



JUNE 2021

# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

## Richmond Council Summer Luncheon Wednesday June 30, 2021

For the first time in 15 months, Richmond Council is delighted to be holding an event to be attended by our members and guests.

On June 30, we are pleased to be holding our annual Summer Luncheon and looking forward to Father William J. Bartz, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret) as our guest speaker. His appearance is preceded by numerous accounts of his extraordinary story telling ability.

His active duty service began in 1984 and served at three Navy commands and seven Marine Corps commands. During his last five years on active duty, he was the most senior priest in the U.S. military. After retiring from the Navy at the rank of Captain, Father Bartz served as the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox metropolis of Detroit until 2013.

### GUEST SPEAKER



**FATHER WILLIAM J. BARTZ,  
CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret)**

Please refer to page 5 of this issue of *The Lucky Bag* for Father Bartz' full biography.

Please note that the Willow Oaks Country Club will be following the Governor's guidelines for group gatherings indoors. We encourage *only* vaccinated individuals to attend. Bring a mask as required by the venue.

### SUMMER LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

**DATE:** Wednesday 30 June 2021

**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 23, 2021**

**\*\*Refund Policy 2021:** Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned UP TO and INCLUDING the "deadline date\*\*

### RESERVATIONS FOR SUMMER LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY JUNE 30, 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Regular meal served **unless** special meal is indicated: 1 or 2 Veggie Meal(s) (NO meat)

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 NLUS P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: (804) 355-7557



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



### AHOY EVERYONE

Things are progressing well. Our office is beginning to reopen as staffing permits; Council's Summer Luncheon is scheduled for June 30; and our Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday September 22. Also, the Governor is talking about lifting all COVID restrictions 16 June. We all are looking forward to getting back together after a year's quarantine. I know I am! With the lockdown and all the different opinions on the board; I truly understand "a camel is a horse designed by a committee". Harvey told me to keep it short, so "That's all folks". ✍

**Please note: Only fully vaccinated individuals are encouraged to attend our Summer Luncheon; and please bring a mask for use as required by the venue.**

*The Lucky Bag* Vol 64 Issue 6

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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Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.

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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

### SENSE OF VALUE

On my morning walk, I noticed a single recycle bin on the street. It reminded me of how we keep what we consider of value and dispose of what is not. I sensed the Lord speaking to me about people that we often consider lacking value and are thus disposable. The Bible says that we are all created in the image of God, in the Imago Dei, and are of infinite value even if we appear to be used up, messed up, etc. as former Franciscan Priest Brennan Manning writes about in The Ragamuffin Gospel. More and more in recent years, I have discovered pennies, nickels, and dimes on the sidewalk, and I like most just keep on walking because I do not see the value of picking them up. What we once deemed as valuable has lost its value due to inflation. I wonder if we might sometimes have an inflated value of ourselves and thus see others of lesser value. The Bible cautions us not to think more highly of ourselves than we ought. Might we all consider one another's value in the sight of God as we go about our daily lives? ✍

### SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Sooooo, you're retired? Has it been awhile and you've been looking for something meaningful to do? May we suggest that you give some thought to help your Richmond Navy League as a volunteer?

After being closed for over 12 months, our goal is to open the Navy League Richmond office and we are earnestly looking for volunteers.

Heretofore, we had been blessed to have several volunteers who manned the office daily. Many of those are no longer available or able to help. **Please consider volunteering.**

Volunteer workers form the "life jackets" in the performances of our Council's day-to-day office activities. We are making an appeal to Navy League members who would be willing to devote 3 or 4 hours one day a week to help "light office" work.

### WHAT HELP IS NEEDED?

- As simple as answering incoming calls to the office (front desk work)

- Typing letters to Navy League members
- Proof reading copy (spelling and grammar checking)
- Limited work on computer
- Filing or alphabetizing forms received from members
- Assist in organizing work space
- List your ideas or suggestions for any other additional help needed.
- Assist in the communicating work (or visiting with) Council's adopted ship's liaisons
- Travel with Board members to ship activities (i.e., change of command ceremonies or commissioning of Navy, Coast Guard ships & subs)
- Assist in the planning of Council activities (suggest new activities)
- Assist in the Care Packages preparation (packing supplies) and mailing
- Use of Council's copy machine (or paper shredder)
- Assist in submitting monthly articles for newsletter, "The Lucky Bag"

### TESTIMONIAL

From a Past President

A good way to find out what is going on and how things tick at the Navy League is to work a shift at the front desk (which is easy).

