



MARCH 2025

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

FORT GREGG-ADAMS TOUR OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES! APRIL 4, 2025

Your Navy League Council invites you to join them for an outing offering you a deeper understanding of the military experiences. Thanks to Fort Gregg-Adams' Public Affairs Officer, Richmond Council has scheduled what will prove to be an exciting and memorable outing. Fort Gregg-Adams, formerly known as Fort Lee, offers many schools that train our men and women serving in the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, with the skills they will need in their military careers. Our itinerary is expected to include the following schools:

- Rigger w/Simulator (Hands On)
- Ordnance / STRYKER (different from tanks)
- Robotics Lab (Demonstration)
- Engagement Skills Trainer
- Reconfigurable Virtual Tactical Trainer
- Ordnance Training Support Facility



Lunch is on your own. We will eat lunch at Warrior Restaurant on the base. Lunch cost: Student \$5.40; Adult \$7.10. (cash & credit cards accepted).

COST: \$65.00 Navy League Member or Guest

Includes: Snacks, soft drinks, bottled water, bus & driver gratuity

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

- 8:00 AM – Depart Newton Bus Svc. Glenside Park & Ride 4069-4099 Crockett St. Richmond, VA 23228
- 9:00 AM – Arrive on Base for Tour
- 12:15 – 12:45 PM - Lunch at Warrior Restaurant on base
- 4:30 PM – Leave Fort Gregg-Adams
- 5:30 PM – ETA Richmond

RESERVATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025

(Payment must be received with reservation form)

Please make the following reservations for: **FORT GREGG-ADAMS on Friday, April 4, 2025**

NOTE: **BASE SECURITY REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

#1: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Driver's License / ID #: _____ State: _____ Exp. Date: _____

#2: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____

Gender: Male _____ Female _____ Date of Birth: _____ Social Security #: _____

Driver's License / ID #: _____ State: _____ Exp. Date: _____

FOR CONFIRMING YOUR RESERVATION: Email: _____ Tel: _____

Total of _____ Reservations Enclosed: \$ _____ Richmond Council N.L. (804) 355-7557

Please make check payable (and mail to): Richmond Council NLUS P.O. BOX 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

As of this message, it looks like Punxsutawney Phill was correct on his prediction of six more weeks of winter.

We have a trip scheduled to Fort Gregg-Adams (formerly Fort Lee) on April 4th (for more details of this trip, please see the front page of his issue).

Other recent events include:

- January 14th, in coordination with the Military Sealift Command and the Richmond Council Navy League, MSC held a Job Fair at ECPI. Unfortunately, out of about 100 signups only 11 showed up.
- January 22, new board members and officers were installed.
- January 30th, **USS Gravelly (DDG-107)** held their Change of Command Ceremony. CDR Brian Sanchez was

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

relieved by CDR Greg Piorun.

- February 10th, due to the lights that still have not been fixed at Libbie Mill Library, we held our first board meeting of the year at our office

- February 13th, Dr. John Harler, with the assistance of Earl Williams, taught a CPR Class to the Board Members of the Richmond Council Navy League.

- February 27th, the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Richmond held their Change of Command Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial. CDR Seth L. Harbin was relieved by CDR Timothy L. Henderson.

Please do not forget to sign up for our spring luncheon. For the first time, in a long time, we have a speaker from the U.S. Coast Guard, CO CDR Brian C. Gismervik, from one of our adopted ships, **USCGC Northland**. As a reminder, members can bring a guest **free of charge** to one of our lunches. This is a great way to introduce a friend to the Richmond Council NLUS.

Until next month's issue of *The Lucky Bag*, may you have Fair Winds and God Speed. ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



A Broken Heart

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18

As we age, it seems that we experience the loss of loved ones and friends more often. These experiences can indeed be heartbreaking and lead to sorrow and grief. The way we handle the sorrow and grief will determine how well we recover. If we remain to ourselves, closed up, we may experience an unnecessarily prolonged period of sorrow and grief. This is the equivalent of closing a wound.

In medicine, we only close a wound if it is clean and fresh and not deep. A

puncture wound is particularly prone to infection and abscess formation (festering). They should never be closed. Such wounds are surgically opened further (incision and drainage or I&D) and left open to heal. An open wound requires a lot of care to ensure proper healing, including careful observation for signs of infection, removing dead tissue, debridement, irrigation, and covering with a sterile bandage.

