

Northern Virginia Council of the NLUS

PORTSIDE

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Navy League of the United States



BBQ, BOAT RIDES AND A USCG ON-WATER DEMONSTRATION

**Come Join us at noon on September 24, 2005
at the United States Coast Guard Station Washington D.C.
located on Bolling Air Force Base
for a BBQ, Boat Rides and On-Water Demonstration by the Coast Guard's Finest.**

\$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 10 and younger

The Station has offered us boat rides. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult and everyone must wear life jackets. **NOTE: Boat Rides MAY BE CANCELED DUE TO EITHER HEIGHTENED SECURITY OR ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.**

Come yourself, and consider hosting a friend or neighbor as a potential new Navy League member
For security reasons, we must have a count and everyone's names in advance

RSVP to jhoffutt@aol.com or call (703) 691-1260 before September 20, 2005.



(left to right) Nancy Gorell, President of the Northern Virginia Council of the Navy League of the U.S.; Mr. Martin Gorman, DIA; CDR Alexander Krongard, USN; and Rear Admiral Richard D. Jaskot, USN, Commandant, National War College.

"I was honored to represent the National Navy League at the National Defense University for the 2005 Award for Excellence in Research and Writing. It went to Mr. Martin Gorman, DIA and CDR Alexander Krongard, USN, for their jointly authored 'A Goldwater-Nichols Act for the U.S. Government: Institutionalizing the Interagency Process' " -- Nancy Gorell.



(left to right) Gunnery Sergeant Lester James, USMC Cadet Lizbeth Soto and CDR Fred Gorell, USN (Ret), Vice President and Ship Liaison for the Northern Virginia Council.

At an award ceremony in Woodbridge, VA, Fred presented our Council's Outstanding Navy League Cadet Award (Certificate and Medal) to Cadet Lizbeth Soto from Gar-Field Senior High School's MCJROTC unit.

(FMTAW)SEA CADET DIVISION



Our Outstanding Navy League Sea Cadet Award for 2004-2005 went to Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Sean Aldridge, USNSCC. The Ceremony was held at the US Coast Guard Station, TISCOM, in Alexandria.

(left to right,) CDR Fred Gorell, USN (Ret), Vice President and Ship Liaison of the NOVA Council, Nancy Gorell, President of the NOVA Council ,and Chief Petty Officer Sean Aldridge, USNSCC.

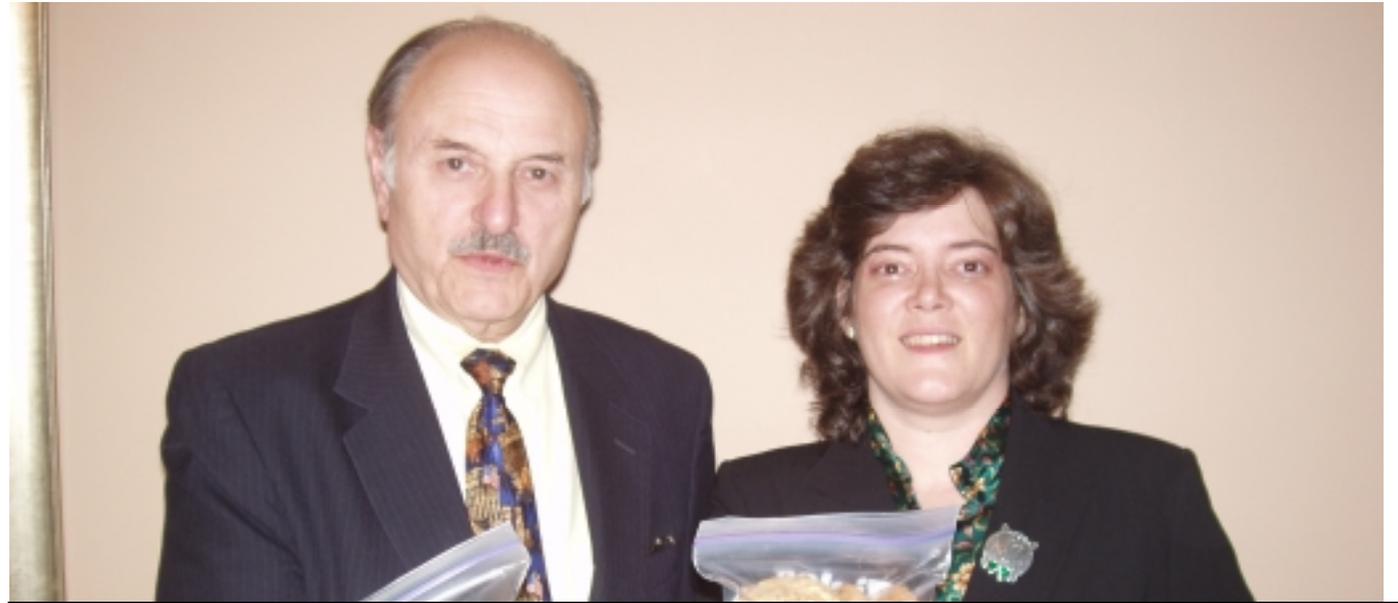
(pictured below) Nancy pins the Outstanding Navy League Sea Cadet Award on Sea Cadet Chief Petty Officer Aldridge. A "table level" presentation was needed due to foot surgery she had the day before.



