



AUGUST 2025



# The Lucky Bag

**RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES**

## Richmond Navy League Member & Family Attend Christening Ceremony of their father's namesake ship Guided Missile Destroyer: USS *Jeremiah Denton* (DDG-129)



**Jeremiah's daughters, Madeleine Denton Doak and Mary Denton Lewis served as sponsors with the traditional breaking of the champagne bottle over the bow of USS *Denton*. (photo: Naval Sea Systems Command).**

On June 28, the **USS *Jeremiah Denton* (DDG-129)** was christened, one step closer toward being commissioned.

Denton's family members, many from the Richmond area, attended the ceremony in Pascagoula, MS.

"He's just a great example of the goodness of America and also the American dream," his son Michael Denton of Manakin-Sabot said. "We're thrilled not only that his name is on there, but that the family is going to remain involved."

Jeremiah was a native of Mobile, Alabama, graduated from the U.S. Naval

Academy in 1946 and earned his master's degree from George Washington University in 1964. He embarked on a long naval career, primarily piloting carrier-based aircraft.

On July 18, 1965, Jeremiah's A-6 Intruder was shot down while leading a bombing raid over North Vietnam. He was held captive for more than 7 ½ years, including four in solitary confinement.

Jeremiah was among the nearly 600 POW's released from captivity in 1973 after the U.S. ended its involvement in the Vietnam War.

"His faith was vital to his service and survival," said Michael. It was critical to his style of leadership."

Jeremiah was the first one off the plane at Clark Air Base in the Philippines. On the tarmac, he delivered the following words: **"We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."**

**USS *Denton* continued on page 3**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable 4th of July.

I am proud to announce Richmond Council received the following 2024 Performance Awards from the National Navy League of the United States: (Congratulations, Team!)

1. **Donald M. Mackie Award Newsletter – Platinum**
2. **Sea Service Adoption Excellence Award - Medium Council**
3. **Donald M. Mackie Award Website – Gold**

Just a reminder, we are having our Annual Golf Tournament on September

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ber 17th. If you need a golf brochure for more information, call the office at 804-355-7557 and we will mail you one.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Guided Missile Cruiser **Normandy (CG-60)** will be decommissioned. She was adopted by the Richmond Navy League in 1995.

The Aircraft Carrier **USS John F. Kennedy (CVN-79)** commissioning has been put on hold until March 2027.

To all non-members of the Navy League, you are welcome to join us in our activities, anytime.

Please pass *The Lucky Bag* on to your friends and neighbors. Maybe they would like to participate.

Until next month's *Lucky Bag* may you have Fair Winds and God Speed.

### Important Events in Naval History:

- August 4, 1790: Congress creates U.S. Revenue Marine Service, Later the Revenue Cutter Service, then the U.S. Coast Guard.
- August 4, 1947: Medical Service Corps established.
- August 5, 1864: Battle of Mobile Bay: RADM David Farragut orders, "*Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!*"
- August 22, 1912: Naval Dental Corps established. ✍

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



### LISTENING

The most essential tool of a physician is his/her ears. A professor at Virginia Commonwealth University / Medical College of VA taught me the most valuable lesson I ever learned in medical school – "90% of the diagnosis comes out of the patient's mouth. Your job is to learn to ask the right questions and then to LISTEN!"

The Bible emphasizes the importance of listening as a virtue and a path to wisdom. It highlights the need to be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Proverbs teaches that fools delight in airing their own opinions while a wise person listens to counsel and seeks understanding. Listening is also a way to show respect, understand others, and discern God's will.

Proverbs 18:13 states, "He who answers before listening—that is his folly and his shame," This highlights that true wisdom comes from actively listening before speaking or offering advice. Humility is essential for effective listening. A humble heart is more open to hearing and learning from others, rather than simply wanting to be heard.

James 1:19 encourages believers to be "quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." This means prioritizing listening and understanding before responding, which helps avoid misunderstandings and rash judgments.

Listening well involves not just hearing words but also understanding the emotions and motivations behind them. This requires careful attention and discernment. Listening to others shows empathy and compassion.

God has given us two ears for an essential reason – one ear to listen to others and the other to listen to the Lord, Who reveals the heart of God for that person. Let us pay attention with both ears! ✍

### *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

CDR Jeremy Greenwood, USCG (Ret.)

#### Sponsor

Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.



