

# Kingsville Navy League – Quarterly Newsletter

Edition: 2025Q3:7

THIRD QUARTER 2025

July-September 2025



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WEBSITE

*Proudly Serving South Texas Sea Service Families Since 1955*

## KINGSVILLE COUNCIL OF THE NAVY LEAGUE



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



@KingsvilleNavyLeague



@KingsvilleNL



### Our Mission, Goals, & Membership

The Kingsville Council of the Navy League (KCNL) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) civilian organization with over 110 members. Our Council was founded in 1955 with the mission to support our Adopted Units (listed below). 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, with the mission to support military members, and their families, of our nation's Sea Services: U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and U.S.-flag Merchant Marine.

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): Col Jayson Tiger, USMC
- USS Kingsville (LCS 36): CDR John Kavanagh, USN
- Training Squadron 21 (VT-21): CDR Zachary Matthews, USN
- Training Squadron 22 (VT-22): LtCol Sean Wolterman, USMC
- 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, Charlie Ratliff (361-455-5494). For 2025, our Directors are:

Jeanie Alexander	Dianne Leubert (Secretary)
Barbara Denney	Dick Messbarger
Tom Denney	Fred Neusch
Randy Foust	Charlie Ratliff (President)
Kim Hamm (Treasurer)	Brooke Spitzer
Lance Hamm	Buddy Windham (Vice President)
Alan Harwell	

Our Board of Directors and All-Hands Membership meetings/luncheons normally start at 12 noon at the Cherry Tree Tea Room Restaurant in downtown Kingsville, Texas. Future meeting dates are: 02Oct2025, 04Dec2025, 08Jan2026, and 05Feb2026 (subject to change).

### Thank You to Our Donors & Volunteers

A big **THANK YOU** to our donors for supporting our mission and improving the quality of life of our local Sailors, Marines, and JROTC Cadets. Our gracious (2024 & earlier) donors are listed alphabetically:

- Alexander, Jeanie & Sandy (Member Donors)
- Baffin Bay Seafood Restaurant (Member/Yearly Gift Cards)
- Boeing Corp. (Goshawk Ball Sponsor)
- Bray's Smokehouse Restaurant (Gift Cards)
- Cherry Tree Tea Room (Use of Venue, Member Donors)
- Dodds, Scott (Member Donor)
- Domus Development LLC (Eric Jakimier, Member/Donor)
- Ed Rachal Foundation (Major Donor)
- El Tapatio Mexican Restaurant (Yearly Gift Cards)
- Frank, Jonathan & Barbara (Major Artistic Donors)
- Gilcrease Foundation (Major Annual Donor)
- Hahn & Oldham, PC (Members/Major Annual Donors)
- Hamm, Lance & Kim (Member Donors)
- Harrel's Kingsville Pharmacy (Member/Yearly Gift Cards)
- H.E.B. Donna, TX (Donor for Special Projects)
- H.E.B. Kingsville, TX (Donor for Special Projects)
- King Barbershop (Yearly Gift Cards)
- King Ranch Family (Major Donor)
- Kingsville CrossFit (Gift Cards)
- Las Vegas Bingo, Corpus Christi (Major Annual Donor)
- Rolls Royce (Corporate Affiliate & Yearly Donor)
- Spitfire Elite Consulting (Major Sponsor of Goshawk Ball)
- TAMUK-President's Office (Major Sponsor of Tailgates+)
- Texas Rose Rentals LLC (Rose Damron, Member Donor)
- The Tailhook Association (Monthly Top Hook Gift Cards)
- Ultra Screen Printing & More (Members/Major Donor)
- V2X (Major Sponsor of Goshawk Ball)
- Woman's Club of Kingsville – Athena Dept.
- Yaklin, Dennis and Lynn (Member/Donors)
- Young's Pizza and Bar (Yearly Gift Cards)

A big **THANK YOU** is also extended to our many volunteers throughout the year. Along with our Board of Directors, about one-fourth of our membership cadre are volunteers &/or donors that help with our yearly events. Without their time & effort our mission would not be successful.

## July 2025

The third quarter of 2025 started off with the Kingsville Navy League helping to again 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.



Sophia and Norma volunteer at our booth to give Charlie and Pam a break during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.



From left are members Sophia and Kim. Far right is member Sabrina with her daughter Charlotte and husband Kenny.



## WINGING and COMMODORE'S LIST AWARD

July 2025 ended with another celebration of Training Air Wing TWO student pilots receiving their “Wings of Gold” at their 25 July 2025 Friday afternoon Winging ceremony onboard NAS Kingsville. As usual, the Kingsville Navy League provided hors d’oeuvres at the Patching ceremony on Thursday night the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. The Kingsville Navy League proudly sponsors all awardee plaques at the TW-2 Winging Ceremonies, see below.

