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The Anchor

"Weighing In At The Heart Of New Jersey
Navy League of the United States
Central Jersey Council - Founded in 1902



Our Adopted Units:

NWS Earle,
Leonardo, NJ

USNS Supply
AOE 6
NWS Earle, NJ

USCGC Bainbridge Island,
WPB 1343
Sandy Hook, NJ

USCGC Katherine Walker
WLM 552
Bayonne, NJ

USCGC Sailfish
WPB 87356
Sandy Hook, NJ

USCGC Sturgeon Bay
WTGB 109
Bayonne, NJ

BB62 Division United
States Sea Cadets Corps
Camden, NJ

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VICE-PRESIDENT:
Christine Aaron

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by William Aitken



Another year has flown by and I am happy to report that I was able to keep the ship on course as the Central Jersey Council continued its excellence in support of our sea services.

2010 began with the knowledge that there would be many changes on the horizon for our adopted units. There were no less than 4 Change of Commands this year, as we bid fair well to Capt. Gary Maynard, USN, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Capt. Robert O'Brien, USCG Sector New York, Lt. Daniel Twomey, USCG Katherine Walker and LtCmdr. Scott Rae, USCG Sturgeon Bay. While each will be greatly missed, I am looking forward to working with the incoming commanding

officers.

As has been the history of this council, we have been living up to the all the challenges put before us and have far exceeded expectations of those who do not truly know what we do. In addition to our annual support for the change of commands, the command picnic and other holiday events for our adopted units, this year we sponsored the Region Mid-Atlantic Sailor of the Year program and made new friends with the command in Norfolk Va. This culminated with an invitation by Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel, USN inviting 6 members of the council to travel down to Norfolk so that they could embark on board the USS Iwo Jima as it traveled to New York for Fleet Week 2010.

Our council has also been busy assisting the Navy Ball Committee with many of its fundraising activities, by selling food and beverages at car shows and air

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The Anchor

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Stephen Hutton
Newsletter Editor



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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (continued)

shows at various locations in New Jersey.

This year has also been one of great honors for our council. Starting with our instillation dinner, where in addition to having representatives for all of our sponsored units, we were honored to have the commanding officers from Naval Weapons Station Earle (Capt. Gary Maynard, USN) and Joint Base McGuire, Dix, Lakehurst (Col. Gina Grosso, USAF). Next the Council was honored by Rear Adm. Mark S. Boensel with the presentation of a plaque for our support of the Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Sailor of the Year Award Ceremony. Last but not least, the Central Jersey Council was once again selected by the Navy League of the United States as a Meritorious Council for 2009.

While I may have been the initial recipient of these awards, all the awards were due in full to the hard work and devotion of many of the council officers and board

of directors.

All in all, this has been a great year for the Council and as long as we keep up our commitment to our adopted units and those programs started before my presidency, we should have an even brighter future.

At the present time, the Navy League of the United States, just like other organizations, is suffering from dwindling numbers in its membership and they are asking that we do our best to increase our membership. If each member were to recruit only one new member this year, our council would be the largest in the state. Also, with the added monies from rebates the council receives from membership dues, we would be able to provide even more support to our adopted units and cutters.

Alone we may not be able to do much, but in greater numbers, our possibilities are unlimited. ♦

GET YOUR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE

To help the council reduce its costs please sign-up for our on-line newsletter. Mailing costs associated with the newsletter are one of our council's largest operating expenses, so we are considering elimination of the print edition to allow us to focus our expenditures more fully on the maritime units we support.

This MAY be the last printed edition you receive so contact sjhutton@cjnlus.com to find out more OR sign up on our web site for future communications via email.

Central Jersey Council of the Navy League of the United States



www.cjnlus.com

The Navy League of the United States was founded in 1902 with the encouragement of President Theodore Roosevelt. It is unique among military-oriented associations in that it is a civilian organization dedicated to the education of our citizens, including our elected officials, and the support of the men and women of the sea services and their families.



www.navyleague.org

Navy Mid Atlantic Region Sailor of the Year.

by William Aitken

On Thursday, January 28, 2010, the Central Jersey Council, the Earle Branch of the Navy Federal Credit Union and the Kessler Rehabilitation Center co-sponsored the Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic Sailor of the Year Award Ceremony. The ceremony was held at the Windjammer Club at NWS Earle in Colts Neck New Jersey. The Sailor of the Year Award recognizes the sailors and reservists E-4 through E-6 from the all the ships, shore bases and commands within the Mid-Atlantic Region who best exemplify the oath every sailor takes upon enlisting.

