

JAN-FEB 2020

# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

## FORT LEE TOUR OFFERS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES!

FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Your Navy League Council invites you to join them for an outing offering you a deeper understanding of the military experiences. Thanks to Fort Lee Public Affairs Officer, Richmond Council has scheduled what will prove to be an exciting and memorable outing. Fort Lee offers many schools that train our men and women serving in the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, with the skills they will need in their military careers. Our itinerary is expected to include the following schools:

- Shooting Simulator
- Rigging/Quartermaster
- Convoy Simulator
- Culinary School
- Robotic Demo

Space for this special tour is limited, so we encourage you to send in your reservations ASAP.

The tour will include lunch with the troops in the Quartermaster's Mess.



Time permitting, other points of interest, including the Quartermaster's Museum may be visited.

**COST: \$65.00 NL Member/Family  
\$75.00 Guest**

*Includes: Lunch, soft drinks, bottled water, bus & driver gratuity*

### SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

8:45 AM – **Leave** James River Bus Co. / 915 N. Allen Ave RVA 23220  
9:45 AM – Arrive Fort Lee for Tour  
Noon-Lunch at Base Mess Hall  
3:00 PM – **Leave** Fort Lee  
5:30 PM – ETA Richmond

RESERVATION DEADLINE: Thursday 13 February 2020

(Payment must be received with reservation form)

Please make the following reservations for: 'FORT LEE TOUR' on Thursday 20 February 2020

### **NOTE:** BASE SECURITY REQUIRES THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION

#1: Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License / ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#2: Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's License / ID #: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR CONFIRMING YOUR RESERVATION: Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of \_\_\_\_\_ Reservations Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Richmond Council N.L. (804) 355-7557

Please make check payable (and mail to): Richmond Council NLUS P.O. BOX 11201 Richmond, VA 23230



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



### NOW HEAR THIS

As Richmond Council begins 2020, I thank you for your confidence in me to be your president. I simply stand on the shoulders of others. Thank all of you who were at our very special Annual Meeting on January 22. Those at the office, the Roundtable and the Board do more work than most people realize. Our team gets a lot done!

No one knows what 2020 will bring. The first event of 2020 for us was that our Africa Care Packages were only two days underway before one of the bases was attacked by terrorists. Inside this issue are the incredible details of how our members' generous contributions and the office staff's buying and packing made the shipment possible.

Plan to join us for our February 20 bus trip to Ft. Lee. Our Spring Lunch-

eon with speaker Commander Kris Klaiber of Navy Recruiting District Richmond is on March 25. Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Outing Fundraiser at the Hollows Golf Club will be on May 13. Mark ALL of these dates on your calendar! Check out the 2020 Events page on our website.

You can help us by bringing in new members and volunteering to do jobs. The best volunteer is one who does not wait for an assignment, but jumps in and finds something to do. Please be that person! One way to learn is to come to one of our office Roundtable meetings – every Monday at 10:30 am. We depend on membership, activities and sponsorships for financial support. We do this so we can donate these funds to the personnel of the Sea Services and our Youth groups. This is one of the ways that we thank them as a token of our love, appreciation and respect. 🍀

### PRESIDENTIAL WORDS OF NAUTICAL WISDOM

A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace.

(President Theodore Roosevelt - second annual message to Congress, 1902) 🍀

### CHANGING OF THE CHAPLAIN

At our Annual Meeting there was a changing of the Chaplaincy. Lewis Brandt was a former liaison with **USS CARTER HALL**, but most of us remember him as our dedicated and eloquent Council Chaplain. Lewis served for seven years and logging many trips from Dillwyn, VA. Before Lewis blessed Past President John Harler as our new Chaplain, John presented him a Bible with these words inscribed:

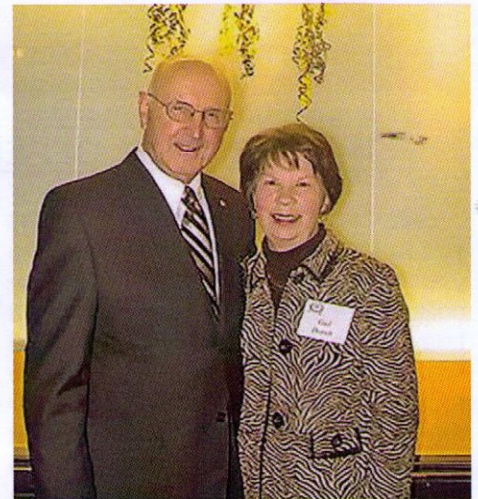
### WELCOME ABOARD !

