

# Imperial Valley Council

# T-Bone Tidbits

Volume 2016 Issue 4 April 2016



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### APRIL

5 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm

### MAY

3 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm

30 Memorial Day Ceremonies | TBA

### JUNE

7 Council T-Bone Dinner | 6:30 pm

14-18 National Convention, Charleston, SC

### JULY

4 Freedom Fest  
Imperial Valley College | Dusk

5 DARK - U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps  
No Meeting Fundraiser

### AUGUST

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

## 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

## U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Boat Petrel WPB 87350

### Officer in Charge and Crewmembers will be guests at April dinner

Last month we introduced the council's newest member of our adopted family — the USCGC Petrel (WPB 87350) and its crewmembers. We held an adoption ceremony in San Diego at the Coast Guard's San Diego Sector. We wish to formally introduce the crewmembers of the Petrel.

The Petrel's Officer in Charge, Master Chief Boatswain's Mate John D. Bowen will be our speaker. In April He'll introduce his crew, and tell us more about their mission off the coastal waters of San Diego.

The Officer in Charge, Master Chief Boatswain's Mate John Bowen is a native of Proctorville, OH. He is a 26- year veteran who completed recruit training in August of 1989. Master Chief Bowen has served tours aboard USCG Cutter FIREBUSH Kodiak, AK; USCG Station Erie, PA; USCG Cutter KISKA Hilo, HI; Executive Petty Officer of USCG Station Seattle, WA; Executive Petty Officer of Station Cleveland, OH; USCG Cutter ALERT Astoria, OR; Officer in Charge USCG Aids to Navigation Team San Diego, Ca; Officer in Charge of USCG Cutter SEA OTTER San Diego, Ca, Officer in Charge of USCG Cutter AHI, Honolulu, HI, Officer in Charge USCG Cutter SEA OTTER prior to reporting to duty aboard USCG Cutter PETREL San Diego CA as Officer in Charge.

The purpose of the council adopting a ship is to concentrate the efforts of our local Navy League members and community with a particular ship. Adoption is one of the most rewarding activities a Council can undertake in showing their appreciation for the men and women who are in service to our country. The adoption implies a commitment of continuing financial support and the cooperation of the council's members and the ship's leadership to foster a meaningful relationship.

By our adoption, we have pledged to continue to contribute to the welfare of the officers, crew and families of PETREL throughout their missions. Our contributions will come in many forms, such as providing assistance to the family members who are left behind during deployments, plan annual outings, host recognition dinners and honor outstanding members with awards, such as Sailor of the Quarter and Sailor of the Year awards, or provide other funding as may be appropriate.

It is our desire that through the adoptions of all our units, ships, squadrons and commands, that we impress upon our military members that the folks back home have made a commitment to enhance the morale and general well-being of them and their families.

To the PETREL and its crew, we say "Thank you!" for letting us be part of your Coast Guard family.

Semper Paratus!



### Welcome Aboard New Members

JANET CERASARO	WILLIAM COLLINS
JOHN COLLINS	BLAISE COLLINS
DOROTHY GRAHAM	BRIAN MARTY
JIM MCGARVIE	GRANT MATTHEWS
PAUL STEWARD	JERRY WIPPER
PAUL WOODWORTH	NEOKLIS ZAMVAKELLIS

### Membership Renewals - Thank you!

RAY CONGDON	ARTHUR CONNOR
ROBERT DONOVAN	BRIAN PETERSON
DAVID PETERSON	ROBERT RAMSAY
CARL SMITH	MARY K SMITH
DIANA STEWARD	PAUL STEWARD

**OUR ADOPTED  
COMMANDS  
AND UNITS**



# Blue Angels Memorial Planned at NAF El Centro

## Memorial to honor fallen Blue Angels

Since the squadron's inception in 1946, a total of 27 Blue Angels have lost their lives in the line of duty. Currently, there is no permanent Memorial dedicated to paying tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. We want to change that. For nearly 50 years, the Blue Angels have called El Centro their Winter Training Home, and for as long as the Blues have been coming to El Centro, the Imperial Valley Council has been doing their part to support the squadron. During these 50 years, there have been six Team members who have died while training in El Centro.

### How it all began

The original concept sketch was drawn by our own Council President, Ted Gallinat, while he was serving as NAF El Centro's Command Master Chief. The design was developed by the Rainforest design team into the "Missing Angel" memorial.

In 2012, officers and sailors from Naval Air Facility El Centro, California volunteered their time to create the Rainforest Art Center at nearby Seeley School. While working on the Center, Naval Air Facility El Centro's Operations Officer, Commander Karl Garcia, and Command Master Chief Ted Gallinat became aware of the history of the Rainforest artists, and their international portfolio. They contacted Director Dan Evers to explore the possibility of working with professional artists, along with students and the NAF El Centro community to create a permanent memorial to those Blue Angels who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

The classic obelisk shape is created in stainless steel, with a richly contrasting black granite base. Within the polished steel framework is a swirling blue sky created in translucent glass mosaic, which is mounted on clear tempered glass. Within the mosaic sky, the jets, sculpted in steel, are honoring their fallen brother with the Missing Man formation. Their contrails show their ascending path encircling the memorial.

