



# Blue & Gold

Navy League of the United States | San Diego Council

53-12 | December 2023

## BREAKFAST EVENT

December 8, 2023

7:30 am - 9:00 am

Admiral Baker Clubhouse

GUEST SPEAKER;

CAPTAIN OMAR G. MARTINEZ, USN

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS & TRAINING,

NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND

## NAVY HERITAGE

On Sunday morning December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked U.S. Navy Base in Pearl Harbor killing 2,403 Americans. The raid by aircraft carrier-borne warplanes sunk or damaged 21 U.S. warships – including the USS Arizona and USS Oklahoma, destroyed or damaged 347 aircraft. Japan, and Nazi Germany had conquered much of Asia, Europe and North Africa by the end of 1941. The shape of the future world began to turn in the midst of the attack on Pearl Harbor, where America overcame the shock of sudden attack and began to fight back. Fifteen Sailors and one Marine earned the Medal of Honor for heroic actions that day alone. Among them were Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd, who died commanding the defense from the bridge of USS Arizona, the first U.S. flag officer killed in any war; Captain Mervyn Bennon, who remained in command of USS West Virginia, saving the ship despite mortal wounds; and Chief Boatswain Edwin Hill, whose remarkable heroics freed the USS Nevada while under attack. USS Nevada was the only battleship to set sail that morning. She went on to distinguished service in the war and helped lead the D-Day invasion of Europe in 1944 and the final attacks on the Japanese home islands in the summer of 1945. USS West Virginia also survived the Pearl Harbor attack, but at the loss of 106 Sailors, and was able to triumphantly sail into Tokyo Bay to witness the surrender of Japan and the end of World War II aboard USS Missouri as Japan formally signed documents of surrender on September 2, 1945, with the ceremony lasting only 23 minutes. Yet it ended more than a total decade of devastating global conflict that killed 60 million people or more in Asia, Europe and Africa, and in other battles fought on land, air and sea around the world. "Today, the guns are silent. A great tragedy has ended. A great victory has been won," U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur said in an international radio address while officiating during the ceremonies aboard USS Missouri. Today, USS Missouri still serves the country in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, where she is the centerpiece of the Battleship Missouri Memorial.



*“December 7th, 1941. A Date which will live in infamy.”*

—President

Franklin D. Roosevelt

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Friends and Family of the San Diego Navy League, we kicked off November with the celebration of the U.S. Marine Corps’ 248th Birthday at our monthly breakfast event with 85 guests in attendance, and having the privilege of Col Michael Ogden, Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Corps District as our guest speaker. During this special event we recognized Marines for their outstanding service and had a cake cutting ceremony. The Marine Corps Birthday was continued celebrated throughout the month, with our Sea Service Committee Members attending MCAS Miramar Awards Recognition and Birthday Celebration at Miramar Base that was hosted by 3rd Marine Air Wing Commanding General; MajGen Michael Borgshulte and Colonel Thomas Bedell with over 100 guests in attendance. Our Homecoming Committee participated in USS AUGUSTA (LCS 34) arrival to its newest homeport; Naval Base San Diego and Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron 462 return from its overseas deployment. November also included our VP and myself attending the Annual 2023 Fleet Week Event at the World’s Famous San Diego Zoo in honoring our Maritime Forces for their outstanding performance. We capped off the month with our council members attending various Marine Corps Birthday Balls being held in the San Diego metro area and one in Las Vegas, Nevada. Our next breakfast event is scheduled for December 8th, where we will be having our 2nd Annual Toys for Tots Drive. So come on over and join us for breakfast at Admiral Baker Golf Clubhouse and enjoy the festivities. As a friendly reminder are 2024 Breakfast Events kicks off on February 2nd. As always, I want to thank the entire NLSO Team, our Chairs, Board of Directors, Councilmembers and let’s not forget our Sponsors for all the hard work and support they provide to our mission!

