

Council's 61st Annual Meeting



On 16 Jan 2019, the Richmond Council celebrated its 61st Annual Meeting. President John Harler introduced two special guests at the head table. The first was National Navy League's Gerald A. Saunders Jr., SgtMaj USMC (Ret), Senior Vice President of Council Outreach and Member Services. The second introduction was Richmond Council member Mike Denton representing his family and the Vietnam saga of his father, Jeremiah Denton, for whom a new Navy destroyer will be named.

Council Sr VP Harvey Lankford presented the 2018 events by Powerpoint chronicling our mission and activities. Treasurer Bill Butler presented our financial report. The Nominating Committee report was given by Sr VP Lankford. The new Director-nominee was Doug Reed. The returning Director-nominees names were then read and all came forward to be elected by the membership. All Directors were sworn in by Judge Advocate Tom Hassell. The Officers for 2019 were read and elected by the Directors, then sworn in.

The Sr VP of the Richmond Council for the last 2 years, Harvey Lankford, was then sworn in as the new president. Harler and Lankford exchanged president's pins. Lankford presented Harler with a commemorative gavel and plaque. Harler presented Lankford the real gavel, to be used wisely. New President Lankford delivered a short acceptance speech. Instead, in a surprise, he elicited the help of National Navy League VP Saunders and Council's previous Moscoe Huntley Award recipients Milton Owen, Bill McCathern, Ed Gibbons, and Walter Tucker (absent). Tom Hassell became the 29th recipient of Council's highest award, the prestigious Moscoe Huntley Award. President Lankford thanked Mr. Hassell for his dedicated service to our council over many years. With this honor bestowed, the benediction was given by Chaplain Brandt and the meeting adjourned.