

# WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 22

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

October 30, 2014



**Fall Back!**  
Daylight Saving Time  
ends Nov. 2



**Air Boss visits CNATRA,**  
pins wings on his son  
*pages 6-7*



**Fall Festival**

*pages 8*

## CNIC holds Change of Command; Smith relieves French



Vice Adm. Dixon Smith salutes Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert after he assumed command as Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC), during a change of command ceremony held at Leutze Park on the Washington Navy Yard. Hundreds of guests, coworkers and family members attended the ceremony during which Smith relieved Vice Adm. William French.

*Photo by MC2 Eric Lockwood*

by Sandra Niedzwiecki, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- More than 500 military and civilian personnel attended the change of command ceremony for Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) on Friday, Oct. 24 at Admiral Leutze Park on the Washington Navy Yard.

Vice Adm. Dixon R. Smith relieved Vice Adm. William D. French as the fifth commander since the command's inception in 2003.

The ceremony included full gun salutes, musical performances by the Navy's Ceremonial Band, march on of the troops and parading of the colors by the Navy's Ceremonial Guard, and an a cappella rendition of the national anthem sung by Naomi Howell, one of CNIC's civilian employees.

A special contribution to the ceremony was the participation of side boys by former submarine Sailors with whom French served during his first command, USS Spadefish.

*CNIC continued on page 4*

## 2014 Navy Birthday Ball

The Color Guard brings in the colors to kick off the 2014 Navy Birthday Ball on Oct. 18 at the Omni.

*More Navy Ball photos on page 5.*

*Photo by CSC Glenda Young*



## CMC's Column

by Command Master Chief Rick Mathis



**Mathis**

Having had a Big Brother when I was a military dependent child and then later becoming a Big Brother as an adult made a major impact in my life.

I may have not made it as far as I have today without those experiences.

It's really hard for some children to

Today, I am a Command Master Chief – but long ago, I was the child of a military member, and a Big Brother was an important part of my life.

I believe all young military children should have a Big Brother or Sister in their lives.

adapt when Mom or Dad are deployed. It's even hard when we get those new orders and have to move to strange places we have never been to.

Going to a new school, trying to make new friends and just trying to fit in are all challenges military kids face.

The Big Brother program changed my life and I really do believe it made me a better person today.

Being a parent of three great kids of my own, I look back at those times and it is true, my children did great in school and were never involved in drugs.

This program really worked for me and it can for you as well.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the place to start a relationship with one. For more than 100 years, supported largely by private donations, they been able to recruit, screen, match and support mentoring relationships that have changed the lives of hundreds of

## Be a Big Brother/Sister

thousands of young people across the country — one child at a time.

You'll feel the impact as much as your child.

A study for Big Brothers Big Sisters found that kids matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister:

- are more confident
- are more likely to steer clear of drugs and alcohol
- do better in school
- get along better with their family and friends
- feel better about themselves

Right now, the local Big Brother/Big Sister program has military Big Brothers and Big Sisters ready to match with military children.

For information, contact them at: (361) 888-8500 or online at [www.bigmentor.org](http://www.bigmentor.org).

Please give this program a chance and you'll see the difference.

## Chaplain's Message

by Fr. John Vidal

On Aug. 30 I went to Sam's Club to pick something up.

I honestly don't remember what it was, but what I do remember is my shock at seeing that the Christmas displays were already up.

The store was anticipating the feeding frenzy that happens as our society ramps up for fall and, more importantly, for the so-called Holiday Seasons.

It is true that fall is a time for ramping up. We start a new school year, the federal government opens up a new fiscal year, we begin church and school activities like Sunday school, choir, band, organized sports or any number of other activities.

All this makes us very busy; hopefully we allocate our time wisely.

I could modify the old adage "tell me who your friends are and I'll tell you who you are" to "tell me how you spend your time and I'll tell you who you are."

But the incident at Sam's urges me to suggest the modification to be "show me your checkbook and I'll tell you what your values are."

Presumably, our checkbook (or our credit card statement) is a reflection of our budget, so analyzing it may be a good fiscal and spiritual exercise as we try and set priorities for our spending this fall.

The first step in this exercise might be to identify what you see as your Mission in Life.

