

NOVEMBER 2020



# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



In July 2017, Richmond Council Navy Leaguers hasten to the boarding ramp for a much anticipated “Day at Sea” aboard USS GRAVELY (DDG-107). USS GRAVELY is a 505-foot-long Arleigh Burke-Class destroyer with a crew of 314 and is homeported in Norfolk VA. The GRAVELY was formally adopted by Richmond Council in September 2011.

## THEY SERVE – WE SUPPORT

In recent years, Council’s support of our four adopted ships includes providing equipment not readily available through DOD channels, such as athletic equipment, TV sets, electronic equipment and games, recreational items and includes Council’s deployment dollars program and monetary contributions to the ship’s Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund. Cur-

rently, gift cards have been very popular. We also recognize and honor the ship’s “Sailor of the Year” with a certificate and a check, presented aboard ship and in the presence of his or her peers.

In these unprecedented conditions of the COVID Pandemic, nearly every aspect of our operation has had to evolve. All interaction with military

personnel, facilities and ships has been put on “hold”. The command of **GRAVELY**, working with Council’s Liaison, decided to use our funds to help pay for meals for new Sailors, quarantined in hotels.

Each ship is using our funds in a manner that best fits their specific situation.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



### NOW HEAR THIS

Council has had a reduced schedule of events this year because of COVID. We hope you are holding up well with your health and cabin fever! Please plan ahead. Join us OUTDOORS on Monday Dec 7 at 11:00 AM for our Annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance held at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 South Belvidere St. We have already started plans to have our usual participants including speaker, bagpiper, color guard, rifle honor squad, wreath laying, the reading of the names, tolling of the ships bell and the very moving playing of Taps.

We will not have the indoor box lunch afterward this year, but the ceremony is the best and most important part. The announcement will be in the December issue of *The Lucky Bag* that you will receive by email about 1-2 weeks beforehand. No sign-up or

fee is required. Please come. ✍

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.  
Message by Lewis W. Brandt

If all there was to being a thankful person was to bow our heads over a plate of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, greens and pie, Christianity would be a "piece of cake". However, giving thanks is bigger and harder. **Paul said that we should give thanks in all things", I Thess 5:18.** I never thought that meant one needs to thank God for the loss of a son or daughter in Afghanistan, or any other heart breaking experience. If one believes in the goodness of God, he can be thankful that God is with us in our suffering. In the midst of suffering, our understanding makes things seem hopeless. **Proverbs 3:5, 6** encourages us this way **"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path"**. He has and always will keep this promise. ✍

### WORDS OF WISDOM

We were doing our best. If that wasn't good enough, there was nothing else we could do to change things. What would be would be. ✍

(Robert Bates, in Houston and Bates, *K2 the Savage Mountain*).

### AMERICA SEA CADETS SEPTEMBER 2020

AMERICA Division held their monthly drill September 26-27 at the American Legion in Colonial Heights.

All CDC, State and Sea Cadet protocols for meeting were observed. The Master at Arms Platoon visited Breakout Richmond and worked on solving crimes. LCDR Anderson (Regional Director 05-3) presented a training session on bullying to all the Cadets.

AMERICA Division has nine new recruits to start the school year. The Color Guard/Honor Guard practiced marching with their rifles, preparing for Color Guard duties.



Mr. Vaughan Dize, the Richmond Navy League Liaison with the Sea Cadets, presented the Theodore Roosevelt Medal certificate to the AMERICA Division League Cadet of the Year (PO2 McKenna Carson).

LCDR Anderson presented the 05-3 Regional Officer of the year award to ENS Kathy Taylor (medical officer).

The Next drill was October 17<sup>th</sup> held at the American Legion, Goochland followed by October 18<sup>th</sup> drill held at the American Legion, Midlothian. ✍

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Jan. & Feb. issues, which are combined.



William Edgar Seaton, Jr.

