



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
Mirage Club
- 24 Veterans Walk 2015 | 7:30 am
Westmorland City Hall Park
- 25 Memorial Day Services
Evergreen Cemetery | 9:00 am
El Centro Elk's Lodge | 10:30 am

JUNE

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

NATIONAL NAVY LEAGUE

- June 16-21
National Convention, Ship
Commissioning & Cruise
Tampa, Florida

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

Exploring a City at Sea, USS MIDWAY CV 41

Captain Douglas J. Bradt, U.S. Navy (Retired) and Midway Docent

Captain Bradt was graduated from Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science Business Administration in 1965. He went on to be commissioned an Ensign at Officer Candidate School in 1966, and was designated a Naval Aviator in the following year. During his career, he accumulated 862 aircraft carrier arrested landings, and flew the A-4, A-7, EA-6, F-14, and F/A-18.



Captain Bradt served in the Vietnam Campaign from 1969-1970 with 110 combat missions. Following his tour in Vietnam, he returned to school and graduated from U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in 1971 with a Master of Science Personnel Management.

He served a number of staff tours including Communications Officer, Commander Fleet Air Wing 3; Company Officer, U.S. Naval Academy; Air Officer, USS Independence (CVA-62); Senior Officer Topgun Course, NAS Miramar; Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations, Battle Force Seventh Fleet/Commander Joint Task Force Middle East; Force Readiness Officer, Commander Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet; and Director of Education, Chief of Naval Education and Training. He also completed four successful command tours which included Light Attack Squadron 83 (A-7), Carrier Air Wing 30 (F-14, F/A-18, A-7, A-3, A-6, EA-6, E-2C); USS New Orleans (LPH-11), and USS Belleau Wood (LHA-3).

Captain Bradt retired from Naval service in 1994, and went on to become the Director of Aviation Maintenance for DynCorp at Johnson Space Center, TX, the DynCorp Command Staff Advisor to the Commander, Kuwait Air Force, and Vice President Business Development, DynCorp International Dubai, UAE.

Today, Captain Bradt volunteers as a Docent aboard USS Midway Museum in San Diego. As a former Naval Aviator who spent many flight hours at NAF El Centro for training during his career, he is looking forward to returning to El Centro.

Captain Bradt invites you to USS Midway where you'll have an opportunity to explore a floating city at sea and relive nearly 50 years of world history aboard



the longest-serving Navy aircraft carrier of the 20th century. An admission includes a self-guided audio tour to 60 exhibits throughout the historic aircraft carrier and 29 restored aircraft.

The ship's exhibits range from the crew's sleeping quarters to a massive galley, engine room, the ship's jail, officer's country, post office, machine shops, and pilots' ready rooms, as well as primary flight control and the bridge high in the island over the flight deck. There are many family-oriented activities for all ages including: two types of flight simulators, music videos, short films, climb-aboard aircraft and cockpits, interactive exhibits, "Ejection Seat Theater," and much more.

The recently opened 90-seat theater features a riveting multimedia movie about the Battle of Midway: *Voices of Midway*. Plan your visit to Midway today.

**OUR ADOPTED
COMMANDS
AND UNITS**



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EL CENTRO



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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

Service Dogs to the Rescue

By Jim Shinn

I had a great evening last month at the Naval Air Facility. I used to work out there in an outpatient-counseling center and monthly they have a great dinner and program for the community put on by the Navy League. The League does a fine job raising funds to support servicemen and women, military families, and veterans.

Let's get to the food first. If you are a steak eater, there is no better beef to be had in the Imperial Valley. The dinner cost is a donation to a worthy cause, so it is a win-win. They offer the largest T-bone steak to be had and most folks needed two plates, one for the steak and the other for the accessories- beans, salad and bread. It also comes with desert, which I passed on, since I ate my beef down to the bone. The meat was extremely tender and well worth the cost of \$25.00. If you are not a meat-eater, they had vegetarian fare for ten dollars.

