

# Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S MARINES, SAILORS, COASTGUARDMEN,  
US MERCHANT MARINERS & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1963



## THE ROPE YARN GAZETTE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

DEC 2016

### Scheduled Meetings:

The Patio Restaurant,  
Ave A Yuma, AZ

19 JAN: General Mtg 6 pm

16 FEB: General Mtg 6 pm

16 MAR: General Mtg 6pm

### Upcoming Events:

21 JAN: Yuma NLUS Car Show

04 FEB: Yuma Mil Appreciation Day  
0800-1500, AWC Campus

11 MAR: Change of Command,  
Yuma Naval Sea Cadet  
Squadron, 1300-1400

18 MAR: AIR SHOW, MCAS Yuma

## YUMA MARINES CELEBRATE 241 YEARS AS NATION'S 9-1-1 FORCE IN READINESS



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### YUMA's ELECTRIC LIGHT PARADE



Council members  
ride in style on the  
Yuma Navy League  
Holiday Light  
Parade float.

Thanks to Mike P.  
and a small group  
of volunteers for  
our inaugural  
attempt!



DECEMBER 2016

President

Bob Nidiffer

Vice President (PAO)

Valerie Millsum

VP At-large

Mike Perry

Treasurer

Rochelle Thompson

Secretary

Patti Michael

Master at Arms

Bob Maytum

Military Affairs Committee

Chair: 'doc' Hager  
Barney Baraka, MAC  
Larry Mallory

Youth Programs Committee

Chair: 'doc' Hager  
Gary Tomlinson, NSCC  
Chuck LeDrew, JROTC

Neptune Council

Chair: Henry Chavez

NL Car Show Committee

Chair: Larry Mallory

Facebook Editor: 'doc' Hager

Rope Yarn Editor: 'doc' Hager

Website: under reconstruction

**Questions / Comments?**

**Letters to the Editor?**

**Contact us at:**

NLUS Yuma Council

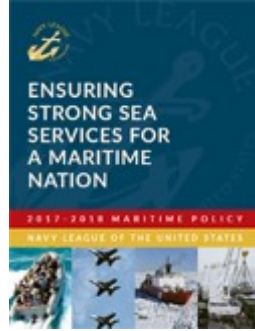
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## ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD

As we look towards 2017, Navy League Members have both local and national concerns to address. At the national level, our leadership has just released it's updated Maritime Policy Statement. All members are encouraged to download from the national website, give it a good read, and reinforce these positions to our elected officials.

### ***Navy League's 2017-2018 Maritime Policy Statement:*** **"Ensuring Strong Sea Services for a Maritime Nation"**



*The Navy League is committed to educating the senior leadership in the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government, the media and the American people about the critical importance of the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine as they protect our national interests throughout the world. The combination of partnership and presence are keys to our success in the future*

## OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT!

As our newly elected Board prepares for taking charge in 2017, the Yuma NL Council can look forward to quite an exciting year. January will bring with it our annual budget and council consensus on our annual donation activity (paying it forward again). Make plans folks.. The 21st will bring on a sunny day for our annual car show fund raiser (guaranteed by the chairperson of course). *Cruisin' Yuma* has become a car club staple event and this year should be no different.

January should also be when we can take stock of our December Recruitment efforts. As of last meeting, 'doc' H. reported 9 new members signed up (average age under 40 y/o) with another 4 Board-approved 'guest memberships' on tap being worked on. For a region of 90,000 –let's make a good final push for at least 10 more!

Seems like yesterday, but Jan-March is our college scholarship time frame. Time to get the word out everywhere. Just contact Bob N or Valerie if you can assist in the 2017 Committee.

Website under reconstruction: While our Face Book page is really busy with lots of usage, our website has gotten creaky and out of date. Many people use tablets and smart phones to read and the old standard NLUS template doesn't support today's readership. So, we're actively redesigning our website to accommodate our members' (and future members) needs; essentially making it easier to read and navigate. We hope to have this completed by February 2017.

Want to help out? Committees are forming for 2017. We are always stronger as a team. Stay tuned... more from the "Pres" on this soon.

*Editor*



## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ~ OCT - DEC

### YUMA COUNCIL HAS A RECORD BREAKING SEASON

As always, the Fall season sure keeps us Navy Leaguers busy!

October saw our best Dinner Concert ever, with the return of guitarist Dr. Costa. As the stars came out, attendees were treated to a great evening of fellowship, wonderful food, and soothing music. Our silent auction has the best collection of gifts so far and helped our charity efforts immensely. According to our Treasurer, 2016 is shaping up to be one of our best years ever in fund raising—now it's time to give back!

