



# The Pilot

Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

SUMMER 2025

JULY AUG. SEPT.

Vol. 48 Issue 3

[www.navyleaguecica.org](http://www.navyleaguecica.org)

Tony Suleiman, President

## 2025 Officers and Board of Directors

Tony Suleiman, President

Mickie Grimaldi, 1st Vice Pres.,  
Membership & Publicity

Purna Pai, 2nd Vice Pres., Programs

Annette Block, 3rd Vice President,  
Ways and Means

Robert Quinn, Recording Secretary

Kitty Hurliman, Corresponding  
Secretary

Diane Quinn, Treasurer

Bette Alburtis, Chaplain

Purna Pai, Judge Advocate

### Board of Directors:

Stan Block, Dawn Canfield, Beckie  
Cramer, Bob Davis, Arlene Fraser,  
Tom Fraser, Judy Quinn, Gailen Vick

Jim Cecil, Jr., NLUS National Director  
Emeritus

## RSVP Contact

**Diane Quinn**

**[tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com)**

**805 729-0671**

Please leave a message and let me know if you are attending. If you are not on the Security Gate list, please go to the Base Pass Office to obtain a one-day pass. Thanks!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Congratulations to Channel Islands Council for receiving three National Navy League Donald M. Mackie Awards:**

outstanding newsletter, website and social media on June 5, 2025, at the National Navy League Convention held in Jacksonville, Florida. This was my first annual NLUS Convention. Gailen Vick, also attended the convention. It was an outstanding and informative convention with Navy League members from many Councils. Plan to attend next June.

Thanks to Kitty Hurliman for coordinating the Spring Baby Shower. Dawn Canfield is our liaison with Holly Walaszek, Food Pantry coordinator for Naval Base Ventura County families. Thanks to everyone for your generous food donations monthly. Chuck Caulkins, President of International Mariners Center, informed us about the Merchant Mariners and updates about the IMC. He also donated delicious, fresh Del Monte pineapples. Jennifer Blood gave an informative presentation about Alzheimer's and Dementia on June 12th. Age group photos were taken and this year's age range was from 90's to under 29 years; youngest attendee was 4 months old.

Make your reservations early to join us on **Thurs., August 14th, United States Coast Guard happy birthday and award presentations and Wine Auction at the Bard Mansion. Save the dates for Sept. 11th and Oct. 9th, and Nov. 13th for lunch at the Bard Mansion. See you soon.**

**Have a safe and happy 4th of July!**

*Tony Suleiman, President*





## Membership Information

Our current Navy League Channel Islands Council membership roster shows that we have 149 members!

I am regularly trying to keep this roster accurate and I encourage you to go to the main Navy League of the United States website and either create or sign into your account (you may need to generate a new password) Then have a look at your contact information for accuracy. If it is not current, please update it so that we can keep in touch with you and share information about our award winning council and activities. There are a surprising amount of individuals that do not have this information attached to their name or have an old email listed so that council emails bounce back to me as undeliverable!

While you are there, please make sure that you have the Channel Islands Council designated as your home council. We are finding there are several individuals that, for some unknown reason, have disappeared from our roster and have been misassigned to other councils.

If you are having trouble with any of this there are tutorials on the website to help you. Or feel free to contact me for assistance. You can also email the Navy League National Membership office in Virginia ([membership@navyleague.org](mailto:membership@navyleague.org)) or call them at (703) 312-2880. They will be delighted to help you over the phone to sign up, correct, or renew your membership if you are having difficulty.

Our support for the morale of our active duty service members, and the youth programs we sponsor, is an important Channel Island Council function. Now we are finding that family support has become an increasingly significant goal as time goes on and our generous members have stepped up to help us with this task. But we can always use more assistance. As always, I hope you encourage new friends to join this council and help us support our goals.

Have a spectacular summer and I hope to see you at our August meeting.

