



October 2020



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



On patrol in the Caribbean, United States Coast Guard Cutter **NORTHLAND** (WMEC-904) has a chance encounter with a disoriented fisherman in harm's way. Read below for the rest of the story. **NORTHLAND** is a 270' medium endurance cutter with a crew of 100 and homeported in Portsmouth, VA. Richmond Council formerly adopted **NORTHLAND** April 1999.

THEY SERVE – WE SUPPORT

NORTHLAND dealt with severe weather arriving in the Caribbean, namely Hurricane Laura. **NORTHLAND** prepared for the storm by positioning ourselves in a sheltered location to keep the crew and **NORTHLAND** safe and ready to answer any call of assistance. On

our way to our weather avoidance location, we encountered a fisherman on a small dugout canoe who was disoriented and had no idea he was as far out to sea as he was. He also didn't know that a tropical storm was heading his way. **NORTHLAND** provided him some water and

food, and then escorted him with the ship back to within sight of shore, where he was able to make a safe landfall before the storm arrived. (story extracted from **NORTHLAND's** ship report on page 5). ✍

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



NOW HEAR THIS

This issue of *The Lucky Bag* normally announces Council's Sea Services Luncheon. Your Board, along with many other organizations, has canceled October events. While our speaker may have been able to attend, the continued viral threat will limit many of the other military personnel that we support. With restrictions on travel and attendance, as well as safety in an indoor group setting, it makes sense to be safe.

Now a word about *The Lucky Bag* team. Did you know that our newsletter received either 1st or 2nd place newsletter awards from National Navy League multiple times between 1993 and 2018? We had been working literally for years toward digital production of *The Lucky Bag*. Formerly there was the laborious process of designing, typing, photo editing, printing,

folding, stamping and trips to the Post Office that took manual effort and people time. We were extraordinarily fortunate that when COVID hit we were able to save our staff from much of its previous face-to-face personal and public time and risk of infection. Since May, *The Lucky Bag* has been fully-digitally produced by us and emailed to each of you. This will continue for the foreseeable future. For the past four years, you have already had the ability to see *The Lucky Bag* that was scanned and posted on our website:

www.navyleague-richmond.com.

Next time you see a team member of *The Lucky Bag*, thank them for the great job they do. As always, the production team names are at the bottom left of this page. ✍

WORDS OF WISDOM – “SCRAPS FROM THE LUCKY BAG”

The term “Lucky Bag” comes from sea lore. In 1840-1841 Matthew Fontaine Maury's “Scraps from the “Lucky Bag” were published by the *Southern Literary Messenger* in Richmond, VA. He used the pseudonym Harry Bluff and others. The “scraps” were observations and well-deserved criticisms of the U.S. Navy that, at the time, was hidebound and inefficient. The U.S. Naval Academy was founded five years later and used the title *Lucky Bag* for its newsletter dedicated to graduating classes. Our *Lucky Bag* is in good company. ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.
Message by Lewis W. Brandt

Last year in South Carolina a two-headed sea turtle showed up on the beach. He appeared to be directed by two functional minds and was named Squirt and Crush. While having two heads is certainly an oddity of nature, every human on the planet has been created with two hearts. The first one is a muscle that pumps oxygen enriched blood throughout the vascular system of the body. The second one is spiritual and is a metaphor for our thinking and moral demeanor. The spiritual one is our problem, for the Bible says, **“the heart is deceitful and wicked”, Jer. 17:9. Psalm 14:1 defines the heart's deception, “the**

fool says in his heart there is no God”. We should pray like David in Ps 139:23, **“Search me O God and know my heart...if there is any wicked way...lead me in the way everlasting”**. ✍

WOMEN SOLDIERS WHO HELP LEAD THE FORCE



August 26th marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment guaranteeing and protecting women's constitutional right to vote. Women now make up 20% of the Air Force, 19% of the Navy, 16% of the Army, and 9% of the Marine Corps.

CPT Emily Lilly was the National Guard's first female to graduate from the tough U.S. Army's Ranger School where 2/3 attendees failed in 2017. She completed the course at 38 years old. Emily is the daughter of proud parents, Boyd and Mary Winslow, who are part of our Richmond Council Navy League family.

The armor officer and mother of two stated that she recommends more women to try out for Ranger school. “Yes, it's physically demanding, but it is more about heart and drive”, stated Lilly. She added: “The courses force you to face and address your shortcomings, to learn to utilize all the skills you and your team members have, and to dig deeper than you ever thought you could”.

