



MAY 2019



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

JOIN US FOR A HARBOR BOAT TOUR & TALL SAILING SHIPS TOUR NORFOLK HARBORFEST - FRIDAY JUNE 7, 2019

Join the Richmond Navy League for a special trip onboard the harbor cruise ship *Victory Rover*. This 3-hour cruise of the Norfolk waterfront includes viewing from the water the Naval Station and ships, Nauticus and the Tall Sailing Ships that we have all heard so much about. Following the cruise, participants will have several hours to stroll the quay and docks for food and on-deck visits on some of the tall ships.

Come see the Tall Ships by land and by sea, but you better hurry and sign up now! The Harbor Cruise Boat may leave the dock without you! We have already sold 60% of the 100 seats on the *Victory Rover*. Act now and join us! **You MUST RESERVE your seat IN ADVANCE!**
SIGN UP NOW! ✍



Reservation Deadline: Wednesday May 22

REMINDER: You must RESERVE your seat IN ADVANCE !!

Cost: \$90.00: NL members & family \$99.00: Non-members
(Includes: snacks, drinks, driver tip)

Make reservations for the "Tall Ships Tour" on Friday June 7, 2019

Name: _____ Tel: _____

email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____

email: _____

____ people at \$ 90.00 + ____ people at \$ 99.00 = total enclosed \$ _____

PRINT CLEARLY, cut out, mail form + check to: **Richmond Council NLUS**
N L Office 804-355-7557 PO Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

DAY'S SCHEDULE

***6:00 AM – BUS DEPARTS**

James River Transportation
915 N. Allen Ave
Richmond, VA 23220

9:00 AM – Arrive at dock

9:15 AM – Board harbor boat

9:30-12:30 – Boat tour harbor
+Tall Ships

12:30-3:00 – Lunch on your own
Vendors at Harborfest
Board Tall Ships

3:00 PM – Leave Norfolk

6:00 PM – ETA Richmond

***complimentary coffee, doughnuts and juice will be available prior to departure from Richmond**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



NOW HEAR THIS

Our Annual **Golf Outing Fund-Raiser** is on 15 May. This event accounts for a large share of our operating funds for the year. If you have not yet signed up, donated, or found a sponsor, please help now. We need you.

Another major event is the **Tall Ships trip** on 7 June. We began the required advance registration in March. This was so we could lock in 100 seats on the *Victory Rover* harbor cruise ship before it sold out. We have reached many of you by "blast email" and now *The Lucky Bag*. We have already sold 60% of the seats. You better hurry and sign up now!

Yet another major event is our Summer Luncheon on June 19. Stayed tuned for details. ✍

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Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.

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NAUTICAL WORDS OF WISDOM

The first one fits right in with our upcoming Tall Ships trip on 7 June. The second one (also from the day of sail) is true all the time.

"I must go down to the sea again, to the lonely sea and the sky, and all I ask is a tall ship and a star to steer her by". (John Masefield, *Sea Fever*, 1902)

"For well we know that if a person does not perform what he promises, the world is very apt to say he never did intend to do it". (Lord Nelson, 1785) ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Lewis W. Brandt

Don't you love the evolution of the hamburger! The burgers get bigger and bigger to satisfy ravenous appetites. Look at some of the names: Whopper, Big Mac, What-A-Burger, Dave's Triple. Forget the size of the burger for a moment, and just look at the picture of it on the overhead menu. What is the bread doing? It is making it possible to hold in your hand without making a mess of a pile of meat, lettuce, cheese, onion, pickle, ketchup, mayo, bacon and whatever else can

be swept up and added. Can you see the Lord in that picture? Jesus said, "**I am the Bread of Life**", John 6:35. Scripture also tells us that God holds us in His hands [John 10:28]. When I consider the mess we can make of our lives, how can God hold us in His hands? Well, He just scrapes us into a pile and encloses us with the Bread of Life. There is more to a picture of a Whopper than just a burger! ✍

HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER LUNCHEON

DATE: Tuesday

PLACE: Publix

2250 John Rolfe Pkwy

Henrico, VA 23233

TIME: 11:30; SPEAKER: 12:10

SPEAKER: ADM William E. Gortney, USN, (Ret)

After college, ADM Bill Gortney was commissioned in the USNR in 1977 and earned his Wings of Gold in 1978. During the next 40 years he held an impressive array of shore and water based commands. His most recent assignment was as Commander of the U.S. Fleet Forces Command (2012-2014). During his career he logged 5,360 flight hours and completed 1,265 carrier-assisted landings. ✍



Meet your new Richmond Council Officers and Directors for 2019

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

Raymond L. Clements
Dennis J. Quearry

Sponsors

George L. Feitig, Jr.
John A. Harler, M.D.

