

MAY 2024



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

CDR THEODORE G. ELLYSON SUMMER LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, 19 JUNE 2024

We are fortunate to have Vice Admiral John B. Mustin, Commander Navy Reserve Force, as our Guest Speaker, at the CDR Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon on June 19, 2024.

Vice Admiral John Mustin is a native of Alexandria, Virginia. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Weapons and Systems Engineering and was commissioned in 1990. He holds a Master of Science in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, and a Master of Business Administration (cum laude) in Finance and Management from the F. W. Olin Graduate School of Business at Babson College. He earned his Joint Professional Military Education from the Air University's Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell Air Force Base.

Vice Admiral Mustin's sea duty assignments include command of Expeditionary Strike Group 2/Task Force 29; Commissioning Operations Officer on USS Donald Cook (DDG-75), and aboard USS Vincennes (CG-49), where he served as combat information center officer, navigator, and the Air Warfare Com-

GUEST SPEAKER



**Vice Admiral John B. Mustin
Commander
Navy Reserve Force**

mander of the Independence (CV-62) Battle Group.

His awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Battle Efficiency 'E', Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and various service, expeditionary, unit and campaign awards.

Vice Admiral Mustin comes from a long line of family members who served in the Navy. He is the great-grandson of CAPT Henry C. Mustin (1874-1923), after whose family the Navy's destroyer USS Mustin (DD-413) and guided-missile destroyer USS Mustin (DDG-89) were named. ✍

SUMMER LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

DATE: Wednesday 19 June
TIME: 11:30 AM Registration
12:00 PM Luncheon
12:45 PM Program
COST: \$ 25.00 per person
PLACE: Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Ave
Richmond, VA 23225

Reservation Deadline for SUMMER LUNCHEON: Must be received by Wednesday June 12, 2024

****Refund Policy 2024: Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned UP TO and INCLUDING the "deadline date"**

RESERVATIONS FOR CDR THEODORE ELLYSON SUMMER LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 2024

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Chicken Piccata meal served **unless** special meal is requested (please circle): 1 or 2 Veggie Meal(s) / Fish Meal(s)

Total # of Res. _____ @ \$ 25.00 per person Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLUS P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: (804) 355-7557

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: **Vaughan F. Dize**



April was a slow month with only two JROTC Awards nights and the Naval Talent Acquisition Group Change of Command.

May is filling up fast. First, there is a trip to Military Sealift Command on May 3rd, followed by numerous JROTC Awards Nights and **USCGC LEGARE** Change of Command.

In June, **USCGC NORTHLAND** will have her Change of Command.

Please sign up for our CDR Theodore Ellyson Summer Luncheon on June 19th. Our guest speaker is Vice Admiral John B. Mustin. This is one luncheon you need not miss.

We have been invited to Oceana Naval Air Station to visit the Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-213 Blacklions on June 13. If you are interested in attending, please email Dr. John Harler at:

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Office: 2015 W. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

Telephone: (804) 355-7557

Fax: (804) 355-8788

E-mail address:

navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net

Website: navyleague-richmond.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NavyLeagueRVA

NavyLeagueRVA

Editor: William W. McCathern, Jr.

Assistant Editor: Nancy G. Butler

Production Assistants: Billy L. Butler, John A. Harler, M.D. and Patrick D. Harris

Photographers: Vaughan F. Dize, Nancy Butler and Maria Gallegos

The Lucky Bag is published monthly, except Jan. & Feb. Issues which are combined.

j.harler@verizon.net. (our deadline in notifying Oceana is May 10).

As of this writing **USS GRAVELY** is still in harm's way in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Reminder: I am asking every RCNL member to buy (1) \$20.00 ticket (6 for \$100.00). Send your request to my email address: vfdize6@aol.com. I will mail you a ticket and then you can return the payment and stub in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



THE WINDS OF REDIRECTION

Well, folks, here we are amid the May winds. It has been difficult to keep our new plants standing upright on our patio this spring. As a Navy guy, I can't help but think of how the old sailing ships were both dependent on the wind for power and at the same time at the mercy of the wind.

The Lord Jesus instructed His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait to receive power after His Resurrection.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit in power. (Acts 2).

Like the sailors upon the old sailing ships and like the disciples, when we set our course in life according to God's directions and by His power and not ac-

WELCOME ABOARD !

The Richmond Council Navy League is proud to welcome you as a member. In the weeks ahead, when you attend one of our Navy League events, please let the person at the registration desk know that you are a new member attending your first function.

NEW MEMBER

John A. Heisler, IV

ording to our desires, we reach our intended destination. When following our desires, we will likely be met by stormy seas.

