefully I'll have plenty of pictures to share with you.

Our primary means of communication is electronically through this newsletter, fliers, and email. If you would like me to include you in our email listing, please include your address (mine is dustybulltx@gmail.com). We treat all addresses with the utmost confidentiality.

Our updated website is up and running (www.navyleagueingleside.org), I hope you enjoy the new format! This site also contains many of our past newsletters. If you have any comments, forward them to me, thank you.

Our Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps have been busy. Please take a moment to read their articles: Thank you **Captain Jeff Carlson** (Rockport-Fulton High School) and **Lieutenant Rolando Gonzalez** (San Benito Veterans Memorial Academy). Thanks to the Coast Guard for the article on Petty Officer **Connick**.

Bull



We need **YOU** as a citizen in support of the Sea Services (United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, and U.S. Flag Merchant Marine).

Who is the **Navy League**?

- It is a community service organization with over **45,000** members worldwide, and **250** councils (chapters) conducting activities in local communities.
- Theodore Roosevelt promoted the founding of the Navy League in 1902, which was supported by the civilian and business communities - the condition that continues today.
- **AND everyone is eligible to be a member, we are all civilians.**

Mission and Goals:

- To educate national leaders and the nation in the necessity of a strong Maritime Service.
- Support the men and women of the *Sea Services*.
- Provide assistance to *Sea Service* families.
- Support youth programs.

Did you know?

- The US Navy has approximately the same number of ships today as **BEFORE** World War I. A serious decline that began in the 1990s and continues today due to insufficient funding.
- **95%** of world-wide trade is now transported by sea.
- The deterrent value of a strong Navy and Coast Guard and the need to protect the commercial sea lanes and maritime borders are necessary for our nation's continued vitality and strength.

America's security and economic interests extend to every region of the globe.

If you would be interested in supporting the United States Sea Services please give us a call or drop us a note. A membership application is on the next page.

Please pass this newsletter to a friend and ask them to join us.

Thank you!

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES:

(Years as Member/Anniversary Date of Renewal)

These are the dates your membership will expire. We continue to support the Coastal Bend Military Service personnel (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S Flag Merchant Marine) and our South Texas JROTCs. We need your continued support!

Jude A. POWELL (7 years, 12/31/13), **Esther P. Williams** (**10** years, 04/30/14, and **Roger Wright** (9 years, 04/30/14). There is no one who is due in the months of May, June, or July.

If there is an error above, please contact **Bull Walker** [790-7337 (H), 463-1201 (C), or dustybulltx@gmail.com] as soon as possible—**THANK YOU**.

LIFE MEMBERS

(Year became LIFE members)

Nancy **ALLEN** (1988), Nancy & Ken **BLEWETT** (2000), Karen **CERVENKA** (2009), John F. **CHAPMAN** (2003), Dr. Cecil A. **CHILDERS** (1985), Cecil A. **CHILDERS III** (1993), Gloria & Bob **CLINE** (2003), "Babe" **CROUCH** (1973), Alan **DEARDORFF** (2001), Bonnie **DEMMITT** (1997), Wilson C. **EDWARDS** (1988), Norman R. **FLEEMAN, Jr.** (1998), Reneatha D. **GOLMAN** (1989), Jeff **GORDON** (1995), Alan **GRELLING** (1975), Ernest L. **HAGNESS** (1999), Genie & Frank **HAMETNER** (1988), Judy & David **HAWLEY** (2002), Martha & Jim **ISBELL** (2000), Bill W. **JANECEK** (1997), Pamela H. & Ronald E. **JORGENSEN** (1996), Barbara & George **KAIN** (1992), Upinder **KAMAL** (2001), Felix P. **KEELEY** (1992), Cassy B. **KEY** (2001), Larry C. **KEY** (2001), Vickie L. & Paul W. **LOEFFLER** (1999), Josephine **MILLER** (1989), John **MILLER** (1989), William M. **MILLER** (2007), Steve **MOREHEAD** (2008), Peter B. **MORGAN** (1988), Bob **O'DONNELL** (1993), Christine M. **PENNING** (2003), Ron **PIFER** (2001), Billie N. & Clayton E. **POENISCH** (2000), Oralia & Felix C. **RAMIREZ** (1992), Jim A. **ROBINSON** (1986), Steve A. **STEPHENSON** (1999), Chela **STORM** (2000), Tina **TREADWAY** (1989), Diane & W. Aaron **TUCKER** (2002), Donna & William R. **VADEN** (1998), Marcia W. & Donald B. **WALKER** (1994), Elaine **WILLEFORD-KEMP** (1992), Suzy **WILLIAMS** (1973), Ronald R. **WOODRUFF** (2001), and Carl D. **WORKMAN** (2002).

Total of 61!