Emotional or spiritual wounds need similar care. Like a physical puncture wound, an emotional or spiritual wound is usually experienced as a piercing or stabbing – perhaps by a word spoken in anger, a rejection, or a sudden tragic loss. Consequently, these wounds are deep. If such wounds are closed, they will become “infected and fester” like a deep physical wound which is closed. Also similarly, an “infected” spiritual or emotional wound can release “toxins”, poisoning the rest of the body and leading to such conditions as broken heart syndrome and other complications.

A broken heart (or heartbreak) is a common metaphor used to describe the intense emotional pain or suffering one feels after losing a loved one. Although, “heartbreak” ordinarily does not imply any physical defect in the heart, there is a condition known as the “broken heart syndrome” or “Takotsubo cardiomyopathy”, where a traumatizing incident triggers the brain to release chemicals that weaken heart tissue.

Insults have broken my heart and left me weak. I looked for sympathy, but there was none; I found no one to comfort me. (Psalm 69:20)

Therefore, when we experience emotional or spiritual wounds, the best approach is to follow the medical model and remain open, call for the support of friends and family who can be with us

(observation), listen to our grief (debridement), shower us with prayer (irrigation), and cover us with their love (bandage).

He (the Lord) heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds. (Psalm 147:3). ✍

Meet one of your Council's Newest Board Members



**Father William J. Bartz, CAPT,
CHC, USN (Ret.)**

Father William J. Bartz, son of Father and Mrs. George Bartz, was born in Scranton, PA and raised in Akron, OH. He graduated from Hellenic College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1975; received a direct commission to be an Ensign in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps in May 1977; graduated from Holy Cross School of Theology with a Master in Divinity with Distinction in 1978; and was ordained a Priest in the Greek Orthodox Arch-

diocese of America in March 1982.

His active-duty service began in 1984. He served at three Navy commands: Naval Station Norfolk, **USS *Biddle* (CG-34)**, and **USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN-70)**. His assignments also included eight Marine Corps commands, beginning in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and continued in Okinawa, Japan; Quantico, Virginia; and Norfolk, Virginia. He served as the Chaplain in a Battalion, Regiment, Group, Base, Division, and Force. He graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, receiving a Masters in Strategic Studies.

During his last five years on active duty, he was the most senior Orthodox Priest in the US military. The Navy Chaplain Corps selected him to be the 2010 recipient of the John H. Craven Award, a peer-nominated and peer-selected Award by Navy Captain Chaplains, recognizing his exemplary servant-leadership among Chaplains. After retiring from the Navy at the rank of Captain, he served as the Chancellor (Executive Assistant) of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit from August 2011 to August 2013.

Father Bartz was appointed by the Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America to be the Endorsing Agent for Military Chaplains in November 2011. The Archbishop of the Green Orthodox Archdiocese appoint-

ed him to be the Endorsing Agent for Institutional Chaplains in February 2012.

On 1 September 2013, Father Bill became the Presiding Priest of Holy Trinity Church in Carmel, Indiana (Indianapolis area). Under his leadership, the \$1 million mortgage was paid, and the entire interior of the Church was completed, including iconography, flooring, pews, liturgical furniture, and sound system (\$2.5 million). Holy Trinity Church was elevated to the dignity of a Cathedral in November 2018.

Father Bartz retired from the active parish ministry on 1 August 2019 and moved to the Richmond, Virginia area. He continues to serve as the Endorsing Agent for Military and Institutional Chaplains and assists part-time at Saint Elpis Church in Hopewell, Virginia.

In July 2022, he received the ecclesiastical Office of Protopresbyter of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the most senior rank of a married priest in the Orthodox Church.

Father Bill is married to the former Emily V. Mamalis, daughter of Father and Mrs. James Mamalis. They have three children and five grandchildren. ✍

Four Chaplains Day February 3, 1943



1st Lt. George L. Fox
1st Lt. Clark V. Poling
1st Lt. Alexander D. Goode
1st Lt. John P. Washington

Photo: Harry C Miller Post 1187)

On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Greenland. Among the almost 900 crew and soldiers onboard were four Chaplains of different denominations but a common belief in God and their duty to serve Him by serving His children. Instead of seeking the safety of lifeboats, they chose to give their own life jackets, gloves and warm clothing to escaping soldiers and seamen. Arm-in-arm, they huddled together singing hymns as their ship sank in the icy waters.