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. (James 1:6).

So, may your life be guided by fair winds and following seas. ✍

SUMMER LUNCHEON NAMED AFTER U.S. NAVY'S FIRST PILOT

Theodore Gordon Ellyson, the first Naval officer to qualify as an airplane pilot, and distinguished pioneer of U.S. Naval Aviation, was born on February 27, 1885, in Richmond, Virginia.

On a father-and-son trip to Hampton Roads, Virginia, Ellyson witnessed a Navy fleet enter the harbor and from that point on he knew he wanted to be a Navy man.

In addition to the Navy Cross, Commander Ellyson was awarded the Victory Medal and Submarine Chaser Clasp. On February 27, 1941, a new auxiliary airfield at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL was named ELLYSON FIELD, in honor of Commander Theodore G. Ellyson, USN.

The **USS ELLYSON (DD-454)** built just prior to World War II, was also named to honor Commander Ellyson.

Ellyson loved the Navy so much that he once told his wife, "Even you come second". The only thing he loved as much as the Navy was accomplishing things before anyone else. In 1911, he had successfully merged both passions, becoming the Navy's first pilot. ✍

THEODORE G. ELLYSON

was designated by the
Department of the Navy,

Air Pilot No. 1,
NAVY AIR PILOT

on

January 1, 1914

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**STRIKE FIGHTER SQUADRON HANGAR TOUR
OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION
THURSDAY - JUNE 13, 2024**



Join us for a special Richmond Navy League visit to Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-213 Blacklions for an F/A-18F Super Hornet Hangar Tour. We will travel as a group by bus from Richmond to Oceana Naval Air Station. However, **due to Oceana Naval Air Station's guidelines, we have a limited number of 35 people who can attend this tour, so please make your reservations as soon as possible. Keep in mind, this is a full fly day for the Blacklions, so you will get to see them in action!!**

SCHEDULE DAY OF TOUR

- 8:00 AM – Depart Richmond from Glenside Park & Ride, 4069-4099 Crockett St., Richmond, VA 23228
- 10:00 – Arrive at the NEX parking lot at Oceana Naval Air Station and receive a Blacklion onboard the bus to allow us to transit to Hangar 500
- 10:30 -11:30 – History & Heritage of VFA-213 & F/A-18F capabilities presentation in Ready Room and briefing in Prep Room. (half in the Ready room and half in the Prep room for 30 minutes each; then flip-flop)
- 11:30 - 12:30 – Tours of Hangar 500/Flight Line/F/A-18F walk around/cockpit viewing
- 12:30 - 1:15 – View historical jets on Tomcat Boulevard.
- 1:15 – Depart Oceana Naval Air Station for lunch at NEX, on your own
- 2:15 – Depart for Richmond with estimated arrival around 5:00 PM

BLACKLIONS HANGAR TOUR REGISTRATION FORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE: **MAY 10, 2024.**

Mail your registration form and payment for the Blacklions Hangar Tour by May 10. Once your form is received, the Richmond Navy League will mail you a **DETAILED VISITOR BACKGROUND FORM** which **MUST BE COMPLETED BY EACH VISITOR.** Visitor background forms are due back to the Richmond Navy League office **by May 20.** ✍

BLACKLIONS HANGAR TOUR REGISTRATION FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED & RECEIVED BY MAY 10, 2024. (Payment Policy: Registration check payments will be cashed after the event is completed).

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Tel #: _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Tel #: _____

Cost: \$ 60.00 per person Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail registration form and payment by May 10, 2024, to:
Richmond Council Navy League P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

**BLACKLIONS TRIP
MAY 13, 2022**



New Navy League member, Bob Priddy, is pictured here with CDR Pinckney and his family.



Pictured above & below: Special moments shared with dad, CO CDR Bryan Pinckney.



Volunteer learns parachuting skills.



New Navy League member, John Bartholemew, gives thumbs up to ascend into the cockpit of a Super Hornet.



Navy League member, Tom Jennings, and others gets an education on F-A 18 armament.



CDR Pinckney educating group on jet engines.

VADM SAMUEL L. GRAVELY SPRING LUNCHEON

“It is generally agreed that the right of Free Navigation is subject to a limiting principle known as desuetude.”

(In simple terms, desuetude means “Use it or lose it.”)

On March 20, 2024, members of the Richmond Council Navy League, guests, and officers and sailors from **USS NORMANDY** and **USCG Cutter NORTHLAND**, gathered at the Willow Oaks Country Club for a time of fellowship, refreshments, and lunch.

