



MAY 2023

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

COUNCIL ADOPTS NEW SHIP U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER LEGARE (WMEC-912)



U.S. Coast Guard Cutter LEGARE (WMEC-912)



Council Director and ship's Liaison, Tom Hassell, shakes Commanding Officer Jeremy Greenwood's hand after Adoption Ceremony.

For the first time in twelve years, Council has adopted another ship. It is the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter **LEGARE (WMEC-912)** based in Portsmouth, VA. **LEGARE** joins our other four adopted ships, **USS NORMANDY**, **USS CARTER HALL**, **USS GRAVELY** and **USCGC NORTHLAND**.

The adoption ceremony was held on board **LEGARE** on April 6, 2023, and was attended by Council President, Jay Fiedler, Senior VP Vaughan Dize and Directors Tom Hassell, Bob Lusk and Tom Jennings. Tom Hassell, having been appointed as Liaison to **USCGC LEGARE**, explained to the crew "who we are" and what adoption will mean to them. The formal Adoption Proclamation was read, then followed by the signing of the Adoption Certificate.

Commander Jeremy Greenwood, **LEGARE's** Commanding Officer, expressed his appreciation and further explained to the crew how our adoption will benefit them. Following the ceremony an outstanding lunch was hosted by CDR Greenwood in the wardroom and was attended by the program participants and several of the ship's officers and non-coms.

LEGARE is due to depart for its latest patrol on May 4, 2023, and Council will deliver, as is custom for our Coast Guard ships, snacks and toiletries for the crew prior to their departure. ✍

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Adam J. "Jay" Fiedler, M.D.



Approximately 60 people attended our Spring Luncheon held on March 29, and were treated to a stimulating presentation by CDR Fancher, Commanding Officer, **USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)**.

Tom Hassell, Tom Jennings, Bob Lusk, Vaughan Dize and I officiated at the adoption ceremony on board **USCGC LEGARE** and were treated to lunch. A great time was had by all.

The Parade of Sail trip is settled, with bus arranged and tickets for *Patriot Rover* (to be distributed on the bus).

The summer picnic is also coming together with catering by Mission BBQ, games for kids and adults, a door prize by Mission BBQ, a raffle for a \$50.00 gas card at Sheetz, and the opening of our raffle for \$1000.00 (separate ticket-see Vaughan Dize at the special table).

Thanks again to the behind-the-scenes people: Vaughan Dize, John Harler, Tom Hassell, Pat Robson, Pat Harris, and George Feitig. ✍

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

HEART FAILURE, ARE YOU OUT OF SYNC?

(Adopted from *Sweet Monday Devotional* by Sherry Sharp, with permission.)

All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip His people to do every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, NLT).

When my father was in his fifties, he suffered from an erratic heart rhythm, causing shortness of breath and a rapid heart rate; to solve the problem, doctors inserted a device called a pacemaker. The pacemaker detects irregular heart rhythms and sends an electrical impulse to the heart, when needed, to keep the heart from *over* or *underworking*. An electrocardiogram performed in a hospital, or doctor's office, will show the effect produced by the pacemaker.

If someone could create a chart reflecting the ebb and flow of human behavior since the beginning of time, and the chart could read the behavior like that of an electrocardiogram, the result would likely appear as one in cardiac arrest. In a world where people of each generation feel entitled to take ownership of what constitutes cultural norms, defining what is acceptable behavior often depends on the loudest voices. We can all agree that "the loudest voices" are not always speaking in the best interest of humanity; one need only review history to confirm this reality. Adolf Hitler, it is said, always began his speeches almost in a whisper,

WELCOME ABOARD !

The Richmond Council Navy League is proud to welcome you as a member. In the weeks ahead, when you attend one of our Navy League events, please let the person at the registration desk know that you are a new member attending your first function.

NEW MEMBERS

C. Preston Dalrymple, Jr.
Ernest E. Leasure, Jr.
Teddy R. Martin
Courtney C. Mustin

drawing his audience to complete silence to hear him. However, by the end of his delivery, Hitler was yelling, inciting the crowd to join him in his deluded reverie.

The Holy Bible is God's "pacemaker" for the human heart. When we get out of step with the precepts God has given us to live physically and spiritually healthy lives, both individually and collectively, His Word will redirect our thinking and actions to align with His.