— Ed Naranjo, President



## SAN DIEGO COUNCIL EXCELLENCE

The National Navy League recognized the San Diego Council at the 2023 National Convention for its outstanding support of its sea services in the community in winning its “Back to Back” awards; Outstanding Council Award and Donald Mackie Awards for Excellence; Gold for Social Media and Website, and Silver for Newsletter. On behalf of the National Navy League the awards were presented by the Council’s Chairmen; Sea Services - Marty Magana, Youth Programs - Shane Steinfeld and Homecoming - Jay Rindler to President Ed Naranjo & VP Tracy Owens.



Congratulations to VP; Tracy Owens and Board of Director; Octavio Navarro in being recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as one of the top 50 Veteran Leaders of Influence in the community for 2023. Tracy was also recognized as a finalist for the San Diego Magazine “Pioneer of the Year” Award. A job well done!



Congratulations to former San Diego Council President; CDR Henry “Jim” Bedinger, USN(Ret) in being recognized at this year’s Veterans Day Ceremony as an honoree and special guest speaker. Jim served as a Naval Flight Officer in Vietnam as an F4 Radar Intercept Officer aboard USS Constellation and is a Prisoner of War Survivor of 1,223 days until released in March 1973. He would continue to serve until his retirement in August 1989. Well done Jim! You can learn more about Jim by visiting: <https://soledadmemorial.org/veterans-day-2023-info/>

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Captain Omar G. Martinez, currently serving as the Director of Operations and Training, Naval Service Training Command, was born and raised in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in August 1986 and completed Recruit Training in Orlando, Florida. In March 2000, the Navy commissioned him as an Ensign in Limited Duty Officer program.



Captain Martinez's operational and sea duty assignments include: USS CARL VINSON (CVN 70) from September 2013 to October 2015 where he served as Executive Department Head and Admin Officer and completed an extended 10 month deployment in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE; Admin Officer tour onboard USS BONHOMME RICHARD (LHD 6) from March 2009 through May 2011, completing a U.S. FIFTH Fleet deployment supporting Maritime Security Operations and the 2010 Rim of the Pacific exercise; Personnel Officer, Admin Officer and Executive Department Head onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) from August 2002 through October 2003, where the CONSTELLATION Strike Group supported initial combat operations during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM; and N1 Assistant Chief of Staff for Administration, Manpower and Personnel for Special Boat Squadron ONE, Coronado, California. His enlisted operational assignments include U.S. THIRD Fleet embarked on USS CORONADO, (AGF 11); his Leading Petty Officer at sea tour onboard USS CONSTELLATION (CV 64) from November 1993 through December 1995 completing a U.S. FIFTH Fleet deployment in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH; and as a Plank Owner of the USS THOMAS S. GATES (CG 51) on which he served with her commissioning crew from January 1987 to August 1990. During this time, he deployed and completed GATES' maiden deployment while participating in a historic port visit to the Soviet Union.

Captain Martinez reported as the Director, Commander's Action Group in September of 2022 and moved to the Director of Operations and Training in April 2023. Previous shore assignments include: Chief of Staff, Chief of Naval Personnel/Commanding Officer of Troops (COT), Executive Officer, Naval Station Great Lakes; Assistant Chief of Staff (N1) at U.S. THIRD Fleet; Flag Secretary for Commander Naval Forces, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Fleet Logistics Squadron FOUR ZERO; and Navy Recruiting District, Milwaukee.

Captain Martinez is Surface Warfare Officer qualified and his personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (five awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (seven awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards) and numerous campaign and unit awards. He is the recipient of the prestigious Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet Navy and Marine Association Leadership award.

## BREAKFAST SPONSOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Our San Diego Council values our relationships with our community affiliates that are derived from various organizations amongst private, public and nonprofit organizations, with many being family veteran owned or veteran operated businesses.



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Homecoming Committee welcomes USS AUGUSTA (LCS 34) arrival to its newest homeport Naval Base San Diego on Oct 30, 2023 and Marine Corps Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 462 return from its deployment at MCAS Miramar on Nov 12, 2023.