This year the top five finalists were treated to a tour of New York City before the announcement of the winner. This year's Mid Atlantic Region Sailor of the Year is YN1(EXE) Elsie Lauren Jewett from Commander Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Virginia. Council President Aitken presented YN1 Jewett with a \$100.00 check from the Council. Bravo Zulu to YN1(EXE) Elsie Lauren Jewett on her award. Bravo Zulu also goes out to our own MA1(SW) Juan Caro from Naval Weapons Station Earle, as he was selected as one of the five finalists from the Mid-Atlantic Region. ❖

Change of Command and retirement of Capt. Robert O'Brien

by William Aitken

On June 24, 2010, Capt. Robert O'Brien, USCG retired from the Coast Guard and as Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Sector New York. Capt. O'Brien will be returning to his home in North Carolina. Capt. O'Brien was a good friend of the Central Jersey Council attending many of our dinners and providing assistance to many events in New York Harbor.

Former president Daniel A. Dermer presented Capt. O'Brien with a piece of artwork from Nate Ostrow. The Council's best wishes go out to Capt. Robert O'Brien USCG (Ret.) and his family.

The incoming CO Coast Guard Sector New York is Capt. Linda L. Fagan, USCG ❖

Change of Command Naval Weapons Station Earle

by William Aitken

On February 18, 2010, in a traditional U.S. Naval Ceremony, Captain Gary A. Maynard, US Navy read his orders and turned command of Naval Weapons Station Earle over to Captain David J. (Fuzz) Harrison, US Navy. At the conclusion of the ceremony Council President Aitken presented Captain Maynard with a copy of the History of the Navy League (Captain Maynard was previously presented with a Nate

Ostrow portrait at our November dinner meeting). Captain Maynard was an outstanding friend of the Council, coming to as many Council events as his schedule would permit, as well as paving the way for many of our programs with the base. The Central Jersey Council extends a heartfelt **fair winds and following seas** to Captain Maynard and his family as he assumes his new command in Honolulu Hawaii. ❖

Change of Command USCGC Katherine Walker

by William Aitken

On July 2, 2010, the Central Jersey Council, NLUS bid fair wins and following seas to Lt. Daniel Twomey of the USCGC Katherine Walker.

Former president Daniel A. Dermer presented Lt. Twomey with a piece of artwork from Nate Ostrow. Replacing Lt. Twomey as the new CO is Lt. John M. Singletary, USCG. The Council's best wishes go out to Lt. Daniel Twomey and his family on his new command in California. ❖



Change of Command USCGC Sturgeon Bay

by William Aitken



On July 6, 2010, the Central Jersey Council, NLUS bid fair wins and following seas to Lt. Cmdr. Scott Rae of the USCGC Sturgeon Bay. Council President William Aitken presented Lt. Cmdr Rae with a piece of artwork from Nate Ostrow. The Council's best wishes go out to Lt. Cmdr Rae, who will not be leaving

us as his new command in Cape May, New Jersey. Replacing Lt. Cmdr Rae as the new CO is Lt Dan Everette, USCG. Immediately following the ceremony Lt. Everette and USCGC Sturgeon Bay received orders to travel to the Gulf of Mexico to assist with the cleanup of the BP Oil Spill. ❖

4th of July Aboard USCGC Katherine Walker

by Daniel Dermer



Early on Sunday, July 4th 2010, Council members Christine Aaron, Dan Dermer, Steve Hutton, Bob Scheer and Muriel Smith boarded the USCGC Katherine Walker for a long day of work. Along with plenty of food, the members got under way with the cutter was stationed in the Hudson River for Macy's fireworks.

