



JAN-FEB 2022

# The Lucky Bag

**RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**



USS GRAVELLY (DDG-107) arrived in Aksaz, Turkey

## **THEY SERVE – WE SUPPORT**

### **USS HARRY TRUMAN Carrier Strike Group stays in Mediterranean amid Ukraine, Russia fears**

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered a Navy aircraft carrier strike group to stay in the Mediterranean Sea region rather than move on to the Middle East, amid worries about the buildup of thousands of Russian troops near the Ukraine border.

A defense official stated that the change in the schedule of the **HARRY S. TRUMAN** aircraft carrier strike group reflects the need for a persistent presence in Europe. It is necessary in order to reassure U.S. allies and partners in the region. The **TRUMAN** left its homeport of Norfolk, Virginia, on Dec. 1, and entered the Mediterranean Sea on Dec. 14.

The **TRUMAN** Strike Group includes five other U.S. ships; the cruiser **SAN JACINTO** and the guided missile destroyers **COLE**, **BAINBRIDGE**, **GRAVELLY** and **JASON DUNHAM**. Also with them is the Royal Norwegian Navy frigate **NANSEN**.

**USS GRAVELLY** is one the of Council's adopted ships. She is commanded by Commander Corey Odum supported by Executive Officer Commander Hunter D. Washburn, Command Master Chief Dion C. Dupree and a crew of about 320 sailors.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



Ahoy!

As you read this, my term as President will be over. It has not been easy with the pandemic and now the resurgence. However, there are many plans in the works: Council's Annual Meeting, Parade of Sail, Spring and Summer Luncheons, bus trips to the National Air and Space Museum, Fort Lee, and a fund-raising raffle. All are contingent on the viral status, and we can only hope and continue to plan assuming the best. Bill Butler (our Treasurer) informs us that in spite of the viral chaos, we are doing well financially. The golf outing did better than expected due, many thanks to our sponsors! Please support them. Thanks to all who helped me during my time in office. 🍷

### The Lucky Bag Vol 65 Issues 1 & 2

Published by the Richmond, Virginia Council Navy League of the U.S. Mailing address: P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, VA 23230.

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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.

I decided to start the new year in honor of my predecessor, Council Chaplain Lewis Brandt who wrote this message in January 2020, and it is eternally meaningful. Thank you, Lewis!

The first Psalm opens with a beautiful thought for the beginning of a new year. It tells us that when we set our steps with the Lord, we shall be like a tree planted by the waters. A tree's beauty inspires us; its strength awes us; its age startles us; its design quickens us. A tree creates the oxygen that gives us life. Its branches provide safety for the nesting birds. Its shelter provides a barrier against the wind. Its body gives us newspapers, baseball bats, beds, chairs to give us rest, and tables at which to sit and consume the fruit of its branches. It is said that much of the crime today has its roots in young men who never had a father to guide them. It's a wonderful thing for a father to build his children a tree house in which to play. However, the greater blessing is for a father to be a tree in the house that gives his children the image of love. 🍷

### RICHMOND COUNCIL NLUUS 2022 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

At Council's Annual Meeting held January 26, 2022, the following slate of officers were installed:

- President:** Patrick D. Harris
- Sr. Vice President:** Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.
- Vice Presidents:** Vaughan F. Dize  
Adam "Jay" Fiedler, M.D.  
John A. Harler, M.D.  
William W. McCathern, Jr.  
R. Milton Owen  
Carol K. Zembroski

- Treasurer:** Billy L. Butler
- Asst. Treasurer:** William W. McCathern, Jr.
- Secretary:** Carol K. Zembroski
- Asst. Secretary:** Vaughan Dize
- Judge Advocate:** Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.

- Directors:** M. Robin Beres  
Billy L. Butler  
Vaughan F. Dize  
George L. Feitig, Jr.  
Adam J. Fiedler, M.D.  
Edward S. Gibbons  
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Lee P. Rice  
Gary K. Riffle, Sr.  
B. Patterson Robson, Jr.  
Laura Walker  
Carol K. Zembroski



**Alan C. Palmer**

June 7, 1933 - December 6, 2021

## 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

CAPT James Kaczorowski, USN (Ret)

### SPONSOR

John A. Harler, M.D.

# Spring Luncheon with the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) Wednesday March 23, 2022

You are invited to attend Richmond Council's Spring Luncheon to be held at the Willow Oaks Country Club on March 23, 2022. We are excited that our Guest Speaker will be Captain Edward Nanartowich.