Their story is well-known and their devotion to God and to His human creations epitomizes their faith in God and His commandment that we love our neighbors as ourselves, in this tragedy, to the extent of their own deaths.

While recognizing their sacrifice by

these Army Chaplains, the Richmond Navy League reveres this day to acknowledge your importance to our Sailors, Marines, and their families and to thank you for working as God's servant with duty and faith. We hope that you will never be faced with this same crisis, but we know that you would make whatever choice God calls you to make.

We are privileged to call you "Shipmate" and we are here to assist you, as best we can. On this memorialized day, please know that the Richmond Navy League appreciates your mission more than we can express.

God's peace. ✍

Pat Robson, Jr., Director of the Richmond Council Navy League of the United States

2025 VIRGINIA INTERNATIONAL TATTOO

April 24 - 27, 2025
Scope Arena, Norfolk, Va
VAFEST.ORG / 757-282-2822

We were disappointed we had to cancel our trip to the 250th Virginia International Tattoo on Sunday, April 27, but we did not have enough members expressing interest in going. However, we wanted to give you more information about this patriotic military event and if you were still interested, you could contact Signatours Limited at 804-379-6500 and see if they have room on their bus.

A CELEBRATION 250 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

The 2025 Virginia International Tattoo will feature an incredible international cast of more than 800 civilian and military performers from seven nations. Returning favorites are Norway's Band and Drill Team of His Majesty the King's Guard. The remarkable Massed Pipes and Drums from four nations will be joined by the incredible OzScot Australia Highland Dancers.

The Tattoo will include an emotional and grateful tribute to the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps on the occasion of their 250th Birthdays. With stirring music and presentations, tributes from U.S. military bands and appearances by special guests, this Tattoo will remind us that as Americans, we have lived under a blanket of freedom woven by the service and sacrifice of our fellow citizen soldiers for 250 years. And of course, we will celebrate the men and women of the U.S Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force as well!

THE "TATTOO" TRADITION

The centuries-old tradition of Tattoo originated as a signal from drummers instructing Dutch innkeepers near military garrisons to "Doe den Tap-too" or "turn off the tap." Hearing the call "Tap-too," soldiers would return to their barracks for an evening roll call. The ensuing parade of soldiers evolved into a spectacle now known worldwide as "Tattoo." (information regarding this event was obtained from the Virginia Arts Festival Virginia International Tattoo Brochure). 🇺🇸

Pictures below are from the 2024 Virginia International Tattoo.



(photos by Nancy Butler)

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS Normandy (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Nathan Diaz
XO: CDR Adam J. Samson
CMC: CMDCM Andrew Conover

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

Normandy returns from sea after supporting **USS Truxtun (DDG-103)** for her upcoming deployment, eclipsing a short but packed schedule! The crew adjusts just fine to underway life again, especially with the inclusion of Wi-Fi installed throughout the ship. Nevertheless though, the past underway has been action packed with all sorts of training scenarios like conducting straights transits and combating surface combatants, certifying ISATT (Initial Ship Aviation Team Training) with HSM 48.8 (Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron – Navy's premier helicopter squadron) and much more! We've also conducted flight quarters almost every day, RIB ops (Naval Special Warfare Rigid Inflatable Boat), a RAS (Replenishment at Sea), PAX XFERs (passengers), and even got the opportunity to assist the USCG save a sailboat crew in distress.

Upon returning from the exciting underway, *Normandy* is moored at Naval Station Yorktown but will return to Naval Station Norfolk soon! If you find *Normandy* sailors in the Hampton Roads area, please feel welcome to greet them! If you, a family member, or a friend have served onboard, please feel free to reach out. Although we may be on the high seas or moored pierside, they will always be welcomed onboard. 🍷

Very respectfully,
LTJG John Barber, FCO



USS Gravely (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Greg Piorun
XO: CDR Gregory Tornambe
CMC: CMDCM LeDezman Johnson

Courtney Mustin, Liaison
Patrick Harris, Ass't Liaison

USS Gravely (DDG-107) is in port at Norfolk. **USS Gravely** conducted a Change of Command Ceremony on January 30, 2025. After twenty exemplary months as Commanding Officer, CDR. Brian Sánchez was relieved by CDR. Greg Piorun. CDR Sánchez's time as Commanding Officer was marked by his institution of dedication to mission excellence, through an unwavering commitment to the crew and a relentless pursuit of excellence, through materiel and personal readiness. Under his steadfast guidance, **Gravely** navigated the challenges associated with a historic combat deployment and celebrated numerous successes throughout both FIFTH and SIXTH fleets. We are truly grateful for his leadership.

