



Annual Report

January 1 - December 31, 2024

Richmond Virginia Council
Navy League of the United States
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SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

The Richmond Council had a very active year supporting three Navy and 3 Coast Guard ships; one Navy fighter squadron; Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps recruiting units; the Richmond Navy Reserve and the Military Sea Lift Command. Our youth programs included support for the America Division Sea Cadet unit and nine high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Programs with four Navy and four Marine Corps units serving nearly 800 cadets.

In 2024, 116 *Anchor Club* members donated \$15,831. Our 35th Annual Golf Outing fundraiser in September drew 85 golfers making up 21 playing teams, with a net income of \$9,524. These two key fund-raising activities, along with other donations, allowed the Richmond Council to provide \$9,140 to support our adopted ships and units and \$6,600 to support the Sea Cadets and our eight JROTC units in 2024. The Richmond Council hosted the Annual Membership Meeting and three luncheons, with Navy and Military Sealift Command admirals as speakers.

ADMINISTRATION

Board of Directors

- President: Vaughan F. Dize
- Immediate Past President: Adam J. (Jay) Fiedler, M.D.
- Acting Senior Vice President: John A. Harler, M.D.
- Vice Presidents: William W. McCathern, Jr. and R. Milton Owen
- Treasurer: Billy L. Butler
- Assistant Treasurer: Robert E. Lusk, Jr.
- Chaplain: John A. Harler, M.D.
- Judge Advocate: Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.
- Secretary: Carol K. Zembroski
- *Lucky Bag* Editor: William W. McCathern, Jr.
- Directors: Dennis A. Biggs, George L. Feitig, Jr., Patrick D. Harris, Melissa Hill, Thomas Jennings, Douglas B. Reed, Gary K. Riffle, Sr., B. Patterson (Pat) Robson, Jr., William J. Swackhamer, Laura Walker
- Board of Directors: 4 meetings
- Round Table Planning Meetings: 38 meetings.

Membership

Membership: 200 members at the start of 2024 and 192 members at the end of the year, 18 new members recruited.

New Members: Larry J. Morgan, Kenneth W. Lucas, Jr., M.D., David B. Craft, James "Pat" Morgan, Jr., John A. Heisler, IV, James J. D'Amico, Wayne E. Sine, Francis W. ("Bill") Curran, Melody E. Gray, Duncan S.

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Owen, III, Terry W. Jarreau, James W. Thorp, Donald M. Cosgrove, Richard W. Thorson, David W. Weddel. Dann E. Gillis, Michael Pantele and John Harrison rejoined.

Member Passings in 2024

- Edward Searle Gibbons, 1927-2024, United States Marine Corps, President Richmond Council 1985-1986, member since 1971 (53 years).
- R. Milton Owen, Sr., 1937-2024, United States Navy Reserve, Past President Richmond Council 2011-2013, member since 1992 (32 years).
- Morton C. Mumma, III, 1926-2024, United States Air Force, member since 2007 (17 years).
- Gilbert Debiasi, MD, 1930-2024, United States Army, member since 2016 (8 years).
- William S. Manning, 1938-2024, United States Navy, member since 1990 (34 years).
- Edward D. Allen, 1926-2024, member since 1989 (35 years).

Budget

- Beginning Balance - \$52,182
- Income - \$41,658
(Donations - \$16,598, Dues - \$8,675, Special Events - \$9,851, Other Contributions - \$6,535, Prior Year Carry Over Funds - \$11,000)
- Expenses - \$41,639
(Operating Expenses - \$25,900, Donations and Contributions - \$15,740)
- Ending Balance - \$53,201

Communications

The Lucky Bag: 11 issues published.

Webpage: 2024 page views - 3,147, a 29 % increase over 2023 (2,433), 278 average page views per month, a 37% increase over 2023 (203).

Facebook Page: 173 followers

Recognition - Awards

The Richmond Council maintained its Gold Seal 501-c3 non-profit organization transparency rating awarded by GuideStar/Candid, the second highest rating they provide.

The Richmond Council received an Honorable Mention Council Performance Award from the Navy League of the United States at the 2024 National Convention in San Diego, California

FUNDRAISING

In 2024, the Richmond Council received the following contributions to support the mission of the Council.

