



APRIL 2020

# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

**Thursday 30 April 2020 - Naval Station Norfolk - Explore two ships!**

**Tour the Hospital Ship USNS COMFORT in the morning  
and the Nuclear Carrier USS GERALD R FORD in the afternoon**



**\*\*\* THIS TRIP HAS BEEN CANCELED \*\*\***



**USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20)** is a Mercy-Class Hospital Ship with 1,000 bed, 12 operating rooms & 1,000 medical personnel. In 2013 **COMFORT** was assigned to Norfolk Naval Station to be close to Portsmouth Naval Hospital where some of its medical staff are based. In 2019 **COMFORT** was deployed to assist in South America and Caribbean humanitarian efforts.

**USS GERALD R FORD (CVN-78)** is the nation's first of a new class of nuclear aircraft carrier. One of the new features of the ship is an electromagnetic launch system that replaces traditional steam catapults. Built in Newport News, she was commissioned in Norfolk in 2017. The tour may include the ceremonial quarterdeck, hangar deck, flight deck, flight control, and pilot house.

**COUNCIL'S GOLF OUTING RESCHEDULED FROM MAY 13 TO  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2020 DUE TO CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

## WE NEED MORE SPONSORS

Our annual golf outing is Richmond Council's premier fund-raising event. This year our goal is to raise \$17,000. We need each member to go out and obtain sponsors in order to meet our goal - - - **PLEASE** help!!!

## WE NEED GOLFERS

Get your foursomes together for a fun day of golf. Cost per player \$85.00 which includes: green fee, cart, lunch plus snacks, soft drinks and adult refreshments served by courtesy carts.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



### NOW HEAR THIS

The virus pandemic has unfortunately overrun many of our good plans for this spring. Our Spring Luncheon on March 25 **was to have** featured guest speaker CDR Kris Klaiber of Navy Recruiting District Richmond. April 30 **was to be** a rare two-ship trip, touring the hospital ship **USNS COMFORT** and the nuclear aircraft carrier **USS GERALD R FORD**. The **Navy** has informed us that their **personnel are restricted from public events until May 11, if not later. Therefore, both our luncheon and ship trip are canceled.** Our Annual Benefit Golf Outing **has been rescheduled** to Wednesday September 23, 2020.

Please look at our website's 2020 Events Page and check your emails. The changing information will be shared as we get it. Stay well. ✍

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*The Lucky Bag* is published monthly, except

Jan. & Feb. issues, which are combined.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By John A. Harler, M.D.

### CHOOSE TRUST OVER WORRY AND BE MERRY –

The world is facing a major challenge with the Coronavirus pandemic. As a result, we face many decisions about how to best provide safety for ourselves and our families. We need to balance education and wisdom with fear and panic.

"Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow. It empties today of its strength" (Corrie ten Boom). No one goes through life without reasons to worry, but we have a choice about how we respond.

The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding". The Bible also says, "A merry heart does good like a medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones". A little medical tip: the bone marrow is the source of our blood and immunity.

So, my prescription today is to follow the guidelines of our national medical experts, choose a good dose of merriment and choose trust over worry! ✍

### KUDOS TO COUNCIL FROM NATIONAL NAVY LEAGUE PRESIDENT

"Many of our councils have the experience of supporting a certain group of servicemen and women, through ship or unit adoptions. But few had the experience that our Richmond Council recently did with a group of active-duty and Reserve joint service members they support. This council decided to start sending care packages to service members in eastern Africa, where many face threats from terror organizations. In early January, their worst fears were realized when a Somali terrorist group affiliated with al-Qaida attacked a military base in Kenya, killing a service member and two

### 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

William A. Pinekenstein

American contractors. The council quickly realized that these first care packages were going directly to the service members at the center of the attacks.

Empowered with the knowledge that these service members needed them now more than ever, the Richmond Council has continued to step up their care packages, including items like fishing supplies and anything that might help them improve their morale and get their minds off the horrific attack they experienced. **This is what it means to be a Navy Leaguer!!**

The preceding was excerpted from the National President's message in the Feb/March 2020 issue of the *SEAPOW MAGAZINE*.