Working the front desk is an excellent way to become active. At least two past-presidents started this way.

I did this when I first became active. I didn't know anybody and had no idea what was going on. Thankfully, everybody was friendly and informative.

Covering the front desk put me in direct contact with everyone who was doing the work of running the Council.

Nothing beats being on the scene and getting involved with the decision makers.

We hope you will take the time to give this some thought. We think that you will enjoy making new friends with the like-minded individuals and strengthen your bonds with the Navy League in their support of our Sea Services.

If you have questions or would like to visit the Navy League office for more information regarding volunteer office work, please call our office at 355-7557 and speak with a Board member or present volunteer worker.

Thank You! ✍



## NOSC RICHMOND - - - A YEAR IN REVIEW



**N**avy **O**perational **S**upport **C**enter Richmond's primary mission is to generate mobilization readiness by providing administrative services, training support, and world class customer service to Reserve personnel in support of surge and operational requirements for the Navy and Marine Corps team and Joint Forces. The COVID pandemic which began in early 2020 put this command to the test and we succeeded in not only continuing to meet the needs of the Reserve Force with ready personnel, but to also surge additional assets in response to emergency requirements. NOSC Richmond mobilized Selected Reservists to the **USNS MERCY** and the **USNS COMFORT** in support of their COVID-19 support missions on both coasts. Our Command Senior Enlisted Leader, herself, joined the operation in New York, providing support for the mobilization of an additional 653 Reserve Officers and Sailors for COVID related missions. The NOSC staff concurrently executed the mass mobilization of SURGEMAIN reservists to support critical ship maintenance across several shipyards.

The March drill weekend in 2020 was cancelled as a result of growing COVID cases across the globe, but the NOSC staff quickly established new training requirements, resources, and procedures necessary to transition into a remote working mindset. As the situation continued into the approaching new year, NOSC Richmond made incremental adjustments so that training, administrative and medical requirements affecting the reserve personnel's readiness in the new fiscal

year were achieved. As many programs and activities that could be completed through remote or self-service means were transitioned and the force adjusted accordingly with few long-standing impacts. Medical readiness was most affected by the inability to interact in person, but that, too, was overcome. As we look forward to the summer in 2021, our processes have evolved from contingencies to normal procedures and are of great benefit even as our reserve officers and sailors are beginning to return to in-person drilling.

This command demonstrated exceptional resiliency in the face of a once-in-a-century global catastrophe. Their ability to excel in spite of the dynamic changes to travel, resource availability, and all other aspects of daily life is a testament to their steadfast dedication to duty in support of the Navy Reserve. ✍



**Navy Operational Support Center  
Commanding Officer  
CDR Brian Scopa**

### **NOSC RICHMOND OVERCOMES COVID CHALLENGES TO MAINTAIN MISSION READINESS**

**N**avy **O**perational **S**upport **C**enter Richmond continues to execute our mission to ensure a ready reserve force is available to meet the needs of our nation. In spite of challenges presented by the global pandemic over the past year, this command support-

ed 280 personnel as they conducted over 6000 drill periods across 21 separate reserve units. During these drills, our Sailors are tasked to meet personal training and material readiness requirements. These requirements remained throughout the pandemic, as they always had before, but our procedures were forced to evolve. Our Training Department set about converting all events that could be conducted over remote means into web-based training and put in countless hours behind the scenes maintaining the systems. These capabilities are now mainstream and, with the support of new collaborative web-based tools, may very well remain the normal processes of training delivery for the foreseeable future. Although most of the training provided to the Navy Reservist is rudimentary to military service, an additional \$1 million was expended for nearly 5500 days of specialized training events at dedicated training sites that are unique to the rates and qualifications of the individual Naval Officers and Sailors. This is in spite of dynamic changes to on-site health and safety requirements and their ability to travel.