Membership Dues

In 1992, the Richmond Council initiated a local Council dues of \$12 per year. This was in addition to the dues paid by members to the Navy League of the United States. Our local Council dues are used to support our operating expenses. Membership dues were \$35 in 2024, and members paid \$7,650 in local Council dues. The Richmond Council also received \$1,025 in dues rebates from the Navy League of the United States.

Anchor Club and Other Donations

In 2008, the Richmond Council founded the *Anchor Club* to demonstrate an enhanced commitment of our members to support sea services. In 2024, 116 *Anchor Club* members donated \$15,831. We also received an additional \$767 in donations to support our youth programs.

Our Anchor Club donations are our primary source for supporting our adopted ships and units, Sea Cadets and Richmond area high school Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs. From 2012-2022 we provided \$87,804 in support to our adopted ships and units, \$50,830 in support to the America Division Sea Cadets and \$10,989 to our JROTC units. In 2024, we provided \$9,140 to support our adopted ships and units and \$6,600 to support the Sea Cadets and our eight JROTC units.

Golf Outings Fund Raiser

The first Richmond Council golf fund raiser was held in 1991 at the Fort Lee Officer's Club golf course. On September 18, 2024, 85 golfers making up 21 playing teams participated in our 35th Annual Golf Outing fundraiser. Golf players included teams from two of our adopted ships: U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Spencer (WMEC-905) and players from the USS Carter Hall (LSD-50). Player registrations brought in \$6,768, sponsors donated \$9,060, resulting in a total a net income of \$9,524.

The Lucky Bag

In 1986, The Richmond Council began offering Sponsor recognition in *The Lucky Bag* to help generate funds to support the Sea Cadets and other activities. For donating \$300 or more we recognize the organization in *The Lucky Bag* for the year. In 2024, there were 15 Sponsors per issue in *The Lucky Bag* from January through October and increased to 19 Sponsors per issue in November and December, generating approximately \$8,000 in support.

SUPPORT FOR THE SEA SERVICES

Adopted Ships (6) Fighter Squadron (1)

The objective of adopting a ship, station, other military unit, or facility is to provide continuing support to a particular Sea Service Unit, its crew, and families. Adoption implies a commitment to continuing support. The Council provided \$9,140 in Morale, Welfare and Recreation support to our Adopted/Supported Ships and Units.

The Richmond Council supported many different ships in its early years, and in 1987 formalized the process by adopting the cruiser USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) in 1987. Our current adopted ships include: USS NORMANDY (CG-60), USS SAMUEL L. GRAVELY (DDG-107), USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50), USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) and newly adopted ship USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912) which was adopted on 05/01/2023. The LEGARE entered the Service Life Extension Project in late July and its crew was transferred to the USCGC SPENCER (WMEC-905) which is undergoing maintenance in Baltimore and should return to Portsmouth after the first year.

In 2017, the Council adopted and continues to support Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-213 Blacklions, Naval Air Station Oceana. The Blacklions were deployed much of 2023 with the USS Ford Carrier Strike Group to the Middle East. They returned home in mid-January 2024.

NORMANDY, GRAVELY and CARTER HALL were all deployed to the Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea areas during 2024 and were engaged in several defensive actions to shoot down threatening and incoming missiles and drones.

USS NORMANDY (CG-60) Deployment

The USS NORMANDY returned to Naval Station Norfolk on 01/21/2024; the last ship of GERALD R. FORD CARRIER STRIKE GROUP to come home after an extended deployment in the Middle East.

On June 3rd, 2024, Normandy returned to her namesake of Normandy, France where the ship commemorated the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion. To start off the week, Normandy had the honor of being the host ship for the 80th Anniversary Reception, hosted by Admiral Munsch (Commander Naval Forces Europe, Commander Naval Forces Africa, Allied Joint Force Command Naples). In attendance at the reception was Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro, Head of the French Navy Admiral Nicolas Vaujour, Commandant of the Coast Guard, Admiral Linda Fagan, and the Mayor of Cherbourg. At the ceremony, the ship honored those who made the ultimate sacrifice during the Invasion of France and celebrated the continued partnership between the allied nations that took part in Operation Neptune and Overlord 80 years ago.

USS GRAVELY (DDG-107) Deployment:

In July, USS Gravelly returned to her homeport of Norfolk, VA, concluding a nine-month deployment to the 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operations. Entering the Central Command Area of Responsibility, Gravelly and the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Carrier Strike Group (IKECSG) steamed in the Arabian Gulf and southern Red Sea for nearly eight months. The destroyers of the IKECSG primarily operated in and around the Bab al Mandeb Strait (BAM). Bab al Mandeb is Arabic for "Gate of Tears." During that time, the destroyers were engaged on multiple occasions with ballistic missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), and cruise missiles.

