

SEPT 2020

# The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES



LCAC 85 (US Navy Landing Craft, Air Cushion) boards the dock landing ship **USS CARTER HALL** (LSD-50). **CARTER HALL** is a Harpers Ferry Cargo Variant of the *Whidbey Island* Class of Dock Landing Ships; the first class of ships specifically designed to operate LCAC's. Council formally adopted **CARTER HALL** in November, 1996.

## THEY SERVE – WE SUPPORT

### RICHMOND COUNCIL CONTINUES COVID-19 RELIEF EFFORTS

(*Seapower* August 2020): Richmond Council has continued its COVID-19 relief efforts beyond donating \$1,000 to the New York Council for support of the city while it was the epicenter of the pandemic, said Harvey Lankford, President of the Richmond Council.

The first step was the Council's donation to their New York counterpart to support the personnel of the hospital ship **USNS COMFORT (T-AH-20)** and its command center on shore.

The Council's second action was for

their adopted ship **USS CARTER HALL** at Joint Expeditionary Base-Little Creek-Fort Story, VA. Richmond Council's board member, Pat Robson, the liaison to the **CARTER HALL**, worked with the ship's chaplain to buy \$1,300 in gift cards at the commissary there and distribute them to families in need. Several of **CARTER HALL's** crew have since tested positive for COVID-19.

The Council's third outreach effort was to support Strike Fighter Squadron 213, the "Blacklions", out of Naval Air Station Oceana, VA. Lankford is Council's liaison to the

squadron. After discussion with squadron leadership, \$1,000 was donated in Richmond Council and VFA-213's name to the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS), a national organization that has a branch office at NAS Oceana.

The Council's fourth outreach was by board member, Alan Palmer, liaison to **USS GRAVELY** in Norfolk. The ship's executive officer reported that Sailors needed help with housing and food during their quarantine before boarding the ship, an expense not fully covered by the Navy. The Council contributed \$1,500. ✍️



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Harvey V. Lankford, M.D.



## NOW HEAR THIS

*The Lucky Bag* Team continues to find a way to be successful in this challenging year. Production and distribution will continue digital-only. You can receive *The Lucky Bag* if we have your email address. *The Lucky Bag* has already been on the website for four years. Check it out.

September brings an important month in the life of Richmond Council. A nominating committee will be formed. The duty of the committee is to propose new officers for a later Board Meeting and the Annual Meeting in January, 2021.

For the past four years I have been your Senior Vice President or President so it is time for me to pass the gavel to another person. But this message is not just about the President. There are many important posi-

tions in our organization that are staffed by just one person. They all need attention for the ongoing viability of our Council. We need you. Please contact me or any current officers with your thoughts and support. ✍

## WORDS OF WISDOM

Spanish proverb: Science is madness if good sense does not cure it. This saying seems appropriate because of the changing views in both science and politics regarding the virus. ✍

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HISTORY AND RACIAL RECONCILIATION

In a conversation with an African American friend recently, I mentioned that one of my ancestors came over on one of the ships in 1607 to which she replied that one of her ancestors came over on a ship also, a slave ship sometime after 1619. In reading the biography of my Confederate ancestor, I read his grandfather's will in which was listed all his slaves **by name**. Suddenly I realized that one of my ancestors may have owned one of her ancestors. My slave-owning ancestor's last name was the same as my friends. This allowed me the opportunity to offer repentance on behalf of my ancestors and to ask for her forgiveness on behalf of hers.

Our nation is currently in turmoil over racism and a debate over removing all symbols of the Confederacy in the belief that this will somehow provide reparation for the past. Brian Stevenson, founder and Director of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy*, says that the first step towards reconciliation is "truth-telling", which is essentially the step of conciliation, which must precede reconciliation. In other words, we must first acknowledge the truth about how African Americans were treated in our history. Stevenson also says that we must **know** our history so that we do not repeat it.

We cannot cancel the wrongs of the past by erasing our history. Let the markers of our history tell the truth of our past creating an opportunity for repentance and forgiveness.

