



APRIL 2025

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

AMERICA Division Sea Cadets Today's Youth – Tomorrow's Leaders

AMERICA Division Sea Cadets participated in the Flag Ship Cup Competition at State Military Reservation (formerly known as Camp Pendleton), Virginia Beach, February 28 through March 2, taking First Place for Color Guard and one cadet took first place in NLCC (Navy League Cadet Corps) in the close quarter drill. Bravo Zulu, Cadets!

This three-day competition is where Sea Cadets from different locations showcase their skills and teamwork, with the goal of recognizing and rewarding excellence.

Personal achievements range from knot-tying skills to leading drills. Each of the cadet's journey reflects discipline, teamwork and personal growth. 🚩



Lead Petty Officer for the event, PO3 Donahue, accompanies the Area Commander to begin the Personnel Inspection of the first Squad.



Bravo Zulu to the Color Guard for taking First Place in the competition!



Cadet SA Eirich, was one of the cadets on the marksmanship team. They used laser simulated firearms and targets to compete for the highest marksmanship score.



Cadets practice their last minute prep before knot-tying competition.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

March was a slow month for Richmond Council activities. Our Admiral Samuel Gravely, Jr. Spring Luncheon, was the only activity scheduled.

Other dates of interest are:

- March 27th Baseball regular season starts. Go Nationals.
- March 29th is National Vietnam War Veterans Day. We thank the veterans and their families for your service and sacrifice.
- April 4th we have a trip scheduled to Fort Gregg Adams.

We are considering possible future trips such as touring a Military Sealift Command (MSC) ship; Arlington National Cemetery and the Bedford D-Day Memorial.

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The Lucky Bag is published monthly, except Jan. & Feb. Issues which are combined.

The Marine Corps League is planning a trip to the National Museum of the Marine Corps. (more details in the next issue of *The Lucky Bag*).

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, April 8th for the next Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon. Guest Speaker is LtCol Eric Carlson. His topic will be Volume 3 of the life of General Al Gray, Jr.

Until next month's issue of *The Lucky Bag*, may you have Fair Winds and God Speed. ✍

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



INVISIBLE FENCES

I will listen to what God the Lord says, He promises peace to His people, His faithful servants—but let them not turn to folly.” (Psalm 85:8).

The pet containment industry is booming. Pet owners with yards for their precious pets to run and play know what a valuable service this is. For those unfamiliar with these systems, the general way they function is that a collar with a receiver is placed on your pet, and there is some electrical boundary predetermined to be safe by the owner. The collar or receiver picks up a signal when a pet gets too close to the boundary and beeps to warn the pet to back up and stay within their danger zone.

God's Word, the Holy Spirit and natural consequences are like a Holy In-

visible Fence system. His Word is like the boundary flags that define our safe space to run free and live under the shadow of His wings.

The Holy Spirit living inside us is our receiver. He pings our spirit, saying, “This is the way, walk in it” (Isaiah 30:21), or “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9).

When we decide to test His boundaries, He gives us natural consequences and sometimes they hurt. If we keep going away from His safe place, we can get lost, become lonely, and risk danger that we can't even see because the momentary escape feels like freedom.

God sees the dangers we can't, just as we see the dangers that our furry friends can't anticipate. God knows our hearts, how they function best, and what our minds and emotions need to flourish. He made us to live abundant lives in Him, within His clearly defined boundaries.

Lord, help us trust in Your Word and wisdom for our lives. Help us tune our hearts, minds, and souls to Your frequency and have the strength to stay where You want us to be. Amen.

(Note – this message was partly borrowed with permission from a Sweet Monday Message by Sweet Lindi Jarrett.) ✍

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for our Summer Luncheon on
Wednesday, June 18th

Guest Speaker:

John Quarstein

Director Emeritus

USS *Monitor* Center

The Mariners' Museum & Park
Newport News, VA

Look for more information in
next month's issue of
The Lucky Bag

Welcome Back!