## USS Denton cont. from front page



**Richmond Council Member, Mike Denton, and his family: daughter, Allison, son, Maury and wife, Katherine.**

"It was incredible, and the whole world saw it that night, said Michael who was 13 at the time. "The whole country was desperate for some good to come out of the Vietnam experience at the time, and he just said exactly what people need to hear."

Jeremiah retired from the Navy in 1977 and was awarded the Navy Cross among other accolades.

Afterward, he represented Alabama in the U.S. Senate from 1981 to 1987. Toward the end of his tenure, he created the Denton Program, which permits the Department of Defense to send humanitarian cargo to developing nations.

Jeremiah died in 2014 at the age of 89. He and his wife Jane had seven children, many of whom served their country.

That included their son Jeremiah Denton, III, who was an Army pilot in Vietnam while his father was a POW.

Michael was a Naval ROTC graduate of Virginia Military Institute, a Navy Surface Warfare Officer and a Navy shipyard manager. He is also an active member of the Richmond Council Navy League.

Granddaughters Micah Doak and Allison Denton Shumate were the Matrons of Honor. For Allison, a VA Tech graduate, this was the first time she saw the ship named after her grandfather in person.

"I knew him as the fisherman and the poker player, but he's also this larger-than-life figure for all of the United States of America," she said. "I was just very proud and honored growing up to know that story and legacy."

Grandson Maury Denton was among

the other family attendees, along with his wife and three children.

The extended Denton family also attended the mast stepping ceremony the day before the christening. In that longstanding maritime tradition, a sealed box filled with memorabilia was welded into the ship for good luck.

"It's symbolic of welding the spirits of the ship's namesake into the destroyer, and those will live on in the crewmen that will take the seas with it," Maury said. "It's very special."

Maury, an Army ROTC VMI graduate of the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia, said he's been teaching his children about Jeremiah just as he learned as a child.

"We teach them about the bravery, the leadership and the perseverance and what he had to do to stay alive and get back home," They look at him as a hero and as they get older, more of those nuggets start to make sense in terms of what that means for your character, what it means for the country, and beyond."

*Richmond Times-Dispatch; 7-7-2025; By Thad Green. For more information about this naval hero and his family, click on the link below:*

<https://www.12onyourside.com/2025/07/12/richmond-family-celebrates-christening-uss-jeremiah-denton-named-war-hero-patriarch/>



## Your Participation Is Needed

September is fast approaching and once again it will be time for Richmond Council's Annual Golf Outing. Many thanks go out to players and sponsors of our previous events; without your participation the events would not have been so successful.

Your help and participation are needed again! **This event is our primary fundraiser.** A successful event will allow us to support our adopted

ships, AMERICA Division Sea Cadets, nine High School JROTC programs, and sending care packages to forward deployed troops of all branches of service.

There will be door prizes and raffles, and the top three teams will receive trophies and cash prizes. Individual prizes will be awarded for Closest to the pin on some Par 3 holes and Longest drive on one Par 5 hole. Sponsors who contribute \$100 or more will have a sign placed on a course hole at the event. In addition, sponsors who contribute \$300 or more will have a sponsor ad in *The Lucky Bag* Newsletter for 1 year.

We cannot over emphasize your importance in making this event a success. Please help to identify and contact one potential sponsor and come out and play. A good time will be had by all! 🏌️

## Council's Luncheon Venues Changing in 2026

Due to the closure of Willow Oaks Country Club for renovations in 2026, the Richmond Council Navy League has procured an alternate venue for our four luncheons in 2026. **We will be meeting at:**

**Richmond Country Club (RCC)**  
**12950 Patterson Avenue**  
**Henrico, Virginia 23238.**

More information will follow in the upcoming issues of *The Lucky Bag*. 🏌️

## Marine Corps 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball

**Date: November 8, 2025**

**Place: Lakewood Manor**  
**1900 Lauderdale Dr**  
**Richmond, VA 23238**

**Time: 5:00 PM – 9:00 pm**

**Cost: \$55.00 per person**

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# Republican Rob Wittman's Veterans' Roundtable Report

*By Pat Robson, RCNL Board Director*

On Monday, July 21, 2025, the Richmond Navy League was represented at Congressman Rob Wittman's Veterans' Roundtable at the Virginia War Memorial. Rep Wittman, Capt. Chuck Zingler, USN-retired, Virginia's Commissioner of Veteran Services, and head staffers in financial affairs and community care took specific benefits-related questions from veterans and Veteran Service Organizations (VSO) about individual problems, program funding, mental health services including suicide prevention and intervention, and veteran housing. It was a no-holds-barred dialogue between those with needs and those who could bring solutions.