Well done to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar & 3rd Marine Air Wing - Marine and Sailor of the Quarter Award Winners; Cpl Shane Laurent, Lcpl Alexandria Grant, LS1 Na Zhao, LS2 Andrea Molina, LSSN Emerald Quiroz, Lcpl Philip Weiss, HM1 Jeremiah Taylor, HM2 Ronnie Dela Cruz and HN Angelina McClain who were presented awards on Nov 1, 2023.



Council President Ed Naranjo and VP Tracy Owens attended the Fleet Week San Diego Enlisted Recognition Luncheon at the iconic; Worlds Famous San Diego Zoo, where Sailors, Marines and Coast Guard service members were recognized for their outstanding service and professional excellence on Nov 3, 2023. Bravo Zulu to all service members!

## SPECIAL THANK YOU



Special Thank You to Parker Aerospace Regional Manager; John Miles in presenting \$10,250.00 donation and General Atomics (Electromagnetics), Head of Weapons Program; Mike Rucker in presenting \$18,000.00 donation to the San Diego Council in support of meeting its mission to its Sea Services in the local community.



# RECOGNITIONS

San Diego Council celebrated the Marine Corps' 248th Birthday during its November Breakfast Event with the Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Corps District; Colonel Michael Ogden serving as guest speaker. Col Ogden provided insight on his command's role in today's modern era and participated in the cake cutting ceremony with 3d Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion; Lcpl Jaden Ibarra with 85 guests in attendance. Additionally, Council President and VP presented \$2k donation to 3rd Marine Air Wing, 12th Marine Corps District, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion in support of their 2023 Marine Corps Birthday Ball.



Well done to the following award winners recognized; 12th Marine Corps District; SSgt Labrittany Norfleet, GySgt Stephanie Torres and Sgt Malon Johnson. Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD; Sgt Ivan Altamirano, Sgt Danieltroty Maguddayao, Sgt Christopher Blossom and SSgt Melissa Duran. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11; Lcpl Myles Evans, Sgt Valentina Acevedo and 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion; Cpl Devin Dozier. Award recognitions were sponsored by the Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel. Special thank you to USS ESSEX (LHD 2) Culinary Specialists; CS2 Samuel Babativagallo and CSSN Marlow Dimdiman in support with the Marine Corps Birthday Cake.



# WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT

San Diego Corporate Members & Community Affiliates

## CORPORATE GOLD

- General Atomics (Electromagnetics)
- LC Embroidery & Cleaners
- Lockheed Martin
- Raytheon Technologies

## CORPORATE

- Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego
- North Island Credit Union
- Parker Aerospace
- San Diego Sockers
- USAA

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATE

- Bank of America
- Boeing
- DoD Training Center San Diego
- Fairway Independent Mortgage
- First Command
- International Auto Logistics
- Northrop Grumman
- RCP Block & Brick, Inc.
- Strategic Data Systems
- U.S. Navy Mustang Association

## COMMUNITY AFFILIATES

- Admiral Baker Golf Course
- AggreGateway
- Any Budget Printing & Mailing
- Brigantine Seafood & Oyster Bar
- Buffalo Reclaimed Flag Co.
- CVN71 Reactor Department
- Enlisted Leadership Foundation
- Farmers Insurance
- Fast Signs
- Flower Island Chula Vista
- Fotex
- Haichris Inc
- Imagine Design & Graphic (IDG)
- Impressions (DJ/MC) San Diego
- JW Memorabilia
- LEPE Tendwell Group
- Lifer Dog Creations
- Liquid Death Mountain Water
- Minuteman Press Kearny Mesa
- Navy Federal Credit Union
- PRAVA Construction Services Inc
- Safariland
- San Diego Padres
- San Diego Wave Futbol Club
- San Diego Zoo
- Skateboard K9
- Support The Enlisted Project (STEP)
- TRIADA Tactical Inc.
- Vietnam Veterans of America, Chp 472
- Walter Anderson Nursery

