



November 2025



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

**Richmond Council has an Opportunity to Tour the Mercy-class Hospital Ship,
USNS *Comfort* (T-AH-20) at pier side on Friday, December 12, 2025**



Richmond Navy Members and guests are invited, and encouraged, to join us on a unique educational experience.

The **USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20)** is a 1,000-bed, 894-foot-long hospital ship of the U.S. Military Sealift Command (MSC), providing advanced medical care and humanitarian support for military operations, disaster relief, and global partnerships. Commissioned in 1986, it serves as a mobile, acute care facility, equipped with 12 operating rooms, digital radiology, a medical lab, a pharmacy, and a helicopter deck. **USNS *Comfort*** has been deployed for humanitarian missions like the Continuing Promise initiative in Central and South America and provided critical medical aid during crises such as the Hurricane Katrina disaster and the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2013 **USNS *Comfort*** was assigned to the Norfolk Naval Station to be close to Portsmouth Naval Hospital where some of its medical staff are based. ✍



**Registration Form for a pier side tour
of USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20) on Friday,
December 12, 2025**

Must be received by Friday, Nov. 21, 2025



Name: _____ Name: _____
Name: _____ Name: _____
Email: _____

Cost: \$50.00 per person Amount enclosed: \$ _____
\$25.00 children ages 12-16 years

Make checks payable to: Richmond Council NLUS
Mail to: Richmond Council Navy League; P.O. Box 11201
Richmond, VA 23230 Tel #: (804) 355-7557

PLEASE WEAR SOFT SOLE SHOES

SCHEDULE FOR THE DAY

8:00 AM Bus **Departs**
GRTC Park 'N Ride
4069 Crockett St.
Henrico, VA 23228
(near the intersection of Glenside
Drive and Staples Mill Road)
9:30 AM Pier Side Tour of the ship
12:00 PM Lunch on your own
on the Norfolk Naval Base
3:30 – 4:00 PM ETA Richmond

Cost Includes: snacks, waters, soft
drinks; chartered bus and bus driver
gratuity.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings, Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

October was a busy month. Our annual golf outing, that was rained out on September 17, was finally held on October 8. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and everyone seemed to enjoy their putting on the greens, winning the raffle of a one-year membership at Freedom Outdoors shooting range and numerous door prizes. You can read more about this outing on pages 3 & 4 of this issue of *The Lucky Bag*.

On October 13, nine Navy League board members attended the Navy's 250th Anniversary Celebration at the Virginia War Memorial. One of the keynote speakers, Governor of Virginia Glenn Youngkin, spoke highly of our Armed Forces and Virginia's rich Naval history. Other speakers included: an actor portraying Captain John Paul Jones, Father

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of the U.S. Navy; Cheryl Wilson, Executive Director, VA American Revolution 250 Commission; Don Scott, Speaker of the House of Delegates and CAPT Joyce Reed, USN (Ret.), Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

On October 22 we held our annual Sea Services Luncheon. Our Guest Speaker was GySgt Jerome Atger, USMC (Ret.), who had a storied Marine Corps career and who is now, the Naval Science Instructor at James River High School, NJROTC Program.

November events:

November 7: Change of Command

USS Carter Hall

November 11: Veterans Day

November 15: Council's trip to the National Museum of the U.S. Marine Corps **has been canceled** due to the lack of number of sign-ups and the government shut down.

November events in Naval History:

- November 10, 1775: U.S. Marine Corps Birthday
- November 11, 1918: Armistice Day
World War 1 ends at 11:00 A.M
- November 13-14, 1942: Naval Battle of Guadalcanal
- November 28, 1775: U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps Birthday 🇺🇸

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



Are You Skating on thin ice?

Is the value of our faith determined more by the sincerity with which we believe or by the worthiness of the One in whom we believe?

Consider this example. Tom went to skate on a frozen pond. He was fully confident that the ice would hold his weight, and so he skated out toward the middle with great abandon. But the ice was thin, and Tom fell through. Tina also went skating on a frozen pond. She wasn't at all sure that the ice would hold her weight, and so she edged toward the middle with great caution. But the ice was thick, and Tina was secure.

Whose faith was of greater value: Tom's sincere faith in thin ice, or Tina's tentative faith in thick ice? Tina's, of course.

Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of what is hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. It is a confident belief in God's promises, which provides a firm foundation for what is currently unseen, or intangible, and is central to understanding the nature of genuine, confident, and purposeful faith.

It seems so obvious, and yet so many people persist in the myth that it doesn't matter what we believe, so long as we believe sincerely. Tom's sincere faith only got him wet and cold because the object of his faith was not worthy of his trust.

Any faith in God, the One Who is perfectly reliable, is of great value. It holds. For He is surer than the thickest ice! We trust not in the sincerity of our faith, but in the reliability of our God.

So, let's go skating! 🇺🇸

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Pearl Harbor Remembrance
Day Ceremony
2 PM At the Virginia War
Memorial

Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral
John Tammen, USN (Ret.)

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 luncheon.

New Member

Michael J. Lyden

Sponsor

National Navy League, Lifetime Member

Council's 36th Annual Golf Outing - A BIG Success

Our original golf outing, scheduled for September 17, was rained out. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and on October 8 the golfers returned for a beautiful autumn day, as we successfully conducted our 36th Annual Golf Outing at the Hollows Golf Club, hosted by Robert McCroskey, Club Pro, and his associates of the Club. Eighteen teams came to enjoy golf fellowship, reunions, a barbecue meal served by our hosts, multitudes of door prize drawings, eighteen wonderful and birdie-able holes of golf, topped off by the final drawings for prizes and the crowning of the top three teams with trophies and prizes and final picture taking.

A large contingent of Navy League volunteers made this outing such a success. Bill Butler and his wife, Nancy, Vaughan Dize, George Feitig, Carol Zembroki and Dave Hajek: volunteers who traveled to Montpelier to help set up for this outing **twice!** Without these dedicated people, the outing could not have happened as it did. In addition, a sincere thank you goes out to all the participants. And, of course, we thank The Hollows Golf Club for their generous and hospitable manner of helping to make the outing so enjoyable!

The members and affiliates of the Richmond Council Navy League would like to say **WELL DONE** to the many generous sponsors & contributors, tireless volunteers and the more than 100 courteous players who all helped to support and make our 2025 golf fundraiser a BIG success.

Thank You to all the volunteers, sponsors, and golfers for your donations of time and monetary donations, that all helped to make Richmond Council's golf outing another **BIG** success!! Thanks to you, Richmond Council Navy League can continue to provide support to our Nation's Sea Services, nine local high school JROTC programs, and the AMERICA Division USN Sea Cadet Corps.

Academy Sports + Outdoors
Elizabeth Selfe

Ace Electric - Kerry Edwards
Bass Pro Shops – Stephanie Cobos
Bill & Nancy Butler
Bill Jeffress
Bob Lusk

Boychiks Deli – John, Store Mgr.
Carol Zembroski
Century Construction Company, Inc.
Neil Palmer

Claris Financial, LLC – John Paxton
Cliff Bruce Studio – Cliff Bruce
Colonial Scientific, Inc. - Paul Rinko
Conrado C. Gonzales, Jr., M.D.

David Hajek
Dennis Biggs
Dick's Sporting Goods – Carl Sutton
(Short Pump Store)

Doug Reed
Father Bill Bartz
Frank Carlomagno

Freedom Outdoors - Anna Mulhem
Gary Riffle

George Feitig
Grapevine Restaurant – Mitchell Trak
Hannah Miller – Youngblood, Tyler
& Associates

Harvey Lankford, M.D.
Herndon Law Group – Melissa Hill and
Bonnie Haist

James Dageforde, M.D.

Jay Fiedler, M.D.

John A. Harler, M.D.

John & Katie Heistand

Keiter CPA's – Michael Gracik

Kelleher Corporation - Joe Kelleher

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Maria Vertucci

Maria Gallegos

Massanutten Resort - Amy Runkie
Weakley

Mastec Utility Services – David Small
M.E. Keeton Electrical Contractors,
Inc. - Michael Keeton, Jr.

Mission BBQ – Austin Myers

Oasis Senior Advisors - John

Krug, CSA, CDP

Pat Robson

Patient First – Ian Slinkman
(5000 Cox Road)

Peter A. Trost, III

Philip Gahm

Randolph P. Tabb, Jr.