Gravelly was tasked with conducting escort operations and successfully defended herself, the IKECSG, and civilian merchants from attack. Gravelly's first engagement was on December 30th and 31st, 2023 Gravelly was steaming toward Motor Vessel Maersk Hangzhou to provide any assistance after she was hit by Houthi missiles. While approaching her, the Houthis fired once more with two ballistic missiles traveling at approximately Mach 3; Gravelly was able to successfully intercept the inbound missiles with Standard Missiles. Following the failed missile attack, Houthi attack boats began firing at M/V Hangzhou, with 22 souls on board, and AMBUSH flight (Gravelly's helicopter.) Gravelly and AMBUSH then defeated the attack boats with Hellfire missiles, saving the lives of the 22 mariners on M/V Hangzhou.

On the 9th of January, occasionally referred to as the "Battle of the BAM", USS Gravelly, alongside USS Mason, USS Laboon, and HMS Diamond, were attacked by multiple waves of UAVs and missiles. This battle lasted several hours and ranged throughout the southern Red Sea. The Sailors aboard USS Gravelly coordinated with other units and worked as a team to select targets and engaging with her weapons systems. After approximately three hours the waves of UAVs were shot down and the inbound missiles ceased.

Over the next several months Gravelly was engaged on several more occasions and was able to defend against more ballistic and cruise missiles and UAVs, totaling nine defeated UAVs, eight ballistic and cruise missiles, and two attack boats over the course of her time in the Red Sea. After a well-deserved

post-overseas movement (POM) stand down, the crew is back and hard at work maintaining the ship during this in-port period.

USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) Deployment

The crew of USS CARTER HALL completed an eight-and-a-half-month deployment to the US SIXTH and FIFTH Fleet areas of responsibility. Upon her return to Home Port on March 22, the crew started a post-deployment leave period and held a change of command on April 8th.

Among the highlights of the deployment, CARTER HALL shot down a Houthi drone in the Red Sea and was one of the first ships on station in that area, after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7th. CARTER HALL chopped on to Sixth Fleet in late December and continued to play a key role in regional maritime security and stability. While in the Sixth Fleet, CARTER HALL sailors experienced port visits to Thessalonica and Souda Bay Greece. Under the leadership of our new CO, CDR Grey, the ship is preparing for a long overdue yard period.

USCGC Legare (WMEC-912) - April 2024 Thank You Letter

Jeremy M. Greenwood, CDR Commanding Officer

To our friends at the Richmond Navy League! I am writing on behalf of USCGC Legare (WMEC-912) to express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible care packages and warm hospitality that the Richmond Navy League extended to our unit. Your kindness and support have made a significant impact on our team, and we are truly appreciative of the effort you have made to show your support of our service.

The thoughtful care packages were a wonderful reminder of the community's appreciation for our efforts, and they brought great comfort and joy to our personnel. Your generosity and hospitality have strengthened our resolve and boosted morale, especially during challenging times when we are away from our families and loved ones. The Richmond Navy League's commitment to supporting the sea services, including the Coast Guard, is truly commendable. Your dedication to fostering a strong maritime community and your advocacy for those who serve are invaluable to us, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support. Please convey our sincerest thanks to all the members of the Richmond Navy League who contributed to this thoughtful gesture. We are honored to have such a dedicated and supportive organization standing behind us as we carry out our duties. Once again, thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness. We look forward to the opportunity to express our gratitude in person and to continue our partnership with the Richmond Navy League.

Supported Units (5)

The Council also supports the following sea service units in the Richmond area: Naval Reserve Center Richmond, Richmond Naval Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG-Recruiting), Marines Corps Recruiting, Coast Guard Recruiting and the Military Sealift Command.

Military Sealift Command

The Richmond Council reached out to the Military Sealift Command to expand our support for that sea service. RDML Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command was the keynote speaker for our Sea Services Luncheon in October. Over 30 Richmond Council members and guests were provided a guided tour of the Military Sealift Command USNS HARVEY Milk (T-AO-206) In Norfolk. Two Richmond Council members participated in 3-day cruises from Norfolk on the aboard MSC ship USNS Supply (T-AOE-6) and the USNS JOHN LENTHAL (T-AO-189).

