



NOV 2024

# The Lucky Bag

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

## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY

**DATE:** Friday December 6, 2024      **TIME:** 11:00 AM      **COST:** \$25.00 per person  
**PLACE:** Virginia War Memorial / 621 S. Belvidere Street / Richmond, VA 23220  
**GUEST SPEAKER:** Rear Admiral Michael T. Curran Supply Corps, USN (Ret.)

Following the Remembrance Ceremony, members & guests are invited to gather in the Freedom Hall (lower level in the War Memorial) to enjoy a social and lunch, catered by *Homemades by Suzanne*. (menu: deep dish chicken pot pie with winter vegetables, served with a fruit salad and desert).

Rear Admiral Michael T. Curran is a native of Gaithersburg, Maryland. He is graduate of Villanova University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and was commissioned through the NROTC program in 1991. He is also a 2008 graduate of Strayer University with a Master of Business Administration. He earned JPME Phase 1 through the Air Command and Staff College in 2008 and JPME Phase II through the Joint Forces Staff College in 2016.

His active-duty assignments include serving as disbursing and sales officer onboard **USS Portland (LSD-37)** where he supported Operation Restore Hope (Somalia) and Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti); and as assistant logistics and aviation supply officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan.

Affiliating with the Navy Reserve (NR) in 1997, he has completed reserve assignments with Naval Reserve Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) Headquarters, NR Surface Deployment and Distribution Command Det 202, Headquarters, NR Defense Logistics Agency HQ, and NR Navy Supply Systems Command HQ. His final assignment was a N4, Director Fleet Supply, Ordnance,



**GUEST SPEAKER**

**Rear Admiral  
Michael T. Curran  
Supply Corps, USN (Ret.)**

and Readiness for U.S. Naval Forces Europe, Africa, Sixth Fleet, in Naples, Italy from 2019 to 2022. He led the Navy's logistics response to COVID-

19 Operation Allies Refuge, and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

His command tours include NR Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Sigonella Contracting Company Alpha, NR Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy Acquisition and Procurement, and NR U. S. Fleet Forces Logistics Support Unit. His mobilizations include deputy chief, Current Operations, U.S. Central Command Deployment Distribution Operations Center in Kuwait and Afghanistan; chief of contracts, Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa; and chief of staff, DCMA International. Curran's designations include joint qualified officer, defense acquisition corps member, naval aviation supply officer, and surface warfare supply corps officer. His professional certifications include: DAWIA Professional Contracting, DAWIA Foundational Life Cycle Logistics, Project Management Professional, and Demonstrated Master Logistician.

His personal awards include: the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal & Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal. ✍

**Reservation Deadline Friday November 29, 2024**

**\*\*Refund Policy 2024:** Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned UP TO and INCLUDING the deadline date

**RESERVATIONS: PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY POT PIE LUNCHEON – FRIDAY DEC 6, 2024**

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

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

Total # of Res. \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 25.00 per person Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: (804) 355-7557

Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLUS P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

September has been another busy month for your Richmond Council. Our Annual Golf Outing, held at the Hollows Golf Club, took place on 9/18 and was a success, despite the inclement weather. The Golf committee has decided to move our next golf outing to the spring of 2026, in hopes of attracting additional players and finding improved weather conditions. We are also open to considering other venues for the outing and would appreciate input regarding other potential venues. Be reminded that any venue recommended should have a club house capable of accommodating 100 or more people.

Our Sea Services Luncheon was held at the Willow Oaks Country Club on 10/23. Rear Admiral Sobeck was our guest speaker and did a stellar job enlightening us regarding the activities of

the U. S. Navy Military Sealift Command. The luncheon included representatives from the Navy, Coast Guard, Marines and Military Sealift Command, as well as numerous other guests.

Let's remember to honor and thank our veterans on November 11, Veterans Day and give thanks for this great country. May God continue to bless her.

Friday December 6, at the Virginia War Memorial, is our annual Pearl Harbor Day Remembrance. The speaker will be RDML Michael Curran and a luncheon will follow the remembrance service.

