



**CAMDEN- KINGS BAY COUNCIL**  
**Navy League of the United States**  
**NEWSLETTER**

<http://www.kingsbaynavyleague.org/>

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**FEBRUARY 2010**

**OFFICERS & DIRECTORS**  
2009-2010

Keith Post, President  
Hunt Thornhill, Sr. V.P., Programs  
Cheryl Aston , Secretary  
Hollis Holden, Treasurer  
Mary Smith, V.P., Operations  
Walt Natzic, V.P., Membership  
Jack Mead, V.P., Youth Programs  
James Steele, V.P. Public Relations  
Charlie Smith, Jr., Judge Advocate

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

THURSDAY, 11 FEBRUARY

**KINGS BAY CONFERENCE CENTER**  
18:00 Social - 19:00 Dinner

*\* Menu \**

**Garden Fresh Salad**  
**Carving Station Roast Beef**  
**Grilled Chicken Breast**  
**Garlic Mashed Potatoes**  
**Mac & Cheese ~ Vegetable Medley**  
**Rolls & Butter**  
**Assorted Desserts**  
**Coffee/Hot Tea/Cold Tea/Water**

Price: \$20.00 per person

**Reservations: (912) 729 - SEAS (7327) or e-mail to: [navyleaguedinner@yahoo.com](mailto:navyleaguedinner@yahoo.com)**  
**Please make reservations no later than Noon, Monday, February 8th. No shows will be billed!**

**Program**

*Captain Aaron Bowman*

Commanding Officer, Naval Station Mayport

## *President's Message . . .*

I write this article to you all as I watch the horrific news reports from Haiti. The devastation that nation has endured is unbelievable and the news accounts are hard to digest and fathom. People who had nothing to begin with now have even less. I know you all share the pride and thanks I feel towards our men and women in uniform who are at the forefront of the effort to save lives in Haiti, and bring some sense of stability to the chaos that has followed the devastating earthquake. I encourage all our Navy Leaguers to support the Red Cross and other charities/organizations who are doing yeoman's work in that nation and making a difference every minute of every day. SUBASE Kings Bay has four personnel en route to GITMO to support harbor/logistics operations there in support of the Haiti effort. Please keep these and all of the good folks who have come from across the globe to assist down there, military and civilian alike, in your prayers as well.

I want to thank all of you who participated in our Annual Toys for Tots/Veterans Appreciation Brunch at Laurel Island Country Club in December. I missed being with you all and I thank Hunt Thornhill for filling in for me. I also want to thank the rest of our crew, Georgia Stilson, Cheryl Aston, Mary Smith and others, who always ensure things run smoothly. I had the honor, along with our Secretary Cheryl Aston, our Vice-President of Youth Program Jack Mead, the COB of the USS GEORGIA CMDM(SS) Rick Rose and many of our Kings Bay Navy and Marine Corps personnel, of traveling to Dublin, Georgia on December 8th to visit our veterans residing at the Carl Vinson Veterans Hospital. We delivered the needed supplies you donated, as well as the Christmas Cards you wrote, to bring cheer to those who have served our nation. It was a very moving visit, and Cheryl and I made friends with a man by the name of Ernest Crummey during our time there. He has no living family, and has been at the hospital over 6 years. We are going to make an effort during the year to keep in touch with him with cards and letters, and look forward to visiting him again next December. I hope more of you will be able to join us in this very moving visit to Dublin next December.

On a national level, we have had a change of leadership at the helm of the day to day operations of Navy League at our headquarters in Arlington, Virginia. Our new National Navy League Executive Director, Jeffrey K. Sapp, began his new position on November 19th, 2009. Jeff is a retired Naval Officer who commanded surface ships during his 30 year career, and was also an All-American football player at the Naval Academy graduating in 1977. I have sent a letter on behalf of our council congratulating him on his new position and to let him know we look forward to working with him.

