



NOV 2023

# The Lucky Bag

**RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**

## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

**DATE: Thursday December 7, 2023**

**TIME: 11:00 AM**

**PLACE: Virginia War Memorial**

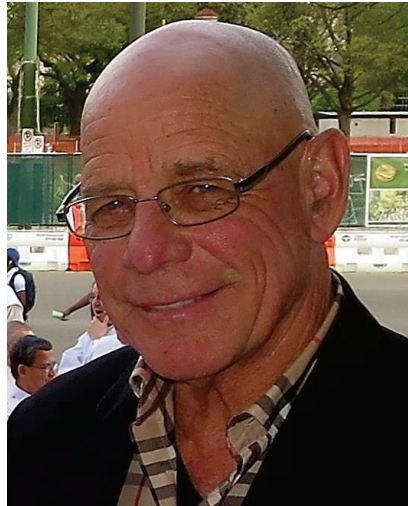
**GUEST SPEAKER: CDR Dennis Bussey, USN (Ret)**

Following the Remembrance Ceremony, members & guests are invited to gather in the Freedom Hall (lower level in the War Memorial) to enjoy a social and a boxed lunch, catered by *Homemades by Suzanne*. (Please remember to indicate on the reservation form whether you prefer a ham or turkey sandwich in your boxed lunch).

CDR Dennis Bussey hails from a long line of men of military service, from his maternal great grandfather who served as a 1<sup>st</sup> LT in the 33rd Regiment of Iowa Infantry volunteers and his paternal great grandfather, who served in Company K, 15th Regiment South Carolina Infantry, in the American Civil War. His brother served as a LT in the US Navy Supply Corps, including duty on the **USS JOSEPH STRAUSS (DDG-16)**, as it was on the gun line in the Gulf of Tonkin in Vietnam. His stepbrother served as a CDR in the US Navy, as a fighter pilot, who flew 35 bombing and fire support missions in his F-4 Phantom jet in Vietnam. Dennis' wife was an LCDR in the US Navy Nurse Corps, during Operation Desert Storm.

Dennis' father, CWO4 Joseph Olin Bussey, USN (Ret.), served in the US Navy for 26 years. He survived the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor while on board the battle-

### GUEST SPEAKER



**CDR DENNIS BUSSEY,  
USN (Ret)**

ship **USS CALIFORNIA (BB-44)**. Dennis will tell us about this experience in his Pearl Harbor Day presentation.

Dennis served in the US Navy for 24 years, retiring in 1990 as a CDR in the Civil Engineer Corps. Five months after he graduated from the US Naval Academy in 1969, he found himself leading 120 US Navy Seabees, in a place called Marble Mountain, south of Danang in Vietnam.

Dennis retired for the 2nd time as a registered professional civil engineer in 2000 and moved to Richmond in 2009. In his retirement, Dennis became a historian of Richmond and founded the **James River Hikers**, leading history hikes of many historic Richmond areas. If only one sentence from Dennis as a teacher of history is remembered, let it be this: ***One can never understand history if contemporary standards are applied to past situations.*** ✍️

### **Reservation Deadline – TO BE RECEIVED BY: Thursday 30 November 2023**

**\*\*Refund Policy 2023: Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned UP TO and INCLUDING the deadline date**

**RESERVATIONS FOR: PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON – THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch preference: Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch preference: Ham \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Cost \$ 15.00/meal** Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLUS  
P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230 N.L.# (804) 355-7557

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Adam J. "Jay" Fiedler, M.D.



The Sea Services Luncheon was well attended by Navy League members, their guests and members of the various Sea Services.

Despite Congressman Wittman being unable to attend, the luncheon was a success. Many thanks to event chairman, John Harler, for all his hard work.

While Congressman Wittman was unable to attend, because of a crucial vote and world affairs requiring his presence in DC, he was able to send a video of his planned remarks, which was sent to members via email and can also be heard by clicking on the link under our Sea Services article on page 3.

Bob Lusk, Council member and director, was the winner of the \$1,000.00 raffle. Bob generously donated his winnings back to the Richmond Council. Many thanks, Bob!

Regarding future trips, James River Transportation has been sold to Academy Bus Line, consequently this enhances the need for prompt registration for trips to avoid late cancellation fees.

### *The Lucky Bag* Vol 66 Issue 11

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.

Please be reminded of our upcoming remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, held at the Virginia War Memorial on Thursday, December 7, followed by a luncheon catered by *Homemades by Suzanne*. ✍

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

### CAN THERE BE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?



'Are you for us, or for our adversaries?' And he said, 'No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD.' Joshua 5:13-15.

