

**DECEMBER 2020** 



#### RICHMOND COUNCIL. NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



Forty-three sailors from Virginia perished during the Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. As each sailor was named from the podium, their name promoted a salute from the first sailor and the strike of the bell from the second sailor. The bell was from USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) and is in the custodial care of Richmond Council.

# THEY SERVED – WE REMEMBER

On a bright Sunday morning of December 7, 1941, the Japanese Imperial Navy launched a surprise carrier attack on the American Naval Base at Pearl Harbor. Swarms of torpedo planes and dive bombers dropped their deadly loads onto eight venerable battleships and many smaller ships and shore facilities. The attacks were deadly killing 2,433 and wounding 1,178. 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.

#### PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

The Richmond Navy League
Extends an invitation to all citizens of the
Commonwealth of Virginia
To attend a Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

# CANCELED DUE TO NEW COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Led wreath laying ceremony, a bell tolling ceremony, Soloist and chorus, Marine League Rifles and bugler.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



#### NOW HEAR THIS

As 2020 closes, let's reflect on what we have accomplished. Last year we had ten "first-evers," meaning that there were ten things we accomplished for the first time ever. This was a magnificent team achievement of which we are very proud. This year, despite COVID and reduced activities, we have achieved much as well. A list is in this issue. In particular, there have been changes in the production and distribution of The Lucky Bag and we have sought and found new ways to support our sea services, adopted ships, other units and youth programs.

Our Annual Business Meeting to elect Directors and Officers will be held on 19 January 2021 at 2pm at St. Giles Presbyterian Church. Because of COVID, there will be no social hour, no dinner & no lengthly meeting. We

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

ask members to vote on the slate of Directors using a proxy sent to you by mail with your dues notice.

Please promptly return both your dues and your proxy. The results of your proxy will be used at a shorter Directors-only meeting to elect Directors who will then elect the Officers.

This is my last President's message for The Lucky Bag. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Council's Senior Vice President or President for the past four years. Thank you for your support and assistance.

#### RICHMOND COUNCIL "FIRST-EVERS" IN 2020

January – First-ever National Navy League President's message about Richmond Council (our Africa Care Package Program).

**February** – First-ever condensation of our 44-page Annual Report to National Navy League into a useful single page synopsis.

March - First-ever donation through another Council (New York City) because of Coronavirus and for the benefit of the crew of adopted MSC hospital ship USNS COMFORT.

**April** – First-ever distribution only by email and website of The Lucky Bag. April - First-ever award to us by Guidestar's Bronze Seal of Transparency, important for non-profit organizations.

May – First-ever fully digitally production of The Lucky Bag AND First-ever "Phantom Golf Fundraiser." Thank you to our loyal supporters!

June - First-ever COVID Relief Fund for families of ships or units rather than usual MWR funds for sailors themselves.

July - First-ever naming of a non-Adopted ship's lounge as the "Richmond Room". CDR Jean Marie Sullivan USS WHIDBEY ISLAND appreciated our donation and declared this name. Also, in this month, First-ever outdoor Board Meeting - well, it was a COVID year!

#### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

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

In 1818 Franz Gruber set to music the lyrics of Joseph Mohr and the world was given the iconic hymn "Silent Night". The Savior was born in Bethlehem of Judea and this great hymn came out of Obendorf bei Salzburg, Austria. Gruber set to music what he felt in his heart when reading the lyrics, and Mohr penned the words he felt when reading the scripture. No doubt Mohr felt the chaos of a crowd coming to be numbered, the anxiety of a woman with child and no place to give birth, and no help when the pain arrived. Yet he wrote, "All is calm, all is bright around yon Virgin mother and child..". When a mother is given her newborn and the pain is over, often she has a calm and joyful expression. That may have been true for Mary as well. However, her demeanor and our joy may come from the words of the angel who announced to Joseph the truth of Mary's child, "He shall save his people from their sins".

