



OCT 2021

The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND COUNCIL, NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

MILITARY SEALIFT COMMAND ATLANTIC HOLDS CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



Upon completion of the ceremony, MSC Commander, Rear Admiral Michael A. Wettlaufer (left), shakes MSCLANT's new Commodore's hand, Captain Daniel E. Broadhurst.



MSC Commander, Rear Admiral Michael A. Wettlaufer (left) presents Smith with her second Presidential Legion of Merit Gold Star award. LOM's are a big deal in the military. It is a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is only given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.



Broadhurst, MSCLANT's newest commodore, salutes as he departs the Change of Command Ceremony.

(Photos taken by LaShawn Sykes, USN Military Sealift Command)

Navy Captain Daniel E. Broadhurst relieved Navy Captain Janice G. Smith as Commodore of Norfolk-based Military Sealift Command Atlantic during a Change of Command Ceremony held aboard **USNS COMFORT** at Naval Station Norfolk, August 27, 2021.

RADM Michael A. Wettlaufer, Guest Speaker for the COC Ceremony, outlined the short notice dispatch of the **USNS COMFORT** by President Trump to assist COVID-19 treatment in New York City. On the two-day trip, the ship's crew determined how to segment air flow between ship's compartments to prevent COVID's spread. The ship can manufacture its own oxygen and provided critical supply to area hospitals. As patients came aboard, the crew well-managed the mountainous recordkeeping. This was a first-ever management challenge that was efficiently handled.

Captain/Commodore Smith's duties were not solely to the **USNS COMFORT**. She was also over two fleet commanders and their ships. She is a mobilization and logistical expert. She initiated the first charter of offshore commercial vessels to support MSC ships and she was responsible for the commands very first ship-to-ship UNREP by UAV (unmanned air vehicles); the conception and execution of these activities were done under the leadership of CAPT Smith. Her new duty assignment is 1,000 yards away as the Chief of Staff for COMMSCLANT.

As CAPT/Commodore Donald E. Broadhurst, USN, assumes command of Norfolk based Military Sealift Command Atlantic, his duties will mirror those of his predecessor and Richmond Council extends their congratulations and best wishes.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Adam J. "Jay" Fiedler, M.D.



Look at the cartoon on right! Our Council's Golf Tournament was canceled due to Montpelier's heavy rainfall and rescheduled for October 6th. Let's hope for good weather.

The Sea Services Luncheon is coming up, October 27th, and should be a winner. Captain Chad Reed is the speaker. He has been intimately involved with the Navy's carrier-based drone refueller project; and will give us an insight into our high tech Navy.

Bus trips are in limbo because of COVID delta, lambda, and any other Greek letter outbreaks. Under consideration are a tour of the Mid Atlantic Maritime Academy, return to the Air Space Museum, Mariner's Museum, Museum of the Marine Corps, among others.

Any suggestions by you, the membership, will be considered. That is all (for now). 🍷

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CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.

THE ANCHOR OF HOPE

While considering the pandemic of hopelessness that we are sometimes experiencing today along with the viral pandemic, this came to mind. In general, an anchor can symbolize hope, steadfastness, calm, and composure – something upon which we may exercise our trust. Without an anchor to secure a ship at sea or in port or a sea anchor in a storm, the ship would be adrift; the crew would likely be afraid or concerned.

Similarly, at times, our lives are like a ship adrift at sea, tossed and turned by the storms of life. In what or in whom do we exercise our trust in the storms of life? The Bible says that ***we have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure***, and it says that ***faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen***.

Interestingly, at sea, we trust this unseen object and are comforted knowing that it is there. But is it the substance of the anchor or is it the person securing the anchor in whom we place our trust? It seems to me that we would not likely feel calm, entrusting the responsibility of the anchor to someone other than an experienced captain – the more we experience the captain's trustworthiness, the more he/she is to be trusted.

It has been said that trust is the exercise that builds our faith muscle. As we choose to experience the trustworthiness of God more often, then our trust in Him will grow, as well as our faith; though unseen, this Hope or Anchor provides eternal peace for our soul. 🍷

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

Eric Motley

RAIN, RAIN GO AWAY & DON'T COME BACK ON OUR RAIN DAY



NOW HEAR THIS...

The Richmond Navy League's Annual Benefit Golf Outing scheduled for September 22, 2021, was rained out, but we are going ahead with our rain date of **OCTOBER 6, 2021**, same time, place, and schedule.

