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HILTON HEAD ISLAND COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE OF THE US

www.hiltonheaddlc.com/hhinavyleague.htm



OUTSTANDING COUNCIL *1996*1998 MERITORIOUS COUNCIL *1994, 1999, 2003, 2004

FROM THE BRIDGE

COUNCIL OBJECTIVE

Support the men and women of the sea services by educating the general public and our elected officials on the importance of sea power in the world today.

Our Navy League Council's marquee event - the Hilton Head Island "Navy Birthday Celebration" at the Harbour Town Conference Center in October was exceptional. The "Swingtime" Band was second to none. I could not help but notice that many of our Members were up and dancing before they had completed their dinners. THANK YOU so much Dick Goodrich, Dennis Buckley and your Navy Birthday Celebration Team for a superb evening. Your efforts paid off many fold.

As I write this, our Hilton Head Island Veteran's Day Ceremony and later dedication of our Island Veteran's Memorial at Shelter Cove are both close on the horizon. I hope many of you will join your Navy League Council, the HHI Military Veterans Coalition, your Town Council and I at both events.

The next events on our calendar program are the Christmas Luncheon with Mayor Tom Peebles on December 2nd, and our Annual Meeting on January 20, 2006.

It is my sad duty to report the passing of Joe Hutchinson. Joe helped found our local Navy League Chapter and he and his wife Dorie continued to support our Council and attend our activities.

As Thanksgiving approaches, we can of course give thanks for the freedom our Veterans have assured for us and the current Active Duty Military Members continue to fight for. I for one, feel "blessed" to be living in such a great Country and doubly so to be living on Hilton Head Island. I wish you a safe and super Thanksgiving.

Please feel free to call or email me personally with any thoughts, criticisms or ideas:
(843-247-1159, hyersp@cs.com).

THANKS again for being a Navy League Patriot.

Pete Hyers
HHI Council President

DECEMBER LUNCHEON TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE MAYOR

Recently you should have received a flyer announcing the Hilton Head Council's Christmas Celebration with guest speaker Hilton Head Island's Mayor, Tom Peeples scheduled for December 2, 2005 starting at 11:30 AM. Lunch will commence at 12:00 and the Mayor's talk about 12:30.

The menu features Hot Plate Lunch consisting of Gourmet Rolls with Butter, entree of The Classic Chicken Caesar (Grilled Breast of Chicken tossed with Romaine Homemade Croutons, Parmesan & Caesar Dressing), Pecan Pie and Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea & Water Service. Cost is \$15 with seating pre-arranged.

He always provides insight into the future of the Island's progress. Your questions will be accepted at the end of the talk. It promises to be an interesting and informative meeting, and regardless of your politics, you won't want to miss it!

Return the flyer's coupon with your payment to Bill Baker at 4 Gracefield Road, Hilton Head Island, SC 29928. See you there!

2005 BLANCHARD MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The tournament was a huge success with 92 players participating. This was the largest turnout in the five



From left to right: Jeff Bolte, Denny Conroy, Bob Boyd, Sammy Blanchard (holding rotating trophy), Ken Hewitt.

year history of the tournament. The weather was beautiful (no rain this year) and the course was in excellent

shape. The Armed Forces Golf Championship Tournament had been played on the course the week preceding our tournament and accounted for the well manicured condition. The awards lunch held at the on base "Traditions" Club following the tournament. The food, as usual, was plentiful and delicious. All members and their guests had a great time socializing and telling golf tall tales. This event has become one of our Council's most successful events and if you missed it this year be sure to sign up next year you will have a great time at a great price!

MARINES, POST OFFICE UNVEIL COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS



Gen. Michael W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, and John E. Potter, Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service, unveiled the Distinguished Marines commemorative 37-cent U.S. Postage stamps at Marine Barracks Washington on the 230th Birthday of the Marine Corps, Nov. 10. The stamps depict legendary Marines, Daniel Daly, John Basilone, John A. Lejeune and Lewis "Chesty" Puller.

Information reprinted from www.usmc.mil.

SIGNIFICANT UPCOMING EVENTS

The 2006 Annual Meeting will be held on January 20, 2006 at the Country Club of Hilton Head. This is the most important meeting of the year for members of the Hilton Head Island Council of the U.S. Navy League. In addition to other business and information, we will present the budget, planned programs and our Nominations for the Board of Directors for the ensuing year. The evening includes an cash bar as well as a great meal. Good conversation and good information highlight the evening. Be sure to be there.

Also, our annual New Member Valentine Cocktail Party will be on February 19, 2006. This is a good opportunity for new and old Navy League members to get to know each other, meet with our officers, and view our programs for 2006. This is a great opportunity to bring friends to meet with our members as well as others curious about our group. We'll tell them about the Navy League in a very short briefing and layout our program for the year. Join us in welcoming new and prospective members.

