



October 2026



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Smooth Sailing on the Greens - - - Capturing a Successful Win!

Council's biggest annual fundraiser, our annual golf outing, was great fun and a successful win for the Navy League!

Eighty golfers enjoyed a perfect spring day and a competitive round of 18 holes of Captains Choice Golf at the Hollows Golf Club in Montpelier, VA.

The day was kicked off with lots of door prizes donated by our corporate sponsors, and a delicious pork BBQ buffet lunch.

This year we had over \$5,000.00 in prizes, donated by numerous business sponsors.

Before heading out for the Tee-off, Navy League member, Mike Denton, sang a beautiful rendition of *The Star-Spangled Banner*. What a special treat that was!!

We'd like to thank one of our adopted ships, Coast Guard Cutter **USS Spenser** for their two teams (and for one of

the sailor's dad joining in too), *and* for making the drive from Norfolk, VA.

Congratulations to the following winners:

1st Place:

John Cucchiara
Jacob Gupton
Michael Dazemore
Mitchel Pereira, II

2nd Place:

David Small
Andy Sullivan
T.J. Evans
B.J. Throckmorton

3rd Place:

Richard Thorson
Dane Thorson
Dave Burhop
Patrick Burhop

Closest to the Pin Lake #1:

Curt Carver

Closest to the Pin Road #6:

Jacob Gupton

Longest Drive Lake #7:

Patrick Burhop

Our net results were over \$13,000. The funds came from corporate sponsors, players, mulligans, 50/50 raffle, the Freedom Outdoors Shooting Range raffle and the Honor Roll of Giving Donors. **Thank you!**

Another **HUGE** thank you goes out to the Golf Committee and the volunteers who manned the registration desk, raffle tables and the refreshment carts. We could not have done it without you.

If you missed this outing – you missed A GOOD ONE! Hope to see you at our 38th Annual Golf Outing in 2027...come *join the fun!* 🍷

Golf Outing cont. on pages 3 & 4



Players locate their carts and get ready for the Hollows Golf Pro, Robert McCroskey, to head them off.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

Sadly, since my last message, the RCNL has lost two distinguished Board members, Dr Adam J. (Jay) Fiedler and Thomas T. Hassell, Jr. Both men served as Council President's and contributed greatly to our success. Both will be missed very much.

Dr. Fiedler recently passed in August and Tom Hassell passed in September. A Celebration of Life will be held for Tom Hassell on October 30th at the Hanover Tavern, 13181 Hanover Courthouse Road from 1-3 PM.

At the September Board meeting, The Board of Directors voted to approve Nottoway High School NJROTC to our supported JROTC Units. Welcome aboard!!

On September 10, the Flying Squir-

rels had a Military Appreciation night at the new CarMax Ball Park. The Navy League was well represented with a turnout of over 50 people. Navy League member, Alan Clemmons, threw out the first pitch.

As our front-page article indicates, our Annual Golf Outing was a **GREAT success** again this year, with 20 teams and great weather. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to all the sponsors, players and volunteers. This outing would not be successful without you!

The James M. Slay Detachment, Marine Corps League, is still in need of a Navy representative for their Color Guard. If interested, contact our office at 804-355-7557, and we will get in touch with Joe Kelleher, USMC.

Just a reminder, if anyone is interested in a project, the **USS Katie (SP-660)** is for sale at the James River Yacht Basin. One of the Last WW1 boats.

Events in Navy History October:

- October 12, 2000: **USS Cole** attacked in Yemen
- October 13, 1775: Navy Birthday
- October 13, 1987: The United States Navy Memorial dedicated
- October 23-26, 1944: Battle of Leyte Gulf
- October 23, 1983: 220 Marines, 18 Sailors, and 3 Soldiers killed in attack on U.S. headquarters in Beirut

Until next month may you have fair winds and following seas!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



"Never put passion before principle. Even if you win, you lose."

This message is the second in a series of three messages taken from the wisdom of Mr. Miyagi in the Karate Kid trilogy.

The wisdom in this quote from Karate Kid II – *"Never put passion before principle. Even if you win, you lose"* is an essential element to living a life of honor. By definition, the word "passion" is a strong and barely controllable emotion. A passion is a feeling. So, we could rephrase this quote to say, "Never put feelings before your principles."