November 6, 1939 – September 29, 2020



**UNITED STATES  
NAVAL ACADEMY**  
Annapolis



**MIDN John Daniel Herrera, USN**

Family, fanfare, and festivity are the things that come to mind when one thinks about Induction Day at the U.S. Naval Academy. However, I-Day in 2020 was like no other. We were dropped off in front of Alumni Hall without having our families witness the life-changing event of seeing us swear to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. We were expeditiously (a word we hear too often over Plebe Summer) processed through Alumni Hall, and placed in Restriction of Movement (ROM) for two weeks. During those two weeks, we had limited "sunshine time", were given virtual basic training, and were confined to our rooms throughout the day. However, we found ways to keep up the motivation, like making jump ropes out of Ethernet cables to work out, heating up our cold meals with our irons, and having constant Google Meets to check-in on one another.

We went to bed on July 17<sup>th</sup> after getting our temperature taken by our ROM Task Force. We were awakened the next morning by our Plebe Summer detailers, confused, wondering what had happened to our ROM Task Force. We got new roommates, new rooms, and even a whole new transit system. We were placed on "railroad tracks", which means that we had to stay on the outside of the hall-

way and go all around the company area to get somewhere. In short, it meant that it took a really long time to get to the bathroom. Our Oath of Office Ceremony day was the hottest recorded day in Annapolis in the past 120 years, and the masks definitely did not help. The next four weeks were full of daily 0530 appointments with Maj Antonelli to conduct rigorous physical exercises. In his words, "hard bodies, sharp minds, and always, always, always expect to win". We were mentally and physically challenged every day, and had way too many heat casualties. We, the USNA family, all learned valuable lessons in the summer of 2020. The Class of 2024 will be better prepared to lead Sailors and Marines because of the experiences that we went through, and above all, we will forever hold dear the simple truth that during times of adversity, we will provide strength. ✍

**ONE COMPONENT IMPROVES  
F/A-18 READINESS**



Navy F/A-18 Super Hornet readiness has experienced a dramatic turnaround. A few years back, increasing mission upgrades and electricity requirements had caused failures of the generator control unit (GCU) and mission-ready capability fell. Lack of spare parts, reduction in funding, contract difficulties, and cannibalization of GCUs from other aircraft kept many on the ground. By 2015, improved versions of the GCU increased their lifespan to 150 flight hours, then 532, then 1,220. But there were not enough of them. Production and testing had to be ramped up. In 2018 then-Defense Secretary Mattis set an 80% mission readiness goal. The GCU zero-backorder milestone was reached in June 2020. ✍

*Story and photo adapted from Aviation Week & Space Technology Aug 17-30, 2020.*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**DECEMBER 7 – PEARL  
HARBOR REMEMBRANCE**



Our annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance will be held at 1100 AM on Monday, December 7 at the Virginia War Memorial. For many years, Richmond Council Navy League and the War Memorial have jointly organized and presented this memorable event in honor of the Virginians who lost their lives on that fateful day in 1941. A full announcement in *The Lucky Bag* will follow in the next issue at the end of November. ✍

**ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE**

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



**USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**  
**CO: CAPT Charles Hampton**  
**XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor**  
**CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman**

**Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison**  
AHOY Richmond Navy League!

First and foremost, thank you for your generous donation to Navy & Marine Corps Relief Society in the name of **USS NORMANDY**. The mission that they fulfill is crucial to the success of the naval forces and to be named in that donation is very meaningful.

In September, **NORMANDY** continued its progress in the shipyard, mak-

**NORMANDY's ship report cont. on pg 4**



## USS NORMANDY cont. from page 3

ing the needed repairs and upgrades to return to the fleet and complete the air-and-missile defense duties for the newest CSG (Carrier Strike Group).

Lastly, **NORMANDY** had the pleasure of promoting three Chief Petty Officers to Senior Chief Petty Officer (congrats to FCACS Tolman, MMCS McGill, GSMCS Tweedy). This is a testament to their hard-work, dedication and service as well as a major career milestone for all three.

