



AUGUST 2020

# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



The officers and crew of USS NORMANDY (one of our adopted ships) assemble on the foredeck during their most recent deployment.

## THEY SERVE – WE SUPPORT

This remarkable picture was taken during **NORMANDY's** last deployment that concluded on July 15. After a deployment that transversed six different oceans, or seas and nine months of sustained underway operations, **NORMANDY** returned to a world quite unlike the one they left (see ship's report on page 4 of this issue).

These servicemen and women are a proud representation of the Sea Services that Richmond Council so proud-

ly supports. Their service does not falter regardless of the circumstances. Richmond fully intends to maintain our support, but we will need your help.

**All fundraising events through September have been canceled** due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. **Cancellations include** the very popular **Harborfest Parade of Tall Ships** and the **NAS Oceana Air Show**. **In addition, Council's annual Golf Outing has been canceled**, which is our primary fundraiser.

Golfers have been returning to the courses, but under strict protocols. We could not assemble approximately 160 people for a meal and five hours of togetherness safely, so we felt it was best for everyone to cancel this event.

**Our mission is in jeopardy.** Please read the open letter to previous sponsors on page 5 and find a way to come to our assistance.

We thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



### NOW HEAR THIS

It is not easy to write a message because just three weeks later when it is published it is already out of date! Things keep happening in our city, state, country and our own lives.

Richmond Council activities are still canceled, but we did have a Board Meeting on July 13. We held it outdoors for the reason you can imagine. Our Annual Benefit Golf Event in May was postponed to September 23. It has now been canceled. The obvious reasons are discussed in the full-page letter included in this issue of *The Lucky Bag*.

Like many non-profit volunteer organizations, we are greatly impacted by recent events. Members and Board Members must now redouble their efforts to find financial sponsors and

contributors so that we may still follow our Mission Statement.

"The Richmond Virginia Council Navy League is a civilian, volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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".

### NAUTICAL PHRASE --- "To Make up Leeway"

"To make up leeway" is a way of saying that you have to make up for time already lost. In maritime terminology, leeway refers to the distance that a ship has deviated from its proper course. Because of the events of 2020, this saying is fitting.

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By John A. Harler, M.D.

This Chaplain's message will be provided by our immediate past Chaplain, Lewis Brandt, with permission, as I could not have improved upon his prophetic words which are taken from his July 2020 message written prior to his retirement in January 2019:

The Declaration of Independence (DOI) was more than a declaration of independence from England. It was a declaration of independence from all tyranny. We note that if tyranny was to rear its ugly head in the United States, the DOI states that we have the right to throw that off also. Power taken from the hands of the people and put in the hands of a few bureaucrats is not the American Democratic Republic. Rather it is Socialism, Marxism, Communism or as it is called today by its sanitized appellation...Political Progressive. I always thought of progressive/progress as growth towards something worthwhile. I think that the current progressive

movement is in reality a regressive movement seeking a one-party system over which they are in charge. Socialism is not a friend to the church because Christ gives freedom to the soul and they cannot control that. **"If the son sets you free, you will be free indeed", John 8:36.**

### MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY --- THE "PATHFINDER OF THE SEAS"

Matthew Fontaine Maury, of both the United States Navy and the Confederate Navy, was an oceanographer of such renown that he earned the nickname, the "Pathfinder of the Seas".

In 1825 Maury obtained, through the then-U.S. Congressman Sam Houston, a midshipman's warrant in the U.S. Navy. As a midshipman on-board the **USS BRANDYWINE**, he recorded methods of navigation. When a leg injury left him unfit for sea duty, Maury devoted his time to the study of navigation, meteorology, winds, and currents. He became Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Observatory, head of the Depot of Charts and Instruments and studied thousands of ships' logs and charts. He published the first modern oceanographic textbook with charts showing sailors how to use the ocean's currents and winds to their advantage.

As a Virginian from Spotsylvania County, Maury resigned his U.S. Navy commission and joined the Confederacy. Following the war, Maury taught at VMI and in 1873 was buried at Hollywood cemetery in Richmond.

(Adapted from Wikipedia and Britannica)



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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](mailto:navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net)

Website: [navyleague-richmond.com](http://navyleague-richmond.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/NavyLeagueRVA)

NavyLeagueRVA

Editor: William W. McCathern

Production Assistants: Nancy G. Butler,  
Edward S. Gibbons, R. Milton Owen and  
Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.