What are principles? They are the changeless constants that guide us towards what we value most. In the case of Karate Kid II, Mr. Miyagi was explaining why he chose not to fight a man to get a woman for whom he was passionate. His principles dictated that karate should only be used in defense. Mr. Miyagi was willing to leave his family, village, and the woman he loved to keep principle in its proper place.

The wisdom of this quote is found in Scripture that God's eternal truth and self-controlled righteousness must always guide human emotions.

Biblical Principles vs. Passion (Emotions):

- The Deceitfulness of Feelings - Proverbs 28:26 warns that "those who trust in themselves are fools," and Jeremiah 17:9 notes that the human heart is "deceitful above all things." Scripture teaches that raw passion or anger should never override God's moral principles.

- Self-Control as a Fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23 lists self-control as a core spiritual virtue. Acting purely on impulsive passion leads to sin, whereas anchoring oneself in biblical principle brings life.

- The cost of "Winning Without Integrity" - Proverbs 13:11 and Matthew 16:26 echo the idea of "losing even if we win," noting that gaining the whole world or temporary satisfaction at the cost of one's soul and moral integrity is a total loss.

How many times do we put our feelings ahead of our principles? The examples are endless, and we all violate them from time to time. But, what if we could build a reputation around being people who actively practice keeping our principles ahead of our passions/feelings? Those are the people we admire. Those are the greatest among us. Those who serve themselves and others well, even and precisely, when they don't **feel** like it. 🍀

The Lucky Bag

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Council's Biggest Fundraiser, Our 37th Golf Outing - - A BIG Success!

Thank You to all the volunteers, sponsors, golfers and our 2026 Honor Roll of Giving Donors listed below for your donations of time and monetary donations. Through your generous donations, you helped to make Richmond Council's golf outing another BIG success!! Thanks to you, Richmond Council Navy League can continue to provide support to our Nation's Sea Services, nine local high school JROTC programs, and the AMERICA Division USN Sea Cadet Corps.

Academy Sports – Elizabeth Self
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Father Bill Bartz
Frank Carlomagno
Freedom Outdoors Shooting Range –
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George Feitig
Grapevine Restaurant – Mitchell Trak
Hannah Miller – Youngblood, Tyler
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Maria Gallegos
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M.E. Keeton Electrical Contractors,
Inc. - Michael Keeton, Jr.
Michael Denton's Family

Winners of the Day

Naked Goat Soap Co. – Heather Long
Mission BBQ – Travis Williamson, Mgr.
Pat Harris
Pat Robson
Patient First – Ian Slinkman
(5000 Cox Road)
Philip Gahm
RADM Michael J. Lyden
RDML John G. Hekman
Richard Thorson
Richmond Flying Squirrels
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Richmond Tax Advisors
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Suzanne Feigley / Roy Martin
Family
The Hollows Country Club
Robert McCroskey, Golf Pro
The Restaurant Co. T/A Arby's
John P. Ripp
Tom Hassell
Tom Jennings
University of Richmond Strategic
Ticketing & Sales Analytics -
Brad Dilen, Assistant Sales Dir.
Vaughan Dize
Vietnam Veterans Chapter 78
Gary Riffle
Virginia Commonwealth University
Department of Athletics -
Emily Bolyard, Athletic Compliance
Coordinator
Wal Mart / 1504 N. Parham Road
Nick Carver, Manager
Warren Wolstenholme

1st Place with a score of 56:



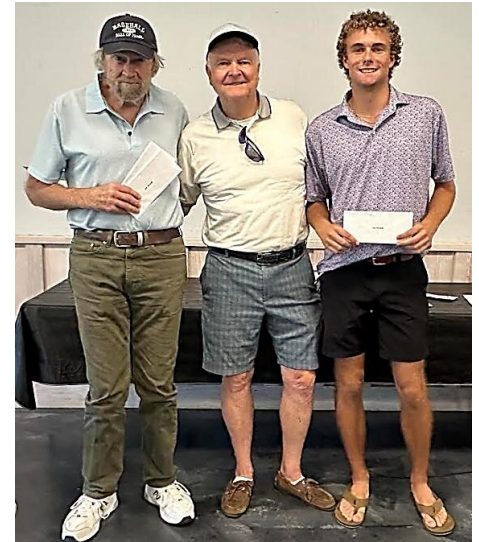
Pictured L to R: Michael Dazemore, Mitchel Pereira, Jacob Gupton and Team Captain John Cucchaira. David Chaffins

2nd Place, with a score of 57:



Pictured L to R: T. J. Evans, Mastec Team Captain David Small, B. J. Funai and Andy Sullivan.