Almost Here - It's not too late to join the fun! Sign up and help support our Sea Services



MAY 15

Annual Spring Golf Outing

Join in the fun with active Military --- Sailors from Council's adopted ships and Navy Recruiters for a round of golf. This fund-raiser is enjoyed by members and guests of all golf levels; duffers as well as low handicappers. Complimentary lunch and a variety of beverages enhance this fun outing! Individual players are welcome and will be placed in a foursome. Come join us. ✍

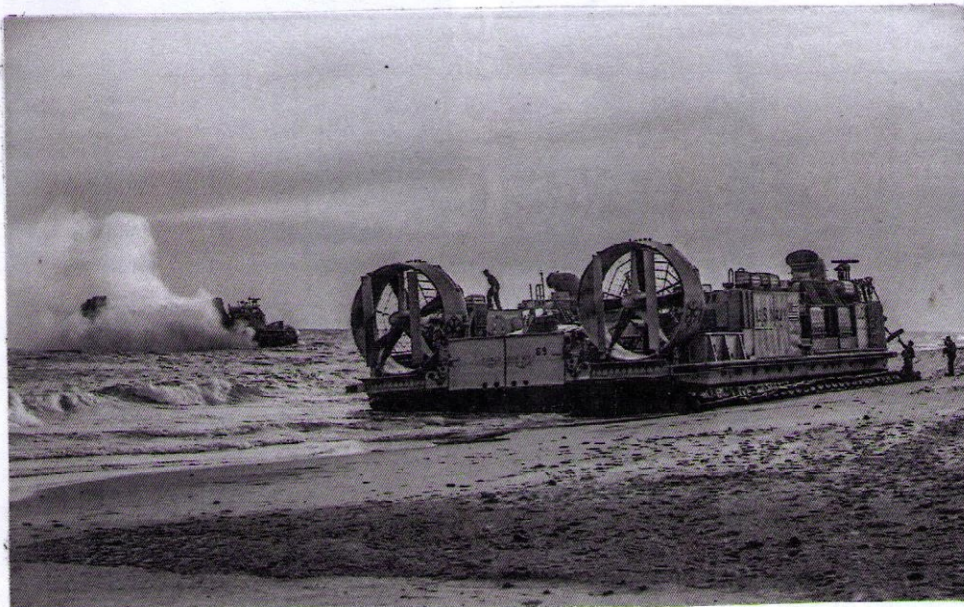
SUMMER LUNCHEON

JUNE 19 - WHAT IS THE U.S. FLEET FORCES?

SAVE THE DATE !!











President Theodore Roosevelt emphasized naval readiness with the fleet concept. In 1907, the first commander of the Atlantic Fleet, Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, led The Great White Fleet out of Hampton Roads. President Roosevelt watched from his yacht, the Mayflower. This ceremonious Fleet Review was a highlight of the Jamestown Exposition, held at the site of the present Norfolk Naval Station.

Today, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) is responsible for manning, training and equipping more than 125 ships, 1,000 aircraft, and 103,000 active duty service members and government employees. The USFF Commander is Admiral Christopher W. Grady and the Executive Director is Mr. Mark Honecker. On 19 June, Richmond Council's Summer Luncheon prestigious speaker will be Mr. Honecker. Join us and learn more about U.S. Fleet Forces, **who they are** and **what they do**.



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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AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADET HONORED

AMERICA Division's Chief Petty Officer, Alexander Liu, was one of one of 30 cadets selected nationally to attend the week-long inaugural Senior Leadership Academy to be held at the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Headquarters in Arlington, Va. The goal of the Senior Leadership Academy (SLA) is to provide exceptional Sea Cadets with a high-level program in which they will receive through a curriculum on Leadership and Ethics curriculum taken directly from the U.S. Naval Academy, including sessions with leaders from the private and public sector. Cadets will participate in personal and team leadership activities and field experiences throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area. They will embody these experiences to better understand their strengths, inform their decision making, build perspective and help create an exemplary USNSCC curriculum. BRAVO ZULU Chief on your accomplishments. ✍



