



Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



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

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The Rope Yarn Gazette

YUMA NAVY LEAGUE CELEBRATES 2020 NAVY BLUE ANGELS



Meet the Blue Angels
"Big Steak Night"
NAF El Centro, CA



Members of Yuma's Navy League, our council guests, and two sea cadet Chiefs attended the 2020 Blue Angels "NL Big Steak Night" hosted by the Imperial CA Navy League. Attendees had the rare opportunity to meet & greet this years Blue's officers at their tables and converse over a great meal. It was especially fun to watch the cadets ask questions of the seated officers and receive encouragement and positive remarks to pursue their dreams. The evening concluded with everyone commenting that the drive was worth it. Our thanks to Imperials council for the seats. See you at our Del Mar Races event this August!

NEW MCAS YUMA SAFETY DIRECTIVE FOR ALL PERSONNEL 3/18/2020

MCAS Yuma is dedicated to disseminating timely and accurate information to alleviate misinformation about COVID-19 aboard the installation. At the direction of the Commanding Officer, and in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19, we are making modifications for the safety of all personnel aboard MCAS Yuma.

To see specific services or club changes, see page 6.



DEC 2019

2020 Council Officers

President

Dean 'doc' Hager

Vice President

Shawn McKeown

Treasurer

Marie Michael

Secretary

Rochelle Holman

Master at Arms

Nancy Ramsey

Membership

Bill Bonsky

Community Liaison Team

Dean Hager (Chair)

Shawn McKeown

Gina Blackwell

Scholarship Committee 2020

Rochelle Holman

Rochelle Thompson

Nancy Ramsey

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Please contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

US NAVY LEAGUE

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WHY ARE WE 100% CIVILIAN?

Over the years, many members have asked why the Navy League of the United States is a community service organization and not a formal veterans organization like VFW, Am. Legion; and why active duty service members may not join.

When the Navy League was first created in 1902, it was necessary for the Navy to avoid the appearance of questioning the elected leadership directly. The Navy League's 100% civilian status provided a unique opportunity to educate the American people, including elected leaders, about the importance of sea power and sufficient support of our sea services.

Since then, other military affiliated organizations have limited their membership to combat veterans or vets from a specific military service. Many have also opened their ranks to active duty personnel. In both cases, the Navy League has not. This difference provides the Navy League with an important quality not found in other associations. When we speak out about issues affecting our Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or US Merchant Marine, we do not say anything to gain personally for our organization.

In recent times, our concerns have been, in many cases, similar to those of other organizations. As a national lobby organization, we can take pride that our collective voice not only reinforced the message but provided that extra kick necessary to see positive results!

OUR YUMA COUNCIL

Yuma Council members reflect a patriotism and willingness to help that truly is "YUMA". WE are veterans, non-veterans, mothers, fathers, even snow birds! As citizens of this wonderful nation, we support the League's three missions. First and foremost is support of our active duty Marines and Sailors assigned to MCAS Yuma. By formally adopting the Air Station (1965) and its Navy medical/dental tenant commands (2015-16), we keep abreast of current needs and put our time and finances where they are most helpful.

Second, to advocate and educate, we participate in key networks such as the County Military Affairs Committee and Yuma 50. We founded Yuma Military Appreciation Day (now a city heritage event), created the sea services component of our community's Veterans Day Parade, and were VIP representatives at the Christening of the USNS Yuma aboard Austal USA's shipyard. We activity partner with other local organizations to "get 'er done" when necessary. Most recently was an initiative in providing bus transport funding for our active duty. Starting with a few hundred-dollar council donations and promoting this growing need through Yuma MIL Affairs Cmtte, we watched it quickly morph into a community MCAS transport fund coordinated by the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce. Teamwork!

Our third mission is equally important and has grown exponentially over the last decade: supporting Yuma's youth. Our small group of citizens are proud to provide several college scholarships and financially support Yuma's MC JROTC, Naval Sea Cadet, Navy League Cadet, and Young Marine programs.

That's your Navy League.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

NEED TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP? Don't let your membership expire. Checking your date is easy. You can log in to National's web page to check - even RENEW right there! If you are more comfortable with paper, see Bill Bonsky at our General Meeting for the renewal form. Fill it out with a check and we'll mail it and follow up to ensure National gets it correct!

New JOINS: Email us via CONTACT US at yumanavyleague.com. Current member Renewal Question?: contact Bonsky or 'doc' Hager



Schedule of Events - SPRING/SUMMER (subject to change): Dates will be sent via email notification as they are firmed up throughout the year.