Congressman Wittman is a tireless advocate for veterans. He has either sponsored, cosponsored, or spearheaded several key pieces of veteran legislation... and he has more in mind. Specifically:

## INTRODUCED:

- **Veterans Collaboration Act:** a pilot program to increase coordination between VSO's and educational institutions that assist veterans.
- **Be Ready to Assist Veterans in Extremis (BRAVE Act):** a system to alert veterans of counseling and mental health options in response to crises, with priority on privacy by allowing them to opt in.
- **Veterans Choice Accountability Act:** expands vet's access to non-VA medical care and a review of the Veterans Choice Program.
- **Veterans Affairs Transfer of Information and Sharing of Disability Examination Procedures with DoD Doctors Act:** reduces the number of screenings required for a disability rating, requires electronic record-sharing between the VA and DoD, and requires that military separation physicals to be used to determine service-connected disabilities to expedite access to care.

## CO-SPONSORED:

- **Protecting Veteran Access to Telemedicine Services Act of 2025:** this is especially useful in rural areas because it authorizes telemedicine to deliver controlled prescription drugs to vets without in-person visits.
- **Service-Connected Suicide Compensation Act:** provides Dependency and Indemnity Compensation to survivors of veterans whose suicide is linked to a service-connected mental disorder.
- **CHIP-IN for Veterans Act:** expands public-private partnership funding for the construction and upgrade of veterans' health care facilities.

## KEY VOTE:

- **Aviation Cancer Examination Study (ACES) Act:** Directs the VA to contract with the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine to study and report on cancer prevalence and mortality among veterans who served as active-duty, fixed-wing aircrew.

The Richmond Navy League was one of several exhibitors that included the Wounded Warriors, VFW, and Virginia Dept of Veterans Affairs. George Feitig and Pat Robson "worked the room" to make useful contacts for our mission. ✍️



**Richmond Council Navy League Board Directors George Feitig and Pat Robson catch a moment with Congressman Rob Wittman.**

## United States Navy Dental Corps



*By Pat Robson, RCNL Director*

The Navy's Dental Corps was established on August 22, 1912, by an Act of Congress and signed by President Howard Taft who authorized the appointment of 30 assistant dental surgeons to be a part of the medical department. August 22 is celebrated as the anniversary of the Navy Dental Corps. The corps was established to improve and formalize dental care for sailors and Marines.

Navy dentists are stationed at military treatment facilities, clinics, and hospitals located within the United States and various overseas locations. Additionally, Navy dentists can be assigned to a multi-specialty dental clinic, a large teaching hospital, with a Navy Construction Battalion ("Seabees"), Marine Corps battalions (Fleet Marine Forces), or an amphibious assault ship, aircraft carrier, or hospital ship. Navy dentists provide direct support to Sailors and Marines and deploy in support of combat operations, disaster relief, and humanitarian assistance missions, providing the best care our nation can offer ashore and afloat.

The diverse options available following the initial operational or utilization (OP/UT) tour in the Dental Corps can be summarized in four "tracks". These tracks distinguish differences in job experience categories: (1) Administrative; (2) Clinical; (3) Operational; and (4) Education/Academic. A successful career includes assignment to positions from multiple tracks and serves to broaden experiences. After the initial tour of either an AEGD, GPR or Credentialing program, an operational assignment with Fleet Marine Forces (FMF) or Surface Warfare Medical Department Officer (SWMDO), or Naval Construction Battalions (Navy Seabees) could be available to you. Many dentists will seek to pursue specialization through clinical residency training. The residency training period and the specialty utilization tour following the completion of training provide two advantages: (1) familiarity with the readiness and operational den-

tal mission, and (2) the opportunity to establish a record of competence and professionalism in their field. ✍

## Do You Know Someone Who Is Seeking Employment?



*By Pat Robson, RCNL Director and  
MSC Liaison*

One of the most underpublicized career opportunities anywhere is a career in the Military Sealift Command as a civilian mariner (CIVMAR). Total compensation for an entry level CIVMAR is about \$70,000. Folks with specific skills can start at a lot more. CIVMAR's are federal employees, so they are part of the Federal Employee Retirement System (FERS), and their earnings qualify for Social Security eligibility. They participate in the Thrift Savings (401-K) plan known as the TSP. They are also eligible for Federal Employee Health Benefits (FEHB), Federal Employee Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) and all other federal benefits. Retirement is threefold: FERS annuity, Social Security, and TSP.