3rd Place, with a tiebreaker score of 57:



Pictured L to R: Richard Thorson, Dave & Patrick Burhop

Winners continued from page 3

Closest to the Pin:

Lake #1: Curt Carver

Road #6: Jacob Gupton

Longest Drive:

Lake #7: Patrick Burhop



A very special thank you to these ladies for another year assisting with the purchases of Mulligans and 50-50 raffle tickets, along with running the refreshment cart throughout the day, AND receiving tips that they graciously gave back to the Navy League. You all do a GREAT job, and we thank you for your service! Pictured left to right: Bonnie Haist and Melissa Hill from Herndon Law Group and Hannah Miller from Youngblood, Tyler and Associates Firm.



Coastguardsman James Simon with his dad, James Simon, Sr.



Council's Chaplain, John Harler's high school buddies traveled quite the distance to participate in the outing. Pictured left to right: John Harler; Rick Hicks from OH, Bill Hall from TN; and Doug Gardner from NC and Will Gardner (Doug's son) is from Newport News, VA.



Coastguardsmen from USS *Spencer* (WMEC-905) pictured above with Council's President, Vaughan Dize and Chaplain, John Harler. Thank you, Evan Gabbard; Connor Peterreit; Diago Rodriguez; David Herrington; Jacob Van-Scoyoc; Jevin Rivenbark; James Simon and James Cloutier for joining us in this event.



Bill Butler calls out ANOTHER winning ticket for David Small. He was the proud winner of the 50/50 raffle, and Gift Certificates to: Cliff Bruce Photography Studio, HONDO's Restaurant and Richmond Tax Advisors. Lucky guy!



Richard Thorson shares the excitement as his teammate, Patrick Burhop, wins winning tickets to U of R home basketball & football games. Another lucky winner!

Recent Passings of Two Past Council Presidents Thomas T. Hassell, Jr and Adam J. (Jay) Fiedler, MD

IN MEMORY OF TOM



Thomas Tillman Hassell, Jr.
May 5, 1940 – September 5, 2026

Tom Hassell's father entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1915 and was sent to the fleet as a Midshipman in 1917, when the U.S. entered the Great War. After the war, Tom's father graduated from the Naval Academy, served on active duty for a few more years, and then entered the Naval Reserve. When the U.S. entered WWII, his father returned to active duty. He retired as a Commander.

Tom desperately wanted to join the U.S. Navy because of his father's service. However, he failed the Navy's entrance physical exam because of poor eyesight. He tried the Army and Air Force with the same results.

He subsequently graduated from the University of Virginia in 1963 and the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law in 1966. He maintained a general practice in Richmond's West End for 50 years. In the 1970s, he began working as an adjunct instructor at VCU's School of Business, a role he held for 20 years.

Tom's dream of joining the Navy came to fruition in 1992, when he joined the Richmond Navy League, where he served six terms as President. He served as the Richmond Navy League's Liaison to the **USCGC Northland** for many years, then became Liaison to the **USCGC Legare** and later the **USCGC Spenser**. In his role as Liaison to the cutters, he developed close relationships with the COs and XO's and maintained them beyond their retirements. The officers and crews of the cutters loved Tom dearly.

When Tom retired from his private

practice in 2016, he made the Richmond Navy League his full-time work, going "to the office" most every day with the other retired office volunteers, where there was camaraderie and fellowship along with planning how to support the adopted ships and other supported units, which was of utmost priority.

In 2019 the Board recognized Tom's service by presenting him with the prestigious Honorable William Moscoe Huntley Award for outstanding service to the Council.

The Richmond Navy League has lost one of its greatest assets in the passing of Thomas T. Hassell, Jr.

Requiescat in pace, Tom! 🍀



Council Board Members Dennis Biggs (on left) and Tom Jennings (on right) interchange with Tom Hassell before a Council's Luncheon.