Ship and Unit Visits and Other Support Activities (22)

- Ship Visits: Navy (4), Coast Guard (7) MSC (3)
- Unit Visits: Navy (3)
- Change of Command Ceremonies: Navy (2), Coast Guard (1)
- Mrs. Alma Gravely Funeral: Navy (1)

- 01/04/2024: NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
Richmond Council member and President Vaughan Dize had lunch aboard the USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) with CMDR Denny and LCDR Greene to discuss upcoming events in 2024 at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth.

- 01/10/2024: USCGC LEGARE (USCGC-912)
Richmond Council members Tom Hassell and Tom Jennings attended the late Christmas Party for the crew and families of the USCGC LEGARE at US Naval Base, Scott Annex, bowling alley in Portsmouth. Over 100 individuals were in attendance. Tom Hassell, USCGC LEGARE Liaison, presented the Coast Guardsman of the Year Award to IT2 Rolf J. Singler. 100 people in attendance.

- 01/20/2024: USS NORMANDY (CG-60)
Richmond Council members George Feitig, Bob Lusk and Dennis Biggs greeted the USS NORMANDY (CG-60) at Naval Base Norfolk upon its return from an 8-month deployment with the USS FORD Carrier Strike Group. Much of that deployment was spent in the Middle East in support of Israel. A \$400 MWR fund check was presented to Captain Robinson

- 01/24/2024: USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912)
Richmond Council member Tom Hassell made a pre-deployment visit and delivered pre-deployment goodies to USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912) at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth. 6 individuals were in attendance.

- 01/26/2024: Naval Reserve Center Richmond
Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize, Patrick Harris, Courtney Mustin and Gary Riffle attended the Change of Command Ceremony at the Naval Reserve Center Richmond at the Virginia National Guard Headquarters with CDR Eric Z. Wier relieved by CDR Amy E. Thomas. 100 individuals were in attendance.

- 02/3/2024: Funeral of Mrs. Alma Gravely
Richmond Council member Courtney Mustin represented the Council at the funeral of Mrs. Alma Gravely, wife of Admiral Samuel L. Gravely, who passed away 01/03/2024. The Richmond Council \$100 donated to the Native American Veteran Association in memory of Mrs. Gravely. 200 individuals in attendance.

- 04/8/2024: USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
Richmond Council member Pat Robson attended the on-board USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) Change of Command Ceremony of CDR Brad A. Frasher to CDR Steven E. Gray at Norfolk Naval Station. 100 individuals were in attendance.

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- 04/26/2024: Navy Recruiting-NTAG
Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Maria Gallegas attended the Navy Recruiting-NTAG Change of Command Ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial, with CDR Shannyn Fowler relieved by CDR Seth Harbin. 150 people in attendance.
- 05/03/2024: USNS HARVEY Milk (T-AO-206)
Thirty-three Richmond Council members and guests were provided a guided tour of the Military Sealift Command USNS HARVEY Milk (T-AO-206) In Norfolk by Captain James White.
- 05/7/2024: USCGC LEGARE (WMEC-912) Change of Command
Richmond Council members Tom Harrell and Tom Jennings met numerous crew members including CDR Jeremy Greenwood and future CDR Justin Stock and provided pre-deployment goodies to the USGCS LEGARE (WMEC-912) Coast Guard Base Portsmouth.
- 06/7/2024: USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
Richmond Council member Vaughan Dize attended a Change of Command Ceremony on board the USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth with CDR Andrew Dennally relieved by CDR Brain C. Gismervik. 150 people in attendance.
- 06/13/2024: Black Lions Strike Fighter Squadron 213
Twenty-three Richmond Council members and guests participated in a hangar tour of the Black Lions F-18 F Strike Fighter Squadron VFA-213 at Naval Air Station Oceana.
- 07/14/2024: USS GRAVELY (DDG-107)
Richmond Council members George Feitig, James D'Amico and Courtney Mustion traveled to Navan Station Norfolk to welcome home the USS GRAVELY (DDG-107) from a nine-month long deployment to the Red Sea area. 1,500 people welcomed the GRAVELY home.
- 08/15-17/2024: USNS Supply (T-AOE-6)
Richmond Council member, Rear Admiral (ret.) Mike Curran, participated in a 3-day cruise aboard MSC ship USNS Supply (T-AOE-6) while the ship operated off the U.S. East Coast.
- 8/19/2024: USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
Richmond Council member Pat Robson had lunch aboard the USS CARTER HALL (LSD) at Naval Station Norfolk with LT Wilesie Wint, Chaplain and Public Affairs Officer of the USS CARTER HALL.
- 09/13/2024: USCGC SPENCER (WMEC-905)
Richmond Council member Tom Jennings attended a morale party for USCGC SPENCER (WMEC-905) crew members and families at Naval Base, Scott Annex in Portsmouth. 50 people were in attendance.
- 09/23-26/2024: USNS JOHN LENTHAL (T-AO-189).
Richmond Council member Tom Jennings participated in a 3-day cruise aboard MSC ship USNS JOHN LENTHAL (T-AO-189) departing from and returning to Norfolk Naval Station.