Lilly is currently deployed to Kuwait with the Army National Guard's 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, which falls under Task Force Spartan. (Adapted from Defense Visual Information Distribution Service. Kuwait 25 Aug 2020) ✍

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

NEW COMMANDER USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) CDR PATRICIA M. BENNETT



USCGC NORTHLAND HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY ABOARD SHIP

The Change of Command Ceremony is a time-honored tradition of the sea-going services that formally restates the continuity of command to the officers and crew. It was a formal ritual conducted before the assembled company of the command, during which CDR Patricia M. Bennett, USCG, properly relieved CDR Charles Banks, USCG. Due to COVID-19 protocols, there were no attendees other than the families of CDR Bennett and CDR Banks.

CDR Bennett, a native of Harpswell, Maine graduated with honors from U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 2003 with a degree in Marine & Environmental Sciences.

Upon graduation, she served aboard **USCGC MIDGETT (WHEC-726)**. Subsequently, she was Executive Officer on **USCGC MUSTANG (WPB-1310)** in Seward, Alaska. In 2005, she served as the Major Cutter Scheduler & Patrol Boat Manager for the 7th Coast Guard's District Enforcement Branch in Miami, FL. In 2020, she commanded **USCGC ADAK (WPB-1333)** for Patrol Forces Southwest Asia. Later she commanded **USCGC SANIBEL (WPB-1312)**.

After earning her Master's Degree in Marine Affairs, she served as Deputy Chief of Enforcement and Fisheries 5th Coast Guard District in Portsmouth, VA.

CDR Bennett most recently served as Executive Officer of **USGC TAMPA**

(WMEC-902) in Portsmouth, VA. ✍

ORDER YOUR NAVY LICENSE PLATES IMMEDIATELY !



A mockup of the Navy license plate that Roger Hirsh, below, hopes to bring to Virginia. Proceeds would benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Hirsh has been working on his campaign for three years. (Courtesy of Roger Hirsh)

Virginia has vehicle license plates honoring the U.S. Army, Coast Guard, and Marine Corps, but not for the U.S. Navy. The Virginia Dept. of Motor Vehicles requires 450 paid preorders by December 1 to authorize a Navy Plate. The proposed Navy plate is set up as a revenue share with the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society receiving 60% of the annual plate fee. Plates can be personalized and are available for automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles and can include a disability symbol if eligible. All active-duty and veteran Navy service members are eligible. For more details or to sign up, go to <https://www.https://www.navyplatevirginia.com/home/navyplatepreorder/> OR Facebook@Navy.Plate.Va.

Go Navy – put that pride on your ride! ✍

RESERVIST FROM TIDEWATER, VA ONBOARD USNS COMFORT



U.S. Navy reservist CDR Katie Crittenden of Middlesex County served

onboard the hospital ship **USNS COMFORT** last spring in New York City. Crittenden had joined the Navy in 1994, but in 2000 joined the Medical Enlisted Commissioning Program and earned a Master's Degree in Nursing. She has been in the Navy Reserves since 2007 and deployed to Germany and had other duties. She was promoted to Commander in the Reserves in 2019 and currently works as a critical care nurse in the ICU of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. She reported that the camaraderie between her fellow medical providers on board the ship was amazing. She was honored and proud to be part of the mission.

Article and photo adapted from Middlesex County weekly Southside Sentinel, Jul 16, 2020. ✍

SS WARRIMOO ENTERS THE TWILIGHT ZONE

On December 30, 1899, the passenger steamer *SS Warrimoo* was quietly slicing through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia.

The navigator had worked out a star fix and brought the Master, Captain John Phillips, the result: The *Warrimoo's* position was 0° 31'N, 179° 30' W. Ever alert, the first mate then pointed out that they were only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line.

The captain was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity to achieve the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called all his navigators to the bridge to double-check the ship's position and then changed course slightly to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed.

The calm weather and clear night worked in his favor. At midnight, the *Warrimoo* lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line!

The consequences of this bizarre position were many. The forward part of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere and the middle of summer. The stern was in the Northern Hemisphere and in the middle of winter. The date in the aft part of the ship was December 31, 1899. Forward, it was January 1, 1900.