IN MEMORY OF JAY



Adam "Jay" Julius Fiedler, MD
May 31, 1943 – August 21, 2026

Dr. Fiedler graduated with honors from Washington and Lee University (1965) and from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (1969). He served in the U.S. Army from 1971 to 1973, during which time he attained the rank of Major and received the Army Commendation Medal. Following his military service, he returned to Baltimore and completed his

residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Johns Hopkins. In 1975, he and his family moved to Richmond, where he practiced Ob-Gyn until his retirement in 2011.

Jay was a Renaissance man, with many hobbies and interests. He was an avid sailor and sailed his sloop *Invictus* to Bermuda, Nantucket, Block Island, and around the Chesapeake Bay. He especially enjoyed photography, model trains, travel, marksmanship, British sports cars, and reading. He was also a notorious punster. He and his wife, Sally, enjoyed many trips throughout the Occident, especially in the Mediterranean basin. He was a member of The Commonwealth Club and a former member of the Fishing Bay and Yankee Point Yacht clubs. He was proud to be a Kentucky Colonel.

Being an avid sailor, Jay joined the Richmond Council Navy League in 2018 and served two terms as President in 2021 and 2023. He served as the Council Liaison with the **USS Normandy (CG-60)** for several years. He was also the Council photographer, taking pictures at our various events through the years.

Thank you, Jay, for your service to our country in the Army Medical Corps and your service to our nation's sea services through the Navy League.

Requiescat in pace, Jay, and we wish you fair winds and following seas as you sail into your eternal resting place. 🍀



Jay Fiedler (far left) and other RCNL Board Members met with Tom Cross (Director, State & Local Gov't Affairs-The Port of VA), for a tour in June 2023.

Military Appreciation Night At CarMax Park

On September 10, 2026, CarMax Park held a tribute to America's Military and, after the game, a rescheduled spectacular drone show.

More than fifty council members, family and friends were present to join in the celebration.

The US Naval Sea Cadet Corps AMERICA Division presented the Colors before the game and 1st Class Petty Officer Madelyn Crossland, of the US Navy Band from Washington, DC, sang our National Anthem

A shout out goes to Council member Alan Clemmons for throwing a first pitch. Way to go, Alan!

Neither the interrupted rain delay nor the Richmond Squirrels loss to the Chesapeake Bay Sox could dampen the crowd's spirit. Much fun was had at the 'ole ball game! 🍀



George Feitig and Fran Garrett meet the new Richmond Squirrels female mascot, Nutasha, before the game.



UNSCC America Division Sea Cadets.



1st Class Petty Officer Madelyn Crossland from the United States Navy Band in Washington, DC with Council member, Alan Clemmons.



Council member, Alan Clemmons, joins two ladies in throwing the first pitch.



"Take me out to the 'ole ball game."
One of many creative drone images.

Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony



Source of photo: VA War Memorial website

On November 11, 2026, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM, join the Virginia War Memorial for the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony as we honor Virginia's Veterans and recognize the service and sacrifice of all who have worn our nation's uniform. 🍀

Marine Corps 251st Birthday Ball

November 7, 2026
1700 – 2000

Lakewood Retirement Community
1900 Lauderdale Drive
Henrico, VA 23238

Social Hour

Cash Bar (\$15): Soft Drinks & Adult Beverages

Dinner

Buffet Dinner with prime Rib, Seafood Entrée, Salad, Assorted Vegetables & Bread

Formal Ceremony & Birthday Cake Cutting

Guest Speaker

MajGen William H. Seely, III,
USMC (Ret)

VA Tech Commandant of Cadets

Dress

Mess Dress, Dress Blues, Red Blazer or Civilian Cocktail Attire

\$60.00 per Person

Purchases end at room capacity

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THE MISSION OF THE U.S. NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS



The mission of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps is to build leaders of character by imbuing in our cadets the highest ideals of honor, respect, commitment, and service.

"...through organization and cooperation with the Department of the Navy, to encourage and aid American youth to develop, train them in seagoing skills, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance and kindred virtues." - NSCC Charter - 36 USC 1541

Since 1958 the Naval Sea Cadet Corps has been committed to providing American youth with a drug and alcohol-free environment to foster their leadership abilities, broaden their horizons through hands-on training and guide them to becoming mature young adults.

