



Annual Report

January 1 - December 31, 2023

Richmond Virginia Council
Navy League of the United States
PO Box 1201
Richmond, VA 23230
(804) 355-7557
Website: www.navyleague-richmond.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/navyleagueva

ADMINISTRATION

- President: Dr. Adam J. “Jay” Fiedler
- Board of Directors: 4 meetings
- Round Table: 39 meetings
- Membership: 200 at the beginning of the year and 200 members at the end of the year, 15 new members recruited and 15 members passed away or did not renew their membership
- New Members: Keith Feitig, Rear Admiral Paul F. Sullivan, USN (Ret), Michael R. Anderson, Susan L. King, C. Preston Dalrymple, Jr., Ernest E. Leasure, Jr., Teddy R. Martin, Courtney C. Mustin, James M. Chambliss, Keith L. Conley, Lester M. Gillenwater, James L. Poole, Jr., Wesley E. McEntire, Maria Gallegos and Ellen M. Nau

Current and past members and their spouses who passed away in 2023: Roy M. Martin, Ira P. Cromer, Jr., George Grubbs, Maurice S. Hawkins, Lee P. Rice, Earl McKnight, Gerald E. Wenditz, Thomas J. Bliley, Jr., Brenton S. Halsey, Steven Snyder, Jonatha Swift, J. Walter Tucker, Jacqueline Tucker (wife of Walter Tucker), Jeanne Eggleston Napier (wife of Stuart Napier), Molly Hyer (wife of former Richmond Council President Walter F. Hyer, Jr.)

- Budget
 - Beginning Balance - \$50,905
 - Income - \$37,431
 - Expenses - \$39,220
 - Ending Balance - \$47,786
- *The Lucky Bag*: 11 issues published
- Webpage: 2,433 page views in 2023, an average of 203 page views per month, November peak month, January lowest month
- Facebook Page: 168 followers, 160 likes
- Maintained our Gold Seal 501-c3 non-profit organization transparency rating awarded by GuideStar/Candid, the second highest rating they provide.
- The Richmond Council received four Navy League of the United States 2022 Awards at the 2023 National Convention in Dallas, Texas.
 - Meritorious Award for Overall Council Performance Award
 - Mackie Silver Award for Newsletter - *The Lucky Bag*
 - Mackie Silver Award for Council Website
 - Member Retention Award

FUNDRAISING

In 2023, the Richmond Council received the following contributions to support the mission of the Richmond Council.

Membership Dues

In 1992, the Richmond Council initiated a local Council dues of \$12 per year, which was in addition to the dues paid by members to the Navy League of the United States. Our local Council dues are used to

support our operating expenses. In 2023, the local Council dues were increased from \$35 to \$40 per year. Members paid \$5,628 in local Council dues in 2023.

Anchor Club

In 2008, the Richmond Council founded the *Anchor Club* to demonstrate an enhanced commitment of our members to support the sea services. To become a member of the *Anchor Club*, a member must donate at least \$100 in addition to the annual local Council membership dues and the National dues. Though the minimum donation to the *Anchor Club* is \$100, many of our members donate more than \$100. From 2008 to 2022, our members donated \$192,823 to the *Anchor Club*, an average of \$12,855 per year. In 2023, 125 *Anchor Club* members donated \$9,790.

Our Anchor Club donations are our primary source for supporting our adopted ships and units, care packages, Sea Cadets and eight Richmond area high school JROTC programs. From 2012-2022 we provided \$87,804 in support to our adopted ships and units, \$50,830 in support to the America Division Sea Cadets and \$10,989 to our Navy and Marine Corps JROTC units. In 2023, we provided \$7,846 to support our adopted ships and units \$6,825 to support the Sea Cadets and our JROTC programs.

Golf Outings Fund Raiser

The first Richmond Council golf fund raiser was held in 1991 at the Fort Lee Officer's Club golf course. Spring and Fall Golf events from 1991 to 1997 were held at Fort Lee. In 1998, the annual golf event moved to The Hollows Golf Club in Montpelier and has continued at that location. On September 13, 2023, 88 golfers making up 22 playing teams participated in our Golf Outing fundraiser. Player registrations brought in \$7,308, Sponsors donated \$2,751 and \$814 in other donations were received, resulting in total contributions of \$10,873. The expenses to host the Golf Outing were \$5,131 with a net income of \$5,742.

Lucky Bag

In 1986 the Richmond Council begin offering sponsor ads in the *Lucky Bag* to generate funds to support the Sea Cadets and other activities. Since 1986, about 9,500 sponsor ads have been placed in the *Lucky Bag*, an average of 24 ads per issue. In 2023, there were 19 ads per issue placed in the *Lucky Bag*, generating \$2,885 of support.

