



AUGUST 2019



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

The NAS Oceana 2019 Air Show The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron Thunderbirds Friday Sept 20



The Annual Naval Air Station Oceana Airshow Practice Day is September 20. Council sends a bus of members and guests on the Friday of the 3-day event. Practice Day is the exact same show, but with smaller crowds. NAS Oceana Air Show is excited to present for the first time since the 1980's the United States Air Force Thunderbirds! Have no fear, the Navy will be well-represented. The real showstoppers are fleet take-offs by multiple Navy F-18s and a thundering SUPER HORNET AIR POWER DEMO by one of them. There will also be civilian teams, Skytypers, Jump Teams, and a return of the ever-popular SHOCKWAVE jet-powered Peterbilt truck screaming down the runway at 300 mph.

A few words about popularity: Since 2016, local school STEM programs have brought more and more students and chaperones. With over 8000 they will use up most of the seating. Some other seating is also now off-limits to us. While some seats can still be found, consider bringing a small, lightweight portable chair. Also, due to the crush of school buses and students at the end of the show, and the fact that the show typically runs behind schedule, we may leave before all flying is completed. That is unfortunate, but it allows us to beat the buses, and the Friday afternoon tunnel long delays, and be home at 730 pm instead of 1000 pm. Come with us!

DAY'S SCHEDULE

8:00 AM James River Bus **DEPARTS**
915 N. Allen Ave.
Richmond, VA 23220

10:00 AM Arrive at Oceana
Lunch on your own

4:30 PM Leave Oceana

7:00 PM ETA Richmond

COST: \$ 65.00 NL Members & Family
\$ 80.00 Non-Members

Includes: bus, snacks, drinks, gratuity

Reservation Deadline: Friday September 13, 2019

Make reservation for "Oceana Air Show" Friday Sept 20, 2019

****Refund Policy 2019: Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned
UP TO and INCLUDING the deadline date****

Name _____ Tel _____

email _____

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email _____

____ people at \$65 + ____ people at \$80 = total enclosed \$ _____

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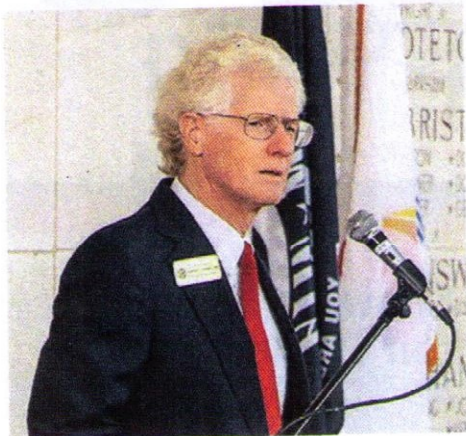
NL Office 804-355-7557

Richmond, VA 23230

Note: Checks are not deposited until after the show

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



NOW HEAR THIS

We do bus trips. Jump in!

Aug 22 - Quantico National Marine Corps Museum - (Sign-up: page 1 July *Lucky Bag*)

Sept 20 - Oceana Naval Air Station Airshow - (Sign-up: page 1 this issue)

We have occasional questions about **Bus Trip Rules** and want to review them here:

Payment Policy -

* Paper forms and checks must be received by posted deadline.

* Checks are not deposited until after the trip.

* **NEW** - We will try to send an email confirming receipt of your form. Print legibly!

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Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.

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

Refunds

* Sorry, no refunds after deadline. We have fixed expenses like the bus. If someone cannot go, nearly everyone changes their payment to a donation. Thank you.

* If we or the Navy cancel a trip, your check will be returned or shredded.

Medical Policy

* The Navy and/or us requires you to be able-bodied for standing, ship ladders, weather.

We may have to decline admission to some individuals.

