



Sept 2026



The Lucky Bag

RICHMOND, VA COUNCIL NAVY LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES

Sea Services Luncheon, Wednesday October 14th, 2026, Rear Admiral Nicholson speaks about Military Sealift Command's Achievements and Challenges. Don't Miss This One!

There's an old adage that *"It ain't bragging if you actually DID it."* RADM Benjamin R. Nicholson, Commander of the Military Sealift Command, will be the keynote speaker for our October 14th Sea Services Luncheon, held at the Richmond Country Club.

He will mention that for the first time in the history of the Military Sealift Command (77 years), TWO **USNS ships**, the **USNS Kanawha, T-AO-196**, an oiler, and the **USNS William McLean, T-AKE-12**, a dry stores and ammunition ship, were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their stellar support of the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford strike group during Operation Epic Fury. This is a **first** for civilian-operated ships. It won't be bragging (they actually did it), but RADM Nicholson will give us an overview of the importance of the non-combatant operational lifelines that are Military Sealift Command



GUEST SPEAKER

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

ships, their achievements, and their challenges.

RADM Nicholson will also highlight the aggressive steps MSC is taking to grow its Civil Service Mariner (CIVMAR) workforce and improve quality of life at sea, including landmark pay reform that lifted long-standing caps on Mariner compensation, recruitment and referral bonuses, new commissary privileges, and a concerted push to reduce overdue crew reliefs. If you attend any luncheon in 2026, **choose this one.** ✍

SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

DATE: Wednesday October 14, 2026
TIME: 11:30 AM Registration
12:00 PM Luncheon
12:45 PM Program
PLACE: Richmond Country Club
12950 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, VA 23238
COST: \$ 35.00 per person

Reservation Deadline for SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON: To be received by Monday, Oct. 5, 2026

****Refund Policy 2026:** Cancellations will be accepted & checks returned
UP TO and INCLUDING the "deadline date."

RESERVATIONS FOR SEA SERVICES LUNCHEON – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Name: _____ Tel: _____ email: _____

Fish meals will ONLY be available to those requesting it PRIOR to deadline date: If desired, circle 1 or 2 for a fish meal(s)

Total # of Res. _____ \$ 35.00 per person Enclosed: \$ _____ N.L. Office Tel #: (804) 355-7557

Make check payable (and mail) to: Richmond Council NLUS P.O. Box 11201 Richmond, VA 23230

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vaughan F. Dize



Greetings Fellow Richmond Council Navy League Members and Friends.

The Richmond Council's Annual Golf Outing is just around the corner, and our 2026 "golf fundraising" is on-going.

The "golf fundraiser" funds covers office overhead such as rent, secretary's salary, printing and mailing of our monthly newsletter and quarterly luncheon programs, golf brochures, Council's Navy League Brochures, office equipment, and supplies, etc.

The "golf fundraiser" funds differ from the "Anchor Club" funds in that, the Anchor Club monies support our four adopted ships and other supported units, including the Military Sealift Command, Naval Reserves, Navy Recruiting, and the youth programs: USN Sea Cadets, five Naval JROTC Units and four Marine JROTC Units, the Strike Fighter Squadron 213 – Blacklions, and our Care Package program.

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

I hope this will help you understand what your generous donations support.

Our upcoming events for September:

September 10th: RCNL members and guests will be attending the Military Appreciation Night at the Flying Squirrels Baseball Game. The AMERICA Division USN Sea Cadet Corps Color Guard will be presenting the Colors before the start of the 7:05 PM game.

September 16th: Our Golf Outing at the Hollows Golf Club, in Montpelier, is Council's biggest annual fundraiser. If you haven't done so, please send in your golf team registration to: Richmond Council Navy League; P.O. Box 11201; Richmond, VA 12120. **It's not too late to sign up!** Please visit our web site at: navyleague-richmond.com to help with this annual fundraiser.

September 18th: Oceana Air Show. Richmond Council will not be providing a bus this year, but you can go on your own. **Base access form must be filled out before going.**

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.

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.