- Do I have a mission or do I just go day by day seeing where circumstances lead me?
  - Where does God fit into my Mission and/or my life?
  - What are my dreams and aspirations?
  - What is the relationship between my mission and my religious beliefs?
  - Does my lifestyle line up with them?
- Once you've answered these questions

## Spending Priorities...

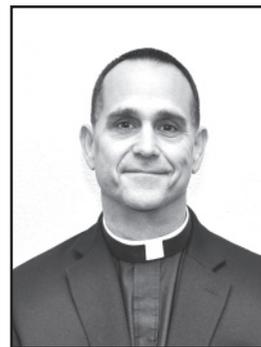
you might want to open up your checkbook, credit card statement or other records and see how your spending lines up to these.

For example, if your Mission is to develop a healthy family life, are you spending money on things that support that?

Or, perhaps a large proportion of your money goes to a fancy car instead of activities that lead to quality family time.

Maybe you'll find that your spending is overly concentrated on one area of your life while neglecting another.

*Chaplain continued on page 9*



**Vidal**

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



**Hafemeister**

for virtually all journalism.

Most publications have some variations – for example, AP Style is to only use last names

Some days, I find myself growling at the computer screen as I edit.

Military public affairs (mostly) follows Associated Press Style in writing stories, press releases, etc.

AP Style is the basic standard

on second reference, but some newspapers still use Mr., Ms., etc.

AP says Marine is capitalized, but not soldier, sailor or airman. We capitalize all of them.

But one area in which there are almost no deviations is in attribution of quotations.

Except by military public affairs writers. Almost everything I see written by a PA uses a verb-noun construction: "Blah, blah, blah," said Jones.

It's wrong – both by AP Style and general grammar. And no one talks like that, so it sounds awkward.

The rule is, speaker then verb. (And most editors will tell you "just use 'said' – fancy verbs distract from the quote.")

## They Do, But They Don't (A Rant)

"Blah, blah, blah," Jones said.

Not sure? Try substituting a pronoun for the name: You'd never write "Blah, blah, blah," said HE – unless you were creating a Dr. Seuss rhyme.

The exception is when you have to use a long title with the quote: "Blah, blah, blah," said Jones, the third deputy assistant undersecretary for coffee preparation.

Even so, it's better to identify the title separate from the quote – easier to read.

I thought this usage must come from PAO School.

But I've spent much of the last year taking the PAO course – and nowhere do they teach that. They follow AP Style.

'Tis a puzzlement. And an annoyance.

## Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

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All news releases should be sent to the above address.

Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

## Worship Services

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Daily Mass Wed-Fri: 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