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 Members

Jeffrey S. Bakewell  
Kenneth R. Caratelli  
St. George B. Pinckney  
Patrick A. Ryan  
T. Glenn Wilson

Well done good and faithful servant  
Richmond Council  
Navy League of the United States  
Presented to  
Lewis Brandt  
Serving as Council Chaplain  
2012- 2019



Lewis and Gail Brandt

### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By John A. Harler, M.D.

On New Year's Eve, I approached the counter of the local Post Office with 10 care packages from the Richmond Navy League destined for Africa to hopefully provide for some of the needs of our forward deployed servicemen and women stationed there. The postal clerk seemed to be having a bad day, as she lacked eye contact and responded to my questions quite curtly.

I was reminded of the words of King Solomon, who had much to say about the power of the tongue:

Chaplain's Corner cont. on page 3

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**Proverbs 15:1, A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words cause quarrels,**

**Proverbs 15:4, The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit,**

**Proverbs 25:11, A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.**

So, I said, "I'm so sorry you have to work on New Year's Eve, but we really appreciate your being here to assist us in sending these packages to some of our servicemen and women in Africa to help brighten their day". Well, she suddenly made eye contact and smiled and thanked us for what we were doing.

The new year is a time when we all look for opportunities to turn a new leaf or make a New Year's resolution. Perhaps a good one would be to seek opportunities to speak a kind word to someone having a bad day and perhaps give them hope for the new year.

## PEARL HARBOR REMEMBRANCE DAY 2019



Key note speaker CAPT Brian Finman and Pearl Harbor Survivor Leonard Gardner

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day Ceremony was held on 7 December 2019 at the Virginia War Memorial, led by Richmond Council Navy League. Our speaker was CAPT Brian Finman, Commodore of Amphibious Squadron Four. CAPT Finman has been a good friend of our Council, beginning with his days as XO of **USS CARTER HALL**, then heading our October 2019 Sea Services Luncheon, and then in December being our keynote speaker. Other participants included Pearl Harbor Survivor Leonard Gardner, the

Varina NJROTC Color Guard, wreath bearers representing several organizations, a bagpiper, a soloist, uniformed Navy personnel from NOSC tolling the ship's bell and saluting, the Marine Corps League Rifle Honor Guard and buglers playing Taps. This annual Remembrance Day honors those Virginians who gave their lives for us at Pearl Harbor. Lest they Be Forgotten. 🇺🇸

## RICHMOND COUNCIL VISITS NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER AT DAHLGREN

A near-busload of Navy Leaguers and guests spent an interesting day at Dahlgren on November 15, 2019. The group was escorted by an outgoing and knowledgeable docent on what Dahlgren refers to as their "Centennial Tour". This tour provides an overview of the numerous and varied programs and projects ongoing at the base.

The tour included approximately 8 areas of current and historical significance. The group visited, among others, the electromagnetic railgun range extending down the Potomac River as well as the old railroad station and a hull section off the battleship **USS ARKANSAS**, 18 inches thick, into which a 14" and 16" canon projectile had been fired.

Lunch, on base, although somewhat limited, was a real bargain. 🇺🇸



AMERICA Division Sea Cadets participated in "Wreaths Across America"

## NAS OCEANA VFA 213 BLACKLIONS CHANGE OF COMMAND

On 21 November 2019, Richmond Navy Leaguers attended an impressive, patriotic and traditional Navy Change of Command Ceremony at NAS Oceana. The current Executive Officer (XO) CDR Leslie Mintz relieved Commanding Officer (CO) CDR Patrick Baker to become the new CO of Strike Fighter Squadron 213, the Blacklions. The new XO is CDR Bryan Pinckney.

CDR Baker was our Spring Luncheon speaker in March 2019 accompanied by CDR Mintz. Richmond Council was fortunate to get to know these two fine commanders. CDR Baker's future path leads to becoming a Carrier Air Wing Commander. We look forward to our continued association with the Blacklions, CDR Mintz and CDR Pinckney in 2020. 🇺🇸



Presenting the colors, commencing the traditional ceremony



## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



### USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Christopher Stone  
XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor  
CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

#### Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison

AHOY Richmond Navy League!