Turning on the news in recent weeks, we often hear about the Israeli-Palestinian war. The message seems to be one of hopelessness for any possibility of peace. We hear only of attacks and counterattacks, of blame and retaliation, of hatred and fear. In such a situation, the natural tendency is to choose sides. When asked the question, "Whose side are you on," it seems that we must pick one. However, there is a third alternative. We can choose God's side, for nothing is too difficult for Him. He is the Way-maker, where there appears to be no way toward peace; He is our Hope, when there appears to be no hope; He is the Prince of Peace, where there appears to be no hope for peace. We humans need to open our minds and hearts to Him and His way. Let us pray to the God of all hope, mercy, and peace.

*God of light and salvation, our refuge*

### 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

Wesley E. McEntire

and our strength, we pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence. We pray for those killed and injured by rockets. May Your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving. May they know Your ever-present help. We pray for the protection of all hostages and prisoners. As they walk through this dark valley, may they fear no evil. We pray for all civilians. May they know that their help comes from the Maker of heaven and earth. And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza, Israel, and the countries in the surrounding area. May You guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in the Name of our most powerful God, the Father of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and Christ Jesus. Amen. ✍

### SAVE THE DATE

### COUNCIL'S ANNUAL MEETING

AT

### WILLOW OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

WEDNESDAY  
JANUARY 17, 2024

11:00 – 12:00: SOCIAL HR

12:15: LUNCHEON

COST \$ 35.00

### SPONSOR

Robert E. Lusk, Jr.



# SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON

On 11 October 2023, The Richmond Navy League held its annual Sea Services Luncheon, at the Willow Oaks Country Club, celebrating the birthdays of our nation's four sea services:

## The US Navy, US Marine Corps, US Coast Guard, and US Flag Merchant Marine



**MERCHANT  
MARINE**

**12 JUNE 1775**



**NAVY**

**13 OCTOBER 1775**



**MARINES**

**10 NOVEMBER 1775**



**COAST GUARD**

**4 AUGUST 1790**

We had the best turnout for a luncheon since before the pandemic. The social time was enjoyed by all with background piano music performed by Ben Miller, Director of Music at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, who played a medley of the Armed Forces theme songs and other patriotic songs. The Mechanicsville HS NJROTC did an outstanding job of parading the Colors followed by the National Anthem played by Ben Miller. Chaplain Harler gave the Invocation backed by the Navy Hymn by Ben Miller.

President Fiedler welcomed the US Marine Corps, represented by the USMC Recruiting Office-Richmond, led by their CO, Major Kenneth Jackson; the US Navy represented by the Richmond Naval Reserve Center led by CO, CDR Eric Wynn and sailors from the Richmond Navy Recruiting Office (NTAG); and the US Coast Guard represented by the USCG Cutter **NORTHLAND** led by CO CDR Dennelly.

RCNL member, Jim Dageforde, then presented a message explaining the meaning of the Missing Man Table, followed by a moment of silence in memory of the prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Next, Major Jackson (USMC), CDR Dennelly (USCG), and Chief Justin Awtry (USN), chose their swords and cut the ceremonial birthday cake.

We would like to thank Marie Edwards of the Family Foundation of VA and Joe Schumacher, District Director, for Congressman Rob Wittman for facilitating us getting Congressman Wittman as our keynote speaker. Congressman Wittman was to join us via livestream, but we were informed that he was detained for important duties in a special session of Congress and was unable to join us.

However, he kindly submitted a recording of some of his remarks. This recording may be accessed at the following link – (hit Ctrl then Click to open this link) [Rep. Wittman Remarks for Richmond Council Navy League of the U.S. Sea Services.mov](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)



**Mechanicsville High School NJROTC Color Guard.**

Picture on right: CO CDR Dennelly, (USCGC **NORTHLAND**), Vaughan Dize (ship Liaison), Chief Matthew Martin (COB **NORTHLAND**).



**L to R: Chief Awtry, USN (NTAG-Richmond), Maj. Jackson, USMC (Recruiting Richmond), CO CDR Andrew Dennelly (USCGC **NORTHLAND**).**



**Chief Justin Awtry, USN (NTAG-Richmond) & EM2 Daniel Adams, USN.**



**USMC Recruiting-Richmond L to R: Corporal Christian Sutton, Sergeant Godfrey Ampong, Gunnery Sergeant Saul Tellez, Captain Stephen Sigmon, CO Major Kenneth Jackson and Navy League Board Member/Director, George Feitg.**



## AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADETS

On 21 October 2023, AMERICA Division Sea Cadets had an outstanding tour of Military Sealift Command' USNS Montford Point (T-ESD-1), at the Talton Marine Terminal in Norfolk. Montford Point is the lead ship of her class of Mobile Landing Platforms, named in honor of African American Marine Corps Recruits who trained at Montford Point Camp, NC from 1942-1949.

