



SEPT 2024

# The Lucky Bag

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

**COUNCIL'S SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2024  
CELEBRATING THE FOUNDING OF OUR U.S. SEA SERVICES:**

**NAVY, MARINE CORPS, MERCHANT MARINE & COAST GUARD**

We are delighted to have Rear Admiral Phillip E. Sobeck, Commander of the Military Sealift Command (MSC) of the U.S. Navy, as the Guest Speaker at our Sea Services Luncheon, Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

RADM Sobeck began his enlisted career in 1985 as a Machinist Mate (Nuclear). He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1991 and earned his master's degree in organizational management to advance to his current assignment as the worldwide commander of a fleet of 130 ships, that supplies and supports the Navy's combat fleet.

His early career was aboard numerous destroyers and in destroyer squadrons. Among other Commanding Officer assignments, RADM Sobek commanded the **USS Farragut (DDG-99)** and also Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 50.

Ashore, RADM served in numerous capacities which included Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) and as the military assistant to Richard V. Spencer, the 76th

### Guest Speaker



**Rear Admiral Phillip E. Sobeck  
Commander of the Military Sealift  
Command of the U.S. Navy**

Secretary of the Navy.

He has had numerous Flag assignments, which include Expeditionary Strike Group Three (ESG-3), commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific (CTF73), and as Director of Plans, Policy, and Logistics at the U.S. Transportation Command, Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. His extensive experience in military logistics is a solid foundation for his position as Commander of the Military Sealift Command. ✍️

### SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

**DATE:** Wednesday 23 October 2024

**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 SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON: To be received by Wednesday October 16, 2024**

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

### RESERVATIONS FOR SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON - WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Regular meal served **unless** special meal is indicated: 1 or 2 Veggie Meal(s) (NO meat)

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: *Vaughan F. Dize*



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends!

I hope you all have had a great summer. As you may know, the Richmond Council has been busy:

- August 9, a group of 25 members and guests had a fun-filled trip to the National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA. (see pages 4 & 5 for more details and photos).

- August 17th, the AMERICA Division USNSCC Sea Cadets had their Change of Command. Instructor Steve Donahue relieved, Navy League Director, CDR Gary Riffle as commander of Sea Cadets. CDR Riffle served as Commanding Officer for 5+ years.

Upcoming events include our **Annual Golf Outing on 9/18/24** at the Hollows Golf Club. **This is the council's biggest fundraiser, and your**

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

**help is needed.** We need players and sponsors, so please plan to be a part of this event. Also, as indicated on the front of this issue, we have our Sea Services Luncheon on October 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please plan to attend.

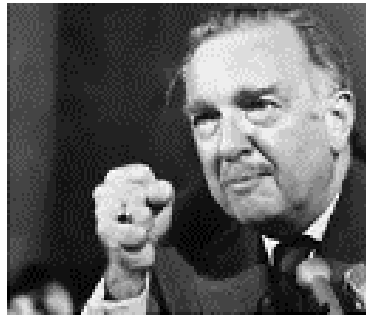
As a reminder, on September 9th, Mark Morgan, former Acting Commissioner for the U.S. Customs and Border protection (Operations on the US SW Border) will be speaking at The Houston-Holicky-Sitter Forum at the Publix at John Rolfe Commons, 2250 John Rolfe, Parkway Henrico, VA.

Lastly, all members interested in taking a more active role in the Navy League are encouraged to attend the Council's weekly Round Table meetings, held every Monday at the Navy League Office at 10 AM, lasting about an hour. We'd love to have you. ✍

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.*

**"AND THAT'S THE WAY IT IS"**



And you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free. (John 8:32).

Whether keeping up with the day-to-day news, or simply living out our personal daily lives, getting tangled up in the weeds of chaos and confusion is hard to avoid. Gone are the days of Walter Cronkite, American journalist who began his career in 1950 and someone I remember well growing up at that time. Cronkite was known for his honesty, impartiality, and level-headedness, and he signed off every evening with the words, "And that's the way it is." Oh, how I miss those days!