RDML John G. Hekman

Richard Thorson

Richmond Flying Squirrels

Andrew Seccia

Richmond Tax Advisors

Cliff Bruce, CPA

Robert & Lisa Hafker Charitable Fund

Sean Campbell

Sermat Construction Services

Ryan Haskell

ServiceMaster of Richmond

Sherry Haskell

Suzanne Feigley

The Hollows Country Club

Robert McCroskey, Golf Pro

The Restaurant Co. T/A Arby's
John P. Ripp

Tom Hassell

Tom Jennings

Top Golf – Nicole Derricott

University of Richmond Strategic

Ticketing & Sales Analytics -

Brad Dilen

Vaughan Dize

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 78

Virginia Asset Group

Bruce McCook, AAMS

Virginia Commonwealth University

Department of Athletics -

Emily Bolyard, Athletic Compliance

Coordinator

West Cary Associates

Wal Mart / 1504 N. Parham Road

Nick Carver, Store Manager



An extra special thank you goes out to these ladies who continue to help us at our Mulligan, 50-50 and Raffle Drawing table, as well as working the refreshment cart. Thank you! Ladies, you are awesome! Pictured left to right: Melissa Hill and Bonnie Haist from Herndon Law Group and Hannah Miller from Youngblood, Tyler and Associates Firm.

Winners of the Day:



1st Place, with a final score of 56: Thomas Shelton, Bob Spicknall and John Jacob (William Gunn not pictured). Presenting their awards are Richard Thorson, Golf Chairman & Bill Butler, Golf Co-Chairman.

Winners of the Day cont. on page 4

Winners of the Day cont. from page 3



One of Mastec three Teams, won 2nd Place, with a final score of 59. Accepting their awards are Throckmorton & Foster. (other team members not pictured).



3rd Place winners, with a final score of 60, Mastec Team: Trevor Evans and Bobby Coburn (Brandon Arena and Austin Coburn not pictured).

Closest to the Pin on Road #3:

B.J. Throckmorton

Closest to the Pin on Road #6:

Eric Chenault

Closest to the Pin on Cottage

#3: Tyler Hancock

Closest to the Pin on Cottage

#7: Will Hazel

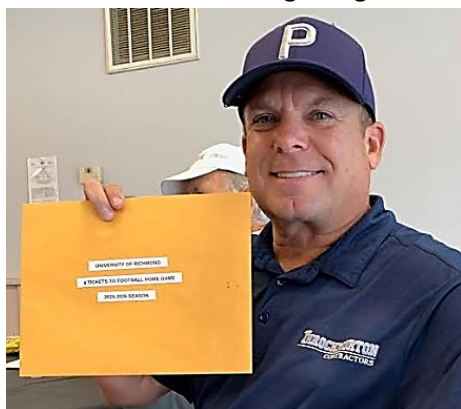
Longest Drive: Bob Spicknall



Happy winner of the BIG 50/50 drawing, Austin Coburn, from one of the Mastec Teams.



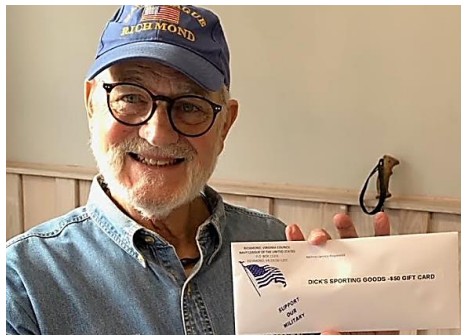
What excitement golf player, Hallie Oxley, expressed when Bill Butler announced his winning ticket for the raffle of a one-year membership at Freedom Outdoors Shooting Range.



B.J. Throckmorton won four tickets to a University of Richmond home football game.



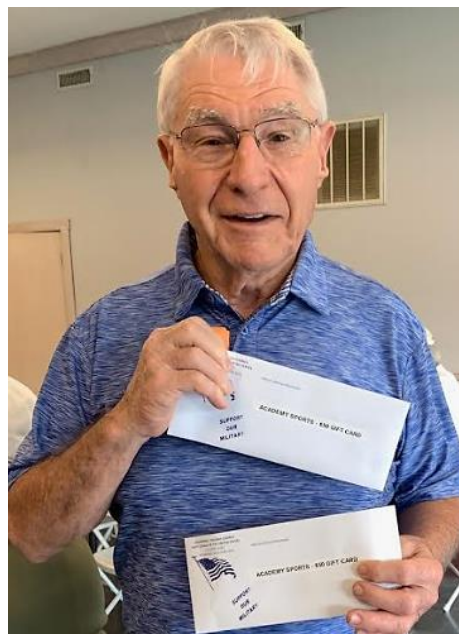
Delores Kloy won two guest admission gift certificates to Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.



