



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 1 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 4 NAF El Centro Christmas Parade

JANUARY 2016

- 1 *Happy New Year!*
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 5 No Council T-Bone Dinner | DARK
- 15 Imperial Valley Council's 67th Birthday!
- 16 Imperial County Aviation Day
- 29 Council Adoption of USCGC Petral
Naval Base Point Loma | 10:00am

FEBRUARY

- 2 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 26-27 Desert Outing

MARCH 2

- 1 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm
NAF El Centro Mirage Club
- 26-27 Desert Outing

NAF El Centro Mirage Club

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

Pearl Harbor 74th Anniversary

Pathway to Reconciliation: From Engagement to Peace

Since 1983 the National Park Service has embarked down the pathway to reconciliation between America and Japan through its ceremonies, symposia, museum exhibits and educational outreach. The military forces of the United States began its trek normalization with its former enemy in 1945. Starting with the occupation of Japan (1945-51) these nations moved with caution and concern as they edged their way toward peace and reconciliation. Since then the U.S. government and its military have been actively engaged with Japan in the rebuilding and solidifying that friendship. Today our nations share a robust political and military partnership in the defense of the Pacific.



To honor and commemorate the tragic events at Pearl Harbor, and around the world, the council seeks to engage WWII veteran speakers, and honor our remaining local WWII veterans. It is estimated that approximately 413 American World War II veterans die every day. As our local WWII veteran population continues to dramatically dwindle, it becomes more difficult to engage our speakers.

At press time, we have not confirmed our December speaker, but are continuing to seek out one of these heroes.

As our nation come off celebrating Veterans Day, we would like to ask you to extend this season of giving, and invite a local Veteran to dinner as your guest in December. We wish to publicly recognize them, but need your help to reach them. We believe we don't do enough individually — or collectively, to thank our Veterans for their service to our nation. We look forward to seeing you in December.

Joint Operation Turkey

We are thankful. We asked, and you answered.

We've been doing this for so many years, that we wish we could remember when it started, but does it really matter? What matters is that when we asked you to help us support Joint Operation Give Thanks, you answered our call.

For many years, this Council has been supplying turkeys for our active-duty families at NAF El Centro. On Thursday, November 19th with your support, we gave away 162 turkeys to Sailors and Marines. The cost to our council to donate these turkeys was \$3,044.21.

We wish to offer a sincere "Thank You" to NAF El Centro's command who helped us coordinate this effort, and for the NAF Commissary staff who makes it possible to order turkeys and hold the event in their spaces, as well as our volunteers who gave their personal time to hand out turkeys. We would like to extend a very special thanks to our generous donors who donated a total of \$560 toward this very worthwhile cause— and for that, we are very thankful!



**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



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

Joint Operation Turkey

Expressing our gratitude to our Troops



VMA-214 Celebrates 240th Marine Corps Birthday

Council supports Blacksheep with birthday cakes

On November 10th the Blacksheep of VMA-214 at MCAS Yuma celebrated the Marine Corps' 240th Birthday with a cake cutting ceremony at the hangar. Gathered with the squadron was the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The detachment's Officer-in-Charge, Major D'Ambrogio is featured cutting the cake. The youngest Marine, Lance Corporal Aspery, and the oldest Marine, Sergeant Major Willeford, the Blacksheep's newest Command Setgeant Major assisted in the ceremony.



U.S. Navy Blue Angels Welcomes New Boss

On Sunday, November 8th, Commander Ryan Bernacchi salutes as the new commanding officer and flight leader of the Blue Angels. Cmdr. Bernacchi relieved Captain Tom Frosch in a change of command ceremony at the National Museum of Naval Aviation in Pensacola, FL.

The Blue Angels will return to NAF El Centro in early January to begin their winter training in advance of the 2016 show schedule.

The NAF El Centro Annual Air Show is scheduled for March 12, 2016.



Navy League 11-day South America Trip

San Diego Council sponsored travel through Gate 1 Travel - Ecuador, the Amazon, Peru and Machu Picchu

Only 40 spaces are available for the 11-day September 16-26, 2016 travel to South America. A \$200 deposit is required to reserve your space on this trip. The trip price is \$3049 (and only \$2897 if you pay by check). Final payment must be made by July 1, 2016. The travel includes airfare with flights departing from San Diego, hotels, most meals, and English-speaking tour guides.

For more trip information about itinerary, hotels, and optional tours, please contact Hillary Henderson by email at hillaryhenderson79@yahoo.com



The Navy League is a qualified charity under the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Federal, civilian, postal and military personnel are eligible to make charitable contributions through payroll deductions until Dec 15. Tax deductible donations support the Navy League's worthy causes which is to support the men and women in uniform and their families, and youth programs. For more information, visit www.cfctoday.org Campaign #58495

WELCOME ABOARD NEW MEMBER ~ YANXIA WU

Planning to do your Christmas shopping online?