The Bible says, Search me, O God, know my heart; and see if there is any wicked or hurtful way in me, Psalm

139:23. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and make me willing to obey you. Then I will teach your ways to others who are guilty like me. Psalm 51:12-13. ✍

July 16, 2020

Dear Navy Leaguers,

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of you for supporting me during this radical transition. I reported to the U.S. Naval Academy on July 2nd at 1000. We have been in quarantine for the past two weeks. Many of the incoming plebes tested positive for COVID-19, so further restrictions were put in place to ensure our safety. We actually welcomed one of our company numbers back after being in isolation for 14 days.

Tomorrow, Friday, July 17th, we will be issued our Plebe summer uniforms and other essential items. We will be sworn in on Saturday, July 18th, as a class and will begin training. I want to thank the Navy League for playing such an important role in my success.

I met Captain Brian Finman at the Sea Services Luncheon in 2019, and he was a huge mentor during my decision-making process between UVA ROTC and the Naval Academy. I also got the unique opportunity to attend the hanger tour of the "Blacklions," as well as the change of command ceremony. I aspire to become a Naval Aviator, and these trips fueled my dreams and motivated me to accomplish them. CDR Baker and CDR Mintz were also huge mentors during my decision-making process.

I wish to thank all of you for the care packages that have been of great help and motivation. They have helped me, as well as my company mates with whom I share when they're in need of a snack. Thank you for your support as I embark on this new journey. Please know that I am at your disposal, and more than happy to help with anything. Thank you. ✍

John D. Herrera, MIDN, USN

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**COUNCIL'S SEA SERVICES  
LUNCHEON  
OCTOBER 21, 2020  
HAS BEEN CANCELED**



## USS NORMANDY (CG-60) HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND

NORFOLK, VA - Today, Saturday, 01 August 2020, the guided-missile cruiser **USS NORMANDY (CG-60)** held a Change of Command Ceremony, where CAPT Charles Hampton relieved CAPT Chris Stone as Commanding Officer.

CAPT Stone departs Normandy after two years and three months at the helm.

While CAPT Stone was in command, **NORMANDY** conducted the Navy's first Dynamic Force Employment (DFE) deployment, as a part of the Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group (HSTCSG), operating in high north and throughout Sixth Fleet.

Following that deployment CAPT Stone led **NORMANDY** on a second deployment, lasting nine months, operating across the Second, Fifth and Sixth Fleet areas of responsibility. While operating in Fifth Fleet, **NORMANDY** seized the largest cache of conventional munitions in US Navy history.

"This tour has made a deep and profound impact on me. The hard-work and dedication of this crew has made **NORMANDY** the best cruiser in the fleet", said CAPT Stone.

"It has been an honor and privilege to be **NORMANDY'S** Commanding Officer; I have the utmost confidence as I move forward that **NORMANDY** will remain the VANGUARD of VICTORY."

CAPT Stone will assume the position of N8 (Warfare Requirements, Resources and Force Structure) for Commander Naval Surface Forces Atlantic and Pacific as he departs **NORMANDY**.

His relief, CAPT Hampton, joins the **NORMANDY** team following a successful tour as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff for US Fleet Forces and a tour as the XO and CO of **USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75)**.

CAPT Hampton comes to **NORMANDY** highly decorated, receiving the Admiral Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award, as well as two Junior Officer Awards for Tactics Excellence.

"I am humbled and honored to be joining such an illustrious warfighting team. The Ticonderoga class guided-missile cruiser brings unparalleled

capabilities to the principal fighting element of the United States Navy, the Carrier Strike Group (CSG)", said CAPT Hampton. "I am confident as I take command in this team's ability to face and defeat any-and-all challenges that may face us in the future."

**USS NORMANDY**, having just returned on 5 June from a nine-month deployment, plans to enter a scheduled maintenance period in August.

**NORMANDY**, homeported in Norfolk, Virginia, and is part of the Carrier Strike Group Eight.

If you would like to learn more about **USS NORMANDY** visit [public.navy.mil/surflant/cg60/Pages/default.aspx](https://public.navy.mil/surflant/cg60/Pages/default.aspx) or <https://m.facebook.com/USSNORMANDY>. 🚩

Story by LTJG Brian Weinhardt  
**USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**



### NEW COMMANDING OFFICER USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CAPT Charles E. Hampton, USN, is a native of Corpus Christi, TX. He was commissioned in 1997 through Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, FL. Hampton received a Bachelor's de-

gree from Texas A&M University in 1992 and obtained degrees in Surface Warfare training, a Master's Degree in Education Training and Management and a Master's Degree in Strategic Military Studies. He served aboard **USS FORD (FFG-54)**, **USS HOWARD (DDG-83)**, **USS WINSTON S. CHURCHILL (DDG-81)** and XO and CO on **USS DONALD COOK (DDG-75)**.

