

News Clip

Jan 22, 2020



Navy League
of the United States
Palm Beach Council
Citizens in Support of the Sea Services

BallenIsles Luncheon *LtCol Mel Pollack – Guest of Honor*

Over 60 members and guests of the Palm Beach Council thoroughly enjoyed our return to the beautiful BallenIsles Country Club after an absence of 5 years.

Thank you to VP Jennie Monroe for organizing and overseeing today's event, and thank you to the BallenIsles staff for exceptionally gracious and efficient service!



Guest of Honor and speaker LtCol Mel Pollack enthralled the audience with his reflections on his Viet Nam wartime experiences, including years as a POW and his return to the United States and continued US Air Force service and follow-on voluntary service supporting veterans affairs.

Mel's riveting presentation was preceded by an equally outstanding

introduction by luncheon leader and fellow USAF pilot Bob Ames, our Palm Beach Council Executive Vice President.



Executive VP Ames began the meeting with the news of Council President John Lively's absence due to his mother's funeral, and he led us in a moment of silence in honor of John and his family.

Bob then asked for introductions of any guests present, and there were many – a good testimony to the interest in this luncheon's guest of honor and renewed venue.



LtCol Doug Carson

Two surprise guests (surprise to Mel and Sheila Pollack) were fellow USAF Pilot LtCol Doug Carson and his wife Luanne. Doug and Mel joined the Air Force and completed their initial flight training and certifications together; they've also maintained their long-time friendship through annual

reunions of Viet Nam combat pilots. This surprise was orchestrated by council member Ken Lee, who is also the brother of Luanne Carson.



Luanne (Lee) Carson & Ken

It wasn't lost on the attendees that our head table today was extremely impressive, comprised of 3 US Air Force fighter pilots (Bob Ames, Mel Pollack and Doug Carson) with 100's of combat missions and Hall of Fame Astronaut Bob Crippen and their equally impressive ladies – Sheila, Sheila, Luanne and Pandora!

Mel spoke of his final combat flight that culminated in being shot out of the sky, his descent and landing with ejection seat and parachute, his years of POW imprisonment in several different prisons and his eventual repatriation flight on the C-141 "Hanoi Taxi" along with his fellow prisoners. He then entertained questions, and several fascinating 'never heard before' facts came out in his answers you had to be there to hear it all. If you missed today, join us next time for another great Navy League day.



Please enjoy the following photos of the day, thanks to Jerry Nelinson, Lou Palumbo and Jian Yang.





**BallenIsles Country Club
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**Ballenises Country Club
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**Ballen Isles Country Club
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Sorry we didn't get photos of everyone to publish in this News Clip today. We can always use more help in taking pictures grab your phone – shoot some pics – and send to Ken Lee for News Clip consideration.

Thanks again to everyone who attended today's luncheon and contributed to another great Navy League Day.


Our next luncheon will be at Abacoa Golf Club on Feb 12th. It's a popular event wherein the leaders of our sponsored youth groups fill us in on some highlights of their past year – always a good time!

Our website will be ready for reservations by Friday, Jan 24.

Note the change in our Navy League logo. Our national office adopted it in December, and we'll be updating our council graphic products as the year progresses.

Citizens Supporting the Sea Services


Navy League



Palm Beach Council

Please Join Us for Lunch & Guest Speakers

Wednesday Feb 12, 2020 – 11:30am
Abacoa Golf Club - Jupiter
105 Barbados Dr #2921, Jupiter, FL 33458



\$40 per person – Checks payable to NL-PBC
Mail to: Jennie Monroe 16932 83rd Pl N Loxahatchee, FL 33470

RSVPs to Jennie at jenniemonroe68@gmail.com (561) 800-5061
Or Register/Pay on line with PayPal at www.navyleaguepalmbeach.org

Please indicate in Comments box (or on check) whether you want Beef or Salmon entrée if no choice indicated, you'll get Beef.



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NEW →



Citizens Supporting the
Sea Services



We're on the web at www.navyleaguepalmbeach.org