In typical **NORMANDY** fashion December was a busy month! We started by transiting back to the Sixth Fleet area of responsibility in order to re-join the Harry S. Truman. On our way we made a brief stop in Rota, Spain spending three days relaxing before getting back to work. Once we re-joined the carrier we steamed back across the Mediterranean conducting high end training en route to the Fifth Fleet area of responsibility.

**NORMANDY** flexed her abilities as the Air and Missile Defense Commander participating in multiple advanced training scenarios across the Mediterranean integrating the strike group for the first time in months.

Once back in Fifth Fleet we had the pleasure of pulling into Dubai for the Christmas holiday spending four days resting and preparing for all of our follow-on tasking! Our Sailors demonstrated extreme professionalism as they exemplified the call to be ambassadors anywhere we go. **NORMANDY** also had the honor of flying a flag that has been flown over Normandy, France, USCENTCOM, Arlington National Cemetery as well as many other historic places. **USS NORMANDY** was contacted by a Chief Master-at-arms that is the care taker of the flag and arranged the event demonstrating that being a good shipmate extends far beyond the confines of just our ship!

We look forward to another busy and rewarding year in 2020 and keep you informed of our journey!

Thank you for your continued support and outreach. 🇺🇸

Warm regards,  
CAPT Chris D. Stone  
Commanding Officer



### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock  
XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson  
CMC: CMDCM Donavon Gray

#### Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Happy New Year!! As 2020 begins, it is exciting to think about the future and what the year holds for our Sailors and our families. In December, the ship's crew was able to take some well-deserved leave over the holidays to spend with families and friends across the nation. It was a blessing to be in port for this to occur.

As we enter into the New Year, we are looking forward to continuing our certification and training cycle. We look forward to completing the final qualifications in order to complete the basic phase of training certification, which will allow us to begin the next phase of certification. This phase will focus on the ship's ability to work with the other ships in the IWO JIMA Amphibious Ready Group, which will lead to future operations and deployments.

We are thankful for the extensive support and friendship that Richmond Navy League has provided to each of our Sailors and Marines.

We are: *Working for Peace, Ready for War!* 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
LCDR, CHC, Chaplain Williams, USN



### USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Michael O'Reilly  
XO: CDR Corey Odom  
CMC: MCPO (SW/AW) Larae Baker

#### Alan Palmer, Liaison

Greetings from **USS GRAVELY!**

Having completed operational tasking for 2019, we shifted focus this month towards preparing for our maintenance period and entering dry dock. The first three weeks were filled with pre-dry dock meetings, equipment offloads, and de-fueling the ship's four-hundred thousand gallons

of fuel. The crew also devoted a great deal of effort in preparing for inspections with the Afloat Training Group (ATG) and our Immediate Superior in Charge (ISIC), Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) Two Eight. ATG inspected **GRAVELY's** anti-terrorism / force protection capabilities, as well as a few other warfare areas, and found our programs to be in great shape. Similarly, DESRON Two Eight evaluated **GRAVELY's** administrative programs, such as our personnel management and personnel security programs. We were able to perform well and received very favorable scores. We concluded the month with an eighteen hour move to dry dock in the NASSCO shipyard. With dry air beneath the keel and most of the ship's habitability equipment turned off, the crew moved from our shipboard living quarters to temporary berthing's onboard a barge. Two days later, the Captain celebrated Thanksgiving with shipmates and family, serving a delicious holiday feast prepared by **GRAVELY's** Culinary Specialist onboard the berthing barge. As the month comes to an end, the crew works hard to prepare for a successful start to our maintenance phase. 🇺🇸

Very Respectfully,  
XO CDR Corey D. Odom



### USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Charles L. Banks  
XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro  
COB: ETC Joseph W. Leu

#### Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND!**

Before enjoying the Holidays with their families, **NORTHLAND's** crew worked hard on preparations for the upcoming Aviation Availability and continued preparation for the next patrol with maintenance, training and more drills. Additionally, **NORTHLAND** successfully kicked off its new morning fitness program including a fun run, team sports and high energy workouts lead by the First LT.