We know CAPT Hampton from his role at U.S. Fleet Forces in 2019. He arranged for the Executive Director of USFF Mark Honecker to be our Summer Luncheon speaker that year. On 1 August 2020, CAPT Hampton became the Commanding Officer of our adopted ship, **USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**. 🚩



CO CAPT Charles E. Hampton  
**USS NORMANDY (CG-60)**





## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



### USS NORMANDY (CG-60)

CO: CAPT Charles Hampton

XO: CDR Theresa L. Kaylor

CMC: CMDCM Douglas Newman

Adam J. Fiedler, M.D., Liaison

AHOY Richmond Navy League!

**NORMANDY** has entered a season of change! We have begun our transition to the maintenance phase, shifting our priorities from sustained operations to preparing **NORMANDY** for the future. In August **NORMANDY** will enter the ship yard for a yearlong repair period before restarting the certification process in 2021.

In July we also conducted our post deployment leave, giving our crew some well-earned rest from our historic period of operations!

Last, this will be my final letter to you, throughout July I have been conducting turnover with Captain Charles Hampton, who as of 1 August is the Commanding Officer of **USS NORMANDY**.

I would like to thank you, the Richmond Navy League for your generous support and outreach over the past two years. It has been a privilege to share the **NORMANDY** story with you, especially during the arduous schedule our team faced.

CAPT Hampton joins the **NORMANDY** family after completing tours as the Commanding Officer of the forward deployed destroyer **USS DONALD COOK** and more recently as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Commander US Fleet Forces.

As always, we appreciate your continued outreach, especially in this trying time for our nation. ✍️

Warm regards,  
CAPT Chris Stone  
Commanding Officer



### USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR Matthew R. Shellock

XO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson

CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

The long, hard work of our sailors and civilian counterparts is showing measureable results. Following our most recent maintenance period, the **CARTER HALL** was assessed and achieved superior markings in terms of material readiness! As the CAPTAINS 'Guiding Principles' remind us, we are to "*Be proud of who you are, be proud of what you do, every single one of us is a leader*". Such words are surely being portrayed through the determined efforts of all the men and women who comprise our crew. The team is undoubtedly "WORKING for Peace", so that we will be "Ready for War".

The partnership we share with the Richmond Navy League continues to bolster the morale and welfare of our Sailors. Over the past month, (2) televisions and accompanying wall mounts have been procured through your kind donations which are to be displayed in our soon to be remodeled "Gator ALL HANDS Lounge" and "Learning Resource Center". Once properly mounted, we will submit photos detailing the tangible results of your generosity at work. You are keeping our spirits high, our people rested and our minds focused for the mission before us.

In view of the coming days, long as they may be, we will be ready for what lies ahead! Know that your involvement in our wellbeing is never wasted. Again, recalling the CAPTAIN, "*A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Everyone has a job to do, do it well*". Thank you for assisting us in doing precisely that!

We are: *Working for Peace, Ready for War!* ✍️

Very Respectfully,  
Chaplain Block  
LT, CHC, USN



### USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Michael O'Reilly

XO: CDR Corey Odom

CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Alan Palmer, Liaison

No report at press time.



### USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett

XO: LCDR Joshua DiPietro

COB: GMC Robert Boyer

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND**!

As **NORTHLAND** nears the end of a work-filled maintenance period, **NORTHLAND's** crew grows ready to get back out on patrol and complete the mission. A few of the work highlights include receiving a new generator, acquiring some improvements to weaponry on-board, particularly the MK 75 76 mm Gun Weapon System (GWS), and receiving a whole boatload of food and supplies for the upcoming patrol. Meanwhile, **NORTHLAND's** crew has taken the extra time to be with family and continue to be flexible and adapt to the Coast Guards dynamic policies regarding COVID-19.