The Africa Care Package Program was spearheaded by Council's Past President and current Chaplain, John A. Harler, M.D. ✍

### CARE PACKAGES

Dear Dr. Harler & Entire Navy League,

On behalf of the men and women of the 449<sup>th</sup> Air Expeditionary Group (AEG), I want to personally express our deepest gratitude for your show of love and support for our airmen. May God Richly Bless You!

Thank you so much for your generosity!

Command Chief Master Sergeant Ross  
Camp Lemonnier Africa

### SAVE THE DATE

**JUNE 5, 2020**

**HARBOR BOAT TOUR  
&  
TALL SAILING SHIPS TOUR  
NORFOLK HARBORFEST**

**Look for more details in  
next month's *Lucky Bag* Issue**

#### Sponsor

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.



## JAMES RIVER HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC CADETS EXCEL AT NATIONAL COMPETITION

This past February, the James River High School NJROTC Air Rifle Team did themselves and their school proud in a National Competition, held in Arizona. On day two of the competition, the team moved up one place and finished at #15 in the Nation. There were over 300 teams in the competition.

The team (L to R): Coach Sean



Swineford, Cadet (c)/Seaman Apprentice Berend Vandermeer (Freshman/1<sup>st</sup> year shooter), c/Chief Petty Officer Mac Swineford, c/Chief Petty Officer Shaun Finchum, c/Ensign Julia Tocarchick (Sophomore/1<sup>st</sup> year shooter), c/Lieutenant Commander Benjamin Doniger and Senior Naval Science Instructor CDR Pete Greenwald (USN, Retired).

Richmond Council congratulates the James River Cadets and are proud to have assisted with their travel expenses. ✍

- Typing letters to Navy League members
- Proof reading copy (spelling and grammar checking)
- Limited work on computer
- Filing or alphabetizing forms received from members
- Assist in organizing work space
- List your ideas or suggestions for any other additional help needed
- Assist in the communicating work (or visiting with) Council's adopted ship's liaisons
- Travel with Board members to ship activities (ie, change of command ceremonies or commissioning of Navy, Coast Guard ships & subs)
- Assist in the planning of Council activities (suggest new activities)
- Assist in the Care Packages preparation (packing supplies) and mailing
- Use of Council's copy machine (or paper shredder)
- Prepare copy (in office or at home) for newsletter, "The Lucky Bag"

## TESTIMONIAL

From a Past President

A good way to find out what is going on and how things tick at the Navy League is to work a shift at the front desk (which is easy).

Working the front desk is an excellent way to become active. At least two past presidents started this way.

I did this when I first became active. I didn't know anybody and had no idea what was going on. Thankfully, everybody was friendly and informative.

Covering the front desk put me in direct contact with everyone who was doing the work of running the Council.

Nothing beats being on the scene and getting involved with the decision makers.

We hope you will take the time to give this some thought. We think that you will enjoy making new friends with the like-minded individuals and strengthen your bonds with the Navy League in their support of our Sea Services.

If you have questions or would like to visit the Navy League office for more information regarding volunteer office work, please call our office at 355-7557 and speak with a Board member or present volunteer worker.

Thank You! ✍

## WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL ?

The United States Navy Memorial is on a mission: To honor, recognize and celebrate the men and women of the United States Sea Services (Navy, Marine, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine) past, present and future and to inform the public about their service.

The concept of a Navy Memorial was first envisioned by architect Pierre L'Enfant when he presented his city plan for the new Nation's Capital city in 1791. It took nearly 200 years for his vision to be realized.

In 1977 Admiral Arleigh Burke started to recruit a group to form the private non-profit U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation. Congress authorized the memorial in 1980 to be built with private funds. By December 1985, the foundation had raised sufficient funds to get the "go-ahead" with construction. The Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Ave between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets, was dedicated October 13, 1987, providing an extensive library of printed and audio historical documents on the Navy.

The Visitor's Center opened in June 1991, featuring daily screenings of the films "At Sea" and "A Day in the Life of the Blue Angels". A Media Resource Center provides a library of printed audio and videos on historical documents on the Navy. The Navy Log Room has a touch screen kiosk to register and search for Sea Service members and veterans.