Chief Petty Officer Alexander Liu,
United States Naval Sea Cadet

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY ON 27 MAY

Virginia's Annual Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at the Virginia War Memorial on May 27 to honor all veterans who gave their lives to preserve American freedoms, from the Revolutionary War through today. Highlights of the event will in-

clude guest speakers. Members of the Richmond Navy League will present one of the many wreaths. Patriotic music will be provided in the afternoon by the Thomas Jefferson Alumni Band and Friends. Please join us at the Virginia War Memorial. ✍

US NAVY FIGHTS RICHMOND FIRE

Remember this? The Little Oil Company Tank Farm fire of 1975. Giant 500-foot flames and smoke were visible for miles around. I-95 was closed. Over 100 area firefighters fought the blaze, but were driven away. Military trucks from Fort Lee and Byrd Field brought chemical foam used to smother fires, but still the fire raged. The U.S. Navy sent trucks from Norfolk loaded with a mix of water and fire-retardant chemicals. The Navy also brought an experimental foam-spraying tractor. The Little Oil Fire was a memorable event in Richmond history. ✍

FIRST SHIPBOARD AIRCRAFT TAKE-OFF --- HAMPTON ROADS 1910

Have you ever heard of Chambers Field at Naval Station Norfolk? In 1910, Navy Captain Washington Irving Chambers and aviation pioneer Eugene Ely investigated the new phenomenon of aviation. Ely took off in a Glenn Curtiss plane from a temporary platform erected over the bow of the light cruiser **USS BIRMINGHAM** in Hampton Roads, then promptly landed on a beach rather than the Nor-

folk Navy Yard as planned.

Two months later, Ely flew from land to a platform on the armored cruiser **USS PENNSYLVANIA** in San Francisco Bay. This first shipboard landing was also the first ever using a tailhook system, designed and built by circus performer and aviator Hugh Robinson. An exhibit of retired naval aircraft at Naval Air Station Norfolk bears Ely's name, and a granite historical marker in Newport News overlooks the waters where Ely made his historic naval aviation first. ✍

USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN LEFT NORFOLK APRIL 1

ABE Anchors Aweigh. The **USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN (CVN 72)** bid farewell to Hampton Roads on 1 April to home port in San Diego. There are some recent interesting facts about **Abe's** "hard" and "soft" power. The carrier was the first in the Nimitz-class to become capable of accommodating the F-35C Lightning II. The **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** hosted a film production crew in 2018 that was shooting footage for the sequel to the Hollywood blockbuster "Top Gun". The **ABRAHAM LINCOLN** was dispatched to the coast of Florida in 2017 to provide humanitarian relief in the wake of Hurricane Irma. Back home, over 700 sailors participated in the *Read Across America* Program for kids in grades K through 3. The original Abe read by candlelight in a log cabin. Times have changed. ✍



NORTHLAND, ashore, dry and on blocks in the Coast Guard Yard Baltimore, MD for a three month maintenance period

Thank You Sponsors!

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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!

Through the tremendous love, support and encouragement from our families and the endless efforts of the crew, we are proud to report MISSION COMPLETE on **NORMANDY's** Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) assessment. We received the challenge to execute this short-notice material inspection, the most rigorous in the United States Navy, and blew it out of the water!

As is the **NORMANDY** way, we established a new benchmark for which others can aspire. The team scored green, the highest rating in 10 of 20 functional

areas and recorded a PERFECT score in the main battery live fire demonstration!!!

I can't even begin to put into words how *immensely* proud of these Sailors I am. This is an incredible team that has met and exceeded every challenge that has been put in front of them. The many awards we've received this year are one small measure of our accomplishments.

Of course the call to duty never ends, as we now find ourselves back operating at sea with the Harry S. Truman Car-

USS NORMANDY continued on page 7

rier Strike Group (HSTCSG). We are building and maintaining proficiency in operating together for the first time since we returned from deployment four months ago, participating in an integrated, comprehensive sustainment exercise designed to ensure HTCSG is ready to meet all mission requirements and carry out sustained combat operations from the sea, if required. We've pulled out all the stops and are conducting every exercise we could schedule in our limited time; from flight operations, maneuvering at speed in close proximity to the aircraft carrier, to precision gunnery exercises, we're doing it all.