16th Annual Junior Officer/Sailor/Junior Sailor of the Year Awards and BBQ

sponsored by



Helping Here.®



Captain Sam Creech,
Commander Sector Corpus
Christi

Captain Creech with award winners:
AMT 1 Joseph A. ARMIJO, FN Daniel
KOERNER, and LT Patrick A. MARSHALL,



Pat Rios, super server!



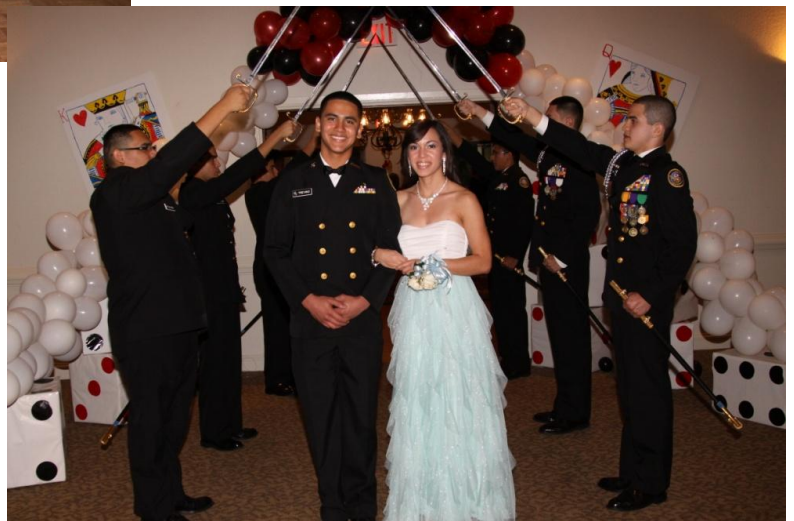


ANNUAL MILITARY BALL: On 8 March, San Benito NJROTC held their 14th Annual Military Ball. Dressed in their finest, over 130 Cadets and guests enjoyed the evening's ceremony, dinner and dancing. This year's theme was "Casino Nights".



San Benito VMA NJROTC Royal Court.

Couples were announced and walked through an Honor Guard, just prior to going through the Receiving Line.





A Ball wouldn't be a Ball without Dancing.

NATIONAL ACADEMIC EXAM: The Academic Teams participated in the National Academic Exam on 19 March. Out of 161 Texas teams, San Benito Team #1 finished in 3rd Place and Team #2 finished in 25th Place. Nationally, Team #1 finished 53rd place and Team #2 finished 328th place out of 1,713 teams. Since Team #1 beat out Team #2, Team #2 bought the pizza, Team #1 the sodas.



San Benito VMA Academic Teams. Kneeling is Team #1 and Standing is Team #2. **Girl Power!**

COMMUNITY SERVICE: On 4 April, 46 Cadets assisted with the San Benito Autism Walk at the Heavin Resaca Park. Cadets assisted as food servers, safety personnel as well as manning other concession stands. The next morning, on 5 April, 21 Cadets woke up to attend the Texas Annual Trash Off. The Cadets cleaned up both sides of a 2 mile stretch of Highway. Afterwards, they were treated to pizza and soft drinks.



The RFHS Navy Junior ROTC competed in the Islander Challenge physical fitness competition on Saturday, March 22nd, on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and came away with the First Place trophy. The team of **Austin Bleiker, Jimmy Carr, Leanna Grimes, Sam Hernandez, Ryan Guerrero, Yesenia Deniz** and **Kennedy Vickers** came in First Overall, beating 28 teams from 14 other schools. The cadets competed against local Navy JROTC high schools including Flour Bluff, Mary Carroll, Foy Moody, W.B. Ray, Tuloso-Midway, and Aransas Pass, as well as Navy and Army JROTC schools from the San Antonio area, Rio Grande Valley and Central Texas.

The teams participated in events including Phase 1: the President's Challenge Physical Fitness Test, Phase 2: the Rope Bridge Crossing, the Log Carry, the Humvee Push, and the Land Navigation Exercise and Phase 3: the Sand Scramble Obstacle Course. This year's team set a new time record of 1 hour and 34 minutes for Phase 2, beating its own record of 1 hour and 45 minutes, set in last year's Challenge. The RFHS NJROTC has now earned a First Place trophy at the Islander Challenge 4 out of the 5



years it has been held (we did not compete in 2012). The Islander Challenge is hosted by the TAMUCC Army ROTC unit, commanded this year by former RFHS NJROTC cadet and Class of 2010 graduate, **Janelle Romo**.

