



The Lucky

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

JOIN US FOR A HARBOR BOAT TOUR & PARADE OF SAILING SHIPS **NORFOLK HARBORFEST - FRIDAY JUNE 10, 2022**

Come join us on one of our most popular trips: Harborfest '22 in Norfolk, Virginia. We have space on the Victory Rover to see the Navy Yard and view the parade of tall sails; all from a sea level perspective! The Victory Rover is a well-equipped power boat with snacks, drinks, and heads. Also, there is a well-versed tour guide to answer questions and tell you interesting facts you may not have known. After the cruise, you will be free to visit the harborfest for lunch, tours and entertainment. We will depart James River Transportation Bus Terminal, located at 915 N. Allen Ave, Richmond 23220 at 6:30 AM and will depart Norfolk at 3:00 PM to beat the traffic. Sign up early as this fills up fast!



"Simple Messing About in Boats"

"Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing - absolutely nothing - half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats. Simply messing".

> " Wind in the Willows" **Kenneth Grahame**



MAY 2022

Navy Leaguers aboard the Victory Rover.

Reservation Deadline: Wednesday May 25

REMINDER: You must RESERVE your seat IN ADVANCE!!

Cost: \$75.00: NL members & family \$85.00: Non-members (Includes: snacks, drinks, driver tip)

Make reservations for the "Tall Ships Tour" on Friday June 10, 2022		
Name:	Tel:	
email:		
Name:	Tel:	
email:		
people at \$ 75.00 + people at \$	\$ 85.00 = total enclosed \$	

PRINT CLEARLY, cut out, mail form + check to: Richmond Council NLUS N L Office 804-355-7557 PO Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

DAY'S SCHEDULE

*6:30 AM -BUS **DEPARTS**

James River Transportation 915 N. Allen Ave Richmond, VA 23220

9:00 AM – Arrive at dock

9:15 AM – Board harbor boat

9:30-12:30 – Boat tour harbor

+Tall Ships

12:30-3:00 - Lunch on your own Vendors at Harborfest

Board Tall Ships

3:00 PM - Leave Norfolk

6:00 PM - ETA Richmond

(*complimentary coffee and doughnuts will be available prior to departure from Richmond)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Patrick D. Harris



GREETINGS!

At our April Board of Director's Meeting, it was agreed that we should have a Richmond Navy League Friends and Family Picnic. The picnic idea was suggested by Laura Walker one of our newest members. The picnic is scheduled for July 16 at American Legion Post 354, which is located off Robious Road about two miles west of Chesterfield Town Center. The American Legion Post is a great site along the James River, with two covered outdoor pavilions, in addition to a building for meetings and activities.

The Richmond Navy League has held its past two Board Meetings there at the invitation of Post 354 Navy League member Paul Heinrich who is also a member of Post 354. He and other members of Post 354 offered their Post as a meeting site for our

The Lucky Bag Vol 65 Issue 5

Published by the Richmond, Virginia Council Navy League of the U.S. Mailing address: P.O. Box 11201, Richmond, VA 23230.

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

board meetings earlier in the year. Post 354 is also talking with the Navy about using their Post for an event during Richmond Navy Week, May 16-22.

It has been quite some time since the Richmond Council has hosted a picnic. More details about the picnic will be provided in the June *Lucky Bag* and through email communication.

At the last Board meeting we also agreed to improve our contact with our members by calling each member to see how they are doing and to discuss ongoing Richmond Council activities. Each board member has been provided a list of ten members to call. When a Navy League board member calls, please feel free to provide them any suggestions you may have to enhance our support to our military and youth partners and to our members.

Please note, our <u>Summer Luncheon</u> that was scheduled for June 22 has been canceled.

Thank you for your continuing support of the Richmond Navy League Council.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

Comfort One Another -

I heard of a little girl who was awakened from her sleep by loud thunder and lightning. One bright flash and searing crack of thunder caused her to scream out. Hearing her cry, her daddy rushed in and picked her up in his arms. He comforted her and told her not to be afraid because Jesus was with her. She said, "I know daddy, but I need somebody with skin on." We never get too old for that same need!

Are we able to comfort ourselves in time of need? From where does our comfort come? We were made to live in community with one another and to care for one another in time of need.

In the Christian Scripture, Jesus Christ says in John 15:12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, He says, Praise be to the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.

As the Navy League strives to provide care and support for our sea services, let us also consider how we may be a support for one another in our times of need. We encourage our members to let us know if you are in need of our moral or prayer support.

SPRING LUNCHEON MARCH 23, 2022 WILLOW OAKS COUNTRY CLUB



Captain Edward Nanartowich, USNR (Ret) was Council's Spring Luncheon Guest Speaker and presented an informative and well received talk on the Merchant Marine.



Chaplain, John Harler, welcomes service members to the Spring Luncheon.

AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADETS OF AMERICA

COLOR GUARD IN ACTION

The AMERICA Division Sea Cadets Color Guard participated in the Daughters of the American Revolution celebration of the 113th commemoration of George Washington's 290th birthday. They presented the Colors in front of the Statue of George Washington and retrieved the Colors at the end of the ceremony.