**NORTHLAND** had multiple distinguished guests come aboard this past month including the Atlantic Area Cut-

**USCGC NORTHLAND cont. on page 7**



## CHRISTMAS 2019

Members of Council celebrated Christmas parties with personnel of three of our adopted or supported units in December. First was on Dec 5 in Virginia Beach with NAS Oceana Strike Fighter Squadron Blacklions. Next, was on Dec 12 in Norfolk with **USS GRAVELY**. Then it was on Dec 17 in Portsmouth with **USCGC NORTHLAND**. In each case, we thanked the Commanding Officers, Executive Officers and other personnel for their service and made substantial contributions toward their Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) funds. 🍷



Commanding Officer CDR Leslie Mintz & XO CDR Bryan Pinckney display ornaments at Blacklions Christmas Party

### CARE PACKAGES RECEIVED

*From the women and men of the 303d Expeditionary Rescue Squadron, I would like to extend our gratitude for the recent arrival of some care packages. We are currently in a location with no amenities and the items sent were a relief to many. The items were shared amongst the entire Camp of Air Force, Marines, Army and Navy personnel. It is comforting to know we have the support of fellow Americans, other service members and the Members of the Navy League of the United States Richmond, Virginia Council. Thank you for taking the time and effort in putting these packages together.* 🍷

Sincerely,

SMSgt Frank C. "M&M" Mora Matos, USAF  
303 ERQS Senior Enlisted Leader  
Special Missions Aviator



Richmond Council presented Donation Check to **USS GRAVELY's** Morale Welfare Recreation (MWR) Fund at **GRAVELY's** Christmas Party. (L to R): CO CDR Mike O'Riley, Council President Harvey Lankford, Director Pat Harris, MWR Director PO1 Davis & CMC Dion Dupres.

### AFRICA CARE PACKAGE PROGRAM

Two weeks before Christmas we discovered two military outposts located in remote areas of Africa in Kenya and Somalia, where Navy and Air Force special forces men & women were living in tents or huts sleeping on small twin sized cots in very austere conditions.

We were fortunate to have contacted the senior enlisted USAF Chief Master Sergeant responsible for their care. He provided us with an APO address for both units along with a wish list of 27 items ranging from sling shots, seat cushions and fishing gear to shower shoes and shampoo.

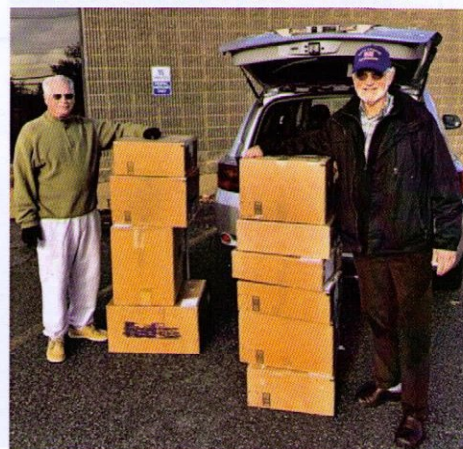
Richmond Council quickly went to work with a blast email informing our entire membership of this unique and timely opportunity to enact one of our primary missions – to provide care package to needy forward - deployed military of all branches of service.

We commend our members who responded right away with enough funds to cover some of every item on the wish list. **This was an overwhelming response for which we are grateful.** This resulted in five large care packages shipped to both facilities on the last day of the year.

Congratulations to our membership, as this was truly a team effort and a wonderful example of the Richmond Council Navy League's motto, "They serve; we support!" 🍷



Dir. / Chaplain John Harler and Directors Dennis Quearry & Carol Zembrowski pack care packages for Africa



Off to the post office



## 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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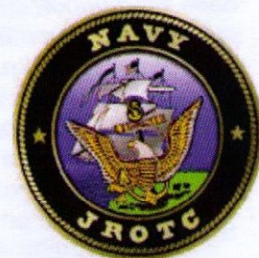
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**USCGC NORTHLAND continued from page 4**

ter Forces Commander and the Medium Endurance Cutter Product Line Manager. The crew was able to ask questions and learn more about the future of Atlantic Area cutters and operations as well as discuss engineering improvements.

**NORTHLAND** also received a visit from Vice Admiral Scott Buschman, Atlantic Area Commander. VADM Buschman presented multiple awards to stand out crew members and most notably presented the **NORTHLAND's** very first Meritorious Advancement to BM1 Keith Fruncillo. Very few members receive this honor each year, Bravo Zulu BM1!

The **NORTHLAND** crew enjoyed your company at the Holiday Party and thanks you for joining them! Thank you for your support and Happy New Year!

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro





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NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES  
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*The Lucky Bag*

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Carol K. Zembroski

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USAF, USN

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CAPT C. Denis Gilchrist, USN

George Kalanges, USN  
Kenneth J. Lee, ASAF

Glenn Mullins, USN  
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