

DEC 2023



RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY CENTER TOUR SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 24, 2024

Navy League Members, if you have never been to this outstanding museum. we urge you to sign up for what promises to be a memorable full-day's outing.

Come view thousands of aviation and space artifacts, including the Space Shuttle Discovery, a Concorde, a Blackbird SR-71, the Enola Gay in two large hangars, just to name a few of the many items on display.

Galleries dedicated to the story of aviation and space exploration, over 3,000 artifacts on display, expert preservation, and restoration on view, and so much more.

A museum store will appeal to many desiring to take away a reminder of their visit. A museum restaurant is also available.

We hope you will come join us as docent(s) educate us on a tour of this remarkable museum.



The aircraft, F-BVFA is the 1st Concorde Air France exhibited by a museum in the U.S. and is the oldest of five in the Air France Fleet of World's only supersonic passenger jetliner.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2024 (Payment must be received by deadline date and with reservation form) **Refund Policy (effective 2023): Cancellations will be accepted

& checks returned UP TO and including the deadline date**

4

UDVAR-HAZY TOUR, RESER	RVATONS – SAT 24 FEB 202
Name:	Tel
Name:	Tel
Email:	
Total # ofReservations @ \$50 Total # ofReservations @ \$65	
Make check payable (and mail) to:	Richmond Council NLUS P.O. Box 11201

N.L. Office (804) 355-7557 Richmond, VA 23230

Note: wheelchairs are available on a first come, first served basis

SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - Winn Transportation departs

NEW LOCATION Glenside Park & Ride 4069-4099 Crockett St. Richmond, VA 23228

10:30 AM - Arrive at Museum / Free Guided Tour / Lunch on your own / Food services Available at Museum

3:30 PM - Leave Museum

6:00 PM - ETA Richmond

COST: \$ 50.00 - N.L. Members & Family \$ 65.00 - Non-Members / Guests

Cost Includes: Snacks on bus and driver gratuity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



With Thanksgiving behind us and the upcoming holidays of Christmas and the New Year, let us remember the crews of our adopted ships: USS NORMANDY, USS CARTER HALL, USS GRAVELY, USCGC NORTHLAND, USCGC LE-GARE, as well as the Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA-213) Blacklions, as many remain in harm's way. We wish them all safe and successful missions.

Remember December 7as we are hosting the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day at the VA War Memorial with Guest Speaker CDR Dennis Bussey, USN (Ret), son of a Pearl Harbor survivor. CDR Busey will share some of his father's tales of that infamous day.

Also, be reminded of our upcoming Annual Business Meeting (January 17, 2024) and our upcoming Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center trip (February 24, 2024). We hope you will attend both events. Z

The Lucky Bag

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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.

HOPE OF PEACE FOR CHRISTMAS



On Christmas Eve 1914, in the dank, muddy trenches on the Western Front of the First World War, a remarkable thing happened. It came to be called the Christmas Truce. And it remains one of the most storied and strangest moments of the Great War-or any war in history. British machine gunner Bruce Bairnsfather like most of his fellow infantrymen was spending the holiday eve shivering in the muck of the trenches trying to keep warm. At about 10 p.m., Bairnsfather noticed a noise. "I listened." he recalled. "Away across the field, among the dark shadows beyond, I could hear the murmur of voices." He turned to a fellow soldier in his trench and said, "Do you hear the Germans kicking up that racket over there?" "Yes," came the reply. "They've been at it for some time!" The Germans were singing carols as if it was Christmas Eve. In the darkness, some of the British soldiers began to sing back. "Suddenly," Bairnsfather recalled, "we heard a confused shouting from the other side. We all stopped to listen. The shout came again." The voice was from an enemy soldier, speaking in English with a strong German accent. He was saying, "Come over here." One of the British sergeants answered: "You come halfway. I come halfway." What happened next would, in the years to come,

stun the world and make history. Enemy soldiers began to climb nervously out of their trenches and to meet in the barbedwire-filled "No Man's Land" that separated the armies. There were handshakes and words of kindness. The soldiers traded songs, tobacco, and wine, joining in a spontaneous holiday party on a cold night. Bairnsfather could not believe his eves. "Here they were-the actual soldiers of the German army, and there was not an atom of hate on either side."

