

# RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

# R. MILTON OWEN, SR. 1937 - 2024 RICHMOND COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE PAST PRESIDENT



Milton served as Council's President from 2011-2013.



Milton, & Council member Robin Beres, paraded the Richmond Council's Navy League Wreath at the VA War Memorial during the 2017 Memorial Day Celebration.

R. Milton Owen passed away on March 1, 2024, leaving behind his beloved wife Margaret of 60 years. He was a family man, a musician, an accountant and an integral part of the Richmond Council Navy League. Milton was "one of a kind" and will be remembered for his dry wit, his very impressive retention of details, (no one needs to look it up, just ask Milton), and his tireless service to the council.

Milton served in the Naval Reserve and had a long successful career, working in the Accounting Department at Reynolds Metals Company Bellwood Printing Plant and ending his career in the Corporate Accounting Department. In his spare time he enjoyed being a member of the Thomas Jefferson High School Alumni Band, playing the trumpet in concerts on a regular basis in and around Richmond.

Milton joined the Richmond Council in 1992 and began his 25+ years of service to the Navy League. Soon after joining, it became clear that Milton was going to be a great asset to the Council. He soon came to be known as the "Go to Man" for anything computer related. Whether it was setting up a new computer, setting up wi-fi, installing software, troubleshooting computer glitches, or solving any land-line problems, Milton knew it all. He also served as our de facto office manager. Milton kept an inventory of our office supplies (always keeping our supplies stocked), reviewed and distributed mail, managed the credit card and negotiated the rental agreement for the Navy League office.

Milton wore many hats and was responsible for many projects. He served as a production assistant on the "Lucky Bag" staff; enhancing photos as needed, mailing of the "non-digital" newsletters and proofreading. Milton often quoted his grammatical teachings from his early school days. He was our "eagle eye" in proofreading. Over the years, he also served as Vice President, Sr. Vice President and Treasurer.

Milton took special pride in heading up the Council's annual Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial. He devoted time to keeping track of Pearl Harbor Survivors and worked on the many details for the ceremonies at the War Memorial. Not only did he coordinate with the War Memorial, he also ordered the Memorial Wreath and frequently was one of the members who carried and placed the wreath at the ceremony.

Milton personified the ideal Navy League member, director and officer. He could be counted on to hold up his hand when a volunteer was needed and to do any task with professionalism and vigor. The Richmond Council will forever be grateful for Milton's service.

Fair winds and following seas to our dear departed friend, Milton Owen. 2

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

By: Vaughan F. Dize



On March 20<sup>th</sup> we had our annual Admiral Gravely Spring Luncheon at Willow Oaks Country Club. Captain John Paul Jones, USN, (Ret.), gave an interesting talk on Maritime Law and the rights of all nation's ships to freely navigate the world's seas.

Our trip to tour a pier-side Military Sealift Command ship, on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, has 36 sign ups. Thanks to Navy League members and Westminster Canterbury for making this trip happen.

Now it is April. This is the time of year that our Marine and Navy JROTC Units will start having their award programs. The Richmond Council awards a cadet from each JROTC Unit the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon (pictured at right).

This cadet is chosen in each JROTC unit by their military science instructor.

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Office: 2015 W. Laburnum Avenue Richmond, VA 23227 Telephone: (804) 355-7557 Fax: (804) 355-8788 E-mail address:

navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net Website: navyleague-richmond.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/

NavyLeagueRVA

Editor: William W. McCathern, Jr.

Assistant Editor: Nancy G. Butler

Production Assistants: Billy L. Butler, John
A. Harler, M.D. and Patrick D. Harris

Photographers: Vaughan F. Dize, Nancy
Butler and Maria Gallegos

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As of this writing, **USS GRAVELY** is still in harm's way in the Eastern Mediterranean. Please pray for their safe return home.

Reminder: Our annual raffle of \$1,000.00 has officially begun. I am asking every Richmond Council Navy Legue member to buy (1) \$20.00 ticket or 6 for \$100.00. Send your request to my email address: vfdize6@aol.com. I will mail you a ticket, and then you can return payment and stub in the enclosed self-addressed envelope. Thank You!