They also had the opportunity to tour the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73), at Norfolk Naval Station. The USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (Nimitz-class aircraft carrier), is a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, the sixth carrier in the Nimitz-class and the fourth US Navy ship named after George Washington.





# A BIG THANK YOU !!



Many thanks to our volunteers, our sponsors and individuals for their contributions and donations that helped to make Council's golf outing a success!

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## MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND - USS PORTER (DDG-78) AND USNS WILLIAM McLEAN (T-AKE 12) PERFORM VERTICAL LAUNCH SYSTEM RE-ARM DEMONSTRATION



(U.S. Navy photo by Bill Merten)

USNS William McLean (T-AKE 12) performed a vertical launch system demonstration at Norfolk Naval Station, 3 August. This involved a pier-side maneuver to load mock missiles in the 2 forward weapons cells of the Arleigh Burke class destroyer Porter (DDG-78), proving the ordinance could be loaded at sea and not involve a time-consuming voyage. Bring the ordinance closer to the deployment area sounds very useful, especially now.

Additionally, the U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard units conducted logistics operation at Talisman Sabre 23 with cooperation of Australian and other Indo Pacific allies. MSC was involved in transport of bulldozers and modular segments to construct a Trident pier. Essentially, creating a port where none existed. (Culled from Sept 2023 MSC newsletter). 🍷

## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



**USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**  
CO: CAPT Errol A. Robinson  
XO: CDR Anthony T. Bryant  
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

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

**USS NORMANDY (CG-60)** is operating in the Mediterranean Sea, with the **GERALD R. FORD** Carrier Strike Group, postured to support Israel as directed by the U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. In company with **NORMANDY** is Aircraft Carrier **USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN-78)** and Destroyers **USS RAMAGE (DDG-61)**, **USS CARNEY (DDG 64)**, **USS ROOSEVELT (DDG-80)**, and **USS THOMAS HUDNER (DDG-116)**.

Prior to arriving back in the Mediterranean, the crew welcomed four new Chief Petty Officers for the FY-24 Chief season: OSC Summers, DCC Gunther, CTC Watson, and CTMC

**USS NORMANDY cont. on page 6**

**USS NORMANDY cont. from page 5**

Debelak. Additionally, CAPT Robinson, Commanding Officer, meritoriously advanced three exceptional sailors this month at an all-hands call, FCA1 O'Malley, ET2 Vandesteene, and OS3 Hirschman.

**NORMANDY** will continue to remain on station until otherwise directed conducting Unit Level Training to maintain peak, combat readiness. 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
XO CDR Anthony T. Bryant, USN



**Promotions aboard USS NORMANDY while in the Mediterranean.**



**USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)**  
CO: CDR Brad A. Fancher  
XO: CDR Steven E. Grey  
CMC: CMDCM Benjamin Cruz

**Pat Robson, Liaison**

Greetings Richmond Navy League!

**CARTER HALL**, currently deployed to the US 5th Fleet, prefaced for the month of October with a Chief Petty Officer Pinning Ceremony on September 28, 2023. Congratulations Chiefs!

Lt. J.G. Joseph Diaz received his Surface Warfare Officer Pin and Lt. Christa Kerbow received her Medical Surface Warfare Officer Pin, during a ceremony on the port Bridge Wing while underway in the Arabian Gulf on Sept. 30, 2023! Congratulations, Sir and Ma'am!

**CARTER HALL** said farewell to two of her own, LCDR Patrick Pizzaro and LT Christopher Simmons, while recognizing their contributions with Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on October 16. Fair winds and following seas! LCDR Terrall Thurman received his Medical Surface Warfare Officer Pin, Congratulations Sir!

Commanding Officer Brad Fancher celebrated his birthday on the **USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)**, October 23. Happy Birthday Captain!

As always, **CARTER HALL** crew wishes to extend its gratitude for the ongoing support of the Richmond Navy League! 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
MC2 Moises Sandoval, PA



**Chief Petty Officer Ceremony aboard USS CARTER HALL, Sept. 28, 2023.**



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

**Patrick D. Harris, Liaison**

Time is winding down, as the **GRAVELY** crew prepares for deployment! **GRAVELY** is currently finishing up her continuous maintenance availability (CMAV) period to ensure the ship's peak material condition readiness. With the big day rapidly approaching, the crew excitedly awaits to conquer the journey that lies ahead of them.

