

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

COME JOIN US FOR A FAMILY AND FRIENDS PICNIC AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 354 4800 WELBY TURN, MIDLOTHIAN, VA 23113 SATURDAY 16 JULY 2022 FROM 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM



It has been quite some time since the Richmond Council has hosted a picnic. At the April Board of Director's meeting, it was decided that a picnic was long overdue. The picnic will take place Saturday, July 16 from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM at American Legion Post 354. The Summer Picnic will be provided for **FREE** for Navy League members, family and friends.

Post 354 offered their facility as a meeting site for our board meetings earlier in the year at the invitation of Navy League member, Paul Heinrich who is also a member of Post 354. The Richmond Navy League has held its past three board meetings there. Post 354 is located on 5 acres of land along the bank of the James River and provides a beautiful private setting for all kinds of indoor and/or outdoor events. They recently hosted the Richmond Blue Grass Jam. The address for Post 354 is 4800 Welby Turn, Midlothian, VA 23113, located in Chesterfield County off Robious Road (Rt. 711) about two miles west of Chesterfield Town Center. More information about Post 354 can be found at their website https://www.americanlegion354.com/ (Family & Friends Picnic continued on page 3). https://www.americanlegion354.com/

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Patrick D. Harris



GREETINGS!

At our last Board of Directors meeting, we decided that we needed to hear from our members by calling each by telephone to see how they are doing and to discuss ongoing Richmond Council activities. The Board has completed phone calls to all of our members. We talked directly with many members and left voice mail messages with many other members. The members we talked with appreciated the direct contact. We received mostly positive feedback, as well as some constructive criticisms.

The outreach has allowed us to update member phone numbers, addresses and emails. We also asked members about their preference on how they receive *The Lucky Bag.* We began distributing *The Lucky Bag* to our members by email about two years

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ago to reduce costs and to provide the newsletter in an electronic format that could be easily shared with family and friends. We also maintain a list of members who prefer to receive a hard copy delivered to them by U.S. mail. I have a concern that we are losing effective contact with many members who may not open their *Lucky Bag* email attachment or may quickly scan it and not look at it again.

While it does appear the cost to return to mailing *The Lucky Bag* to all our members is too high, we will continue to mail to members who request their copy be sent in the U.S. mail.

If you would like to comment on this issue or other Navy League activities and procedures, please contact me to let me know your concerns or suggestions by contacting me at (804) 998-7860 or email me at:

vaprevent@aol.com. &

ANCHOR CLUB DONATIONS FROM 2013-2021: \$115,327

The history of donations to the Anchor Club demonstrates a continuing commitment of our members to support the sea services. From 2013 to 2021. members donated \$115,327 to the Anchor Club, an average of \$12,814 per year. In 2021, 118 members donated \$16,100. Though the minimum donation to the Anchor Club is \$100, many of our members donated more than \$100. Our Anchor Club donations are our primary source for supporting our adopted ships and units, care packages, Sea Cadets and our nine high school JROTC programs in the Richmond area. From 2013-2021 we provided \$85,455 in support to our adopted ships, units and mailed care packages to deployed personnel. We also provided \$55,119 of support to the Sea Cadets and our JROTC units.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

Peace

On the news, we watch the horror of war in Ukraine with its destruction and ugliness. Some may ask, where is the Lord? Where is the peace in the world? How can this happen in the 21st century?

The Prophet Isaiah had a vision of peace, which he sees nearly 3,000 years ago, hoping for peace in the world. In his vision, Isaiah speaks of the end times. The people say, "let us to go up to the mountain of the Lord. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths" (Isaiah 2: 3). When the people are there, the Lord "will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." (Isaiah 2: 4)

The tools of war will become tools for farming, for growth, for life. They become instruments of the harvest of goodness.

While the war looms in distant Ukraine, we can become instruments of peace in the USA, by walking in the paths of our Lord. Each of us can seek out a person with whom there is conflict or hard feelings, ask forgiveness, and bring peace. If a chasm exists with a family member, we can call this relative to bridge the gap, resolve the issue, and restore harmony in the family. If we have been hurt by someone, we can forgive him/her, freeing ourselves of this burden, and bring peace to our relationship.

