



MARCH 2023

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

RICHMOND COUNCIL SPRING LUNCHEON WEDNESDAY, 29 MARCH 2023

Richmond Council Navy League is excited to announce the Guest Speaker at our Spring Luncheon, CDR Brad A Fancher; Commanding Officer of one of our adopted ships, **USS CARTER HALL**.

CDR Brad Fancher is a native of Lumberton, Texas, and a 2003 graduate of Purdue University, where he earned his commission and a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and Technology. He also holds a Master of Science in Operations Research Analysis from the Naval Postgraduate School.

Commander Fancher has served operationally in the Third, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Fleet. Areas of Responsibility include deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

CDR Fancher's sea duty assignments include: a Division Officer tours as the Electrical Officer aboard **USS JUNEAU (LPD 10)**; a Department Head tour as Engineering Officer aboard



**CDR BRAD A. FANCHER
COMMANDING OFFICER
USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)**

USS HARPER S. FERRY (LSD 49), where he served a forty-month extended tour bringing her through a mid-life upgrade and follow on deployment, earning the Battle E; and most recently, Commanding Officer aboard **USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50)**.

(Note: **USS CARTER HALL** was the command ship for the recent recovery mission of China's spy balloon)

Biography and pictures of CARTER HALL continued on page four.

SPRING LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

- DATE:** Wednesday 29 March 2023
- 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 SPRING LUNCHEON: To be received by Wednesday March 22, 2023

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

RESERVATIONS FOR SPRING LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY MARCH 29, 2023

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Regular meal served **unless** special meal is requested (please circle): 1 or 2 Veggie Meal(s)

Total # of Res. _____ @ \$ 25.00 per person Enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLU S P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: (804) 355-7557

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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



The last time I had this job, we were in the middle of the COVID pandemic - severely restricting our activities. Now, we have a fresh start. The Board, via weekly "round table" meetings, have been hard at work with exciting new projects:

- The first was a trip to the Museum of the US Army at Ft Belvoir, Feb. 23
- Followed by the Spring Luncheon, March 29, with CDR Fancher, CO of **USS CARTER HALL**. (We anticipate he will share some information of **CARTER HALL's** role in the mission of China's spy balloon recovery).
- The Parade of Sail during the Norfolk Harborfest, June 9
- Summer Luncheon, June 21
- Navy League's Family and Friends Summer Picnic, July 15
- Tangier Island, August 12

The Lucky Bag

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Office: 2015 W. Laburnum Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

Telephone: (804) 355-7557

Fax: (804) 355-8788

E-mail address:

navyleaquerichmond@comcast.net

Website: navyleague-richmond.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NavyLeagueRVA

NavyLeagueRVA

Editor: William W. McCathern, Jr.

Production Assistants: Nancy G. Butler, Billy L. Butler, John A. Harler, M.D. and Patrick D. Harris

Photographer: Vaughan F. Dize

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

Other events are on the horizon. Please see *The Lucky Bag* for details as they arise.

To my predecessor, Pat Harris: **JOB WELL DONE!**

Vaughan Dize and Pat Robson are doing great work behind the scenes, making my job easier.

All members, *please* consider volunteering for duty on board.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

BE MY VALENTINE



Isn't it wonderful to receive Valentine cards from friends and loved ones? We learn this practice from childhood. We dedicate a whole day to expressing our love for one another in this manner. As we live in a time of *political correctness* and *cancel culture*, wouldn't it be wonderful if every day could be like Valentine's Day? So, where is there a prescription for this kind of living? Well, when Jesus was asked the question, "What is the greatest commandment?", He answered by quoting from the Jewish Scriptures saying that *the greatest command is to love God with every aspect of our being*, from Deuteronomy 6:5. The second greatest commandment He quoted from Leviticus 19:18 saying that it is similar to the first commandment because it is about who and how we love: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself*.

We are all familiar with "The Golden Rule" which says, *So, in everything, do unto others what you would have them do to you*. This comes from Matthew 7:12.

Maybe we should revisit these commandments and rules for living so there would be a lot less strife and discord in the world.

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

Rear Admiral Paul F. Sullivan, USN (Ret)

SPONSOR

John A. Harler, M.D.

Think about that as you re-read your Valentine cards this year, and let's build some love relationships with our neighbors.