The Richmond Council Navy League is proud to welcome you back 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 returning member.

Returning Member

Dennis J. Quearry

Meet four more of our new Richmond Council Board Members



NANCY G. BUTLER

My family moved to Richmond, Virginia in 1962 from Dearborn, Michigan. I attended St. Gertrude High School and shortly after graduation I was hired, at the now known, Roche Biomedical Lab (upon hire, it was Physicians Clinical Laboratory). I was hired to type lab reports and in 1980 I was promoted to Customer Service Supervisor and retired after 27 ½ years. Bill & I married in 1988 and have three grown children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. My dad, Ed Gibbons, who was a long-time member of RCNL, had already recruited my husband in 2011 to be their treasurer, and in 2014 recruited me to help with *The Lucky Bag* and other secretarial duties. How lucky I was to have the three of us work side by side for ten years. Sadly, dad passed in 2024, at the age of 96. Who would have ever guessed that today I am doing the job that he once did. I am honored to carry the torch to help this wonderful organization that is dedicated to supporting our nation's sea services each and every day!



MARX (MIKE) EISENMAN, JR.

I am a Richmond native. I graduated from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce of the University of Pennsylvania in May 1971 and received my commission in the US Navy at the same time. A Vietnam era veteran, and served on the **USS Thor**, a cable laying and repair ship, stationed in Kittery, Maine, with deployments in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Following my release from active duty, I was in the reserves until discharge. I am a senior operational executive with over 35 years of private sector experience with a range of businesses and industries. My experience ranges from a family-owned manufacturing firm, acquired by Georgia Pacific to AMF Bowling and my own executive search firm. I have managed over 17 businesses. In 2001 I sold his executive search business and accepted an appointment in the administration of Governor Mark Warner, first as Deputy Director and then as Director of the Department of Business Assistance. In 2007, I joined Virginia Commonwealth University as the School of Business Director of Career Services and Adjunct Professor in the School of the Arts. I retired from VCU in February of 2019 and now operate a consulting and business development business in retirement. My outside activities include a range of non-profits, serving in multiple positions including Treasurer and President, and over 30 years of refereeing soccer.



PHILIP S. GAHM

I grew up in Hull, Massachusetts and received an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering at Oklahoma State University. I served five years in the USAF as a transport pilot on worldwide missions. I was discharged in 1965 with the rank of Captain. I received a master's degree in construction management at Oklahoma State University and spent 39 years in the building construction industry. I retired in 2005 as Assistant Director of Construction Management at Virginia Commonwealth University.



MARIA GALLEGOS

I'm grateful to be welcomed aboard as a Board Member of the Richmond Navy League. My past volunteering experiences were with the Children's Hospital Foundation of Richmond, ALS Association DC/MD/VA Chapter and the Yellow Ribbon Fund. I currently serve on the Richmond Symphony League Board as Historian and to date, have donated 21 gallons of blood to INOVA Blood Donor Services.

My husband, Mike & I are proud Aunt & Uncle to our nieces & nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

J.R. TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL MCJROTC



On March 6th, J.R. Tucker High School Cadets stood their big inspection and did an EXCELLENT job! Surper Proud, Cadets!



SY24-25 Platoon of the Year Competition (as of March 26).

Congratulations to the 6th period/4th platoon for winning the Field Meet and the Platoon of the Year Competition. This was the first time the same platoon won both the field meet and the year-long competition. Well done, cadets! (info posted on J.R. Tucker HS MJROTC Facebook).

Naval Talent Acquisition Group Richmond

On February 27, 2025, the Navy Talent Acquisition Group Richmond (NTAG) held a Change of Command Ceremony, at the Virginia War Memorial, where Commander Seth L. Harbin was relieved by Commander Timothy L. Henderson as Commanding Officer. 🇺🇸



Council Chaplain, John A. Harler, M.D., and Father Bill Bartz pictured with incoming CO Commander Timothy L. Henderson at the Change of Command Ceremony.