Once on station the members "took over" the galley in order to relieve the food service petty officers of the job of preparing food for the crew and guests

numbering almost 150 persons. Besides other Coast Guard personnel, this trip included only the families of the crew. Although busy providing a sector command post and harbor security, the crew, most of whom never saw the Macy's fireworks, were able to spend time with their families as they watched the display overhead.

All of the crew and their families were grateful for the food and refreshments provided by the Council as well as to those members who prepared it. ❖

COUNCIL WINS MAJOR NATIONAL AWARD*by Daniel Dermer & William Aitken*

On July 16, 2010, the Navy League of the United States announced its 2009 awards list. For the second time in 3 years, the Central Jersey Council was named as a Meritorious Council for all of our activities and support during calendar year 2009. In a letter from our National President Daniel Branch, the Council was cited for having done an excellent job in following the mission of the Navy League. Furthermore our Council's dedication to the men and women of the sea services is demonstrated throughout the many activities conducted by the Council.

As one of only ten recipients of this award world-wide, Council members Dick Ehlert, John and Jane Niedzwiecki and Past Council President Dan Dermer will travel to the National Convention in Jacksonville Florida to accept this award.

Below is a list of those councils receiving awards for 2009.

Outstanding Councils:

Bremerton – Olympic Peninsula
Broward County
Corpus Christi
Golden Isles
Hampton Roads
Honolulu
Mayport
National Capital
New Mexico
Newport County
Pittsburgh
San Diego
Santa Barbara
Sasebo Japan
Savannah
Seattle

Meritorious Councils:

Atlanta Metropolitan
Bakersfield
Baltimore
Black Sea
Central New Jersey
Glenview
Greater Austin
Guam
New York
Oak Harbor
Singapore

Honorable Mention Councils:

Central Florida
Channel Islands
Charleston
French Riviera-Monaco
Santa Rosa County Florida
Tampa
Thailand Eastern Seaboard
Tri-City
Vieques

Proposed Officers and Board of Directors for 2011*by Daniel Dermer***PROPOSED OFFICERS FOR 2011**

President: William Aitken
Senior VP: Christine Aaron
VP Military Affairs: Dan Dermer
VP Community Affairs: Frank Greco
VP Membership: Robert Scheer
Treasurer: Tom Vastardis
Secretary: Pauline Himeleski
Liaison for Policy: John Niedzwiecki
Public Affairs Officers: Steve Hutton
Judge Advocate: Joseph Rotella
Master at Arms: Paul Syers
Historian: Dr. Angus Gillespie
Chaplain: Vincent LeBlon

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Richard V. Ehlert
Dr. Angus Gillespie
Frank Greco
James Haney
Henry Jensen
Janie Komssi
Andy Madajewski
Walter Olkowski
Alice Rodakis
Patrick Shimalla

Any Council Member is eligible to hold an elected position within the Central Jersey Council.

Anyone who wishes to be nominated for any of the above offices should contact the Daniel Dermer, Chairman of the Nominating Committee at dermerda@hotmail.com for further information or simply refer to your Council By-laws ❖

BB-62 Annual Inspection

by William Aitken

On March 20, 2010 Council Officers Frank Greco and Andrew Madajewski attended the 2010 inspection for the BB-62 Division, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The cadets mustered for a dress uniform inspection by staff from Region 4-3. The BB-62 Division received high grades for the inspection as well as for the accomplishments throughout the year.

Bravo Zulu to the cadets of BB-62 Division, its commanding officer, Lt. Bart Myles, its XO, Lt. Laura Kusisto and the rest of the officers and staff of the BB-62 division on another fine year. ❖



BB-62 Awards Banquet

by William Aitken



On June 6, 2010 the BB-62 Division, USNSCC held its annual Awards Banquet. Council President William Aitken presented the Navy League's Roosevelt Youth Award to League Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Gunther Tornberg and League Cadet Seaman Connor Foley.

The Navy League Roosevelt Youth Award is presented annually to the units Sea Cadet of the Year and League Cadet of the year.

Bravo Zulu to this year's recipients. ❖

Chief Callahan Goes To Annapolis

by William Aitken

On Sunday, June 6, 2010 the BB-62 Division, NLUS bid CPO Jacqueline Callahan fair winds and following seas as she graduated from the sea cadet program and received her appointment to the United States Naval Academy @ Annapolis.