PISTOL AND AIR RIFLE QUALIFICATION – CAVALIER RIFLE & PISTOL CLUB MONTPELIER, VA

20 Sea Cadets had to take a gun safety course before going out to the firing range. They had to pass a written test before they were allowed to handle a gun or rifle. 17 Cadets tried to qualify with 30 caliber pistols. Each had ten practice rounds at a target 30 meters from the shooting platform. After practice, each Cadet had two minutes to shoot five rounds into a target. This was done two more times. Three Cadets tried to qualify with a pellet rifle. Each had 10 practice shots at a target 30 meters from the shooting platform. Then qualification was five shots timed at three minutes a target. This was done twice more. Weather conditions were less than ideal. Freezing rain and snow made cold hands on cold steel.

THEY TRAIN - WE SUPPORT





ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



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

On April 12, **NORTHLAND** left port in Portsmouth for an overnight shakedown cruise ahead of her upcoming Eastern Pacific patrol. Prior to the 24-HR underway stints in the Atlantic, the cutter on-loaded ammunition for the ship's MK-76 forward weapon system.

After successfully completing all drills at sea and knocking off the rust from being in port, **NORTHLAND** returned to Portsmouth.

NORTHLAND's upcoming patrol is in support of Joint Interagency Task Force South and will include enforcement of U.S. counterdrug policy as well as searching for targets of interest.

NORTHLAND headed south for its patrol area on April 18 and went straight into a gale going around Cape Hatteras. Despite the use of seasick medications, the ship was a ghost town for two days.

Later, off the coast of South Florida, **NORTHLAND** had to make an emergency stop in Port Everglades due to machinery problems.

NORTHLAND did a midnight mooring in high winds and was grateful for tugs and a local pilot.



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

March 2022 marked major muscles movements and huge victories for USS NORMANDY. Captain Hampton spent his last three weeks on board coaching his bridge teams through the successful completion of Mariner Skills Week One and Two, as well as a significant push in the march to certify our engineering plant. On 24MAR2022, Captain Charles E. Hampton was relieved by Captain Simon C. McKeon at Assault Craft Unit-4 Joint Expeditionary Base Norfolk, VA. Captain McKeon oversaw USS NOR-MANDY's transit to Yorktown where Weapons Department worked industriously across three days to ensure that all ammunition was stowed safely. USS NORMANDY then returned to sea to demonstrate its capability to land and launch aircraft successfully at sea. Captain McKeon's traditional ethos of ship, shipmate and self has quickly taken hold of the command and has continued to enforce the standard of excellence and dedication to duty. USS NORMANDY is charging further into its Basic Phase and continues to meet each assessment with a tenacious warrior energy.

Thank you and have a nice day! &

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!

To say that life and work aboard the FIGHTIN' 5-O has been high tempo as of late, feels like a gross understatement! As we worked towards MOB-D (Damage Control) & MOB-E (Engineering) certifications last month (and continue to do so), we have since time undertaken and successfully completed several other certification events: AT (Anti-Terrorism), Communications, CRAV (Command Readiness Assessment Visit), Cyber, and FSOM (Medical). Oh, and by the way we recently experienced a change at the Executive Officer position. We "farewell'd," CDR Brad Fancher, and hail'd," CDR Steven Grey. Yes...all within the March-April time frame; high tempo indeed. Nonetheless, the spirit of the Sailor is a curious thing, indomitable and resilient through the worst of times and every hardship. Though a bit wearied, from "Working for Peace," the crew and leadership of the **CARTER HALL** remain, "Ready for War!"

With underway's on the horizon, the ship continues to be maintained, readied, and tested in view of the coming days. As Spring is in full effect and the days get warmer, so too grows a longing to get back to sea which only those men and women who have known life on the wave tops (past and present) can fully appreciate. We love our families, and miss them while we are away, nonetheless, the strong support we have from the Richmond Navy League assists our efforts in fighting America's battles and serving her people; thank you once more for standing with us.

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War!

Very Respectfully, Chaplain Block LT, CHC, USN

THE BEST DON'T REST

The USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50), was slated for decommissioning in 2023, but instead, the ship will deploy again. When they do, CDR Brad Fancher will be the ship's Commanding Officer and CDR LaDonna Simpson will take her expertise to the Pentagon in Arlington, VA.

The USS CARTER HALL is one of two East Coast LSD's that is fully prepared for deployment. Months of refurbishing under former CO, CDR Matthew Shellock, and nine months of deployment under CO, LaDonna Simpson, saw this formidable Gator Freighter amass a long list of achievements, awards, recognitions, and readiness capability.

Command of the ship will change hands on Thursday, May 26, 2022, when CDR Fancher relieves CDR Simpson. CDR Fancher has a reputation for diligent preparation and the Navy needs his skills at sea. Meanwhile, CDR Simpson, the mother of a 4-year-old and a 6-year-old will have more time with her family while continuing her stellar career. Remember, the best don't get to rest.

Much of the CARTER HALL's crew will rotate in the coming months. CMC Singleton, the Command Master Chief, will be reassigned as will LT James Block our onboard liaison. We'll miss the old relationships but welcome the new ones.