#### MEMBERSHIP VOTING FOR YOUR DIRECTORS

Membership votes annually for your Board of Directors. In December you will receive the proposed slate of Directors and a proxy voting request with your dues notice. You will receive it by postal mail. Please REPLY PROMPTLY before January 13, 2021.

 By US Postal mail – Return proxy and signature with your annual dues payment.

#### REMINDER

IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO RETURN YOUR PROXY'S AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU

# NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT (NRD) TO BECOME: NAVY TALENT ACQUISITION GROUP (NTAG)

Navy recruiting is undergoing a transformation that will streamline the recruiting command structure and improve the quality of life for recruiters by placing individuals in specialized jobs. The new model splits recruiters' tasks into three separate recruiting disciplines; talent scouts, assessors, and on boarders. Under the old NRD construct, recruiters had to focus on and be experts in all of the aspects of the three disciplines.

So far, ten NRDs have transformed to Navy Talent Acquisition Groups (NTAGs). Sixteen more are slated to transform in 2021. Within those NRDs and NTAGS there are more than 1,330 recruiting stations across the world. Go Navy!

Adapted from Navy.mil with special thanks to NRD Richmond PAO Todd MacDonald CPO USN

#### NAVY RECRUITING DISTRICT CMDCM (SW/AW) GERARD E. GADDIST

Master Chief Gerard Gaddist reported as Command Master Chief of Navy Recruiting District Richmond in August of 2020.

A native of New Jersey, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1990 and completed basic recruit training at Recruit Training Command Orlando. His first assignment was to the **USS JOSEPHUS DANIELS** (**CG-27**) stationed in Norfolk. Among other tours he served aboard Council's adopted Ship USS NORMANDY (CG-60). While on USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), he was selected into the Command Master Chief Program and was the recipient of many awards. His shore commands included previous duty at NRD Richmond. Council welcomes his return to Richmond.



Excerpts from Navy bio provided by NRD Richmond PAO Todd MacDonald CPO USN

#### AMERICA DIVISON SEA CADETS REPORT

The Sea Cadets held their November drill at the Navy Operational Support Center Richmond (NOSC) on November 21-22. The Guest Speaker was Captain Hamm, USA, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at Fort Lee. General Military Training (GMT) for cadets will deal with drug/alcohol abuse and why you should stay in school.

#### 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!

NORMANDY has had a fairly quiet month of October. We have continued to progress through our shipyard period while ensuring the crew remains as COVID free as possible. Furthermore, we have continued to take this time to send Sailors to schools and trainers, utilizing the newest simulators is allowing us to maintain proficiency across multiple warfare areas as well as keeping our navigational skills up to par.

As we enter the holiday season, I hope that you all have a safe, happy and healthy time. As time moves forward, I hope that we will be able to have some in person engagement as we truly appreciate all the support you give to the **NORMANDY** family.

Again, thank you for the continuing outreach you provide us.

Warm regards, CAPT Charles Hampton Commanding Officer



AMERICA Division Sea Cadets, League Cadets, Staff and Instructors during these unprecedented COVID times

#### ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE



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

#### Pat Robson, Liaison

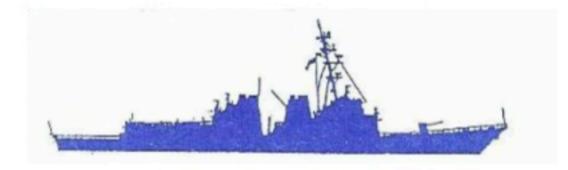
Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

From one birthday to the next, such is the case for the months of October and November. Last month our Navy celebrated her 245th, and this month, the Marine Corps also turns 245! The relationship between the Navy and the Marine Corps is like that of brothers: always picking at each other, but ever ready to stand up in support of the other. This partnership between the "men of the sea" and the "soldiers of the sea" has once again been renewed upon the decks of the CARTER HALL. Over this past month, CARTER HALL has undergone intensive preparation for the transiting, training, and delivering of Marines from the coasts of our beloved United States to the foreign shores where their "abilities" might most be needed. The days have been long, and the nights have been longer, but we are better men and women for having endured them.