Lt. Bart Myles, USNSCC tearfully read Chief Callahan's discharge orders as she prepares to embark on her navy career as she was recently



accepted to the US Naval Academy. Chief Callahan was a prior recipient of the Council's Roosevelt Youth Award as Sea Cadet of the Year and is a well deserving selection to the academy.

Bravo Zulu to Chief Callahan and her family on an exemplary Sea Cadet career and her appointment to the Academy and we look forward to hearing from as she continues in the United States Navy. ❖

Fleet Week 2010

by Daniel Dermer

This year the Central Jersey Council had the opportunity to be on board the USS Iwo Jima for a trip up to New York City from Norfolk Virginia.

Once in the vicinity of New York City, the Iwo Jima was part of the Parade of Ships into the harbor.

Council members, Christine Aaron, Dan Dermer, Angus Gillespie, Frank Greco, Muriel Smith and Bob Scheer took part in this event.

During the trip, the members were able to meet many US Marines and Navy personnel and see all of the equipment they use in executing their duties.

The Council was also treated to a full tour of the entire amphibious assault aircraft carrier.

The three day trip also included witnessing flyovers and landings of various aircraft as well as seeing the Hover-Craft deliver equipment from onshore. ❖

An excerpt from 'Embarking on the USS Iwo Jima' by Angus Kress Gillespie

visit our web site at http://www.cjnlus.com/story_detail.php?story_id=577 to read the complete article

It was the Sunday before Memorial Day weekend, May 23, 2010, when six of us set out from Central Jersey for Norfolk, Virginia. Our group included Danny Dermer, Frank Grecco, Chris Aaron, Muriel Smith, Robert Scheer, and myself. We drove south on the New Jersey Turnpike, crossed into Delaware, and continued down the Delmarva Peninsula. There we passed roadside stands selling country hams, fireworks, inexpensive cigarettes, and fireworks. We crossed over the Chesapeake Bay Tunnel-Bridge, quite an experience. As you travel out on the bridge, you lose sight of land. It's like being at sea in your own car. As you look out—left and

right, fore and aft—you see nothing but water.

We got to Norfolk around 4:00 pm, so we still had time before we had to board the ship, so we stopped off at the waterside marketplace to see the sights along the Elizabeth River and to take our dinner at Joe's Crab Shack. We reported to the naval station by 7:00 and we were aboard the USS Iwo Jima by 8:30 pm. We passed through the hangar bay with the large ship's seal on the bulkhead showing the classic flag raising scene on Mt. Suribachi, under which was the slogan "Uncommon Valor".

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Navy League / Hooters Restaurant Fund Raising* Car Wash For Our Holiday Gift Program

by Steve Hutton

On September 18, 2010 the Central Jersey Council were joined by several girls from Hooters Restaurant of East Brunswick, NJ in conducting a fund raising car wash at Sweeney's Gulf Station on Route 18th south, East Brunswick, NJ.

In addition to the Hooters girls (Michelle, Amanda, Christina, Devin, Christina, Cara & Elisha) we had several Navy League members (Bill, Dan, Steve, Allison Aitken, Mr. Ehlert, Don Owen & John Brown) and a student volunteer (Alexsa) from a local NJ university.

The purpose of the event was to get a start on raising money for our upcoming holiday toy and clothing drive that takes place in December.

The event started at 11:00am with the girls getting into the spirit quickly despite the chilly start to the day.

The girls worked really hard for hours and showed tremendous energy and enthusiasm helping to make this event a real success.

As the clouds dispersed and the day got warmer the cars started lining up.



The event was sponsored by the following local businesses who also offered discount offers to patrons who donated funds:

Hooters of East Brunswick
195 NJ-18, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Thomas Vastardis & Associates
63 Milltown Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

Sweeney's Gulf Station
229 State Route 18, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

* All monies received were in the form of donations with suggested amounts only based upon types of vehicles.