The world appears to be in a state of chaos. I wonder, though, is it only the "loudest voices" we hear trying to drown out reason and truth? "For God is a God not of disorder but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33, NRSV). If we feel out of step with those around us, let us take the time to consult God's Word, which establishes His ownership of all things and always leads to abundant life for those who love the Lord! ✍



CDR Walter E. Tucker, USN (Ret)
1931 – April 20, 2023

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and Past President**

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SAVE THE DATES

Friday, June 9 – Norfolk Harborfest with the Parade of Sails

Saturday, July 15 – 2nd Annual Family and Friends Picnic at
The American Legion Post 354

Saturday, August 12 – Tangier Island Cruise

Wednesday, September 13 – Golf Fundraising Tournament at
The Hollows Golf Course

HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER LUNCHEON

DATE: May 9, 2023

PLACE: Publix/2nd Floor/Community
Meeting Room/2250 John Rolfe Pkwy
Henrico, VA 23233

TIME: 11:50 AM Program begins
Concluding at 1:00 PM

SPEAKER: Major General
Harry Jenkins, USMC (Ret)

NOTE: All attendees must be "FULLY"
Vaccinated for COVID-19

SUMMER LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY JUNE 21 AT WILLOW OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

Richmond Marine Terminal (RMT), formerly known as the Port of Richmond, is one of six terminals that comprise the Port of Virginia.

Ships quietly enter and leave the Richmond Marine Terminal on a daily basis and most of our residents have to be reminded occasionally that Richmond, VA has its own port. RMT, known as Deepwater Terminal, is visible from I-95, yet it goes largely unnoticed.

In the 1960's, the Port of Richmond was known primarily as a livestock port. Cattle and hog pens (and their distinctive odors) were vast on the grounds of the port. In 2023, the livestock is gone, replaced with ocean containers, breakbulk freight, and barges from Hampton Roads.

The Richmond Marine Terminal has the distinction of being a Teamsters Union port, instead of the International Longshoremen's Association, which has allowed it to remain active (and

GUEST SPEAKER



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PORT OF VIRGINIA

even busier) during ILA strikes.

Richmond should not be allowed to keep its secrets. We have a major transportation facility within minutes of drive-time, yet we know little about it. As an organization that supports our nation's Merchant Marine, we owe it to ourselves to learn more about our robust enterprise. Our keynote speaker, Tom Cross, Director of State and Local Government Affairs for the Port of Virginia, will share Richmond's "secret" with us. 🚧

SUMMER LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

DATE: Wednesday 21 June 2023

TIME: 11:30 AM Registration
12:00 PM Luncheon
12:45 PM Program

COST: \$ 25.00 per person

PLACE: Willow Oaks Country Club
6228 Forest Hill Ave
Richmond, VA 23225

Reservation Deadline for SUMMER LUNCHEON: To be received by Wednesday JUNE 14, 2023

****Refund Policy 2023: Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned UP TO and INCLUDING the "deadline date****

RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY JUNE 21, 2023

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Regular meal served unless special meal is indicated (please circle): 1 or 2 Veggie Meal(s)

Total # of Res. _____ @ \$ 25.00 per person Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLUS P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: (804) 355-7557

COUNCIL DELIVERS DEPLOYMENT DOLLARS AND SAILOR OF THE YEAR AWARD TO USS NORMANDY



Council's SRVP, Vaughan Dize, presents OS1 Khairi Summers with the Sailor of the Year Award.



Council Director and NORMANDY's ship liaison, George Feitig, presents Master Chief Wil Palmer with Deployment Dollars.



AMERICA Division Sea Cadets hard at work on Drone Project.



Target for Drone.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT: NAVY LTJG JOSEPH KERREY

March 13, 2023, by Katie Lange



Navy LTJG Joseph R. Kerrey has been a lot of notable things in his life: a business owner, a governor, a senator, and even a presidential candidate. But, perhaps one of the most well-known titles he holds is that of Medal of Honor recipient, for his service as a Navy SEAL during the Vietnam War.

Kerrey was working as a pharmacist after college when the Vietnam War ramped up. He said in a Library of Congress interview, that he knew he was going to be drafted after he received notice to get a physical. He wanted to have a say in what branch he joined, so he said he decided to enlist in the Navy in October 1966.