As transfer season comes to an end, much of the new **NORTHLAND** crew looks to bring their experience, get qualified quickly, and become contributing members of the **NORTHLAND** team. The crew who has been here for a little longer looks forward to helping out their new shipmates so that **NORTHLAND** can excel in completing the mission.

While homeported, **NORTHLAND** has also made strides to ensure the physical health of the crew by securing three new cardio machines for the cutter. **NORTHLAND's** crew looks forward to using this new machine to guarantee whatever is thrown the **NORTHLAND** crew's way, it will be ready to handle it!

The crew looks forward to finishing up this in port period and getting underway to complete the mission. Thank you for your support! ✍️

Very Respectfully,  
XO LCDR Joshua DiPietro



## AMERICA DIVISION SEA CADETS



Sea Cadets participated in a regular drill at the American Legion Post 284, Colonial Heights on August 8.



Representing Richmond Council Navy League, Vaughan Dize presents "Senior Cadet of the Year" PO3 Joe Whiteside with the Roosevelt Medal & Certificate on Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup>.



CO Gary Riffle, NSCC, presents PO1 Coleman Maitland with a traditional Graduation Plaque.

## RICHMOND COUNCIL MEMBER CAROLYN A. WEISS GUERTIN (1928 – 2020)



Carolyn Weiss Guertin, 92, a twenty year member of Richmond Council, passed away August 8, 2020. Carolyn, never passed an opportunity to join members on a Navy League outing.

At only 13 years old, Carolyn signed up for the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) during WWII, weeks after the Pearl Harbor attack. She'd been first in line, but because CAP wanted 10 men to sign up before accepting women volunteers, she was made to wait before becoming the 11th person to join. Her squadron was just recently renamed the Carolyn A. Guertin Squadron. After a lifelong career with the Civil Air Patrol, Carolyn was promoted on June 29 - her 92nd birthday - to Colonel. June 29th was also proclaimed Carolyn A. Guertin Day by Virginia's Governor. Carolyn had previously been honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2015. She is a personal hero to many in the Air Force, the Civil Air Patrol and Richmond Council. A full military burial was held at Beth-El Cemetery. *(Adapted from RTD Aug 16, 2020)*

## BLUE ANGELS – NEW JETS

The Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron, the aeronautical team known as the Blue Angels, received its first F/A-18E Super Hornet strike fighter at Pensacola on July 27 marking the beginning of a new generation of aircraft for the world-renowned team.

The Blues have flown the smaller legacy Hornet since 1986, when it replaced the A-4F Skyhawk on the team. Single-seat F/A-18A and two-

seat F/A-18B versions were used by the team and have been supplemented by single-seat F/A-18C and two-seat F/A-18D versions.

Boeing not only adds the Blues paint scheme, but removes the internal M61 cannon and a smoke generator is installed. An Artificial Feel Spring is installed on the flight controls to help the pilot in close formation flying. The modified flight software helps the pilot align the demonstration flight path. The landing gear is modified to allow flight at higher speeds and increased G's with the gear extended.

This year the Blue Angels also are receiving a new "Fat Albert", a transport aircraft that flies the team support personnel and equipment to its airshow destinations and also performs at the show demonstrating a Rocket-Assisted Takeoff. The old C-130T was retired and is being replaced by an ex-Royal Air Force C-130J. *(Adapted from Seapower Magazine 7/27/2020)*

Dear Richmond Navy League,

Thank you so much for your generous gift for Sea Service members and their families in need. Your generosity is transforming lives, enhancing the combat readiness of our Nation's military, and helping to keep our country safe and strong.

Your donation in the amount of \$1,000.00 on behalf of the **USS NORMANDY** empowers everything we do. It will help provide financial assistance and relief programs for the thousands of active duty and retired Sailors, Marines and their families who seek our help each year.

Thank you for caring about those who serve our country. Thank you for taking action to help, and thank you for giving so generously. *(Adapted from RTD Aug 16, 2020)*

Sincerely,  
Dawn Cutler  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy, (Ret)  
Vice President, Chief Development  
and Communications Officer  
Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

**HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER  
LUNCHEONS HAVE BEEN  
CANCELED FOR THE  
REMAINDER OF THE YEAR**



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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*



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