Spring Luncheon Guest Speaker, CDR Fancher cont. from front page

Ashore, CDR Fancher's assignments include: Battle Watch Captain (N33) at U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, Bahrain; Engineering Assessment Pacific, Diesel and Steam Assessment Team; Lead Exercise Planner (N35) for the Naval Forces Africa Express Series exercise program in the Gulf of Guinea; Deputy Executive Assistant to Commander U.S. 6th; and Political-Military Affairs Officer to Australia, New Zealand and Oceania as part of the Joint Staff, J-5 Strategy and Plans Asia Directorate.

Medals: Navy Commendation Medal (three), Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal (three), Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Humanitarian Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Battle E, and the Expeditionary Service Medal among others.

VIRGINIA BEACH-BASED TEAM RETRIEVES CHINESE SPY BALLOON FROM ATLANTIC

A team of sailors assigned to Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek fished what is believed to be the high-altitude Chinese surveillance balloon out of the Atlantic days after it was shot down.

Photos released by the U.S. Navy show the sailors, who were assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2 and the **USS CARTER HALL**, working to pull the balloon into their boat.

It was brought down around 2:40 pm Saturday February 4 by an F-22 Raptor fighter from Langley Air Force Base's 1st Fighter Wing, Gen. Glen VanHerck, Commander of the North American

Spy Balloon continued on page 3

Spy Balloon retrieved in the Atlantic continued from page 2.

Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command, commented on Monday the AIM-9X Sidewinder missile was fired at the large white orb, scattering debris about six miles off the South Carolina Coast.

Debris recovery efforts launched Sunday Feb 5 at 10 AM with USS **CARTER HALL**, an amphibious landing ship out of the Virginia Beach base, acting as the lead ship.

CARTER HALL's search was supported by the **USS PSCAR AUSTIN** and **USS PHILLIPINE SEA** from Norfolk, as well as **USNS PATHFINDER**, a survey ship that has been mapping the ocean floor using sonar.

Agents with the FBI and Naval Criminal Investigative Service are embedded with salvage operations personnel to assist in counterintelligence work, VanHerck said.

Officials detected the balloon Jan 28 when it entered U.S. airspace over the Aleutian Islands off the Alaska coast. It then passed over Canada and reentered U.S. airspace over Idaho on Tuesday, the Defense Department said.

On Wednesday, President Biden gave the order to shoot down the balloon once there was no risk to people on the ground. (By: Caitlyn Burchett; Staff Writer *VA Beach Pilot*).



Sailors assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group 2 recover a high-altitude surveillance balloon off the coast of Myrtle Beach, SC. (US NAVY PHOTO)

HAVE YOU NOT BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE VETERAN'S BENEFITS? HELP IS AVAILABLE

Having served four years active and five years reserve in the U. S. Navy during the Vietnam conflict, I applied for VA benefits around 5-10 years ago and was rejected due to my income. I did not pursue it further until a high school classmate informed me that he had had the same problem but had turned to an attorney specializing in assisting veterans to receive VA benefits. Well, I was greatly surprised and appreciative with the benefits I am now receiving because of their efforts.

I learned that Veterans and their dependents may be eligible for a broad range of benefits and services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) including, but not limited to, service-connected compensation. Some Veterans may qualify for non-service-connected disability pension. Veterans may also be entitled to VA Healthcare. Veterans may receive services such as regular checkups with a primary care provider and appointments with specialists. They may also be able to access Veterans Healthcare services like home health and geriatric care or obtaining medical equipment, prosthetics and prescriptions. Dependents of veterans may also qualify for CHAMPUSVA health insurance which can be used as Medicare supplemental insurance.

If this is you, let us know, and we will help you get connected with a veterans

benefit attorney. (submitted by: *John Harler, M.D.; Richmond Council Chaplain, former Council President*)

NAVY LEAGUE MEMBERS, PLEASE HELP US FIND FORWARD DEPLOYED MILITARY !

If you have a family member serving in the military overseas or know someone who does, the Richmond Council would like to send a Care Package to them.

