



JUNE 2025



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Richmond Council Navy League officially adopts United States Coast Guard Cutter *Spencer* (WMEC-905)

On May 1, 2025, the **U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Spencer* (WMEC-905)** was officially adopted by the Richmond Council Navy League. Council President, Vaughan Dize, and Assistant Liaison, Tom Jennings, drove down to the USCG Base in Portsmouth, VA to the Commanding Officer of **USCGC *Spencer***. Unfortunately, the primary Liaison, Tom Hassell, and the Commanding Officer CDR Justin Strock were not able to attend. The Executive Officer, LCDR Hank Deatrich accepted the papers on his behalf.

Before the adoption ceremony took place, LCDR Deatrich formally recognized the advancements of several enlisted coastguardsmen. LCDR Deatrich then spoke of the importance the Richmond Council Navy League has been in helping the sailors aboard **USCGC *Spencer***.

During the ceremony, Tom Jennings presented Command Chief BMC Cody Johnson with a check for their morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) fund.

As a token of appreciation during our visit, we presented Richmond Council Navy League Challenge Coins to the four advancees: Jade Stewart, who assisted us during our visit, LTJG Lea Walker, PAO, and two others.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, LCDR Deatrich presented ***Spencer*** jackets for both liaisons in appreciation for the help Richmond Council has provided ***Spencer*** during this past transitional year. 🍀



Executive Officer, LCDR Hank Deatrich, receives the official adoption papers for **USCGC *Spencer* (WMEC-905)** from President Vaughan Dize and Assistant Liaison, Tom Jennings.



Assistant Liaison, Tom Jennings, presents Command Chief, BMC Cody Johnson, with a check for ***Spencer's*** MWR Fund.



As a token of appreciation, USGC ***Spencer*** jackets were presented for the two liaisons, Tom Hassell and Tom Jennings.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

On May 1, 2025, Assistant Liaison, Tom Jennings and I went to the Coast Guard Base in Portsmouth, VA, to formally adopt the **USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)**. Unfortunately, **Spencer's** Liaison, Tom Hassell, could not make it due to health reasons. Also, Commanding Officer CDR Justin Strock was unable to attend due to his investigation of a fire at a Coast Guard Base in Texas. Documents were left for him to sign. One for the **Spencer** and one to be mailed back to the RCNL Office.

As of this writing, all JROTC Programs have had their awards ceremony. Congratulations to all award recipients.

Do not forget our Summer Luncheon

The Lucky Bag Vol 68 Issue 6

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

on June 18th. The Guest Speaker, John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus USS *Monitor* Center at the Mariners' Museum and Park in Newport News, VA, will speak about the Historic Great White Fleet.

Just a reminder, to all non-members, you are always invited to join us in any of our activities.

Please Pass *The Lucky Bag* on to your friends and neighbors, maybe they would like to participate.

Let's continue to keep our men and women, in all branches of service, in our thoughts and prayers.

Until next month may you have Fair Winds and God Speed. 🍀

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

GOD'S PERSPECTIVE



*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways", declares the Lord.
(Isaiah 55:8)*

Oftentimes, when seeing my personal trainer and life coach, Carlos, I would tell him how I felt about a situation in which I was struggling. Invariably, Carlos would respond with, "Doctor John, have you asked God what His perspective is?" This question surfaced one sunny morning while studying the Bible in my car. When pausing

to pray and setting the Bible on the dashboard, I noticed a reflection of the words of the Bible onto the windshield. Then suddenly, an "Ah Ha" moment emerged, realizing I was looking at my surroundings through God's Word on my windshield!

Webster defines "perspective" as "the appearance to the eye of objects in respect to their relative distance and positions." Another word for perspective is viewpoint or world view. The Latin root words for perspective are "per"—through, and "specere"—to look.

So, we might think of perspective as looking at the world through God's eyes. Or, we might say, I'm going to put on God's glasses, spectacles, or perspective."

1 Corinthians 3:19 says, *"For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight."* James 1:5 says, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

When we lack the wisdom to deal with life's struggles, let us ask God for His wisdom and perspective on the situation. If we ask, we shall receive. It may not be the answer that we expect, but with an open heart, we will hear His answer. 🍀

SAVE THE DATE

Wed., Sept. 17, 2025
Council's Annual Golf
Tournament at the
Hollows Golf Club
Montpelier, VA.
COST: \$95.00
More details
Coming soon

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 function.

New Member

David J. Hajek

Sponsor

Steve Lux

2025 High School JROTC Award Recipients

The Richmond Council supports nine High School JROTC Programs in the Richmond and surrounding area, along with the AMERICA Division United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. The following students were recognized for their outstanding performance during this last year. Congratulations to all!