Sea Cadet organizations exist in most of the maritime nations of the world. Recognizing the value of these organizations in educating youth in maritime matters, the Department of the Navy requested the Navy League of the United States to establish a similar program for American youth. The Navy League agreed to do so and formally established the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) and Navy League Cadet Corps (NLCC) in 1958. Recognizing the importance and benefits of the NSCC, Congress on September 10, 1962, federally incorporated the Naval Sea Cadet Corps under Public Law 87-655 (36 USC 1541).

The Four Core Values

- **Honor:** Conducting yourself in the highest ethical manner, telling the truth,

and maintaining an uncompromising code of integrity.

- **Respect:** Treating all people with dignity, fairness, compassion, and fostering an inclusive culture that values diversity.

- **Commitment:** Keeping your word, taking responsibility for your actions, and holding yourself accountable to your duties.

- **Service:** Putting the needs of your unit, team, and country before yourself and demonstrating a dedication to public service.

The United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps is a voluntary youth development organization. It was introduced officially by the request of the Secretary of the United States Navy on August 4, 1958. Today, 8,600 Sea Cadets are trained on average (2025). The headquarters of the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps is located in Arlington, VA.

The United States Congress created the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps by passing of Public Law 93-5043 6 U.S.C. § 1541 in 1962. It was named at the request of the United States Department of the Navy, by the Navy League of the United States. The United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps received money from the United States Coast Guard and the United States Navy.

The United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps began as being a gang in a drug free environment. It grew to offer skills that later include aviation, photography, physical training, and first aid. Kids are nicknamed "Sea Cadets" because of its use in literature. Often, there are activities where kids may learn from other cultures because of the organization International Exchange Program (IEP). Sea Cadets receive higher pay and more benefits if they choose to join the armed forces.

Early History

A Navy Admiral from the United States, Arleigh Burke, and the former Secretary of the Navy, Thomas S. Gates Jr, requested the Navy League of the United States make the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps to create a favorable image for the United States Navy.



Navy Admiral Arleigh Burke

By 10 September 1962, the United States Congress federally chartered the organization. United States Congress also gave the Navy League of the United States the legal rights to the name *United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps* by the passing of Public Law 93-5043 6 U.S.C. § 1541 (1962).

Being not profitable by law, the United States Navy, and the United States Coast Guard helped with clothing and training and later helped other branches of the armed services. Another Navy Admiral, nicknamed "Catlett", is noted as saying, *"The program offers the Navy a powerful new force toward awakening America"*, in 1964 in the *Naval Aviation News*.

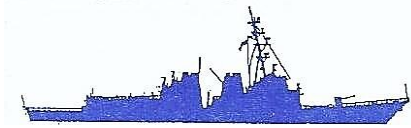
Women Enrollment

In 1974, the charter was amended by Public Law 93-504, to allow women participation, this was the first time in the history of the United States Navy Sea Cadet Corps that young women were able to join. After the introduction of the amendment women recruitment would increase allowing for an increase in funding. Organizations such as the USNSCC and many others still face prejudice as discrimination laws usually are not used by the federal government or enforced. ✍

(sources: SeaCadet.org and Wikipedia)

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

(these reports may be edited to fit the space available)



USS Gravely (DDG-107)
CO: LCDR James Showanes
XO: Vacant / Transitioning
CMC: CMDCM LeDezman Johnson

Alan Clemmons, Liaison

USS Gravely is currently in port. ✍



USCGC Northland (WMEC-904)
CO: CDR Jonathan M. Wolstenholme
XO: LCDR Charles Chavtur
CSEL: MKC Ethan Stanford

Vaughan Dize, Liaison

USCGC Northland is currently in port. ✍



USS Carter Hall (LSD-50)
CO: CDR Brittany N. Lynn
XO: CDR Phillip E. Wise
CMC: CMDCM Chelsea L. Turner

Pat Robson, Liaison
Dennis Biggs, Assistant Liaison

USS Carter Hall (LSD-50) recently passed its Light Off Assessment with a score of 97.5%, which is the **best score ever achieved by an LSD!**

A Light Off Assessment (LOA) is a comprehensive evaluation of a Navy ship's engineering plant, crew readiness, and safety systems conducted prior to lighting off propulsion machinery after major maintenance. (Source: Co-Pilot search). A four-day pre-LOA inspection is conducted 4 to 8 weeks prior to the actual 3-day LOA, which allows time for the correction of discrepancies.