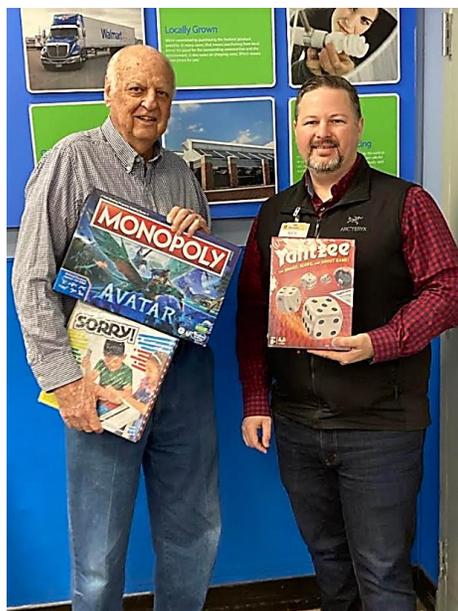
Perhaps you know of a friend, neighbor, or church member who knows someone in the military serving overseas – ANY branch of the armed services, male or female. Please tell them of our Care Package Program and ask for an APO or FPO address of that person.

Council is proud to report that to date we have packed and shipped over 2000 Care Packages to members of the military. However, many of our previous sources of addresses have dried up.

Thank you for helping with this very worthwhile project - - - it continues to be quite a morale booster for the troops!

You may call or the Navy League office with this information at 355-7557 OR send us an email to:

navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net



Nick Carver, Walmart Parham Road Store Manager, presents board games to George Feitig for distribution to NORMANDY's sailors.

MEET OUR THREE NEW COUNCIL DIRECTORS INSTALLED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 25, 2023



DENNIS A. BIGGS

My career background has been in the electrical engineering field. I worked for a number of years as an Electrical Designer for Allied Signal and Honeywell, after it acquired Allied Signal. I eventually worked for Day and Zimmermann Engineering Inc., as a Senior Electrical Designer before retiring.

I continued to work in the electrical engineering field with various companies, until I was offered a position as Church Administrator for All Saints Episcopal Church. I thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of this position. I also served on the Vestry several times.

I have always believed it was important to give back to the community by volunteering. I became involved in doing missionary work with members of the church, by going to New Orleans to help those whose homes were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We did this for several years. I volunteered at Saint Paul's Episcopal Church Feeding Program on a monthly basis to help feed the homeless, and delivered Meals on Wheels twice a month to seniors and shut-ins for a number of years. I have also enjoyed working at the voting polls in Henrico, during various elections.

My outside interests include playing golf and tennis. I have been a member of Meadowbrook Country Club for over 25 years, and have served on their Board of Directors several times.

I am married, have two children and have been blessed with six grandsons, one granddaughter, and one great granddaughter, all of whom live in Florida.

I have never served in the military but have the utmost respect for our servicemen and women, especially for our country's veterans. My son just retired as a Colonel from the Air Force after 33 years and one of my grandsons was in the Marine Corps for four years.

I have enjoyed being a member of the Richmond Navy League for a number of years and I am honored to be on the Council's Board of Directors.



ROBERT E. LUSK, JR.

I was born August 23, 1943, at the Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Virginia. My father served over 30 years in the Navy and served in both World War I and World War II. I graduated from Princess Anne High School in Virginia Beach and received a BA in Economics from Old Dominion College, Norfolk, Va. I worked for one year as a salesman for Texaco and three years for Aetna Life and Casualty, as a claims representative. In 1969, I took a supervisory position with The Hartford Insurance Group and worked there in several claims capacities retiring in 2005.

In 2006, I volunteered through the AARP Tax-Aide Program and did tax returns through their free tax preparation program for 15 years.

I will do my best to advance the goals and programs of the Richmond Council.



WILLIAM J. SWACKHAMER

I was born December 29, 1951 and graduated from Hopewell High School. I attended Richard Bland College and Virginia Commonwealth University, obtaining a Business Degree. I continued my education and earned a Virginia Apprentice Degree, Electrical Electrician.

My wife, Debra, and I married on April 29, 1972, and currently reside in Chesterfield County. I am currently employed as VP-Field Services with Maintenance Technology of VA, Inc.

My Civic Group involvement includes being currently associated with Mason Lodge #115, Scottish Rite Richmond ACCA Temple Shrine, Hopewell Shrine Club and Priory of Saint Thomas a-Becket, Sovereign Military Order Knights of Templar. Since 2008, I have been a member of UDG Auxiliary Fit-32 & USCG AuxAir Squadron 5 Aviation Group.

