

ECHO

***Please note this meeting will be at the Capital City Country Club**

Thursday, October 10th

Lunch Buffet	11:30 AM
Program Begins	12:00 PM
Introductions	12:10 PM
Presentation Begins	12:15 PM
Q&A	12:50 PM
Meeting Adjourned	1:00 PM

Onsite & Virtual Program

Capital City Country Club
 1601 Golf Terrace Dr
 Tallahassee, FL 32301

To RSVP, please email
mail@economic-club.com
 or
 Call: (850) 224-0711

**PLEASE RSVP BY 2PM on
 Wednesday, October 9th**

Contact Us

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325 John Knox Road,
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(850) 224-0711

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The U.S. Navy's Economic and Strategic Impact from Florida around the Globe

We're honored to have with us this month **Meredith Berger**, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment, who also serves as the Navy's Chief Sustainability Officer. Her responsibility for oversight and policy covers six major areas:

- Navy and Marine Corps energy and climate resilience
- Infrastructure sustainment, restoration and modernization
- Military construction
- Acquisition, utilization and disposal of real property and facilities
- Environmental protection, planning, restoration and natural resources conservation
- Safety and occupational health

Assistant Secretary Berger will share the significant presence the military has in Florida and the key roles it plays in naval operations around the world. Its Navy facilities include one Naval Station, four Naval Air Stations, and two Naval Support Activity facilities. Florida is also home to the U.S. Southern Command in Doral and the U.S. Central Command in Tampa. Plus, as always, she'll take Club members' questions.

Ms. Berger has served in a variety of policy and senior leadership positions in both

federal and state government and the private sector. Prior to her current assignment in 2021, she was a senior manager for the Defending Democracy Project at Microsoft Corporation. She was also a Fellow with the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. She began her public service career in Florida, with the state Chief Financial Officer's office, where she developed and executed state policies on climate, insurance, risk, energy, public finance, and housing.

Ms. Berger joined the Obama Administration in 2011 as a policy advisor at the Environmental Protection Agency where she worked on the Presidential Task Force focused on the long-term recovery of the Gulf of Mexico following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. She then served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus. She was also a Department of Defense Fellow.

Ms. Berger holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Studies and Spanish from Vanderbilt University, a Juris Doctor from Nova Southeastern University, and a Master



**The Honorable
 Meredith Berger**

of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School. She was awarded the Secretary of the Navy Distinguished Civilian Service Medal, Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, and the EPA Gold Medal for Exceptional Service. Ms. Berger will be introduced by Club Board member Raymond Bye, former Vice President of Research at Florida State University.

Thank you to our Sponsor:



Recent New Members

Matthew Toplak, [Florida Division of Emergency Management](#)

Georgie Barret, [Florida Surplus Lines Office](#)

Mark Shealy, [Florida Surplus Lines Office](#)

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Julia Holly, [JH Creative](#)

Chris Spencer, [State Board of Administration of Florida](#)

Amy Mathis, [Genesis Consulting](#)

Allan Charles, [Lewis, Longman & Walker, P.A.](#)

You can access membership applications on the club's website at www.economic-club.com.

Encourage a friend to become a member today!

Name Badges



We have newly designed name badges. If you have an old name badge and would like one with the new design, the cost is \$15.

If interested, you can purchase a new name badge at the [Club's website](#) or call the office at 850-224-0711.

Conservation is Good for Business

The September Club meeting featured **Jessica Harvey**, daughter of wildlife artist and conservationist Guy Harvey, and the CEO of the Guy Harvey Foundation. The Fort Lauderdale-based foundation raises funds for ocean research, education, and conservation. She shared what life was like growing up with her father, their shared love of fishing, and how “art and science always went hand in hand for us.”



Left to right: Jim Murdaugh, Jessica Harvey, Katrina Rolle, Tre Warren, and Blake Renfro.

Guy Harvey's paintings of natural scenes now grace everything from museum walls to coffee cups, and part of the money made goes to fund the foundation. “It's very hopeful and uplifting, and because of that, more people want to be associated with the brand,” Ms. Harvey told Club members. “It's branched out into people wanting Guy Harvey F-150s, so we had a licensing agreement with Ford. Norwegian Cruise Lines wanting to feature dad as the hull art, which they do on all of their ships. It's not only become a feature of the art, but a billboard for conservation and support,” she said.

Mr. Harvey pointed out the importance of water to Florida's economy. Nearly 52 million recreational anglers in Florida provide an economic impact of \$140-billion, with boating and fishing employing thousands of Floridians. Across the U.S., 100 million Americans boat annually, with a \$230 billion economic impact. “There is a way we can coexist with wildlife that is helping support their conservation, as well as supporting the economy that we all benefit from,” she said.

The foundation began a relationship with Nova Southeastern University in 1999 to do research on pelagic fish – those that live in open waters – including sharks and billfish. It also hosts educational programs in three states and 20 Florida counties, providing grants for teacher training and field trips. It also works directly with businesses.

“We're working with Intradeco (a Miami-based apparel company) who have prioritized working with everything from sustainable sources of materials to recycling the water used in the dyeing process of the fabrics, so that it's not taking any added water from the community.” (You can read more and listen to the Club's podcast with Jessica Harvey on our [Podcasts and Summaries webpage](#).)

Club Announcements

HAS YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION CHANGED?

Renewals for membership are sent initially in early December. To ensure you receive your information on time, please let us know your current contact information. Email the club at mail@economic-club.com with your updated information. Don't forget to add mail@economic-club.com to your address book to ensure you receive communications from the club.

THE ECONOMIC CLUB OF FLORIDA ON WFSU PUBLIC RADIO

We are excited to announce that podcasts of the meetings are being aired on WFSU. Latest episodes are on <https://news.wfsu.org/show/the-economic-club-of-florida> and the club website.

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TRUSTEES

Upcoming Programs

Onsite/Virtual Programs

October 10, 2024



Meredith A Berger

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations, and Environment)

Capital City Country Club

November 21, 2024



John Cohan

Chief Executive Officer

Margaritaville

Dunlap Champions Club

December 3, 2024

Join us as we celebrate this past year and look to the year ahead.

Annual Meeting & Elections

Location First Franklin Financial Services

Member Spotlight

Chris Jensen Jr. has been a life-long lender for 46 years and is an Executive Vice President of Prime Meridian. He and a group of local investors formed the bank in 2008 with \$12.8 million in capital that today has grown to \$920 million. His prior experience includes serving as a Tallahassee market president for Regions Bank and South Trust Bank.

An Economic Club member since 2009, Mr. Jensen is also a Trustee, a group whose extra financial commitment helps the Club fulfill its mission. "The Club has tremendous programs and speakers, known not only nationwide but sometimes worldwide. The exposure I get to different industries is very informative, plus I have a lot of friends and associates in the Club that I've known for years."

Mr. Jensen was born in Ocala and moved to Tallahassee in elementary school. He graduated from Leon High School and the University of Florida, earning a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. His first job was in Quincy as an agricultural lender with what's now the Farm Credit Service. Mr. Jensen serves on the Executive Board of the Suwannee River Area Council for Scouting America and is a past president. He was awarded Scouting's Silver Beaver Award for his distinguished service to youth. His past community service includes the Young Actors Theatre, Rotary, and the Early Learning Coalition. Mr. Jensen and his wife Melanie have been married for 45 years and have two adult children, Chris III and Mariah, and three grandchildren.



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