Following this, we heard from our keynote speaker, CAPT John Paul (JP) Jones, USN (Ret.), twice a graduate of TOPGUN, a Tactical Action Officer, and Professor Emeritus University of Richmond School of Law.

JP gave a very informative briefing about how our own **USS GRAVELY** is reinforcing the rule of law in the Red Sea, as part of **Operation Prosperity Guardian** and part of Carrier Strike Group 2, led by the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower. Carrier Strike Group 2 is in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. JP went into detail regarding the laws of the sea and the freedom of navigation in peace and in war. He then detailed the action specific to the current conflict in the Middle East.

If you missed his talk, you missed a wonderful explanation of a very complex current situation, that you will not hear about in the network news. There are many memorable quotes from his talk, but here are just a few of them: “Thanks to the Houthis, the Gravelly and other forces engaged in **Operation Prosperity Guardian** have downshifted from a peaceful show of force to kinetic engagement, both defensive and preemptive”; and “Why don’t we fire rocket-propelled bullets instead of million-dollar missiles at their incoming missiles?” and “Laser guns do not work in cloudy conditions.”

The Richmond Council is fortunate to have J.P. as a member. Thank you CAPT John Paul Jones for sharing your wisdom and helping us to better understand the complex world in which we live in, regarding the current conflict, which at times can seem so overwhelming. ✍️



Guest Speaker Captain John Paul Jones, USN (Ret.)



L to R: Dennis Biggs (Ass’t liaison to NORMANDY); CAPT Errol Robinson, Commanding Officer of NORMANDY; George Feitig (Liaison to NORMANDY) and CMDRC William Palmer, Command Master Chief of Normandy.



Commanding Officer CAPT Errol Robinson, NORMANDY; George Feitig, Liaison and Ass’t Liaison, Dennis Biggs.



L to R: NORTHLAND’s Sailors: LTJG Sarah Jacobson and LTJG Sarah Laird; Vaughan Dize, Council’s President & NORTHLAND’s liaison; and LCDR Josh Martin, NORTHLAND’s Engineering Officer.



Navy League members Phillip Gahm (on L) and Bill Todd (on R) enjoyed fellowship with NORTHLAND’s Sailors: LTJG Sarah Jacobson and LTJG Sarah Laird.



L to R: Dennis Biggs; New member, Larry Morgan; Chuck Rayfield and Doug Reed.

AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADETS UPDATES

PO McKENNA CARSON PRESENTS RECRUITING INCENTIVE RIBBON AWARDS TO CADETS



PO McKenna Carson presents Recruiting Incentive Ribbon Awards to: Cadet Donahue, Cadet Smith & Cadet Burns. Congratulations!

REGIONAL DIRECTOR, LCDR ANDERSON, PRESENTS OFFICER OF THE YEAR AND INSTRUCTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS



Regional Director, LCDR Anderson, presents ENS Michelle Papakie with Officer of the Year Award. Bravo Zulu!



Regional Director, LCDR Anderson, presents INST Jennifer Burns, with Instructor of the Year. Bravo Zulu!

SEA CADETS PARTICIPATE IN "OUT OF THE DARKNESS VCU CAMPUS WALK" ON APRIL 13, 2024.



These walks are the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's (AFSP) signature student fundraising series, designed to engage youth & young adults in the fight to prevent suicide, a leading cause of death.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

(Note: these reports may be edited to fit space available)



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Errol A. Robinson
XO: CDR Adam J. Samson
CMC: CMC Andrew Conover

George L. Feitig, Jr., Liaison
Dennis Biggs, Ass't Liaison

USS NORMANDY is moored pierside at Naval Station Norfolk, currently undergoing an arduous CMAV (Continuous Maintenance Availabilities) to make her mission ready. Along with completing certification validations for future deployments,

NORMANDY sailors are excited to transit to Miami, Florida to participate in Fleet Week. With this in mind, **NORMANDY** will conduct numerous Community Relations events and raise esprit de corps. If you find yourself in the Miami area May 5-12, please feel welcome to greet our sailors!

We congratulate LT Hirst and LTJG Fennell for promoting this past month. The former, **NORMANDY's** Antisubmarine Warfare Officer, leads CA division, along with taking increased responsibilities: leadership opportunities within Plans & Tactics department. The latter is **NORMANDY's** 2nd Lieutenant, who is currently executing a successful MOB-A certification on-board. Along with his flight deck team, he expertly operates Flight Quarters to land MH-60R Helicopters.

We also want to congratulate the following sailors for reenlisting this past month: CTM1 Kumor, GSE1 Normil, OS2 Armstrong, BM2 Schindler, and DC2 Burns.