SHIPS UPDATE continued on page 5

SHIPS UPDATE cont. from page 4



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 fans,

During a scheduled port visit in Norway **USS GRAVELY** conducted a Change of Command ceremony north of the Arctic Circle.

This time-honored tradition is a product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. Custom has established that this ceremony be formal and impressive, designed to strengthen the respect for authority vital to any organization. Parading all hands at quarters, and the public reading of official orders, stem from the days when the movement of mail and persons was a very slow process. This procedure was intended to ensure that only authorized officers held command, and that all hands were aware of the change of command.

During the ceremony, Commander Corey D. Odom was relieved by Commander Hunter D. Washburn. The Change of Command also means that **GRAVELY** welcomes our new Executive Officer, Commander Brian C. Sanchez, aboard.

USS GRAVELY is currently on a regularly scheduled 6th Fleet Deployment attached to Carrier Strike Group-8. The ceremony will be held as traditionally as possible, either underway on the high seas or in a scheduled port visit.

CDR Corey Odom is a native of Camden County, New Jersey and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Old Dominion University. In addition, CDR Odom attended Johns Hopkins University where he earned a Master of Science degree and the Naval War College where he earned a Master of Arts degree. CDR Odom enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1990, served ten years in the submarine community completing sea tours onboard USS L. MENDEL RIVERS (SSN-686) and USS JACKSONVILLE (SSN-699). In 1999 he was accepted into the Navy's Enlisted Commissioning Program and earned his commission in 2002.

After commissioning, CDR Odom's operational assignments include command of USS GLADIATOR (MCM 13),

Executive Officer in MCM CREW PER-SISTENT; Weapons Officer and Combat Systems Officer in USS OSCAR AUSTIN (DDG 79); Auxiliaries Officer in USS LABOON (DDG 58) and Strike Officer in USS GONZALEZ (DDG 66). He was previously the Executive Officer of USS GRAVELY (DDG 107) and assumed command of GRAVELY on November 13, 2020.

"Serving as Captain for **USS GRAVELY** has been without a doubt, the highlight of my career and biggest honor of my life." - **CDR Odom**

Commander Odom will be relieved of duties by Commander Hunter D. Washburn. Commander Washburn is a native of Andover, Massachusetts where he graduated from Phillips Academy Andover. He attended the US Naval Academy and graduated with a degree in History. He also earned his MBA in Financial Management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

At sea, he was a plank-owner aboard USS NITZE (DDG 94) where he served as the Communications Officer, First Lieutenant and fleeted up to be the Navigator for her maiden deployment off the Horn of Africa. Commander Washburn was the Operations Officer aboard USS Mahan (DDG 72) where he deployed to the eastern Mediterranean Sea for a Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) deployment. He commanded USS Monsoon (PC 4) out of Bahrain and while under his command, Monsoon was twice awarded the Battle 'E' and Marjorie Sterrett Battleship Fund Award. Commander Washburn will be fleeting up from Executive Officer to Commanding Officer.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to lead not only great Americans, but the best Sailors in the Fleet. I am excited to carry on the Gravely fighting spirit." -CDR Washburn

Also joining the **GRAVELY** Team as our new Executive Officer is Commander Brian C. Sánchez. CDR Sánchez was born in Hollywood, FL and raised in Americus, GA. CDR Sánchez graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in Economics.

As a division officer, CDR Sánchez sea tours include in USS COLE (DDG 67) as the Electrical Officer, and Riverine Squadron II Detachment II Assistant Officer-in-Charge. CDR Sánchez then served his department head tours in USS VELLA GULF (CG 72) as the Weapons Officer and then as Combat Systems Officer. During his time at sea he completed four deployments, and a twenty-month CNO maintenance availability.

Ashore, CDR Sánchez served in Naples, Italy on the staff of Commander Naval Forces Europe, Commander Naval Forces Africa, and Commander Sixth Fleet in the Current Operations Directorate (N33) where he was the Fleet Scheduler and Orders Production Officer during Operation ODYSSEY DAWN. CDR Sánchez graduated with distinction from the U.S. Naval War College with a Master of Arts Degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He then served as the Flag Aide to Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command. Following his time as a Flag Aide, he served as Officer-in-Charge of Basic Division officer Course, Norfolk,

"I am very proud to be joining the GRAVELY team. I am excited to carry on the traditions of professionalism and operational excellence on USS GRAVELY." - CDR Sánchez

In all, Team **GRAVELY** will be losing a big part of what makes us "**GRAVELY**" with CDR Odom leaving; however, the Crew welcomes the change with open arms and bids CDR Odom "fair winds and following seas" with all of his future endeavors.

For more information about **GRAVELY's** Change of Command, please contact Ensign Michael Krueger at PAO@ddq107.navv.mil.

Very Respectfully, Michael W Krueger, ENS, USN



NO, NO!! – It's not a reemergence of a "keel haul" punishment, but an unusual staging for a GRAVELY's Sailor reenlisting on 4-7-22 done 125 ft in the air on a DDG mast's yardarm. Congratulations to STG1 Woods!

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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