

## **Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr. Promotion to Flag Rank 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Ceremony**

### **Date and Time**

Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 10:30 AM

### **Location**

Virginia War Memorial  
621 South Belvidere Street  
Richmond, VA 23220  
804-786-2060 [www.vawarmemorial.org](http://www.vawarmemorial.org)

### **Event**

The Richmond Council, Navy League of the United States is holding a ceremony on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 10:30 AM at the Virginia War Memorial to recognize the 50th anniversary of the promotion of Samuel G. Gravely, Jr. to the rank of Admiral. Admiral Gravely rose from the rank of Seaman to Vice Admiral. He was the first African American to command a US Navy warship (THEODORE E. CHANDLER DD 717), the first African American to command an American warship under combat conditions (TAUSSIG DD 746), the first African American to command a major naval warship (JOUETT CG 29), 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 (Commander, US 3rd Fleet). The Navy honored Admiral Gravely with the naming of the destroyer USS SAMUEL G. GRAVELY JR. (DDG-107).

This event is sponsored by the Richmond Navy League Council with the support of the United States Navy. A proclamation issued by Governor Ralph Northam that designates June 2, 2021 as Admiral Samuel Gravely, Jr. Day will be read and presented to crew members of the USS GRAVELY. Representatives of the Richmond Navy League Council, the United States Navy and family members of Admiral Gravely will recognize the many accomplishments of his naval career and the role played in breaking down barriers in the military for African Americans and other minorities.

### **Participants and Supporters:**

Richmond Council, Navy League of the United States  
United States Navy, Surface Force Atlantic  
United States Navy, crew members USS GRAVELY  
Virginia War Memorial  
Laurette Cain Johnson Turner, the niece of Admiral Gravely

### **Event Agenda**

- Welcome from the Virginia War Memorial
- Welcome from President Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Richmond Navy League Council
- Presentation of Colors by Naval Sea Cadet Corps - Richmond Navy League Council

- Pledge of Allegiance, President Richmond Navy League Council, Adam J. Fiedler, M.D.
- Prayer, Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.
- Richmond Navy League Council,
- Overview of Admiral Gravely's Naval Career, James DeAngio Deputy Public Affairs Officer, U.S. Navy, Surface Force Atlantic
- Reading of Governor Northam's Proclamation declaring June 2, 2021 Admiral Samuel Gravely Day in Virginia, Patrick Harris
- Memories of Admiral Gravely, Laurette Cain Johnson Turner, Admiral Gravely's niece

**Contact:**

Patrick Harris  
 USS Gravely Ship Liaison  
 804-998-7860 [vaprevent@aol.com](mailto:vaprevent@aol.com)

Dr. Jay Fiedler, President  
 Richmond Council, Navy League of the United States  
 P.O. Box 11201  
 Richmond, VA 23230  
 804-355-7557 [www.navyleague-richmond.com](http://www.navyleague-richmond.com)

**Mission of the Richmond Virginia Council Navy League:**

The Richmond Virginia Council Navy League is a civilian, volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable educational organization. Our primary mission is to support the men and women of our Sea Services: US Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Military Sealift, their families and our related local Naval Sea Cadet and JROTC Youth programs. We support all branches of active-duty military personnel and their families with care packages and monetary contributions to Morale Welfare and Recreation Programs. Through the National Navy League, we are advocates for legislation regarding the Sea Services.

## Richmond Navy League Council Summary of Activities 2019

The Richmond Virginia Council Navy League is a civilian, volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable educational organization. Our primary mission is to support the men and women of our Sea Services: the U.S. Navy, Marines Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Military Sealift, their families, and our related Naval Sea Cadets and JROTC Youth Programs. We support all branches of active-duty military personnel and their families with care packages and monetary contributions to Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. Through the National Navy League, we are advocates for legislation regarding the Sea Services.

The Richmond Virginia Council Navy League motto is “They Serve, We Support”.

In 2019, our 250 members

- Supported five ships, one naval fighter squadron and three naval support units representing 2,200 sea service personnel.
- Participated in 16 events with our Adopted Ships and Supported Units
- Provided \$8,075 in donations to support service member Morale, Welfare and Recreation funds and to recognize outstanding service members.
- Shipped over \$1,000 worth of care packages to forward deployed military personnel in Kenya and Somalia.
- Provided \$6,410 to support two sea service youth programs. The Naval Sea Cadets American Division which serves 50 Richmond area youth and 5 Navy and 4 Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Programs that serve 600 youth in nine Richmond area high schools.
- Sponsored nine events and activities that generated \$20,279 in donations to support our sea services.
- Generated an additional \$12,972 in donations from our Anchor Club, 88 of our members who donated \$100 or more to support our programs and activities.
- Published *The Lucky Bag*, our monthly newsletter to inform members, donors and other supporters in the Richmond area of the opportunities to support the sea services and related youth programs.
- Our webpage [navyleague-richmond.com](http://navyleague-richmond.com) and Facebook page [facebook.com/NavyLeagueRVA](https://facebook.com/NavyLeagueRVA) inform our members and the Richmond area of the activities of the Richmond Council Navy League.