April Dinner Meeting at the Windjammer Club

by William Aitken

On April 26, 2010 the Central Jersey Council held a dinner at the Windjammer Club, Naval Weapons Station Earle, Colts Neck, New Jersey. Captain David J. (Fuzz) Harrison, US Navy and commanding officer of Naval Weapons Station Earle was our guest speaker. While he was only at Earle for a few short weeks, Capt. Harrison entertained the Council with numerous stories and facts about the base that many were unaware. At the conclusion of the dinner, Council President William Aitken presented Capt. Harrison with the Council's ball cap, which he immediately donned in support of our council. ❖

October Dinner Meeting Planned

by Daniel Dermer

On Tuesday, October 25, 2010, the Council will have its final dinner meeting for the year. Our guests will be the new Commanding Officers from our adopted cutters the New Commanding Officers from Naval Weapons Station Earle and US Coast Guard Sector New York. The evenings events will also include the presentation of the Aids to Navigation Team's Officer in Charge, Lt. Wiley and the CO of USCGC Penopscott Bay, Lt. Martshall Griffen. The Council is preparing to formally adopt these units in the near future. As is customary, we shall meet at the East Brunswick Chateau at 5:30 pm with Dinner being served at 6:30 PM. Our formal program will begin after dinner. Please use the enclosed reservation form to reserve your space or contact Dan Dermer at 732-257-7999. Please plan on attending this dinner so you can personally welcome the new CO's and wish them your best.. ❖

Calendar of Upcoming Events

by Daniel Dermer

September 27, 2010

Board of Directors and Regular Council Meeting:
6:30 PM, American Legion Hall,
Milltown NJ. Food and Refreshments will be served

October 15, 2010

Navy Ball as sponsored by Naval Weapons Station Earle, please contact Dan Dermer for details.

October 20-24 2010

National NLUS Winter Meeting, Arlington Va. See your Sea Power magazine or contact Dan Dermer for details.

October 25, 2010

Central Jersey Council Fall Dinner Meeting, East Brunswick Chateau
5:30 PM Cocktail Hour, followed by dinner at 6:30 PM.

See details in this newsletters

November 2010

November is turkey drive and gift drive month. Any turkeys or Holiday gifts collected will be donated to needy service personnel and their families. Please contact William Aitken if you can donate any food store gift cards or turkeys

November 22, 2007

Board of Directors and Regular Council Meeting:
6:30 PM, American Legion Hall, Milltown NJ.
Food and Refreshments will be served

This is the final meeting of the Central Jersey Council for 2010. The Election of Officers for 2011 will take place as well as the Christmas giving tree for minor dependants of our adopted cutters. See upcoming Council alerts for more details!

December 11, 2010

Tentative Date for the Brunch with Santa with the USCGC's Katherine Walker, Penobscott Bay and Sturgeon Bay. Christmas Part's for the USCGC Bainbridge Island and Sailfish are still being planned, see upcoming Council Alerts for more details.

January 22, 2011

Annual Installation Dinner, East Brunswick Chateau.

See upcoming newsletters or Council alerts for more details.

Embarking on the USS Iwo Jima (continued from page 7)*by Angus Kress Gillespie*

The USS Iwo Jima LHD-7 is the second ship of this type to have the name of the famous island battle in World War 2, "Iwo Jima". The LHD is a helicopter dock landing amphibious assault ship. The ships design was built around the needs and requirements to house, transport and land a Marine battalion anywhere in the world with a coast line. Building on Iwo Jima began at Ingalls Shipyard in September of 1996 to which she was then launched on February 4th, 2000. On the ship's maiden voyage falling on June 23rd, 2001, her special guests appropriately included veterans of the World War 2 Battle of Iwo Jima itself. She was commissioned a week later in Pensacola, Florida, on June 30, 2001. We felt lucky to be aboard.

We settled into our staterooms. We were actually very well off, being situated in marine troop officers quarters, relatively spacious with four people to a room with two double bunks. I had forgotten that every item of equipment in the Navy is described officially by noun first, followed by adjectives in decreasing order of importance. So I was a bit startled to find on my bunk "blanket: bed, wool, mothproofed." It took a while to get used to the address system on board the ship. My stateroom was located at 02-27-0, meaning the second deck up from the hangar deck at the 27th frame from the bow and at the center of the ship. Memorizing this address made it easier to return to my cabin from anywhere else in the labyrinth of the ship.

