

# Kingsville Council of the Navy League – Quarterly Newsletter

Edition: 2024Q3:3

THIRD QUARTER 2024

July to September

*Proudly Serving South Texas Sea Service Families Since 1955*

## KINGSVILLE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE

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

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## USS Kingsville Special Edition



### Our Mission, Goals, & Membership

The Kingsville Council of the Navy League (KCNL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) civilian organization with over 100 members. Our Council was founded in 1955 with a mission to support military members, and their families, of our nation's Sea Services: U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marines. The Navy League of the United States, our national parent organization, with over 30,000 members worldwide, was founded in 1902 with the support of former President Theodore Roosevelt.

The goal of the Kingsville Council is threefold: to improve the quality of life of the members and their families of our adopted units, to support youth programs, and to educate the public about the need for our nation's Sea Services. **Educate. Advocate. Support.**

Our 6 adopted units and their leaders are:

- NAS Kingsville (NASK): CAPT Michael Bishop, USN
- Training Air Wing TWO (TW-2): CAPT Aaron Rybar, USN
- USS Kingsville (LCS 36): CDR Ludwig Mann III, USN
- Training Squadron 21 (VT-21): CDR M. Hooten, USN
- Training Squadron 22 (VT-22): CDR C. Hanson, USN
- Donna ISD MCJROTC: SgtMaj Jose Romero, USMC, Ret.

If you would like to join us in our mission, please visit the national Navy League website at [www.navyleague.org](http://www.navyleague.org) to start the application process and/or contact one of our 13 Board of Directors or our President, Lance Hamm (361-720-2795), for additional information.

Jeanie Alexander	Eric Jakimier
Kevin Clarke	Dianne Leubert (Secretary)
Barbara Denney	Fred Neusch
Tom Denney	Charlie Ratliff (Vice President)
Randy Foust	Steve Roach
Kim Hamm	Buddy Windham (Treasurer)
Lance Hamm (President)	

Our Board of Directors and All-Hands Membership meetings are normally held the first Thursday of each month at 12 noon at the Cherry Tree Tea Room Restaurant in downtown Kingsville, Texas (subject to change).

### Thank You to Our Donors & Volunteers

A big **THANK YOU** to our donors for supporting our mission and ultimately improving the quality of life of our local Sailors, Marines, JROTC Cadets, and their families. Our gracious donors are (listed alphabetically):

- Baffin Bay Seafood Restaurant (Yearly Gift Cards)
- Boeing (Goshawk Ball & Yearly Donor)
- Bray's Smokehouse Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Cherry Tree Tea Room (Use of Venue, Donor)
- Dodds, Scott (Member/Donor)
- Domus Development LLC (Eric Jakimier, Member)
- Ed Rachal Foundation (Yearly Donations)
- El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant (Yearly Gift Cards)
- Fidelity Technologies, (Goshawk Ball)
- Frank, Jonathan & Barbara (Oil Painting Donor)
- Gilcrease Foundation (Yearly Donations)
- Hahn & Oldham, PC (Members/Yearly Donors)
- Hamm, Lance & Kim (Members/Yearly Donors)
- Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy (Member/Donor)
- H.E.B. (Donna, TX)
- H.E.B. (Kingsville, TX)
- King Barbershop (Yearly Gift Cards)
- King Ranch Family (Purchase of Oil Painting)
- Kingsville CrossFit (Gift Cards)
- Las Vegas Bingo, Corpus Christi (Yearly Donor)
- President's Office, TAMUK (Donor)
- Rolls Royce (Corporate Affiliate & Yearly Donor)
- Texas Rose Rentals LLC (Rose Damron, Member)
- The Tailhook Association (Top Hook Gift Cards)
- Ultra Screen Printing and More (Merchandising)
- V2X (Goshawk Ball)
- Woman's Club of Kingsville – Athena Dept.
- Young's Pizza and Bar (Yearly Gift Cards)

A big **THANK YOU** is also extended to our volunteers. Along with our Board of Directors, about one fourth of our membership cadre are active volunteers. Their time and effort make our mission successful.

**THANKS again to our gracious donors and volunteers!**

## July 2024

The third quarter of 2024 started off with the Kingsville Navy League helping to sponsor the NASK MWR "Red, White, & Boom" 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration which included fireworks on the evening of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Many of our members were onboard NAS Kingsville to enjoy the festivities, including Brooke Spitzer and the Madrid mother (Prissy) and daughter duo, pictured below (Photo courtesy NASK MWR FaceBook page).