To echo our CAPT, "On-time is the STANDARD! Early is better; latenever". CARTER HALL has done precisely that over this past month of training as we prepare for future operations. During the most recent training evolution CARTER HALL proved repeatedly that she is a ship of war and that her crew is up to the task. For the support and partnership of the Richmond Navy League in helping to bring this about, I cannot thank you enough. Your contributions to our crew have positively impacted morale, welfare, and crew life. As you all know, as goes the junior sailor, so goes the ship. Your timely, pointed, and regular investments in our crew's welfare are ensuring CARTER HALL will be as ready as can be 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 Corey Odom

XO: CDR Hunter Washburn CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

#### Patrick D. Harris, Liaison Alan Palmer, Consultant

Season's Greetings from USS GRAVELY!

Our schedule is picking up as we finish our maintenance availability and dive into our Basic Training Phase events. In the past month, we got underway from General Dynamics NASSCO Shipyard in Norfolk after a year-long maintenance availability. We also held a Change of Command Ceremony on November 13. We wish fair winds and following seas to CDR Mike O'Reilly on his next assignment in the Fleet, and we welcome back CDR Corey Odom as our new Commanding Officer!

November 20, 2020 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning **USS GRAVELY (DDG 107)**. Sailors participated in a Race to Gravely Elementary, promoting a culture of fitness throughout the command, and maintaining the relationship between the ship and her namesake.

The sailors from **USS GRAVELY** wish you the happiest of holidays, and we thank you for the continued support!

The 56th Arleigh Burke-class guidedmissile destroyer, USS Gravely is homeported in Norfolk and named after Vice Admiral Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr.

Admiral Gravely became the first African-American to command a U.S. Navy warship, the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions, the first African-American to command a major naval warship, the first African-American admiral, the first African-American to rise to the rank of Vice Admiral, and the first African-American to command a U.S. Fleet. Admiral Gravely was highly decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal.

Very Respectfully, Christina Y. Jones, LTJG, USN, PAO



**USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)** 

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro COB: GMC Robert Boyer

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

Greetings from USCGC NORTHLAND!

In October, **NORTHLAND** had a very active and successful month. **NORTH-LAND** began October by returning to home port and almost immediately began prepping to get back underway. This included a top end overhaul on the #1 Main Diesel Engine, the beginning of a project which will replace all the flight deck nets, and a helicopter hangar overhaul, among other projects.

In the midst of the various shipboard projects, **NORTHLAND** also partook in an important inspection, CART (Command Assessment of Readiness and Training). CART ensures that the training taking place on board **NORTHLAND** is effective and is helping the crew to be prepared to handle any situation from shipboard fires to Force Protection threats. **NORTHLAND's** crew came together and achieved great success in the inspection.

As NORTHLAND prepares to get underway again, the cutter and her crew prepare for the third straight patrol with no liberty due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the crew has been able to keep the number of crewmembers who have contracted the virus low, NORTHLAND must continue to balance operational with COVID-19 requirements strictions. This means we all have severe restriction of movement, and safety requirements at sea, at work and on liberty. Because the crew is not allowed to use public or base work out facilities, the work out equipment donated by the Navy league has been invaluable in allowing the crew to blow off steam and stay fit.

In addition, **NORTHLAND** has continued to receive new crewmembers since returning to home port. These new members have shown great determination in getting qualified quickly to assistance in the crew for the busy inport. These new crewmembers have been a huge help in ensuring that the shipboard projects are completed.

As **NORTHLAND** continues to get ready for the upcoming patrol, the crew looks forward to spending the holidays with family and friends. As always, thank you for your support!