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- 9/30/2024: USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50)
Richmond Council member Pat Robson attended the anniversary of 30 Years of Active Service of the USS CARTER HALL (LSD-50) at Naval Base Norfolk.
- 11/8/2024: USS NORMANDY (CG 60)
Seventeen Richmond Council members and guests traveled to Norfolk, to go aboard and tour the USS NORMANDY (CG 60) at Naval Base Norfolk.
- 11/14/2024: USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Tom Hassell to receive a thank you plaque from CDR Brian C. Gismerevik recognizing 25 years of service to the NORTHLAND by the Richmon Navy League Council at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth. The Council also presented the Coast Guardsman of the year award to MT1 Daniel Perez, USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904). 125 people were in attendance.
- 12/03/2024: USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904)
Richmond Council member Vaughan Dize visited the USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904) at Coast Guard Base Portsmouth to deliver care packages to the crew and present a MWR check to CDR Brian C. Gismervik.
- 12/18/2024: Black Lions Strike Fighter Squadron 213
Richmond Council member John Harler attended the Black Lions Change of Command Ceremony at Naval Air Station Ocean with CDR Kevin A. Swift relieving CNR Justin A. Nixon. 200 people in attendance.

Sea Service Awards

- 01/10/2024: Council member Tom Hassell presented the Coast Guardsman of the Year Award to IT2 Rolf J. Singler, USCGC LEGARE (WMEC- 912).
- 11/14/2024: Council members Tom Harrell and Vaughan Dize presented the Coast Guardsman of the year award to MT1 Daniel Perez, USCGC NORTHLAND (WMEC-904).

Care Package Program

01/10/2024: Six Care Packages were mailed to the following locations/ships: Hawaii, USS GRAVELY, USS CARTER HALL and USCGC LEGARE. Total value - \$767.28.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Meetings - Luncheons - Tours – Trips

- 01/17/2024: Richmond Council Annual Business and Membership Meeting
Thirty Richmond Council members attended the Council's annual meeting to elect and install the new officers for 2024. Vaughan Dize was sworn in as the new President. Treasurer Bill Butler was presented with the W. Moscoe Huntley Award. Judge W. Moscoe Huntley was a founding member and first President of the Richmond Council. The award is given periodically to a Council member to

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recognize their dedication and outstanding service to the Council over an extended period. The award is the Council's highest form of member recognition.

- 03/20/2024: Richmond Council Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Spring Luncheon
Thirty-one Richmond Council members and guests participated in the Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Luncheon at the Willow Oaks Country Club. The keynote speaker was Captain John Paul Jones (USN-RET).
- 06/19/2024: Richmond Council Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon
Seventy-five Richmond Council members and guests participated in the Commander Theodore Ellyson Lunch at the Willow Oaks Country Club. The keynote speaker was Vice Admiral John B. Mustin, Commander Navy Reserve Force. In addition to Vice Admiral Mustin, there were two other serving admirals and two retired admirals in attendance.
- 08/09/2024: National Air & Space Museums' Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
Twenty-Three Richmond Council members and guests visited the National Air & Space Museums' Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, VA
- 10/23/2024: Sea Services Luncheon
Richmond Council members and guests observed and appreciated all four of our maritime services with our Sea Services Luncheon, which included ceremonial cake-cutting, Missing Man Table presentation, NJROTC Honor Guard, and a string quintet from Mechanicsville High School. Our keynote speaker was RDML Philip E. Sobeck, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command.
- 12/6/2024: Pear Harbor Remembrance, Virginia War Memorial
Nearly 100 people joined Richmond Council Navy League members and friends at the Virginia War Memorial for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day in Richmond. The attendees were welcomed by Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial and Vaughan Dize, President of the Richmond Council Navy League. The keynote speaker was Admiral Michael Curran (USN-RET). The ceremony was co-hosted by the Richmond Navy League Council and the Virginia War Memorial, with the support of the James M. Slay Detachment #329, Marine Corps League Honor Guard, the Varina High School NJROTC Color Guard, and the Richmond Naval Reserve and Recruiting units.