There is neither Jew nor Gentile. neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:28-29.

Lord may this Christmas bring an end to war and hostility, and may we be able to say, there is not an atom of hate on either side! Amen 🕏

SAVE THE DATE

SPRING LUNCHEON

MARCH 20, 2024

Willow Oaks C.C.

Keynote Speaker:

Richmond Navy League Member,

CAPT JOHN PAUL JONES, USN (Ret)

Professor Emeritus University of Richmond An Intersection of USN Ops and Maritime Law

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 MEMBER

Maria Gallegos Ellen M. Nau

SPONSOR

John A. Harler, M.D. Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.

You are cordially invited to Council's Annual Business Meeting Luncheon Wednesday 17 January 2024 at Willow Oaks Country Club

Council President, Adam "Jay" Fiedler, M.D., extends an invitation to all Richmond Navy Leaguers & friends asking that they join us at our Annual Business Meeting **Luncheon** and hear the review of Council's activities during 2023. Arrive early and enjoy the complimentary fruit and cheese island.

Following the luncheon, Council's Annual Business Meeting will be conducted, and the 2024 Officers and Board Members will take their oath of office. Council members are asked to mail-in their proxy forms.



Guests gather around the wine & cheese island.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

DATE: Wednesday 17 January 2024

PLACE: Willow Oaks Country Club

6228 Forest Hill Ave R,VA 23225

TIME: 11:00 AM Social

12.00 PM Annual Meeting begins

COST: \$35.00 per person

Complimentary fruit and cheese island



Richmond Council's 2023 Board of Directors.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: WED	NESDAY 10 JANUARY 2024	(Payment must be received with reservation form)
Payment Policy: Checks cashed A	FTER the event. Cancellations a	ccepted & checks returned up to the deadline date
Make reservation(s) for: ANNUAL	. BUSINESS MEETING LUN	CHEON – WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 2024
Name:	Tel:	Email:
Name:	Tel:	Email:
Regular meal served <u>unless</u> specia	I meal is indicated: Circle 1 or	2 - Veggie Meal (NO meat) if preferred
Total # of Res. @ \$35.00	Enclosed: \$	Navy League Office #: (804) 355-7557
Make check payable (and mail to): R	ichmond Council NLUS P.O. Box	11201 Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: 804-355-7557



Photo: Courtesy of Pearl Harbor Warbirds

THEY SERVED - WE REMEMBER

82 years ago, Japan launched its surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, killing 2,403 Americans and wounding 1,178 others. The U.S. lost 18 surface warships, sunk or seriously damaged; 188 aircraft destroyed and 159 damaged.

The next day, 8 December 1941, President Franklin Roosevelt addressed a joint session of Congress, describing the attack on Pearl Harbor as, "A day which will live in infamy..."

The United States declared war on Japan. U.S. Battle related deaths: 290,000 (1941-1945)

Richmond Council Navy League of the U.S. will conduct its annual solemn observance. 🕏

Remember Pearl Harbor

The Richmond Council Navy League extends an invitation to all citizens of the Commonwealth of VA as our Nation's colors are presented by Varina High School NJROTC

The observance will include a Wreath Laying Ceremony and the tolling of the bell at the recitation of each name of those Virginians who gave their lives at Pearl Harbor 7 December 1941.

PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2023 11:00 AM AT THE VA WAR MEMORIAL 621 S. BELVIDERE STREET RICHMOND, VA 23220 **GUEST SPEAKER: CDR DENNIS BUSSEY, USN (Ret)**



MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND UPDATES



MSC COMMANDER RETIRES NEW COMMANDER SWORN IN

Rear Admiral Michael Wettlaufer turned over the helm as Commander of Military Sealift Command to Rear Admiral Philip E. Sobeck, during a change of command and retirement ceremony, aboard aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) at Naval Station Norfolk, September 8, 2023. (Photo by: Ryan Carter/Norfolk, VA; extracted from USN Military Sealift Command by Hendrick Dickson 9/09/23).



USNS ROBERT F. KENNEDY CHRISTENED AND LAUNCHED AS MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND'S NEWEST SHIP

Military Sealift Command christened and launched its newest ship, USNS Robert F Kennedy (T-AO 208) at the General Dynamics WASCO shipyard in San Diego, California on November 2, 2023. The ceremony was attended by numerous dignitaries.

The ship honors Robert F. Kennedy, an American lawyer and politician who served as the 64th United States Attorney General from January 1961 to September 1964. Following his tenure as Attorney General, he served as a U.S. Senator from New York.

"Like the other great American Leaders honored by the ships of this class, Robert F. Kennedy contributed much to the freedoms we enjoy today", said Steven Cade, Executive Director MSC. "A champion of equality who sought to eliminate disparity and close opportunity gaps that plagued our nation during his lifetime. We are very proud to be associated with and eagerly look forward to sailing a ship in his name."

The USNS Kennedy is 746 feet long; has the ability to carry 162,000 barrels of diesel ship fuel, aviation fuel and dry stores cargo.

The Kennedy is a Lewi-Class Oiler. The Lewis-Oilers, will eventually replace the current Kaiser-Class Fleet Oilers as they are aged out of the MSC fleet. (story partially extracted from *The Flag-ship*; 11-2-11/8 edition; General Dynamics NASSCO photo).

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 is operating in the East Mediterranean Sea as a part of Carrier Strike Group TWELVE with USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN-78), USS RAMAGE (DDG-61), USS BULKELEY (DDG-84), USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG-117) and NATO allies from Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom. NORMANDY's mission continues to be to promote stability and regional security through its presence.

The **GERALD R. FORD** Carrier Strike Group executed five Air Defense Exercises with NATO partners, to maintain and improve interoperability between our Navies. As daily operations continue, Sailors operate in a heightened state of readiness, while using frequent Morale, Welfare, and Recreation events onboard to decompress, when time allows. Sailors were able to conclude October with numerous themed events, including a costume contest, karaoke, and movies.

NORMANDY conducted dual carrier operations with the DWIGHT D. EI-

SENHOWER Carrier Strike Group (IKSCSG) while enroute Commander. U.S. FIFTH Fleet. IKECSG is comprised of the USS DWIGHT D. EISEN-HOWER (CVN-69), USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG-58), USS MASON (DDG-87), and USS GRAVELY (DDG-107). Numerous sailors, including LTJG Armstrong, ISC Bender, FC2 Eddowes, and GSM3 Ray, have been awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, for their efforts thus far on deployment with CWO4 Agbasi, earning the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal. With their continued efforts, NORMANDY continues to professionally and smartly execute the Nation's business.

Very Respectfully, LTJG John E. Barber, CICO/AOPS



The world's largest aircraft carrier, USS GERALD R. FORD (CVN-78), steams in formation with the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN-69), the Ticonderoga-class guided missile cruisers USS NORMANDY (CG-60) and USS PHILIPPINE SEA (CG-58), the Blue Ridge-class amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney (LCC/JCC 20), the Italian navy Carlo Bergamini-class frigates ITS Virginio Fasan (F 591) and ITS Carlo Margottini (F 592), and the Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers USS PAUL IGNATIUS (DDG-117), USS GRAVELY (DDG-107), and USS MASON (DDG-87) during a photo exercise, Nov. 3, 2023. NORMANDY is part of the GERALD R. FORD CARRIER STRIKE GROUP and is currently operating in the East Mediterranean Sea, at the direction of the Secretary of Defense. The U.S. maintains forward-deployed, ready, and postured forces to deter aggression and support security and stability around the world. The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS DWIGHT D EIENHOWER (CVN-69) steams in formation during a photo exercise, Nov. 3, 2023. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Malachi Lakey).