Again, thank you for your generous donation in the name of **USS NORMANDY** and the continuing outreach you provide us. 🍷

Warm regards,  
CO CAPT Charles Hampton



**USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)**  
**CO: CDR Matthew R. Sherlock**  
**XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson**  
**CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton**

### Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

A happy 245<sup>th</sup> Navy Birthday to you all! As you may well know by now, the theme for this year's celebration is "Victory at Sea". This last month saw a steady stream of maintenance, training, certifications, preservation, acquisitions, and so much more as we continue to make deposits towards ensuring **CARTER HALL's** victories in the days ahead. Actually, even as I write this, the 'sounds of preservation' are unmistakably vivid. Maintaining what we have been entrusted with is a responsibility for each of us as Sailors, and even more so as Americans. Thus, the forefathers of our country understood that in order to protect our fledgling nation, it was essential to our existence that we maintain "Victory at Sea"... and so, since October 13, 1775 we have had a Navy to protect us, inspire us, and keep our foes at bay!

As can be seen from the two photos forwarded with our report, **CARTER HALL** is again benefitting from the Richmond Navy League's fine and valued support. These photos show-

case the two televisions, on their mounts, secured and ready for sea! This process (on our end) was not smooth; however, the assistance we received on your end has surely made for another timely asset for the crew in view of our future under ways. Days (and nights) at sea, as many of you know, can be gruelingly long; and though fatigue itself is sufficient for the task, boredom swoops in to double-down on us. It saps and breaks down at every turn, leaving others to shoulder the load. Thank you once more for stepping up in this pointed way through your kind and timely provision for the men and women of our crew.

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

Very Respectfully,  
Chaplain Block  
LT, CHC, USN



**USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)**  
**CO: CDR Corey Odom**  
**XO: CDR Hunter Washburn**  
**CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree**

### Alan Palmer, Liaison Report from Patrick D. Harris, Assistant Liaison

CDR Corey Odom has been assigned as the new Commanding Officer of **USS GRAVELY**. He replaced CDR Michael O'Reilly. CDR Odom served as **GRAVELY's** Executive Officer prior to his new command assignment. He has been away on leave and will be back on the **GRAVELY** in mid-November. CDR Hunter Washburn has been assigned as the new Executive Officer of **USS GRAVELY**.

**GRAVELY** is close to exiting the Maintenance Phase of the ships life cycle and is gearing up for the Basic Training Phase. 🍷



**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!**

As we begin autumn, **NORTHLAND** has begun the final leg of a very successful patrol in the Caribbean. The crew, while excited to return to home port, worked diligently to get qualified, run drills, keep the ship running well, and excel in the Alien Migrant Interdiction and Counter Drug missions.

In an attempt to dissuade people from making the dangerous transit northbound from the northern coast of Haiti, **NORTHLAND** provided a strong Coast Guard presence by accomplishing 20 patrols around the Canal de la Tortue. During these transits, the ambition of the crew continued to show. Small boat crews, which in total conducted nearly 30 hours of small boat operations, were deployed to gather intelligence for the mission and provide greater Coast Guard presence in the area.

Due to COVID-19, **NORTHLAND** conducted the entire patrol without real liberty port calls. However, our ambitious underway Morale, Welfare and Recreation Program kept spirits high. Many new crewmembers, who were on their first ever patrol, showed great determination in learning and understanding the cutter as the more established crew consistently offered a guiding hand. This resulted in nearly 60 shipboard drills being run, including the shooting of the MK 75 76mm Gun Weapon System. Additionally, at the end of patrol, **NORTHLAND** conducted flight operations with an HH-65 Dolphin helicopter from Air Station Miami. This particular evolution prepared **NORTHLAND** for having an aviation detachment onboard and ensuring crewmembers were properly trained in landing and take-off procedures of the HH-65 Dolphin.