Photographer: Adam J. Fiedler, M.D. and  
Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.

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## REVERSING ROLES - - - MILITARY SEALIFT AND NAVY

The logistics force of Navy Task Force 63 and civilian-crewed Military Sealift Command ships are combined to command all of the U.S. 6th Fleet air and sea logistics. Normally, MSC ships do the supplying at sea by horizontal replenishment (cables or hoses) or vertical replenishment (helicopters).

Recently, COVID-19 issues created

missed, delayed or cancelled supply of a MSC ship itself. The Navy came to the rescue. Because destroyers do not have much storage space, it took three of them teamed up at sea to replenish the MSC ship **USNS SUPPLY (T-AOE-6)** with fruits, vegetables, gear and mail. According to Navy CTF-63 Logistics Director CDR Bautista, "In my 30 years in the Navy I have never seen a DDG deliver fresh milk to a logistics ship". (Adapted from July issue MSC Newsletter 'Sealift'. Photo by US Navy) ✍

## NAVY FIXES AVIATION PROBLEM

The Navy now understands what has been causing symptoms in aviators ranging from headaches to tingly fingers to dizziness to loss of consciousness.

Breathing concentrated oxygen in a small cockpit with restrictive flight gear and masks is hard. Something as simple as a poorly-fitting mask can lead to an increased work of breathing in the dynamic environment of a jet cockpit. Multiple steps were taken in T-45 Trainers and F-18 Hornets to remedy these problems. One of the simpler fixes was to straighten out angled pipes to provide better airflow. Ironically, aviation history is repeating mountaineering history. The 1952 Swiss Everest climbing expedition failed to reach the summit because their system produced oxygen, but had the same problem; the delivery tube and mask restricted airflow and increased the workload of breathing.

This story is adapted from U.S. Naval Institute News by Megan Eckstein, June 18, 2020. The U.S. Navy photo from the news story is of CDR Leslie Mintz in 2019. She is now the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Oceana VFA 213 Blacklions, a unit that our Council supports. ✍



**CDR Leslie Mintz**  
**Commanding Officer**  
**VFA 213 Blacklions**



## HARBORFEST PARADE OF TALL SAILS EVENT CANCELED



## OCEANA AIR SHOW CANCELED

Richmond Council usually attends the practice day of the annual Oceana NAS Airshow. This year the date was Friday, September 18. The Blue Angels were scheduled to be back; however, the virus changed those plans.

We hope they will be returning next year.



## GOLF OUTING CANCELED

Richmond Council felt that in the best interest of safety and caution during the COVID-19 Pandemic, it was prudent to cancel this year's September 23rd Golf Outing Event.



## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



### USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Charles E. Hampton

XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor

CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

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

AHOY Richmond Navy League!

**NORMANDY** has returned! After being deployed to three separate fleets, six different seas or oceans and nine months of sustained underway operations, **NORMANDY** has returned to Norfolk, VA. We are extremely thankful for your consistent support that you provided during this deployment.

Prior to our arrival to Naval Station Norfolk, **NORMANDY** participated in Operation VIGILANT OSPREY, bringing together multiple combatant commands and NATO allies to demonstrate our ability to operate across multiple warfare domains, to include anti-air warfare and undersea warfare.

As always **NORMANDY** was the **VANGUARD** of this operation, operating as the Search Attack Unit Commander (SAUC) for undersea warfare and as always as the air-and-missile defense commander.

Furthermore, on 4 June, we had the distinct honor and privilege of hosting Secretary of the Navy, Kenneth J. Braithwaite. While aboard, he toured the ship, interacting with the phenomenal Sailors of **NORMANDY**, and wrapped up by presenting **NORMANDY** with the Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) for our 2019-2020 deployment.

As always we appreciate your continued outreach, especially in this trying time for our nation. 🇺🇸

Warm regards,  
CDR Theresa L. Kaylor  
Executive Officer



### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock

XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson

CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

### Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Maintenance, it's that season of heavier work for some and a lightened load for others. The **CARTER HALL** has stepped into such a period and are daily being serviced, outfitted, and updated to better meet the demands of the mission(s) that lay ahead. Our current national threat, COVID-19, has not made this any easier, but nonetheless the crew remains focused on what needs to be done and what lies ahead. The longer I am with the men and women of this fine ship the more and more fitting I see our motto: "*Working for Peace, Ready for War*". Rest assured, the leadership and crew of the **CARTER HALL** are committed to that idea through and through.