Captain Edward Nanartowich is a graduate of SUNY Maritime College (BS), and LaSalle University (MBA). He has been involved with the United States Merchant Marines for 50 years, starting in 1971 as a cadet and finishing a 34-year seagoing career with Military Sealift Command (MSC) in 2009. While serving the interests of the USN as a ship's Master, CAPT Nanartowich held twenty-four at-sea commands that included a wide range of ship types to include Tankers, Cargo Ships, Towing Vessels, Special Mission, Cable Layer ship and Hospital Ship.

CAPT Nanartowich held several shoreside positions in the MSC organization to include Fleet Personnel Readiness Officer, the UK's Royal Fleet Auxiliary Exchange Officer, the MSC Port Captain, and Special Assistant to the Admiral on Mariner Affairs.

Since 2009, he has been working for the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy and is currently serving as President of that significant maritime training facility in Norfolk Virginia. The school is involved with training Merchant Mariners in Deck



**GUEST SPEAKER**

**CAPTAIN EDWARD NANARTOWICH,  
USNR (RET)  
MID-ATLANTIC MARITIME  
ACADEMY (MAMA)  
PRESIDENT**

(See page 5 for more information on  
the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy)

and Engineering disciplines and is starting a program in offshore wind technical training, basic safety training and is a leading school of its type in the nation.

Nanartowich retired in 2005 as Captain, USNR after 30 years of service as a Navy reservist. *✍*



**SPRING LUNCHEON SCHEDULE**

**DATE:** Wednesday 23 March 2022  
**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: To be received by FRIDAY MARCH 18, 2022 (Payment must be received with Res. Form)**

**Refund Policy: Checks cashed AFTER the event. Cancellations accepted & checks returned up to the deadline date**

**RESERVATIONS FOR SPRING LUNCHEON – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular meal served unless special meal is indicated: 1 or 2 – Pescatarian (Fish) 1 or 2 – Veggie (NO Meat)**

**NOTE: ALL MEALS SERVED ARE GLUTEN FREE**

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

**Only vaccinated individuals are encouraged to attend this luncheon - Bring a mask as required by the venue**

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



**ALAN CYRIL PALMER  
RICHMOND COUNCIL NLU  
MEMBER 2000 – 2021**

Alan Palmer, a long-time member of the Richmond Navy League Council, passed away on December 6, 2021. Alan was born in Bexleyheath, Kent, England in 1933. During WWII, his family lived too close to the barrage balloons that protected London and Alan was shipped off to the countryside to be safe. After the war, Alan attended a special Technical College in London where he excelled in engineering topics. He received an apprenticeship with Molins Machine Company, which led to full-time employment where he was able to work with his father. He also joined the Royal Navy for a two-year stint. He achieved the rank of Petty Officer and developed a love for the sea services. Alan worked his way up the ranks with Molins and in 1972 was transferred, with his family, to manage its U. S. division in Richmond, VA. His son Neil says their new house became his father's castle, where he renovated, repaired, or updated most everything with his own hands. According to Neil, his father had a set of rules that he lived by. Some of those rules were:

- Measure twice, then make sure the measuring tool is calibrated correctly, then measure again, then cut.
- Always use a straight edge to mark lines.
- Use oil-based paint on the trim and latex paint on the walls. Never leave a paintbrush unclean.
- Never repaint wood trim unless all the original paint is stripped off and the

bare wood is sanded.

- Never open a present by ripping the wrapping paper.

Alan joined the Richmond Navy League in 2000. He was a very faithful member and Vice President for over 20 years. In 2008, he became chairman of our annual golf outing fundraiser. He also served as Liaison with our adopted ship **USS GRAVELY**. In 2012, his wife of 54 years passed away, and Alan became even more involved with the Navy League. Hearing the family's stories about Alan's work ethic and his loyalty and integrity in life, helped us understand better the excellence with which he attended to every duty for the Richmond Council Navy League. We now realize and appreciate even more what a wonderfully loyal friend and patriot with whom we served our nation's sea services. Alan will be sorely missed! ✍