Our Administration and Manpower departments made a similar shift to remote processes which enable those who could not travel for face-to-face training and service to maintain their records for readiness, pay and other matters in need of regular reviews that are of great importance once a service member is mobilized. Incoming and outgoing personnel between subordinate units and the Navy at large were successfully processed in a similar manner and in some cases were able to physically avoid the NOSC altogether and report directly to their gaining command. In all, the NOSC staff created a new way to manage their programs' requirements so that our supported saw "business as usual" in spite of the dynamic challenges that arose and impacted our individuals' health, ability to travel, and ultimately, their ability to support the Navy. ✍

(Information from NOSC Commanding Officer CDR Brian Scopa and NOSC Executive Officer LCDR Evan D. Wright)



## 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

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

### Greetings from NORMANDY!

It's been a busy time here on the ship as we inch closer and closer to our exit from the shipyard. After eight months of our ten-month stay at MHI Shipyard, we have moved our Galley team from the berthing barge to the ship. I was excited to help our Culinary Specialists serve the first breakfast on board in OUR galley on OUR ship since the start of the avail in August 2020. We continue efforts to finalize our full-time movement back to the ship; next up: berthings!

We have begun our inspections in support of our forecasted departure from the shipyard. It's great to see the Varsity **NORMANDY** team work together and continue to propel us to the common goal of Maritime Readiness.

We are finally enjoying some of the liberties afforded to us with the recent change from HPCON 'C' to HPCON 'B' (Health Protection Conditions). I know the crew is excited to get out and enjoy a meal in a sit-down restaurant, as well as perhaps visit tattoo parlors and get some new 'ink' (as Sailors sometimes do).

I hope that everyone had a happy and safe Mother's Day. As we continue to navigate our way through these joyful times, remain safe and healthy.

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

Warm regards,  
CAPT Charles Hampton  
Commanding Officer



### 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!

Recent port visits to Plymouth, England and Lisbon, Portugal have not only allowed for necessary maintenance and resupply, but also for a chance to catch our breath. The **CARTER HALL** crew, blue and green side combined, have been moving at a steady (sometimes furious) pace for a good while now. We have met or exceeded expectations, and aim to continue down that path. These short times pier side have allowed us the further opportunity to intermingle with one of our fellow ships in the Amphibious Ready Group, the **USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD-17)**. Though we hold to different mottos (**CARTER HALL** – Working for Peace, Ready for War; **SAN ANTONIO** – Never Retreat, Never Surrender), I'm firmly convinced that grit and tenacity are a common thread between us. While varying in our capabilities and mission sets, we share a common goal: serving the country well. For that, we are quite grateful to have her with us.

On the topic of support and common goals, I'm fondly reminded of the men and women of the Richmond Navy League who faithfully stand by us as we carry out the tasks entrusted to us. During my time with the **CARTER HALL** there have been many instances of the Richmond Navy League's forward looking support that have made this deployment and its added stressors (thus far) all the more manageable. The TV's (utilized in the lounges and the chapel) have made for additional training sites to ensure we remain up to date on qualifications and standards. After normal working hours, those same training aids have served as morale boosters through movie nights and gaming tournaments. Please, on behalf of the **CARTER HALL** leadership, allow me to thank you all for your insightful care

and provision for us. As a Chaplain, one of the best things anyone can do for me is to make life better my people, and the Richmond Navy League does precisely that! Thank You!!

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

Report pending.



### 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 April, **NORTHLAND** has gone into busy maintenance and repair period in preparation for the next patrol. The crew has an ambitious repair plan to ensure we can correct a lot of discrepancies that have haunted **NORTHLAND** for some time. The crew is truly making a better and more prepared cutter day in and day out. In addition to making the necessary repairs to ship, the crew is also prepping for a busy transfer season where we will say goodbye to many shipmates while gaining new ones.

In between all the hard work, **NORTHLAND** has taken the time to educate and remember solemn times in world history. As April is Holocaust remembrance month, **NORTHLAND** invited a Navy Chaplain Rabbi on board

**USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 5**



## **NORTHLAND cont. from page 4**

training given by the Rabbi and continue to grow in their understanding of that event to shape the crew as better and compassionate leaders.

Finally, in April, **NORTHLAND** was able to have Navy League representatives, Tom Hassell and Vaughan Dize, visit the cutter on-board, in-person, for the first time since the COVID-19 outbreak. The two were able to address the crew and have a hearty meal in the wardroom with **NORTHLAND's** commanding officer. The crew, as always is extremely grateful for the support of the Navy League in all of **NORTHLAND's** missions.

As always, **NORTHLAND** is looking toward their next patrol and the many preparations that need to get done. There is no doubt that everything will get done and we will be ready to be back out on the open ocean, conducting the mission and helping to keep the American people safe. As always, thank you for the endless support. Fair winds and following seas! ✍

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro

## **RICHMOND COUNCIL VISITS USCGC NORTHLAND**

On May 5, 2021, Council's liaison with **NORTHLAND**, Tom Hassell and assistant liaison, Vaughan Dize, journeyed to the Coast Guard base Portsmouth, where they were welcomed aboard **USCGC NORTHLAND** for the first time since before the COVID-19 Pandemic.