SUPPORT FOR THE SEA SERVICES

Adopted Ships and Units (6)

The objective of adopting a ship, station, other military unit, or facility is to provide continuing support to a particular Sea Service Unit, its crew, and families. Adoption implies a commitment of continuing support. The Council provided \$7,486 in Morale, Welfare and Recreation support to our Adopted/Supported Ships and Units.

The Richmond Council supported many different ships in its early years, and in 1987 formalized the process by Adopting the cruiser USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) in 1987. Our current adopted ships include: USS NORMANYD (CG-60), USS SAMUEL L. GRAVELY (DDG-107), USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50), USCG NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) and newly adopted ship USCG LEGARE (WMEC-912) adopted on 05/01/2023.

The USS CARTER HALL was one off the lead ships involved in the recovery of the Chinese Spy Balloon that was shot down off the coast of South Carolina in early February 2023.

The USS NORMANDY deployed to the Middle East on May 2 with the USS FORD Carrier Strike Group and returned home in mid-January 2024. The USS CARTER Hall deployed to the Mediterranean Sea on July 10 and the USS GRAVELY deployed to the Red Sea area on October 14 with Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group. Both the CARTER HALL and the GRAVELY have shot down Houthi missiles and drones and both are still deployed as of 01/30/2024.

In 2017, the Council adopted and continues to support Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-213 Blacklions, Naval Air Station Oceana. The Blacklions were deployed much of the year with the USS Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Middle East. They returned home in mid-January 2024.

Supported Units

The Council also supports the following sea service units in the Richmond area: Naval Reserve Center Richmond, Richmond Naval Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG-Recruiting), Marines Corps Recruiting, Coast Guard Recruiting and the Military Sealift Command.

Ship and Unit Visits and other Activities (10)

01/18/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC NORTHLAND at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to deliver care packages and deployment dollars.

02/28/2023: Two Council members visited the USS NORMANDY at Naval Base Norfolk for a Change of Command Ceremony.

04/06/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC LEGARE at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth for the Navy League Ship Adoption Ceremony.

04/14/2023: Two Council members visited the USS NORMANDY at Naval Base Norfolk to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year certificate and a \$200 monetary award to OS 1 Khari Summers. They also delivered \$1,000 in deployment dollars for the ship's MWR Fund.

05/01/2023: Five Council members visited the USCGC LEGARE at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth for a pre-deployment visit to provide care packages for the ship's crew and \$150 in deployment dollars.

05/25/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC NORTHLAND at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to present the Navy League Sailor of the Year Certificate and a \$200 monetary award to DC2 John A. Deviese.

06/29/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC NORTHLAND at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to deliver care packages and deployment dollars.

07/07/2023: One Council member visited the USS CARTER HALL at Naval Base Little Creek to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year Certificate and a \$200 monetary award to ET 1 Michael Maschek and to present \$1,000 in deployment dollars for the ship's MWR Fund.

09/05/2023: Two Council members visited the USCGC LEGARE at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth for a pre-deployment visit to provide care packages for the ship's crew.

09/27/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC NORTHLAND at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to deliver care packages and deployment dollars.

Sea Service Awards (4)

04/14/2023: Two Council members visited the USS NORMANDY at Naval Base Little Creek to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year certificate and a \$200 monetary award to OS 1 Khari Summers.

05/25/2023: One Council member visited the USCGC NORTHLAND at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year Certificate and a \$200 monetary award to DC2 John A. Deviese.

07/07/2023: One Council member visited the USS CARTER HALL at Naval Station Norfolk to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year Certificate and a \$200 monetary award to ET 1 Michael Maschek.

12/03/2023: One Council member visited the Naval Reserve Center in Richmond to present the Richmond Council Sailor of the Year Certificate and a \$200 monetary award to Logistics Specialist 1st Class Collin Bailey.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings - Luncheons

01/25/2023: Richmond Council Annual Business and Membership Meeting

Thirty Council members attended the annual meeting to elect and install the new officers for 2024. Past President John Harler was presented with the W. Moscoe Huntley Award. Judge W. Moscoe Huntley was a founding member and first President of the Richmond Council. The Award was established in 1964 to be a living tribute for his commitment to the Richmond Council. The award is given periodically to a member for their dedication and outstanding service to the Council over an extended period. The award is the Council's highest form of recognition.

03/29/2023: Richmond Council Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Spring Luncheon

Forty- seven Council members attended the Spring Luncheon in Richmond. The guest speaker was CDR Brad Fancher, Commanding Officer of our Adopted Ship the USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50). CDR Fancher gave a talk on the recovery of the Chinese Spy balloon which was shot down off the coast of South Carolina after having traveled from west to east across the United States.

06/21/2023: CDR Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon

Forty-three members and friends attended the Summer Luncheon in Richmond. The guest speaker was Thomas G. Cross, Director of State and Local Government Affairs for the Port of Virginia. Mr. Cross provided an overview of the history and current operations of the Richmond Marine Terminal, one of six terminals that comprise the Port of Virginia.