### **VFA 213 BLACKLIONS HOLIDAY PARTY**



**Blacklions Officers and two Council Directors**

NAS Oceana Strike Fighter Squadron 213, the Blacklions, is a supported unit of Richmond Council Navy League. Council contributed to Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) funds designated for their Holiday Party on 3 Dec. At the head table were commanding officer CDR Bryan Pinckney, executive officer CDR Christopher Keen, their wives, and Master Chief Petty Officer Tim Newell. Representing Council were Harvey Lankford and John Harler. After dinner, CDR Pinckney made brief announcements, presented awards and gave out door prizes. The tunes of "Sweet Caroline" (with audience par-

ticipation) lifted the mood and the dance floor was opened. A good time was had by all. ✍

### **U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET BECOMING AN ASTRONAUT**



A former Sea Cadet has been chosen by NASA to become an astronaut! Navy Lt. Cmdr. Jessica Wittner was a Cadet Chief Petty Officer (our highest rank) in the Fresno Sea Cadet Battalion. She enlisted in the Navy and was commissioned through the Seaman to Admiral program. This future astronaut is a naval aviator who flew the F/A-18 Super Hornet. Lt. Cmdr. Wittner sets an amazing example for all of our young men and women who aspire to greatness and who reach for the stars. Congratulations Lt. Cmdr. Wittner! ✍

### **APPLY NOW FOR NAVY LEAGUE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS**

National headquarters is now accepting Navy League Foundation scholarship applications! These scholarships are available to children and grandchildren of veterans or active-duty sea service men and women, as well as members of the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps. If you know soon to be college-bound students from sea service backgrounds, please let them know about this scholarship opportunity that is exclusive to them. If you have any questions regarding scholarships, please contact us at: [scholarships@navyleague.org](mailto:scholarships@navyleague.org). ✍



## MID-ATLANTIC MARITIME ACADEMY (MAMA)

The Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) is a highly respected, state-of-the-art vocational training center established for individuals who seek to enter the exciting maritime profession, as well as mariners seeking to advance their careers. MAMA offers 90+ USCG approved [deck courses](#) and engineering courses along with tailored courses. We are dedicated to providing outstanding training to civilian and military mariners from around the globe. Our expert staff of highly regarded, seasoned instructors provide a combination of unequalled teaching techniques with cutting-edge technology such as “hands-on” equipment systems maintenance and interactive simulations.

The mission of the Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA) is to provide unparalleled expertise and instruction to students pursuing a career in the maritime industry. We offer practical programs and customized courses that:

- Prepare our students with the skills and knowledge for success in today's maritime industry
- Facilitate entry & advancement in the merchant marine at support, operational & management levels
- Meet or exceed the regulatory & industry demand for training with customized courses and related services
- Provide training for standard & advanced operations and watch-keeping
- Prepare for Coast Guard licensing exams
- Include continuing education programs

Mid-Atlantic Maritime Academy (MAMA)  
Edward Nanartowich, President  
5301 Robin Hood Road  
Norfolk, VA 23513 (757) 656-6147

[INFO@MAMATRAINS.COM](mailto:INFO@MAMATRAINS.COM)



The bridge or “pilot house” simulator can confront trainees with any weather or navigational scenario imaginable and judge their reaction there too.

## MEET COUNCIL'S TWO NEW DIRECTORS INSTALLED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2022



**Laura Walker**

Laura is a Virginia registered paralegal with Herndon Law specializing in veteran's benefits. She is a graduate of Liberty University with a degree in paralegal studies and Pre-law and she is also a graduate of the Bon Secours School of Nursing. Laura has experienced first-hand the pride and sacrifice of our armed services as the spouse of a retired Air Force Master Sgt.

For fun, Laura and her family enjoy bike rides, swimming and sitting back to watch a good movie. While not cheering on their kids at recitals or sporting events, Laura and her husband enjoy visiting distilleries, or a fun evening out with friends.



**Melissa Hill**

Melissa is a Virginia Registered Paralegal and the Office Manager for Herndon Law, an elder law firm in Innsbrook. She is a graduate of U of R with a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies. Melissa helps families prepare for the aging process with proper estate planning, by determining how to pay for nursing care if necessary and working with Laura to ensure that Veterans receive benefit that may assist with payment of nursing care.

For fun, Melissa and her husband love to visit wineries and distilleries, search for treasures at estate sales, spend time with family and cheer on the VCU Rams & Richmond Spiders.

## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



### USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Charles Hampton  
XO: CDR Kevin C. Antonucci  
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison  
George L. Feitig, Jr., Ass't Liaison

USS NORMANDY and her crew hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season! She successfully completed a shakedown underway making a huge impact with her 5-inch Gun Shoot and Full Power Runs. The underway allowed the crew to get back into the underway rhythm and accomplish key milestones bringing the ship up to her fighting standard. Supply Department demonstrated intense grit and pushed through their final Supply Basic Phase Inspection. We had an amazing frocking ceremony and celebrated with crew and family the promotion of hard-charging sailors! Having returned from their holiday stand down, USS NORMANDY is prepping for executing our Tactical Basic Phase events and underway! Full Victory, Nothing Else! ✍

Very Respectfully,  
LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, PAO



### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson  
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher  
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

The Holidays are in full swing, and so are maintenance efforts across the FIGHTIN' 5-0. CARTER HALL's CMAV (Consolidated Maintenance Availability) period continues to press forward, working to correct known deficiencies, encountering new maintenance requirements, and preparing us to get back out on the water in the best shape possible. As the maintenance efforts are carried

on, the whole of the crew plays their part for regular damage control drills as we work towards certifications and validations. Being able to enjoy this holiday season is a real privilege, one which many can discount or dismiss. Without the necessary training and regular drilling of the crew, simple mistakes can become big problems, fast. I'm thankful that the CARTER HALL, especially during this protracted port period keeps their eyes on the mandate to be WORKING FOR PEACE. May the rest of this year, and the year to come, find us sound in body and mind, and willing to turn wholeheartedly to the work at hand.

Having now been back from deployment for two months and having transitioned back to an in-port schedule, the necessity of those vital lifelines which supported us during the deployment "appear" less vital than they are. While this time of year is joyous for many, not all are able to fully engage with family and friends. Whether the obstacles be duty requirements, a loss of a loved one, an inability to travel, or something else, in those times (as frustrating as they are) help can come in the most unlikely of ways. For the: cups of coffee (which have allowed for deep and meaningful conversations); for the Deployment Dollars (which boosted morale and rewarded hard work); for your efforts in supporting others on the waterfront, and so much more: thank you! The Richmond Navy League continues to make lasting impacts on, and investments in, the men and women of our sea services. May the rest of your 2021 be blessed and rewarding!

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War! ✍

### Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

A New Year has arrived and with it, many new opportunities! CARTER HALL has steadily moved forward through the holidays, executing maintenance efforts while ensuring the crews ability to observe as much precious time with friends and loved ones as possible. In times like these, the "sameness" of our days can allow for a lull to set in if we do not actively working against it. In view of that, I'm reminded of the first of Captain's four Guiding Principles - **Know Your Purpose**. While superficial knowledge might correctly answer a question on a test, such knowledge is insufficient when the heat is on. Knowing the *what* without considering the *why* behind it, makes for men and women who lack depth, determination, and devotion. Possessing such tenacity is essential when facing

trying times or moral dilemmas. As we (of the CARTER HALL) **Know** [our] **Purpose**, we are called to look beyond ourselves, to consider how our activity contributes to the success (or failure) of the team. Truly, this intended knowledge prepares us for living!

As we know (and live out) our purpose, many have benefitted. In like manner, the Richmond Navy League walked faithfully in its mission "to enhance the morale of active-duty personnel and their families..." doing so since 1902. A willing-heart and a focused-mind, with these two assets the men and women of the CARTER HALL and the Richmond Navy League continue to serve our nation. May each of us, ever be found ready for the tasks that lie ahead, whatever they may be!

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

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

Refer to front page.



### USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett  
XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts  
COB: MKC Alan Kinney

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

Greetings from USCGC NORTHLAND!

The month of November was extremely busy for NORTHLAND. As our departure date neared, NORTHLAND's crew worked tirelessly to ensure that the cutter was ready to get underway for our shakedown cruise in the middle of November and finally depart for our current patrol at the end of the month. While the ship's work never seems to be done, NORTHLAND's crew did make sure to

USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 7

take some time off during the Thanksgiving Holiday to spend time with family and loved ones prior to getting underway the following Monday, November 29, 2021.