John Harler, M.D. won a \$50.00 Gift Card to Dick's Sporting Goods.



Paterson Brown won four rounds of golf at The Hollows Golf Club.



Jimmy Wood won two \$50.00 Gift Cards to Academy Sports.



Russ Martin won four \$20.00 Gift Cards to Boychik's Deli.

November 11, 2025



Photo Credit: siam.pukkato/Shutterstock

Every November 11, Americans pause to honor the brave men and women who have served, or who are currently serving in our U.S. military – in wartime or peacetime, living or deceased. Whether it's a Veteran you know personally, or heroes you've never met, Veterans Day is a chance to reflect, remember, and show gratitude.

Let us all remember and honor all who served. Thank you, Veterans, for your service, in the air, and on the land and sea.

Old Dominion Honor Flight #9

One might wonder, "what is an Honor Flight?" The Honor Flight is conducted by non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting as many United States military Veterans as possible to see the memorial of the respective war they fought in Washington, D.C., at no cost to the Veterans. The mission of the Honor Flight Network is one of gratitude. For their sacrifice, and selflessness.

Vietnam War Vet, Joe Kelleher, USMC, and member of the Richmond Council Navy League, shares his most recent experience.

After arriving by 0630 hrs. on 18 October 2025, Veterans, guardians, and support staffers enjoyed a buffet breakfast at American Legion Post 175 in Mechanicsville, VA., with greetings by The Virginians Barbershop Chorus, Congressman Rob Wittman, Hanover County Police Color Guard, Veteran Motor Cyclists, and Fire Stations. Afterwards, the four bus convoys on I-95 rallied at the Dale City rest stop to onboard the 100-year-old WWII Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. While heading north, box lunches were enjoyed by the passengers.

In DC, the convoy visited the Air Force, Korean Veterans', WWII, Vietnam, and Women's memorials before arriving at Arlington National Cemetery for changing of the guard and wreath laying ceremonies at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Veterans' needs and wishes were met by guardians and support staff. Conversations included memories and experience sharing. At each stop, Veterans received profound tributes for their service.

The gourmet, banquet-style dinner in Fredericksburg at The Knights of Pythias Lodge #22 capped off the beautiful day. Engaging flight captains and group sing-alongs elevated spirits. We arrived safely and on schedule at 2130 hrs. with an enduring sense of pride for serving our country.

Interested Veterans or guardians may apply at: olddominionhonorflight.org.

By: Joe Kelleher, USMC
Vietnam Veteran/ Guardian

U.S. Navy 250th Anniversary Ceremony Celebrating the Founding of the United States Navy At the Virginia War Memorial



On October 13, 2025, our Nation celebrated the 250th Anniversary of The United States Navy. Virginia's celebratory event was held at The Virginia War Memorial and was attended by many, including nine members of The Richmond Council Navy League.

After the Call to Assemble, an actor, Bryan Austin, portraying John Paul Jones, Father of the U.S. Navy, opened the event by reciting a poem, "Come Sail With Me". Next, all stood for the singing of our National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The reading of The Continental Army Proclamation, establishing The U.S. Navy was done by RADM Frank F. Rennie, IV, USN (Ret.) Frank Rennie. Speakers included Virginia's Speaker of the House of Delegates, Don Scott; Captain Joyce Reed, USN (Ret.) and Virginia's Governor, Glenn Youngkin.

Council Board Members, Billy Butler and Pat Robson were honored to participate in The Sacred Honor of the Passing of the Torch. This is a ceremonial process indicating that those who had previously served are passing the responsibility for future service to today's youth. A Challenge coin, recognizing 250 years of the U.S. Armed Forces, was passed to cadets from James River High School NJROTC symbolizing the Torch's passing.