As **NORTHLAND** returns to home, the crew looks forward to spending time with family and friends, but will immediately begin major cutter projects to include an overhaul of the hangar as well as a top-end overhaul of the #1 Main Diesel Engine, among other projects. These projects will assist **NORTHLAND** in becoming fully mission ready for future patrol tasking.

**NORTHLAND** looks forward to the upcoming inport period, which will assist in getting the crew and **NORTHLAND** ready for the next

**NORTHLAND continued on page 5**



patrol. As always, thank you for your support! ✍

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro



**MK 75 76 mm Gun Weapon Shooting aboard USCGC NORTHLAND**

## **SUNKEN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE (AAV) LOCATED - - RECOVERY IS UNDERWAY**



U.S. NAVY PHOTO

On July 30, 2020 during Marine training operations off the coast of Catalina Island, CA, one of the AAV's (Amphibious Assault Vehicle) began to take on water and sank in approximately 385 feet of water. One marine was pronounced dead at the scene and seven Marines, and one Sailor were subsequently presumed dead on August 2 after a search and rescue ceased. Cause of incident is still under investigation.

Officials with the 15<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), I Marine Expeditionary Force (MEF) and the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group (ARG) positively identified the location on August 3 of the amphibious assault vehicle (AAV) that sunk.

The U.S. Navy's Undersea Rescue Command confirmed that human remains have also been identified using their underwater remotely-operated video systems from Military Sealift Command's submarine and special warfare support ship, MV HOS Dominator, a ship specializing in undersea search and rescue.

The Navy has expedited the movement of assets to recover the remains of the Marines and Sailor, as well as raise the AAV. ✍

Adapted from *Sealift* September 2020 U.S. Navy Military Sealift Command

## **CDR COREY ODOM "FLEETS UP" BECOMING COMMANDING OFFICER OF USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)**

Corey Odom enlisted in the Navy July, 1990. He served ten years in the submarine community as a Quartermaster onboard **USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN-686)**. He was accepted into the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1999 and graduated from Old Dominion University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in August 2002.

Upon earning a commission, LCDR Odom completed his Division Officer tours on **USS GONZALEZ (DDG-66)** as Strike Officer and **USS LABOON (DDG-58)** as Auxiliaries Officer. During his shore assignment, he served as a Naval Science Instructor at the United States Naval Academy, teaching courses in Navigation and Seamanship. Additionally, while on shore duty he earned a Master of Science degree in Technical Management from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Arts degree in National Security from the Naval War College.

Following his shore tour, CDR Odom served as Weapons Officer and later Combat System's Officer onboard **USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG-79)**.

In August 2012, he reported to the **MCM (Mine Counter Measures) CREW PERSISTENT** and served as Executive Officer until August 2014. LCDR Odom reported to the **USS GLADIATOR (MCM II)** in 2014 and served as the ship's Commanding Officer. CDR Odom most recently served as Executive officer of **USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)**.

We congratulate CDR Odom on his new assignment and wish him "fair winds and following seas". ✍

**"THE WILLINGNESS WITH WHICH OUR YOUNG PEOPLE ARE LIKELY TO SERVE IN ANY WAR, NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIED, SHALL BE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO HOW THEY PERCEIVE VETERANS OF EARLIER WARS WERE TREATED AND APPRECIATED BY OUR NATION."** ✍

**- Attributed to George Washington**

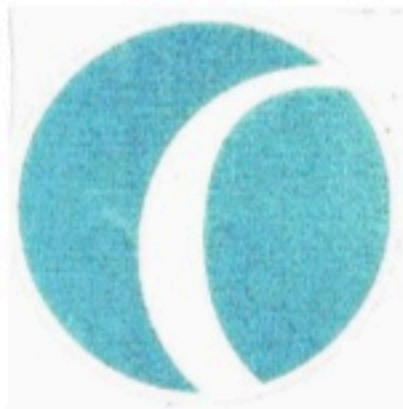


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