2020 DONATION EVENTS

Dates to be announced as they are firmed up. Members invited to attend.

NAVY & MC RELIEF, MCAS YUMA:	APR 2020
SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM:	MAY 2020
YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS:	MAY 2020
NL TRAILER DESIGNER WRAP:	On hold

KEY COUNCIL EVENTS SCHEDULED

16 APR DEPENDING ON STATE HEALTH & MCAS COMMAND STATUS
GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), VIP: MC JROTC SR. CADETS & INSTRUCTORS

21 MAY **YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS DINNER**, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000)

18 JUN GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), SPECIAL: US NAVAL SUBMARINE FORCE BRIEF

JUL - AUG NO GENERAL MEETING

JUL - AUG **COMMANDING OFFICER, MCAS YUMA CHANGE OF COMMAND**
Date/time to be determined

28-30 AUG **SAN DIEGO / DEL MAR ADVENTURE**
FRI HOTEL CHECK IN & DINNER, SAT DEL MAR RACES, SAT EVENING DINNER, SUN BRUNCH.

17 SEPT GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), WELCOME BACK DINNER

15 OCT GENERAL MEETING, MCAS YUMA OFFICER LOUNGE, PUEBLO CLUB (1800-2000), MEET & GREET NEW CO, MCAS YUMA



Jan: Our 2020 Season kicked off well as our members gathered at the MCAS Yuma Sonora Pueblo Club to swear in our new officers and make plans for this coming year. Our first general meeting had Ms. Buna George, Exec. Director GYPA Greater Yuma Port Authority present a very informative brief on updates and plans for our San Luis AZ Port of Entry. **BZ, Buna!**

Continuing our tradition of sponsoring Yuma's Youth leadership programs, President 'doc' Hager and Treasurer Patti Michael presented our Yuma Sea Eagles with a check for \$1,000. Shown at left accepting the award are Naval Sea Cadet officers, Greg and Autumn Blake.



Next up was an outing to Naval Air Facility, El Centro CA for a meet & greet with officers of the 2020 Blue Angles (photo on main pg). Thanks NLUS Imperial for the invite.

Seems every week was a Navy League event. Members drove over to MCAS Yuma and watched our Territorial Young Marines in action, then we transitioned back to Yuma to prep for our next general meeting.

February's general meeting continued our commitment to professional presentations; this evening by our local US Coast Guard Auxiliary, a detachment of USCG District 11. Who knew we had such a resource for boating safety and education? Good Brief. The evening included a \$1,000 check to sr. instructor SgtMaj Laarman, USMC ret, in support of Yuma's MCJROTC cadets. We plan to hear from our award winning Kofa Kings Marine Corps JROTC at our general meeting this April. Plan to attend.

We had a special night planned for March, but due to Corona 19 virus AZ and DoD restrictions, our professional brief on the US Navy's Submarine Force has been postponed.

Keep safe y'all...





With great weather and a record turn out, our Yuma Navy League CRUISIN' AZ Charity Car Show was an unqualified success. Thanks to Fortuna de Oro RV Resort and Fischer GMC's sponsorship, everyone enjoyed live music, hot BBQ, and a safe friendly atmosphere. The park's asphalt lot was packed and public parking max'd! Thanks to all show participants, volunteers and League members who sold or purchased those T-Shirts and auction items. By show's end, **we attained our funding goals for 2020 JROTC student college scholarship awards...** and had fun doing it.

Left upper photo: Yuma's Territorial Young Marines stand tall as new recruits graduate from orientation and receive recognition from their parents, staff and MCAS Yuma's Executive Officer. NLUS Yuma was recognized as a key program sponsor... glad to help.

Left: MCAS Yuma once again hosted the "Commandants Own" 8th & I Band and Silent Drill Team. Navy League Council members were there! Always a special treat for Yuma.

MCAS YUMA CLOSURES



MCAS YUMA, FWD FROM PG 1...