In closing, the actor portraying John Paul Jones, recited a poem, "Sea Fever" and Taps were played to salute the fallen. All sang "Anchors Aweigh" and were invited for refreshments provided by The Virginia War Memorial.

It was hard not to have a feeling of great pride and appreciation for our country and The United States Navy when one left this ceremony. 🇺🇸



The U.S. Navy's 250th Birthday Celebration at the Virginia War Memorial was a powerful tribute to service, sacrifice and tradition. Deputy Secretary Joyce Reed, USN (Ret.) introduced Governor Youngkin, who highlighted the Commonwealth's enduring support to our Sailors and their families. Pictured left to right: Cheryl Wilson (Ex. Dir. VA Revolution 250 Commission; U.S. Representative Rob Wittman; Deputy Secretary Joyce Reed, USN (Ret.); Don Scott, Speaker of the House of Delegates, Governor Glenn Youngkin; Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Director of the VA War Memorial; Actor John Paul Jones; Frank F. Rennie, IV, RADM, USN (Ret.) and Benjamin King, Operations Director, VA War Memorial.



Veterans present a Challenge coin that recognizes 250 years of the Armed Forces (Navy, Marines and Army) to the Cadets from James River High School NJROTC. Symbolizing passing of the torch to the next generation.

November 28, 2025 The 250th Birthday of the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps

By: B. Patterson Robson and Father
William J. Bartz, CAPT, CHC, USN (Ret.)

"In God we trust" is the official motto of the United States and its first usage printed in English dates to 1748 in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. Our Founding Fathers readily acknowledged God as our Creator and our foundation. Shortly after our Continental Navy was established in 1775, the Navy Chaplain Corps was formed on 28 November 1775.

Navy Chaplains are commissioned officers assigned to serve the Navy, the Marine Corps, the Coast Guard, and the Merchant Marine service members and their families. They are non-combatants and are not permitted to carry weapons. They can be Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox, Jewish, Buddhist, or Muslim in their own faith, but they must respect and serve members of all faiths.

A Chaplain must be at least 21 years old, hold both bachelor's and master's degrees, and have specific training in theology and religious studies. The bulk of their training is done at the Navy Chaplaincy School and Center at Naval Station, Newport, RI.

A Navy Chaplain's mission is to provide religious ministry and support for service members and their families of all faiths and to guide the command on freedom of religion. They promote moral and ethical behavior within the sea services, which can be a big challenge in liberty ports after weeks at sea. Chaplains understand that spiritual readiness is a vital part of operational readiness.

A Navy Chaplain must balance the roles of friend and officer. They must be available and sensitive to the spiritual and emotional needs of all service members, while promoting strength instead of emotional over-dependence. In recent decades, as mental wellness has become a major command factor, this delicate balance has become vital.

Our faith in God is our source of comfort and strength. To keep faith on the forefront, understandable, accessible, and in context require a uniquely special skill set. The U.S. Navy needs its Chaplains.

The Richmond Navy League gratefully acknowledges their value. God bless our Nation; God bless our Navy; and God bless and guide our Chaplains.

Strike Fighter Squadron 213 (VFA-213) - Blacklions



"LION 200" CAG bird VFA-213 Blacklions F/A-18F. (VFA-213 Facebook photo).

BLACKLION FAMILIES !

We would like to offer greetings from the Mediterranean Sea! We are working to be better at communicating with you, our most important people, as we continue operations in defense of our nation and Constitution. As you may have noticed, our BLACKLION PRIDE is getting a little more face time on our social media platforms, to include our new Instagram page. The goal is to connect your Sailor with you from wherever we are at across the world, while bragging about their achievements, of which there are many!

In the recent months **USS Gerald R Ford** has put some miles under her keel, having transited in and out and in again into the Mediterranean Sea, having visited Marseille, France and recently Palma de Mallorca, Spain. Last month we were in the high north, where your Sailors earned the right to be called a "Blue Nose" Sailor. This is accomplished through ceremony, while transiting in the Arctic Circle, a place few have traveled and as a result are no longer seen as being Warm Blooded Sailors. After our time in the Arctic Circle we traveled to Oslo, Norway after having continued our mission of assurance and deterrence through partnership building with our NATO allies, through the participation in Close Air Support (CAS) training missions, long-range Defensive Counter-Air (DCA), and Large Force Exercises with Danish and Norwegian forces. And as your BLACKLION Sailors always do we performed exceptionally well, earning shout-outs from the Admiral, Captain, and our Norwegian liaisons.