Engineering Department of USS Carter Hall (LSD-50). Team scored a 97.5 on its Light Off Assessment (LOA), BEST score of an LSD EVER!

USS Carter Hall's Engineering Department deserves an **immense Bravo Zulu** for this accomplishment. This is top-notch professionalism and material readiness. ✍

Very Respectfully,
ENS Sabu, Marina E. ENS, USN



USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)
CO: CDR Steven M. Volk
XO: LCDR Harrison Carter
CSEL: MKC Andrew Chavez

Thomas A. Jennings, Liaison

From The **Spencer Scuttlebutt** Newsletter:

While the ship may not be sailing, the work has not slowed down. Throughout the ship numerous projects are being tackled to ensure **Spencer** is ready for the next deployment. We have begun cleaning our potable water tanks, we've cut out sections of the steel deck (e.g. floor) to remove rust, we've ripped apart the galley for a needed upgrade, and we are working stem to stern prep ping, priming and painting the hull. Many folks ashore may not realize that the same crew who sails **Spencer** also does all her own maintenance. In addition to maintenance, we've conducted training to maintain our craft, indoctrinate our newly reported crew members and take care of ourselves and families. We are working on our first aid qual-

ifications, small arms proficiency and our small boat skills all while balancing life at home.

Every crew member is hard at working getting **Spencer** and ourselves ready, and I have the utmost confidence in the crew. ✍

Valor, Honor, & Tradition
CO CDR Steven M. Volk

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans Forum

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2026

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

Time: Doors open 11:15 AM
Arrive No later than 11:45 AM

Guest Speaker: Steven Wills, PhD. Dr. Wills retired from the U.S. Navy and will discuss Mine Warfare in the Strait of Hormuz.

Reminder Richmond Council's Sea Services Luncheon

Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2026

Time: 11:30 AM Registration
12:00 PM Program Begins

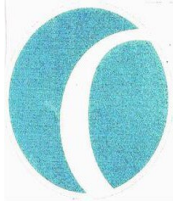
Place: Richmond Country Club
12950 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23238

Guest Speaker: Rear Admiral Benjamin R. Nicholson, Commander, U.S. Navy's Military Sealift Command

Topic: MSC's Achievements and Challenges

Thank You Sponsors!

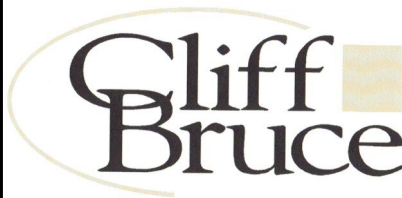
Your Financial contribution to the Richmond Navy League provides Funds for programs supporting those serving in the United States Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Council's Youth Programs; the Naval Sea Cadet Corps and the Local Navy and Marine JROTC Units.



CLARIS

F I N A N C I A L , L L C

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PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



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Chapter 78
(804) 512-7746



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Mechanicsville, VA 23111
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Richmond Tax Advisors

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Richmond, VA 23230
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A BIG heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your generous donations that allows us to continue supporting our four adopted ships, U.S. Marine Corps, The AMERICA Division Sea Cadet Corps, our Deployment Dollar Program and our nine (soon ten) JROTC High School Programs throughout the Richmond and surrounding area.

Thanks to you, our 2026 Golf Outing was one of our most successful fundraisers!



Our Motto: They Serve, We Support **Our Mission Statement:** The Richmond, VA Council Navy League is a civilian, volunteer, 501(c) (3) non-profit charitable educational organization. Our primary mission is to support the men and women of our nation's Sea Services: U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine and Military Sealift, their families, and our related local Naval Sea Cadet and JROTC youth programs. We support all branches of active-duty military personnel and their families with care packages and monetary contributions to Morale, Welfare and Recreation Programs. Through the National Navy League, we are advocates for legislation regarding the Sea Services.



Thanks for jumping on board !!!

2026 ANCHOR CLUB MISSION:

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

2026 USS ANCHOR CLUB

Ronnie A. Allen
Howard E. Bartholf
John F. Bartholomew
Father William J. Bartz
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