07/15/2023: Richmond Council Summer Picnic

Fort-five Council members and friends attended the Council's Summer Picnic at American Legion Post 354 along the banks of the James River in Chesterfield County. Lunch was provided by Mission BBQ. Patrick Harris, Immediate Past President of the Council provided, a presentation of the of the Council's history "65 Years of Service 1957-2022 Richmond Navy League Council of the United States".

10/11/2023: Sea Services Luncheon

Sixty Council members and friends attended the Sea Services Luncheon. The scheduled speaker was U.S. Representative Robert J. Wittman, representing Virginia's First Congressional District. However, he had to cancel because of crucial voting taking place in Congress. He anticipated that this might happen and provided a video of remarks which was sent to Council members.

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Navy, Marine Corps and Coast representatives, using the appropriate service sword, cut the Navy Anniversary cake which was distributed to the audience. Member Bob Lusk was announced as the winner of the \$1,000 raffle prize which began with \$20 ticket sales at the Summer Picnic. Mr. Lusk graciously donated the prize back to the Council.

12/07/2023 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony, Virginia War Memorial

Nearly 100 people joined many Richmond Council friends at the Virginia War Memorial. The ceremony was co-hosted by the Richmond Council and the Virginia War Memorial, with the support of the James M. Slay Detachment #329, Marine Corps League Honor Guard. The ceremony included the presentation of wreaths in memory of those who died on December 7, 1941 and a reading of the names of the 41 Virginians who were killed on that day. Each loss was memorialized by ringing of the bell of the USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) by LS1 Collin Bailey, USN and a salute by MA1 Joseph Siejak, USN. The colors were presented by the Varina High School NJROTC Color Guard.

A Richmond Council lunch at the War Memorial followed the ceremony with a Pearl Harbor presentation by CDR Dennis Bussey (USN-RET), the son of CPO Joseph Bussey who was aboard the battleship USS CALIFORNIA (BB-44) when the Japanese attacked.

Media coverage of the event included

Richmond Times Dispatch, Richmond Free Press, Oregon Hill News (Richmond, VA)

Royal Examiner (Warren County, VA), Augusta Free Press (Augusta County, VA), Williamsburg-Yorktown Daily (Williamsburg, VA)

WWBT TV Richmond, WRIC TV Richmond, WVEC TV (Newport News, VA) WBRC TV (Birmingham, AL) WLBT TV (Jackson, MS), CBJ 7 (Midland, TX), MWJB TV (Gainesville, FL), WIFR TV (Rockford, IL)

Trips-Tours

02/23/2023: National Museum of the Army Trip and Tour

Thirty-four Council members and friends visited the National Museum of the Army at Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. The new museum is dedicated to the history of the U.S. Army from the Revolutionary War to the present day.

06/09/2023: Norfolk Harborfest Visit and Cruise Norfolk

Twenty-four Richmond Council members and friends participated in a visit to the Harborfest event in Norfolk and took a 3-hour cruise on the ship *Victory Rover* for a tour of the Elizabeth River and Norfolk shoreline. The *Victory Rover* cruised by three aircraft carriers, two submarines and an Italian frigate. The *Victory Rover* also joined a parade of tall sailing ships escorted by the USS GETTYSBURG (CG-64).

06/20/2023: Richmond Marine Terminal, Virginia Port Authority

Six Council members visited and toured the Richmond Marine Terminal with guide Tom Cross, Director of State and Local Affairs for the Virginia Port Authority. Mr. Cross was also the Richmond Council's guest speaker for the CDR Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon on 6/21/2023.

Canceled Trips - Events

August 12: Tangier Island Cruise - canceled lack of interest

September 15: Blue Angels Air Show trip, NAS Oceana - canceled lack of interest

November 4: National Museum of the Marine Corps trip, Quantico - canceled lack of interest

YOUTH PROGRAMS

America Division Sea Cadets

The Richmond Council established the America Division Sea Cadets program for the Richmond area in 1968 and has been in operation for 54 years. The typical participation has been 35 cadets per year, an estimated 1,855 cadets since 1968. For the period 2012 to 2021, the Richmond Council donated \$45,830 to support the America Division, an average of \$4,590 per year. In 2023, the Council donated \$5,000 and four Council Members provided 48 hours of volunteer support for nine America Division programs and activities for 25 America Division Sea Cadets.