I look forward to being on the Richmond Council NLUS Board of Directors.

HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER LUNCHEON

DATE: Tuesday March 14, 2023

PLACE: Publix / 2nd Floor
Community Meeting Room
2250 John Rolfe Pkwy
Henrico, VA 23233

TIME: 11:50 AM Program begins
Concluding 1:00 PM

SPEAKER:
Major Bruce H. "Doc" Norton,
USMC (Ret)

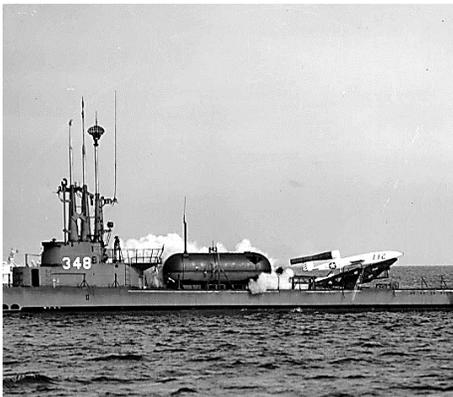
NOTE: All attendees must be "FULLY" vaccinated for COVID-19.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL NJROTC TEAMS SHINE



NJROTC cadets at Patrick Henry High School look sharp during their weekly uniform inspection. Mechanicsville High School's NJROTC Air Rifle Team also recently took home first place in the novice division at a competition. (Photo courtesy of Hanover County Public Schools; excerpted from *Mechanicsville-Ashland Local*).

TODAY IN NAVAL HISTORY 12 FEBRUARY 1947 THE KGW-1 "LOON"



German technology of WWII was envied by the Allies. In the final months of the war, captured German systems began making their way to the US. One such innovation was the V-1 "buzz bomb," a pulse-jet powered, winged, unmanned cruise missile that Hitler had launched as a terror weapon against London. The V-1 was gyro-stabilized to straight and level flight, and "aimed" by orienting its steam catapult launch ramp on a direct compass bearing to the intended target. It was fueled with 17 minutes of kerosene, enough to reach London from launch

sites near Pas-de-Calais in occupied France. Its fuel would exhaust over London, allowing the 1900-pound warhead to fall by its own weight. Flying at 400 mph and with a range of 160 miles, the V-1s presented a difficult defensive dilemma. However, one-in-four V-1s failed due to guidance error or manufacturing oversight. And in July 1944, only a month after V-1 attacks began, the US Army recovered such a "dud" that had crashed without exploding.

By November 1944, the Army Air Corps had reverse engineered, manufactured, and test flown a V-1 knock-off at Elgin Air Base in Florida. Designated the JB-2 ("jet bomb"), the Army's missile mimicked the V-1 in all aspects but two: A radio-controlled guidance system replaced the gyroscope, allowing a remote controller to steer and dive the missile. And, since pulse-jet engines will not engage until the missile reached a speed of 200 mph, solid rocket boosters were attached to the fuselage for jet-assisted take-off, replacing the catapult employed by the Germans. The JB-2 could also be deployed from the belly of a B-17 or Navy PB4Y "Privateer", in a fashion similar to that developed by Hitler's engineers. Republic Corporation was contracted to build the airframes, while

Ford Motor Company built the PJ-31-F-1 pulse-jet engines. As WWII entered its final stages, it was envisioned that up to 75,000 JB-2s would augment Operation "Downfall," the planned invasion of mainland Japan.

Our Navy had an interest as well. On 17 November 1944 the Bureau of Aeronautics announced testing had begun on the JB-2, for deployment from escort aircraft carriers against surface targets. Victory in the war came before the missile could be deployed. The Navy's modifications to the guidance system then resulted in a new designation, the KGW-1 "Loon" missile. On this date, a *Loon* was launched from the deck of the surfaced submarine *USS CUSK (SS-348)* off Point Magu (after the lengthy process of assembling a launch ramp and mounting a missile thereupon). This first-ever launch of a guided missile from a submarine married the sub's stealth with missile technology, opening the door for our modern SSBNs. (taken from: *Today in Naval History* by CAPT James Bloom, USN (Ret).