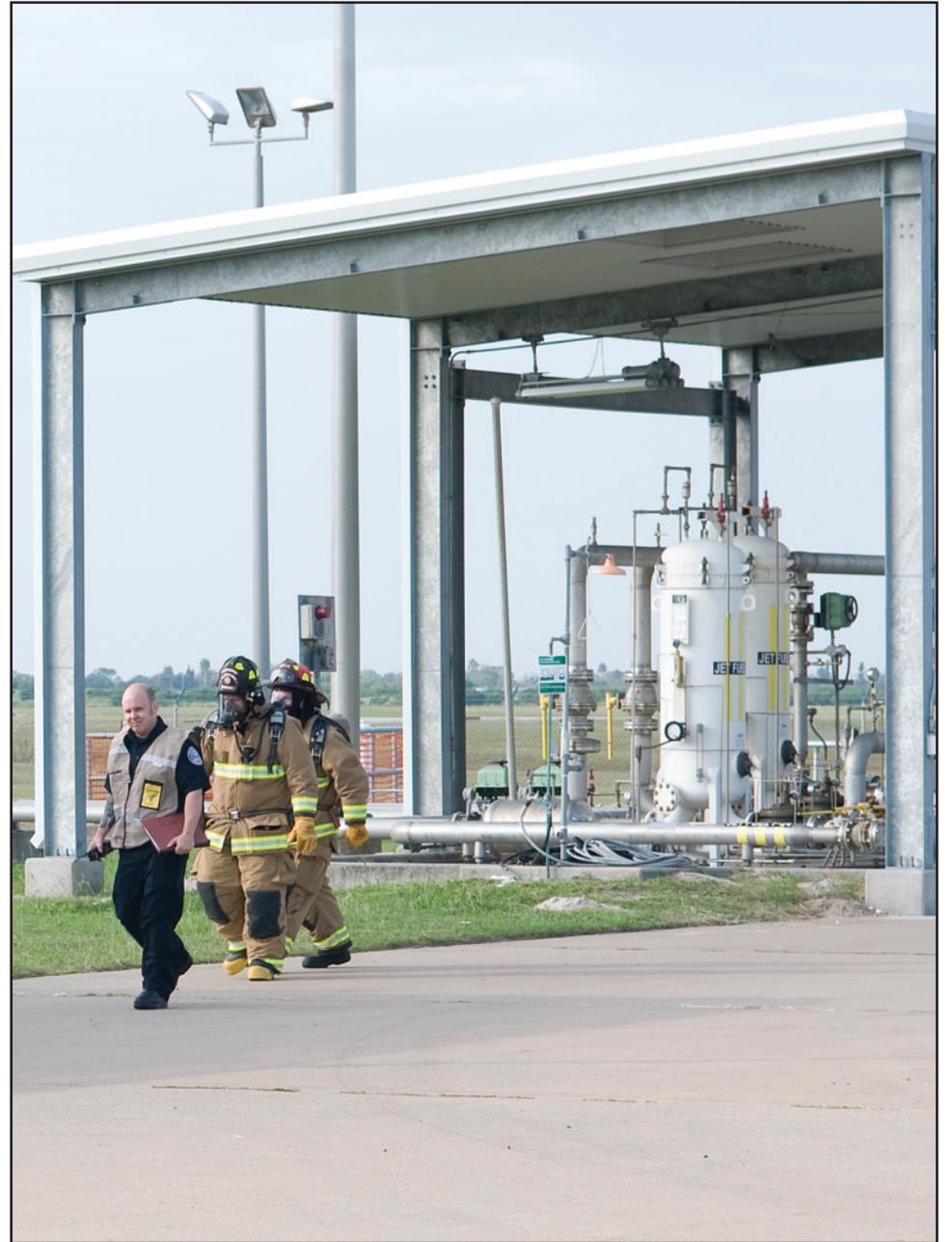
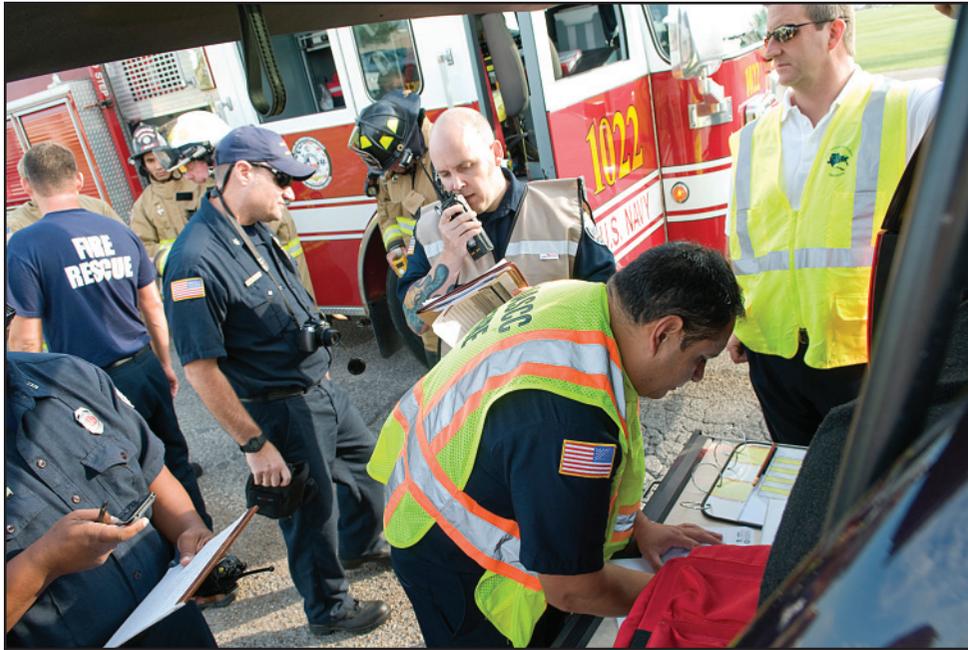
### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)  
Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
(with dinner to follow)  
For further information call  
Temple Beth El at 857-8181

### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas  
(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times, call 992-8550

# Preparing for What You Hope Never Happens



A fuel tank ruptures and dumps 25,000 gallons of aviation fuel – too much for the containment barriers to hold, and an unknown amount of fuel travels down a ditch and toward the Laguna Madre. That was the scenario on Oct. 18 when Naval Air Station corpus Christi held a fuel spill training exercise, which began with fire fighters securing the area and, wearing protective gear, going into the site to determine the extent of the problem.

*Photos by Richard Stewart*



**CNIC continued from page 1**

"From these men," French said, "I've learned the trade of going to sea in submarines.

"Gentlemen thank you for finding your full dress blues, putting them all together and being here today."

Guest speaker for the ceremony was Chief of Naval Operations, Adm. Jonathan Greenert.

"I'm honored to be here to take some time to speak about a person who has had a long and distinguished career, who has dedicated the last two and half years to CNIC, and who is an extraordinary leader," Greenert said.

"Bill French has sustained the fleet, enabled the fighter and supported the family. He has revolutionized the Navy shore enterprise."

Responsible for 52,000 military and civilian personnel, 11 Regions and 69 installations worldwide, French received the Defense Distinguished Service Medal for his accomplishments including the attainment of the Homeport Ashore initiative, the development of governance and oversight for the Overseas Drinking Water program, and efforts to align CNIC to support fleet requirements.

The ceremony also recognized French's retirement after more than three decades of exemplary service to the Navy.

"Today I want to thank many people," French said.

"One of the many thankful parts of this job is you get the opportunity to work with so many different people both inside the Navy, fellow services and support organizations that take care of our sailor and families outside the Navy."

French thanked his family, fellow shipmates and mentors throughout his career, and welcomed Smith to CNIC recognizing the talent and commitment of Smith's new staff.

Prior to the ceremony, Smith was promoted to Vice Admiral to serve as Commander, Navy Installations Command.

He is the first former installation commanding officer to lead CNIC.

Smith shared his enthusiasm about taking on greater responsibility to lead the Navy's shore enterprise.

"CNO, thank you for your kind words," he said.

"I'm honored and deeply humbled by your faith and confidence for this opportunity for continued service to our Navy and our nation."

A native of Connecticut, Smith was commissioned through the Naval Academy in 1983.

He was designated as a surface warfare officer in 1985 and then went on to serve aboard five surface combatants and held five shore assignments.

Later in Smith's career he went on to lead shore installations as the commander for three Regions including Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, Navy Region Hawaii, Navy Region Southwest, and most recently, Region Mid Atlantic prior to arriving in Washington, D.C.

Smith thanked French for a smooth transition and emphasized his commitment to service through action.

"I'm happy to report that as I assume this watch, that thanks to Vice Admiral Bill French, CNIC is on course, focused on fully supporting CNOs tenets of warfighting first, operating forward, and being ready," Smith said. "CNIC will maintain that course."

Smith offered that he is excited to join the CNIC family.

"I consider it a privilege to lead and serve you," he said.

"To those who serve, the only reason we at CNIC exist is to support you. You have my promise and commitment to do just that."

Leading a world-class enterprise, CNIC is responsible for managing shore installation support for the Navy's fleet, fighter and family under the Chief of Naval Operations.



## Emails from CNIC

Team CNIC,

I type this email both excited about your future and bittersweet about leaving a great command with great people.

CNIC accomplishes the impossible on a daily basis while delivering services to the Fleet that are second to none -- and it happens because of you: the men and women who are the lifeblood of this command.

Thank you for all that you have done in the last three years -- everything you accomplished made the Navy better, made the Fleet more ready, and allowed warfighters to focus on what they do best.

I look forward to reading about your many future successes with Admiral Dixon Smith at the helm -- please give him the same outstanding support I enjoyed.

Please accept my sincere thanks for your superb efforts and my best wishes for continued success.