Our July meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup> was well attended with 9 Board members, 12 other members, and four guests including Kingsville Mayor, Sam Fugate. Pictured below left to right, donor appreciation certificates were presented to members Craig and Jennifer Alexander (Baffin Bay Seafood Restaurant) and new member certificates were presented to Andrew Villali, Jo Ann Castro, and Ann Marie Torres. Thank you to all donors and members for helping to make our mission successful! Serve & Support!



Below: After the meeting, the Kingsville Navy League sponsored the hors d'oeuvres for TW-2's Patching Ceremony held in the VT-22 Ready Room.



Below: LT Modelo, Top Hook awardee, and the other newly winged Naval Aviators on July 12<sup>th</sup> are pictured. Winging photos below provided by NAS Kingsville PAO, thank you Rod!.



On July 17<sup>th</sup>, Lance attended a TW-2 Spouse Indoc gathering on the base and discussed the Kingsville Navy League to all the new service members on base and gave out three gift cards courtesy of Harrel's Pharmacy, King Barbershop, and Ultra Screen Printing and More. Thank you to our donors!

Pictured below, Lance and Kim hosted a Kingsville Navy League Mixer at their house on July 27<sup>th</sup> and new members Jeff and Dorey Lewis joined the Kingsville Navy League that evening. Bravo! Other new members at the mixer were Doug Cook and Rose Damron, Jo Ann and Mauro Castro, and Christopher and Ann Marie Torres. Special guests from our adopted units included Commodore Rybar and Camille, LCOL Couvillon (all from TW-2), Kathy and Jose Romero from Donna ISD MCJROTC, and LTJG Farley and Sandy from VT-21 (donors as well). Other members attending were Pam and Charlie Ratliff, Sadie Hamm, and the photo was taken by Sophia Hamm. What a great evening with friends! Thank you all for coming.



In July, LTJG Dylan Farley (student pilot at TW-2) and his wife Sandy Farley (pictured below with Charlie) entered into an agreement with the Kingsville Navy League to donate \$50 to our 501(c)(3) for every USS Kingsville metal artwork that their business sells (Sandy Shores Metalworks on FaceBook). Thank you to Dylan and Sandy for supporting our mission with your outstanding design of the USS Kingsville & your generous donations! So far, nine disks have been sold for a total donation of \$450, WOW!





## August 2024

Our August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting was very busy as we finished the plans for the Commissioning Week of the USS Kingsville. The meeting was attended by 8 Board members, 7 other members, and 10 guests.

Our members were honored to recognize our Sailors of the Quarter (3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr), pictured below (L to R): HM3 Jordin Taylor, RP2 Onisha Simmons, and HM1 Lucia Porterfield. Congratulations! Each awardee was also given a gift card, and a free lunch was provided at the Cherry Tree Tea Room restaurant.



RP2 Simmons (center) attended one of our earlier meetings and provided the KCNL with the idea of giving T-shirts and decals as gifts to the sailors of the USS Kingsville, what a GREAT SUGGESTION and we, and the sailors, appreciate your initiative to speak up and give us your idea. Thank you, RP2 Simmons!

HM1 Porterfield (right) was surprised that the Kingsville Navy League supports the Donna ISD Marine Corps JROTC program as one of our adopted units. She is a product of that JROTC program and graduated high school from Donna ISD and still has family in the Valley. What a small world and it's great to see our KCNL support of youth programs come full circle, and we now get to recognize and shake HM1 Porterfield's hand in thanks as a productive and outstanding active-duty service member for her service to our nation while stationed at NAS Kingsville.



Three donors to the Kingsville Navy League were recognized on August 8<sup>th</sup> for their gracious donations in support of our mission. **Tracy Beadle and Cindy Pelagio** (Ultra Screen Printing and More) along with **Tom Denney** (Gilcrease Foundation) were presented Donor Appreciation Certificates on behalf of our membership from Lance Hamm, President of the Kingsville Navy League (all pictured below, left to right).



Our KCNL 2024 membership drive is resulting in more and more new members. We now have over 100 members helping to support our local Sailors, Marines, JROTC Cadets, and their families of our six adopted units, an increase of about 20% from 2023. Pictured below is **Sandy Alexander** receiving his "New Member" certificate at our August meeting. Welcome aboard Sandy!