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Events in Navy History September

- September 2, 1945, V-J Day - President Truman declares victory as Japan surrenders.
- September 10, 1813 - Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's squadron defeats British in Battle of Lake Erie.
- September 11, 2001 - Pentagon and World Trade Center attacked.
- September 14, 1814 - Master Commandant Thomas Macdonough's squadron totally defeats the British squadron in Plattsburg Bay in the Battle of Lake Champlain.
- September 15, 1950, Landing at Inchon.
- September 23, 1779, Captain John Paul Jones to HMS Serapis: *"I have not yet begun to fight!"*

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

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 luncheon.

New Member

Bruce E. McCook

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Chaplain John A. Harler, M.D.



"You remember lesson about balance? Lesson not just karate only. Lesson for whole life. Whole life have a balance. Everything be better. Understand?"

This is the first in a series of three messages inspired by the wisdom of Mr. Miyagi in *The Karate Kid* trilogy. In the first film, Mr. Miyagi teaches Daniel LaRusso that balance is essential not only in karate, but throughout life.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us, **"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."**

A balanced life begins by recognizing the purpose of each season and prayerfully choosing where to devote our time, talents, and energy. We are often presented with many worthwhile opportunities. The challenge is to discern where our involvement can be most meaningful and how we can serve faithfully while honoring our other responsibilities.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:33, **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."** Proverbs 19:21 also reminds us; **"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."**

These verses encourage us to place God's purposes at the center of our decisions. When we seek His guidance, we can respond to opportunities with wisdom, enthusiasm, and a clear sense of purpose.

As we look toward the future, let us strive to build lives marked by balance and meaningful service. May we recognize the opportunities God places before us, generously share the gifts He has given us, and say "yes" to the ways we are called to make a difference. 🌊

Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Richmond Change of Command

On August 7, 2026, NTAG Richmond held their Change of Command Ceremony at the U.S. Army Ordnance Training Support Facility in Fort Lee, VA.

Commander Timothy L. Henderson was relieved by Commander Anthony L. Bryant as Commanding Officer.

The new XO for NTAG is Commander Daniel O'Keefe. 🇺🇸



Incoming CO CDR Anthony L. Bryant

President Vaughan Dize met U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Chase Patrick at the Change of Command Ceremony. Impressed by his conversation with President Dize and learning more about the Council's mission, Rear Admiral Patrick followed up with the following letter:

Dear Vaughan, 08/08/2026

I really appreciated meeting you yesterday and am grateful for your role within the Navy League in Richmond. Sustaining appreciation and awareness of the nation's maritime services is an incredibly important and noble undertaking, now more than ever as recapitalization of maritime formations is likely only to get harder under current federal budget conditions. But I think the nation has gotten a pretty clear look at how important the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard continue to be to the nation's national security strategy and interests. With the steady support of the NLUS Richmond, Virginia Council and other chapters, I am confident we will continue to preserve essential maritime capabilities as well as a deep reverence for those who served the past 250 years, while inspiring future young Americans to join and make a difference.

Thank you and your colleagues for supporting so many important naval programs in the Richmond area. And I really appreciate the coin!

Have a great rest of summer!

Thanks, and very much respectfully,

*Chase Patrick
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy*

(follow-up: I am officially retiring after 32 years at the end of this month. My final assignment was Commandant of the National War College on Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, DC, whose mission is to educate joint, interagency, and international leaders and warfighters, by conducting a senior-level course of study in national security strategy, preparing graduates to function at the highest levels of strategic leadership, in a complex, competitive, and rapidly evolving strategic environment. I look forward to supporting advocacy for the maritime services in this next chapter!) 🇺🇸

AMERICA Division Sea Cadets

On August 1, 2026, the USN AMERICA Division Sea Cadets held their New Cadet Orientation and Physical Training at the Naval Reserve Center in Richmond, VA.

The new cadets were given a synopsis of what was expected of them and the rewards for hard work. 🇺🇸



During the program, CO Instructor Steve Donahue promotes Cadet Andrew Smith to Petty Officer 2nd Class. Bravo Zulu Cadet Smith!

"What Did You Do This Summer?" asked the Sea Cadets of AMERICA Division.

We had twelve cadets go to Recruit Training. Eleven went to State Military Reservation, VA Beach and one went to Joint Base Dix, NJ. Recruit Training is the Sea Cadet version of boot camp. It prepares new recruits for the rest of their Sea Cadet experiences.