The ceremony included the presentation of wreaths by the Richmond Navy League Council, the Virginia War Memorial and the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors. In memory of those who died on December 7, 1941, there was a reading of the names of the 41 Virginians who were killed on that day. Each loss of a Virginia service member was memorialized by ringing the bell of the USS VIRGINIA (CGN-38) by LS1 Collin Bailey, USN. A Rifle Salute and Taps were provided by the James S. Slay Detachment, Marine Corp League.

A Richmond Council luncheon at the War Memorial followed the ceremony. It was attended by 35 individuals who heard a presentation by Admiral Michael Curran (USN-RET) on the status of US Naval readiness.

Media Coverage/Promotion was provided by the *Richmond Times Dispatch* newspaper, the *Richmond Free Press*, *Williamsburg-Yorktown Daily* newspaper, *Royal Examiner* newspaper - Front Royal, WWBT-12 Television - Richmond, Real Radio 804 - Tappahannock, Virginia War Memorial and Virginia Department of Veteran Affairs.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

America Division Sea Cadets

The Richmond Council established the America Division Sea Cadets program for the Richmond area in 1968 and has been in operation for 54 years. The typical participation has been 35 cadets per year, an estimated 1,855 cadets since 1968. In 2024, the Council donated \$5,000 to support for America Division programs and activities for 25 America Division Sea Cadets.

- 01/26/2024: Change of Command Ceremony Navy Reserve Center Richmond at the Virginia National Guard Headquarters building. Two Sea Cadets provided side boards.
- 02/04/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the Annual Inspection and awards ceremony. PO 2nd Class McKenna Carson was presented the Roosevelt Certificate; Medal; Ribbon and Gold Star. 25 individuals were in attendance.
- 03/02-03/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the America Division Regular Drill at the Naval Reserve Center Richmond. The guest speaker was CMDR Edward White (USN-Ret), 25 individuals in attendance.
- 04/13-14/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the unit's Regular Drill Weekend at the Naval Reserve Center Richmond. 20 individuals in attendance. The unit's Color Guard also supported an event at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond. Where Cadets Burns, Donahue and Smith received recruiting ribbons.
- 05/4-5/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the unit's Regular Drill Weekend at the Naval Reserve Center Richmond. 25 individuals in attendance.
- 09/14/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the Sea Cadets Rifle Qualification event at the Cavalier Gun and Pistol Club. 25 individuals were in attendance.
- 12/7/2024: Richmond Council members Vaughan Dize and Gary Riffle attended the unit's Regular Drill at the Naval Reserve Center Richmond. Retiring Sea Cadet Executive Officer ENS Michele Paki was also recognized. 30 individuals were in attendance.

Junior Reserve Officer Training (JROTC) Support

The Richmond Council supported nine Richmond area Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) programs, four Navy and four Marine Corps in 2024. Our support began with Highland Springs High School which implemented a Marine Corps JROTC program in 1985. In 1993, Varina High School implemented the first Richmond area Navy JROTC program. The current Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs supported by the Richmond Council and their starting dates are:

Highland Springs High School, Marine Corps (1985)	Varina High School, Navy (1993)
Hermitage High School, Marine Corps (1993)	J.R. Tucker High School, Marine Corps (1996)
Mechanicsville) High School, Navy (2001)	Patrick Henry High School, Navy (2002)
James River High School, Navy (2009)	Goochland High School, Marine Corps (2014)
New Kent County High School, Navy (2024)	

Cadets Enrolled in 2024

At the beginning of the 2024 school year, 752 cadets (425 Marines and 327 Navy), participated in the eight Richmond area JROTC programs we support. There was an average of 94 cadets per program at the beginning of the year and at the end of the 2024 school year, participation increased to 873 cadets (335 Marines and 538 Navy), an average of 97 cadets per program.

Marine Corps

Highland Springs High School - 68/80
Hermitage High School - 70/109
Mechanicsville High School - 86/87
James River High School - 58/59

Navy

Varina High School - 80/100
J.R. Tucker High School - 157/145
Patrick Henry High School - 103/116
Goochland High School - 130/140

On September 9, 2024, the Council adopted the new NJROTC program established at New Kent County High School, with 37 cadets.