We have finished our third port-of-call

and are planning our fourth. We would love to see you there! If you do plan on coming to meet your loved one, we would highly recommend purchasing travel insurance as our schedule is always subject to change. While the planning continues, we wanted to advise accordingly as quickly as possible.

We are rapidly approaching the currently scheduled half-way mark of deployment. Anyone that has done this before knows that schedules can change so please don't write an end date on your calendars just yet. Ports of call, mail, and Starlink link are expected to remain fairly routine, but could change based on the operational environment at the time, but know that your Sailor is thinking about you each and every day.

Your OMBUDSMAN, Mrs. Amy McLane has done a phenomenal job and is here to support you in times of need, but she's just one person. I highly encourage each and every one of you to look out for each other as only BLACKLION Families can do. We're in this together and deployment is hard on everyone, regardless of whether you're at home or at sea. The support that you give your BLACKLION Sailor is critical to our success in all of our missions.

Thank you for your supporting us, your families and each other!

Very Respectfully,
The VFA-213 "FIGHTING
BLACKLIONS" Triad

(VFA-213 article posted 10/09/2025 on Facebook).

Sea Services Luncheon

On October 22, 2025, 54 Richmond Council Navy League members and guests met at The Willow Oaks Country Club for Council's annual Sea Services Luncheon. This event was extra special as we celebrated the U.S. Navy and the Marines' 250th anniversary this month.

During the social hour, attendees were treated to coffee and beautiful music provided by Mechanicsville High School's String Quintet. After the call to order, the Presentation of Colors was provided by Highland Springs High School's MCJROTC Color Guard.

Council's Chaplin, John Harler M.D. opened with the invocation followed by Dr. James Dageforde explaining the Missing Man Table.

The Sea Services Cake was cut by our guest speaker, GySgt Atger, USMC (Ret.) and CDR Amy Thomas, CO Navy Reserve Richmond, VA.

After lunch, Council President Vaughan Dize introduced our guest speaker Gunnery Sergeant Jerome E. Atger. The subject he spoke was on the "Relationship Between the Marine Corps and the U.S. Navy." He started by sharing information about his family.

His father was French, and his mother was Mexican. The French term his father used for navy was "Marine National" and the Mexican term for navy his mother used was "Secretaria De Marinia". After finding out he was not ready for college he decided to join the Navy. He went down to the recruiting station to sign up. Remembering his fathers and mothers' terms for the navy, he saw the Marine Recruiting station thinking he was joining the Navy. He enlisted and got the shock of his life when he arrived at Parris Island!

Throughout his career, GySgt Atger had numerous interactions with the Navy. When his father died, it was a Navy Chaplain who helped him deal with the sad ordeal. When he caught pneumonia, a Navy Corpsman provided him with Motrin, telling him it would cure all. Later in his service, he was sent on a humanitarian mission in Peru. It was in Peru that Atger worked closely with his Navy commanding officer and came to fully understand and appreciate the important connection between the Navy and the Marine Corps.

GySgt Atger retired from the Marine Corps in August 2024 and in August 2025 he joined James River High School as Naval Instructor in their NJROTC Program where he serves today. 🍷



Council President, Vaughan Dize, introduces Guest Speaker GySgt Jerome E. Atger, USMC (Ret.).



Highland Springs High School MCJOTC Color Guard: Left Rifleman-Eduardo De Leon Reyes; American Flag-Catherine Isaac; Marine Corps Flag-Shamond Sukens and Right Rifleman-Sairy Fernandez.



Mechanicsville High School String Quintet performed the music for our luncheon.



Vaughan Dize introduces new member, Darrell Feasel.



Cutting the Ceremonial Sea Services Cake were CDR Amy Thomas, CO Navy Reserve-Richmond and GySgt Jerome Atger, USMC (Ret.).



Glad to have the Sailors from Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG), Richmond join us.



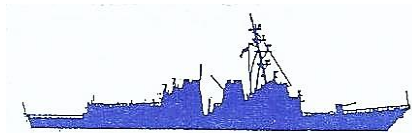
Tom Jennings, Council liaison, presented Susan Birkhead, Director of Catering and Special Events at Willow Oaks Country Club, with flowers, thanking her for the wonderful job she has always done in assisting the Navy League throughout the years.