Mickie Grimaldi

1st VP/Membership



1. Left: photo **John Hart** received his name tag and Council challenge coin.
2. Center photo: **Debra C. Block** received her name tag and Council challenge coin.
3. Right photo: Welcome aboard: **Jennifer Blood**, center, new member.  
Tony Suleiman, President  
Mickie Grimaldi, 1st/VP Membership





# The Pilot

## Navy League of the United States

### Channel Islands Council

SUMMER 2025  
JULY AUG. SEPT.  
Vol. 48 Issue 3

#### With Deepest Sympathy



It is with deepest sympathy that we announce the loss of two loyal Navy League members – **Steven Shannon** and **Leslie Smith**. These gentlemen were a gift to our Channel Islands Council and will be deeply missed by all. We send our sympathy to Nancy Connolly Shannon and family. Sympathy is also extended to the family of Leslie Smith and his wife Elaine. Channel Islands Council will miss both of these members and their friendship, enthusiasm and contribution to our Navy League. “They were a blessing to all who knew them.”

Bette Alburtis  
Council Chaplain

#### Did you know...?



NBVC holds a monthly food distribution event for those facing food insecurity. Contact Holly Walaszek 732-814-1044 or [Holly.walaszek@gmail.com](mailto:Holly.walaszek@gmail.com) for information.



Update from Dawn Canfield—Channel Islands Council's Food Donations for the Base program: Nonperishables may be dropped off at the Seabee Museum, Monday thru Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm into the Channel Islands Council donation container and food donations also collected at Navy League luncheon meetings at the Bard Mansion.

*Thanks for your generous support!*



Drop off at the  
Seabee Museum



April 4, 2025 at Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Office at Port Hueneme: **Sophalin Lundy, NMCRS**; **Sonya Akintonde, Director NMCRS**; **Bette Alburtis, Gillian Gonzalez, VP/Chief Development and Communications Officer**; **Diane Quinn, Mickie Grimaldi, Tom Fraser, Kitty Hurliman, Judy Quinn, seated**; **Bob Quinn and LtGen Robert Ruark, NMCRS President/CEO**. Sonya arranged an informative meeting with the National NMCRS President/CEO and VP and Channel Islands Council representatives. NMCRS appreciates the years of generous support of baby and toddler items from Channel Islands Council members. *Thank you from all the families!*



**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

**JULY NO-SHOW LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER      DO NOT ATTEND!**

Enjoy your days doing “nothing” or your favorite relaxing activity at home.

Send a no-show lunch donation for you and your mystery guests and every amount will be applied to support Channel Islands Council’s programs during the year. Donations in the amount of \$20.00 for one person; or \$100.00 for 5 persons or whatever amount you want to contribute for the no-show. **Thank you!**

Please send your check, donation payable to Channel Islands Council

Mail to NL Channel Islands Council

Attn. No Show Lunch

P.O. Box 873

Port Hueneme, CA 93044

If you have any questions regarding this fundraiser, please contact Diane Quinn, Council Treasurer at 805 729-0671 or email to [tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com)



**Navy League of the United States National Convention held in Jacksonville, Florida**



From Left: Chris Townsend, Navy League National President; Tony Suleiman, Channel Islands Council President, with NLUS Award for outstanding newsletter; Kevin Button, Pacific Southwest Region President; Mike Stevens, NLUS CEO at National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida on June 5, 2025. Council also received awards for website and social media. Congratulations!



First time Navy League National Convention attendees representing Channel Islands Council: Tony Suleiman and Gailen Vick on Friday, June 6, 2025.





**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

## Hello Fellow Navy Leaguers!

Exciting things are happening in our Council this year!

Get ready for the **annual Yolanda's fundraiser on Tuesday, July 8 from 11:00am to close**. Dine in or take out, whatever your pleasure. Hope to see you there for this always fun event! Flyer insert in this newsletter.

**Save the Date!** It's our Wine Auction to be held at the **General Luncheon Meeting on August 14th**. The auction will commence immediately after the Coast Guard Birthday celebration. Bring your credit card, cash or checkbook for a chance to win wonderful and interesting wines.

**Save the Date Again!!** We have another restaurant event coming up in October. **Lazy Dog at the Collection will be the site of our Fall Fundraiser**. Unlike the one day we have at Yolanda's, this event will last from **October 12-18**. You have the opportunity to enjoy the large and delicious menu at Lazy Dog over the course of seven days. Eat there once, twice....seven times! They have great take home options too. More details to follow.

And mark your calendars for our **Holiday Party to be held on Sunday, December 14 at the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club in Oxnard**. We are already seeking donations for experiences, hotel/resort getaways, items from local businesses, personal care services, restaurants,

personal accessories, etc. If you have a relationship with someone or know of something that would make a great door prize or auction item, please let me know and I will get you all the necessary paperwork to secure their donation. If you are unable, I will reach out to them.