An "all hands" was convened on the deck to recognize and thank the Richmond Council Navy League and the ship's ombudsmen for their support of the **NORTHLAND** and its crew.

Tom Hassell addressed the crew, explaining what the Navy League was about and informed them of Council's past support.

Tom and Vaughan will return to the ship on June 7 to deliver deployment dollars, recognize the sailor of the year and deliver deployment "goodies". ✍

## **BIOGRAPHY - FATHER WILLIAM J. BARTZ, CAPTAIN, CHAPLIN CORPS, USN (Ret)**

### **Ministering to the Troops**

Father William J. Bartz, son of Father and Mrs. George Bartz, was born in Scranton, PA and raised in Akron, OH. He graduated from Hellenic College with a Bachelor of Arts in 1975; received a direct commission to be an Ensign in the United States Navy Chaplain Corps in May 1977; graduated from Holy Cross School of Theology with a Master in Divinity with Distinction in 1978; and was ordained a Priest in the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in March 1982.

His active duty service began in 1984. He served at three Navy commands: Naval Station Norfolk, **USS BIDDLE (CG-34)**, and **USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70)**. His assignments also included eight Marine Corps commands, beginning in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and continued in Okinawa, Japan; Quantico, Virginia; and Norfolk, Virginia. He served as the Chaplain in a Battalion, Regiment, Group, Base, Division, and Force. He graduated from the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, receiving a Master in Strategic Studies.

During his last five years on active duty, he was the most senior Orthodox Priest in the U.S. military. The Navy Chaplain Corps selected him to be the 2010 recipient of the John H. Craven Award, a peer-nominated and peer-

selected Award by Navy Captain Chaplains, recognizing his exemplary servant-leadership among Chaplains.

In June 2003, he received the ecclesiastical Office of Protopresbyter, the most senior rank of a married priest in the Orthodox Church.

After retiring from the Navy at the rank of Captain, he served as the Chancellor of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit from August 2011 to August 2013.

Father Bartz was appointed by the Chairman of the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the United States of America to be the Endorsing Agent for Military Chaplains in November 2011. The Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese appointed him to be the Endorsing Agent for Institutional Chaplains in February 2012.

Father Bartz retired from the active parish ministry on 1 August 2019 and moved to the Richmond, Virginia area.

Father Bill is married to the former Emily V. Mamalis, daughter of Father and Mrs. James Mamalis. They have three children, Joanna Nicolaidis (Evan), Maria, and George; and four grandchildren, Emilia, John, and Magdalena Nicolaidis; and Reagan Grace Bartz. ✍

## **RICHMOND NAVY LEAGUE GOLF OUTING SEPTEMBER 22**

Due to the COVID pandemic, we had to cancel our spring and fall 2020 benefit golf outing. We are going forward this fall – full speed ahead!

We greatly appreciate the faithfulness of our supporters who have come every year to our annual fundraiser golf outing. We especially thank all who have continued to support us through the 2020 pandemic.

Prevailing winds appear to indicate that we will be free from pandemic worries by September.

### **WE NEED SPONSORS**

Our annual golf outing is Richmond Council's PREMIER fundraising event. This year our goal is to raise \$15,000.00 in cash and \$5,000.00 in prizes. We need each member to go out and obtain sponsors in order to meet our goals --- **PLEASE** help!

### **WE NEED GOLFERS**

Get your foursomes together for a fun day of golf. Cost per player is \$85 which includes green fee, cart, lunch, snacks, soft drinks and adult refreshments served by courtesy carts. ✍



**"All Hands" muster on NORTHLAND's helicopter deck**

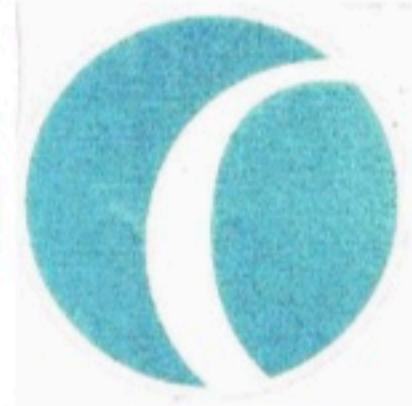


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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*

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