



MARCH 2022

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

**CHANGE OF COMMAND
AMERICA DIVISION
SEA CADET CORPS
AT THE
NAVAL OPERATIONS
SUPPORT CENTER
FEBRUARY 12, 2022**

THEY TRAIN – WE SUPPORT

It was a big night for the AMERICA Division. First event on the agenda was the division's annual inspection, conducted by Regional Director, LCDR Jeffrey Anderson, USNSCC. Next on the agenda, LCDR Anderson commenced the time-honored ceremony, during which, the position of Commanding Officer was transferred from LCDR Gary Riffle to LCDR Jennifer Hairfield, fleeing up from position of Executive Officer. LCDR Hairfield has been involved with the AMERICA Division for eleven years.

LCDR Riffle has served with the Sea Cadets for eleven years, three-and one-half years as Commanding Officer. He was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation and a Dedication to Service Award, both by LCDR Anderson, who also presented a Certificate of Command to LCDR Hairfield of the AMERICA Division Sea CADETS. LCDR Riffle will continue working with the AMERICA Division.

A reception followed and concluded the evening. (see page 3 for photos of award presentations).



Awaiting start of ceremony, Regional Director LCDR Jeffrey Anderson, LCDR Gary Riffle and LCDR Jennifer Hairfield.



Sea Cadet Flag being transferred from LCDR Riffle to LCDR Hairfield.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Patrick D. Harris



MEET RICHMOND COUNCIL'S NEW PRESIDENT – PAT HARRIS

Pat has been a Richmond Navy League Council member since 2017. He currently serves as Ship Liaison for **USS GRAVELY** and manages the Richmond Navy League website. He has also been a member of the United States Naval Institute since 1981. From 1979 to 1981, Pat served in the Coast Guard Reserve. He lives in the City of Richmond but will soon be moving to a new home in Middlesex County, not far from Urbanna. He and his wife Judith have been married for over 40 years and they have one son, Matthew.

Pat spent 47 years working in and with law enforcement developing, providing and managing training and tech-

nical assistance on the local, state, regional, national and international level. He has extensive experience in community policing and crime prevention; law enforcement training management; policy and regulation development; grant management; non-profit management; and program evaluation.

Pat most recently served as the Crime Prevention Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services. Other positions he has held include: Senior Law Enforcement Trainer/Advisor in Pakistan, U. S. Department of Justice (2010-2017); Program Director, National Crime Prevention Council (2008-2010); Executive Director, Virginia Crime Prevention Association (1994-2008); Criminal Justice Program Manager and Criminal Justice Analyst, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (1981-1994); Police Patrolman and civilian Police Planner, Richmond Police Department (1973-1981).

He earned a BS in Administration of Justice and Public Safety in 1973 from Virginia Commonwealth University.

His hobbies include antiques and naval history, especially Richmond's naval and maritime history. His collection of Richmond's naval and maritime history can be found at:

www.facebook.com/RichmondFightingShips ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

ARE YOU A PLANNER?

There are two kinds of people: those who plan and those who live life spontaneously. I suppose the latter may seem to be carefree and happy while those who plan may seem a bit too much in control. Perhaps there is a way that is better than either of these.

The Lord says through the Prophet Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Proverbs tells us that "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the purposes of the Lord that prevails."

Perhaps, it would be best to consult the One whose plans are to give us hope and a future before we make plans for our own future. In doing so,

we might find our way to true peace and joy and not feel the need to be so much in control.

Think about it. ✍

SAVE THE DATE

May 13, 2022

Tour the Strike Fighter Squadron 213 (VFA-213) Blacklions Hangar Flight Line F/A-18F Capabilities Presentation in the Ready Room at the Naval Air Station Oceana followed by lunch in the Officers Club.

More information forthcoming with sign-up form in April *Lucky Bag*.

MISSION BBQ

FREE BBQ SANDWICH

MARCH 29TH

VIETNAM VETERANS DAY

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, March 29, 2022 as Mission BBQ will be celebrating Vietnam Veterans Day at their Glenside, West Broad location; 5440 Glenside Drive, Richmond, VA 23228.

All veterans who served during the Vietnam era (1955-1975) will receive a FREE BBQ Sandwich! Come join in & hear the National Anthem at Noon.