John A. Harler, M.D. and Father Bill Bartz with outgoing CO Commander Seth L. Harbin.



We thank NTAG Richmond for joining us at our Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, Jr., Spring Luncheon on Wednesday, March 26th at Willow Oaks Country Club. Pictured above L to R: CO CDR Tim Henderson; LSC Andy Mucciaroni; ABEC Amber Balajadia; Vaughan Dize (Council President); LS2 Deron Randall and YN1 Dearis Douglas.



At our Spring Luncheon, council members converse with the new Commanding Officer of NTAG Richmond. Pictured L to R: Joe Kelleher, Father Bill Bartz, John Harler, M.D., and Commanding Officer Tim Henderson.

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS Normandy (CG-60)
CO: CAPT Nathan Diaz
XO: CDR Adam J. Samson
CMC: CMDCM Andrew Conover

George L. Feitig, Jr., Liaison
Dennis Biggs, Ass't Liaison

Normandy is operating in the 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility, working with partnered nations in the region and executing the nation's tasking. The crew adjusts just fine to operating in the Caribbean, as *Normandy* has pulled into Willemstad, Curacao twice in the past month. CAPT Diaz, *Normandy's* Commanding Officer visited Rear Adm. Walter Hansen, Commander of the Netherlands Navy in the Caribbean and Director of the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard. This interaction greatly shows the commitment and respect both nations show each other, especially on the high seas. Rest assured that with *Normandy's* fast tempo, her crew has gotten plenty of rest and relaxation in the beautiful Curacao. Nevertheless though, this underway has been packed with training exercises, notably with HSM-50 "Valkyries" Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron MH-60R. We also conducted PHOTOEX's with the *HNLMS Groningen (P843)*, a *Holland-class* offshore patrol vessel operated by the Royal Netherlands Navy), where a number of Dutch Officers visited and toured our mighty warship to experience first-hand "God's Chosen Cruiser". *Normandy's* schedule remains action packed and filled with stories.

If you'd like to see more of her crew in action or read our weekly Newsletter, feel free to find us on Facebook! Fair winds and Following Seas! 🚩

Very respectfully,
LTJG John Barber, FCO



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 (DDG-107) departed Naval Weapons Station Yorktown for a scheduled deployment to the U.S. Northern Command Area of Responsibility (USNORTHCOM AOR), March 15. The ship will operate in U.S. and international waters.

"**USS Gravely's** deployment will contribute to the U.S. Northern Command southern border mission as part of the DOD's coordinated effort in response to the Presidential Executive Order. **Gravely's** sea-going capacity improves our ability to protect the United States' territorial integrity, sovereignty, and security," said Gen. Gregory Guillot, Commander, U.S. Northern Command.

A U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) will be embarked aboard **Gravely**. Founded in 1982, Coast Guard LEDET's carry out a variety of maritime interdiction missions, including counter-piracy, military combat operations, alien migration interdiction, military force protection, counter terrorism, homeland security, and humanitarian response. 🚩

Source: PETERSON SPACE FORCE BASE, Colorado



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

Pat Robson, Liaison

USS Carter Hall (LSD-50) is currently undergoing repairs and modernization at the BAE Systems Shipyard in Norfolk, VA. 🚩



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

Vaughan F. Dize, Liaison

Greetings from the **USCGC Northland!**

In the past month, *Northland* has returned from a 65-day patrol in support of Operation Vigilant Sentry deterring illegal migrants in the South Florida Straits. During patrol, LT Amanda Roy, Engineer Officer (EO), earned her Cutterman's pin for five years of sea service. The ship held sunset quarters and a ceremony to congratulate EO on this milestone in her career.



Before heading home from patrol *Northland* spent three days completing an Aviation Standardization Inspection to certify the crew and gear for continued flight operations. Throughout this inspection *Northland* was able to complete crucial qualifications to certify *Northland* as a platform ready for helicopter operations, widely expanding *Northland's* operational capabilities.