We have an exciting year ahead of us, and I look forward to your continued support and participation in some important events that are on our horizon. Two of these events are our Annual Sea Service Awards Banquet which will be on Thursday, May 13th, and our council will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of our Charter on Saturday, June 19th. Cheryl Aston is the Chairperson of our Annual SSPOY Banquet and Mary Smith is the Chairperson of the Anniversary Celebration in June. They both are in need of volunteers for these two important activities so be on the lookout for emails announcing committee meeting dates. At our Anniversary Celebration, we will be having our new National President Dan Branch and his wife Kathleen joining us.

And coming up our February Dinner guest will be CAPT Aaron Bowman, the Commanding Officer of Naval Station Mayport. I have had the honor of meeting CAPT Bowman at several events I have attended as the guest of the Mayport Navy League Council, and I know you will enjoy meeting him and his wife Debbie on February 11th. It will be great to hear from him on all that happens with the surface fleet and aviation assets based at our sister base to the south. I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday evening, February 11th as we give a warm Kings Bay welcome to Captain Aaron Bowman and his wife Debbie as our guests. See you then!

*Keith*

## *About our Speaker . . .*

Captain Aaron Bowman graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Following commissioning, he completed pilot flight training and received his wings in September 1985 with orders to fly the A-7E Corsair. While flying the Corsair, he deployed on the USS Eisenhower with the VA-72 Bluehawks and then served as an A-7E flight instructor pilot with VA-122 in Lemoore, California. In 1990, he transitioned to the F/A-18 Hornet and joined the VFA-15 Valions deployed aboard the USS Roosevelt. He completed his F/A-18 flying career with tours as the Assistant Operations Officer for Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic and Operations Officer for VFA-106 as an F/A-18 flight instructor.



Captain Bowman was awarded a Masters in Business Administration with distinction in 1995 and subsequently applied for and was accepted in the Aeronautical Engineering Duty Officer (AEDO) specialty career field. As an AEDO he attended the Defense Acquisition Advanced Program Managers course and achieved the highest level of certification as a Navy Program Manager. As a Program Manager, he was involved with the development and procurement of the Joint Standoff Weapon (JSOW), Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM), and the revolutionary Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar for the F/A-18 E/F aircraft.

In September 2007, Captain Bowman assumed command of Naval Station Mayport. During Captain Bowman's career, he has accumulated more than 2,300 accident-free flight hours and over 300 carrier-arrested landings. His personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and the Navy Achievement Medal.

## *Youth Services. . .*

Sea Cadets: During the 14-15 November 2009 drill, the Kings Bay Naval Sea Cadet Division attended Southeast Region 6-02 drill at Hanna Park near Mayport Naval Station. They participated in team building activities while enjoying meeting and competing with other cadets from Region 6-02.

At the Division Awards Ceremony held at Trident Training Facility on 5 December 2009, Cadet PO2 Katelyn Hocter was awarded the Navy League Youth Medal. PO2 Hocter has a long list of awards for her many outstanding achievements including perfect attendance during her three years as a cadet. Presenting the Youth Medal were Kings Bay Navy League Council members Jack Mead, Cheryl Aston and Jerry O'Donoghue. Pictured with the Navy League members front row left to right are NSCC LCDR June Tillett, NSCC Region 6-2 Director, award recipient cadet PO2 Hocter, brother Sean Hocter and mother Carrie Hocter.



Also at the awards ceremony, the Kings Bay Sea Cadet Division said goodbye to Division Executive Officer, NSCC Instructor Lori Kirlin, and her husband NSCC Ensign Kenneth Kirlin. The couple was presented with plaques by Regional Director LCDR June Tillett for their service to Kings Bay Division. They transferred to San Diego, CA where active duty Navy SN Kirlin was assigned to the USS Carl Vinson. He joined the ship on 28 December and is currently deployed to Haiti. Cadet SN Amanda Hendricks assisted in presenting the Kirlins with a collage depicting their time with Kings Bay Division. This framed collage is now hanging in their new home in San Diego.