If you were registered to come on September 22, we hope you will come on October 6.

Please call or email John Harler, golf co-chairman at (804)347-3674 or j.harler@verizon.net to confirm you're coming. We need more golfers, so please contact your friends and invite them and share the enclosed revised golf brochure. 🍷

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NAVY LEAGUE RICHMOND ANNOUNCES SEA CADET OF THE YEAR



BRAVO ZULU to Petty Officer Second Class Anna S. Birthisel for being selected as AMERICA Division's Cadet of the year and recipient of the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal and Ribbon. Mr. Vaughan Dize, Richmond's Council's Sea Cadet Liaison, presented the award at their Annual Awards Banquet.

In a statement, PO2 Birthisel stated: "Sea Cadets has taught me how to be a responsible, disciplined, and professional leader that takes initiative. This program has provided me with a multitude of challenging opportunities and encouraged me to become the best version of myself".

PO2 Birthisel lives in Scottsville, Virginia, and serves as AMERICA Division's Leading Petty Officer. She is a Senior at Liberty University Online Academy. Her hobbies include playing guitar, piano, and running. She plans to participate in Naval ROTC at a senior military college and hopes to be commissioned as a Surface Warfare Officer (SWO) upon graduation.

AMERICA Division was runner-up (out of 300 units) for the John J. trophy.

The John J. Bergen award is presented each year to the most outstanding Sea Cadet Unit in the nation.

Regional Director, LCDR Jeffrey Anderson, presented the runner-up award to LCDR Gary K. Riffle, Sr., Commanding Officer, AMERICA Division, at their annual awards banquet.

Former AMERICA Division Chief Petty Officer Alexander Liu has been accepted to the U.S. Naval Academy, Class of 2025. ✍️

NAVY ESTABLISHES NEW MEDAL TO HONOR FALLEN CIVILIANS



Photo of the Angela M. Houtz Medal for Fallen Civilians. U.S. NAVY / Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ford Williams

Department of the Navy (DON) civilian employees who are killed or sustain serious injury through considerable personal sacrifice in the performance of their duties are now eligible to receive the Angela M. Houtz Medal for Fallen Civilians, said Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Ford Williams in a release.

The award honors the fidelity and essential service of civilian employees who were killed or sustain serious injury in the performance of their official duties as a result of criminal act, natural disaster, terrorist act, or other circumstances as determined by the secretary of the Navy.

"While Department of the Navy civilians may not be on the front lines, they do face many of the same dangers as our uniformed personnel because of where they work and what they do," said Garry Newton, the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for civilian personnel. "It was long past time to make it possible for commanders to fully recognize the service of all department personnel".

The medal is named for Angela M. Houtz, a DON intelligence analyst

who died during the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

(Posted on September 10, 2021 by Seapower Staff, Navy League of the United States).

AHOY NAVY VETERANS!



A mockup of the Navy license plate that Roger Hirsh, below, hopes to bring to Virginia. Proceeds would benefit the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society. Hirsh has been working on his campaign for three years. (Courtesy of Roger Hirsh)

Steady progress has been made. As of today, 9/16/21, we need **only 31** more sailors to reach the DMV minimum of 450.

There has been an effort underway for at least two years now, to identify at least 450 Virginia residents to sign up for a "vanity" auto license plate dedicated to the U.S. Navy. This effort has been led by Captain Roger Hirsh, USN (Ret). Requests for vanity plates must be sponsored by a member of the House of Delegates. Roger has a Delegate lined up. Now, we just need another **31** interested Navy folks to reach the 450 goal! Information on the program can be found at:

<https://facebook.com/groups/NAVY.PLATE.VA>

Have you ever wondered why all of the other military services have special Virginia MDV auto license plates, but NOT the U.S. Navy? Especially in Virginia? Well, if you want one, an initiative is underway now to make this happen. Please access the following website for information on how to join the effort:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NAVY.PLATE.VA>

(submitted by: Don Sutherland VVA – Veterans of Virginia Chapter 227)

REMINDER
Council's Sea Services Luncheon
Wednesday October 27
Guest Speaker
Captain Chad Reed
Manager for Unmanned Aviation Program Office