For more information, go to their website: [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org). ✍

## GOT TIME?

Sooooo, you're retired? Has it been awhile and you've been looking for something meaningful to do? May we suggest that you give some thought to help your Richmond Navy League as a volunteer? Volunteer workers form the "life jackets" in the performances of our Council's day-to-day office activities. We are making an appeal to Navy League members who would be willing to devote 3 or 4 hours one day a week to help "light office" work.

## WHAT HELP IS NEEDED?

- As simple as answering incoming calls to the office (front desk work)



## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



### USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Christopher Stone  
XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor  
CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

#### Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison

AHOY Richmond Navy League!

**NORMANDY** had an action packed month of February! We began the month operating alongside **HARRY S. TRUMAN** as her air-defense escort, but quickly broke off to conduct tasking under the tactical control of Task Force 55.

For most of the month, we were tasked with conducting maritime security operations, culminating in a large scale seizure of weaponry in the Arabian Sea. That operation, which received significant national and international media coverage, is a testament to the professionalism and excellence of **NORMANDY's** Sailors. In CENTCOM's official release, they noted the weapons "were determined to be of Iranian origin and assessed to be destined for the Houthis in Yemen".

**NORMANDY** continued to show that she is the "Vanguard of Victory" by responding to a call from a distressed merchant vessel in the Gulf of Aden. It is our obligation to assist mariners in need of help. Our team assisted by **USS FARRAGUT (DDG-99)** and an allied warship were able to professionally and expeditiously render aid.

We finished the month by conducting a port visit to Duqm, Oman. The crew got an opportunity to recharge their batteries and prepare for the final stretch of this historic deployment. Our crew has continued to demonstrate the values of Honor, Courage and Commitment, displaying extreme professionalism throughout! I am extremely proud of our crew and what we as a team have accomplished.

Thank you for your continued support and outreach. ✍

Warm regards,  
CAPT Chris D. Stone  
Commanding Officer



### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock  
XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson  
CMC: CMDCM Donavon Gray

#### Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

**CARTER HALL** has had another busy month, whether underway or conducting maintenance in port, which is why quality of life is a huge item for this ship. During a recent underway, it looked like our Sailors and Marines were going to miss the Super Bowl due to a lack of connectivity. Our Sailors showed great foresight and ingenuity to create an antenna and run wiring throughout the ship so the game could be shown. These Sailors created a solution to watch the game and raise the morale of the crew and they represent the spirit and hard work of each of our crew members.

While underway, our Sailors and Marines have enjoyed reading books from the Gator Library. With your support, the bookshelves were purchased and installed in the Gator Chapel. Now the Gator Library is in a central location that is accessible to all, which is a great blessing to all.

We are thankful for the extensive support and friendship that Richmond Navy League has provided to each of our Sailors and Marines.

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

Very Respectfully,  
LCDR, CHC, Chaplain Williams, USN



### USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Michael O'Reilly  
XO: CDR Corey Odom  
CMC: MCPO (SW/AW) Larae Baker

#### Alan Palmer, Liaison

Greetings from **USS GRAVELY!**

It has been a long time since we checked in last. Our operational schedule slowed a little in December, allowing the crew opportunity to enjoy the holidays with friends and fami-

ly. We also celebrated our annual Command Holiday Party, relishing in the company of family and shipmates and reflecting on the many great accomplishments of the year. During the party, the Richmond Navy League provided an extremely generous donation to **GRAVELY's** Morale, Welfare, and Recreation fund, money that will be used to support command get-togethers and events throughout 2020. Despite the slowed tempo, we continued to accomplish critical maintenance while in dry dock. The crew returned in early January and recommenced vigorous efforts to repair **GRAVELY**. All the while, we continued to have new Sailors report to **GRAVELY** and we are finding every opportunity to train and educate the crew, maintaining our critical skills from deployment and preparing for our upcoming training cycle. We expect to be out of the dry dock soon and back floating pierside while we complete the rest of the repairs. ✍

Very Respectfully,  
XO CDR Corey D. Odom



### USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Charles L. Banks  
XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro  
COB: GMC Robert Boyer

#### Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!**

In the final month before patrol **NORTHLAND's** crew worked industriously to complete all maintenance and projects to get underway.