AMERICA Division Sea Cadets received the Academic Achievement Award, February 2023. This award is given to students who maintain an A/B average and are placed on the Honor Roll at their respective schools. Pictured above from left to right: PO3 Hoke, SA Gagnon, SA Lopez, ABC Burns, PO3 Carson, Po2 Edwards.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
CO: CDR Errol A. Robinson
XO: CDR Anthony T. Bryant
CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

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

USS NORMANDY held a Change of Command Ceremony at dockside on 28 February 2023. Commanding Officer, CAPT Gary M. Chase was relieved by CDR Errol A. Robinson.

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, ASWO



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
XO: CDR Steven E. Grey
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Report pending.



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Hunter D. Washburn
XO: CDR Brian C. Sanchez
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

It has been a very busy, yet exciting time aboard **USS GRAVELY!** **GRAVELY** was recently underway on short notice to perform operational tasking in support of Maritime Homeland Defense (MHD). The ship and crew were ready to go in a moment's notice and were able to show our nation's resolve and determination. **GRAVELY** also carried out missions of state, strengthening partnerships and

alliances while operating in Southern Command.

GRAVELY carried out operational taking in the 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) along with the help of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 74.3, The World Famous Swamp Foxes, who were also aboard. She conducted special evolutions such as the Replenishment At Sea (RAS) alongside the **USNS WILLIAM C. MCLEAN (T-AKE 12)** and flight quarters with HSM 74.3.

This underway also provided Sailors with many training opportunities. They conducted training events such General Quarters (GQ), gun shoots, and a Pre-Action Calibration (PAC) Fire event where CG Division successfully fired off rounds from the Mk45 5-inch, Mk38s, and Mk15 CIWS!

Also, during this underway, Sailors were able to enjoy some downtime and warm weather during our port visits in Barbados and The Bahamas. The crew definitely worked hard during this underway and their hard work has been paying off. **GRAVELY** will return to Norfolk even better than she was before she left!

Thank you for the support that you continuously provide to the crew. We love sharing **GRAVELY's** experiences with our supporters through our articles and Facebook posts. Continue to stay tuned, to keep up with our Sailors' great accomplishments out at sea!

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/DDG107/

Official Navy Website:

www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/

Very Respectfully,
Alexis Harrell-Parada, ENS, USN



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC 904)
CO: CDR Andrew Dennyly
XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts
COB: MKC Alan Kinney

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

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!**

After a two-month inport, **NORTHLAND** departed Base Portsmouth on 28 January, for a patrol to support oper-

ations in the Coast Guard's Seventh District. During this in-port period, the crew worked many long hours to ensure our readiness to sail. **NORTHLAND** is ready to answer the call to conduct operations throughout the 7th District, amid ongoing concerns of irregular migration by sea to the United States. While deployed, **NORTHLAND** will work to enforce U.S. laws and treaties, ensure the safety of mariners at sea, and maintain U.S. presence in the Caribbean.

Prior to arriving in the operational area, **NORTHLAND** completed our biennial Aviation Standardization (AVSTAN) inspection in conjunction with Coast Guard Aviation Training Center Mobile and Coast Guard Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). After a complete overhaul of our helicopter support facilities, including the flight deck, hangar, and supplies, AVSTAN was a great way to test our readiness. AVSTAN is a multi-day event that includes inspecting **NORTHLAND's** aviation equipment, as well as, drills and testing for the crew. As usual, the **NORTHLAND** crew upheld a high standard, earning praise from the inspection team. We concluded Day 3 with flight operations with a HITRON MH-65 helicopter, completing both day and nighttime operations to maintain qualification currencies, as well as qualify new personnel in flight quarters positions. Following our last nighttime helicopter evolution, we waved goodbye to Florida and proceeded south to begin operations.

Shortly after arriving on station, **NORTHLAND** received tasking to rendezvous with another CG unit, to embark a group of people who had been found at sea. Due to the harsh weather and sea conditions, **NORTHLAND** was the platform of choice to ensure their safety and comfort. Despite a windy and choppy night, the coxswain and crew safely embarked 16 people so that we could provide food, care, and medical assessments.

Although we are only a few weeks into our deployment, the support and supplies from the Navy League have already come in useful, and are much appreciated! As always, **thank you**, and until next time, *fair winds and following seas!*

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Elizabeth Tufts

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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