While we may not have the power to remove war in the world, like Isaiah, we can bring peace in *our* world by using our armor for life with an abundance of goodness, as we walk in the paths of our Lord.

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

John F. Bartholomew Robert B. Priddy

SPONSOR

Thomas E. Martenstein Thomas E. Martenstein

Family & Friends Picnic continued from Page 1

The site includes a main building with a 48 ft. X 28 ft. meeting hall, a full-service kitchen and an outdoor patio with bench seating with a panoramic view of James River. Outside there are two outdoor pavilions with 37 total picnic tables. Options for group activity includes cornhole, volleyball, horseshoes and fishing along the riverbank (license required). The site has over 300 spots for parking.

We will also be introducing two new fund-raising tools, a Raffle and a Silent Auction. We will begin selling \$20 raffle tickets for a \$1,000 Green Tops Sporting Goods gift certificate at the Summer Picnic. The drawing for the gift certificate will take place at our Annual Golf Fund Raiser on September 14. The proceeds from the Raffle and the Silent auction will be used to support our adopted ships/units, care packages for deployed personnel, the Sea Cadets and our nine Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs.

Mission BBQ (https://mission-bbq.com/virginia/richmond/) will be catering the picnic and is graciously donating the picnic food to the Richmond Navy League. Mission BBQ has a long history of supporting Navy League events. The Navy League will be providing water and soft drinks. There are several out-

door grills if you would like to barbeque some food for your family and friends. If you and your family and friends plan to attend the picnic, please complete the Summer Picnic Registration Form to allow us to provide an attendance estimate for the caterer. Your Summer Picnic registration form must be received by July 1. Please send your registration form by US mail to P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, Virginia 23230, or email your registration to the Navy League Office at: navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net or telephone us at (804) 355-7557. If you have any questions, please email us or give us a call. 🏕

Registration Form for Richmond Navy League Summer Picnic – Saturday 16 July 2022 American Legion Post 354 - 4800 Welby Turn, Midlothian, VA 23113 Please note, the Summer Picnic is free to members, family and friends.

Registration Deadline July 1, 2022

Mail form to: Richmond Council Navy League P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, Virginia 23230 Office Phone: 804-355-7557 Fax: 804-355-8788 email: navyleaguerichmond@comcast.net

Name:	Telephone:
Email:	Number of people in your group attending:
Suggestions for group activities or other suggestions.	

Suggestions for group activities or other suggestions:



Richmond Council Benefit Golf Outing
September 14, 2022
The Hollows Golf Course

SAVE THE DATE

VFA-213 Blacklions Strike Fighter Squadron Visit At Naval Air Station Oceana May 13, 2022



XO CDR Christopher Keen and CO CDR Bryan Pinckney kneeling in front with N.L. new member, Bob Priddy.

At 0600 on 13 May 2022, 19 Richmond Navy League members and guests gathered at James River Bus Terminal to enjoy some fresh hot coffee and doughnuts and fellowship as names were checked off by Carol Zembrowski. At 0630 sharp, our driver, SgtMaj Darryl Johnson, USA (Ret.), entertained us with one of his many jokes as we were departing the bus terminal for a comfortable ride to Oceana. We pulled into the NEX a little before 0900 and were met by the

Blacklions' Command Master Chief, Timothy Newell, who came aboard and escorted us onto the Naval Air Station Oceana.

We were first led to the Ready Room for our morning briefing by LT Michelle "Scrappy Doo" Espinal and CO, CDR Bryan "STAG" Pinckney, who covered VFA-213's history from inception in the early 1950's to the present (Almost 70 years!).

Following the briefing, we visited the

Parachute Rigging (PR) Room where a sailor suited up into the full pilot's Gsuite, parachute, and \$100K tactical helmet providing 360 degrees of situational awareness. He then connected himself to a parachute being hung from the ceiling, pulled himself up by the chute straps and dropped suddenly to test the system.

