In Fleet Week 2014 in Fort Lauderdale, one of the leading visiting ships was the USS New York (LPD-21).

This USS New York is a most special ship, having been built with 7.5 tons of steel from the World Trade Center in her bow.

Our council member Lamar Parker served on the WW-2 battleship USS New York (BB-34) as a young aviator, flying the OS2U Kingfisher in action against the Japanese.
On Wednesday of Fleet Week council member Phil Dunmire escorted Lamar and Betty Parker on a memorable visit to the current USS New York in Fort Lauderdale. Lamar was honored by today’s New York Captain and crew, who were universally excited to have a New York battleship hero on board.

Here is Past National President and Current Cub Reporter Phil Dunmire’s story of this visit.

“On a sunny South Florida Wednesday, council members Lamar and Betty Parker along with Phil Dunmire, visited the USS New York during Port Everglade’s fleet week. As you may know, the keel of the USS New York contains steel from the remains of the World Trade Center. Joe Giambrone, a dedicated Navy League Fort Lauderdale fleet week volunteer graciously coordinated the trip.

The tone of the visit was set when on the pier, Senior Chief Tennyson spied Lamar wearing his BB34 USS New York cap and asked if he served on the battleship. He proudly had his picture taken with him. All crew members from the Captain to the newest Sailor and Marine were thrilled to meet a WW II veteran who had served on the battleship.

Phil reports that Lamar's description of his experiences during the war are ones he will never forget. Among others he recounted a kamikaze attack on the ship wherein the pilot was spraying the ship with machine gun fire by alternating on the rudder pedals. Lamar took over an anti-aircraft weapon that had been vacated by its gunner and fired at the approaching Zero. Just prior to impact, Lamar remembers making eye contact with the pilot who had a grin on his face.

In both the officers' and chiefs' messes, Lamar was asked to autograph photo's of the USS New York and her crew at pier 51 in New York after the war had ended. Among the accompanying photographs is one of BB34's silver displayed alongside the mementos of September 11 displayed in the officer's wardroom.

Lamar was born in 1926 so was a very young Naval Aviator. He flew the OS2U Kingfisher observation aircraft off the New York. His aircraft was destroyed by the kamikaze.

The Parker's are summering in Georgia. When you see Lamar in the fall you may want to ask him about his experience with a Captain's Mast.”
Congratulations and thank you to Lamar Parker on his outstanding Navy service in WW-II.

Thanks again to Phil Dunmire for initiating and managing the visit in every detail, and to fellow Navy Leaguer Joe Giambrone for bringing to bear his well-earned position and reputation in Port Everglades and Fleet Week operations.

Shown below is the outstanding photo collage Phil put together and presented to both Lamar and Betty and the to the Commanding Officer of the USS New York.

Another job well done!!