A CIVMAR's career is self-paced by achieving cumulative certifications which are funded by the Military Sealift Command. A highly motivated CIVMAR can advance from the lowest position (ordinary seaman or wiper) to the Master of a vessel or its Chief Engineer in a span of a few years.

CIVMAR's spend about 4-6 months at sea and the same amount on shore. Those who want to earn more can volunteer for additional sea duty, live aboard the ship, and bank their pay heavily.

A career with the Military Sealift Command is NOT the same as enlisting in the Navy or Coast Guard. MSC ships are non-combatants. They supply Navy ships with fuel, supplies, and ammunition, but CIVMAR's are not bound by enlistment contracts, and they have no military duties. The lifestyles are similar, but the merchant

marine environment is much more relaxed.

Who should consider a CIVMAR career? Students who are weary of conjugating verbs, dissecting frogs, and writing term papers are good candidates. Technicians like mechanics, welders, HVAC techs, electronics, and similar skills who want more pay and better benefits should at least be aware. Those who relish unconventional adventure can thrive.

If you know someone, how should they learn more? Begin with the Military Sealift Command's website, [www.sealiftcommand.com](http://www.sealiftcommand.com), and work through the tabs, especially "Entry Level" and "Career Fairs." For one-to-one guidance, contact Justin Gans at [JustinG@sealiftcomand.com](mailto:JustinG@sealiftcomand.com). ✍

## Houston-Holicky-Sitter Luncheon

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 12, 2025

**PLACE:** Publix / 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

Community Meeting Room  
2250 John Rolfe Pkwy  
Henrico, VA 23233

**TIME:** Doors open 11:15 AM

Arrive no later than 11:45 AM

**Speaker:** WWII U.S. Army Air Corps  
Pilot 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force,  
James W. Boehling

### Reminder

**Richmond Council's**

**SEA SERVICES  
LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday**

**October 22, 2025**

**Willow Oaks Country Club  
6228 Forest Hil Ave  
Richmond, VA 23225**

**Guest Speaker:**

**GySgt Jerome E. Atger,  
USMC (Ret.)**

**Topic: USMC / USN's  
relationship and how  
relevant it is during our  
respective 250 year  
anniversary**



## ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

(these reports may be edited to fit space available)



**USS Normandy (CG-60)**  
CO: CAPT Nathan Diaz  
XO: CDR Robert Knapp  
CMC: CMDCM Andrew Conover

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

**Normandy** is operating in the 2nd Fleet Area of Responsibility, after a brief stop in Norfolk to make some much-needed repairs before she executes the nation's tasking once more.

Shortly after **Normandy** got underway, we executed simulated Naval Gunfire Support, Anti-Submarine Warfare, and Air Defense Scenarios with the Dutch and British Navies. Additionally, we participated in additional Anti-Submarine exercises with the **USS Bulkeley**, **USS STOUT**, and **USS New Hampshire**. We also embarked Helicopter Maritime Squadron 48 Detachment 8 "The Hammerheads", for our duration in 2nd Fleet.

**Normandy's** schedule remains action packed and filled with stories. If you would 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 Chelsea L. Turner

Pat Robson, Liaison

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



**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)** is currently in port at Naval Station Norfolk. 🚩



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

Following a period of rigorous patrol preparations, **USCGC Northland** has commenced her current operational deployment. Throughout the past month, the crew has diligently focused on optimizing the cutter's material readiness and operational capabilities, ensuring that **Northland** is poised to effectively meet the diverse demands of its assigned missions.

Significant activities during this period include a port call in the British Virgin Islands. This engagement served to strengthen international partnerships, culminating in a productive meeting with the Governor of the British Virgin Islands, thereby fostering positive foreign relations. The port call also provided the crew with a valuable opportunity for respite and recuperation.

**Northland** has also celebrated many crew departures and arrivals, as typically occur each summer. We bid farewell to departing shipmates, extending our sincere wishes for their future endeavors, and warmly welcomed newly assigned personnel to the **Northland** family.