Warm regards,  
Bill French

Team CNIC,

Please know how honored and humbled I am to serve as the fifth Commander of Navy Installations Command.

On Friday morning at the change of command, I noted that we will continue the great work CNIC has been doing, with a renewed emphasis on service through action. Ours is a unique and important responsibility in the Navy, and I can think of no better team of men and women to serve alongside. I look forward to hearing from you and getting to know you -- visiting regions, installations, and workspaces and learning how, together, we can make CNIC and the Navy better for the Fleet, Fighter, and Family we serve.

Thank you for all you do, day in, and day out!

Sincerely, Dixon Smith



(top) Vice Adm. William French, commander of Navy Installations Command (CNIC), speaks during the CNIC change of command and French's retirement ceremony as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathan Greenert looks on.

(left) French, who is retiring, receives the Navy Distinguished Service Medal from Greenert.

Photos by MC1 Tim Comerford

# 2014 Navy Birthday Ball



Photos by CSC Glenda Young



# Awards and Achievements

## Winging — October 17

Training Air Wing Four and Training Air Wing Two held a joint winging ceremony Oct. 17 on board the USS Lexington Museum on the Bay, with Vice Adm. David H. Buss, Commander, Naval Air Forces, as guest speaker.

*Photos by Richard Stewart, CNATRA PA*



VT-31 Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Michael Cody Amidon; Lt.j.g. Kevin Curtis Cordell; Lt.j.g. Joel Michael Derby; Ensign Keith Lisle Estes Jr.; Ensign Lee Timothy Freeman; 1st Lt. Adam Michael Glintz, USMC; Lt.j.g. Philip R. Hendrix; Ensign Kyle Michael Kingsbury; Lt.j.g. John Andrew Pavalok; LT Jacob Richard Scritchfield, USCG; Lt.j.g. Amanda Rae Serfass; Lt.j.g. Matthew Leo Smrz; Lt.j.g. Daniel Wallace Thyberg; Lt.j.g. Thomas Patrick Twomey II; Lt.j.g. Joshua Edward Witkowski.



VT-35 Wingees, in alphabetical order: 1st Lt. Jason W. Beasley, USMC; Ensign John Hunter Broten; 1st Lt. Michael Ryan Catchings, USMC; Ensign Andrew Paul Frey; 1st Lt. Craig Jakob Medina, USMC; 1st Lt. Benjamin Anthony Meisner, USMC; Lt.j.g. Anna Marie Middleton; Ensign Christopher Garrett Miller; Ensign Matthew Douglas Nowlin.



## Commander, Naval Air Forces visits, pins son's wings

(above) Vice Adm. David H. Buss, Commander, Naval Air Forces, speaks at the Chief of Naval Air Training Commanders' Training Symposium Oct. 16. Buss defined current and future operational and fiscal challenges within the Naval Aviation Training Command (NATRACOM) on board Naval Air Station Corpus Christi.

(right) Buss pins pilot wings on his son, Lt.j.g. Matt Buss, as mother Donna, right and sister Erin look on during a winging ceremony on board the USS Lexington Museum. Lt.j.g. Buss earned his wings at Training Squadron (VT) 22 at Naval Air Station Kingsville and is scheduled to fly the F/A - 18 Super Hornet in the fleet.



# Fall Festival 2014 - October 25



Music, food, costume contests and FUN marked the NAS Corpus Christi Fall Festival on Oct. 25.

*Photos by Laurie Garcia, MWR*



## USNA seeks Navy Reserve Instructors

by Lt. Teng K. Ooi, PhD, USNA/NAVAIR Reserve Program and Capt. Linda J. Beltra, MD, USN (Ret)

Attention Navy Reserve Officers: Are you interested in an opportunity to teach, inspire, and empower the next generation of American leaders to serve our nation?

The U.S. Naval Academy needs qualified Navy Reserve officers, especially at the ranks of lieutenant, lieutenant commander, and commander, with at least a master's degree in an appropriate academic discipline to instruct in designated academic departments for Fall 2015 and to serve as outstanding military role models and mentors for midshipmen.