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

USS NORMANDY has been hard charging these past couple of months. On top of being the first U.S. Cruiser to leave her maintenance period on time from the shipyard, Team VARSITY has been serving up excellence during the preliminary Basic Phase events demonstrating our warfare readiness to the Atlantic Fleet. We hosted an amazing COVID-Safe Labor Day Celebration that applauded the hard work of the crew and recognized 73 awardees for their specific contributions to our successful maintenance phase. Everyday **USS NORMANDY's** varsity team is putting in the work maintaining the ship's material readiness and fighting capability. What is up next for Team VARSITY? We will be playing in the upcoming Navy League Golf Tournament and competing in multiple events in Navy Surface Line Week determined to bring home the gold! 🏆

Very Respectfully,
LTJG Maude Manzi, USN, PAO



USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)

CO: CDR LaDonna M. Simpson
XO: CDR Brad A. Fancher
CMC: CMDCM Adam Singleton

Pat Robson, Liaison

Greetings from the FIGHTIN 5-0!

Working for Peace, Ready for War; this past month's efforts have really driven home the truth behind that motto. In everything that the ship is called upon to do, it requires that we "be ready", ever and always. The only way to BE ready, is to work; steadily, in a focused manner, towards a goal. The goal before us

is "Peace", the path we walk is our daily "Working". To arrive at our desired end, we must become & remain "Ready for War", all in hopes of arriving at "Peace". While the work facing each of us takes on a different appearance, each manner of work is equally important, for there can be no win apart from the teams win. For that: the CS's must cook; the DC'men must train and instruct; the ET's must go aloft; the EN's must sweat it out while they maintain the engineering spaces; the GM's must maintain and function check our crew served, smaller caliber weapons systems; the FC's must maintain and op-test the ships defensive weapons systems; the XO must execute the staff (not literally, well, sometimes...); the CMC must guide, mentor, and lead the Chief's Mess; the Chief's must train and direct junior sailors; the CO must provide clear expectations and vision; and on and on...all "Working" to be "Ready for War", that we may enjoy "Peace". This is the **CARTER HALL**, and it is the only way we know.

Remaining ever vigilant for the missions that contribute to the defense of our country is a near impossible task. It's a burden and privilege which may only be borne by those who are also themselves, supported. Rightly, we are thankful for our families and friends, those we most readily have in mind as we go about our daily duties. In addition to them, the support of our partners in this effort proves invaluable, and this is precisely where the Richmond Navy League shines brightest. Supporting those presently forward, while being on the sidelines, is not easy, and is always go-go-go. Thank you all for shouldering the load of looking out for us and keeping us in your thoughts and prayers. We are free to do what we do because we are able to focus forward, on the work at hand, knowing that quality men and women are manning the aft lookout. Thank you all for your stalwart support!

We are: Working for Peace, Ready for War! 🏆

Very Respectfully,
Chaplain Block
LT, CHC, USN



USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)

CO: CDR Corey Odom
XO: CDR Hunter Washburn
CMC: CMDCM Dion C. Dupree

Patrick D. Harris, Liaison
Alan Palmer, Consultant

Team **GRAVELY** begins September with some cooler temperatures and a much-needed maintenance window. Additionally, the crew is participating in Fleet Synthetic Training ahead of COMPTUEX later this month. We continue to hone our warfighting edge through tactical training and material readiness!

The crew of **DDG-107** is also enjoying a several weeks in port allowing our Sailors some hard-earned time with family. Due to our compressed schedule, we have had to split our pre-deployment stand-down between September and November.

"I know we have been working really hard and I believe we have earned some white space," says Commander Odom, Captain of **USS GRAVELY**.

As we get deeper into September, we will shift focus from maintenance to becoming being operational as we embark on COMPTUEX beginning at the end of this month.

COMPTUEX, Composite Training Unit Exercise, is a rehearsal each US Navy Carrier Strike Group performs before departing for deployment. Each ship and aircraft in the battle group trains in its specialty; COMPTUEX brings ships together to project force as a battle group. COMPTUEX is an intermediate-level battle group exercise designed to forge together the battle group and its components into a fully functional fighting team. COMPTUEX is a critical part in the pre-deployment training cycle, and a prerequisite for the battle group's Joint Task Force Exercise.

For now, upgrades and repairs are happening around the ship helping **USS GRAVELY** maintain its excellence, as well as a material condition that is needed to enter and win the fight at hand!

The 56th Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer, **USS GRAVELY** is homeported in Norfolk and named after Vice ADM Samuel Lee Gravely, Jr. ADM Gravely became the first African-American to command a U.S. Navy warship, the first African-American to command an American warship under combat conditions, the first African-American to command a major naval warship, the first African-American admiral, the first African-American to rise to the rank of vice admiral, and the first African-American to command a U.S. Fleet. ADM Gravely was highly decorated.