This month, **GRAVELY** recently celebrated three Meritorious Advancement Program recipients and three officer promotions. GM1 Comfort promoted to E-6, LS2 Benavides promoted to E-5, and

GSM3 Laurence promoted to E-4. On the officer side, LCDR Baxter and LCDR Yelverton were promoted to O-4, while LTJG Kablawi was promoted to O-2! We are always proud of our team's accomplishments and look forward to sharing more of their accomplishments with you on deployment.

We appreciate all the continued support that you give us! We will keep you updated on our achievements, during our future operations, through these articles and our **GRAVELY** Facebook page. Be sure to stay tuned to see what new and exciting experiences the crew will have.

Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/DDG107/](http://www.facebook.com/DDG107/)  
Official Navy Website:  
[www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/](http://www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/) 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
Alexis Harrell-Parada, LTJG , USN

**Ship reports continued on page 7**



**Ships reports cont. from page 6**



**USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)**  
CO: CDR Andrew Dennelly  
XO: LCDR Patricia Green  
COB: GMC Matthew Winters

Report from Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

On deployment. ✍



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

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



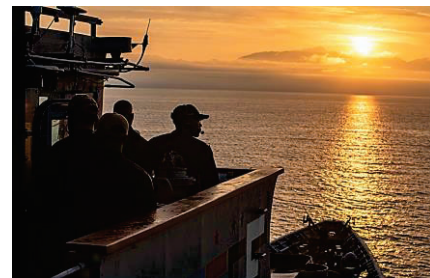
**USCGC LEGARE** is underway and back in the swing of things! Over the past few weeks, we have been able to complete a substantial amount of crew training while also conducting Migration Interdiction Operations (MIO) in the Windward Pass. Recently, the crew was able to get a few days of rest and relaxation at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay! The crew enjoyed amenities available at the base, while also having some much-needed fun in the sun.

One of the highlights of the mission critical training, we have completed, was helicopter operations and rescue swimmer training with Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater's Operation Bahamas and Turks and Caicos) OPBAT

aircrews. **LEGARE** was also able to conduct a towing exercise and astern fueling at sea evolution with fast response cutter **MARGARET NORVELL**. The picture above was taken by the **MARGARET NORVELL** during the evolution. All of the training is extremely valuable to crew qualification accomplishment and ensuring **LEGARE's** ability to serve in challenging environments.

**LEGARE** is executing the mission we love to do! Thank you for the continued support. We are Semper Paratus! ✍

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Ryan Kowalske, USGC



**Petty Officer 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Khalil Hancock stands as lookout as NORMANDY makes port in Bar, Montenegro, Sept. 18, 2023.**



***A PATRIOT SPEAKS !***

*By L. Peter Wren*

*There is a stirring within me, when  
The colors are paraded by.  
I stand a little taller then,  
And a tear will fill my eye.*

*Those bars of white and red  
With multiple stars on blue, rested  
Recalls a moment of fear and dread  
And how we stood, and were tested.*

*We were lads of another day  
Summoned to serve in an urgent manner.  
To stand undaunted in the fray  
And hold erect for all to see, our banner.*

*Some made it home, while others fell  
Defending our right to be.  
Is it not our duty to retell  
And speak for those who rest eternally?*

*Others say, "Be quiet, old man  
Your day has come and gone!  
We want no advice from you now  
Nor will we listen to your song!"*  
  
*But in the moment of its passing  
Some lad holds the colors high  
He knows not of son-less fathers  
Who rest now with the silenced Battle Cry.*

*O'may you never hear the sounds of war  
Beneath these bars of Red and White  
May its stars shine for you ever-more, and  
May you always know dawns early light!*

*There is a stirring within me again  
As you carry our flag in your hand  
I'm proud to be numbered among the men  
Who gave you this day and  
this great land!*

Peter Wren passed away in 2014 at the age of 94. He was a Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Navy having served in WWII and the Korean War. Peter authored four books on the U.S. Navy's involvement in WWII and his life changing experience as one of the rescue officers for the survivors of the **USS INDIANAPOLIS**. He was a published poet, past president of Richmond Council and a member for over 25 years. This hand-written poem was recently found in our archive files.

As we celebrate Veterans Day on November 11, we wish to **thank** all our veterans who served in the U.S. military. ✍

# 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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**HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER LUNCHEON**

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 14, 2023

**PLACE:** Publix / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Community Meeting Room  
2250 John Rolfe Pkwy  
Henrico, VA 23233

**TIME:** Doors open 11:15 AM  
Program Begins 11:50 AM  
Concluding by 1:00 PM

**SPEAKER:** Major General Craig Crenshaw  
Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs



**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S.  
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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*

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