For more information concerning these, as well as other planned 2006 events, read your NAVYgator every month.

STATUS OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY

NAVAL PERSONNEL

Active Duty: 361,478

Officers: 52,710

Enlisted: 304,388

Midshipmen: 4,380

Ready Reserve: 140,831 [30 Sept.]

Selected Reserves: 76,473

Individual Ready Reserve.: 64,358

Reserves mobilized: 4,353 [9 Nov.]

Personnel on deployment: 34,345

Navy Department Civilian Employees: 176,377 [as of 31 Oct.]

SHIPS AND SUBMARINES

Deployable Battle Force Ships: 280

Ships Underway

(away from homeport):

148 (53% of total)

On deployment:

98 ships (35% of total)

Attack submarines underway

(away from homeport):

27 submarines (50%)

On deployment:

14 submarines (26%)

SHIPS UNDERWAY

Carriers:

USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) - Pacific

USS Enterprise (CVN 65) - Atlantic

USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) -
Persian Gulf

USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72) - Pacific

USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) - Pacific

Amphibious Warfare Ships:

USS Essex (LHD 2) - Pacific Ocean

USS Peleliu (LHA 5) - Pacific Ocean

USS Juneau (LPD 10) - Pacific Ocean

USS Whidbey Island (LSD 41) - Atlantic

USS Germantown (LSD 42) - Pacific

USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) - Pacific

USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) - Atlantic

USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) -
Sea of Japan

**Tarawa Expeditionary Strike Group
[13th Marine Expeditionary Unit
(MEU) (SOC)]**

USS Tarawa (LHA 1) -

North Arabian Sea

USS Cleveland (LPD 7)-

North Arabian Sea

USS Pearl Harbor (LSD 52) -

Persian Gulf

**Nassau Expeditionary Strike Group
[22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit
(MEU) (SOC)]**

USS Nassau (LHA 4) - Atlantic

USS Austin (LPD 4) - Atlantic

USS Carter Hall (LSD 50) - Atlantic

Aircraft (operational): 4,000+

PROGRAMS FOR 2005

**2 December Mayor's Christmas Lunch/Cash Bar/Lunch/CCHH
Hyers/Baker**
**20 January 06 Annual Meeting/Cash Bar/Dinner/CCHH
Hyers/Martin**

SENATE VOTES TO REVERSE MEDICARE, TRICARE CUTS

Earlier last week, the Senate voted to approve its budget reconciliation package (S. 1932) - a combination of spending cuts and benefits improvements.

One key provision in the package would reverse a scheduled 4.4% reduction in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors now scheduled for January. Instead, the Senate bill would substitute a 1% payment increase.

For military retirees this change is essential. Thousands of military beneficiaries already have difficulty finding doctors who will accept TRICARE patients.

Medicare and TRICARE already are among the lowest-paying insurance programs in the country, and any further cuts would only prompt more providers to turn away military and elderly patients.

Doctor participation is an even greater problem for TRICARE than for Medicare, because low payment rates are compounded by TRICARE-unique administrative requirements and lower patient volume. That's particularly true for Guard and Reserve families, retirees, and survivors who live in areas where there isn't a large military population.

The Senate-approved package also would defer implementation of an annual \$1,500 cap on Medicare payments for physical therapy that would otherwise take effect in 2006. Like the payment-cut formula, the therapy cap was enacted several years ago as a budget-cutting measure, but implementation has been deferred in each of the last two years in recognition that it would impose undue penalties on stroke victims and others who need extended physical therapy.

The Senate action is a positive step, but it's only a start. The House budget plan envisions letting the payment cuts take effect.

Inform your House member, urging them to adopt the Senate Medicare/TRICARE payment changes.

TAPS

Joseph W. Hutchinson, 79, of Hilton Head Island died Friday, Nov. 4, 2005, at Memorial Health University Medical Center. Joe was a founder of the Hilton Head Island Chapter of the Navy League of the United States.

He was born in Winchester, Ind., and grew up in Cambridge City, Ind.

Mr. Hutchinson joined the U.S. Marines with his brothers in World War II. He attended Purdue University where he met and married his wife. Upon graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, he accepted a job with Union Carbide. His career took him to India, Singapore and Venezuela. He retired to Hilton Head in 1983 as the president of Union Carbide de Venezuela.

An avid golfer, he was most proud of being the first American to win The Asian Golf Challenge Bowl in 1962 at the Royal Calcutta Golf Club in India.

Surviving are his wife, Dorie; sons, Bob Hutchinson of Bluffton, and Scott Hutchinson of Hollywood, Fla.; brother, Rupert Hutchinson of Columbus, Ohio; and sisters, Martha Jean Ervin of Indianapolis, and Anne Hinds of Louisville, Ky.

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