**Happy July 4<sup>th</sup> and see you at Yolanda's!**

Annette Block, 3rd Vice President, Ways and Means

[NetskieB@gmail.com](mailto:NetskieB@gmail.com) 818 300 5840

### June 12, 2025 Presentation about Alzheimer's and Dementia



Tony Suleiman and Purna Pai presented Jennifer Blood with Certificate of Appreciation and Council challenge coin on June 12, 2025, after her interesting presentation about Alzheimer's and dementia at the Bard Mansion. She handed out an informative brochure. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) to access reliable information and resources or call 800 272-3900 24/7 Helpline-Available all day, every day.

***Have a healthy and fun-filled Summer!***





**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

**April 10, 2025 Spring Baby Shower**



**Thank you  
very much!**



Kitty Hurliman presented Certificate of Appreciation to Sophalin Lundy and Sonya Akintonde, Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Director, at the April 10, 2025 Spring Baby Shower with Tony Suleiman, Council President at the Bard Mansion.

Sophalin Lundy and Sonya Akintonde, NMCRS, extend appreciation to Navy League Channel Islands member, Port Hueneme Police Chief Michael Federico for his outstanding support at the Spring Baby Shower.



From left to right: Joseph Liuzzi, Kitty Hurliman, Debra C. Block, Jonnie Lisman, Sophalin Lundy, Sonya Akintonde, Annette Block (handmade quilt), and Tony Suleiman displaying baby shower

**FALL BABY SHOWER**  
**THURS., SEPT. 11, 2025**  
**11:30 AM**  
**BARD MANSION**  
**PLAN TO ATTEND**







# The Pilot

Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

SUMMER 2025  
JULY AUG. SEPT.  
Vol. 48 Issue 3

## May 8, 2025 at Thomas R. Bard Mansion Importance of Merchant Mariners



Bob Davis, Liaison for Merchant Mariners and Tony Suleiman, Council President, presented Certificate of Appreciation and Council challenge coin to Chuck Caulkins, President of International Mariners Center, who gave an informative program about Merchant Mariners and an update about the IMC at the Port.



Thank you to Chuck Caulkins for the delicious Del Monte fresh pineapples.



Front row left to right: Bob Davis, Beverly Flothmeier, Bill Flothmeier, Chuck Caulkins, Jess Herrera Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner; Arlene Fraser, LaVonne Fosse; back row: Tony Suleiman, Lester Tong, Bette Alburtis and Cherry Lopez at the Bard Mansion recognizing importance of Merchant Mariners . May 22nd is National Maritime Day.

**Congratulations to**  
**Channel Islands Council** for  
winning three  
**National Navy League Awards**  
**Newsletter/Platinum Award**  
**Website/Bronze Award**  
**Social Media/Bronze Award**  
-----  
**Beckie Cramer, Creator of**  
**Website and Social Media**  
**Arlene Fraser, Editor/Publisher of**  
**Newsletter**



**NJROTC**  
**Cadet of the Year**  
**CDR Victor Jimenez**

## NJROTC Hueneme High School

May 23, 2025

Cadet CDR Victor Jimenez received Navy League Channel Islands Council Certificate for NJROTC Cadet of the Year and a check in the amount of \$300.00 presented by Bob Quinn, from the Council at the Annual Awards event at Hueneme High School. Navy League Channel Islands Council also presented a check to the NJROTC Unit in the amount of \$3,500.00 for its annual donation to the program, according to Diane Quinn, Treasurer. ***Congratulations to an outstanding NJROTC Cadet!***

**Updates on the web site, new**  
**Facebook and Instagram**  
**sites** created for NL Channel  
Islands Council by Beckie  
Cramer. Please visit the sites  
to keep informed. Thanks!

**[www.navyleaguecica.org](http://www.navyleaguecica.org)**



**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

**Naval Sea Cadet Change of Command at Port Hueneme on May 31, 2025**



Jonnie Lisman,  
Region Director  
of the Naval Sea  
Cadet Corps

Kevin Lynn and Samuel Rice,  
Warrant Officers, US NSCC



Kevin Lynn and Samuel Rice,

Warrant Officers, US NSCC



Bob Quinn presented Certificate to outgoing Commanding Officer Samuel Rice, who served for three outstanding years as CO. Incoming Commanding Officer Kevin Lynn also received a Certificate presented by Bob Quinn on May 31, 2025 in front of the “White House/Seabee College” at Port Hueneme. Naval Sea Cadet Unit/Navy League Cadet Unit presented a “Fair Winds and Following Seas” cake to Warrant Officer Samuel Rice in appreciation for his years of leadership with the Units at Port Hueneme. Thank you to Samuel Rice for his years of dedication! Welcome to new Commanding Officer Kevin Lynn!