All of these are common-sense rules. We know you will agree with us. ✍

NAUTICAL WISDOM OF THE MONTH

For in this modern world, the instruments of warfare are not solely for waging war. Far more importantly, they are the means for controlling peace. Naval officers must therefore understand not only how to fight a war, but how to use the tremendous power which they operate to sustain a world of liberty and justice, without unleashing the powerful instruments of destruction and chaos that they have at their command. *Admiral Arleigh Burke, 1961.* ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Lewis W. Brandt

Artificial Intelligence is called the greatest threat to the world. Right now I see vacuum cleaner robots, self-driving cars, robots building cars, robots operating on patients and robot/drones spying on people from the air. The research is moving fast and I recently saw what appeared to be a human being, but it was indeed a robot. The robot may one day possess super intelligence like data on "Star Trek" processing information at the

speed of light. What is the worth of intelligence without feelings, facts without compassion, decisions without responsibility, or a functioning body without a soul? God gave to man, not to a robot, dominion over the works of His hands, **Gen 1:26**. That's because heart issues like faith, hope and love are the things that make intelligence worth having, **1 Cor 13:13**. ✍

SUMMER LUNCHEON U.S. FLEET FORCES

Richmond Council continues to be blessed with a series of outstanding speakers. Executive Director and Chief of Staff of U.S. Fleet Forces Mr. Mark Honecker spoke with both grace and expertise. He discussed challenges that our Nation faces from a military, economic and industrial-base standpoint. We were fortunate to have a speaker of his caliber. Also, we were pleased to have at the head table CDR Robert Underhill, CO Navy Recruiting District Richmond (NRD) and CDR Brian Scopa, prospective CO of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC). Two tables of their respective staff in uniform was a beautiful sight. Our Summer Luncheon was a success so be sure to join us on October 23 for our Sea Services Luncheon. ✍

NAVY LEAGUE NAME BADGES

Name badges for the Richmond Council Navy League members are available for \$10.00 each. The styles to choose from are: magnet backing, pocket slide or pin. Call the office at 355-7557 or email the Navy League at navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net to place your order. ✍

THE FAMILIES OF THE WOUNDED FUND (FOTWF)

The FOTWF holds its 13th annual charity golf classic to benefit families of wounded military heroes on Sept 9 at Brandermill Country Club. See www.fotwf.org or call 804-763-1358. ✍

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 at your first function.

New Members

Robert W. Downs, Jr., M.D.
Fred A. Williams, Jr.

Sponsors

Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.
Charles W. Rayfield

NORFOLK HARBORFEST TALL SHIPS

Richmond Council's two busloads of members and guests beat the weather gods. Heavy rain threatened, but those who made the trip were rewarded. Just Do It! The Victory Rover harbor cruise boat was the perfect platform for reviewing the parade of Tall Ships in the Elizabeth River. In addition to the sailing ships, we were able to see four of our adopted or supported ships, **USS NORMANDY**, **USS CARTER HALL**, **USCGC NORTHLAND** and **USNS COMFORT**. Returning to the dock with cannons booming and fire-fighting boats spraying, we grabbed a quick lunch from Harborfest vendors. With the sultry air heavier, we were like experienced sailors of yore able to smell bad weather on the way. We left an hour early, but have fond memories of this very successful day. 🍷 (See page 7 for photo ID's)



ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Christopher Stone
XO: LCDR Jeremiah N. Petersen
CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison

AHOY, Richmond Navy League!

NORMANDY had a busy June. We marked the 75th anniversary of D-Day, hosted a group of midshipmen for 25 days, completed a large scale training exercise, conducted an ammunition onload for our upcoming deployment, and promoted an okay percentage of our crew! In typical **NORMANDY** fashion, we took all of this on and accomplished it with perseverance and excellence.

This year marked the 75th anniversary of the D-Day beach landings in Normandy, France. **USS NORMANDY** marked the day by holding a remembrance ceremony on our flight deck with former **NORMANDY** Commanding Officer, CAPT Frank DeMasi (ret), attending as our guest speaker. He shared his thoughts of teamwork, perseverance and what the history of D-Day means to him.

NORMANDY also had the pleasure of hosting four midshipmen this month, two third-class (sophomores) and two first-class (seniors) for three weeks. The intent of their time aboard is to immerse them in shipboard routine and expose them to what the Surface Navy is all about. These midshipmen represented two universities, the United States Naval Academy and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. **NORMANDY** had a blast hosting these midshipmen and we hope to see them as part of the Surface Navy soon!

We also participated in our Strike Group's Undersea Warfare certification phases I and II. This was an amazing opportunity and experience for our sonar and combat teams to focus two dedicated weeks to only undersea warfare and honing their Anti-Submarine Warfare skills. This training was a highly complex set of scenarios bringing together six ships, air assets and staff groups all working on a common problem.