The Virginia Department of Veteran Services (VDVS) will also be there between the hours of 11 AM and 2 PM on the 29th to conduct the lapel-pinning of any Vietnam Veterans in attendance. ✍

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CHANGE OF COMMAND AWARD PRESENTATIONS



LCDR Gary Riffle receives the Distinctive Service Ribbon from LCDR Jeffrey Anderson.



LCDR Jennifer Hairfield receives the Certificate of Command from LCDR Jeffrey Anderson.

**RICHMOND
NAVY WEEK**

MAY 16 – 22, 2022

The U.S. Navy has designated the City of Richmond as one of ten inland U.S. cities to participate in “Navy Week 2022”, May 16 to June 22.

We will provide more information in the next issue of *The Lucky Bag*.

REMINDER

**Council’s Spring Luncheon
with the Mid-Atlantic
Maritime Academy
Wednesday March 23, 2022**

Come join us at **Council’s Spring Luncheon on Wednesday 23 March 2022 at Willow Oaks Country Club.** We are excited that our **Guest Speaker will be Captain Edward Nanartowich, USNR (Ret), President, Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy.**

Since 2009, he has been working for the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy and is currently serving as President of that significant maritime training facility in Norfolk Virginia. The school is involved with training Merchant Mariners in Deck and Engineering disciplines and is starting a program in off-



shore wind technical training, basic safety training and is a leading school of its type in the nation.

Nanartowich retired in 2005 as Captain, USNR, after 30 years of service as a Navy reservist. ✍

SPRING LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

- TIME:** 11:30 AM Registration
12:00 PM Luncheon
12:45 PM Program
- COST:** \$ 25.00 per person

Reservation Deadline: To be received by FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022 (Payment must be received with Res. Form)

Refund Policy: Checks cashed AFTER the event. Cancellations accepted & checks returned up to the deadline date

RESERVATIONS FOR SPRING LUNCHEON – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ Email: _____

Regular meal served unless special meal is indicated: 1 or 2 – Pescatarian (Fish) 1 or 2 – Veggie (NO Meat)

ALL MEALS ARE GLUTEN FREE Total # of Res. _____ @ \$25.00 per person Enclosed: \$ _____

Only vaccinated individuals are encouraged to attend this luncheon - Bring a mask as required by the venue

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

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Charles Hampton
XO: CDR Kevin C. Antonucci
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

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

USS NORMANDY made great leaps forward in her Basic Phase! Successfully demonstrating that our Combat System's material condition is ready to train and fight as well as our sailor's ability to fight casualties on the Flight Deck and that **USS NORMANDY** is prepared to demonstrate Helo Operations at Sea. We acknowledged and celebrated our sailors who were selected as **USS NORMANDY's** Blue Jacket Sailor of the Quarter (LSSN Stone), Senior Sailor of the Quarter (RS1 Brookins), Sailor of the Quarter (DC1 Mondrosch) and Junior Sailor of the Quarter (MM3 Mitchell). The ship is already hard-charging in February attacking all training events with a relentless tenacity. ✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, PAO



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Hello to you all from the wave tops! As many reading this know, time pier side can be very helpful on many fronts: added maintenance resources/availability/opportunities; occasion for off-ship trainings and schools, allowing for the pursuance of higher levels of certification and readiness for our sailors; time away from the ship for the crew; and the hailing &

wishing farewell to crewmembers. On the same token, time pier side can be detrimental: dulling of previously honed skills; added occasions / opportunities for misconduct; the distractions of "being home" can slack discipline. Well, after a considerable time moored, **CARTER HALL** we are happy to report has gotten underway once more. This initial return back to open waters has driven home several facts, but perhaps chief among them is that going back to sea for the first time following a long deployment is crucial and challenging. In order to accomplish our tasking's, the crew must be mentally engaged, not just physically present. Re-establishing our individual underway "routines" has proved essential for many of us. Finding that rhythm better prepares us all to work in a unified manner towards our singular goal of sustaining superior performance.