On November 12, General Norton Schwartz, USAF (Ret.) will be speaking at the Houston-Holicky-Sitter Forum, at noon, at Publix John Rolf Commons, 2250 John Rolf Parkway Henrico, VA. All members and readers of this publication are encouraged to attend. ✍

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

### HE PROMISES TO CATCH YOU



*Though he falls, he shall not be utterly cast down. For the LORD upholds him with His Hand.* (Psalm 37:24)

When I was a Camp Doctor for Young Life Camps, in my 40s, I had the opportunity to climb a ropes course forty feet above ground at Saranac Lake, NY. I was

strapped into a harness that ran up over the top of the course through a pulley system, with the other end connected to a teenage camper on the ground below. After walking a beam at the end of the course, I faced a choice of exiting the easy way down a zipline or the hard way, walking a tightrope while holding onto a dangling rope with each hand. At that point, a scripture was posted on the tree saying, "Trust in the Lord, and He will see you across." After offering a prayer, I stepped onto the tightrope. Guess what happened next – I fell! While falling, the teenager below was lifted off the ground. As he slowly lowered me to the ground, he asked if I was okay, to which I replied, "I am upset that I disappointed the Lord." He responded, "He caught you, didn't He?!" I learned an important lesson: The Lord keeps His promises, just not always as we expected.

Watching the current political scene, politicians make many promises, but promises are much easier to make than keep. While humanity has an unreliable record of keeping promises, thankfully, God never fails to fulfill His promises. The writer, Jude, in the Bible, reminds us that God our Savior is able to keep us, you and me, from stumbling..." At first glance, this announcement may get brushed over too quickly. What does Jude mean when using the word "stumbling?" The thought that comes to mind is how easy it is to trip over the slightest obstacle, such as an uneven sidewalk, a miscalculated step, a small stone, or any object that gets in one's way. God promises to catch us if we do not push Him away.

The Bible says in Proverbs that if we "Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Let us trust Him to walk alongside us, because He loves us. Even if our stumble causes us to fall, the Lord God promises to catch us *if* we let Him. ✍

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

## 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

Richard W. Thorson  
David W. Weddel

### SPONSOR

Vaughan F. Dize  
John A. Harler, M.D.

### RENEWED MEMBER

Sgt. John E. Harrison, USMC (Ret.)

### ORIGINAL SPONSOR

CAPT C. Denis Gilchrist, USN (Deceased)

## A RAINY DAY FOR GOLF!!

On 18 September 2024, under a cloudy sky with intermittent drizzle and at times light showers, 86 hardy & faithful golfers headed out for a day of golf at the Richmond Council's 35th Annual Benefit Golf Outing at the Hollows Golf Course. Before heading out to play, everyone was treated to a wonderful BBQ buffet lunch by the Hollows kitchen staff, to whom we give thanks. As folks were eating, there was a raffle drawing for 27 door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. Good fellowship and conversation were had by all.

The Richmond Council thanks all our sponsors and players for their expression of support for our nation's sea services, for sponsoring and participating in our major fundraiser of the year. We also thank all the volunteers who helped make this event successful and special thanks to the Golf Committee, for all their hard work in preparation for the event!

We also want to give special recognition and thanks to the **USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)**'s XO LCDR Hank



Deatrich, for bringing two teams and the **USS Carter Hall (LSD-50)** who was represented by Ensign Joshua McVicker and OSSN Colton Smith.

Congratulations to our winning teams:  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place:** MasTec Team/David Small Captain, with a score of 54 and con-

gratulations to their team member Andy Sullivan for **getting a hole in one** on the Road Course 3<sup>rd</sup> hole!

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** Herndon Law Team/Kevin O'Donnell Captain with a score of 60

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** Three-way tie for third place with scores of 61. Determined by Club rules, the 3d place was awarded to the MasTec Team/Captain Feely.

Congratulations to all and a big **thank you** for your participation in helping to make this a successful fundraising event.



Congratulations to David Small's Team from MasTec for coming in **1<sup>st</sup> Place** with an impressive score of 54! Also, congratulations to Andy Sullivan (far left) for getting **his first hole in one!**



Congratulations to Kevin O'Donnell's Team from Herndon Law for coming in **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** with another impressive score of 60!



Golf Co-Chairman, Doug Reed, presents Russ Martin with his winning raffle prize, a Henoty Golf Stand Bag. Russ was also the winner of four tickets to the Flying Squirrels Games AND four Gift Certificates to Boychiks Deli. What a lucky guy he was that day! Congratulations!