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez

XO: CDR Greg Piorun

CMC: CMDCM Timothy Bickerton

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

On deployment with the USS EISEN-HOWER CARRIER STRIKE GROUP.



GRAVELY conducted a replenishment at sea with the dry-cargo ship **USNS AMELIA EARHART (T-AKE 6)**! Team **GRAVELY** did a fantastic job during this special evolution and executed with precision and professionalism. Stay tuned to see what other exciting evolutions your **GRAVELY** Sailors will perform at sea!



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Andrew Dennelly
XO: LCDR Patricia Green

Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

COB: GMC Matthew Winters

Since our last newsletter, we've sailed through the Straits of Florida and the Caribbean Sea, completed an evening transit of the Panama Canal, visited a Central American coastal town, and dipped past the equator to check out life in the southern hemisphere.

Throughout our journey, we've been able to communicate through enhanced technology, written emails, shared stories, sent pictures, and even called home while at sea.

As Thanksgiving approaches, it invites a time of reflection and gratitude. We are thankful for:

- ➤ Our Families and Friends: For your unwavering support, sacrifice, and love. You are the unsung heroes of our deployment.
- ➤ Our Health and Safety: We are grateful for our crew's continued health and

safety as we carry out our mission.

- ➤ Our Cohesive Crew: The camaraderie and mutual support among our crewmembers make us a united team and an unbeatable sea-going force.
- ➤ The Small Joys: Whether it's a stunning sunset, a morale expedition into the jungle with our shipmates, earning a new qualification, or completing a successful mission, we cherish the moments associated with our life of service.

As we continue our deployment, our thoughts often turn to the upcoming holiday season. We plan to celebrate Thanksgiving on board, with as much warmth and festivity as possible, holding our loved ones in our hearts. While we might not have grandma's secret stuffing recipe, we're planning a Thanksgiving dinner to give it a run for its money. We'll certainly raise a glass of Northland's finest celebratory fruit juice to you all!

In this month of gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks to the support of the Navy League. The crews' spirits have been lifted daily by your generous contributions and donations. The crew especially loves the Deployment Dollars. Thank you for contributing to Northland's well-being.

Very Respectfully, ENS Ammarie R. Wallet, PAO



NORTHLAND crew working together.





USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912)
CO: CDR Jeremy M. Greenwood
XO: LCDR Ryan Kowalske
COB: BMC Cody Johnson

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

Continued on page 8

USCGC LEGARE cont. from page 7

This edition comes to you from the Gulf Coast, where **LEGARE** is onscene to support Coast Guard response efforts in a potential major oil spill from a ruptured pipeline near the mouth of the Mississippi River. This is a very new and unexpected mission for us, but I could not be more proud of the crew's response!

I realize that this impacts our ability to get home in time for Thanksgiving. I also know that this is disappointing for most of the crew and the families. We are working to get **LEGARE** home on our originally scheduled date of November 25th. I will keep everyone updated through the Ombudsman and appreciate your understanding. I know Service isn't easy and that you sacrifice a lot to make our mission possible—THANK YOU!

Wishing you a very Happy Thanks-giving from the crew of **LEGARE**.

(Note: **LEGARE** back in port on November 24).

LEGARE CREW ACTIVITIES









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

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings Richmond Navy League!

CARTER HALL continues its deployment and currently is operating in the U.S. 5th Fleet. The crew has had long underways in this deployment but continues to accomplish great things.

We began the busy month of October with a Surface Warfare Officer pinning ceremony for:

- LTJG Jaxon Harris on October 26. Congratulations Sir!
- Ensign Tanner Gage received his Surface Warfare Officer pin on November
 Felicitations, Sir!