Looking ahead to July, **Northland** will remain actively engaged in its operational mandate, providing robust security resources to our nation's maritime borders. Concurrently, the crew will continue to prioritize the enhancement of both individual and collective profi-

ciency through a regimen of rigorous training exercises and drills.

The unwavering dedication of **Northland's** crew to continuous performance improvement and the maintenance of sustained operational readiness remains paramount. We express our sincere gratitude for your continued support as we strive to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence in service to our nation. Fair winds and following seas. 🚩



**Northland's** Command Triad and Operations Officer met with BVI Governor Daniel Pruce during the cutter's scheduled Port visit to Tortola.



**Northland's** Commanding Officer and Navigator conduct Celestial Navigation training with the cutter's Deck Watch Officers.

**USCGC Northland ship report**  
Continued on page 7

**Northland report cont. from page 6**



**ENS Dziama, GMC Hayes, SK1 Demers, and ME1 Cusick conduct law enforcement training in the Cutter Boat-Large.**

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're currently underway and really hitting our stride. I'm please to report that we've successfully completed our Aviation certifications, and we're now fully qualified to launch and recover helicopters.

We've welcomed some new members to our crew, and they're quickly catching on and adjusting to life at sea. Many of our crew members are working hard to get qualified, and our senior members are providing top-notch training.

We've conducted comprehensive Damage Control, Law Enforcement, and boat crew training, which has improved our unit readiness.

Of course, it wouldn't be a patrol without some well-deserved fun. We've had several morale-boosting events, including a lively trivia night, a casino night and a spa night, both of which were a big hit with the crew. The crew enjoyed a Port Call in the Dominion Republic as well!

There have been some long nights and busy days, but every moment has

been worth it as we dedicate ourselves to this important mission. The hard work and determination of our crew is truly commendable, and together, including you, we are making a significant impact out there.

Thank you for your continued support, Richmond Navy League. ✍



**The crew learned a great deal and worked hard to achieve all the necessary flight deck qualifications.**



Very Respectfully,  
CO Justin W. Strock

**Col Harvey C. Barnum, Jr.,  
USMC, (Ret.) Rides First Set of  
Sea Trials for DDG-124**



**BATH, ME (07/15/2025) – U.S. Marine Corps Col (Ret.) Harvey C.**

**Barnum Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient, sits on the bridge of the future USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr. (DDG-124) during sea trials. The ship is named in honor of Barnum, who received the Medal of Honor for valor during the Vietnam War. (U.S. Navy photo by Laura Lakeway).**

By NAVSEA Public Affairs, July 21, 2025; Article extracted from *Seapower Weekly Magazine*, July 24, 2025)

In a rare moment of living history, ship namesake and Medal of Honor recipient, Col. Harvey “Barney” Barnum Jr. joined members of future **USS Harvey C. Barnum Jr.’s (DDG 124)** crew, the Navy programmatic team, and industry partners onboard the ship’s first set of sea trials, departing from General Dynamics Bath Iron Works, July 15.

Col Barnum twice served in Vietnam and received his Medal for heroic actions taken against enemy forces at Ky Phu in Quang Tin Province in December 1965 after his company came under enemy fire and was separated from the rest of their battalion. He also served as the deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for reserve affairs.

DDG-124 was named for Col Barnum in 2016 and is one of 32 DDG 51 class destroyers that are currently named after Medal of Honor recipients.

“It’s a great honor and I was very humbled when I got the call that I was going to have a ship named after me and that it was a warfighter, a DDG Arleigh Burke Class, it made me very proud. I’m very honored to be here for this trial,” said Barnum.

Col Barnum continues to be a tireless champion of the Navy and Marine Corps team and has closely followed construction of DDG-124. He has been present for all the ship’s significant milestones, including keel laying and christening. ✍

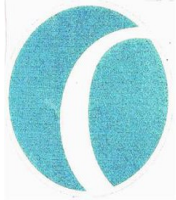
***“There is nothing so heartening to a sailor in trouble as seeing a boat or a plane adorned with that orange stripe come over the horizon.”***

**Walter Cronkite**



## 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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The U.S. Coast Guard will celebrate its 235th Birthday on August 4, 2025. (picture on USCGC Northland (WMEC-904) facebook; taken by Ted Carlson).



**RICHMOND, VIRGINIA COUNCIL  
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*Thanks for jumping on board !!!*

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