**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

## Door Prizes

And  
the  
Winner  
is...



April 10, 2025 Cute gift baskets for lucky door prize winners:

Debra C. Block, Gailen Vick, Jonnie Lisman and tickets for Paul Rood.

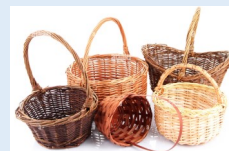


May 8, 2025

Beautiful gift baskets for lucky door prize winners: Jim Cecil, Janet Foley, Tracy Gallaher and Carl Bathelt won tickets.

## REMINDERS

Please return empty gift baskets to Annette Block at the next luncheon. She will fill the baskets to prepare door prizes for lucky winners. Thanks!



June 12, 2025 Patriotic theme: red, white and blue

Smiling lucky winners: Kathy Shurtleff, Purna Pai, Diane Grossman, and Melissa Frederick.

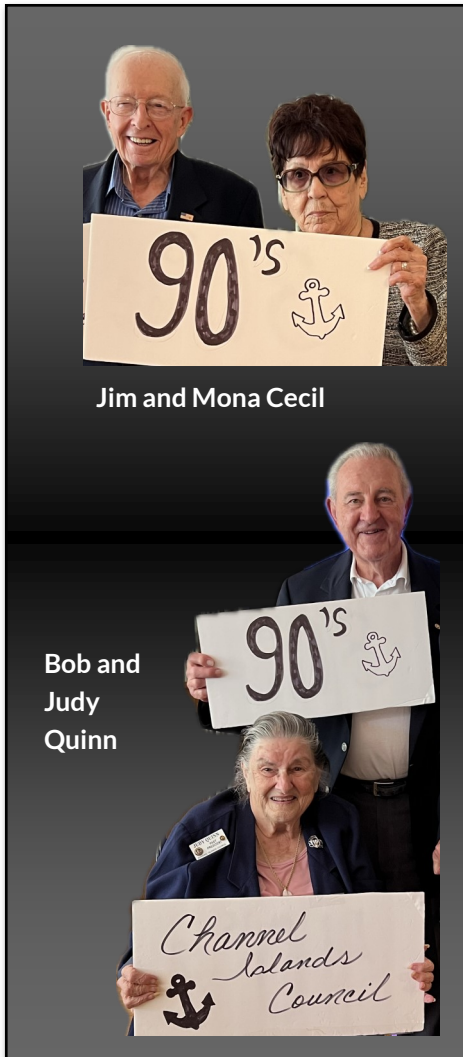
**Special thanks to Annette Block for creating beautiful door prize baskets.**



**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

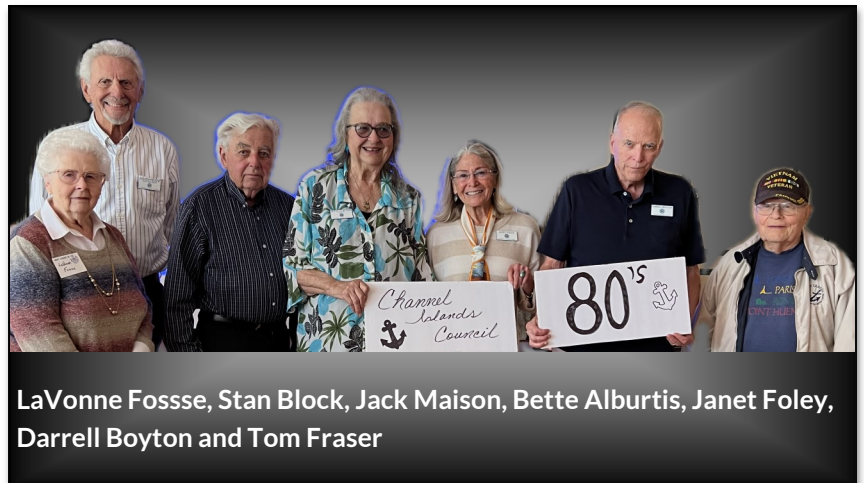
**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

**Age group photos: 90's to 60's**



Jim and Mona Cecil

Bob and  
Judy  
Quinn



LaVonne Fosse, Stan Block, Jack Maison, Bette Alburtis, Janet Foley,  
Darrell Boyton and Tom Fraser



Kitty Hurliman, Kathy Shurtleff, Annette Block, Purna Pai,  
Arlene Fraser, Mickie Grimaldi, John Hart, Christopher  
Arnold and Annamarie Arnold. Insert: Gailen Vick.