NORMANDY wrapped up the month at Naval Weapons Station Yorktown getting its pre-deployment weapons load-out, ensuring that whenever we are called upon, we are ready to go and are fully mission-capable.

Lastly there were several reasons for celebration this month for individual Sailors and the crew as a whole. We promoted two Officers, had five Officers screened for Department Head, promoted three Chiefs to the rank of Senior Chief, and promoted 30 plus Sailors. It is amazing to see the hard work and dedication of this team, and I am proud of each one of them!

Thank you for your continued support and outreach. ✍

Warm regards,
CAPT Christopher D. Stone
Commanding Officer



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Bruce W. Golden
XO: CDR Matthew R. Sherlock
CMC: CMDCM Donavon Gray

Report from Pat Robson, Liaison

No Report.



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Justin R. Hodges
XO: CDR Corey D. Odom
CMC: MCPO (SW/AW) Larae Baker

Alan Palmer, Liaison

Greetings from **USS GRAVELY**!

GRAVELY continues to serve as the flagship for Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG-1), with the embarked admiral, Edward Cashman, commanding the six-ship NATO coalition. Our focus for June, and really a highlight of the deployment, was our participation in Exercise Baltic Operations (BALTOPS). By far the largest exercise that we have taken part in, and comparable in size to US-led biennial RIMPAC exercise, **GRAVELY** was one of fifty ships from eighteen participating countries. The exercise

began with a two-day pre-sail conference in Kiel, Germany, packing a conference hall full with representatives from each ship to discuss in fine-detail the schedule and safety precautions. The fifty ships then set sail early on a Sunday morning and commenced a two-week "war" between opposing forces, conducting more than three dozen training serials. The exercise was a lot of fun for our Sailors and provided invaluable training opportunity for the NATO navies. And in keeping with the tradition of "work hard, play hard," all BALTOPS participants returned to Kiel after the exercise to partake in Germany's Kiel Week. Described by local media as a combination of New York Fleet Week and Mardi Gras, our crew had a great time in our final visit to Germany. We departed Germany in late June and transited northwest out of the Baltic Sea. We concluded the month with a port stop in Harstad, Norway, preparing for the final exercise of our deployment. July looks to be a busy month, but our Sailors work with renewed energy as we slowly transit west, each day bringing us a little closer to home. ✍

Very Respectfully,
CDR Corey D. Odom
Executive Officer



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Charles L. Banks
XO: LCDR Joshua Di Pietro
COB: ETC Joseph W. Leu

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Cutter **NORTHLAND** is back at the Coast Guard Yard after suffering a casualty to our starboard shaft while underway on our first day of patrol. We currently do not have an estimated time of departure from the Yard, so we are using this time to complete further maintenance on board as well as conduct training for our newest crew members.

With the transfer season coming to a close, we have a lot of new members on board who are eagerly working towards their qualifications and

USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 7

Dear Navy League Partners,

On behalf of the Officers and Crew of USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904), I wish to extend my most sincere appreciation for your attendance at our Navy League and Ombudsman appreciation lunch. It is always a pleasure when we are able to get together.

Thank you for your continued support of NORTHLAND and her missions. From providing funding for a new workout equipment, Ms. Mullins' donation of float coats and spare uniform items, to deployment dollars and patrol snacks – we are grateful! Your efforts and donations truly help improve quality of life onboard this ship and we couldn't do it without you.

We are so thankful for all of your support and I look forward to continuing our exceptional working relationship.

Sincerely,
CDR C.L. Banks, USCG, Commanding Officer



Attending the Navy League & Ombudsmen appreciation luncheon, (L to R) CO CDR Charles Banks; ETC Joseph Leu, COB; Council Directors Tom Hassell & Joy Mullins; three Ombudsmen; Council President Harvey Lankford and XO LCDR Jeremy Greenwood



Crew member appears to be enjoying the new rowing machine; a gift from Richmond Navy League