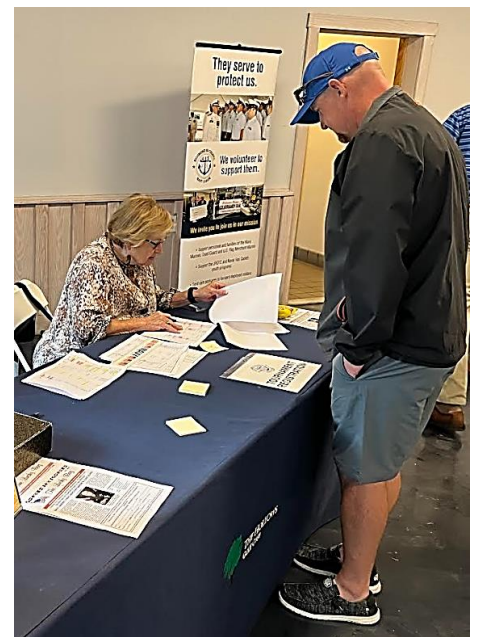
**Pictured L to R: Sailors from USS *Carter Hall*: Wilesle S. Wint, LT CHC Command Chaplain; ENS Joshua McVicker, Team Captain; OSSN Colton Smith and ship Liaison, Pat Robson.**



**John Harler (Golf Chairman) had his 1965 Hermitage High School buddies join in the tournament. L to R: Ricky Hicks, Billy Hall, Doug Gardner and Will Gardner (Doug's son).**



**USCGC *Spencer's* Teams standing with Navy League ship Liaison's Tom Hassell and Tom Jennings.**



**Golfer checking in with Jane Harler at the Registration Desk,**



**Many thanks to the volunteers working the raffle/mulligan tables. We could not have done this without you!! L to R: Laura Dize Sutherland, Melissa Hill (Herndon Law Group), Bonnie Haist and Hannah Miller (Youngblood, Tyler & Associates).**



**ENS Turner Linafelter, on USCGC *Spencer's* Team, wins tickets to the VA Tech vs GA Tech Game.**

# THANK YOU !!

A **BIG** heartfelt **THANK YOU** to the volunteers, our sponsors, and individuals for their donations of time and monetary donations, that all helped to make Richmond Council's golf outing a **big** success!!

Ace Electric - Kerry Edwards  
Bill & Nancy Butler  
Bill Hall  
Bill Swackhamer  
Bliley's – Jennifer Moss,  
Outreach Director  
Boychiks Deli – John, Store Mgr.  
Carol Zembroski  
Cathy Martin Carter  
Century Construction Company, Inc.  
Neil Palmer  
Chianti Ristorante & Pizzeria  
Frank Bussa  
Claris Financial, LLC – John Paxton  
Cliff Bruce Studio – Cliff Bruce  
Colonial Scientific, Inc. - Paul Rinko  
Conrado C. Gonzales, Jr., M.D.  
Davenport & Co. – Michael Denton  
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Father Bill Bartz  
Fran Garrett  
Frank Carlomagno  
Fred Williams  
Gary Riffle  
George Feitig  
Grapevine Restaurant – Mitchell Trak  
Hannah Miller – Youngblood, Tyler  
& Associates  
Harvey Lankford, M.D.  
Herndon Law Group – Melissa Hill &  
Bonnie Haist  
Homemades by Zuzanne  
Warren Wolstenholme  
Hondos Steakhouse  
Jay Fiedler, M.D.  
John A. Harler, M.D & wife Jane  
John & Katie Heistand  
John Paul Jones  
Keiter CPA's – Michael Grack  
Laura Dize Sutherland  
Maria Gallegos  
Mastec Utility Services  
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Mission BBQ – Travis Williamson,  
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Pat Robson  
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Sherry Haskell  
The Hollows Country Club  
Robert McCroskey, Golf Pro  
The Hotel Roanoke  
The Restaurant Co. T/A Arby's  
John P. Ripp  
Tom Hassell  
Tom Jennings  
Towne Bank – Duncan Owen  
University of Richmond Football  
Brad Dilen-Assistant Athletic Dir.  
of Strategic Ticketing & Sales  
Analytics  
Vaughan Dize  
Virginia Tech – Ms. J.C. Whidden  
Sr. Assoc Athletic Director and  
Kelly C. Knachel – Director/Ticket  
Operations  
Wal Mart / 1504 N. Parham Road  
Nick Carver  
West Cary Associates

## AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADETS

On Saturday October 19, AMERICA Division Sea Cadets held a drill on at the Henrico Fire training station. The cadets were getting to practice various positions for holding and controlling an active firehose. It took a lot of effort, and the cadets made it look easy! At the end, they were teamed up and had a race to push a 40lb medicine ball down a straightaway through some cones with the firehose. The cadet at the nozzle had to direct the rest behind them to "push" forward or "retreat" back as needed to keep good pressure on the ball. We appreciate y'all's support and enabling them to have these enriching experiences! (photos and article submitted by ENS Jennifer Burns AMERICA Division USNSCC/USNLCC). 🚒



## SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON

On October 23, 2024, the Richmond Navy League observed and appreciated all four of our maritime services with our Sea Services Luncheon, which included ceremonial cake-cutting, Missing Man Table presentation, NJROTC Honor Guard, and a string quintet from Mechanicsville High School.

Our keynote speaker was RDML Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command. Admiral Sobeck graphically explained to us the logistics role of MSC to the U.S. Navy, the increasing worldwide conflicts that maximize MSC's importance, and the recruiting/staffing challenges that must be overcome to maintain their effectiveness. Unlike the other armed services that have a direct staffing pipeline from the service academies, MSC must recruit from private maritime academies, college ROTC programs, civilian resources, and in competition with the for-profit maritime industry.

The Military Sealift Command consists of a fleet of 144 ships, the fourth largest fleet in the world. Many of their ships are in their Combat Logistics Force, which supplies at-sea combatants with fuel, supplies, and ammunition while underway. Other specialized ships, like ARS's (Salvage & Rescue Ships) carry out unique missions. Maintaining a fleet of ships consumes a large amount of money, so adequate funding is always an ongoing concern. Carriers, destroyers, and submarines get the attention... and funding. Oilers, cable-layers, and oceanographic ships aren't nearly as glitzy so funding isn't as high a priority.

The Military Sealift Command is logistically "the Navy behind the Navy", but our U.S. Navy combatants could not operate without them. 🇺🇸



Mechanicsville High School NJROTC Color Guard with NJROTC Naval Science Instructor, Chief Jay Kelly, USN (Ret.).



Guest Speaker Rear Admiral Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.



Dennis Biggs, Council Director & Assistant Liaison with USS *Normandy*, welcomes LT from Navy Talent Acquisition Group – Richmond.



Ceremonial cake cutting performed by (L to R): XO LCDR Hank Deatrich, USCGC *Spencer*; CDR Amy Thomas, CO Navy Reserve-Richmond; Col. Joe Wadle, USMC (Ret.); CO CDR Justin Stroch, USCGC *Spencer* and Rear Admiral Philip Sobeck, Commander U.S. Navy's MSC.



Ceremonial Cake honoring our Nations Sea Services: Marines, Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines.



L to R: USCGC *Northland*: CSEL MKC Ethan Stanford; ENS Doughtry and ENS Wallet; and USCGC *Spencer's* XO LCDR Hank Deatrich.



Mechanicsville High School String Quintet did an *outstanding* job playing numerous patriotic songs before the luncheon.

## SUB ATTACK FINAL ACTION FOR NATIVE

By: Frank J. Fenton  
Times-Herald Staff Writer

### Council's Director & Judge Advocate, Tom Hassell, Jr., shares a story of his father's encounter with a German Sub during WWI.

The HMS *Britannia*, proceeding at a leisurely speed, steamed along the Spanish coast with *Cape Trafalgar* just off her starboard bow.

Trafalgar, a name to stir the most latent patriotic blood in British veins, scene of Lord Nelson's historic sea battle in 1805, was not the subject of interest to His Majesty's seamen this November 10, 1918.

Instead of crowding the rails to view the sight epitomizing England's mastery of the seas, the crew huddled around the ship's radio breathlessly awaiting news of development on the continent.

Ten minutes away cruised the American destroyer, *Luce*, with Lt. Thomas Hassell of Newport News on the bridge. Young Hassell had left his native Peninsula seeking adventure on the high seas in pursuit of the German undersea raiders.

But so far, the Great War had been a hu-drum affair, and the undersea boats of Kaiser Bill a mere fiction as far as Hassell was concerned.

Now, on this afternoon of November 10, 1918, with peace but hours away, there seemed little doubt that Hassell's war adventure stories would have to be confined to retelling arguments with the ship's cook.

Perhaps had not the impending surrender of the Germans been so well advertised, some, or at least one of the *Britannia*'s crew, would have been on deck to gaze at the rocky tor that was *Trafalgar*, and gazing out over the expanse of water might have been the battleship's nemesis.

Like the hooded cobra protruding above the jungle grass, the ominous eye of a U-boat periscope flared above the calm ocean's surface. In the conning tower several fathoms below, a German officer peered intently at the unsuspecting target.

On the bridge of the *Luce*, Lieutenant Hassell spotted the ship's radioman leap from his shack and race along the narrow flush deck anxiously waving a yellow sheet of paper.

Hassell believed it to be an official communique announcing the end of the war. The radio operator burst into the bridge

and yelled: "Lieutenant, Lieutenant," he paused to get his breath, "the British battleship *Britannica* has just been torpedoed. By its position, we are the closest ship."

Hassell grabbed the radio message and quickly scanned the reported position. Not far over the horizon lay the stricken *Britannica*. Jumping to the engine telegraph, Hassell signaled for full speed ahead while ordering the quartermaster to alter course in the direction of the sinking ship.

MINUTES LATER, the listing hull of the warship hove into view, and as the *Luce* raced to the rescue, Hassell stayed glued to the bridge, his eyes taking in the heartrending sight of a majestic warship dying.

As the *Luce* closed the distance, Hassell could make out seamen leaping from the slanted deck into the flaming oil-coated waters. The destroyer was still too far away to render assistance.

Despite all Hassell's exhortations to the gang below, no more speed could be obtained and even while the *Luce* was still miles away, the lieutenant watched helplessly as *Britannica* slowly rolled over on its port until it was flat on its side.

The slow roll continued until the redleaded bottom came topside, members of *Britannica*'s crew clinging desperately to the huge protruding keel. Then, with a shudder that threatened to shake the doomed seamen from their perch, *Britannica* nosed forward.

With a hissing and roaring that could be plainly heard by Hassell, the *Britannica* reared itself stern first, and with a mighty rumble, plunged bow down into the ocean depths, carrying those clinging to her keel to their deaths.

In a letter to his mother in Newport News, dated December 5, 1918, Hassell wrote, "It was a great sight to watch a big ship like that turn over and sink."

Down in the bowels of the *Luce*, the primitive underwater detection gear, hydrophone, picked up the U-boat's trail.

All through the afternoon the hunter and the hunted twisted and turned in the waters of the southern Spanish coast, one intent on the kill – the other on escaping. Each was oblivious that peace for both was in the immediate offing.

Darkness fell on the scene that 113 years before witnessed England's greatest naval triumph and but hours ago, one of her saddest defeats. But the rise and fall of Britain's sea fortunes were forgotten by the crew of the *Luce* and sailors in the U-boat.

Every device known to the U-boat commander to throw a pursuer off the

trail proved fruitless in the efforts to shake the *Luce*. Ruse after ruse was employed, but the hydrophone operator managed to keep contact with the prey.

Shortly before 9 that night, less than six hours after the sinking of the *Britannica*, the hydrophone soundings indicated the submarine was within depth charge range.

Lieutenant Hassell gave the signal to start bombing the area. Barrel-shaped charges lobbed in graceful arcs from the fantail of the *Luce* to splash into a prescribed pattern port and starboard. Seconds after the explosives disappeared geysers of water spewed skyward as the canisters detonated below.

The *Luce* swung into a wide circular path; its depth charges hurled with increasing rapidity. The destroyer had hardly completed a semi-circle when a lookout spotted a turbulence different from a depth charge explosion roiling the waters starboard.

The spotter yelled to the deck below, "I think we hit it – it looks like it's surfacing." Deck gun crews sprang into action and muzzles were quickly trained on the disturbance. Hardly before gunsights were adjusted, the bow of a submarine below the surface, was pointing almost skyward.

The blount bow, its torpedo tubes plainly visible, levelled and the conning tower broke the surface. Almost immediately, a hatch was flung open, and German sailors began pouring out on decks still awash.

Even as the first deck gun opened fire, the Germans were flinging themselves into the sea. Shell after shell ripped into the helpless submarine as its demoralized crew deserted it.

Lieutenant Hassell wrote of the occasion: "We trailed the sub until 9 at night when we had the pleasure of seeing it sink. We took aboard 94 survivors."

Whether the Newport News native meant survivors of the *Britannica* or a combination of both the battleship and submarine crews is hard to determine, for 94 survivors indicated more than the complement of World War I submarines which was usually about 35 men.

The *Luce* and her cargo of survivors steamed into Gibraltar and remained in port for the next several days.

On November 12, 1918, the first hours of world peace, Lieutenant Hassell headed a 50-man detachment from the *Luce*'s crew in a funeral procession for 398 sailors of the *Britannica* who had found eternal rest. ✍

## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



**USS Normandy (CG-60)**  
CO: CAPT Nathan Diaz  
XO: CDR Adam J. Samson  
CMC: CMDCM Andrew Conover

**George L. Feitig, Jr., Liaison**  
**Dennis Biggs, Ass't Liaison**

Hello Richmond Navy League!

**USS Normandy** is finally on her way back from her second service deployment in the last five months!

The crew was able to have a long port call in Helsinki, Finland as well as Rota, Spain. After returning to homeport, the foot won't be let up from the gas pedal, as **Normandy** returns to face the battle of Norfolk. The ship will be tackling MOB-D, Anti-terrorism Certification, an 8010 drill as well as a Yorktown offload and DLQs. This is all before a long anticipated 2-month CNO's Maintenance Availability.

The crew has been in good spirits though through all of the work. We recently had a MWR "Talent Show" that was a huge hit and morale booster. We also had a Steel Beach picnic put on by **Normandy's** Chief's Mess.

Lastly, we would like to congratulate LS2 Cuevastorres, HM2 Martin and GSM1 Zhanay. These Sailors were Meritoriously Promoted (MAPED) to the next paygrade. Bravo Zulu shipmates!

That's it for **USS Normandy**, more to come in November. Until next time NRL! ✍

Very respectfully,  
LT Krueger  
Assistant Chief Engineer  
USS Normandy (CG-60)



**USS Carter Hall (LSD-50)**  
CO: CDR Steven E. Grey  
XO: CDR Brittany N. Lynn  
CMC: CMDCM Benjamin Cruz

## Report by Pat Robson, Liaison

**USS Carter Hall** is currently in the BAE Maintenance in South Norfolk for repairs, crew training and certification, and some well-earned "at-home" time with families. On September 30, the crew celebrated 30 years of active service with a picnic on Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek. ✍



**USS Gravely (DDG-107)**  
CO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez  
XO: CDR Greg Piorun  
CMC: CMDCM Timothy Bickerton

**Courtney Mustin, Liaison**  
**Patrick Harris, Ass't Liaison**

On September 27, **Gravely** welcomed our five newest Chief Petty Officers to the fleet. Chiefs hold a responsibility like no other in the military. These sailors will carry it with pride. Thank you to the friends and family that were able to join us for the celebration. Bravo Zulu Chiefs!



Division Officers from our wardroom were recently hosted by the Surface Navy Association Hampton Roads Chapter at United States Coast Guard Base Portsmouth! This included the opportunity to tour the medium endurance cutter U.S. Coast Guard Cutter **Forward (WMEC-911)**. It's always a pleasure meeting with our sister service! ✍







**USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)**  
**CO: CDR Brian C. Gismervik**  
**XO: LCDR Patricia Green**  
**COB: GMC Matthew Winters**

**Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison**

Greetings from **USCGC Northland!**

The 28<sup>th</sup> of September marked the end of **Northland's** 67-day patrol. Over the course of September, **Northland** carried out countless valuable missions in the Canadian and Northern US Atlantic waters.



**Northland** arrived in St. John's, Nova Scotia early in September. During this port call, several members of the crew met with members of the Canadian Coast Guard to deepen connections and learn about our similarities and differences.

Following a presentation about the Canadian Coast Guard's mission, assets and structure, **Northland** crew members were given a tour of their Sector and one of their newer boats.



To conclude this unique experience, **Northland** crew was challenged to a game of floor hockey with the Canadians.

After leaving St. Johns, **Northland** continued collaboration with Northwestern Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) as they patrolled closed fishing areas in the Northern Atlantic. While

**Northland** was met with days of low visibility, the crew was able to adapt to these challenges and complete several fisheries inspections. Following the conclusion of **Northland's** work with NAFO, the crew began their journey back south towards home port, conducting domestic fisheries boardings in US waters. En route to **Northland's** final port call in Boston, the crew responded to a fishing vessel in distress. Despite severe reduced visibility, **Northland** was able to transport the injured mariner and bring them on board, where **Northland** was able to MEDEVAC them to the nearest hospital via CG helicopter.



**Northland's** first patrol back from a 9-month dry dock was a great success for our own proficiency and also in the enforcement of both international and domestic fisheries. The crew rose to the occasion every day to overcome all challenges that arose. Upon return to homeport the **Northland** crew was able to get some down time with family and is now conducting mission critical maintenance and training preparing for the next patrol.



As always, we are extremely grateful to the Richmond Chapter for their consistent support. Until next time, fair winds and following sea. 🍃

Very Respectfully,  
LCDR Trish Green  
Executive Officer  
USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)



**USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)**  
**CO: CDR Justin Strock**  
**XO: LCDR L.H (Hank) Deatrich**  
**COB: BMC Cody Johnson**

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

**USCGC Spencer (WMEC 905)** remains at the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland. The reconstitution phase has begun, as members of our Engineering Department commenced work onboard the ship to bring different ship systems online after over 15 months. Excitement continues to grow as **Spencer** enters the final stages of the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP).

Back in Portsmouth, personnel are making final preparations for the ship's return. The crew is inventorying critical gear and ordering equipment necessary to reconstitute and make **Spencer** ready for operations.

The crew continues to take advantage of Professional Development opportunities locally and our support continues for other Cutters deployed.



We extend our gratitude to the Richmond Navy League for your unwavering support. We will keep you updated as this process progresses toward completion, and we look forward to welcoming the Navy League onboard **Spencer** in the coming months! 🍃

Very Respectfully,  
ENS Lea Walker  
Public Affairs Officer  
USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)

## Thank You Sponsors!


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## A PATRIOT SPEAKS

By: LCDR L. Peter Wren, USN  
Died 9-19-2014; age 94

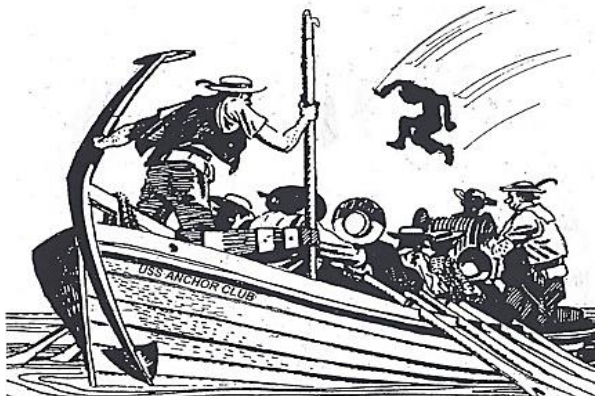
This short paragraph speaks to the children of today, to help them understand that love of country, duty and honor are the greatest tributes we can give back to America and our families. Many patriots have gone before us protecting and defending the American concept of freedom. Some have just simply served when called on and have no great heroics to report. Others have been in the thick of the forays and returned home to enjoy the peace for which they fought. Still others we have left on the field and waters of war, while we the survivors, live to enjoy what they fought and died for. We can never forget those patriots. That is why you will find us on patriotic holidays taking time to set a few hours free to say our profound *thank you* for their sacrifice. These short moments of parading our flag are a continuation of that spirit that lives today in the hearts of true patriots who could be your next-door neighbor. On the next patriotic holiday, be it the 4th of July, Memorial Day, Pearl Harbor Day, or Veterans Day, take a moment to remember that this is a gift to you because someone before you knew the value of freedom.

(Note: LCDR Peter Wren was a Veteran of WWII and the Korean War. He was one of the rescue officers for the survivors of the **USS Indianapolis** and author of *Those in Peril on the Sea* and *We Were There*. These novels are available at the Richmond Council Navy League office. If interested, call the office at 804-355-7557 to reserve a copy).



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