The following MCAS Yuma facilities have modified their operational hours or capacity:
> as of March 22 <

- Child Development Center, Youth Center, Gym, MCEX, and Movie Theater are closed.
- 10 people or less: Bowling Alley food court, Library, Barber Shop, Marine Mart, Auto Skills Center, and Single Marine Programs.
- Chow Hall (take out only); Mobile Exchange open in front of closed MCEX.
- **Commissary for non-active duty Public - after 1100.**
- **The Club (Sonoran Pueblo) is closed.**

US FLAG SHIPS AT CRITICAL LEVEL



NAVY LEAGUE ISSUE:

The state of the U.S.-flag fleet is at a tipping point. The American oceangoing fleet has dropped to only 82 U.S.-flag ships in foreign trade. The Maritime Administration has testified that with a fleet this size we no longer can crew all US.-flag commercial and government reserve sealift vessels for a sustained period of more than six months if we face a national emergency or war.

The state of our U.S.-flag fleet is a national security risk as foreign-flagged vessels cannot be expected to provide the necessary movement of strategic materials in a time of war. During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan over 95% of all military ocean borne cargoes were moved on U.S.-flag vessels, and government-owned sealift vessels activated from reserve status and crewed by U.S. merchant mariners.

A Solution

A new bill has been introduced that will revitalize the maritime community, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen our national security. By requiring a portion of energy exports to travel on U.S.-built, U.S.-flagged vessels, this bipartisan, bicameral bill ensures the U.S.-flag fleet will grow and that we invest in American shipyards. The Energizing American Shipbuilding Act introduced by Rep. John Garamendi ([H.R.3829](#)) and Senator Roger Wicker ([S.2167](#)) invests in our U.S.-flag fleet and American shipyard industry. This legislation would gradually require up to 10% of exports of strategic energy assets and 15% of exported American Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) to travel on U.S.-flagged and U.S.-built vessels by 10 percent of total seaborne crude oil exports by 2033. Requiring a small amount of strategic energy asset exports to be carried on U.S.-built, U.S.-flagged ships will revitalize the maritime industry, create thousands of jobs, and strengthen our sealift capability and shipbuilding industrial base.

Why you should take action

Let members of congress know their constituents are Navy League members who understand that supporting the Mariners and Shipbuilders that make up the U.S.-flag fleet is critical to our national security. Ask them to co-sponsor this bill!

CONTACT WEB - <https://www.votervoice.net/NavyLeague/Campaigns/67622/Respond>

***FYI: CONGRESS CUTS VIRGINIA
CONSTRUCTION BUDGET***



A 34-foot Dauntless-class patrol boat transfers supplies to the Virginia-class fast-attack sub USS Texas in the Gulf of Tadjoura. The Virginia class has been at the center of a budget tussle between the Navy and Congress.

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Navy's controversial decision to propose one Virginia-class attack submarine (SSN) instead of two in the fiscal year 2021 budget was a matter of budget priorities — not a concern over shipyard or program capacity to start construction of the Columbia ballistic-missile sub, the Navy's top acquisition official told Congress.

"I had less confidence six to nine months ago where we were seeing some of the Block IV [Virginia SSN] deliveries starting to move to the right, and the concern was can we maintain the cadence to not add risk to Columbia," James F. Geurts, Navy assistant secretary for research, development and acquisition, said March 4 during testimony before Seapower and Projection Forces, a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

Geurts repeated his previous assertion that "the No. 1 way to reduce risk to Columbia is a stable, well-performing Virginia program."

The Navy worked closely with the submarine builders, Electric Boat and Newport News Shipyard, to stabilize the transition from Block III to Block IV [Virginia SSN]. "The No. 1 way to reduce risk to Columbia is a stable, well-performing Virginia program. I am happy to report that over the last six months that has stabilized," he said. "My concerns are not, now, 'Can they execute?' he said. "They just need to continue to execute."

The second Virginia SSN is atop the Navy's list of 2021 unfunded priorities. "We need to add that ship in this year, or we'll just have to work on that at the start of Block VI," Geurts said. "I don't think there is a way to execute three [submarines] in a Columbia year with a high degree of success." ... "The last thing we want to do is lay off folks [only] to climb this giant Columbia wall.

"If we cut short and have a large gap at the end of Block V [production] before having Block VI move in and Columbia start up, that will be a risk to execution not only in Virginia but to next-GEN Columbia."

**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

PO Box 393
Yuma, AZ 85366

E-mail:
nlusyuma@
nlusyumacouncil.org

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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THANKS TO OUR 2019-20 PROGRAM SPONSORS!



AZ ACTIVE AIR
FAA JROTC Pilot Program



*The Board of Directors
and all members of the
Yuma Council announce
the passing of a dear
friend, confidant, and
senior fellow of our
Council ~ Henry Chavez*

*Fair Winds & Following Seas,
old friend...*



**Yuma AZ
Council**