01/08/2023: Three Council members attended the America Division Annual Inspection

02/11-13/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Regular Drill

03/04/2023: Three Council members attended the America Division Awards Banquet

04/02/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Regular Drill

04/06-07/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Regular Drill

06/03/2023: Two Council members and America Division Cadets attended the Lake Anna Winery Renaissance Faire to promote the America Division Sea Cadets program, an estimated 4,500 people attended the event

07/14/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Boot Camp

08/12-13/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Regular Drill and Annual Picnic

12/03/2023: Two Council members attended the America Division Regular Drill, Christmas Party and Toys for Tots event

Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) Support

The Richmond Council supported eight Richmond area Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs, four Navy and four Marine Corps in 2023. Our support began with Highland Springs High School which implemented a Marine Corps JROTC program in 1985. In 1993, Varina High School implemented the first Richmond area Navy JROTC program. The current Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs supported by the Richmond Council and their start dates are:

Highland Springs High School, Marine Corps (1985)	Varina High School, Navy (1993)
Hermitage High School, Marine Corps (1993)	J.R. Tucker High School, Marine Corps (1996)
Mechanicsville) High School, Navy (2001)	Patrick Henry High School, Navy (2002)
James River High School, Navy (2009)	Gochland High School, Marine Corps (2014)

Currently about 700 cadets per year participate in the nine Richmond area JROTC programs. It is estimated that 22,785 cadets have participated since 1985, an average of 106 cadets per school per year.

For the period from 2012-2022 the Richmond Council provided \$9,289 to support JROTC programs. That support includes a \$100 scholarship awarded to the Cadet of the Year for each high school who is a senior and \$100 to support each cadet unit. The Richmond Navy League also provides the Theodore Roosevelt Award to a student of any grade rank that has exhibited excellence as a cadet. The award includes a certificate, the Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon. This award is considered very prestigious in the JROTC community. In 2023, the Richmond Council donated \$1,825 to support the eight JROTC units.

JROTC Events and Activities Supported by the Richmond Council

4/26/2023: : JR Tucker High School MCJROTC Awards Night

One Council member attended the event with an audience of 250 and presented the following awards to three cadets: Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship) and the Navy League Perseverance Award recognized with a Richmond Council Challenge Coin. A support check of \$100 was also provided to the MCJROTC Unit.

05/06/2023: James River High School NJROTC Awards Night

One Council member attended the event with an audience of 250 and presented the following awards to three cadets: Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship). and the Navy League Perseverance Award recognized with a Richmond Council Challenge Coin. A support check of \$100 was also provided to the NJROTC Unit.

05/17/2023: Mechanicsville High School NJROTC Awards Night

One Council member attended the event and presented the following awards to three cadets: Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship) and the Navy League Perseverance Award recognized with a Richmond Council Challenge Coin. A support check of \$100 was also provided to the NJROTC Unit.

05/19/2023: Goochland High School MCJROTC Awards Night

One Council member attended the event with an audience of 300 and presented the following awards to three cadets: Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship) and the Navy League Perseverance Award recognized with a Richmond Council Challenge Coin. A support check of \$100 was also provided to the MCJROTC Unit.

05/19/2023: Highland Springs High School MCJROTC Awards Night

One Council member attended the event and presented the following awards to three cadets: Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship) and the Navy League Perseverance Award recognized with a Richmond Council Challenge Coin. A support check of \$100 was also provided to the MCJROTC Unit.

The following high school NJROTC and MCJROTC awards were awarded by the Council to the following high school units, but a Council member was not available to attend to awards ceremony. The Teddy Roosevelt Youth Medal, the Cadet of the Year Award (with a \$100 scholarship) and support check of \$100 was also provided to the JROTC Units. Varina High School NJROTC, Hermitage High School MCJROTC and Patrick Henry High School NJROTC

Other JROTC Events

11/23/2023: JR Tucker High School MCJROTC Veterans Day Assembly

Two Council members attended the 2023 Veteran Day Assembly with an audience 150 veterans and family members and the student body. The MJROTC Color Guard presented the Colors.

11/23/2023: Goochland High School MCJROTC Veterans Day Assembly

One Council member attended the 2023 Veteran Day Assembly with an audience of six veteran and the student body. The MJROTC Color Guard presented the Colors.

Special Recognition

In May 2023, Goochland High School Cadet John Usry was accepted to attend the United States Coast Guard Academy.

2023 Richmond Navy League Calendar of Events

January 25: Council's Annual Dinner and Business Meeting

February 13: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

February 23: National Museum of the U.S. Army bus trip, Fort Belvoir

March 29: Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Spring Luncheon

May 8: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

June 9: Harborfest Norfolk

June 21: Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon

July 15: Navy League Summer Picnic and \$1,000 Raffle

August 12: Tangier Island Cruise - canceled lack of interest

September 11: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

September 13: Golf Outing and Fund Raiser (rain date 9/27/2023) - Hollows Golf Club

September 15: Blue Angels Air Show trip, NAS Oceana - canceled lack of interest

October 11: Fall Sea Services Luncheon

November 4: National Museum of the Marine Corps trip, Quantico - canceled lack of interest

December 7: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and Luncheon, Virginia War Memorial

December 11: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting