

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



Cadets of the United States AMERICA Division Sea Cadets and League Cadet Corps parade in review.

# THEY TRAIN – WE SUPPORT

In 1958, the Department of the Navy asked the Navy League to sponsor a Sea Cadet Program for America's youth; and the Navy League accepted the challenge. The intent was to "create a favorable image of the Navy on the part of American youth". In September 1962, the Naval Sea Cadet Corps was federally chartered by Congress as a non-profit civilian organization. This law established the NSCC as a legal entity and set forth the purpose, objectives, corporate powers and other enabling details for the functioning of NSCC. Sea Cadet Corps exists in most of the maritime countries of the world: Canada, Great Britain, Belgium, Bermuda and Japan, to name a few.

Through sponsorship of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Navy League Cadet Corps, the Navy League is making an important investment in youth, the future leaders of our country. This is an investment that will be returned to us many folds in the years to come.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



## Ahoy!

We are beginning our second year of the Pandemic and I am tired of it. Waiting to get a vaccine, start our activities and return to normal. We have canceled the Spring Luncheon and may delay our Golf Outing until September. When will it all end?

Some thoughts (hopes) for the future: return to Dahlgren, Marine Corps Museum, Harbor Fest (Tall Ships), our adopted ships and activities, Oceana Air Show and many more. If you have any ideas or special interests, let me know, and we will try to make them happen. Wish I could paraphrase ADM Farragut and say, "Damn the torpedoes/pandemic FULL SPEED AHEAD".

It is our commitment to keep the Richmond Council alive and vibrant now and into the future. Let us all dedicate ourselvs to this end.

#### The Lucky Bag

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#### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

#### Well done good and faithful servant

Before the above quote, the Lord, in the Parable of the Shrewd Manager, said, "Whoever is faithful with very little will also be faithful with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much".

I recently read a comparison of what was available to Americans 100 years ago compared to now. For example: the average life span of 47 years, 14% of homes had bathtubs, 8% had telephones, 2 out of 10 adults could neither read nor write and many more examples.

We have been given so much in such a short time. Have we been faithful stewards? My grandpappy may have said, "We've become too big for our britches". The Bible says, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and lose his soul"?

In having so much, it is our responsibility to humble ourselves before God as the source of every good and perfect gift and not take credit without acknowledging Him.

Our Annual Fundraising Golf Outing will be held in September. Details in next issue.

# CONGRATULATIONS LCDR GARY RIFFLE, SR.



Warrant Officer Gary K. Riffle, Sr., USN, (Ret) Commanding Officer, AMERICA Division, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, and a member of the Richmond Council Navy League Board of Directors, has been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander. LCDR Riffle has volunteered with the AMERICA Division for the past 10 years, and has served as Commanding Officer for the past 2+ years. Congratulations, and Bravo Zulu LCDR Riffle.



Officers, Staff and Cadets of AMERICA Division, the #2 ranked Sea Cadet Unit in the Nation.

#### **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

### **SPONSOR**

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## U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS AND LEAGUE CADET CORPS

The Naval Sea Cadet Corps is a program for young men and women ages 13-17 who are interested in developing their leadership skills, courage, self-reliance, military discipline and are committed to being drug and gang free.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

Goals of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Naval League Cadet Corps (NSCC) are:

- : To develop an interest and skill in seamanship and seagoing subjects.
- To make cadets aware of the prestige of a military career.
- To instill in cadets an appreciation of our Navy's history, customs, traditions; and the importance of the modern Navy as an essential element of America's defense team.
- To build in every cadet a sense of patriotism, courage, self-reliance, confidence and similar qualities which will mold good character and citizenship.
- To increase the advancement potential of cadets who may later elect to serve in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or Merchant Marine".

#### TRAINING

NSCC Training is authorized aboard the ships and shore activities of the Navy and Coast Guard, with training conducted by qualified NSCC officers and Navy and Coast Guard instructors. In addition to classroom and onthe-job training, cadets receive instruction in morale guidance, social amenities, water safety, drug/alcohol abuse and Navy customs and traditions, among other subjects. Cadets are also given presentations on civilian and military career opportunities.

Sea Cadet recruits (E-1) attend a two-week recruit training (TWT) period during their first summer at the Navy's Recruit Training Command. Cadets receive a condensed version of the basic training given Navy enlistees. They emerge with increased self-discipline and justifiable pride in their accomplishments.

As E-2 cadets, they are eligible to take part in advanced training in their field of choice. In addition, cadets have an opportunity to experience "hands-on" training aboard Navy ves-

sels ranging from tugboats to nuclearpowered aircraft carriers.

NSCC also has international exchange programs in Canada, Belgium, Bermuda, Great Britain, Sweden and the Netherlands. Each summer, outstanding cadets are selected to serve as young ambassadors and to train with their foreign counterparts.



Cadets assisting Culinary Art Specialists at U.S. Coast Guard Station Milford Haven in Hudgins, VA.

#### **BENEFITS**

In addition to personal development, there are certain other benefits which accrue to young people through participation in Cadet Corps programs. First, and most important, is familiarization with the military. Many young people enter the Navy or Coast Guard without a full realization of the commitment involved. The Cadet Corps programs allow young people to sample military life while in high school without any obligation to join any branch of the armed forces.

A benefit of particular importance is the opportunity to compete for scholarships for those cadets who are continuing their education at the college level.



Cadets training at U.S. Coast Guard Station Milford Haven



NSCC Cadets training with the 278<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry Regiment at Fort Pickett, VA.

#### **SEA CADETS** cont. from page 3



Sea Cadets learning the science of reading Sea Charts at National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Norfolk.

#### STAYING THE COURSE

Richmond Navy League has always been anxious to receive reports of a young man or woman who has advanced through one of our supported youth groups in their pursuit of a military career. A few are listed below.



At their annual Honors Night Program in 2002, Richmond Navy League honored Cadet Rebecca Wolf as AMERICA Division Sea Cadet of the Year. Rebecca went on to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. In 2018, LCDR Rebecca Wolf, USN, assumed command of USS GLADIATOR (MCM-11), a mine countermeasures ship, home ported in Bahrain. She is now in Washington, D.C. working in Legislative Affairs.



AMERICA Division Sea Cadets and staff assembled at National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).



AMERICA Division Sea Cadet, CPO Ryan Pellegrino, was awarded the United States Naval Sea Cadet of the Year for the Nation. After attending Old Dominion University, he became a midshipmen as part of the NROTC unit and was accepted into the U.S. Navy Flight Program where he selected "Rotary" for his advanced training. Ryan won his "Wings of Gold" and was designated U.S. Navy Aviator June 28, 2019. Now LTJG Ryan Pellegrino has moved to NAS North Island, San Diego, CA.



Master at Arms Parker Worrell is a member of the U.S. Navy Security Force at the U.S. Navy Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.



Airman First Class (A1C) Nick Weggen, former AMERICA Division, is a Cryptologic Linguist and recently graduated (as a distinguished graduate) from Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA having studied Mandarin Chinese. He will be attending Intelligence School in Texas before reporting for duty in Hawaii.



Former AMERICA Division Sea Cadets Lucas Aparicio (L) and Jesse Chernault (R) are seniors attending Virginia Military Institute.

## **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

**NORMANDY** remains in the yard and will remain so until sometime this summer. **NORMANDY** has a new Public Affairs Officer: ENS James Lott.



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

#### Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

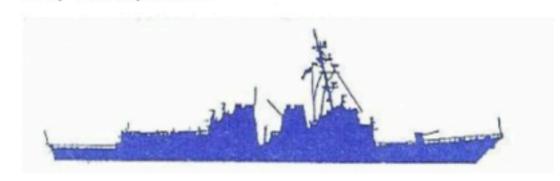
The New Year is now in full swing, we have one full month behind us and the changes that each New Year brings are perhaps most apparent aboard the CARTER HALL than anywhere else. The most visible of changes lies with our new Commanding Officer, CDR LaDonna Simpson. On January 21, 2021 she relieved CDR Matthew Shellock following his fine tour of service. As the CARTER HALL continues to prepare for future underways and sterling service to the Nation, we are incorporating the new guidance and bearing changes that have followed. In the words of our CAPT, "Know Your Purpose...To lead, you must know who you are. What gives you purpose, energy and passion? My purpose is service to the Nation. ... Purpose is the force that aligns your personal honor and integrity to the core values of the Navy. ... Become the kind of authentic leader who inspires Sailors to find their calling to become great leaders in their own right".

Additionally, the CAPT reminds us that "Standards Matter". As I think upon that, the service of the Richmond Navy League towards CARTER HALL and her crew comes charging to the forefront of my mind. In unrelenting commitment to supporting us, we were entrusted \$1,000.00

worth of "Deployment Dollars" for use in rewarding the hard work and dedicated efforts of our junior sailors. I personally cannot wait to witness the shocked look of surprise and pride when our first Sailor receives this public recognition before the rest of the crew. Thank you for creatively and continually, contributing to the welfare and well-being of America's sons and daughters!

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

Greetings from Team **GRAVELY!** When you read this, we will be back from our first underway with CDR Odom. We have certified in damage control efforts, landing and launching helicopters and performing a connected replenishment at sea!

Congratulations to the newest members of **GRAVELY's** Chief Petty Officer Mess! Six stellar Sailors on our deck plates earned the title Chief on January 29, 2021.

**GRAVELY** Sailors continue to push hard through the Basic Phase! We are getting valuable tips from the Afloat Training Group as we certify the ship in executing seamanship and navigation maneuvers, live gunnery fire exercises and responding to engineering casualties.

The 56<sup>th</sup> Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, **USS GRAVELY** is homeported in Norfolk and named after Vice ADM Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. ADM Gravely became the **first** African-American:

- · to command a U.S. Navy warship
- to command an American warship under combat conditions
- · to command a major naval warship
- to rise to the rank of vice admiral
- to rise to the rank of admiral
- · to command a U.S. Fleet.

ADM Gravely was highly decorated with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal and Navy Commendation Medal.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DDG107/

Official Navy Website: www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/ 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 the Gulf of Mexico! I hope you all had a great holiday season and are enjoying the winter weather in Virginia and elsewhere. **NORTHLAND** has officially begun her winter patrol, with the crew very excited to embark on a fisheries enforcement mission.

Before getting to enforcing fisheries laws, however, NORTHLAND had to go through two inspections. The first tested the cutter's ability to train personnel in variety of shipboard emergencies, such as attacks from foreign vessels, fires in the engine room, and injuries to multiple crewmembers at once. Normally, crews go through a three-week training availability that involves over 130 drills and lots of intensive training. Due to COVID, we were allotted four days to conduct 66 drills, so we had to be extremely efficient with our time. An added level of difficulty during this inspection was the fact that our engineers worked diligently to repair both the emergency generator and the #2 main diesel engine, both of which prevented us from getting underway from Mayport, FL. However, our adaptability and extensive training paid off, and we not only passed all of our drills with flying colors, but were able to continue on patrol. Needless to say, I was very proud of the crew's perseverance.

On our way to Pensacola, FL for an aviation inspection, we had to swing by Tampa Bay to conduct an at sea transfer of one of our small boats with another cutter. Although the transit inbound was uneventful, the outbound transit was reminiscent of a scary movie, as a dense sea fog rolled in that prevented us from viewing anything beyond our bow. Everyone on the cutter remained silent and hyperfocused, as they listened for sounds of other vessels and navigational aids. It was a surreal spectacle in that the stars were shining brightly above us, but we could not see the channel in front of us.

Once in Pensacola, the #2 generator decided to cease operating since the ship likes to keep this crew on its toes. As the engineers tackled the generator (and safely re-fueled the cutter), our aviation inspection began. After confirming that NORTH-LAND had all necessary gear in proper

USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 5

#### NORTHLAND cont. from page 4

working order and that the crew's knowledge of helicopter operations was satisfactory, the ship took to the sea and embarked a helicopter for live exercises. Crewmembers masterfully executed two high level procedures (i.e., inflight refueling and picking up/dropping off supplies on the flight deck), and 20 landing and takeoff evolutions (both during the day and at night). Upon knocking the aviation inspection out of the park, NORTHLAND returned to Pensacola to finishing repairing the generator and tackle issues with the sewage system (both of which are operating as designed at the moment).

If it wasn't readily apparent, this ship could not operate without the blood, sweat, and tears of the engineering department and the savvy ordering of critical parts by the storekeepers. Constant repairs are a way of life on any ship, more so on here due to the fact **NORTHLAND** is almost forty years old. The entire crew has proudly embraced the challenges "NORA" throws at us; I have no doubt that we are extending **NORTHLAND's** service life on a daily basis.

Now that our inspections are complete and our repairs are holding, we are ready to conduct both domestic fisheries enforcement and prevent illegal fishing in our waters by Mexican vessels. Domestically, we will level the playing field by boarding the U.S. fishing fleet to verify safe and fair operations; we will also ensure that recreational fishermen are following the rules and not becoming future search and rescue cases. When we are patrolling along the Maritime Boundary Line between the United States and Mexico, we will actively seek and retrieve illegal fishing gear soaking in U.S. waters, as well as intercept those vessels trying to recover such gear. I look forward to sending you photos of NORTHLAND conducting the fisheries mission; it is one that is near to my heart.

Respectfully, CDR Patricia Bennett

### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND



In this era of a world-wide Pandemic, Navy protocols have forced tradition to adapt in some unfamiliar ways. USS CARTER HALL held their Change of Command Ceremony on January 21st on the ship's bridge. Commanding Officer, CDR LaDonna Simpson (on the left), exchanges salutes with outgoing CO CDR Matthew Shellock.

# NAVY LEAGUE DELIVERS DEPLOYMENT DOLLARS TO USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) entered its second phase of COVID-19 crew-

NORTHLAND's flight deck crew tying down a CG Helicopter during flight operations.

quarantine on Super Bowl Sunday in preparation for upcoming deployment. In keeping with our Navy League tradition of gifting our sponsored ships Deployment Dollars, we extended that program to the **CARTER HALL** and they eagerly accepted. We arranged to deliver the packet on Wednesday, February 3.

Teamwork is a Navy League's trademark. John Harler, on short notice, produced the Deployment Dollar chits. Nancy Butler manufactured the "big" photo op check, Bill Butler wrote the negotiable \$1,000 underwriting check, and CARTER HALL Liaison, Pat Robson, drove the packet to Little Creek and hand-delivered it to LT James Block, our shipboard Liaison. We "conscripted" a passing Sailor to take photos and our mission was accomplished. We turned the entire project in about 3 days and achieved the handoff in about 20 minutes. With a short lead-time until lines-off, we made certain that deployed CARTER HALL Sailors will receive a tangible, unexpected reward for their good work at sea.

The bond between the Richmond Navy League and the USS CARTER HALL is strong and one of mutual appreciation. We truly support those who serve us... and they are grateful.

# 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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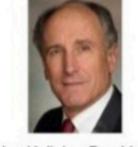
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