



JULY 2022

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

NORFOLK HARBOR FEST 2022



Harbor Tour and Parade of Sails and USS BULKELEY.



On June 10, twenty-six Navy League members and guests set out for a fun day in Norfolk, VA. The weather was great, a light breeze and sunshine greeted the group as they set out for a most enjoyable Norfolk harbor boat tour aboard the *VICTORY ROVER*.

We saw numerous commercial and naval vessels and were excited to see one of our adopted ships, **USS NORMANDY**. In addition, there were several "tall ships", privately owned power and sailboats, as well as, the guided missile destroyer, **USS BULKELEY**. It was also noted on our tour, all aircraft carriers were out at sea.

After completing the harbor tour, the group enjoyed visiting numerous vendor tents at waterside and lunched at nearby restaurants.

There were many "nappers" on the way back to Richmond. Overall, the trip was great fun and much positive feedback was given. A good time was had by all. ✍

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Patrick D. Harris



Although the pandemic still lingers, we are starting to return to some normalcy and our members are getting together at events sponsored by the Richmond Navy League.

On May 13, 19 Richmond Navy League members and friends were treated to an excellent "behind the scenes" hanger tour of the VFA-213 Blacklions Strike Fighter Squadron (F-18's) at Naval Air Station Oceana. Our timing for the visit could not have been better with the recent release of the new Tom Cruise movie, *Top Gun Maverick*. On June 10, 26 members and friends participated in a group tour to the annual Tall Ships event in Norfolk. In this case, we had a close call. On the Tuesday afternoon before the visit and tour of the harbor on the *Victory Rover*, there was a serious fire

aboard the *Victory Rover's* sister ship, the *Spirit of Norfolk*. It took four days to extinguish the fire.

On July 16 we have another event scheduled for Richmond Navy League members, family and friends. Our Family and Friends Picnic, which was profiled in the June *Lucky Bag*, will be held at American Legion Post 354. This is a great site along the James River off of Robious Road (Rt. 711) in Chesterfield County about two miles west of Chesterfield Town Center. The picnic will be catered by Mission BBQ. This will be a great opportunity for Richmond Navy League members to reconnect with old friends. I encourage all members, their families and friends to attend the picnic and have a good time. There is no cost to attend, but we do ask that if you plan to attend to let us know so we can provide an estimate of participants for Mission BBQ.

I hope our good luck stays with us and that we have sunny weather and mild temperatures for the picnic. 🍴

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

Approaching the 246th anniversary of our Independence, our Founding Fathers brilliantly stated in the Declaration of Independence, "*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness*".

In June, our Nation celebrated Emancipation Day. Both holidays celebrate the goodness of freedom, remind us of the burden of oppression, and cause us to be vigilant in ensuring that freedom is to be protected by us for future generations.

While our Founding Fathers created this Declaration, we know that this wisdom was rooted in the words of our Lord. From the first page of the Hebrew Scripture, we read, "*God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them*". (Genesis 1: 26). And later we read, "*You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country; for I am the Lord your God*." (Leviticus 24: 22). Our Nation proudly seeks to up-

hold these principles for us by which to live and for all the world to become.

In the Christian Scriptures, we read, "*You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love*". (Galatians 5:13). Our Declaration of Independence ensures freedom and equality for all, as well as the individual right to pursue happiness. Scriptures tell us that true individual happiness or joy is found in the Lord – when we are free from the slavery of our flesh. We are free when we are not in bondage by the passions of our body. We know real freedom when we live with self-control, goodness, and love. We can celebrate true freedom through kindness, patience, and forgiveness.

As we celebrate freedom in our great Nation, let us all seek individual freedom through goodness. Let us pursue an eternal freedom that comes from our Lord. 🍴

NATIONAL NAVY LEAGUE AWARDS

We recently received notification from the National Navy League that the Richmond Council has won three National Navy League awards for 2021. The awards are Council Performance Award - Meritorious Council, Mackie Award for Newsletter - Silver, and Mackie Award for Website – Silver.

Congratulations to our team and a thank you goes out to our members for contributing to our success. 🍴



A stirring tribute to our flag. (Photo credit to VWM Facebook).

The Lucky Bag Vol 65 Issue 7

Published by the Richmond, Virginia Council Navy League of the U.S. Mailing address: P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, VA 23230.

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



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IN REPLY REFER TO:
 13 Jun 22

Richmond Virginia Council
 Navy League of the U.S.
 P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, VA 23230

Dear Richmond Navy League Council Board Members:

I wanted to take this opportunity to formally thank your team for your continued support of the Navy, the Navy Reserve, and specifically Navy Reserve Center Richmond, and me. Your patriotism is unmatched.

A special thanks to your members who came to my change of command on 14 May, and later visited the Reserve Center in person. It really means a lot to me to maintain our connection with the community.

I look forward to continuing the relationship between our organizations. I also appreciate reading the Lucky Bag and the invitations to your various events. I will continue to attempt to make as many as I can – looking forward to the golf tournament again this year!

Sincerely,

E. Z. WYNN
 Lieutenant Commander
 United States Navy
 Commanding Officer



New Commanding Officer of Navy Reserve Center Richmond, LCDR Eric Z. Wynn, at the Change of Command Ceremony held at the Virginia War Memorial on May 14, 2022.

USS CARTER HALL HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND



Command at Sea Pins are located and re-located, accordingly, on the uniforms of incoming CO, CDR Brad Fancher, and outgoing CO, CDR (SEL) LaDonna Simpson by their spouses.



A first - - Navy League Board Member and Chaplain, John Harler, being piped aboard Coast Guard Cutter Legare (WMEC-912) on June 14, 2022, for the Change of Command Ceremony. Commander Malcolm D. Belt was relieved of Command by Commander Jeremy M. Greenwood. Both served on the NORTHLAND (WMEC-904).



Navy League members, Bob Lusk and Tom Hassell are welcomed aboard USS CARTER HALL for the Change of Command Ceremony.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



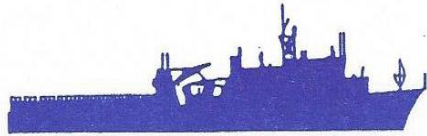
USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Simon Charles McKeon
XO: CDR Kevin C. Antonucci
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison
George L. Feitig, Jr., Ass't Liaison

USS NORMANDY continues to successfully tackle Basic Phase Training and Certification requirements. The command pulled together to support the challenging and dynamic Big Five Event working with Air, Surface, Electronic, Cryptologic and Intelligence Warfare watch teams to demonstrate our proficiency and hone our tactical warfighting skills. Our Information Technicians charged head on into their Communications Certification finishing strong and solidifying that **USS NORMANDY** is complete with all Tier One Certification Events. **NORMANDY** certified in her Material Maintenance Management Program; receiving Bravo Zulus for the crew's motivation and dedication to the Sound Shipboard Operating Principles. The Gunners Mates and the Sonar Technicians certified in Torpedo Handling, Torpedo Banding and responding to an ASW Casualty. On top of all of this amazing work, **NORMANDY** set back out to sea last month to complete her final round of Mobility Engineering drills for certification. Her engineers worked tirelessly with unmatched dedication to complete this certification. The Wardroom and Chief's Mess of **NORMANDY** could not be more proud of their Sailors during these past months. Next month the command is looking forward to Advancement Results, a Command Picnic and getting back out to sea! ✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, ASWO



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
XO: CDR Steven E. Grey
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Throughout the month of May, the Fighting 50 continued her pursuit of excellence, and the Richmond Navy League is no small part of that effort! It was great to see representatives from RNL at the Change of Command on May 26th at JEB Little Creek. During Ceremonies attended by Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic (SURFLANT), Rear Adm. Brendan McLane, and Commodore Amphibious Squadron 8 Captain Thomas E. Myers, CAPT (SEL) LaDonna Simpson passed the baton of command to CDR Brad Fancher.

Just prior to the change of command, **CARTER HALL's** Engineering Dept, led by Chief Engineer, LCDR Kevin Tulloch, successfully completed MOB-E (Mobility-Engineering) certifications off the coast of Virginia. It has been a busy month, but as always, the sailors of **CARTER HALL** exceeded expectations. In the midst of the busyness, we take time to congratulate **CARTER HALL** sailors who continue to set the bar high, such as RSC Jamye Francis, who was promoted to Senior Chief! Bravo Zulu!

As we take note of world events, we cannot help but be cognizant of the need to be ready for whatever may come, to be constantly WORKING FOR PEACE, READY FOR WAR. The contributions of Richmond Navy League help us greatly in this regard, and on behalf of the CO, XO, and Crew, we extend our deepest gratitude! ✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Jerry Ireland, CHC, USN
CDPAO



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Hunter D. Washburn
XO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

USS GRAVELY nears the end of its regularly scheduled deployment with proud memories of having supported multiple operations with Allies and partners in the Baltic region.

Since entering the Baltic Sea in April, **USS GRAVELY** was attached to CTF 61/2, KEARSARGE Amphibious Ready Group (KSGARG). While assigned to CTF 61/2, **USS GRAVELY** played a pivotal role in defense of the force during Exercise Hedgehog 22 (HH22). HH22, also known as "Siil", Estonian for Hedgehog, is an Estonia national exercise aimed at evaluating and controlling the mobilization of Estonian Defense Forces (EDF) Reserve units. The exercise was designed to train battalion level and smaller command and control of amphibious operations. These types of exercise are fundamental to enhance Allied interoperability in the Baltic region with a focus on defensive maneuvers.