Recall opportunities will be considered for the following disciplines: cyber security, information systems, and information technology; electrical engineering, computer engineering, general engineering, nuclear engineering, mechanical engineering, naval architecture, ocean engineering, aerospace engineering, and control systems engineering; mathematics, chemistry, physics, computer science, and oceanography; political science, economics, English, history, and foreign language (Spanish, French, German, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, or Japanese).

Interested Navy Reservists should email the following:

- A cover letter that states which discipline(s) you are applying for and your qualifications for the position.
- A resume of experience (academic, professional, and naval experience, including any recent mobilizations,

recalls, or extended active duty periods).

- A full-length khaki photo

Email: [reserve.recall@usna.edu](mailto:reserve.recall@usna.edu)

Reserve Recall Liaison Officer, CDR

John Schedel

United States Naval Academy, Code 11C

121 Blake Road

Annapolis, MD 21402-1300

Telephone: (410) 293-6513

DSN: 281-6513

Fax: (410) 293-2591

To receive full consideration, interested officers for Academic Year 2015-2016 should apply no later than December 15, 2014.

Officers selected will be recalled to active duty and assigned orders for an officer-instructor tour, not to exceed three years, commencing July 2015.

Recalled officers will remain on the reserve active status list and will remain eligible for promotion consideration before reserve selection boards.

Selections will be made only after USNA placement officers are confident that USNA billets will not be filled from the active duty pool of potential officer instructors.

Applicants will be made aware of their selection status by mid-April 2015.

Final arrangements are contingent upon PCS funding being available through the Navy.



NAVAL SUPPLY SYSTEMS COMMAND

NAVY EXCHANGE SERVICE COMMAND

## Stay at a Navy Lodge this Holiday Season

The holiday season is rapidly approaching.

For a season of family and fun, be sure to make the Navy Lodge the destination of choice for holiday guests.

Guests of the Navy Lodge save over 40 percent compared to other hotels and there are never any additional fees or taxes.

"Navy Lodges are the perfect place for guests of military members to stay during the holidays," said Patrick Ballew, General Manager of Navy Lodge Corpus Christi.

"Navy Lodges offer a great value with our spacious rooms, kitchenettes, free Wi-Fi and many other amenities we offer.

"We also provide a complimentary breakfast in the morning, a manager's reception, in-room coffee and premier guest service."

Navy Lodge guests will experience a variety of room types to include family suites, with cable TV and DVD player, as well as kitchenettes with a microwave and full size refrigerator.

Navy Lodges are equipped with guest laundry facilities, vending areas and playgrounds for the little ones.

As an added convenience, pets can stay at many Navy Lodges. Please contact the Navy Lodge regarding pet policies.

To make a reservation for any of the 39 Navy Lodges worldwide, call toll free at 1-800-628-9466 (NAVY-INN) or log onto [www.navy-lodge.com](http://www.navy-lodge.com).

For other military lodging options, go to [www.dodlodging.com](http://www.dodlodging.com).

### Chaplain continued from page 2

This analysis will help you identify where you need to make changes in your life to better accomplish your mission.

Do you have a budget? If you don't, the analysis of your spending habits will identify one, even if it is unplanned.

You can look at this budget and affect your future in a positive way by aligning it to your real priorities.

What an opportunity to plan ahead so that you can spend responsibly when you begin buying Christmas gifts!

Where do you want to spend your money? Am I giving gifts because I feel obligated or because I want to show somebody how much I appreciate them?

Should your focus be on purchased gifts or are gifts of yourself more important?

Finally, as you go through this exercise, I urge you to look on how the budget in its entirety reflects on your spiritual health.

For example, are you giving to the poor and neglected? Your Faith Community?

If so, are you doing it in a deliberate, planned and proportionate way?

What do your charitable contributions say about the health of your spirituality and faith?

I pray that the results of this activity will help you approach Christmas, Hanukah or whatever celebration you have planned for this fall in a healthy way and that the decisions you make will affect you in a positive way in 2015 instead of putting you at a disadvantage.

You are invited to attend  
the  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Military  
Appreciation Luncheon**

**Monday, November 10, 2014  
11:30 am – 1:00 pm  
at  
USO South Texas  
320 5th Street – Bldg 3 – Suite 2B**

Sponsored By: **USO South Texas** and **VALERO**