After Kerrey went to Officer Candidate School, he decided he wanted to join the SEALs, so he successfully completed that training in 1968. He eventually joined SEAL Team 1, which included two officers and twelve enlisted men. After some additional training, they were sent to Vietnam in January 1969.

Within three months, Kerrey's team was called upon to try to capture important enemy political leaders. Kerrey said they had received reliable intelligence, from a Viet Cong defector, who knew enemy leaders had set up a base of operations on an island in the bay of Nha Trang, along Vietnam's southcentral coast. The defector told Special Forces operators that he had escaped from the island and was willing to lead them back there.

In the early morning hours of March 14, 1969, Kerrey led his SEAL team on a mission to the island to surprise the enemy. While the night was still dark, the group split into two — one team entered the island from the front, while Kerrey's six-man team scaled a 350-foot cliff by hand from the back, so they could end up above a ledge on which the enemy was located.

Kerrey said they'd even taken off their boots to scale the slope more quietly. But just as they were nearing their goal, the enemy found them. "They were sleeping in two different groups," Kerrey said of the enemy encampment. "The second sleeping group — we got there a bit too late. They had broken camp and were on the move, and they made contact with us." Kerrey said the Viet Cong fighters threw some sort of explosive device at them, setting off a firefight. Almost immediately, a grenade landed by Kerrey's feet and exploded, causing massive injuries to his right leg. The blast threw him backward onto jagged rocks. Kerrey said he quickly applied his own tourniquet and tried to stand but couldn't. Despite heavy blood loss and pain, he knew he had to keep the mission moving. So, he directed the rest of his team's fire into the heart of the enemy camp. With the help of his radioman, he then called for more fire support, which seriously confused the Viet Cong, who ended up in its devastating crossfire. Kerrey, keeping calm and in control, had his team find an extraction site for a helicopter rescue. He said that a few of his men had been deployed before, so they knew what to do. By the end of the ordeal, Kerrey was nearly unconscious, but he continued to direct his team's actions until they were all evacuated — even their enemy captors, who eventually provided critical intelligence for the Allied effort. On May 14, 1970, Kerrey was one of twelve service members to receive the Medal of Honor from President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremony. ✍️

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Errol A. Robinson
XO: CDR Anthony T. Bryant
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

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

USS NORMANDY, under the command of CAPT Errol Robinson, continued her scheduled pre-deployment workups, partaking in comprehensive training exercises (COMPTUEX) with Carrier Strike Group 12, alongside **USS McFAUL (DDG-74)**, **USS RAMAGE (DDG-61)**, **USS THOMAS HUDNER (DDG-116)** and **USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN-78)**.

The **NORMANDY** team was tested in multiple warfare areas, to include: Air Warfare, Surface Warfare, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Strike Warfare among many others.

NORMANDY continued to flourish and execute intermediate and advanced events as COMPTUEX events grew in complexity. The crew relied on their training and expertly demonstrated their skills during various multi-warfare integrated battle problems throughout the month working in tandem with the entire Strike Group.

CAPT Robinson announced the meritorious advancement selectees early this month, adding new 3rd, 2nd and 1st class petty officers to **NORMANDY** crew.

With a brief stop in Mayport Florida for routine repairs, the **NORMANDY** crew enjoyed some brief liberty before returning to her training exercises with the strike group. **NORMANDY** will return to homeport and begin her spring certified maintenance availability (CMAV) next month. ✍

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Elizabeth Armstrong, PAO, USN



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
XO: CDR Steven E. Grey
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

CARTER HALL is in port until early-to-mid summer. ✍



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Hunter D. Washburn
XO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

USS GRAVELY has returned from successfully completing surface warfare advanced tactical training (SWATT)! **GRAVELY** commenced SWATT with **USS PHILIPPINE SEA**, **USS MASON**, and **USS CARNEY**. SWATT was fast paced and demanding, the crew met every challenge that

was set before them with motivation and esprit de corps!

During SWATT, **GRAVELY's** tactical skills were put to the test during events such as anti-submarine live fire exercises (ASW LFE), air defense exercises (ADEX), and surface warfare (SUW) exercises. Each of these events would increase in their respective levels of difficulty and became more challenging. **GRAVELY** also had the opportunity to work with warfare tactics instructors (WTIs) as they conducted these missions.