NORMANDY says goodbye to its long serving Command Master Chief this month, STGCM William Palmer. Serving more than three years onboard, he's helped bring **NORMANDY** out of its last maintenance period, a condensed basic phase, and a nine-month deployment to the Eastern Mediterranean Sea. We bid him farewell as he transfers to CNIC (Commander,

Navy Installations Command) in Hampton Roads. ✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG John E. Barber, CICO/AOPS



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez
XO: CDR Greg Piorun
CMC: CMDCM Timothy Bickerton

Patrick Harris, Liaison
Courtney Mustin, Ass't Liaison

Between approximately 3:49 to 10:00 a.m. (Sanaa time) on April 3, **USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)** and U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) forces successfully engaged and destroyed one inbound anti-ship ballistic missile (ASBM) and two unmanned aerial systems (UAS), launched by Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists from Yemen towards **USS GRAVELY**, in the Red Sea. There were no injuries or damage reported by U.S., coalition, or commercial ships. Additionally, during this timeframe CENTCOM forces destroyed a mobile surface-to-air missile system in Houthi controlled territory. It was determined these systems presented a threat to U.S. and coalition forces and merchant vessels in the region. ✍

USCENTCOM, 04-03-2024



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Steven E. Grey
XO: CDR Brittany N. Lynn
CMC: CMDCM Benjamin Cruz

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings Richmond Navy League!

The crew of **USS CARTER HALL** just completed an eight-and-a-half-month deployment to the US SIXTH and FIFTH Fleet areas of responsibility. Upon our Return to Home Port on March 22, the crew started a post-deployment leave period, and held a change of command on April 8th.

Among the highlights of the deployment, **CARTER HALL** shot down a Houthi drone in the Red Sea and was one of the first ships on station in that area, after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7th. **CARTER HALL** chopped to Sixth Fleet in late December and continued to play an important role in regional maritime security and stability. While in the Sixth Fleet, **CARTER HALL** sailors experienced port visits to Thessalonica and Souda Bay Greece. Under the leadership of our new CO, CDR Grey, the ship is preparing for a long overdue yard period.

The support of Richmond Navy League has been invaluable to the morale and welfare of our sailors during a longer-than-expected deployment. Thank you as always! ✍

Very Respectfully,
Chaplain Ireland



USS CARTER HALL's new CO, CDR Steven E. Grey salutes his Sailors.



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Andrew Dennelly
XO: LCDR Patricia Green
COB: GMC Matthew Winters
Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

USCGC NORTHLAND is currently dry docked at Colonna Shipyard in Norfolk, VA. 🚩



USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912)
CO: CDR Jeremy M. Greenwood
XO: LCDR Jonathon Upton
COB: BMC Cody Johnson

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison
Thomas A. Jennings, Ass't Liaison

USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912) has returned to homeport after completing a remarkable patrol in the District One

operations area near the Gulf of Maine. Pictured below is **LEGARE** transiting to anchor near the Statue of Liberty in New York City, to conduct a cutterman's ceremony. Over the course of the patrol, we traversed more than 6,300 nautical miles and conducted 41 fisheries boardings and two recreational vessel boardings. Our efforts resulted in seven violations of safety or regulatory standards.

As we prepare for the next chapter in **LEGARE's** storied service, we are also gearing up for a significant event in the life of any military vessel: the Change of Command Ceremony. This time-honored tradition is not merely a formal transfer of leadership; it is a celebration of continuity and respect for the authority that is the backbone of our military's structure. As we prepare to bid farewell to our current Commanding Officer: CDR Jeremy Greenwood, we hope to commemorate his leadership, as well as the support and dedication he showed over the last two years. His tenure has been marked by success, and we extend our deepest gratitude to his efforts as our units' top leader. In his

place comes CDR Justin Strock, a career cutterman reporting in straight from the **CGC CALHOUN (WMSL-759)**. In welcoming CDR Strock, we are eager to embark on a new journey, and we are confident in the new leadership and vision he will bring to our unit.

This period of transition also brings many new faces! We welcomed LT Hank Deatrich as our new Executive Officer coming from Coast Guard Atlantic Area Cutter Forces department. Alongside him, a host of new junior officers, warrant officers, chiefs, petty officers, and non-rated members will be reporting in. Their arrival comes at an opportune moment, as we look forward to our next deployment engaging in the rewarding aspects of operations and seafaring.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Richmond Navy League, and as members of the world's premier Coast Guard, we remain steadfast in our commitment to being "Semper Paratus" – Always Ready. Until next time! 🚩

Very Respectfully,
 LTJG Tyric Burge, PAO



USCG Cutter LEGARE (WMEC-912) transiting to anchor near the Statue of Liberty in New York City, to conduct a cutterman's ceremony.