USS CARTER HALL held a frocking/award ceremony on November 22, that saw 43 Sailors advance in rank and eight others receive Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and ten others receive their Enlisted Surface Warfare Service pin. Congrats, team!

- Damage Controlman 3rd Class Devan Rapp was recognized as Blue Jacket of the Quarter for 4th Quarter 2023!
- Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Joshua Hudson was highlighted as Junior Sailor of the Quarter for 4th Quarter 2023!
- Personnel Specialist 1st Class Jake Angleton was named Sailor of the Quarter for 4th Quarter 2023!

The Culinary Specialists onboard USS CARTER HALL worked tirelessly to provide the crew with an amazing Thanksgiving dinner! Thanks to you, team!

As always, we thank you for your support as we continue to uphold our motto, "working for Peace, Ready for War."

Very Respectfully, MC2 Moises Sandoval, PA



CARTER HALL conducted landing craft, air cushion (LCAC) operations on November 19.

- 2024 DUES INVOICE -

THIS INVOICE IS FOR RICHMOND COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE DUES AND VOLUNTARY DONATIONS

<u>NATIONAL DUES ARE BILLED SEPARATELY</u>. SEE DUES EXPLANATION ENCLOSED.

Annual Dues: Richmond Council Navy League: January 2024 - - - \$40.00

Please mail your remittance before 13 January 2024

Additionally, voluntary contributions from Navy League members play a vital role in the support of Council's youth programs (Sea Cadets, JROTC), the Deployment Dollars Program, the Care Package Program in addition to providing funds for Navy Family Support groups and the Morale, Welfare & Recreational Fund aboard Council's adopted ships.

General Purpose:		\$
Sea Cadet		\$
JROTC Youth Program		\$
*Anchor Club: USS AN		\$
YOUR DONATION OF \$ PROVIDE FUNDS FOR		
DEPLOYED MEMBERS		
SUPPORT FOR OUR F		
AND FOR SUPPORT O		
U.S. NAVAL SEA CADE	WARDS PROGRAM; THE ETS & JROTC UNITS.	
	tribution	\$
*Members making a "voluntary cor	ntribution" of \$100.00 or mor	e will be
designated members of the USS		
listed in The Lucky Bag throughou		
NOTE: "Voluntary contributions" are c	onsidered in excess of Council's	s dues of \$40.00
		SUMMARY
	Council Dues 2024	\$ 40.00
	Voluntary Contribution	\$
	Amount Enclosed	\$
THANK YOU for mailing y	our remittance before	e 13 January 2024
Your cancelled check is your receipt.		
Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) IRS Code EIN 5	4-1162696	
Please make check payable & mail to:	Richmond Council NLUS F Richmond, VA 23230-1201	
se fill out your contact in roll	nformation to assist s up to date:	us in keeping ou
Member's Name (Please print):		
Email:	Phone:	

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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PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



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Joe Kelleher, President



Thank You Sponsors!



Wishing all of you many blessings during the upcoming Holiday Season and throughout the New Year.



RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE U.S. P.O. BOX 11201 RICHMOND, VA 23230 OFFICE: (804) 355-7557 FAX: (804) 355-8788 EMAIL: navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net WEB SITE: www.navyleague-richmond.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/ NavyLeagueRVA



Thanks for jumping on board!!!

2023 ANCHOR CLUB MISSION:

YOUR DONATION OF \$100 (OR MORE) PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SEA SERVICES AND THEIR RELATED YOUTH PROGRAMS.

2023 USS ANCHOR CLUB

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* Denotes Corporate Matching Funds

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IN MEMORIUM

The following names are listed as a result of donations made in memory on their behalf.

CAPT C. Denis Gilchrist, USN George Kalanges, USN Alan C. Palmer, UK, Royal Navy Jacqueline E. Willey Steve Zembroski, USN