## **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



# **RENEWED HOPE**

As the buds of spring begin to bloom and the earth awakens from its winter slumber, we are reminded of the promise of new life in the resurrection of Christ. Just as the earth is renewed each spring, so too are our spirits renewed, through faith in the risen Savior.

Let us embrace this season of growth and hope, knowing that just as Christ conquered death, we too can overcome any challenges we may face. May the beauty of spring serve as a reminder of the eternal hope and promise of new beginnings that we have in Christ.

For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12.

# **REMINDER**

As a member of the Richmond Council, family members are also considered members and receive the same benefits, such as member prices on our field trips.



R. MILTON OWEN, SR.

January 11, 1937 - March 1, 2024

# COL MORTON C. MUMMA, III UNITED STATES AIR FORCE 1926 - 2024



Colonel Morton C. Mumma, USAF, (Ret.) died peacefully on 22 February 2024 at his home in Chester, Virginia, with Babs, his wife of 74 years, by his side. Born 24 August 1926 to Morton Claire Mumma Jr, Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.) and Virginia Page Elder in Berryville, Virginia, young Mort traveled the world to many of his father's duty stations. An exceptionally intelligent young man, Mort graduated from high school at the age of 15 and matriculated into the Class of 1946 at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia. After two years, he matriculated into the Class of 1948 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. During the summer of 1949, he was stationed at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas for pilot training. On 28 June, he met the love of his life, a fellow Virginian by the name of Barbara Anne Joseph. That day by the Officers' Club Pool at Fort Sam Houston was the beginning of a lifetime of memories. They were married exactly six months later at the Fort Myer Chapel in Arlington, Virginia on 28 December 1949. While at West Point, Mort discovered the fledgling U.S. Air Force, decided he wanted to fly, and embarked on a remarkable aviation career flying numerous fighter aircraft. One of the many highlights of his flying career included serving as a Squadron Commander in 1968, flying the F-4 Phantom out of Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam, when he also earned the Distinguished Flying Cross. After graduating with the National War College, Class of 1970, Mort and Babs moved back to Europe where

another career highlight was serving as the Group Commander at Aviano Air Base, Italy. Returning stateside in 1975, Mort's final tour was spent at the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania as the Senior Air Force Representative. A life-long marksman, Mort had also been the Team Captain of the United States Air Force High Power Rifle Team and became the first Distinguished Shooter - Rifle Badge #001 in the Air Force in 1957. He and Babs spent 18 of his 30 years in the Air Force stationed overseas. They moved a total of 36 times into 33 different homes and had six children: Anne, Barbara, Morton IV, Andrew, Robert, and James. They have ten grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. After retiring in 1978, Mort and Babs returned to the Washington, D.C. area where Mort eventually went on to serve as the Executive Staff Director of the National Rifle Association. Permanently retiring in 1986, Mort and Babs then turned to their hobbies of real estate and traveling, while enjoying their favorite mode of travel: river and ocean cruises. (Richmond Times Dispatch obituary).

Col Mumma was a member of the Richmond Council Navy League of the United States for almost 17 years. Thank you for your loyal support. Fair Winds and following seas, Mort!

# AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADET



Congratulations and Bravo Zulu to PO2 Calvin Burns. Cadet Burns has been selected as the 2023 League Cadet of the Year for Region 05-3 and has been awarded the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Commendation Ribbon.

# HISTORY OF THE NAVY RESERVE

By Lt. Russell Chilcoat

The history of the Navy Reserve is a proud legacy forged by dedicated men and women who, when duty called, were willing to leave their homes, put civilian careers on hold, and serve in defense of our Nation.

At the beginning of World War I, a young Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, anticipated the need for a federal maritime reserve force and began to urge Congress to enact legislation to accomplish this goal. On March 3, 1915, the United States Naval Reserve was officially established, and by the war's end, over 250,000 Reserve Sailors were serving. During World War II, 84% of the 3.4 million Sailors serving on active duty came from the Navy Reserve — including five future U.S. Presidents.

From Korea to Vietnam, the Gulf War to Iraq and Afghanistan, and humanitarian missions like Katrina and Haiti, Reserve Sailors have continued to answer our nation's call, providing strategic depth and critical expertise to the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Force.