Tom Hassell, Brian Miller and Dana Law enjoying the social hour.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

these reports may be edited to fit space available)



USS Gravely (DDG-107)
CO: CDR Greg Piorun
XO: CDR Gregory Tornambe
CMC: CMDCM LeDezman Johnson

Courtney Mustin, Liaison
Patrick Harris, Ass't Liaison

USS Gravely arrived in Port-of-Spain on 10-25-2025 to conduct joint military training exercises with the Caribbean nation. The warship will remain until Thursday, according to government officials from the two countries. ✍



USS Carter Hall (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Steven E. Grey
XO: CDR Brittany N. Lynn
CMC: CMDCM Chelsea L. Turner

Pat Robson, Liaison

CDR Brittany N. Lynn will assume command of **USS Carter Hall** on Friday, November 7, 2025, and CDR Philip Wise will be the new XO. ✍



USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Brian C. Gismervik
XO: LCDR Charles Chavtur
CSEL: MKC Ethan Stanford

Vaughan Dize, Liaison

This in-port period, the crew of **USCGC Northland** continued working to prepare the vessel for future deployment.

This past month, **Northland** executed a robust maintenance regimen while also conducting crew proficiency programs. **Northland** recently underwent a week of small boat drills and training as well as a Law Enforcement college, assuring that our personnel are equipped to meet the complex

operational demands encountered by a multi-mission Coast Guard cutter.

September marked significant career events for numerous members of the crew of **Northland** as members transferred to their respective rating specialty schools, received well-deserved advancements in rank and made reaffirmations of commitment through reenlistments.

Looking ahead to October, **Northland** will continue her Main Diesel Engine (MDE) refurbishment as the crew conducts training and activities that support operational readiness.

Thank you for the continued support for the mighty **Northland** and her crew! ✍



FN Ramos received an award from CO, CDR Gismervik prior to his departure to MST "A" School. (Coast Guard's Marine Science Technician (MST) "A" School is a 9-week course at Training Center Yorktown VA, that trains enlisted personnel to enforce federal maritime laws, protect the environment, and ensure port and waterway safety).

Very Respectfully,
XO LCDR Charles Chavtur



USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)
CO: CDR Justin Strock
XO: LCDR L.H (Hank) Deatrich

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison
Thomas A. Jennings, Ass't Liaison

We closed out last month by returning home to Portsmouth after 83 days. Despite some rough seas, we arrived safely to our loved ones waiting on the pier. The reunions are always heartwarming and a reminder of why we do what we do. With the crew back home, we have focused on maintenance and

readiness. This inport brings another maintenance availability to renew pumps, antennas, tank cleaning, fresh paint, installation of a new fire alarm system. Some of the work required us to temporarily close our galley, but that maintenance is complete and it's back up and running—the crew is grateful for the great meals onboard again. We have a busy inport still ahead of us as we continue to welcome support from contractors and Coast Guard personnel, who are helping advance projects to get the ship ready for our next deployment.

Alongside the maintenance, the crew is working hard and taking well-deserved leave to spend time with their families. We celebrated several advancements and welcomed new shipmates to the **Spencer** family. Training remains steady: boat crews are conducting weekly evolutions, the law enforcement team is training across the ship, and the crew is getting comfortable with new, easier-to-use firefighting equipment. Your continued thoughts and wishes are appreciated.

Thank you, Richmond Navy League. ✍



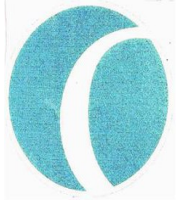
CO CDR Strock recognizes several advancements and welcomes new shipmates to the **Spencer** family.



Very Respectfully,
CO CDR Justin W. Strock

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.



CLARIS
F I N A N C I A L , L L C
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HOUSTON-HOLICKY-SITTER VETERANS FORUM

Date: Tuesday, November 11, 2025

Place: Goochland High School's

MCJROTC Veterans Day.

3250-B River Road, W

Goochland, VA 23063

Time: Arrive No later than 11:45 AM

Guest Speaker: Col W.H. Parrish, USMC (Ret.)

Topic: What Veterans receive during their service.



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