Congratulations to all of the newest Naval Aviators and to especially **1stLt Mitchell A. Sutton**, pictured below receiving the Commodore’s List Award from **LtCol Sean Wolterman**, USMC, Commanding Officer, VT-22.



Plaque presented to 1stLt Sutton for earning the distinction of being placed on the Commodore’s List for top 10% academically for all student pilots in 2025.



## August 2025

The Kingsville Navy League hosted their bimonthly meeting at the Cherry Tree Tea Room restaurant on August 7th with 8 Board members present along with 8 other members and 7 guests. At the meeting, the monthly membership report informed the members and guests that the Kingsville Navy League's membership now stands at 116 members strong.

During the August meeting **Sandra Messbarger** received her "Welcome Aboard" certificate from Charlie Ratliff (KCNL President) as the newest member of the Kingsville Navy League. Congratulations Sandra!



In July 2025, the Kingsville Navy League partnered with the Corpus Christi Navy League to begin a big push for everyone to purchase tickets to the **250th Navy Birthday Ball** to be held at the Hilliard Center on October 18, 2025. See our future 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Newsletter for pictures of the event.



Also, during the August all-hands meeting, Charlie presented certificates and gift cards to our Sailors of the Quarter, pictured below from left:

SOQ: **MA1 (AW/SW) Trentin Thrasher**

BJOQ: **MA3 Joel Madrigal**

Not pictured, JSOQ, MA2 Timothy Macomb

CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU for your service!



A great turnout at our August meeting, 23 guests total!







## The Awards Arrived in the Mail

Pictured above, the members of the Kingsville Navy League and guests at the August meeting were proud to display the plaques that had arrived in the mail from our Navy League headquarters in Arlington, VA.

Largely due to the **SUBERB VOLUNTEERISM OF OUR MEMBERS** in 2024 during:

- 1) a year-long membership drive that resulted in an increase of over 30% in membership, AND
  - 2) the Commissioning and Adoption of the USS Kingsville, the Kingsville Navy League was presented with the following six 2024 National and Region awards:
1. Lone Star Region President's "Meritorious Council" Award
  2. Sea Service Unit Adoption Excellence Award (Medium Council)
  3. Honorable Mention Council – Council Performance Award
  4. Donald M. Mackie Award for Newsletter (Platinum, Highest Award)
  5. Donald M. Mackie Award for Social Media (Platinum, Highest Award)
  6. Donald M. Mackie Award for Website (Gold, 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Award)

**CONGRATULATIONS to all of the members of the Kingsville Navy League** for putting in the hard work to support the Sailors, Marines, and JROTC Cadets of our six adopted units and to be recognized for your outstanding volunteer service to the Navy League of the United States.  
**BZ to all!**

**Happy Birthday to the USS Kingsville and her crew!**



Photos taken from the USS Kingsville Facebook page show the crew's celebration onboard the mighty ship. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the crew for the one-year anniversary of the ship's commissioning that was held on 24Aug2024. Continued on next page...





Above, Sailors onboard the USS Kingsville await their turn to indulge in the Birthday cake and punch. USS Kingsville photos on this page courtesy of the USS Kingsville Facebook page. Thanks!



Above, another reason to celebrate on the USS Kingsville.  
**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE CHIEF SELECTEES!**

Pictured below, **BMCS Delacruz** is “piped ashore” as she presents and receives a final salute from USS Kingsville’s Commanding Officer, CDR John Kavanagh in August of 2025.

**CONGRATULATIONS BMCS DELACRUZ FOR A JOB WELL DONE AND FOR SERVING AND PROTECTING OUR SHIP AND OUR NATION. GOOD LUCK on your next chapter-in-life.**



## September 2025



Late August or early September means only one thing...

## JAVELINA FOOTBALL! and The NASK MWR TAILGATES!

The Kingsville Navy League was proud to again sponsor the NAS Kingsville MWR tailgates at TAMUK’s Javelina Stadium with our external partners at the University, including the **President’s Office**, the **Athletic Department**, and **Nicole Ortegon’s MWR Team** from NAS Kingsville. Free game tickets, food, drinks, and plenty of fun for all military personnel in the area was again provided for three home games in 2025.