NOTE:

We have linked this Sea Cadet unit with our recently adopted USCG Station Washington D.C (see page 5). The Sea Cadet unit is sending one Sea Cadet a week to serve with the Coast Guard Station.

Cookie Care Packages Will Go to Council's Adopted Patrol Boats Cardinal and Firebolt, Now Deployed in Middle East



New members of our Northern Virginia Council, Bob Fratkin and Gemaine Broussard, the "Cookie Lady"

America Supports You: 'Cookie Lady' Gives Troops Taste of Home

By Sgt. Sara Wood, USA
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, July 28, 2005 – The aroma of fresh-baked cookies filling the entryway of the small apartment brings a reminiscent feeling of home for many visitors. It does not, however, give an idea of the magnitude of the efforts of the one-woman cookie factory within these walls. Gemaine Broussard, also known as "The Cookie Lady," has been baking cookies for troops serving overseas for a year and a half. She has baked thousands of cookies and sent them to soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines -- most of whom she has never met.

Broussard started her baking ventures around Christmas 2003, when she decided she wanted to support the troops, but wanted her contribution to be more personal than just sending money, she said.

"I bake cookies. That's what I do," she said.

Broussard started small, sending cookies and care packages to a few individual servicemembers. She eventually branched out and adopted two different Navy ships and an entire battalion of Marines. Broussard was sending about 1,500 to 2,000 cookies at a time to each ship, she said, and the Marines received more than 7,000 cookies within six weeks.

Broussard is sponsoring two small Navy ships, three individuals and the Jungle Warfare Training Center in Okinawa, Japan. She just started sending packages to JWTC after partnering with SemperComm, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing communications and morale-boosting equipment to remote military bases.

SemperComm's Monica Suber said the organization first heard about Broussard's efforts two months ago and knew she was someone they wanted to partner with.

"Once we heard about her, it was just an instantaneous thing," she said. "We had to talk to her."

The partnership helps Broussard gain access to troops who need support, she said, because before she relied on word of mouth among people in the field.

All the cookies Broussard sends are baked in her small apartment kitchen in McLean, Va.

"Most people think I've got this huge industrial oven or industrial mixer," she said. "It's all done with a hand mixer."

Broussard bakes almost every night, after working what can sometimes be long hours as a business development associate for Smith Barney. She also serves as the treasurer of the McLean Citizen's Association and does graphic design for two magazines. With such a busy schedule, she said, it's easy to get tired and not want to bake, but then she remembers who she's baking for.

"The whole point is, if I come home and I don't want to bake, I kind of think, 'Do they really want to be there?'" she said. "And it changes my whole attitude."

Cookies aren't the only things Broussard uses to brighten troops' days. She also sends packages filled with various treats and necessities, from coffee to jump ropes to clean socks. People don't realize how much of a need service members have for the little things that others take for granted, she said.

"The challenge I make to everybody is: Start from the time you get up in the morning to the time you go to bed and think about everything you touch - from a hairbrush to a toothbrush to toothpaste to saline solution to anything," she said. "If you can put your hands on it, they can't."

Broussard's father served in the Army during the Korean War and her four uncles were in the Marine Corps. Her nephew is in the Army and is set to deploy to Iraq this fall, she said, and he and his platoon will definitely be receiving a lot of cookies, baked with extra love.

After many months and many more cookies, Broussard shows no signs of slackening her efforts. She didn't let knee surgery or a broken arm stop her from baking in the past, and she plans to continue until all the troops come home, she said. The only thing she has gotten burned out on is an appetite for the sweet treats she gives so many others the opportunity to enjoy.

"I don't eat my own cookies," she said. "After you see 2,000 of them on your kitchen table, you lose a taste for them."

June 15, 2005 Northern Virginia Council Meeting Highlights



Jim Offhutt, Vice President and Program Director thanks our Guest Speaker, Captain Stanley P. Hudson, Executive Assistant Chief of Navy Reserve.

NOVA Council's June 2005 General Membership Dinner Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at Mama's Italian Restaurant in Fairfax City, VA. Council President Nancy Gorell called the meeting to order.

- Formally Adopted the USCG Station Washington D.C.
- Collected items to be shipped to Marines in Iraq and Afghanistan, thanks to our Council members Gemaine Broussard, the "Cookie Lady" and Bob Fratkin. THANK YOU!!
- Jim Offhutt informed the members about the National Navy League Convention, held in Norfolk.



Fred and Nancy Gorell and the Northern Virginia Council present Lt. Frank Del Rosso, Commanding Officer of the United States Coast Guard Station Washington D.C. with the Adoption Certificate.



We honored the 2004 Sailor of the Year MK1 Mark Perkins and the Sailor of the Second Quarter MK3 Gregory Fiodorowicz, from our newly adopted Coast Guard Station.

- **Mark Your Calendar:** Following our September 24 BBQ event, the Council's next event will be participation at the U.S. Navy Birthday Celebration Ball on October 15, 2005 at the Crystal City Hyatt Regency. More information to follow.
- **We Are Online:** Check out our New Northern Virginia Council Web Site at <http://nova.navyleague.us/> It is a work in progress!

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR SEPTEMBER 24TH EVENT.