Thus, the *Warrimoo* was not only in two different days, two different months, two different seasons and two different years, but also in two different centuries – all at the same time. ✍

(Courtesy of Company of Master Mariners of Australia)

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

AHOY Richmond Navy League!

NORMANDY had a transformative month of August! We began by holding our change of command ceremony, where I took command of **USS NORMANDY** from CAPT Chris Stone. A little over a week later we proceeded up the Elizabeth River assisted by tugs to Marine Hydraulics International (MHI) shipyard to begin our year-long maintenance period.

Second, **NORMANDY** was awarded the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Safety Award for the fifth consecutive year! This is a tremendous accomplishment! **NORMANDY's** dedication to safety ensures that she is battle ready and mission oriented at all times. This is truly a testament to the work ethic and dedication of the **NORMANDY** crew, each-and-every day they work tirelessly and professionally to safely execute **NORMANDY's** mission.

With the pivot to the maintenance period, it is a great opportunity for us to look to the future, while our past is full of success we need to ensure that this 30 year old cruiser is ready to fight into the future. The Carrier Strike Group (CSG) is the principle fighting element of the U.S. Navy, and the cruiser being the Air and Missile Defense component is integral to the structure of the CSG. With the cruiser continuing to age without a replacement on the horizon, it is our duty as war-fighters on this platform to Shepard strongly into the future for as long as the U.S. Navy calls upon it.

I look forward to fostering a strong relationship with you, the Richmond Navy League; your outreach is appreciated, especially in this trying time for our nation. ✍

Warm Regards,
CO CAPT Charles Hampton



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock
XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Another month is in the books; never to be bettered upon, never to be revised, and never to be undone. I'm proud to state that the crew of the **CARTER HALL** used that time well! Over this past month we have: promoted a Marine and several Sailors; recognized the diligent efforts of many of our junior Sailors; achieved several certifications in view of our upcoming deployment; re-enlisted several of our Petty/Chief Petty Officers; strengthened our capabilities; and proven that **CARTER HALL** is truly a "Ship of War".

During our recent underways, our senior leaders have seized those opportunities to further engrain sound seamanship principles and practices in our junior shipmates; Officer and Enlisted alike. Procedurally the crew continues to show time and again why **CARTER HALL** has been (and will be) the example of readiness that other ships/crews are measured against. They say "the proof is in the pudding", but I say it is in the Command Excellence Awards, or the large "E"s proudly displayed on our superstructure. Our readiness and performance are the final expression of our welfare and work ethic, and **CARTER HALL** would be at a noted loss were it not for the partnership we enjoy with the Richmond Navy League. Your investments in us only make us better!

The month ahead will be filled with perspiration in preparation for the next provocation. As the Captain reminds us, we *will be* "Wherever the nation or Navy needs us"! Thank you for all you do and how you do it. Your support allows us to focus where we ought, surely, where we must be focused.

We are: *Working for Peace, Ready for War!* ✍

Very Respectfully,
Chaplain Block
LT, CHC, USN



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Michael O'Reilly
XO: CDR Corey Odom
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Alan Palmer, Liaison

Patrick D. Harris, Assistant Liaison

Again, it has been a long time since we have touched base. I am very happy to report the ship is getting close to exiting the Maintenance Phase of the ships life cycle and gearing up for the Basic Training Phase. I would also like to announce that Navy-Wide advancement results have been released and **GRAVELY's** advancement rate overall remained well above the Navy's Fleet Wide average. Based off results from the Navy's advancement exam and the Sailors individual performance, **GRAVELY** promoted 14 Sailors to Third Class Petty Officer, 19 Sailors to Second Class Petty Officer and 8 Sailors to First Class Petty Officer. Additionally, in accordance with the Navy's Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP), the Commanding Officer had the privilege meritoriously promoting 1 Sailor to First Class Petty Officer, 3 Sailors to Second Class Petty Officer and 2 Sailors to Third Class Petty Officer. The MAP process provides the Commanding Officer the authority to choose Sailors within their command to "Field Promote" based on their competency, job performance, and overall leadership. Bravo Zulu (BZ) to all that have advanced and **GRAVELY** continues to be grateful for all the support we receive from the Richmond Navy League! ✍

Very Respectfully,
XO CDR Corey D. Odom



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett
XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro
COB: GMC Robert Boyer

NORTHLAND's ship report
continued on page 5

NORTHLAND's ship report
continued from page 4

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND**!