The next morning we took our breakfast in the Officer's Wardroom, which was amazingly large. Most of my previous experience was on smaller ships, so I was amazed to find a wardroom with nine tables, each seating ten officers, for a total of 90 people. Most of the ships I have been on had fewer than 90 total crew, let alone officers. Although the wardroom had a low ceiling and no windows, it was quite elegant with deep blue vinyl tablecloths and side chairs also covered with similar deep blue vinyl. The epoxy floor was blue in color, embedded with white chips, the whole thing buffed to a bright shine. The only problem with the wardroom was that the air-conditioning system was malfunctioning. It had only two settings—full blast or off. They decided on full blast, so it was quite cold.

Monday morning began with a loud voice over ship-wide loudspeakers saying, "Reveille, Reveille, All hands heave to!" After washing up, we went to

breakfast, followed by a "briefing," actually a PowerPoint presentation given by various junior officers, topic by topic, for the commanding officer, the executive officer, and the colonel of marines. The weather report was gloomy, with fog predicted.

The navigation briefing gave a turn by turn report on the plan to leave Norfolk by means of the Thimble Shoal Channel, passing Cape Henry, Hampton Roads, and Old Point Comfort on the way out to the Chesapeake Bay. The maneuvers would be aided by a harbor pilot, followed by a Virginia Bar pilot. Along the way, while still in sheltered waters, we would anchor to allow "well deck operations." A well deck is a hangar-like deck located at the waterline in the stern of an amphibious warfare ship, like the USS Iwo Jima. By taking on water the ship can lower its stern, flooding the well deck and allowing amphibious landing craft to dock with the ship.

We quickly learned that both the Navy and the Marine Corps love acronyms. The amphibious operations depended on a number of LCACs (Landing Craft Air Cushion), hovercraft used to deliver vehicles and weapons to the ship. The LCACs use jet engines to power giant fans, and they are very expensive at about \$23 million each. These military hovercrafts resemble very big Florida Everglades airboats. The hovercraft delivered a MRAP (Mine Resistant Ambush Protected), a type of armored fighting vehicle designed to survive improvised explosive devices and ambushes. They also delivered a MTRV (Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement), a six-wheel drive all-terrain military vehicle as well as two LCUs (Landing Craft Utility), a type of boat used by amphibious forces to transport equipment and troops to the shore. Once the operation was complete, the ballast tanks would be emptied of water by compressed air, so that the stern of the ship would be lifted to its correct depth for sailing. Blowing the compressed air into the ballast tanks was incredibly noisy—the sound could be heard throughout the ship.

The briefing also covered contingency plans in case anything were to go wrong, such as loss of steering control, man overboard, loss of gyro compass, or reduced visibility. Nothing serious did go wrong, though the navigators did suffer considerable reduced visibility because of the heavy fog, forcing us to travel at a very slow five knots, with the fog horn blasting every 60 seconds. ❖

For the complete essay visit the Council's web site at http://www.cjnlus.com/story_detail.php?story_id=577





Tom Ehler
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**CENTRAL JERSEY COUNCIL- NLUS
OCTOBER DINNER MEETING**

WHEN: Tuesday, October 26th, 2010
5:30 p.m. cocktails
6:30 p.m. dinner
WHERE: East Brunswick Chateau Restaurant
COST: \$27.50 per person **Cash Bar**

Please join us for the Central Jersey Council's October Dinner Meeting

Complete the form below, making your check payable to 'Central Jersey Council- NLUS', and mail the form with your check to Daniel Dermer, 28 Jensen Street, East Brunswick, NJ 08816, no later than October 19th 2010.

Please, make every effort to attend and show your support to our Adopted Military Units and the Council.

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ for _____ reservations to the October Dinner Meeting on October 26th, 2010.

No. of people attending _____

Please indicate your choice and number of entrees:

Skirt Steak _____ Chicken Francaise _____ Broiled Talapia _____

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. No. _____