Today, "news" is sent across the airways, intruding into our lives minute by minute, dinging our phones that rarely leave our hands, while partisan politics pits neighbor against neighbor. "Journalism," no longer honest, impartial, or level-headed by design, can only be

captured in part by one's "surfing the channels" to obtain even a glimpse of truth of the day's events.

Two of the primary tools of the enemy of our souls, Satan, are distraction and deception. Modern news media is a major source of distraction. Nowadays, we refer to deception as "fake news", but by any other name, it is still deception. Deception has been defined as telling one just enough truth to make him/her believe a lie. When our beliefs are grounded in lies, rather than truth, our feelings and actions follow suit. Hence, the tremendous division in our country and the world today where some are following the truth, and some are following lies.

King David wrote in Psalm 15:1-2, O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart.

The Apostle Paul said, see then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil (Ephesians 5:15), and set your mind on things above (Col. 3:2).

God's Word is truth. Remain in it. "And that's the way it is!" ✍



## NEVER FORGET

**09-11-2001**

### **CORRECTION**

In last month's issue of *The Lucky Bag*, the incorrect date was given for our Sea Services Luncheon.

The correct date is Wednesday, October 23, 2024, not October 16.

We apologize for the error and hope to see you there.



# AMERICA SEA CADETS CHANGE OF COMMAND

On August 17, 2024, AMERICA Division Sea Cadets Commanding Officer Gary Riffle was relieved by incoming Commanding Officer, INST Steve Donahue. Commander Riffle had over five years as commanding officer and over ten years in leadership with AMERICA Division Sea Cadets. BRAVO ZULU LCDR Riffle!



Outgoing Commander Gary Riffle congratulates incoming commander, INST Steve Donahue. The passing of the colors represents the transfer of authority and responsibility for the mission and welfare of the organization from one commander to another.



Left to right: Incoming Commanding Officer, INST Steve Donahue; CDR Amy Thomas, CO Navy Reserve Center; outgoing Commanding Officer Gary Riffle and RADM Andy Lennon, Executive Director, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps.

## OTHER SEA CADET AWARDS PRESENTED. CONGRATULATIONS TO EVERYONE RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS!



Cadet Burns, chosen as Honor Cadet during medical training in Kentucky.



Cadet Smith promoted to SC2 (Seaman Apprentice).



Cadet Samberg promoted to LC2 (League Cadet).

Sea Cadet Awards cont. on page 4



## SEA CADET AWARDS CONTINUED - - - BRAVO ZULU CADETS !



Cadet Little promoted to LC2 (League Cadet).



Cadet Livingston promoted to LC2 (League Cadet).



Cadet Phillip promoted to SC2 (Seaman Apprentice).



Cadet Burns promoted to SC2 (Seaman Apprentice).



Cadet Lopez promoted to SR (Seaman Recruit).



### NAVY LEAGUE MEMBERS & GUESTS TOUR THE STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY CENTER

On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 25 Navy League members and guests journeyed north to the National Air & Space Museums' Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA. While the weatherman's prediction was dismal, the weather cooperated, and the trip up and back went quite smoothly.

There are many displays to see as you journey through the history of flight from 1903 at Kill Devil Hills, NC, all the way to the Kennedy Space Center and beyond.

Balconies circle high above the museum floor providing an excellent vantage point in viewing the displayed artifacts.

The Center also has an IMAX Theat-

er, a glassed-in view of restoration projects underway, and a 360-degree observation tower overlooking the active runways.

In summary, the Navy Leaguers who missed this very interesting and educational outing, missed a good one! ✈



Our group learns more about the Lockheed SR-71A Blackbird, the world's fastest jet-propelled aircraft. The Blackbird's performance and operational achievements placed it at the pinnacle of aviation technology developments during the Cold War. The Blackbird has a wingspan of 55 ft 7 in and a length of 107 ft 5 in.



## STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY CENTER TRIP PHOTOS



Space Shuttle *Discovery* was the third Space Shuttle orbiter vehicle to fly in space. It entered service in 1984 and retired from spaceflight as the oldest and most accomplished orbiter, the champion of the shuttle fleet.

Jack & Anna Gibbons learned about the Apollo 11 Astronauts being the first people to walk on the moon on July 20, 1969.



In 1969 Darryl Greenamyer broke the 30-year-old speed record for piston-engine aircraft when he reached 483 miles per hour in the Grumman F8F-2 Bearcat *Conquest 1*. He also won the National Air Races six times with this airplane before donating it to the Smithsonian in 1977. Grumman designed the Bearcat late in WWII as a replacement for the F6F Hellcat Navy fighter. It was noted for its exceptional climbing ability and maneuverability.



Exhilarating Simulator rides available for kids of all ages – adults too.



A variety of fighter jets on display, including F-14D (R) Tomcat, the Blue Angels F/A-18C Hornet and U.S. Air Force Jet "trainer" T-33A Shooting Star. Also pictured is a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter, hanging from the ceiling.



## 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

Anchors Aweigh Navy Richmond League!

**USS Normandy** is currently conducting a missile on-load at Yorktown Naval Ammunition Station, in preparation for another trip across the pond in the next week.

While in-port in Norfolk, the **Normandy's** crew was able to gain some well-deserved leave with her crew conducting two separate POM periods. Most of the crew took the time to visit family in their home-state, while others took an extended vacation.

After the POM period, **USS Normandy** was able to get a few needed fixes done during a shortened Continuous Maintenance Availability (CMAV) period. These repairs will ensure **Normandy** to answer all bells when and if needed.

The crew was also able to gain time with "Mutts for Mission." This is a non-profit that brings different types of dogs aboard in order to give the crew time to unwind and relax by spending time with man's best friend.

Wish **USS Normandy** fair winds and following seas as we cross the pond for the third time this year! 🍀

Very Respectfully,  
LTJG Dane R. Hamilton, PAO  
First Lieutenant



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

Pat Robson, Liaison

**USS Carter Hall** is in port.



**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

**USS Gravely** is in port.



**USCGC Legare / Spencer**  
CO: CDR Justin Stroch  
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)** is currently drydocked in Baltimore, Maryland, at the Coast Guard Yard for the Service Life Extension Program (SLEP). The crew continues to provide support to other cutters homeported in Portsmouth. Some members also sought opportunities to get underway on other cutters to gain qualifications

that will aid in our reconstitution onboard **Spencer** this fall.

So far, we have accumulated over 1,200 days of temporary duty (TDY) in support of afloat units across the country, from Virginia to as far as Alaska!

Supporting the Waterfront has involved a wide variety of tasks. Electronics Technicians have helped other cutters remain operational by contributing to the repair of their weapon systems and installing morale network hardware. Our Command Chief, BMC Cody Johnson, hosted "Cutter Surface Swimmer School" at the pool on base. The Maritime Enforcement Specialists conducted a "Security Watch-stander College," effectively qualifying 24 members. Deck Department personnel assisted with the hull preservation of the local cutters and ensured that rescue and survival equipment was properly serviced for use on **Spencer**. Our engineers continue to support the Base's Naval Engineering Department. Whether at home or elsewhere, the **Spencer** crew has been hard at work while we await our cutter's return to readiness.

**Legare** at heart, **Spencer** remains grateful for your unwavering support. We look forward to sharing more updates about this unprecedented journey we are on! 🍀

Very Respectfully,  
ENS Lea S. Walker, POA



Command Chief BMC Cody Johnson hosted "Cutter Surface Swimmer School".