Council President Bob N. and VP Valerie hosted sea cadets who assisted in the event with, of course, celebratory thanks Pizza!

Thanks to the Bonsky clan and our own 'doc' H. for supporting the Veterans Day Parade; leading the way for our sea cadets down 4th Ave and co-hosting the USS Arizona's recommissioning event.

A big Bravo Zulu to all council members who helped out with our Toys-for-Tots effort this year. Along with our Sea Eagles, three big boxes overflowing with toys were donated to our Marine Corps Reservist this year.

..and don't forget the Salvation Bell Ringing! We will know by January, but we may break our own (and the Yuma) record for one day donations... stay tuned!





We Navy League members have it really great as we can celebrate locally two great anniversaries each year; the United States Navy in October and Marine Corps in November. That's several events to attend and at least two large celebratory cakes to deliver!

This year was the first we can remember that no local Navy Birthday Ball was scheduled; as the majority of our Yuma sailors were deployed overseas. But that did not stop the celebration for those still on base. Hosted by both MCAS Yuma medical and dental commands, active duty Naval personnel, VIPs, and guests converged on the MCAS Health Clinic facility. The guest speaker, a retired Master Chief Petty Officer, provided a positive brief emphasizing the excellent opportunities sea service professions provide and offering to those assembled personal insights how he matured and evolved during his distinguished career.

As always, the Yuma Navy League Council was on-hand to support our sailors and, of course, deliver the ceremonial cake (yum). The Navy Color Guard stood tall for opening ceremonies and all assembled naval personnel looked sharp as expected. The ceremonial cake was cut by CDR Maldarella, MSC/PA, USN with traditional slices provided to the youngest and oldest sailor in attendance. We can all be justifiably proud of today's young men and women of our United States Navy.

***Bravo Zulu, Yuma Sailors!***

#### **Navy League members team up to support 2016 MARINE CORPS BALL**

New for 2016, two members of Yuma's NL Council provided the ceremonial cake for MCAS' Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) 241st Birthday Ball (thanks to Dean & Gloria). As an adopted command since 1963, it is our honor to support both parade field and ball activities celebrating 241 years of dedicated service as our nation's finest sea-based expeditionary force. From renovating the main entrance Iwo Jima memorial mural to supporting the single marine program (SMP), the Yuma Navy League stands by the marines and sailors of H&HS.





In 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved “that Two Battalions of Marines be raised” during the Revolutionary War. This year marked the 241st anniversary of that decree.

“The word ‘Marine’ spans time, places, people, personalities and exploits,” declared Cpl. Summer Romero, the narrator for the ceremony and a combat photographer with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. “This morning we gather to recall our past history, pay homage to past generations of Marines and to honor all Marines who have served in every clime and place.”

It is this legacy of war-fighting that emerges when the first Marine in the uniform pageant, clad in an iconic green coat of the Continental Marines of 1775, steps front and center. The green coats with high leather collars distinguished the Marines from the blue of the Continental Army and Navy, and the red of the British. These same uniforms would be seen over the Atlantic and on New Providence, Bahamas, which was the first amphibious landing in the history of the United States. Then, a marine in each subsequent uniform change steps forward to have each era’s events acknowledged.

At last, a male and a female Marine march down the field in the iconic Dress Blue uniform. Since its inception in 1798 to this day, the Marine uniform continues to pay tribute to the history of the Corps by keeping the high collar on the coat, the 13 buttons representing the original 13 colonies and the blood stripe on the trousers.



After the uniform pageant concluded, the slow Marine’s hymn starts to play. Four Marines carefully escorted the birthday cake, covered in white frosting, to the center of the field. The Headquarters and Headquarters Station adjutant stood in front of the cake and read aloud the 13th Commandant’s birthday message to remind the crowd of the rich heritage of the Marine Corps.

Attendees looked over-head to see a HH-1N “Huey” helicopter flying above the parade field and circle back around. The Huey hovered over the far end of the parade field as a Navy Corpsman with Search and Rescue rappelled 100 feet to deliver the ceremonial non-commissioned officer sword to Col. Ricardo Martinez, the station commanding officer. The Corpsman then marched to Col. Martinez and delivered the sword. Col. Martinez then used the sword to cut out a piece cake. He presented slices to the oldest and youngest Marine as is the custom.

As Yuma Navy League members, it is a privilege to participate in honoring our US Marines of the past and of today. Cake-cutting ceremonies and uniform pageants are a tradition that allow our Yuma Marines, young and old, to show gratitude for those who came before them and share some history with our community.