The RFHS cadets were asked by the Port of Corpus Christi to return to the La Quinta Ship Channel on April 23rd for a Ground-breaking Ceremony for the \$750 million steel producing factory owned by the Austrian company, Voestalpine. Over 35 cadets attended and performed color guard duties, worked the beverage table, provided guidance for parking vehicles and greeted guests at the entrance. Also, once again, our Unit Commanding Officer and 2013 Navy League Youth Medal winner, **Cadet LCDR Leanna Grimes**, was on stage leading the crowd in the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

The cadets assisted the Fulton Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary selling sodas and water at Oysterfest the second weekend of March, followed by a tremendous show of support for the Rotary Club handling table service duties at the Taste of Rockport at Paws and Taws in the latter part of March. The next day we took 45 cadets to NAS Kingsville for a great day of fun and excitement at the Wings Over South Texas Air Show featuring the Blue Angels.

Our next community service event will be at the Texas Maritime Museum for the always popular Rockport Food and Wine Festival on Memorial Day weekend. On Memorial Day itself, our cadets have been invited by the city to present the colors and participate as a unit in the Rockport Memorial Day Ceremony. As always, we will also present the colors at the ACISD Closing Ceremonies on Friday, June 6th as well as the RFHS Graduation that night.

We look forward to seeing our Navy League friends at our annual Awards Dinner on May 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the RFHS cafeteria where we will honor our Cadet of the Year with the Navy League Youth Medal again this year!

Coast Guard awards Coxswain of the Year



CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas — A Coast Guardsman was honored as the Coast Guard Coxswain of the year Thursday, March 13, 2014, in Corpus Christi, for his efforts during a law enforcement case in which he intercepted a Mexican boat, after its crew was suspected of fatally wounding a Coast Guardsman while attempting to smuggle narcotics, Dec. 2, 2012.

Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Connick was recognized for sustained superior performance, skill and leadership during the interdiction. **Capt. Samuel R. Creech, Jr.**, the commanding officer of Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, awarded the coxswain of the year the Commander Ray Evans outstanding coxswain trophy.

“He inspires me and the entire Coast Guard who protect our U.S. waterways,” said Creech. During the ceremony, Creech referenced Connick’s “warrior spirit.”



Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Travis Connick receives the coxswain of the year award March 13, 2014, at Sector Corpus Christi. Connick was recognized for sustained superior performance, skill and leadership during an interdiction of a fleeing vessel, which was suspected of fatally wounding fellow Coast Guardsman, Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III.

“My crew and I were just doing what we were trained to do,” said Connick.

When approached, the Mexican boat fled and rammed the Coast Guard Cutter Halibut’s 16-foot response boat, killing one of its crewmembers, Senior Chief Petty Officer Terrell Horne III.

Coast Guard assets immediately responded, along with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to intercept the suspected vessel.

At 3 a.m., Coast Guard Station Los Angeles-Long Beach launched a boat crew aboard a 45-foot Response Boat — Medium, with Connick as the coxswain. Connick and his crew relentlessly pursued the boat in heavy seas and complete darkness, maximizing crew endurance and vessel limitations, to intercept the Mexican boat before it reached Mexican territorial waters. Connick and his crew were more than 90 miles offshore when they intercepted the boat.

Jose Meija-Leyva of Ensenada, Mexico, who was operating the boat intercepted by Connick, was convicted of murdering Horne and is facing up to life in prison. Also in the Mexican boat was Manuel Beltran-Higuera, who was convicted of assault and failure to yield, and is facing up to 60 years in prison.

The Cmdr. Ray Evans outstanding coxswain trophy is a Coast Guard wide competition awarded annually and recognizes a coxswain who demonstrates sustained superior performance, exceptional boat handling skills, and exemplary leadership.

Connick received this award while serving on active duty at Coast Guard Station Los Angeles-Long Beach. He is currently attached to Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi and drills at Coast Guard Station Port O'Connor, as a reservist. He works full time with United Services Automobile Association.

**U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard**



HELP US BUILD OUR NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP! Use the form below or go to our website www.navyleagueingleside.org and sign someone up. Either bring it and the person(s) to our next All-Hands function or **mail it to the address below**. This will ensure that the individual gets future newsletters as soon as possible.

MAKE AS MANY COPIES AS NEEDED, PLEASE PRINT!
THANKS YOU!!

Membership is open to U. S. citizens who are not on active duty with any military service.



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City State Zip Code (+4)

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INGLESIDE AREA

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Mail this form and payment (payable to NLUS) to Bull Walker, 2515 Turkey Neck Circle, Rockport, Texas 78382-3530 to expedite your membership

Navy League of the United States
 Ingleside Area Council
 P. O. Box 1046
 Aransas Pass, Texas 78335-1046

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS (please check one):

- Regular Individual (1 yr) \$65.00
- Regular Individual (2 yr) \$117.00
- Regular Individual (3 yr) \$175.00
- Husband/Wife (1 yr) \$117.00
- Life (to age 55) \$1000.00
- Life (age 56-75) \$750.00
- Life (age 76+) \$500.00
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- Student \$25.00
- Community Affiliate (Application) \$460.00

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