75th ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AT BEDFORD

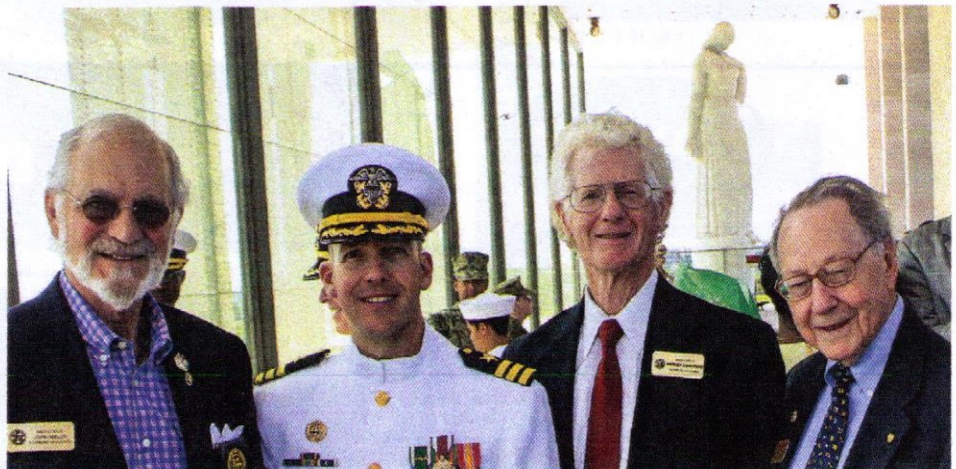
The 75th Anniversary D-Day event at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, VA was held June 5-6. It was attended by 12,000 people of whom 35 were D-Day survivors. Vice-President of the United States, Mike Pence, gave a stirring keynote address.

A top-notch aeronautical show was another centerpiece of this year's celebration. It included WWII aircraft such as a C-47 that flew at Normandy, a B-17 Flying Fortress, Stearman bi-plane trainers and others. The air show concluded with the "Heritage Formation" of modern-day aircraft accompanied by a P-51 Mustang. The WWII fighter peeled off for the "missing man" aerial salute to the fallen. Richmond Council was represented by member Jim Dageforde who described a very patriotic and memorable experience at Bedford. ✍

NAVY OPERATIONAL SUPPORT CENTER RICHMOND - CHANGE OF COMMAND

The Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) located just off Chippenham Parkway had its Change of Command (COC) Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial on Saturday 22

June. The new CO is Commander Brian Scopa, USN. The event was attended by four Council officers who observed Navy ritual with a ship's bell, a bosun's pipe and rows of sailors known as sideboys. Commander Scopa is seen in the photo at the conclusion of the event with the announcement, "NOSC departing". Tradition lives on. ✍



Following the ceremony, CDR Brian Scopa, USN, posed with Council Directors (L to R) John Harler, President Harvey Lankford and Milton Owen

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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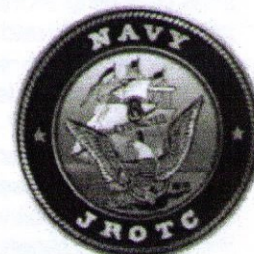
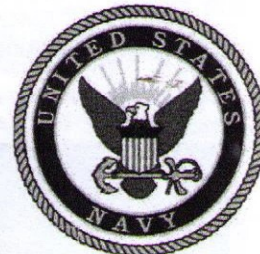
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USCGC NORTHLAND cont. from page 4

learning their way around NORTHLAND. We have also had the opportunity to have a morale barbeque which included a softball tournament with the small boat station here in Baltimore. Unfortunately, we lost the "golden helmet" in the pursuit of victory, but all hands that attended had a great time.

We look forward to updating you with patrol information once we get out of dry dock.

As always, thank you for your continued support of NORTHLAND and her missions.



Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Joshua Di Pietro

TALL SHIPS – ID of pictures from page 3

(L to R & top to bottom): Navy Leaguers aboard the Victory Rover; Godspeed; Kal-

mar Nyckel; Figurehead-Kalmar Nyckel; Schooner Virginia; American Rover; Schooner Sultana and Fire Boats.

REMINDER

NATIONAL MARINE CORPS
MUSEUM TOUR
THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 2019



**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL,
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**
P.O. BOX 11201 RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23230

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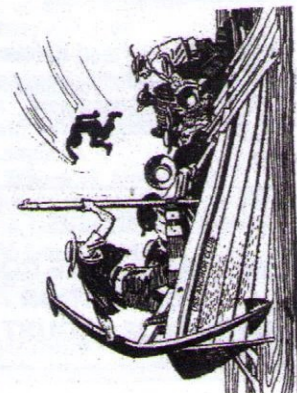
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The Lucky Bag

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Thanks for jumping on board !!!



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