J.R. Tucker High School MCJROTC RCNL Liaison: Earl Williams



Cadet 1st Sergeant Aiden Chen received the Top Cadet Award.



Cadet 2nd LT Austin Barnes received the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.



Cadet LCpl Azaria Sullivan received The Perseverance Award.

Patrick Henry High School NJROTC RCNL Liaison: Vaughan Dize



Cadet PO2 Grayson Carrigan was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.

Cadet LT A. Duke Flanagan received the Cadet of the Year Award. (no picture available).

Mechanicsville H.S. NJROTC RCNL Liaison: Tom Hassell

Cadet of the Year was awarded to Cadet Chief PO Nolan Hatcher.

Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon was awarded to Cadet LT Junior Grade Erin Moore.

Perseverance Award went to Cadet PO3 Brian Cook.

(no pictures available).

Highland Springs H.S. MCJROTC RCNL Liaison: George Feitig

Top Cadet was awarded to Cadet Evelyn Gomez.

Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon was awarded to Cadet Ji'Niyah Roston.

Perseverance Award was awarded to Cadet Sabrina Fernandez.

(no pictures available).



James River High School NJROTC

Left to right: RCNL Liaison, Gary Riffle; Perseverance Award: Cadet SA Erin Toler; Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon: Cadet CPO Braeden Marr and Top Cadet Award: Cadet LT Donovan Jacoby.

New Kent High School NJROTC
RCNL Liaison: Pat Harris



Cadet Bryce Clemmons received the Cadet of the Year Award.



Cadet Zephaniah Somuah received the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.

Hermitage High School MCJROTC
RCNL Liaison: Vaughan Dize



Cadet Captain Excellent Fred-Dyck received the Cadet of the Year Award.

Hermitage High School MCJROTC
RCNL Liaison: Vaughan Dize



Cadet Maj Raven Sims was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.

The Perseverance Award went to Cadet 1st LT Satyabama Dasari (no picture available).

AMERICA Division Sea Cadet Corps
RCNL Liaison: Vaughan Dize



Able Cadet LC-3 Noah Samburg was awarded the Naval Sea Cadet Corps Cadet of the Year Award.



Seaman Evalyn Lopez was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.

Goochland High School MCJROTC
RCNL Liaison: Vaughan Dize

Cadet Ryan Pillion was awarded the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon.

Cadet Gabby Wilson was awarded the Perseverance Award.

(no pictures available).

Goochland MCJROTC Raiders Team was crowned Region 8 Champions 2025 on May 5, 2025. They demonstrated remarkable physical endurance, teamwork and leadership throughout the rigorous events of the competition achieving an undefeated season in state and regional competitions. Congratulations, Raiders!

Varina High School NJROTC
RCNL Liaison: Jim Dageforde, M.D.



Cadet Earl Franklin received the Cadet of the Year Award.



Cadet Christopher Papelino received the Theodore Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon Award.

Cadets Laila Egeton, Cesar Villegas and Cheyenne Adkins all received Perseverance Awards. (no pictures available).

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 continues to operate in the 4th Fleet Area of Responsibility, working with partnered nations in the region such as Colombia and France, to reinforce the maritime commons.

Normandy has pulled into Naval Station Guantanamo Bay recently but most notably, anchored off the coast of Cartagena, Colombia for almost two weeks! While anchored, CAPT Diaz, Commanding Officer, hosted VADM Espinosa, and approximately 60 other Colombian Military Officers, as Distinguished Visitors. Additionally, we hosted Mr. Brendan O'Brien, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Cartagena as well. For both visitors, we showcased the entirety of **Normandy's** capability to include the Combat Information Center, the Pilot House, and the Flight Deck.

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 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 Shipyard in

Norfolk, VA. 🚩



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

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

USCGC Spencer is in port, preparing for deployment on June 18th. 🚩



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

Vaughan Dize, Liaison

Greetings from the **USCGC Northland!**

Over the past month, the crew has remained steadfast in their commitment to enhancing the cutter's operational readiness through a series of critical repairs and equipment upgrades. These efforts are focused on ensuring that **Northland** is fully prepared for the demands of future missions.

A significant milestone during this time was the completion of the Cutter Assessment and Readiness Test (CART) inspection, a comprehensive evaluation for which the crew had been diligently preparing for several months. The successful completion of the CART inspection underscores the crew's dedication and perseverance to ensure that **Northland** is operating at its optimal capacity. In addition to the maintenance and readiness activities, the crew engaged in a softball tournament with fellow cutters from Base Portsmouth, further strengthening team cohesion and camaraderie.



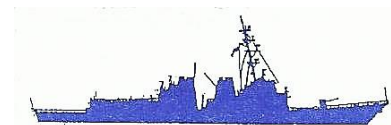
The crew also conducted multiple Law Enforcement (LE) Colleges to ensure that training standards are being met, and that personnel are fully equipped with the knowledge and skills required for their roles.