For the past 105-year history, Navy Reserve Citizen Sailors have set aside civilian lives to proudly serve in defense of the country. They've manned the rails in service to their nation — creating and maintaining a proud heritage and history built on the Navy core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment.

The Navy Reserve is a force of highly experienced Sailors who come from all walks of life. They include teachers, engineers, business owners, medical professionals, construction workers, pilots and police officers. Their specialized knowledge and skills complement and enhance the ability of the Navy to successfully execute its mission, making the Navy Reserve a key element of America's maritime defense strategy.

As the Navy Reserve continues to sail into its second century of service, its mission to support the Navy remains vital. Whether mobilizing for overseas contingency operations, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, or supporting the fleet's forward presence requirements, Reserve Sailors are trained and ready — anytime and anywhere our country needs them.

### **ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE**

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



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Errol A. Robinson
XO: CDR Adam J. Samson
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

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

USS NORMANDY is moored pierside at Naval Station Norfolk, following a successful deployment to 6<sup>th</sup> fleet as a part of Carrier Strike Group 12. With the excitement of deployment in the past, NORMANDY's mission has evolved from promoting stability in the Eastern Mediterranean to completing certification validations for future deployments. With this in mind, NORMANDY will achieve mission readiness to execute the nation's tasking.

Shortly after returning from deployment in late January, NORMANDY sailors were granted a two-week POM (Post Operational Movement) period. During this time, sailors took leave to spend time with loved ones and reallocate to post-deployment life. After this period, NORMANDY visited Naval Station Yorktown to offload ordnance prior to preparing for the next stage in the ship's life cycle. With all sailors fully rested and having returned to their family's safe, they are now ready to prepare for future operations.

After the end of deployment, numerous sailors said their goodbyes as they transferred to different commands around the world. Of these sailors, notable mentions include: LT Peterson, LTJG Armstrong, LTJG Barber, LTJG Maisog, HTCS Binley, CTMC Debelak, and OSC Summers. Although they surely have bright futures ahead, their time spent as a part of NORMANDY's crew permanently makes them family.

Very Respectfully, LTJG John E. Barber, CICO/AOPS



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107) CO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez XO: CDR Greg Piorun

**CMC: CMDCM Timothy Bickerton** 

## <u>Patrick Harris, Liaison</u> <u>Courtney Mustin, Ass't Liaison</u>

The team has been hard at work these past several weeks conducting maintenance, both tactical and damage control training, lots of flight operations, underway replenishments, and other routine operations in support a wide range of IKE Carrier Strike Group tasking. Team GRAVELY is busy, but our Sailors are doing great! Amidst the daily grind of life at sea, we continue to celebrate re-enlistments and promotions, as well as taking the time to have some much-needed MWR events, keeping Sailors energized and motivated to face any challenges that may lie ahead.

As part of the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69) CARRIER STRIKE GROUP (IKECSG), GRAVELY is deployed to the U,S. Naval Forces Central Command / U.S. 5<sup>th</sup> Fleet area of operations to support maritime security and stability in the Middle East. (article extracted from USS GRAVELY'S Facebook page, dated March 6, 2024)



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** prepares to close its deployment in the U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility. The crew has faced countless trials and tribulations throughout this deployment but have continued to display their determination and resilience as the ship enters its last stage of this lengthy voyage.



We began the busy month of February with a port visit to Souda Bay, Greece on January 29, 2024.



The Marines and Sailors onboard the **CARTER HALL** were able to watch a live stream of this year's Super Bowl on the Mess Decks at 0300 HRS, February 11, 2024

We returned to Souda Bay, Greece on February 12, 2024, for yet another port call.



On February 17, 2024, CDR Brad Fancher held an All-Hands call on the flight deck of the ship to highlight the hard work and accomplishments of several sailors in an impromptu award ceremony.

Ensign Lamar Langley was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade

**CARTER HALL continued on page 5** 

#### **CARTER HALL cont. from page 4**

during a frocking ceremony in the wardroom of the ship, February 18, 2024! Congrats, Sir!

USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) hosted the Commander of U.S. 6th Fleet Vice Admiral Thomas Ishee in a distinguished Visitor Reception in the Mediterranean Sea, February 19, 2024.





USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) hosted yet another Distinguished Visitor while inport Souda Bay Greece; the 20<sup>th</sup> Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz on March 1, 2024. During his visit, Sergeant Maj. Ruiz shook hands with two of CARTER HALL's very own: Quartermaster 3rd Class Sema Smith and Damage Controlman 1st Class Xasha Polidura! Hooyah, shipmates!

Once more, we thank you for your support as we finish strong these last few weeks of this mighty journey while continuing to uphold our motto, "Working for Peace, Ready for War."

Very Respectfully, MC2 Moises Sandoval, PA



**USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)** 

CO: CDR Andrew Dennelly XO: LCDR Patricia Green COB: GMC Matthew Winters

#### Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

Hello from USCGC NORTHLAND!

We've recently completed a Joint Interagency Task Force - South patrol working in both the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Our mission focused on intercepting and deterring drug smuggling activities, a testament to our commitment to safeguarding our waters from illicit trade. Presently, **NORTHLAND** is high and dry in a period of drydock maintenance, a critical phase where we meticulously inspect and repair various vessel components. Our efforts have spanned from conducting side scan sonar inspections. to measure hull thickness, to repainting the hull and anchor chains, as well as undertaking, thorough maintenance, within our bilges and other crucial sections. The crew is dedicated to ensuring that NORTHLAND receives the needed maintenance and repairs to continue serving our Nation well into the future.

When not engaged in duties on **NORTHLAND**, our team embodies the spirit of community engagement. Whether it's contributing to the upkeep of local parks, assisting in projects at a children's museum, or serving meals at local shelters, our crew has collectively devoted over 135 hours to volunteer work, reinforcing our bond with the community.

As the annual transfer season ushers in a time of transition, we have already bid farewell to Lieutenant Junior Grade Kent Donaldson, who will commence a new chapter at USCG Patrol Forces Southwest Asia in Manama, Bahrain where he'll serves as executive officer in USCGC Emlen Tunnel. This season we will see over a third of our crew exchange, a period marked by heartfelt goodbyes and warm welcomes. Numerous crew members are also engaging in temporary duty assignments to facilitate this transition and foster professional growth.

The extended stay in dry dock is a welcomed opportunity for **NORTHLAND** crew to not only ensure the ship is in excellent condition but also to spend valuable time with loved ones. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Richmond Chapter for their unwavering support. Until our

next update, we wish you fair winds and following seas!



CO and XO presenting LTJG Kent Donaldson with an award and wishing him good luck as he departs Northland following two years of exceptional performance.



NORTHLAND drydocked at Colonna's Shipyard in Norfolk, VA.



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

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

Let's make sure it's holding! The northern seas often present exciting weather conditions and sea states.



Pictured above is **LEGARE'S** anchor detail a group of dedicated individuals

LEGARE continued on page 6

#### LEGARE cont. from page 5

who play a vital role in ensuring we stay safe and situated whenever LEGARE needs to tuck away and anchor from extreme weather. The team wears various-colored hardhats for easy identification: blue and green hats for line handlers, gray and orange hats for engineers responsible for operating the windlass and fire hoses, and yellow and white hats for the petty officer in charge and the safety observer during operations. Throughout this patrol, LE-GARE has anchored five times, and we extend our sincere gratitude to our anchoring detail for ensuring our safety and security at every anchorage.

As **LEGARE** nears the conclusion of this D1 deployment, we have conducted a total of 35 boardings, resulting in six violations issued to mariners found non-compliant with federal law and regulations. We are eager to continue our law enforcement efforts and maintain a strong Coast Guard presence in federal waters up north, serving as stewards of the \$13 billion dollar fishing industry here in New England.