Northland report cont. on page 7

Northland report cont. from page 6



Following return to home port, **Northland** enjoyed a relaxing weeklong stand down where her crew was able to catch up on lost time with family and friends. **Northland** crew has now gotten back to work repairing the cutter and preparing to further complete the Coast Guard's missions. While in homeport, **Northland** is preparing for upcoming inspections and drills including CART (Common Access Reporting Tool) and TSTA (Tailored Ships Training Availability).



Northland had the opportunity to host Major General Reina, SOUTHCOM Mobilization and Reserve Affairs, and Captain Davidson, Coast Guard Reserve Unit SOUTHCOM, for a tour and discussion about interoperability and mission execution.

During March, **Northland's** crew continues to build unit and crew readiness and prepare for personnel transfers. As always, thank you for all of your support! Until next time, fair winds and following seas! 🍃

Very Respectful
LCDR Trish Green
Executive Officer



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

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Thomas A. Jennings, Ass't Liaison

USCGC Spencer is nearly ready to depart the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore, Maryland for sea! The crew made major strides over the last 45 days to prepare the ship for operations. We've commissioned and tested all vital machinery and equipment, completed Dock Trials and plan to get underway for Sea Trials this week.



The Engineering Department has run the main diesel engines, tested the ship's new electrical power plant, and verified all Damage Control equipment. The Deck Department completed the initial build-up and maintenance on Rescue and Survival gear, conducted small boat training, and tested both anchors. The Operations Department overcame significant hurdles and

brought all communication networks, radars, and navigation equipment online. We've also readied our law enforcement teams with firearms training. The Support Department is up and running with the galley open, our storekeepers bought all the critical parts necessary to ensure our readiness, and our Doc is ensuring our health and safety!

On top of readying the ship, the Crew has worked extremely hard to earn qualifications throughout all watch-stations. After successful Sea Trials and our Ready for Sea Assessment, we will put to sea and continue on mission with our new cutter.

We thank you, Richmond Navy League, for supporting us! We look forward to sharing more good news soon!



Very Respectfully,
LTJG Lea Walker, PAO

**Navy Names Third Expeditionary Medical Ship
USNS Portsmouth (EMS 3)**



An artist's rendering of a Bethesda-class expeditionary medical ship. (Courtesy illustration by Austral USA).

From The Office of the Secretary of the Navy:

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro named the future Bethesda-class expeditionary medical ship (EMS 3) **USNS Portsmouth** during a ship naming ceremony at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth on January 8.

"**USNS Portsmouth**, a symbol of our Navy's progress, also carries the weight of our history. It represents a significant advancement in our Navy's warfighting capability and will provide essential medical support across the maritime environment," according to Rear Admiral Darin Via. The primary mission of the EMS as a high-speed forward-deployed medical ship is to provide rapid responsive sea-based and near-shore hospital level critical care, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, non-combatant evacuation operations and special operations. (information extracted from *Sealift* Newsletter Jan. 2025). 🍃

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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Picture obtained from outreach.navy.mil website

**Navy week is coming to Richmond
May 12 thru May 18.**

The Navy Week program has served as the Navy's principal outreach effort into areas of the nation without a significant Navy presence, with over 300 Navy Weeks held in 95 different U.S. cities.

The program is designed to share with Americans how their Navy is deployed around the world and around the clock, and why a strong Navy is vital to protecting the American way of life, according to their website.

This year, 50 to 75 sailors will arrive in Richmond.

The third week of May was chosen so the Navy could have a presence at the Dominion Energy Riverrock Festival. (info obtained from CBS 6 News Richmond WTVR webpage).



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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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YOUR DONATION OF \$100 (OR MORE) PROVIDES FUNDS FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SEA SERVICES AND THEIR RELATED YOUTH PROGRAMS.

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