# USS Kingsville (LCS 36)

## Arrival to South Texas, Adoption, Gala, and Commissioning Ceremony

### ARRIVAL TO SOUTH TEXAS (Port of Corpus Christi, 18Aug2024)

A few members of the Kingsville Navy League attended this historic event on August 18<sup>th</sup> at the Texas State Aquarium to witness the arrival of the USS Kingsville to South Texas and her initial transit into the Port of Corpus Christi. Be sure to visit the KCNL Facebook page for more photos and information.



Members of the Kingsville Navy League at Texas State Aquarium, from left: Sally Macias, Roy Medina, Charlie Ratliff, Dianne Leubert, Sophia Hamm, Sadie Hamm, Lance Hamm, Thelma Parker, Buddy Windham, Kim Hamm, Dennis Yaklin, Norma Nelda Alvarez, Al Garcia, and Dick Messbarger. Not pictured: Pam Ratliff.



### ADOPTION CEREMONY (USS Kingsville, 20Aug2024)

CDR Mann III, Commanding Officer of the USS Kingsville (LCS 36), was gracious in his invitation to the members of the Kingsville Navy League to tour the ship (in two groups) and conduct an Adoption Ceremony in the crew's mess decks. **THANK YOU to all the sailors for making our day so enjoyable and memorable.**

Our members brought aboard cake and refreshments sponsored by **HEB Kingsville**, and gifts were distributed to the sailors in recognition of the upcoming Commissioning. The KCNL provided two free T-shirts and ship decals for every crew member.



Top photo, L to R: Andrew & Brooke Spitzer, Tom Denney, Buddy & Melissa Windham, Dennis Yaklin, CDR Mann, Kim/Lance/Sophia Hamm, Pam Ratliff, Thelma Parker, Charlie Ratliff, Nick Harrel, & Kevin Clarke.

Bottom photo, KCNL members & guests, from left: Val Lara, Al Garcia, Kevin Clarke, Arturo Pecos, Doug Cook, Ann Marie & Chris Torres, Thelma Parker, Roy Medina, Dianne Leubert, Craig Alexander, Bret Bull, Sandy & Jeanie Alexander, Dennis Yaklin, Barbara Denney, and Starla Shuck (kneeling; BM2 Alejandrina Keil and ET1 Corey Nettles).



## ADOPTION CEREMONY (Continued)



Adoption Ceremony was held in the mess decks. T-shirts for all!



CDR Mann III and Lance Hamm formalize the adoption paperwork.



The cake for the Adoption Ceremony was sponsored by **HEB Kingsville** and was enjoyed by the sailors, members of the Kingsville Navy League, and their guests. **THANK YOU, HEB!**



**GALA (USS Lexington Museum, 23Aug2024)**



The crew of the USS Kingsville poses for a ceremonial photo. **CDR Mann III (Commanding Officer, USS Kingsville)** is in the center, with Executive Officer CDR Kavanagh and Command Senior Chief Morin III standing next to him.



Lance (right) unveils Frank's oil painting to **CDR Mann and Kathy Kline (sponsor of the USS Kingsville)** with the aid of our artist, Jonathan Frank (center), and Chris Torres (VFW Commander, left). This original oil painting was purchased by the King Ranch Family as a donation to the Kingsville Navy League. It is on display on the "military wall" within the Big House of the King Ranch in Kingsville.



**COMMISSIONING CEREMONY (Ortiz Center, 24Aug2024)**



CDR Mann III (Commanding Officer, USS Kingsville) gives an outstanding speech while the ship's sponsor, Kathy Kline, looks on.

A memorable quote from CDR Mann's speech is when he made a special request to the Kingsville Mayor to "add 80 to the Kingsville population" sign along the highway. Nice touch, CDR Mann!





## COMMISSIONING CEREMONY (Continued)



Above: **Kathy Kline (sixth generation King Ranch family member and Sponsor of the USS Kingsville)** gave an inspiring speech as she brought the “ship alive” with the aid of CDR Mann III (left) and Command Senior Chief Morin III (right).



Above: USS Kingsville sailors were instrumental in the Commissioning Ceremony. From left: Chief Alishia Delacruz, ET1 Patrick Johnson, CS3 Rixi Balleccillo, and BM2 Kimani Bailey.



Above: Sailors of the USS Kingsville “man the rails” during the Commissioning Ceremony. For the pride of all Texans and a tribute to the residents of South Texas, the Sailors proudly and enthusiastically donned white cowboy hats to the surprise of all the guests at the ceremony. Bravo Zulu! Well done!



Above: USS Kingsville in all her ceremonial splendor. Awesome!