On the front of the memorial, above the inscriptions is the "Missing Angel". Directly above him is the prism-cut clear glass, pyramid shaped peak of the memorial, which points directly to the sky and symbolizes his entry into the celestial realm. By day the mosaic, polished metal and black granite will provide beautiful contrasts of reflective color and texture, while by night, the entire monument will be softly lit from the inside, revealing the inspiring silhouette of the Missing man formation surrounded by a deep blue mosaic sky.

It was felt by the Officers and Enlisted leadership of Naval Air Facility El Centro that a tribute and recognition to these fallen Blue Angels is long overdue. It is a great honor for the Navy League, Seeley School and the Rainforest Artists to help bring this vision to reality.

### The Project Takes Flight

With the approval from NAF El Centro's Commanding Officer, Captain William Doster the proposed site location in Blue Angels Park aboard NAF El Centro was given authorization. The Imperial Valley Council together with the Rainforest Art Project, a nature and history-based, educational, healing arts program that inspires children and their families; building a sense of pride and ownership through the creation of permanent ceramic and mosaic art, will raise needed funds to construct the memorial.

### Donate

The estimated cost to construct this project is \$175,000. We have been tasked by NAF El Centro to dedicate this memorial prior to March 11, 2017. Your donations to fund this important project are tax-deductible, and are much-needed to meet our deadline. Make checks payable to: Imperial Valley Navy League

Mail to: Imperial Valley Navy League  
P O Box 3834  
El Centro, CA 92244-3834

### Contact Us

For more information:  
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Website: [www.blueangelsmemorial.org](http://www.blueangelsmemorial.org)  
Email: [blueangelsmemorial@gmail.com](mailto:blueangelsmemorial@gmail.com)  
Facebook: Blue Angels Memorial



# Blacksheep on Deployment

## Engages with Republic of Korea during port visit

BUSAN, Republic of Korea (NNS) -- Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 7 commanded by Rear Adm. John B. Nowell, conducted a scheduled routine port visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) beginning March 3.

During the visit, Sailors and Marines visited and engaged with their ROK navy partners and conducted a cultural exchange with the people of the ROK.

Bonhomme Richard ESG comprises the forward-deployed amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6), amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland (LSD 48) and amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), along with embarked 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU).

Approximately 3,400 Marines including VMA-214's Blacksheep, along with Sailors make up the ESG. Embarked with air elements from Air Combat Element (ACE) and Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 25, the ESG is equipped with the ability to support a wide range of air, land, and sea operations.

The USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) is the flagship of the Bonhomme Richard ESG and recently completed amphibious integration training (AIT) and a certification exercise (CERTEX) with Germantown and embarked 31st MEU.

### A Letter from the Squadron:

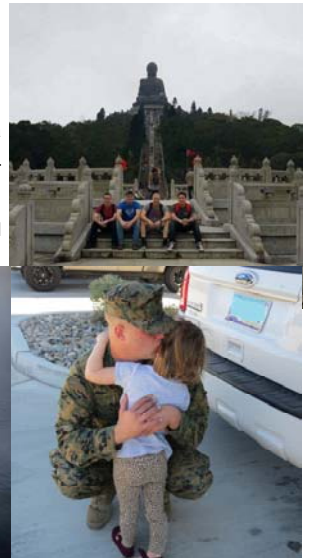
Both the 13th and 31st MEU just completed a joint exercise with South Korea called SSang Yong 2016. It is quite rare for a squadron undergoing a split deployment to get to participate in an exercise together! They trained with South Korea for this exercise in mid-March. After completing the exercise, the 31st MEU has returned back to Iwakuni Japan to complete their deployment.

The 13th MEU headed off to Hong Kong where they enjoyed a 4 day port visit! They were able to site see and enjoy the local culture for a few days while taking advantage of some time on land for the first time in nearly 6 weeks. The photos are from the exercise as well as the 13th MEU departure and port visit. We hope you'll enjoy!

Sincerely,  
Ashley Thorn,  
Family Readiness Officer  
VMA-214



PACIFIC OCEAN - Sailors push an AV-8B Harrier, attached to Marine Attack Squadron 214 (VMA-214) "Blacksheep", to a stopping point on the flight deck of amphibious assault ship USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6). Bonhomme Richard is the lead ship of the Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group and is slated to participate in amphibious integration training (AIT) and a certification exercise (CERTEX) with the embarked 31st MEU. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman William Sykes/Released)



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### Theodore Gallinat, President

Questions or Comments?

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El Centro, CA 92244-3834

## Planning to do your Mother's Day Shopping Online?

**You can support the Imperial Valley Navy League while shopping — and not just on Mother's Day!**

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## Calling Educators for Navy League STEM Institute Internal Grant Program

We want to partner with your school or youth group to start a science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) program. Need seed money? Does your current program need additional funding to expand? The National STEM Committee announced an internal grant program available. Contact us for more information and an application. Visit <http://navyleague.org/stem/index.html>



### **Navy League of the U.S.**

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

**NEXT DINNER**

**APRIL 5th**

**6:30 PM**