*Semper fi!*



## Naval Sea Cadets



**Sea Cadet Find Raiser  
Pebble Creek Golf Resort, Glendale AZ**

OCT 2017: Yuma's navy sea cadets pose with Marine Corps senior staff NCOs at MCAS Yuma Aircraft Traffic Control (ATC)



We can be justifiably proud of our Yuma Navy League Cadets and Naval Sea Cadets. Training this Fall included instruction in Land Navigation, basic Seamanship, and in-depth experience at MCAS Yuma's Air Traffic Control (ATC) facility; a FAA air controller training site.

Sea Eagles who earned the privilege of traveling to Pearl Harbor in December, continued their fund raising efforts by co-hosting a Hawaii trip fund raiser Golf Tournament in Glendale AZ with the local "Veterans Pride Battalion" sea cadet unit.



October also saw our cadets volunteering to serve over 1000 spaghetti meals over four days to active duty Marines and their family members on board MCAS; supporting a family night for a deploying aviation support service squadron.

Participating again in the Veterans Day Parade, our cadets were greeted by enthusiastic applause from the crowd. Afterwards, at American Legion Post 19, both units supported the USS AZ replica's re-commissioning ceremony.

Several active duty officers approached our Sea Eagle commander with praise for our unit's professional conduct and appearance. .. and we didn't forget their Pearl Harbor trip! Check out our Facebook page for the pics.

**BRAVO ZULU cadets!**





## Naval History Slice

### Navy warship named for 1st black Marine Corps aviator

By: The Associated Press, November 27, 2016 (Photo Credit: Cpl. Jason Jimenez/Marine Corps)

TOPEKA, Kan. — A U.S. Navy destroyer warship has been named in honor of a Topeka three-star general who became the first black aviator, first black general and first black base commander in the Marine Corps. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus announced that the destroyer, which is under construction, would bear the name of Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr., according to the Topeka Capital-Journal.

Petersen enlisted in the Navy in 1950, and left in 1952 to accept a commission as a second lieutenant and become the first black pilot in the Marine Corps. He flew over 350 combat missions and more than 4,000 military aircraft hours throughout the Korean and Vietnam Wars.



Brig. General Matthew Glavy, left, and Secretary of the Navy, the Honorable Ray Mabus, center, pose with family members and friends of the late Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen Jr. during a ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., Nov. 9, 2016. Photo Credit: Cpl. Jason Jimenez/Marine Corps .

Petersen retired in 1988 as the senior aviator on active duty in the U.S. military, and died in 2015 at the age of 83. He received multiple awards for his service including the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal and the Legion of Merit with Valor Device.

Construction of the USS Frank E. Petersen Jr. began April 27 in Mississippi. It is expected to enter the fleet in 2020.

#### Did you know? *ROPE YARN*:

A period, traditionally on Wednesday afternoons, when the crew was excused from most duties and had light duty mending uniforms and hammocks, and darning socks. When at sea, the crew was similarly excused on Wednesdays for light personal chores which allowed for more social time and conversation.

## NLUS YUMA COUNCIL

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American liberty is built on a  
strong national sea service.

"Speak softly and carry a big stick;  
you will go far"  
US Pres. T. Roosevelt

We're on the web!  
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### Your YUMA NL COUNCIL

In 1963, the Yuma Council adopted it's first command, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. Since that time, several base reorganizations have occurred. Currently, in-garrison adoptees include both MCAS Headquarters Staff and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). H&HS is responsible to the Base CO for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to keep it running as a small "community within the community". Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. With assistance from roughly 1,200 civilians who work aboard MCAS Yuma, they work to keep the station operational through the efforts of a variety of units and sections. Adopted sections include air traffic control, airfield operations, administration, logistics, range management, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, combat camera, aircraft rescue and firefighting, military police, postal, legal, public affairs, search and rescue, financial operations, and the dining facility.

Other adopted units include the USNS YUMA (EPF8), MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic, MCAS Branch Dental Clinic, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, and US Navy League Cadet Training Ship Sandburg. Supported units include Yuma Young Marines and Yuma MCJROTC.



## Navy League Foundation

### Application for \$2,500 to \$10,000 college scholarships

*The Navy League's Premier Program to Support the Children of the Men and Women of the Sea Services through Scholarships.*

The Navy League Foundation scholarship application process is entirely online. Applications open November 1, 2016 and close March 1, 2017.

**For the 2017 Application: GO TO: <https://navyleague.org/scholarship/application.html>**