The support provided by the Richmond Council to the JROTC units includes \$200 to support each cadet unit and a \$100 scholarship awarded to the Cadet of the Year for each high school. The Richmond Council also provides the Theodore Roosevelt Award to a student of any grade rank that has exhibited excellence as a cadet. This award includes a certificate, the Roosevelt Medal and Ribbon. The Council also provides the Perseverance Award recognizing a cadet for overcoming adversity during the year, who receives a Richmond Council Navy League Challenge Coin and Certificate. In 2024, the Richmond Council donated \$1,600 to support the JROTC units.

JROTC Events and Activities Supported by the Richmond Council

Annual Awards

- 03/28/2024: Patrick Henry High School NJROTC Awards Night
The Council was not able to participate in the Awards Night event but did provide the Cadet of the Year Award and a \$100 scholarship to Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Aliana Cooper and the Roosevelt Medal and Certificate to Senior Cadet Commander Lindsey Gholson.
- 04/17/2024: Mechanicsville High School NJROTC Awards Night
Richmond Council member Thomas T. Hassell, Jr., attended the awards event and presented the Cadet of the Year and a \$100 scholarship award to Cadet Lieutenant Valerie Tumlin, the Roosevelt Medal and Certificate to CPO Austin Andrews and the Perseverance Award to SN Ronna Watkins. 150 people in attendance.
- 04/24/2024: J. R Tucker High School MJROTC Awards Night
Council member John Harler, M.D., attended the awards event and presented the Cadet of the Year and a \$100 scholarship to Cadet Captain Natalie Sherlock, the Roosevelt Medal Award and Certificate to Cadet 2nd Lt. Chloe Chedester and the Perseverance Award to Cadet Private Alyssa Scholte.
- 05/2/2024 Varina High School NJROTC Awards Night
Council member James R. Dageforde, M.D., attended the awards event and presented Cadet of the Year and a \$100 scholarship was presented to Cadet Lieutenant Noah Fernandez, the Roosevelt Medal Award and Certificate to Cadet Petty Officer Second Class Laila Egerton. 50 people in attendance.

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- 05/03/2024 Highland Springs High School MCJROTC Awards Night
Council member George Feitig attended the awards event and presented the Cadet of the Year Award and a \$100 scholarship to Cadet Sergeant Major Duane Gary, the Roosevelt Medal and Certificate to Cadet Sergeant Arlyn Giddings and the Perseverance Award to Cadet PFC Rylee Wilkins. 100 people in attendance.
- 05/8/2024: Hermitage High School MCNJROTC Awards Night
Council members Jay Fiedler, M.D. and Vaughan Dize attended the awards event and presented the Cadet of the Year Award and a \$100 scholarship and the Theodore Roosevelt Medal Award and Certificate to Cadet 1st Lieutenant An Quynh Pham. The Perseverance Award was presented to Cadet LtCol Casey Stapleton. 150 in attendance.
- 5/22/2024: Goochland High School MCJROTC Awards Night
Council member Vaughan Dize attended the awards event and presented the Cadet of the Year Award and a \$100 scholarship to Cadet Samuel Farkas and the Roosevelt Award and Certificate to Cadet Greyson Grant. 200 people in attendance.
- May 2024 James River High School NJROTC Awards Night
Council member Gary K. Riffle, Jr., attended the awards event and presented received the Cadet of the Year Award and a \$100 scholarship to Cadet LT Sophia R. Lurey, the Roosevelt Medal Award Cadet LTJG Angel M. Gatto and the Perseverance Award to Cadet Seaman Felix C. Levy.

2024 Richmond Navy League Calendar of Events

January 17: Richmond Council's Annual Dinner and Business Meeting

February 12: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

March 20: Admiral Samuel L. Gravely Spring Luncheon

May 13: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

June 13: Black Lions VFA-213 Hangar Tour at Naval Air Station Oceana

June 19: Commander Theodore G. Ellyson Summer Luncheon

August 9: Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Museum Tour

September 9: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting

September 18: Golf Outing and Fund Raiser - Hollows Golf Club

October 16: Fall Sea Services Luncheon

December 6: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and Luncheon, Virginia War Memorial

December 9: Richmond Council Board of Directors Meeting