

# CORAL GABLES

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Connecting Communities

## The Palace Coral Gables hosts ships' crew visit during Miami Navy Week



The Palace Coral Gables hosted members of the crew of the *USS New York* during the recent Miami Navy Week. Pictured with the sailors are residents of The Palace who are veterans (l-r, front) Victor Esterlitz, Maurice "Sonny" Cesarotti, Oscar Fernandez, Fred Corman, Julius Wishnia, Hal Silberman, Marty Elkin and Pasquel Perez.

BY KERRY PHILLIPS

It was "all hands on deck" at The Palace Coral Gables for the visit of officers and sailors from the *USS New York* and the *FSN Ventose* who were in town for the first Miami Navy Week, Mar. 25-31.

The Palace Coral Gables invited the Navy personnel to join residents for their monthly Family & Friends party and residents were honored to play host to the visitors. They were entertained with a lively Happy Hour with delicious margaritas and piña coladas and then enjoyed a buffet dinner in The Palace's restaurant featuring a menu inspired by the guests' visit.

A huge cake replicating the *USS New York* surprised the guests and was a perfect backdrop for pictures.

Resident Pasquel Perez, a Navy veteran, presented commemorative plaques of gratitude to officers from each ship on behalf of Palace residents, many who served in various branches of the military.

"It was so meaningful for our residents to be able to engage with these young men and women from the Navy," said Pamela Parker, the social director for The Palace Coral Gables. "Residents were thrilled to hear their first-hand experiences serving our country."

For the occasion, several the

resident-veterans wore their own military dog tags and brought pictures to share.

Everyone then convened to the theater for a concert by the Rambling Strings Band. To send the guests off on a sweet note, The Palace Coral Gables gave each home-baked cookies to take back to their ships.

"It was especially touching to hear the sailors' comments when they were leaving," Parker added. "Many said the evening at The Palace was the best experience they had visiting Miami."

To learn more about The Palace Coral Gables, call 305-445-7444 or visit [www.PalaceCoralGables.com](http://www.PalaceCoralGables.com).