We were then led to the hangar where we were treated to our own viewing of the Super Hornet's technologically advanced double cockpit with front seat for pilot and back seat for the Weapons Systems Operator (WSO) seats. The pilot explaining the cockpit explained how the ejection system works - incredible! We were also shown the 20 mm canon that is housed in the nose of the plane along with many different types of air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles and bombs. Each Super Hornet can carry up to a variety of 12 bombs/missiles depending on the assigned mission. The fog

was just lifting shortly after our arrival, so we were able to see and hear a few Super Hornets taking off and landing.

After the hangar tour, we were taken to the field adjacent to the Officer's Club where there is a collection of all the fighter jets that we had just heard about. We got to walk around them for a while and take pictures. We were then welcomed by the command staff to join them for lunch in the Officers Club which was delightful, and it was fun mingling with the officers and chiefs as well.

We also had an opportunity to purchase Blacklions T-shirts, challenge coins and other memorabilia in the Ready Room and the Officers' Club.

We greatly appreciate CDR's Pinckney and Keen and CMDCM Newell for taking the time out of their busy schedules to spend their day with us.

A great time was had by all!

Blacklions visit continued on pg 5

Blacklions visit cont. from page 4





New Navy League member, Bob Priddy, is pictured here with CDR Pinckney and his family.



Pictured above & below: Special moments shared with dad, CO CDR Bryan Pinckney.





Volunteer gets ready to parachute up the ceiling.



New Navy League member, John Bartholemew, gives thumbs up to ascend into the cockpit of a Super Hornet.



Navy Leaguers and guests get an education on F-A 18 armament.



CDR Pinckney teaching all on jet engines.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Simon Charles McKeon XO: CDR Kevin C. Antonucci CMC: CMDCM William Palmer

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison George L. Feitig, Jr., Ass't Liaison

April was a demanding month at sea for USS NORMANDY. She and her crew are continuing to make great strides through the Basic Phase. The ship demonstrated multiple Engineering, Communications, Search and Rescue and Air and Surface Warfare evolutions to assessors bringing her closer and closer to overall certification. Alongside these tactical and technical evolutions, Bridge watch standers enjoyed the time at sea to hone ship handling skills and build proficiency as **NORMANDY** prepares for deployment. The whole crew has been working tirelessly to maintain NORMANDY's mission and material readiness; however, CAPT McKeon acknowledged a few who have gone above and beyond as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter (SSOQ), Sailor of the Quarter(SOQ), Junior Sailor of the Quarter(JSOQ) and Blue Jacket Sailor of the Quarter(BJOQ) of **USS NORMANDY**.

SSOQ- HT1 Drake Valenzuela SOQ- GM2 Aaron T. Schoener JSOQ- DC3 Colin B. Burns BJOQ- SN Phillip M. Kelsey

Very Respectfully, LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, ASWO



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!

Aaahhhhh, the smell of sea air, there is nothing quite like it! CARTER HALL is back doing what she does best, better than anyone else in her class: executing tasking and completing mission sets. Across this past month we have checked several large boxes in our certification cycle: we have completed our MOB-D (Damage Control) & SMC (Supply Management Certification) certifying events. In addition to this, we have made steady gains through a recent MOB-N (Navigation) LTT, ahead of next month's certification events. It occurs to me that what makes the CARTER HALL's motto of "Working for Peace, Ready for War!" applicable is that she and her crew remain hard at the task; working THROUGH peace. Without fail, who we show ourselves to be in the worst of times, has been solidified by who we have chosen to be in the best of times. Or, more simply put, the choices you make, make you. I'm thankful to say that the leadership of the CARTER HALL have been adamant about us "choosing" well, and the results are speaking loudly.

This month's report not only speaks of accomplishment, but also of transition. In late May, CARTER HALL will see a Change of Command, wherein CDR LaDonna Simpson will be relieved by CDR Brad Fancher. The Fightin' 5-O has performed admirably under CDR Simpson's watch, and every indication points to the same once CDR Fancher takes the helm. Additionally, this monthly report will be undertaken by the ships new chaplain, LTJG Ireland beginning next month. In every setting, whether leading or supporting, each of us only has so much "go" & "focus" each day. In view of that, support from behind the scenes makes all the difference in the world. Richmond Navy League team and supporters, thank you! Your contributions to the morale and welfare of the men and women of CARTER HALL have made a tangible impact; thank you for standing with us, ever steady, all the way.