Do you use Amazon.com for your shopping needs? Now you can support the Imperial Valley Navy League while shopping! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon. Same products, same prices, same service, but 0.5 percent of your eligible purchases are donated to your designated charity. Visit smile.amazon.com today to get started.



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Steve Benton, President

Questions or Comments?	Website: www.ivnavyleague.org
Contact us at: (760) 791-7345	Mail: P O Box 3834
Email: contact@ivnavyleague.org	El Centro, CA 92244-3834



The Imperial Valley Council wishes you and yours a blessed holiday season.

Please remember those that cannot be home for Christmas and are still in harm's way.

May God be with them all.

"Christmas at Sea"

The sea is cold, the night is dark...the blowing wind is crisp,
I stare across the ship's huge deck...I did not get my wish.
I wanted so, to be at home...this year on Christmas Eve,
But this will be the year that I...did not get Christmas leave.

I stand and think about my family...gathered by the tree,
I know that one will say my name...and then they'll think of me.

I am not there to share their joy...my country needs me here,
But I am not the only one...who won't get home this year.

I miss my family but I am...on guard for my country,
Protecting those who can have Christmas...is my first duty.
Many men have given all...for us to have that right,
And I feel honored just to sacrifice...a Christmas night.

But still I'm feeling so alone...as many of us are,
As I just stand here on the deck...and watch a Christmas star.

I guess it is a Christmas star...it shines for all it's worth,
And I think back to when a star...foretold His peace on earth.

If only people felt this calm...as on this Christmas Eve,

And not create hostilities...that make their brothers grieve.
Then we could have a peaceful world...as it was meant to be,
But until then we must stand guard...and this night it is me.

Once again my thoughts turn home...my family safe and sound,
Because this ship and other men...are ready to stand ground.
The Navy and the other branches...keep us safe and strong,
So those at home can celebrate...and sing their Christmas song.

But knowing that I must do this...I can't hold back a tear,
Wishing I was home this Christmas...sharing in the cheer.
Seeing all my families faces...lights and Christmas trim,
Now the night is getting darker...as I think of them.

Trying now to fight this feeling...of such loneliness,
Softly speaking to myself...a lonely Christmas wish.
Actually my Christmas wish...is now a Christmas prayer,
Thank you for the men who serve...our country everywhere.

Thank you for our families...who enjoy this Christmas free,
Thank you for the other men...who serve this ship with me.
Thank you for allowing me...to make this sacrifice,
A joyous Christmas for our families...makes it worth the price.

Important Update

United States Coast Guard

Adoption Ceremony Rescheduled

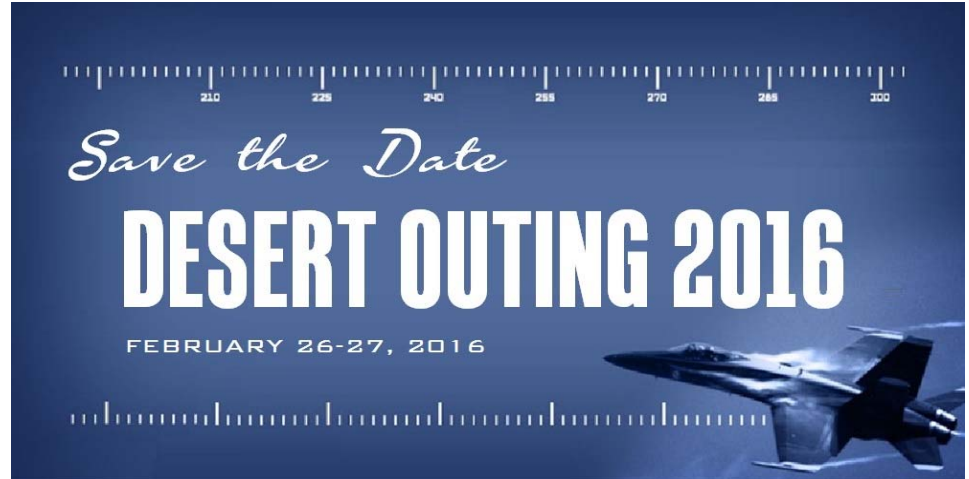
The joint adoption of the USCGC Petrel WPB87350 and USCGC Sea Otter WPB87362 is being rescheduled to late January.

Details will be provided in the coming weeks, with invitation to follow.

We are looking forward to your participation. Please stand by. Any questions may be directed to us at (760) 791-7345.



Don't miss the excitement . . . mark your calendar now, and join us for our major fundraising event. Registrations accepted after December 1, 2015



Naval Air Facility El Centro

Friday, December 5, 2014 at 6:00 PM

Refreshments served following parade. *Please arrive no later than 5:30 pm*



Navy League of the U.S.

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

NEXT DINNER

DECEMBER 1

6:30 PM