We had four of our cadets go to Petty Officer Leadership Academy (POLA). Three went to Kentucky and one to the State Military Reservation, VA Beach. POLA is the premier leadership course for cadets who want to become staff cadets and promote beyond PO3. The Kentucky POLA was led by a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army 101 Airborne Division, but he was able to bring in leaders from every branch of the military to speak on leadership, so we won't hold that against him.

AMERICA Division had three cadets attend Basic Medical in Tennessee. This basic medical was comprehensive and integrated. It taught the cadets basic first aid, CPR, etc. but also gave exposure to Tactical Medical, and Field Medical as the cadets from basic medical got to integrate with the other medical trainings and see them in action.

We also had one cadet at a Homeland Security Training at Joint Base Dix, NJ. This training taught legal and hands on aspects of Coast Guard homeland security activities, until the Coast Guard that was doing the training got an emergency deployment to Venezuela, which taught the cadets real world scenarios. (Cadet did not deploy).

We also had one cadet attend the basic MSC Merchant Marine training out of Virginia. This training taught fire control, logistics transport, rescue operations and general seamanship.

Another one of our cadets was able to attend the Master At Arms (MAA) training in Arkansas. The first few days of this training were classroom instruction on the legalities and responsibilities of military police. The second half got really fun with mock arrests and vehicle inspections and other applications of the classroom instruction.

We also had five cadets attend various OPSAIL events in Virginia Beach and Baltimore Harbor. One of these cadets was able to sail with the fleet from Virginia Beach to Baltimore!

One of our cadets was able to go to a Merchant Marine training in Maryland, that taught about the boat operations in and around a harbor and allowed the cadets to use a tugboat simulator to move ships in and out of the harbor using proper navigation. 🇺🇸

Submitted By: AMERICA Division CO Instructor Steve Donahue

Remembering 9/11: Honoring the Fallen; Standing Ready



9/11 Memorial Graphic (U.S. Navy graphic by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Arthurgwain L. Marquez).

Twenty-five years have passed since the tragic events of September 11, 2001, yet the solemn memory of that day remains etched into our nation's history. We pause to remember the 2,977 innocent lives lost at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. We also honor the extraordinary courage of the first responders and civilians who rushed into danger when our country needed them most.

In the hours and days following the attacks, the U.S. Navy answered the call. Sailors and maritime forces mobilized to secure our shores, support rescue and recovery efforts, and defend freedom around the globe. For over two decades, our active-duty reserve, and civilian personnel have carried forward a profound legacy of resilience, sacrifice, and watchfulness.

As current generations of service members watch over the fleet and our allies, the lessons of 9/11 remind us that readiness, teamwork, and resolve are our greatest shields. Today, we reaffirm our foundational vow to always be ready to defend our nation and honor the memory of those we lost.

- **Never Forget:** Reflect on the lives taken and the families who carry that loss.

- **Stand Ready:** Maintain our commitment to operational readiness and mutual support across every deck and station.

- **Live the Values:** Exemplify the courage, compassion, and unity that define our maritime service. 🚩

(sources: websites: Navyreserve.navy.mil and med.navy.mil)

Houston-Holicky-Sitter Veterans Forum

Date: Tuesday, September 8, 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: SgtMaj Carlos A. Ruiz, USMC; the 20th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps and the senior enlisted advisor to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. 🚩

OLD DOMINION HONOR FLIGHTS FOR VETERANS

Old Dominion Honor Flight is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They are a 501(c)3 corporation. Old Dominion Honor Flight of Virginia serves the Richmond area and Southeastern Virginia to include the Outer Banks and Northeast North Carolina.

Honoring Coastal VA WWII, Korean and Vietnam War Era Veterans. Their mission is to transport America's Veterans to Washington, D.C. to honor their sacrifice and service.