With the arrival of August, came the departure of **USCGC NORTHLAND** from homeport to embark on the long-awaited Migrant Interdiction and Counter Drug mission to the Caribbean. However, it was truly a sprint to the finish. Some last minute modifications, including a new generator and new cooler for the reduction gear of the main engine kept the crew working industriously and diligently. The installation was an all hands event and the work ethic of the crew showed as **NORTHLAND** was finally able to get underway.

Since being underway, the crew's ambition has continued to show. Much of the newly arrived crew is working tirelessly to get qualified so that they can help **NORTHLAND** complete the mission. The qualified crew has been a helping hand to the new crew by showing them the ropes, while also gaining new qualifications themselves. This has included Deck and Damage Control (DC) Olympics, where all members of the crew team up and compete in various challenges. For Deck Olympics, this included knot tying, making up lines, and heaving a throwing line threw a life line. For DC Olympics, events included using a fire hose effectively, using dewatering equipment, and learning basic first aid. The crew enjoyed some friendly competition and many members took some valuable lessons from these events.

Following our encounter with the fisherman, recapped on page one, and while standing by for any further Laura tasking, **NORTHLAND** refueled and resupplied in Guantanamo Bay where we were also able to enjoy some brief liberty on the pier with the **USCGC MOHAWK**. Crewmembers intermingled and enjoyed some much deserved rest and relaxation over corn hole and barbecue with fellow Coasties from the cutter community. Also during the port call, some crewmembers were trained in law enforcement tactics by being OC Sprayed. The event prepared members for the possibilities that may be faced when conducting law enforcement during in the

maritime realm. Overall, the event better prepared **NORTHLAND** to conduct Counter Drug and Migrant Interdiction missions in the Caribbean and around the world.

As **NORTHLAND** and her crew continue to get qualified, conduct drills, and be exceptionally prepared for all Coast Guard missions, we remember our loved ones back home and look forward to reuniting with them.

NORTHLAND looks forward to continuing to enforce Coast Guard rules and regulations in and excelling in the mission to make the patrol as successful as possible! Thank you for your continued support! ✍️

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro

**HEARTFUL THANK YOU FOR COUNCIL'S \$1000 DONATION TO
NAVY MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY (NMCRS) IN HONOR OF
USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**



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26 August 2020

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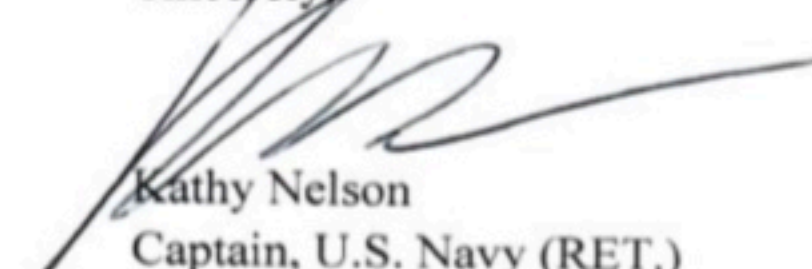
Dear members of the Richmond Navy League,

Thank you very much for the \$1000.00 donation to NMCRS in honor of the USS NORMANDY. We truly appreciate your kindness and support of our Navy and Marine Corps families during their times of need. The Society receives no financial support from the U. S. Government, and funding for our relief services is provided through contributions like these and the Annual Active Duty Fund Drive. We have informed the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, and crewmembers of the USS NORMANDY of your generosity and thanked them for their service and sacrifice for our country.

Your donation will be used to directly assist active-duty and retired Sailors, Marines, and their families when they experience financial problems, need the help of our visiting nurses, or want to learn more about the financial impact of raising a child in our Budget for Baby classes. Recently we assisted over 1,500 service members and families with \$1.5 million for expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic and provided more than \$200K to help the members of the USS BONHOMME RICHARD after the tragic fire and losses onboard the ship. Our predominantly volunteer staff serve as stewards of the donated funds to maximize the positive impact of your donation and offer dependable help to our clients worldwide.

Contributions to the Society are deductible under Section 107 (b) (1) (a) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. NMCRS is exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the code and our IRS tax identification number is 53-0204618. Thank you again.

Sincerely,


Kathy Nelson
Captain, U.S. Navy (RET.)
Director, NMCRS Norfolk

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