Since our last update, more and more Sailors and families have made use of the generous gifts you made available to us. As you all know, hardships in life wait for no one and are seldom known beforehand. Your compassionate forethought have eased many a burden and for that, I sincerely thank you. We could not have remained the only mission ready vessel in our class without the continued support of others, and the Richmond Navy League stands right there at the front.

We remain thankful for and encouraged by the abundant support and camaraderie of the Richmond Navy League. Your efforts are making our Sailors and Marines better for the days ahead!

We are: *Working for Peace, Ready for War!* 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
Chaplain Block  
LT, CHC, USN



### USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Michael O'Reilly

XO: CDR Corey Odom

CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

### Alan Palmer, Liaison

No report at press time.



### USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett

XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro

COB: GMC Robert Boyer

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

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND**!

**NORTHLAND** has been going through major dockside maintenance, including replacing the non-skid on the forecastle, reworking steering, and replacing the bridge console in order to get ready for the upcoming patrol. **NORTHLAND's** crew has taken this period to spend extra time with family, while also maintaining the newest Coast Guard regulations regarding COVID-19. The crew will soon enter a Restriction of Movement (ROM) to ensure that **NORTHLAND** can operate at full capacity for the patrol and prevent COVID-19 from spreading through the ship.

In July, **NORTHLAND** said goodbye to many valued members of the crew as part of transfer season, but also welcomed a large score of new crew members who are excited and motivated to bring their experiences and expertise to **NORTHLAND**. While many new crewmembers will need to be qualified, the current crew is willing to teach and the new crew is willing to learn to make this upcoming patrol a large success.

While homeported, the crew also celebrated the different cultures onboard **NORTHLAND** as part of an LDAC cultural awareness day. The event was inspiring and helped the crew to grow closer and gain understanding of each other, overall contributing to mission success.

Thank you for your support! 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro





## NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL

P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, Virginia 23230  
Phone 804-355-7557 Fax 804-355-8788  
Website [www.navyleague-richmond.com](http://www.navyleague-richmond.com)  
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### 2020 NAVY LEAGUE GOLF OUTING

Dear Richmond Navy League Sponsor,

Thank you for your past support of the Richmond Navy League through our primary fundraising function, our Annual Benefit Golf Event. In addition to our appreciation for your loyal support, we have always enjoyed the camaraderie and fellowship of being with you at our fun-filled golf outing every year. Unfortunately, due to the uncertainty of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all socializing events, we have reluctantly decided it best to cancel this year's **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** event.

However, our Navy League mission must go on. The Richmond Council Navy League is a volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization whose motto is "They Serve, We Support". The many challenges of this year have also altered how we carry out that mission. For example, we ordinarily would contribute to the Morale, Welfare & Recreation funds for sailors on our adopted ships and units. This year, we have focused instead on sailor's families through a variety of support methods.

Though the golf event itself is not the issue, what is important is our mission to support the Sea Services: US Navy, US Coast Guard, US Naval Sea Cadets and Naval and Marine Corps JROTC. We invite you to still participate as a sponsor, even though there will be no golf event. Your sponsorship helps us do our mission. We hope that you will continue to sponsor our mission during this difficult year.

Contribute by check to Richmond Council NLUS with GOLF SPONSOR on memo line, OR to donate on website, click "Please Donate" then click on "Credit Card Donate Link" then on page 2 at "Add special instructions to seller" enter GOLF SPONSOR.

As a result of your continued sponsorship, your Company/Organization or individual name will be printed in our monthly newsletter, *THE LUCKY BAG*, which is sent to various service organizations and our membership.

Your contribution is tax deductible and our exempt number is: 501(c)(3), EIN 54-1162696.

On behalf of the Richmond Council Navy League and our maritime services, we thank you again for your loyal support and wish you well during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

John Harler & Doug Reed  
Golf Outing Co-Chairmen





## 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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**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL  
NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
P.O. BOX 11201  
RICHMOND, VA 23230**

**OFFICE: (804) 355-7557 FAX: (804) 355-8788  
EMAIL: [navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net](mailto:navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net)  
WEB SITE: [www.navyleague-richmond.com](http://www.navyleague-richmond.com)  
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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*



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