On 6 December 2009, four Sea cadets assisted at the Kings Bay Navy League Council Toys For Tots brunch held at the Laurel Island Golf Club where a truckload of toys was collected. During the brunch, the cadets had the opportunity to talk with various Navy League members about their experiences with the Sea Cadets. Pictured left to right are cadets SR Jacob Chesak, SR Megan Hendricks, SN Amanda Hendricks and Youth Medal recipient PO2 Katelyn Hocter.



**NJROTC:** On December 10th, an unidentified NJROTC Cadet is shown receiving a command coin from Capt. Richard Verbeke, Commanding Officer, Trident Refit Facility at Camden County High School. The Naval Science instructors the Camden County High School have worked to expand the NJROTC program and to involve Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay to help Cadets gain experience and meet active duty sailors.



The Camden county High School NJROTC (Wildcat Navy) held its annual Winter Ball on December 11, 2009 at the Clubs of Kings Bay. The ball was attended by our Council Youth Program Chairman, Jerry O'Donoghue and his wife Cheryl. All in attendance had a great time.

On Saturday 16 January 2010, the unit participated in the Kingsland parade honoring the Wildcat football team for its second state championship in as many years.

January 20-22 2010 approximately 40 cadets attended training at the Marine Corps boot camp at Paris Island, SC. Look for an article in next month's newsletter regarding the cadets report of their training.

### ***Welcome New Members . . .***

The Camden-Kings Bay Council welcomes the following new members to the Navy League: Timothy Bryant, George Pierce, Christy Johnson, Lorette Hoover, Gregory Lockhart, David Keating, Robert North, and Alicia Webb.

### ***2010 Sea Services Award Banquet . . .***

Our annual event to honor the top Sailors, Marine and Coast Guardsmen of the Year will be on Thursday, May 13th at the Kings Bay Conference Center. Cheryl Aston has agreed to serve as our Chairperson for the event this year, and she is looking for volunteers to assist in this our signature and most important event of the year. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please email Cheryl at [teacher1@tds.net](mailto:teacher1@tds.net). We will announce the date of the first committee meeting at our dinner on February 11th and by email.

### ***Thanks For Your Support. . .***

Cheryl Aston would like to thank all Navy League members for their generous support and donation of supplies for the Veteran's. This year was the most we have collected and your Council truly appreciate all your efforts. Jack Mead, Keith Post, and Cheryl made the trip to Dublin, Ga on November 6<sup>th</sup>, which was both, enjoyable and heart wrenching. As they visited with many Veteran's there was one in particular who tugged at their hearts. His name is Ernest. He has been a patient at the hospital for 6 years and has no family members and has never received visitors! Cheryl would like for our Council to adopt him. A simple birthday, holiday or just thinking about you card would really make his day and she will be pursuing this "adoption" by contacting the hospital to see what his restrictions are so we can send him care packages. Cheryl will keep you posted and if you would like to participate in this effort, please let her know. Thank you very much for your support again this year!

## *2010 Navy League National Convention. . .*

Jacksonville, Florida will be the place to be this coming fall, October 19th through 24th, at the beautiful Hyatt Regency downtown on the St Johns River. I know it seems like a long way away, but I want to get it on your radar screens now. If you have not ever been to a National Convention, it is a unique opportunity to see first-hand what the Navy League does around the globe. The Awards Luncheon just to name one of many events, where we honor outstanding men and women of the maritime services, is quite an unforgettable event. The opportunity to meet and get to know other Navy Leaguers from across the globe is a memorable experience in itself. I strongly encourage you to reserve those dates on your calendar now, and pay attention to articles in the Sea Power Magazine, and on the Navy League website ([www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org)). I promise you won't be disappointed if you attend some or all of this annual event, which is in our back yard this year.

### *Community Affiliates Honor Roll*

AMERIS BANK ~ BENNETT SUZUKI  
CAMDEN/CHARLTON BOARD OF REALTORS  
FREEDOM SELF STORAGE ~ NORTHROP GRUMMAN  
QC MANAGEMENT, INC. ~ SATILLA COMMUNITY BANK  
SECURIGUARD, INC. ~ SONCEL  
SOUTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM  
VT GRIFFIN SERVICES, INC.