Looking ahead to May, the crew's attention will shift toward preparing for **Northland's** upcoming patrol, which will include completing a short underway period. **Northland** will also begin the Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA). TSTA will rigorously assess the crew's proficiency in responding to a wide array of potential casualties and operational challenges, providing a critical measure of the crew's ability to maintain readiness in real-world scenarios.

The crew's commitment to continuous improvement and readiness ensures that **Northland** will remain prepared for any challenge that may arise.

We appreciate your ongoing support as we continue to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence. Until next time, fair winds and following seas! 🚩

Very Respectfully,
LCDR Trish Green
Executive Officer



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 and U.S. Coast Guard Conduct Durg Interdiction in Caribbean Sea.

CARIBBEAN SEA – The Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer **USS Gravely (DDG-107)** seized an estimated 860 pounds of illegal drugs from a vessel in the Caribbean Sea, May 25, 2025.

The interdiction by **Gravely** was conducted by the ship's Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) team alongside a U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) as-

USS Gravely continued on page 6

USS GRAVELY cont. from page 5

signed to the ship.

"I am incredibly impressed by the professionalism and prompt action executed by the Sailors and Coast Guardsmen aboard **Gravelly**! Seamless integration of U.S. Navy and U.S. Coast Guard maritime assets is integral to border protection- - this is an excellent example of that teamwork," said Vice Adm. Doug Perry, Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet. "Border security is national security. **Gravelly's** deployment highlights our dedication - - and the Nation's dedication - - to maritime homeland defense priorities.

Gravelly's VBSS team boarded a vessel of interest. The team discovered and seized 19 bales of cocaine, with an approximate weight of 860 pounds and an estimated value of \$13,650,00.

U.S. Navy forces are deployed under U.S. Northern Command's maritime homeland defense authorities with a LEDET embarked to enable maritime interdiction missions to prevent the flow of illegal drugs and other illegal activity.

Since entering the Gulf of America March 15, **Gravelly** has received support from P-8 aircraft assigned to Naval Air Station Jacksonville, FL, allowing for enhanced and increased identification of illicit activity for the embarked Coast Guard LEDET in the Gulf of America and the U.S. 2nd Fleet and U.S. 4th Fleet areas of operation.

Utilizing the Coast Guard's jurisdiction, **Gravelly** employs LEDET personnel to perform vessel boardings, searches, and seizures in U.S. and international waters, targeting drug trafficking, illegal immigration and transnational crime with a nexus at the U.S. southern border. With the LEDET's tactical expertise guiding interdiction efforts, **Gravelly** harnesses its advanced surveillance systems and mobility to locate and intercept suspect vessels, effectively extending Coast Guard authority through naval power to enhance maritime security operations. This collaboration ensues a robust, legally empowered response to maritime threats, strengthening U.S. border protection efforts.

U.S. 2nd Fleet, reestablished in 2018 in response to the changing global security environment, develops and employs maritime forces ready to flight across multiple domains in the Atlantic

and Arctic in order to ensure access, deter aggression and defend U.S., allied, and partner interests.

U.S. Coast Guard Southeast – Detecting and interdicting illicit drug traffickers on the high seas involves significant interagency and international coordination. Joint Interagency Task Force South in Key West FL, conducts the detection and monitoring of aerial and maritime transit of illegal drugs. Once an interdiction becomes imminent, the law enforcement phase of the

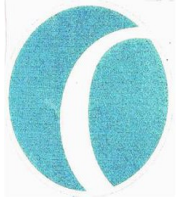
operation begins, and control of the operation ships to the U.S. Coast Guard for the interdiction and apprehension phases. Interdictions in the Caribbean Sea are performed by members of the U.S. Coast Guard under the authority and control of the Seventh Coast Guard District, headquartered in Miami, FL. 🚢

(Commander, U.S. 2nd Fleet Facebook; article and photos).



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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HOUSTON HOLICKY SITTER LUNCHEON

DATE: Tuesday, June 10, 2025

PLACE: Publix / 2nd Floor
Community Meeting Room
2250 John Rolfe Pkwy
Henrico, VA 23233

TIME: Doors open 11:15 AM
Plan to Arrive No later than 11:45 AM

SPEAKER: USMC Veteran Bob Means
Vietnam experience and aftermath.
Recommend viewing the video at:
<https://youtu.be/sOHUHPfcbZw>

REMINDER

Please remember to sign up for our upcoming CDR Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon on June 18, 2025, at Willow Oaks Country Club.

Our Guest Speaker is John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus USS *Monitor* Center at the Mariner's Museum and Park, Newport News, VA. **TOPIC:** The Historic Great White Fleet. (Refer to the front page of last month's issue of *The Lucky Bag* for details of the luncheon and the reservation form).



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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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