NEW TRADITIONS of the PENNANT

The U.S. Navy pennant is also now treated as the flag of the Commanding Officer of a U.S. War Vessel. In the event of a change of command, the following procedure takes place. The ship's crew is assembled on the deck. When all preliminary transfer details have been completed, the new Commanding Officer standing in front of the existing Commanding Officer and his assembled crew, will state, "I relieve you, sir!" To this statement the relieved Officer replies, "I stand relieved!" Upon direction, the signal crew will immediately lower the Command Pennant of the departing Commanding Officer, and later, presents it to him. The new Commanding Officer's pennant is immediately raised to the mast's peak. 🚩

LCDR Peter Wren, USN (Deceased)
 Richmond Council Navy League
 Past President

TO SALUTE OR NOT TO SALUTE, THAT IS THE QUESTION!

At our Richmond Navy League events, where we have a Color Guard with parading of the Colors, the National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance, there is often confusion regarding the rendering of a salute (whether to render a military-style hand salute or cover our heart with our right hand). There is also confusion as to when to render and when to end the salute. Therefore, this article provides the proper flag etiquette for veterans and its source. ***This is for information only and it should be understood that the decision is one of personal preference only.***



ARE VETERANS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES AUTHORIZED TO RENDER A MILITARY-STYLE HAND SALUTE?

Yes, veterans and service members not in uniform may render, if they wish, the military-style hand salute during the parading of the Colors and the playing of the National Anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October 2008 and October 2009 respectively by President George W. Bush.

These regulations allow veterans to remain covered (or uncovered if not wearing a cover) and present arms (come to attention and render a hand salute) during the playing of the national anthem, rather than remove their hats and place them over their hearts. If you see someone, say at a sporting event, standing at attention and saluting during the anthem, they are essentially claiming veteran status and executing what is considered a privilege not open to non-veterans.

WHEN SHOULD A HAND SALUTE BEGIN AND END DURING THE PARADING OF COLORS AND THE NATIONAL ANTHEM?

Colors – As the Colors pass by, salute when the flag is six steps away and hold the salute until it has passed six steps beyond.

National Anthem – Whenever the United States National Anthem is played, at the first note, veterans in civilian clothes may give the military-style hand salute. Hold the salute position until the last note of the music sounds.

DURING THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The latest change to the Flag Code by Congress says that retired military, veterans, and active-duty military in civilian clothing, can give the hand salute during the Pledge of Allegiance. However, there is no specific requirement for veterans to salute during the Pledge of Allegiance. Many retired military veterans do not feel it proper to render a hand salute out of uniform and prefer to stand at attention with their hands over their hearts out of respect. Again, it is important to remember that although veterans are authorized to render a military-style hand salute, it is a matter of personal preference. ✍

Thank You Sponsors!

Your Financial contribution to the Richmond Navy League provides Funds for programs supporting those serving in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Council's Youth Programs; The Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Local Navy and Marine JROTC Units.



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ARMED FORCES DAY SATURDAY, MAY 18

Armed Forces Day, observed on the third Saturday every May, is a day dedicated to paying tribute to men and women currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

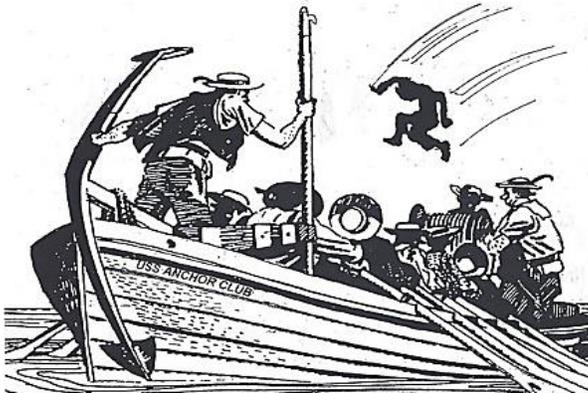
A small act of patriotism, and as a tribute to those serving in the military, please post the colors & display the U.S. Flag proudly.





**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S.
P.O. BOX 11201
RICHMOND, VA 23230**

**OFFICE: (804) 355-7557 FAX: (804) 355-8788
EMAIL: navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net
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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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YOUR DONATION OF \$100 (OR MORE) PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SEA SERVICES AND THEIR RELATED YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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