While shakedown cruises are usually reserved for shaking off the rust, identifying needed maintenance areas, and training new personnel, **NORTHLAND's** shakedown cruise consisted of much more exciting endeavors. As the ship prepared to begin transiting back into Chesapeake Bay and head for homeport following a successful 36 hours of training underway, **NORTHLAND** received a report that a tug towing a barge was taking on water approximately 50 nautical miles north of the cutter's position. Without hesitation, we turned towards the vessel in distress and the ship's crew sprang into action developing plans to deliver rescue and assistance services to the tug.

As the cutter arrived on scene, numerous Coast Guard assets had already begun providing assistance to the tug. These assets included an MH-60 Jayhawk Helicopter from USCG Air Station Elizabeth City, NC, a 47' WLB Motor Life Boat (MLB) from USCG Small Boat Station Chincoteague, VA, and a 45' Response Boat Medium (RBM) from USCG Small Boat Station Wachapreague, VA. **NORTHLAND's** rescue and assistance "A" Team was transferred from the cutter to the tug via the 45' RBM, along with several portable dewatering pumps. With the combined team effort from all of the Coast Guard assets on scene, the flooding aboard the tug was controlled until they were safely escorted into port. The dedication of **NORTHLAND's** crewmembers, as well as all Coast Guard members from other stations involved, resulted in seven lives saved and prevented thousands of gallons of oily waste from polluting the environment. Search and rescue cases are never on the XO's Plan of the Day, but it is always amazing to see how quickly the crew comes together to save lives.

As we enter the month of December, our crew is looking forward to continuing to provide for the safety of mariners at sea, enforcing U.S. laws, and sustaining a presence in the Coast Guard's 7<sup>th</sup> District operational area. While the crew is saddened to not be home with family and loved ones over the Holiday Season, we are looking forward to getting to spend those special days with our fellow crewmembers and all of the Holiday Morale Events that the ship has planned.

As always, thank you for the support!

Fair Winds and Following Seas! ✍

### Greetings from USCGC NORTHLAND!

Throughout the month of December, **NORTHLAND** was underway patrolling the Eastern Caribbean near the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola. During this patrol, our primary focus is counterdrug and alien migrant interdiction operations in support of Coast Guard District 7 (in Miami, FL) and Coast Guard Sector San Juan, Puerto Rico. **NORTHLAND's** crew stayed extremely busy both enforcing U.S. and International laws, and preventing and deterring unsafe maritime migration in the region. **NORTHLAND** also worked closely with our partner U.S. military services and international allies, training, operating, and collaborating in support of Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security strategic objectives.



USCGC NORTHLAND conducting helicopter evolutions with an MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter.

En route to our operating area, **NORTHLAND** had the privilege of conducting training with multiple other Coast Guard assets. While off the coast of Florida, **NORTHLAND** coordinated surface use of force (SUF) and non-compliant vessel pursuit training with the **USCGC WILLIAM FLORES (WPC-1103)**, a 154' Sentinel-class fast response cutter. Both **NORTHLAND** and **WILLIAM FLORES** carry out Coast Guard missions in the interest of stopping illicit activity in U.S. waters and upon the high seas, and in order to accomplish these missions, law enforcement teams must maintain proficiency in high-speed maneuvering and SUF tactics. In most cases, these trainings are carried out "in-house", but working with the **WILLIAM FLORES** provided an exceptional opportunity for **NORTHLAND** to expand our usual training environment. A few hours after finishing our

training with **WILLIAM FLORES, NORTHLAND** conducted flight operations with an MH-65 Dolphin Helicopter for Coast Guard Air Station Miami, FL. Coast Guard helicopter crews are required to maintain currency in shipboard landings, however helicopter-capable Coast Guard ships are not always readily available due to high mission demands. We were happy to help the air station crew achieve vital training and maintain our own aviation certifications at the same time!

Towards the end of December, **NORTHLAND** also conducted towing training with the U.S. Navy as part of the Navy's pre-deployment training to the U.S. Southern Command Area of Responsibility. The Coast Guard and the Navy have a storied history of cooperation, and we were honored to continue that cooperation.

Thanks to the generosity of many, including the Navy League, **NORTHLAND** was able to enjoy a joyous holiday season underway. Many sweets were eaten and holiday games played. Holiday morale activities included ornament decorating, gingerbread house making, holiday sweater contests, and to top it all off, a superb Christmas dinner made by our very own Culinary Specialists!