GRAVELY continued on page 5

GRAVELY continued from page 4

ted with the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, and Navy Commendation Medal. ✍

Facebook: www.facebook.com/DDG107/

Official Navy Website:

www.surlant.usff.navy.mil/ddg107/

Very Respectfully,

Michael W. Krueger, Ensign, USN
Public Affairs Officer



USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)

CO: CDR Patricia M. Bennett

XO: LCDR Elizabeth Tufts

COB: EMC Armando Ortiz

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., Liaison

Vaughan F. Dize, Assistant Liaison

Greetings from **USCGC NORTHLAND** !

The month of August has been very exciting for our crew as we continue our counter-drug mission in the Eastern Pacific Ocean. During the beginning of the month, **NORTHLAND** was hard at work patrolling in search of targets of interest as well as ensuring that the ship's company was completing required drills, maintenance, and training to earn new

qualifications. I am happy to report that **NORTHLAND** has had two successful counternarcotics interdictions and assisted another ship with a third! Due to COVID concerns, our crew went 40 days without the chance to have liberty and get in touch with loved ones at home. But in mid-August, **NORTHLAND's** crew was able to enjoy a long-awaited port call in Golfito, Costa Rica. The port call gave the crew the opportunity to catch up on some much-needed rest, resupply the cutter with food and fuel, and have some fun. Crewmembers took advantage of the coastal town's hospitality as we restocked on snacks, enjoyed local restaurants, and adventured on waterfall tours. It was a tremendous opportunity for the crew to experience the culture of one of our partner nations.

Shortly after departing our port call, **NORTHLAND** was diverted to a request for assistance from a Costa Rican fishing vessel that had caught fire hundreds of miles offshore. The cutter steamed through the night towards the last known position of the fishing vessel as our crew prepared to render assistance. In the early morning hours of the next day, **NORTHLAND** launched our embarked helicopter to search for the vessel in distress. Not long after launching, the helicopter located the fishing vessel on fire with three people still onboard, huddled on the bow. The helicopter guided in

NORTHLAND's small boat team, who safely rescued the three-fisherman onboard and escorted them to the safety of a Good Samaritan cargo vessel. While search and rescue is not the main purpose of our current patrol, the crew was excited for the opportunity to help mariners in peril – the trademark mission of the U.S. Coast Guard!

While in pursuit of another case, **NORTHLAND** was fortunate to sail far enough south to cross the Equator. The uncommon crossing of a major demarcation line, like the Equator, is a first for many aboard the cutter. Crewmembers now have the opportunity to participate in a "Line-Crossing Ceremony", to earn the coveted Order of the Shellback certificate. Accomplishments like this enhance the pride and esprit de corps for our crew, while serving at sea, far from the comforts of home.

As we near the month of September, **NORTHLAND's** crew has begun preparations for our northbound transit of the Panama Canal, offload of contraband on the way home, and the conclusion of our patrol with returning to home port. The crew is excited to return home to family and loved ones and share sea stories of our busy patrol. As always, thank you for the support! Fair Winds and Following Seas! ✍

Very Respectfully,
MKC Alan Kinney, USN, COB

NEWS RELEASE: COAST GUARD RESCUES 3 FROM BOAT FIRE 150 MILES SOUTH OF COSTA RICA



NORTHLAND responding to a request for assistance from F/V Baula which had caught fire off the coast of Costa Rica.

Photos and News Release courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard

The Coast Guard rescued three people after their boat caught fire approximately 150 miles south of Golfito, Costa Rica.

Three mariners abandoned the boat and were clinging to a buoy in the water while maintaining communications with the vessel administrator via satellite phone.

NORTHLAND crew dispatched their MH-65 Dolphin helicopter crew at 4 AM to search to search for the crew of the Baula X and located the mariners at their last known position.

Once on scene, **NORTHLAND** launched their 26-foot Over-the-Horizon small boat crew who retrieved all three mariners at 5:40 AM and transferred them in good condition to the AMVER vessel Avra GR.

The AMVER system, sponsored by the Coast Guard, is a unique, computer based and voluntary global ship reporting system used worldwide by search and rescue authorities to arrange for assistance to people in distress at sea.

✍

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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Thanks for jumping on board !!!

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