Active Duty Service Members now eligible to join the Navy League at: <https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/active-duty-membership/join>

# MEMBERSHIP

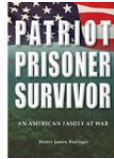
## NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

William Daly  
 Cynthia Kane  
 Timothy Jacoby  
 Alice Juneau  
 Sean Fitzpatrick  
 William Ryan  
 Paul Barnes  
 D. Daley  
 Wendy Harrison  
 Rami Wissa  
 Timothy Fronczek  
 Terrezene Brown  
 Stephen Andres

Download Photos from the November Breakfast Event QR or link here <https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1kmorH8LETHECOgor1zKMuVPaOQ7vaXW3>



Bring a brand new unwrapped toy for children up to 12yrs of age, and receive ticket to win door prizes on Dec 8th



A great Christmas gift available on Amazon or purchase using QR Code. You will not be disappointed.



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

# NO BREAKFAST EVENT IN JANUARY 2024

## 2024 MONTHLY BREAKFAST DATES AT ADMIRAL BAKER CLUBHOUSE

### 2024 DATES

- Feb 2 - Maritime Security Response Team West
- Mar 1 - 3rd Battalion, Recruit Training Regiment, MCRD
- Apr 5 - OPNAV N95 DCNO Executive Assistant
- May 3 - Deputy Commander, Naval Education & Training - Force Development
- Jun 7 - Marine Corps Air Station Miramar
- Jul 12 - 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion
- Aug 9 - US Coast Guard Sector San Diego
- Sep 6 - Naval Base San Diego
- Oct 4 - USS FITZGERALD (DDG 62)
- Nov 1 - 3rd Marine Air Wing
- Dec 6 - USN EoY & Toys for Tots Drive



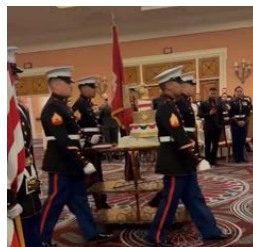
You can make a difference today by donating at; <https://navyleague-sd.com/product/donate-to-your-san-diego-navy-league-council/>



Tracy Owens, Jay Rindler and Charles Clark joined 3rd Marine Air Wing MajGen Michael Borgschulte and MCAS Miramar; Col Thomas Bedell in celebrating the Marine Corps 248th Birthday at the Bob Hope Theater on Nov 9, 2023. Access to all photos at; <https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery>



Council celebrated the 2023 Marine Corps Birthday Ball with 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion, 12th Marine Corps District, 3rd Marine Air Wing and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 11 held at various locations; U.S. Grant Hotel San Diego, Town & Country San Diego, Caesars Palace Casino, Las Vegas and San Diego Bayfront Hotel. All photos at; <https://navyleague-sd.com/events-gallery>



## SUPPORT THE NAVY LEAGUE

You Can Make A Difference!  
 BECOME A MEMBER

<https://members.navyleague.org/become-a-member/individual-membership/join>

### BREAKFAST MEMBERSHIP PROMO

- \$40 - Includes Breakfast, 1 YR Membership and an additional complimentary breakfast.
- Breakfast for Non-Members; \$30
- Breakfast for Members; \$25

### ASK ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY AFFILIATE, BUSINESS ASSOCIATE, AND CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP.

Community Partnership includes; Business Advertisement, Awards Sponsorship, Social Media Marketing, numerous Complimentary Breakfast, Youth Programs Contribution Complimentary or Discounted tickets to Miramar Air Show, Navy Birthday Ball, Marine Corps Birthday Luncheon, and End of the Year Appreciation.

### SUPPORT & DONATE TODAY!



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

On Sponsorship, Membership or Volunteering call us at; (619) 230-0301.

To subscribe to Blue & Gold Newsletter email; [executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com](mailto:executivedirector@navyleague-sd.com)