Laura Hernandez, Diane Quinn, Wendy Nicholson, Debra C. Block, Aleta Palmer, Desiree  
Peckham, Carol Sanders, Diane Grossman, Dawn Canfield, Melissa Frederick, Bob Davis,  
Cheryl Bathelt and Carl Bathelt.

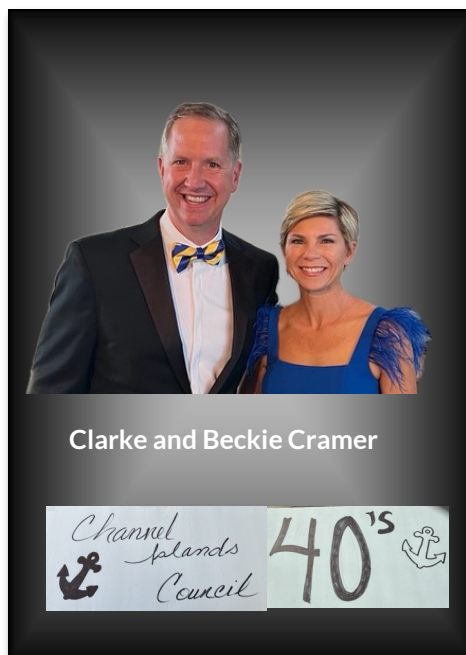




**The Pilot**  
Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

**SUMMER 2025**  
**JULY AUG. SEPT.**  
**Vol. 48 Issue 3**

**Age group photos: 50's to Under 29 years**



**Age group photos**

Note: June 12, 2025

Oldest attendee: 97 years old

Youngest attendee: 4 months old.



# The Pilot

Navy League of the United States  
Channel Islands Council

SUMMER 2025

JULY AUG. SEPT.

Vol. 48 Issue 3

Channel Islands Council

Navy League of the United States

Post Office Box 873

Port Hueneme, CA, 93044

[www.navyleaguecica.org](http://www.navyleaguecica.org)

**Special reminder: Contact Judy Quinn, at 805 276-8474** and let her know of any ill or bereaved member. She will get a card in the mail immediately. Please keep her informed, as each and every one of our Navy Leaguers are very important to us.



Thomas R. Bard Mansion

**Special thanks to**

**Military & Youth Awards**

**Admiral Sponsors:**

**Oxnard Harbor District &**

**City of Port Hueneme**

## 2025 Channel Islands Council Calendar

July = No Show Lunch Fundraiser = do not attend = Do send donations

=====

TUES., JULY 8, 2025 YOLANDA'S FUNDRAISER—USE FLYER

=====

2nd Thurs. at 11:30 am at Bard Mansion

Aug. 14, 2025 US Coast Guard birthday and awards; Wine Auction

Sept. 11, 2025 Fall Baby Shower

Oct. 9, 2025 US Navy birthday and awards

Nov. 13, 2025 US Marines birthday  
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

=====

Sun., Dec. 14, 2025 Holiday Auction at Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club

## 2025 CALENDAR NLUS CHANNEL ISLANDS

2nd Thursday of the Month at the Bard Mansion at 11:30 am.

Price: \$20.00 cash/check per person ; \$21.00 credit card per person

Plan to attend lunch at the Bard Mansion

on Thursday, **AUGUST 14, 2025 at 11:30 a.m**

**US COAST GUARD HAPPY BIRTHDAY & AWARDS**

**Wine Auction**

=====

**Thursday, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 at 11:30 am**

**FALL BABY SHOWER**

**RSVP**

**DIANE QUINN [tazquinn@gmail.com](mailto:tazquinn@gmail.com)**

**Call or send a text to 805 729-0671**

If your name is not on the security gate list, please go to the NBVC Security Office for a one-day pass. You will need your driver's license and your Social Security card number.