**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!**

**Northland** completed an extensive maintenance period and successfully returned to home port in the beginning of July. Following return to home port, the crew quickly got the ship ready for operations. **Northland** has been underway for a few weeks now, conducting training, enforcing fisheries regulations, and getting ready for an international exercise.



This patrol marks **Northland's** first patrol with its new CO, CDR Brian Gismervik, who reported from **USCGC Midgett** in Honolulu, Hawaii. With many other new and departing members, **Northland** continues to focus on training and readiness, performing drills and readying new crew members for their new assignments.

Within the first week underway, **Northland** had the unique opportunity to work with the U.S. Army conducting flight operations. This interagency training provided deck landing qualifications to Army pilots and helped **Northland** remain proficient in helicopter operations.

The beginning of August marked the first port call of **Northland's** patrol. The

crew navigated through extensive summer marine traffic and encountered abundant wildlife before arriving in Boston, Massachusetts. There, the crew enjoyed some well-deserved time off, exploring the city and relaxing before setting out on the first major mission of fisheries law enforcement. Off the coast of Cape Cod, **Northland** has been conducting boardings of various fishing vessels to ensure compliance with maritime laws. This work not only promotes sustainable fishing practices but also provides the crew with valuable opportunities to perform law enforcement boardings and qualify more personnel in these critical Coast Guard missions.



Despite challenging weather, **Northland** has remained committed to continuous improvement while conducting damage control drills, a towing exercise with a Coast Guard Fast Response Cutter (FRC), and several small boat operations. These exercises help ensure that the crew is prepared for any situation that may arise while underway. As the second week of the patrol concluded, **Northland** arrived in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the crew is preparing to conduct operations with allies and partner nations as part of Operation NANOOK. This includes joint U.S./Canada efforts to enforce Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) international regulations, advancing the objectives of the Coast Guard's Arctic Strategic Outlook and the IUU Fishing Strategic Outlook.



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

Very Respectfully,  
 LTJG Tyric Burge, PAO

## **COMMAND AT SEA**

### **The Prestige, Privilege and The Burden of Command**

*By: Joseph Conrad*

Only a seaman realizes to what extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable, and sometimes it is even difficult for us to comprehend, but it is so.

A Ship at sea is a distant world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of the fleet units, the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders' chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who alone is ultimately responsible for the safe navigation engineering performance, accurate gun firing and morale of the ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour of duty as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless, command is the spur that has given the Navy its great leader.

It is a duty that richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world – "CAPTAIN." ✍



# Thank You Sponsors!


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**NAUTICAL TRIVIA**

(P/C FRANK A. MORRISON, ADVANCED PILOTING COMMITTEE)

**HOW DID THE WORD “STARBOARD” ORIGINATE?**

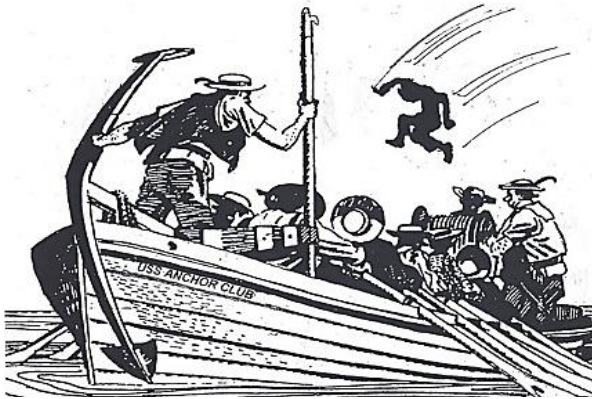
**ANSWER:**

**IN THE DAYS WHEN SHIPS WERE STEERED WITH A SWEEP OAR, IT WAS MOUNTED ON THE RIGHT SIDE SINCE MOST HELMSMEN WERE RIGHT HANDED. THE RIGHT SIDE WAS THUS CALLED THE STEERBOARD SIDE FROM WHICH CAME “STARBOARD.”**



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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*

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