Of note, **NORMANDY** has been away from homeport 239 of the last 365 days, returned from deployment right before Christmas, reset then immediately pivoted to be ready to excel at INSURV, despite limited maintenance opportunities. Bottom line: I am proud to call this TEAM of young men and women My Navy Family and would head arm-in-arm with them into the fight anywhere, any day, against any adversary.

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. Shellock
CMC: CMDCM Donavon Gray

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Another month has come and gone for the mighty **CARTER HALL** and her Sailors and Marines. It's been a busy month as we have been continuing to certify the various warfare areas needed for the ship to conduct combat operations.

In March, we hosted two different visiting groups: officials from the Japanese Ministry of Defense and students from Seneca Valley NJROTC. Each of these groups were completely

different, but the **CARTER HALL** was able to showcase the hard work of our Sailors and the ship. The purpose of the visit from the Japanese Ministry of Defense was to showcase the **CARTER HALL** and her role in conducting amphibious operations highlighting the importance of interoperability with an allied nation. The Seneca Valley NJROTC students were an excited bunch as the group was able to eat on the mess decks with the crew. This energy continued as they toured the living spaces, bridge and the well deck. The goal was to expose these high school students to life in the Navy to give them needed information on whether they would want to join the Navy upon their high school graduation.

In late February, we were honored to welcome our Navy League Liaison, Mr. Pat Robson, for the official presentation of the recently purchased TV. During his visit, we showed him the new Gator Chapel where the TV is on display. We look forward to using the TV for worship services, crew trainings, and for movie nights. In January, we were blessed to use the TV to show the Super Bowl while we were underway. Thank you once again to the Richmond Navy League for the generous support!!

As we enter into April, **CARTER HALL** will continue to head out to sea to resume our training! We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War! ✍

Very Respectfully,
LT Patrick D. Williams
Command Chaplain
Public Affairs Officer



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Justin R. Hodges
XO: CDR Michael T. O'Reilly
CMC: MCPO (SW/AW) Larae Baker

Alan Palmer, Liaison

Greetings from **USS GRAVELY**!

March was another busy month for us, as we continue our Sixth Fleet deployment as the flagship for Standing NATO Maritime Group ONE (SNMG-1). **GRAVELY** spent the first half of March operating in the North Sea,

conducting operations with our NATO allies and taking advantage of every opportunity to build interoperability and improve our readiness as a force. In late March, the HMS WESTMINSTER, HDMS ABSALON, ESPS ALMIRANTE JUAN DE BORBON, FGS RHOEN and TCG GOKOVA joined the group. We were able to conduct coordinated operations off the southern UK coast, working hard to successfully integrate the newest members of the force. We were also able to enjoy some highly-anticipated port visits in Rostock, Germany; Plymouth, UK; and Faslane, Scotland. While there was work to be done in all three ports, the crew thoroughly enjoyed some well-deserved time off for liberty, tours and sight-seeing. As March ended, we were preparing for Joint Warrior 191, a UK-led multi-national exercise that **GRAVELY** also participated in last spring. The exercises promises to be challenging and rewarding, and will prove an excellent opportunity to showcase the interoperability that we have achieved within SNMG1. ✍

Very Respectfully,
XO CDR Michael T. O'Reilly

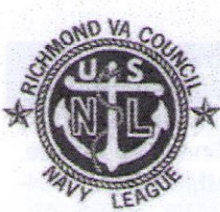


USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Charles L. Banks
XO: LCDR Jeremy M. Greenwood
COB: ETC Joseph W. Leu

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

On March 8th, **NORTHLAND** was placed on blocks out of the water at the US Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD. The work at the yard will include maintenance on the decks, a renewal of the shafts, and a repainting of 70% of the ship amongst a multitude of other smaller projects. During this time, the crew will be staying in a hotel when they are not working hard on the ship. The Assistant Engineering Officer, ENS Caleb Tvrdy said that everything has been going "very smooth" and is very impressed with the relationship with the personnel of the yard. ✍

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Jeremy M. Greenwood



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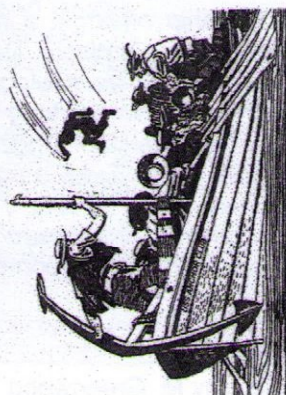


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The Lucky Bag

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Thanks for jumping on board !!!



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