Having recently completed supporting efforts for the KEARSARGE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP, **CARTER HALL** is returning to internally focused training events, certification efforts, and seasoning our newer crew members with various drills and qualification pursuits. While **CARTER HALL** has lost several valued members, we have gained several fresh ones. Along with this, we remain thankful for our time-tested supporters in the Richmond Navy League. As this New Year continues to unfold, we look forward to your support for us, but even more so, the fine work you do of preserving the importance of our naval heritage for generations to come. Thank you for standing a faithful watch beside us!

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War! ✍

Very Respectfully,
Chaplain Block
LT, CHC, USN



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Corey Odom
XO: CDR Hunter Washburn
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

USS GRAVELY Sailors are wishing a warm and happy New Year's start to our fans and readers.

The stalwart crew of DDG 107 is off to a great start with their deployment to Sixth Fleet along with Carrier Strike Group 8. Before the turn of the New Year, **GRAVELY** enjoyed a few days of liberty while berthed at beautiful Aksaz, Turkey. With help from the liaison team, the crew was able to visit the beautiful beach-side town of Marmaris.

"Pulling into Turkey was such a great experience and a wonderful time to relax after a long trans-Atlantic journey. I also loved how much there was to do! MWR did a great job at coordinating the trips to all the different tourist destinations. The crew just had a great time" says Ensign Michael Ullrich.

Deployment has been speeding by thanks to all of the scheduled events that MWR has planned. Since departing from Norfolk the crew has enjoyed a steel beach picnic, a holiday raffle, game nights, karaoke nights, ice cream socials (including fried ice cream!), and video game competitions.

"It is MWR's responsibility to give back in every way possible to the crew of **GRAVELY**. Each and every one of the sailors work tirelessly in order to keep **GRAVELY** in the fight, it's the least we can do to make their lives as fun as possible during the process" says MWR Vice President PS1 Dillon Longtin.

Since the start of deployment, **GRAVELY** has conducted exercises with the Turkish Navy, Hellenic Navy, Royal Norwegian Navy and the Albanian Coast Guard. Naval exercises with our Mediterranean counterparts strengthens ties with our allies and build proficiency in war fighting tactics. The 56th Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, USS Gravelly is homeported in Norfolk and named after Vice Adm. Samuel Lee Gravelly, Jr. Adm. Gravelly became the first African-American to command a U.S. Navy warship, the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions, the first African-American to command a major naval warship, the first African-American admiral, the first African-American to rise to the rank of vice admiral, and the first African-American to command a U.S. Fleet. Adm. Gravelly was highly decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal. Facebook:

USS GRAVELY continued on page 5



USS GRAVELY sailing in Turkish waters in the harbor basin of Aksaz. Photo provided by USS GRAVELY staff.

www.facebook.com/DDG107/
Official Navy Website:
www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/



Very Respectfully,
Michael Krueger, ENS, USN



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

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison
Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings Navy League Richmond Chapter!

USCGC NORTHLAND returned to homeport in Portsmouth, VA on 04 February 2022 following a 67-day patrol. In cooperation with the U.S. Navy, Coast Guard District Seven, and Joint

Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S), **NORTHLAND** patrolled the North-eastern and Central Caribbean Sea conducting counter-narcotics operations and working to deter illegal immigration attempts occurring as a result of continued political destabilization in Haiti. Given that this patrol kept many crewmembers away from family over the holidays, our celebration would not have been as successful as it was without the continued support of the Navy League! Thank you from all of us!

Thanks again and stay warm...we are donning extra layers as only a few days ago, we were in 80-degree weather! ✍️

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Elizabeth Tufts

AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADET CORPS

Attention Navy League Members and non-members. If you have a daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great-granddaughter or great-grandson that are interested in joining the U.S. Navy, but are a little apprehensive, may I suggest they join the AMERICA Division Sea Cadet Corps.

The U.S. Naval Sea Cadets Corps is a youth program that is available from ages 13-17, (New recruits can start at age 10-12), which promotes naval interests and instills discipline and morale building through experiences, leadership and naval training.

The Sea Cadet Corps have monthly training drills at The Naval Operation Support Center Richmond.

For more information, please visit their web site at:
www.seacadets.org ✍️

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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MEET OUR TWO NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS - THE CORRECTED COPY



Melissa Hill



Laura Walker

We apologize for the error in our JAN/FEB Issue.



**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL
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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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