The WTIs gave the crew feedback at debriefs, following the execution of each exercise. This benefited watchstanders heavily, as they were able to apply lessons learned from the previous exercise to future exercises and build upon their level of knowledge. The teamwork between the WTIs and the crew contributed immensely to **GRAVELY's** success behind SWATT.

Thank you so much for keeping up with **GRAVELY's** latest accomplishments and for your continued support in all that we do. We always look forward to sharing our experiences and accomplishments out at sea with you. ✍

Very Respectfully,
Alexis Harrell-Parada, ENS, USN



USS CARNEY (DDG-64), moves onto station in support of live fire exercises with **USS MASON (DDG-87)**, left) and **USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)**, right).
SWATT photo.



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Andrew Dannelly
XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts
COB: MKC Alan Kinney

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison
Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!** **NORTHLAND** returned to Base Portsmouth on March 30th, to a pier filled with family, friends and loved ones, following a 62-day maritime safety and security patrol in the Florida Straits and Windward Pass. While underway, Northland patrolled the Caribbean Sea in support of the 7th Coast Guard District and Operation Vigilant Sentry.

During the patrol, our crew assisted with the detection, interdiction, and repatriation of 549 migrants across several cases. In one case, **NORTHLAND** partnered with Coast Guard air and surface assets, to intercept an overloaded tug-boat style vessel bound for the United States.

NORTHLAND provided valuable information which led to the eventual interception of the vessel and the safe transfer of 312 migrants. In another case, **NORTHLAND** was one of the primary assets to respond to a report of multiple people in the water, just south of Key West, Florida.

"I am immensely proud of the **NORTHLAND** crew. Day in and day out they demonstrated that they are always ready to deliver exceptional service to the Nation. Their inspirational vigilance, professionalism, and actions saved hundreds of lives," stated CDR Andrew Dannelly, **NORTHLAND's** Commanding Officer.

Following our return to homeport, the crew received a much deserved ten days of post-patrol standdown. Immediately after our standdown, the crew wasted no time getting back to work in preparation for our next patrol this summer. Deck department began the vital hull restoration process, to ensure **NORTHLAND** can withstand the harsh conditions of the open ocean.

Engineering department is hard at work conducting maintenance to our main propulsion on and auxiliary systems. Operations department is busy

conducting maintenance on our navigation, communications, weaponry, and law enforcement systems. Last but certainly not least, Support department continues to put in long hours toward purchasing the necessary items and equipment to conduct next patrol, and keeping our crew fed, paid, and healthy.

As we close the chapter on this patrol, we would like to thank the Richmond Navy League for your continued support. Your sponsorship and generosity are greatly appreciated by the entire crew. Until next time, *fair winds and following seas!* 🚩

Very Respectfully,
 XO LCDR Elizabeth Tufts



NORTHLAND's small boat on scene to interdict an overload tugboat-style bound for the United States in the Windward Passage.



USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912)
CO: CDR Jeremy M. Greenwood
XO: LTCDR Brian A. Baffer
COB: OSC Jenna L. Coffey

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

Following a busy 2-month deployment to the Caribbean, CGC Legare rapidly got to work on maintenance to prepare for the next deployment. Legare's removed anchor chains and windlass for a thorough shore-side restoration. This was not a small task, and in addition to anchor repair, many other projects have been in the works. The entire Foc'sle has been renewed, hull plating has been refurbished, and labor intensive maintenance has been conducted on the propulsion engines and vital auxiliary systems.

Despite the cutter being focused on maintenance, Legare facilitated a luncheon with the Vice Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Poulin, and the Deputy Master Chief of the Coast Guard, MCPO Salls. This provided crew members the ability to ask questions directly to senior Coast Guard leadership.

This summer will see a significant transfer of personnel. Recently, three junior members departed for medical training, a junior member departed to receive training as a coxswain/boat driver, two junior members departed for aviation electronic training, a junior officer departed for flight school and two junior officers will soon be departing to become XO's of Fast Response Cutters. We are sad to see these high achieving crewmembers depart and continue on with their Coast Guard careers. We look forward to meeting their replacements. 🚩

Very Respectfully,
 XO LTCDR Brian A. Baffer



Photo of the repaired Anchor Windlass – a machine that restrains and manipulates the anchor chain on a boat allowing the anchor to be raised and lowered by means of a chain cable.

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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