Very Respectfully, XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro

#### PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR LEONARD "LEN" GARDNER (1921-2020)



Leonard Gardner is on the left. Frank Bland, on the right, is the son of a Pearl Harbor Survivor.

# REQUIRED FOR FREEDOM TO FLOURISH

**Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day** 

For many years at our annual Pearl Harbor Remembrance, Richmond Council has had the honor of having Leonard Gardner as our Virginia Pearl Harbor survivor. Leonard was born in 1921 in West Stephentown, New York and passed away here August 30. He served in the US Navy during World War II aboard the USS REID (DD-369),

#### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

On November 11 (Veteran's Day), the Richmond Times Dispatch produced a special section honoring our Veterans. One such veteran was a Richmonder, Frederick N. "Fred" Tucker. Fred served in the U.S. Navy Armed Guard, stationed aboard merchant ships in Navy-protected convoys sailing across the Atlantic and through the Mediterranean during the war. Merchant vessels were always in danger of attack by enemy submarines and aircraft. Did Tucker ever feel he was riding a ship with a target on it? "Oh, yeah", he said with a laugh. "Oh, yeah".



Tucker, 98, was a signalman, responsible for communicating with other vessels with flags and searchlights. He joked that when he enlisted in the Navy, there were two things he didn't want to be: a cook or a signalman, the latter because he never got the

hang of semaphore – a system sending messages by holding flags or arms in certain positions – as a Boy Scout. But that's where he was assigned. "After the first month at signal school, another kid and I were the two best senders and receivers in the company", he said.

He made six complete crossings safely on different ships seeing places such as Casablanca, Sicily and the Suez Canal. "I got to see a lot of places I would have never seen", he said. "I thoroughly enjoyed what I did, but I wouldn't want to do it again".

Fred returned to Richmond and worked in the business world for several companies until retirement. He lost Betty, his wife, of almost 71 years in 2016. He lives at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center, which has been under quarantine because of COVID-19. "It's a little different, but I manage to make out", he said. "We've got TV and got a couple of libraries. I do a lot of reading, watch TV. We're OK".

Fred has two younger brothers that also served in the military: Andy and Walter. Andy served in the Army Air Corps and lives in Tallahassee, FL. Walter Tucker served in the Navy and has been a long-time member of the Richmond Navy League, serving as the Council's President in 1976.

survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 and participated in many battles during the war. After the war he earned college degrees and had a career in the federal government in Washington, D.C. Upon retirement he and his wife, Doris, moved to Fluvanna County. A service was held at Culpeper National cemetery on September 14, 2020. Rest in Peace, Leonard.

# DEC 1 IS "GIVING TUESDAY" OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Richmond Council Navy League is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. We donate to our military adopted ships and units, JROTC and Sea Cadets.

Like most organizations in 2020, we have been impacted by COVID. Next year will also have many challenges. Listed below are ways that you and others can contribute.

By check and postal mail or through our website:

> http://www.navyleaguerichmond.com/donate.html

There are two ways. You do not pay any fees but #1 saves us a bit.

- Click our Paypal link, use ANY credit card.
- (2) Click the Guidestar Bronze seal, use ANY credit card. Z

#### NATIONAL PARKS FREE ENTRY

Beginning Veterans Day, 2020 National Parks began offering **free** entry to Veterans and Gold Star families. Veterans will need to present one of the following forms of identification where entrance fees are collected:

- Department of Defense Identification Card (CAC Card – Common Access Card)
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)
- Veteran ID Card
- Veterans designation on a stateissued U.S. driver's license or identification card.

Full instructions at:

https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/vete rans-and-gold-star-families-freeaccess.htm

#### 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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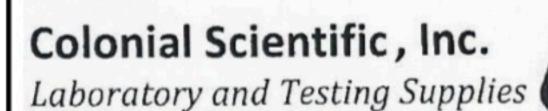
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### Thanks for jumping on board!!!



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

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