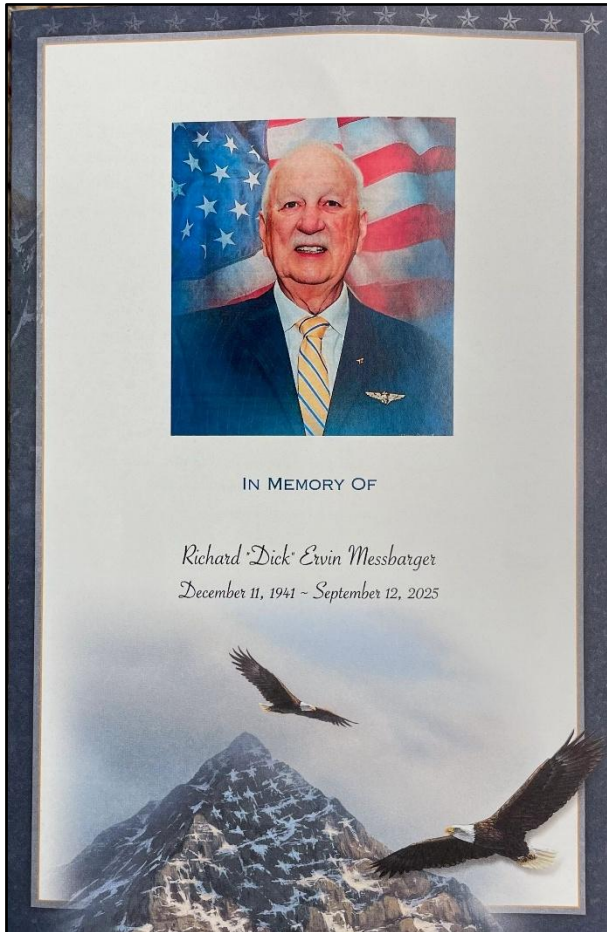




**“FAIR WINDS and FOLLOWING SEAS”  
TO DICK MESSBARGER,  
OUR BELOVED KINGSVILLE NAVY LEAGUE  
DIRECTOR**

Sadly, **Dick Messbarger**, 83, passed away on 12Sep2025 with Sandra and family by his side. A memorial can be viewed on our Kingsville Navy League website with his obituary and many pictures at...

<https://kingsvillenavyleague.org>



**HONORARY NAVAL AVIATOR #38**

Pictured below, arguably the most prestigious highlight of the 2025 Goshawk Ball came when **RADM Brophy** (CNATRA) made a surprise announcement, with help from **Commodore Aaron Rybar**, that the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) had designated

**Mr. DICK MESSBARGER**

**HONORARY NAVAL AVIATOR #38**

for contributions rendered to naval aviation of a truly extraordinary nature. Bob Hope and Tom Cruise are also Honorary Naval Aviators, to give you examples of the prestige and caliber of this award. According to our records, Dick Messbarger has been a member of the Kingsville Navy League for 34 years and in 2025 he started another term as a newly elected Director.

Fair Winds and Following Seas, Dick!





## September 2025 (continued)

September 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> brought more Navy and Marine Corps families to Kingsville to celebrate the TW-2 Patching and Winging Ceremonies.

Congratulations to **LTJG Ellen C. Banker**, USN, along with 18 of her peers, for earning their “Wings of Gold” on 26Sep2025. BZ to our nation’s newest 19 Naval Aviators and best of luck in the Fleet to each and every one.

Below, **Col Tiger**, USMC, Commodore, TW-2, presented **LTJG Banker** the TOP HOOK award for having the best TW-2 carrier landing grades during the Sep2025 carrier qualifications onboard the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75).



Above, and below, at the 25Sep2025 Thursday afternoon **Patching Ceremony**, the student aviators, their families, and friends await the exciting news as to where the “soon to be Winged” aviators will be stationed after NAS Kingsville and which aircraft the aviators will be flying in the Fleet.

Then the party begins.

Hors d'oeuvres proudly sponsored by the Kingsville Navy League.



## Looking Ahead to the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter

### UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2025 AND 2026:

1. Our next meetings of the Kingsville Navy League will be:
  - 02 October 2025
  - 04 December 2025
  - 08 January 2026 (Annual All-Hands Meeting)
  - 05 February 2026
2. **Patching and Winging Ceremonies** are scheduled for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of December. Normally they are held the last Thursday and Friday of the month. Check our calendar on our website for exact dates and times.
3. 27 FEB 2026: **2026 GOSHAWK BALL** onboard the USS Lexington Museum. We're seeking sponsorships and donations.
4. 18-19 April 2026: **WINGS OVER SOUTH TEXAS** Airshow. The **Blue Angels** return to NAS Kingsville after many years.