As we continue our deployment, **NORTHLAND's** crew is thankful for all the support that we receive from our friends and family back home. While being underway for the Holidays is never easy, we felt very grateful to be able to celebrate together as a crew and look forward to belated celebrations upon our return. As always, thank you for the support! Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Very Respectfully,  
MKC Alan Kinney, USN, COB



**TOYS FOR TOTS - - - The AMERICA Division Sea Cadets, their officers and instructors were “ALL HANDS” in their assistance to the local Marine Detachment during their recent “Toys for Tots” Christmas Program.**

## ALL IN THE NAVY FAMILY

In the west end of Richmond is a house full of Navy memories occupied by two old goats. Peggy Feldmann is the current Captain of the house, along with her husband, Andy Brower and children, Addie and Cory. The previous owners were Andy’s parents, Captain and Mrs. Charley Brower, USN, where they raised Andy, his six brothers and one sister.

Mary Daly and Charley Brower met in Hawaii during World War II and married on December 6, 1945. They married on a Friday because they could not imagine marrying on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Mary was a Supply Officer, and in the first wave of WAVES to be stationed overseas. Charley was a seaplane (PBY/PBM) squadron commander who had been in the first squadron of military planes to cross the international date line in 1939. Mary was required to leave the Navy once they were married. However, she did not get out until April 1946, as a Lieutenant, after her Commanding Officer asked that she stay until she had converted the supply department from the wartime barter system back to a fiscal management system. Charley was squadron commander for PBM Squadron 18 (VP-18) during the WWII Saipan and Okinawa campaigns; Operations Officer in CV 37, USS Princeton, off of Korea; and

Commanding Officer of LPH 5, USS Princeton. All eight children were born in different cities at different commands. After 31 years, they retired to Richmond in 1968 where Charley worked for the Catholic Diocese of Richmond and Mary taught at Mary Mount High School. Both were extraordinary volunteers in numerous Richmond organizations.

Peggy and Andy met at the United States Naval Academy in 1976 when Peggy joined the Class of 1980, the first coed class at USNA. She was an All-American swimmer, recruited from San Antonio, Texas. She was the captain of the women’s swimming team all four years – not hard the first year when you are the only woman swimmer! Peggy was the first woman at USNA to earn a “N” for excellence in a sport. Her senior year, she won the Outstanding Female Athlete Sword and was Company Commander of 12<sup>th</sup> company. On Ensign Feldmann’s first assignment, she was introduced to research and development of undersea surveillance systems. For 15 years, this interesting work allowed her to become a hard hat diver (Navy deep sea diver) and took her around the world. In 1995, she reported to the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) where she became involved

in distributed computing and simulation training. As an Engineering Duty Officer, she was the program manager of the Navy’s Personnel and Pay System and Commanding Officer of an Information Technology command in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In the meantime, Andy had served his time in the surface community and gotten out of the Navy. While Peggy was at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA, Andy received his international MBA at what is now the Middlebury Institute of International Studies and subsequently became a certified accountant. As he and Peggy moved around, Andy took accounting positions in Monterey, San Diego and Washington, DC, and started substitute teaching in New Orleans.

Admiral Brower “Addie” and Commodore Riley Brower “Cory” were born in 1996 and 2000 at Bethesda Naval Hospital. The family moved from New Orleans to Richmond in 2004, three doors down from Mary and Charley. How many military children get the chance to say they live on the same block as their grandparents? Andy became an elementary school teacher and still teaches in Richmond. Peggy retired from the Navy in 2007, worked for the Commonwealth, took time off to care for Mary, and is now a program manager in a small software firm.

Addie is very proud to be a third generation female Naval Officer in CG 59. She is a 2019 USNA graduate and is currently the Main Propulsion Officer in CG 59, USS Princeton. She was extremely excited to follow her grandfather’s legacy ship namesake. Cory, currently attending the College of William and Mary, was recently appointed to the USNA Class of 2025.

When Mary died in 2016, Andy and Peggy bought the house from his siblings and remodeled. Inside are many Navy relics – old wooden cruise boxes made into end tables. Charley’s 1937 Aviation Wings Certificate signed by Captain “Bull” Halsey, and WWII silk American flags with writings in Chinese asking to “keep the pilot safe”. Peggy and Andy’s memorabilia can also be found around the house. Driving down Monument Avenue, you may not notice but there is a home that breathes Navy Blue and Gold. ✍️

(author, Peggy Feldmann; article submitted by Council Director, Don Pate)



# 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.



**US  
MC**

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