A non-profit program called "Next Step Service Dogs" followed up the food with the dog trainers coming from the Escondido area. The purpose of the program is to train and give away dogs to veterans who are experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Combat situations involve traumatic experiences, which can have serious and profound psychological consequences. Just a few of the symptoms of PTSD are nightmares, sleep disturbance, anxiety, depression and social isolation. Even entering a dark home in the evening can be extremely disturbing for someone whose job was to enter dark buildings with the risk of enemy fire or explosive devices.

Dogs have long been used in helping people in pain or to cope with difficulties, such as seeing eye dogs helping the visually impaired.

Normal situations and relationships are difficult for persons who survived extremely abnormal situations, and war is something that affects thousands of service men and women each year. According to the trainer's brochure, over 600,000 military suffer from PTSD/TBI. Next Step dogs help by providing a non-threatening relationship where there can help with tasks such as getting keys or the cell phone, entering a darkened apartment, getting the lights turned on, or just providing loving companionship.

This service of helping veterans is free for those in need and includes learning to use the dog, and the veteran helps to train the dog. Volunteers drive the program and the trainers donate their time.

There is an effort to begin a dog-training program here in the Valley if we have interested parties. Are you interested? You can call Judy Keene of Next Step Service Dogs at 760-438-9190. If you want local dog training information, call Mike Burk 760-353-4391. If you want to support or get involved in the Navy League at the base, call Steve Benton at 760-352-5955. If you need someone to go eat steak with, well call me!

Reprinted from the Desert Review.



The Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. The Project collects first-hand accounts of U.S. Veterans from the following wars:

- World War I (1914-1920)
- World War II (1939-1946)
- Korean War (1950-1955)
- Vietnam War (1961-1975)
- Persian Gulf War (1990-1995)
- Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories. A participant may be a veteran, an interviewer, or person donating a veteran's collection. Students in the 10th grade and above may also participate and there are special resources for educators and students. For more information contact (202) 707-4916 or visit online at <http://www.loc.gov/vets>



NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL CONVENTION

TAMPA, FLORIDA
JUNE 16-21, 2015

Don't miss out on the fun!

Commissioning of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Richard Dixon
Carnival Cruise to Cayman Islands

Post Navy League Convention Carnival Cruise Take a 5-night relaxing cruise after Convention aboard Carnival Cruise Lines *Paradise*. Depart from Tampa and visiting ports of call: Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands and Cozumel, Mexico. Departs from Tampa, FL, June 22, 2015 and returns to Tampa, FL, June 27, 2015.

The Navy Reserve Centennial Book Committee presents *Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always: More than a Century of Service by Citizen Sailors* coinciding with the centennial anniversary of the U.S. Navy Reserve in 2015.

This beautifully illustrated, 208-page, hard-bound book aims to tell the story of those civilian's contributions to the nation's defense and security.



Order your copy today for \$34.95 at www.USNRCentennialBook.com

A portion of the proceeds benefit Navy League of the U.S.



BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY! Sponsorships are critical to underwriting the cost of meals for our active-duty Navy and Marine Corps guests, thereby helping us to defray our costs. In return, our Sponsors receive the gratitude of the council, and our active duty personnel. In addition, our Sponsors receive advertising in this Newsletter, on our website and monthly recognition during our dinner meetings. Please contact Gaylla Finnell at (760) 336-0015 for more information on becoming a sponsor.

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Steve Benton, President

Questions or Comments?

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MEMORIAL DAY

HONOR THEIR SERVICE

VETERANS WALK 2015

Sunday E May 24, 2015

7:30 am

Westmorland City Hall Park

Join community members as we
remember our fallen service members

in this Veterans walk from
Westmorland City Hall to the
Brawley American Legion.

For more information contact
Ernie Mariscal
(760)791-3107

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Monday E May 25, 2015

9:00 am

Evergreen Cemetery

201 East Gillett Road

El Centro

Navy League will provide
refreshments following the ceremony.
To assist, contact us at
(760) 791-7345

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Monday E May 25, 2015

10:30 am

Elks Lodge #1325

631 West Main Street

El Centro

Lunch served following services.



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

May 5

6:30 PM