Everyone has put many hours into preparing for our Aviation Certification to land Coast Guard and Navy Helicopters. Work has included the installation of a brand new flight deck surface, repair of numerous landing aides, and new flight deck nets. **NORTHLAND** is ready for action and a lot of helicopter operations. Additionally, the crew has worked diligently on galley improvements and preparation for the Food Service Inspection, which went very well!

The engineers have worked tirelessly to complete a Diesel Engine Inspection, alterations to the main reduction gear, and several preventative main-

**USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 5**



## USCGC NORTHLAND continued from page 4

tenance items. They have helped install two new water tight doors and a brand new Reverse Osmosis plant. They have played a key role in ensuring **NORTHLAND** was ready to depart on patrol on time.

Before departing on patrol the Richmond Navy League sponsored **NORTHLAND's** first pre-patrol party for the crew and their families. The party was a great success! Our families and friends received valuable information and built stronger support networks. It included presentations from different organizations, discussing the many resources available to crewmembers and their families during the upcoming patrol. It was great to be able to gather everyone together before departing and to honor the dedication and love of everyone's families. Thank you Navy League for making this party a success.

**NORTHLAND** looks forward to a safe and successful patrol. ✍

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro

## USCGC NORTHLAND PRE-DEPLOYMENT VISIT

Council Liaisons, Tom Hassell and Dennis Quearry, attended the **USCGC NORTHLAND's** Pre-Patrol Party in Portsmouth on February 25, 2020. Council provided funding for the pizzas. The liaisons also delivered Deployment Dollars, as well as, boxes of snacks and toiletries to the cutter for use during their upcoming patrol. ✍



**NORTHLAND Liaisons, Dennis Quearry and Tom Hassell.**

## FORT LEE TRIP

Why would anyone want to take a tour of Fort Lee?

Richmond Council members and guests got the answer on February 20, 2020. The group was welcomed by an outstanding master sergeant. They were escorted to visits at five training sites which included hands-on firing of a machine gun and rifles, to bomb disposal robot demonstrations, to seeing the multi-service culinary school. The final stop of the day was seeing the parachute rigging school and a demonstration of their virtual trainer.

Lunch in the mess hall was army chow, and plenty of it.

A developing snow storm threatened to curtail part of the tour, but fortunately the group got to see everything that was planned

We thank the Army instructors who took their time to provide detailed explanations and demonstrations on the training of Military members that is provided at Fort Lee. ✍



**Navy Leaguer, Dennis Bussey gets a first person introduction to ninety pounds of protective gear worn by members of the bomb squad.**



**Under watchful eyes of his Army Instructor, 12 year old Caleb Mathers is experiencing a virtual parachute jump.**

## PAINT IT RIGHT

That title is actually a name of a Richmond paint contractor. The Navy might need him. The Navy Center for Corrosion Science and Engineering created a new and improved pigment combination to satisfy the color- durability requirement for the Navy standard "haze gray". Various paint manufacturers and the need to do touch up

painting did make matching colors more difficult. There are three suppliers but Sherwin Williams, as their logo says, "Covers the Earth" - or at least a carrier. The most recent vessel to receive the new product was **USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (CVN-73)**. ✍

*Navy New Service 7/31/2109*

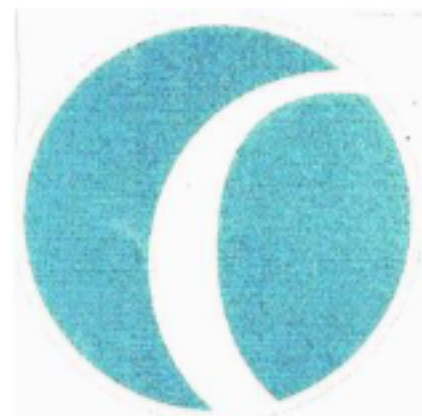


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## COAST GUARD HISTORY IN ALASKA

In 1897, whaling ships were stranded in the ice on the north coast of Alaska. President McKinley ordered a risky 1,500-mile rescue on foot in the dead of winter. The Overland Relief Expedition commander was 1<sup>st</sup> LT David Jarvis of the BEAR, a ship of the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. That service eventually became the Coast Guard. The **USCGC JARVIS (WHEC-725)** was commissioned in 1972.





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*The Lucky Bag*

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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*



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