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War!

Very Respectfully, Chaplain Block LT, CHC, USN



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett
XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts
COB: MKC Alan Kinney

Report from Tom Hassell, Liaison Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTH-LAND!** On the 18th of April, **NORTH-LAND** departed her homeport of Portsmouth, VA for our current patrol which focuses on interdicting narcotic smuggling vessels in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in support of Joint Interagency Task Force South (JIATF-S).

A few days after leaving homeport. the cutter pulled into Mayport, FL to embark an aviation detachment from U.S. Coast Guard's aerial use of force experts - Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON). NORTH-LAND's HITRON detachment operates a Eurocopter MH-65E Dolphin Helicopter. The aviation detachment includes two pilots, a precision marksman, and three helicopter maintenance experts who ensure that the helicopter is continuously capable of acting as a mission enabler in NORTHLAND's pursuit of stopping narcotics smugglers. There is nothing quite like air capability to give us the upper hand!

Timing and weather were not on our side as the cutter transited south. Immediately after leaving homeport, NORTHLAND encountered 12-foot seas and gale force winds, making for some epic watches for our new sailors. The experienced sailors among us knew their limits and prepared accordingly, but many young NORTHLAND sailors experienced the scourge of seasickness for the first time, followed by some time in the rack to adjust to the sea state. Leaving Mayport, we again encountered rough seas, but continued pushing south towards the Panama Canal. Just outside Miami, Northland experienced an equipment casualty that brought us to all stop, and forced a midnight mooring in high winds, and a one-day unplanned port call in Port Everglades. Fortunately, our engineers were able to make quick repairs, and

NORTHLAND continued on page 7

NORTHLAND cont. from page 6

we were back underway within 24 hours.

In the last few days of April, NORTH-LAND departed the Atlantic Ocean and transited the 51 miles through the Panama Canal. In the early morning hours of the 30th the cutter sailed clear of the last set of locks, and into the Pacific Ocean. In the weeks since, we have been hard at work patrolling the waters of the Eastern Pacific in search of targets of interest involved in the transnational drug trade, attempting to smuggle illegal narcotics from South and Central America across international borders. NORTHLAND's HITRON detachment has been providing daily flights, always on the lookout for signs of illegal trafficking.

Maintaining proficiency in all mission areas is an important task for Coast Guard Cutters. While counter drug enforcement is the main objective of NORTHLAND's current deployment, the ship and her crew recently took advantage of a very calm Pacific day to conduct surface rescue swimmer training. The need to deploy a surface rescue swimmer could arise at any moment of any day, and the surface rescue swimmers would be the first line rescuers for any man overboard emergency. It's critical that NORTHLAND's crewmembers are trained and ready to enter the water and save lives. Plus, there weren't any complaints about getting to jump into the Pacific Ocean instead of a "normal" work day!

Finally, **NORTHLAND** steamed across the Equator and into the Southern Hemisphere. As we continue this patrol, we look forward to welcoming our previously non-shellback shipmates into the Realm of Neptunus Rex, but we'll have to wait until the next update for that! Until next time, fair winds and following seas!

Very Respectfully, XO LCDR Elizabeth Tufts



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

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison

USS GRAVELY's deployment with USS HARRY S. TRUMAN (CVN 75) Carrier Strike Force has been extended.



USCGC NORTHLAND from a bird's eye view, getting ready for surface rescue swimmer training in the Eastern Pacific.



Pictured above & below: April 2022, Lithuanian President, Gitanas Nauseda, is welcomed aboard USS GRAVELY during a port visit in Klaipeda, Lithuania and tours the bridge.



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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Thanks for jumping on board!!!

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YOUR DONATION OF \$100 (OR MORE) PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SEA SERVICES AND THEIR RELATED YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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