After the conclusion of HH22, **GRAVELY** entered Helsinki, Finland with **USS GUNSTON HALL**. While in port, **USS GRAVELY**, along with **USS GUNSTON HALL**, hosted a distinguished visitor event for the American Ambassador to Finland and a Congressional Delegation (CODEL) alongside Finnish military leadership. The **GRAVELY** Wardroom was also invited to "the world's largest Sauna" with members of the Finnish, German, and French navies. "Being able to be a part of the relationship building aspect of this port visit is something I will never forget," says Ensign Abbott. Abbott added, "I was able to learn so much about our European counterparts and gain an insight into how their Navy plays a crucial role in strategic defense."

After leaving Helsinki, Finland, **GRAVELY** was once again tapped to host a distinguished visitor event in Gdynia, Poland. Sailors aboard **GRAVELY** had the honor of hosting the US Ambassador to Poland, Ambassador Mark Brzezinski, and many high-ranking Polish military members while also showcasing the world's finest warship. "This event was amazing.

USS GRAVELY cont. on page 5

USS GRAVELY cont. from page 4

We were able to express our commitment to Poland and stand side-by-side with our allies. Most of all, we acted as ambassadors of the United States, which is something I am very proud of," said Lieutenant Junior Grade Michael Scimeca.

GRAVELY is on its final leg of its deployment and Sailors are excited to return home and see loved ones. Most of all, they are proud of all the things **GRAVELY** has been able to accomplish while out defending freedom and assuring allies in the European region.

✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Michael Krueger, PAO



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett
XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts
COB: MKC Alan Kinney

Report from Tom Hassell, Liaison
Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!** Since our last update, **Northland** has been on guard in the Eastern Pacific Ocean, conducting counterdrug operations in support of Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S) and USCG District 11. In addition to our permanently assigned crewmembers, the ship currently has a special detachment on board from USCG Tactical Law Enforcement Team South (TACLET) who possess specialized skills to assist in counternarcotics patrols and interdictions. In conjunction with our shipmates from HITRON and TACLET, **NORTHLAND** successfully interdicted a drug smuggling vessel containing nearly 1,800 kg of illegal narcotics.

Drug interdiction may be the primary mission of **NORTHLAND's** current deployment, however this patrol has provided the ship and crew several opportunities for once in a lifetime experiences. We ended our last letter with the indication that the ship had steamed across the Equator and into the Southern Hemisphere. Shortly after "crossing the line," **NORTHLAND**

arrived in San Cristobal, Galapagos, Ecuador to conduct an Exercise Contingent to Operations (ECTO) with the Ecuadorian Navy and Coast Guard. This was a first for **NORTHLAND**, and only the second time that a USCG vessel has been allowed to anchor in the vicinity of the Galapagos. The event was an important step in strengthening US-Ecuador strategic relations, and was attended by the US Consul General to Ecuador, as well as the President of the Galapagos province. The ECTO included a joint patrol with the LAE *Isla San Cristobal* (LG-30) patrol boat, joint small boat tactics and training, tours of **NORTHLAND** and the *Isla San Cristobal*, a joint leadership lunch, and a discussion on tactics and procedures for combatting illegal narcotics smuggling and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing in the Galapagos region.

The event culminated with a friendly tug-of-war and soccer match between the Ecuadorian Navy members and crewmembers from **NORTHLAND**. We are proud to report that **NORTHLAND** was victorious in tug-of-war (unfortunately, the official score card from the soccer match was misplaced...). After the events, **NORTHLAND** crewmembers explored the island, swam with sea lions and sea

turtles, and enjoyed authentic Galapagos cuisine. The joint operation was a tremendous opportunity to build international cooperative relationships, share knowledge and best practices, and of course have a little fun.

Following the ECTO, **NORTHLAND** set sail and returned to our normal patrol operations. While maintaining a presence in known drug trafficking regions, the crew formally welcomed our 30 pollywog shipmates into the Realm of Neptunus Rex. Following in the footsteps of naval tradition, **NORTHLAND's** Shellback Ceremony consisted of maritime history, skits, and team building exercises. We are proud to report that all **NORTHLAND** sailors are now Honorable Shellbacks. As we near the end of our patrol, the crew is excited to return home to family and loved ones to share sea stories and experiences from a successful deployment. Until then, **NORTHLAND** will continue the hunt for targets of interest and deter illicit activity in the maritime realm. As always, thank you for the support! Fair winds and following seas! ✍

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Elizabeth Tufts



NORTHLAND crewmembers posing with Ecuadorian Coast Guard personnel onboard the LAE *Isla San Cristobal* (LG-30) in the Galapagos.

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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GOLFERS!!! GET PREPARED FOR A FUN DAY

It's time for all you golfers to pull out the clubs and start practicing for the Council's premier event, our Annual Golf Outing, which will be held on Wednesday September 14th at the Hollows Golf Club in Montpelier. Get your foursomes together and sign up for a fun day of golf.

The 2022 Golf Outing Brochure can be downloaded from the Council's website, navyleague-richmond.com and hard copies are available at the Navy League office.



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