Above: The Kingsville Navy League and the VFW provided the USS Kingsville with framed artwork as a gift. **Jonathan Frank** was the artist of the oil painting and donated the original painting and its copyright to the Kingsville Navy League. Thank you, Jonathan, and to his wife, Barbara! Your donations will benefit us for a long time.



Above: The pilots attached to Training Air Wing TWO performed a magnificent flyover of the USS Kingsville during the Commissioning Ceremony. The four T-45s in diamond formation looked spectacular. BZ! Photo courtesy NAS Kingsville PAO.



**FAREWELL TO USS KINGSVILLE and to HER SAILORS (26Aug2024)**



Above: Kingsville Navy League members were present during the departure of the USS Kingsville (in the background) from the Port of Corpus Christi on her transit to her homeport in San Diego, CA. From left: Dianne Leubert, Brooke Spitzer, and Sophia Hamm.



"Fair Winds and Following Seas" to the USS Kingsville and her crew. We'll "keep the lights on" in anticipation of your next visit.

**USS KINGSVILLE ARRIVES HOMEPORT (San Diego, 23Sep2024)**  
4 photos courtesy of LCS Squadron ONE Facebook Page. Thanks.



Above: The USS Kingsville (LCS 36) arrives San Diego on 23Sep2024, with the Coronado Bay Bridge in the background.



Above: ET1 Corey Nettles and his family.



Above: BM2 Alejandrina Keil and her family.



Above: USS Kingsville Executive Officer, CDR John Kavanagh, and his family.



## September 2024

Below: A few members of the Kingsville Navy League were on hand to bid **CAPT Eric Bromley** (Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville) a fond farewell as he retired from the U. S. Navy and had his Change of Command on 13Sep2024. From left: Terry Shannon, Erik and Brooke Spitzer, CAPT Bromley, Lance Hamm, Dianne Leubert, and Randy Foust.



Above: Within a week of assuming Command, CAPT Michael Bishop (Commanding Officer, NAS Kingsville) was busy presenting awards to deserving sailors. Here, he presents the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal to CS1 Antoria Major on 19Sep2024. Bottom two photos courtesy of NAS Kingsville PAO. Thank you!

The Kingsville Navy League has again sponsored Javelina Tailgate Socials to help our local service members enjoy Javelina Nation. Below: This tailgate was held on 28Sep2024. Free food, drinks, and games were all sponsored by the KCNL. Thank you to members of the **First-Class Petty Officers Association** for manning the grill! Free game tickets were sponsored by the **President's Office and Athletic Department of Texas A&M University – Kingsville**. Thank You!



In support of our adopted unit, Training Air Wing TWO, the KCNL sponsored the hors d'oeuvres at the 26Sep Patching Ceremony and three plaques at the Winging Ceremony on 27Sep2024.



Above: CAPT Aaron Rybar presents the COMMODORE'S LIST award to LT Gregory Swift (top left) and the TOP HOOK award to LTJG James Januszewski on 27Sep2024. Thank you to the Tailhook Association for providing a gift card to LTJG Januszewski. CONGRATULATIONS to all and good luck in the fleet.



Also, THANK YOU to all of the spouses of the newly winged aviators. We must never forget the sacrifice that military families endure while their loved-one is deployed and in harm's way.



Below: At the Winging Ceremony on 27Sep, Commodore Rybar was gracious to allow the Kingsville Navy League to present a special plaque to show our gratitude to **LTJG Dylan Farley and Sandy Farley**. This dynamite duo created the USS Kingsville 20-inch metal artwork (upper right in photo below) & donated \$450 to the Kingsville Navy League as a result of their sales (Sandy Shores Metalworks). Outstanding and THANK YOU to Sandy and Dylan. We will miss you both as you now leave Kingsville for the next military chapter in your lives. Good luck and we hope to see you back in Kingsville soon as a flight instructor and nurse.



Helping to present the plague to Dylan and Sandy were Kingsville Navy League members (from left) Erik Spitzer, Sophia Hamm, and Brooke Spitzer.

As the commissioning week of the USS Kingsville concluded in August, the Kingsville Navy League entered into an agreement with **Tracy Beadle and Cindy Pelagio, owners of Ultra Screen Printing and More** (their store is located downtown Kingsville across from HEB). The KCNL merchandise relating to the USS Kingsville can now be purchased from their store. THANK YOU, Tracy and Cindy, for supporting our mission! Rumor has it that they may soon join the KCNL. Outstanding!



Once again, thank you to Jonathan and Barbara Frank for donating the original oil painting of the USS Kingsville, its copyright, and so much more to the Kingsville Navy League. BZ!