We welcomed CDR Greg Piorun as the new Commanding Officer, who is ushering in a new chapter for **Gravely's** crew. We look forward to the direction and leadership he will bring as we continue to uphold the highest standards of the Navy and live up to the namesake of VADM Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. (report obtained from **USS Gravely** Facebook page). 🍷



USS Carter Hall (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Steven E. Grey
XO: CDR Brittany N. Lynn
CMC: CMDCM Benjamin Cruz

Pat Robson, Liaison

USS Carter Hall (LSD-50) is currently undergoing repairs and modernization at the BAE Systems Shipyard in Norfolk, VA. 🍷



USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Brian C. Gismervik
XO: LCDR Patricia Green
CSEL: MKC Ethan Stanford

Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

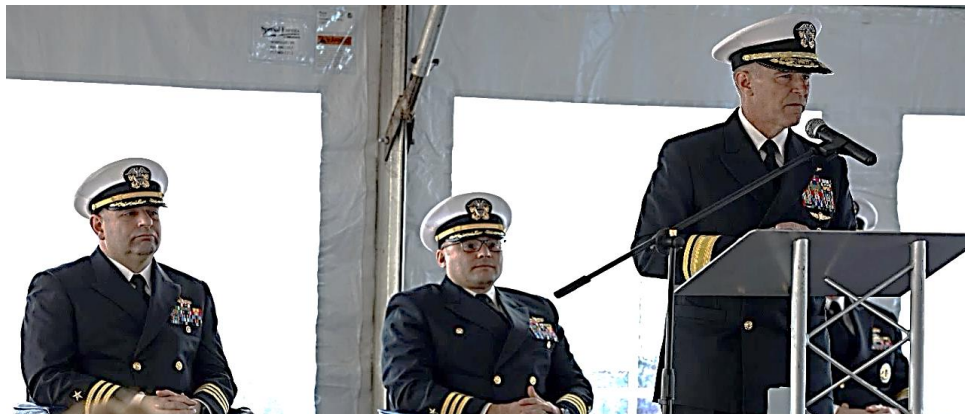
USCGC Northland is currently on patrol in the Florida Straits. 🍷



USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)
CO: CDR Justin Strock
XO: LCDR L.H (Hank) Deatrich
COB: BMC Cody Johnson

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

USCGC Spencer is currently in the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, MD with crew on board. 🍷



USS Gravely Change of Command Ceremony. Left to right: CDR Brian Sanchez, CDR Gregg Piorun and Rear Admiral Marc J. Miguez, Office of Legislative Affairs at the podium.

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, March 11, 2025
PLACE: Publix / 2nd Floor
 Community Meeting Room
 2250 John Rolfe Pkwy
 Henrico, VA 23233
TIME: Doors open 11:15 AM
 Program Begins 11:50 AM

SPEAKER: COL David O. Smith
 A distinguished fellow with the South Asia Program at the Stimson Center, a nonpartisan policy research center in Washington, D.C.

REMINDER

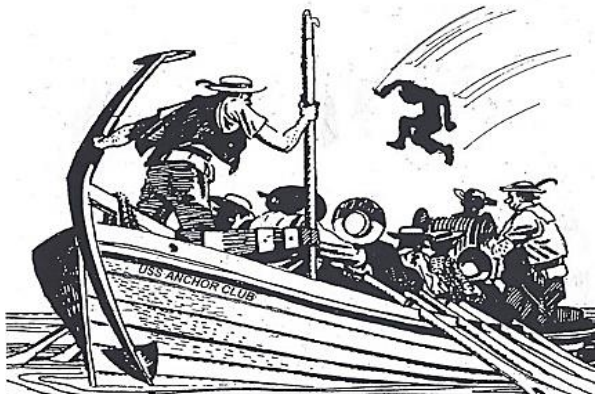
Please remember to sign up for our upcoming Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Spring Luncheon on March 26th at Willow Oaks Country Club.

Our Coast Guard guest speaker is CDR Brian Gismervik, Commanding Officer **USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)**. Refer to the front page of last month's issue of *The Lucky Bag* for details of the luncheon and the reservation form.



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

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