In a short span of time, **LEGARE** has bid a fond farewell to Seaman Megan Royer as she sets sail for Intelligence Specialist A-School. **LEGARE** extends its heartfelt wishes to Seaman Royer for a prosperous career in the Coast Guard and her pursuit of attending Of-

ficer Candidate School. During her brief tenure as the lead seaman in the Deck Department, Seaman Royer made valuable contributions by overseeing hull and deck maintenance projects and orchestrating small boat movements as a skilled boat deck captain. LEGARE also welcomed three new members from Training Centers Yorktown and Cape May. BM3 Ryan Smith, an alumnus of Boatswain Mate A-School, joins LEGARE's esteemed Navigation Division, and SN Cecilia Cube and SN Kiara Madison, recent graduates of Boot Camp, bring their dedication to LEGARE's renowned Deck Department.



Additionally, **LEGARE** commemorated the advancements of Petty Officers Edward Joseph, David Orellana, and Joshua Wilson. Petty Officer Joseph was promoted to Electrician's Mate First Class, along with well-deserved promotions of Petty Officers

Orellana and Wilson to Culinary Specialist Second Class. Congratulations to our shipmates on their achievements!

As we approach the conclusion of this patrol, anticipation of a return home builds within the **LEGARE** crew. Notably, **LEGARE's** dedicated efforts in recruiting at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy garnered prestigious recognition. The recruiting initiative team was honored with the Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon, underscoring the outstanding achievements resulting from the event. We are truly grateful for the support received and remain steadfast in embodying our motto of "Facta non Verba," Deeds Words.

Very Respectfully, LTJG Tyric Burge, PAO



To our friends at the Richmond Navy League! I am writing on behalf of USCGC Legare (WMEC-912) to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible care packages and warm hospitality that the Richmond Navy League extended to our unit. Your kindness and support have made a significant impact on our team, and we are truly appreciative of the effort you have made to show your support of our service. The thoughtful care packages were a wonderful reminder of the community's appreciation for our efforts, and they brought great comfort and joy to our personnel. Your generosity and hospitality have strengthened our resolve and boosted morale, especially during challenging times when we are away from our families and loved ones. The Richmond Navy League's commitment to supporting the sea services, including the Coast Guard, is truly commendable. Your dedication to fostering a strong maritime community and your advocacy for those who serve are invaluable to us, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. Please convey our sincerest thanks to all the members of the Richmond Navy League who contributed to this thoughtful gesture. We are honored to have such a dedicated and supportive organization standing behind us as we carry out our duties. Once again, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We look forward to the opportunity to express our gratitude in person and to continue our partnership with the Richmond Navy Leage.

With warm regards, Jeremy M. Greenwood, CDR Commanding Officer

# **BONJOUR MARINE FRANCAISE et CGC JESTER!**



**LEGARE WELCOMES THE FRENCH** 



**NEW YORK STATE OF MIND** 





**BITTERSWEET GOODBYES** 

**ANCHORS AWEIGH, HOMEWARD BOUND! BOAT BUDDIES** 





# 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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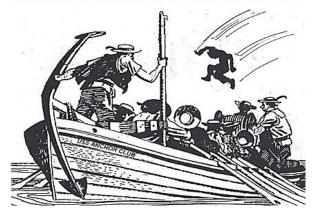
"Cruising has two main pleasures,
One is to go out into wider waters
From a sheltered place, the other is to go
Into a sheltered place from wide waters."

Howard Bloomfield Sailing to the Sun



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S. P.O. BOX 11201 RICHMOND. VA 23230 OFFICE: (804) 355-7557 FAX: (804) 355-8788 EMAIL: navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net WEB SITE: www.navyleague-richmond.com

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# Thanks for jumping on board !!!

## 2024 ANCHOR CLUB MISSION:

YOUR DONATION OF \$100 (OR MORE) PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SEA SERVICES AND THEIR RELATED YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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#### IN MEMORIUM

The following names are listed as a result of donations made in memory on their behalf.

Henry E. Allen, Jr., USAAC, USAF, USN Edward S. Gibbons, USMC CAPT C. Denis Gilchrist, USN George Kalanges, USN Roy M. Martin, Sr., USN Earl A. McKnight, USAF R. Milton Owen, Sr., USNR Alan C. Palmer, UK, Royal Navy Eleanor Querry, USCG H.D. Querry, USCG L. Woodrow Story, USN Jacqueline E. Willey Steve Zembroski, USN



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The Lucky Bag

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