This is available in October to Veterans **only**. If interested, visit their website at olddominionhonorflight.org or call 877-261-3430 for more information. 🚩

REMINDER

**Council's 37th Annual Golf Outing
Wednesday, September 16, 2026**

at the Hollows Golf Club
14501 Greenwood Church Road
Montpelier, VA 23192

Registration: 10:30 AM

Lunch: 11:00 AM

(Pork BBQ catered lunch)

Tee Off: 12:30 PM

Mulligans - \$5.00 each/two for \$9.00

Team awards for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

Individual prizes for Closest to the
Pin & Longest Drive

Raffle and Door Prizes

50/50 Drawing **CASH ONLY**

Dust off your clubs

And come join us!

2026 HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

Richmond Council's annual Golf Outing is our largest fundraiser of the year. While many of us enjoy participating on the course, we know that many of our members are not golfers. That is why we are asking everyone to consider making a financial contribution to help us reach our **\$10,000 fundraising goal**.

No matter the amount, every donation helps the Richmond Council continue its mission of supporting the men and women of our Sea Services through scholarships, youth programs, military recognition, community outreach, and other initiatives that make a meaningful difference.

Please take a moment to **review the attached flyers in the back of this issue**, which outlines several suggested giving levels. We hope you join us in supporting those who serve our nation. All contributors **will be acknowledged** as a golf sponsor in **The Lucky Bag** newsletter, and we will recognize all member donors in the **2026 Honor Roll of Giving** on the last page of the October issue of **The Lucky Bag**, on the **website**, and at our **14 October Sea Services Luncheon**. Although this fundraiser is called the 2026 Golf Fundraiser, we will keep it going until our Sea Services Luncheon on 14 October.

There are two ways to make your donation:

- Go to our secure website: <http://www.navyleague-richmond.com> and click on the link to donate online. Please type in the box the designation of funds - "support golf fundraiser"

- Mail a check to our office. Payable to Richmond Council NLUS with "support golf fundraiser" on the memo line. Mail to P. O. Box 11201, Richmond, VA 23230.

Together, we can achieve our goal because **"They Serve; We Support."**

Thank you for your generosity, your membership, and your continued commitment to the Richmond Council Navy League. 🚩

With sincere appreciation,
Richmond Council Navy League Board

Spotlight on Ralph Lett

By Karen Taylor Davis

August 3, 2026

We're diving into a life well-lived to honor a brother, husband, father, grandfather, telephone company executive, community volunteer and World War II Veteran, Ralph Lett, who's turning 100, September 21, 2026.



**Ralph Lett
Then and Now**

Ralph Hunter Lett was born on September 21, 1926, in Richmond, Virginia. If you've spent any time on Richmond's southside, you may know the "Lett" name from Lett's Hardware Store on Broad Rock Boulevard. The store was started by his father, Luther, and Ralph worked there as a young man before he graduated from John Marshall High School in 1943.

After graduation, Ralph began a career as a draftsman. I asked him about this picture of him hard at work and here's what he had to say:



"I wanted a picture of myself at work at the drafting table, but I didn't want to

ask someone else to take it since I thought we would get in trouble. So, I set up my camera on a timer and posed for my very first "selfie" on December 21, 1943. I guess selfies were not even invented back then!"

Not realizing that cameras actually HAD timer settings back in 1943, I was very curious and asked him what kind of camera he was using. He looked me straight in the eye and without cracking a smile, answered "film." (I never found out what camera that was!)

In 1944, as World War II was in full swing, Ralph followed his two older brothers, Ed and Ray, into military service. On September 18, 1944, he joined the US Navy to undergo electrician's mate training in St. Louis, Missouri.

Once his training was complete, he was assigned to the **USS Vent**, a diver-class rescue and salvage ship commissioned by the U.S. Navy on April 7, 1944. Her task was to come to the aid of stricken vessels.

Ralph and his shipmates certainly put their skills to good use in October 1945 when Typhoon Louise roared into the fleet anchorage in Buckner Bay, Okinawa. The 75 mile-per-hour winds swept many of the smaller craft ashore. The Vent participated in salvaging a number of vessels that were grounded on the beaches of Buckner Bay. Ralph commented that *"the typhoon hit the same night we arrived. When we awoke the next morning, there was 5 inches of water everywhere."*

There are several great pictures in his vintage, 1940s photo album - from Kunsan (South Korea) to Tsingtao (China) to Nagasaki (Japan) and finally back to Pearl Harbor - which was still recovering from the attacks in 1941.

The salvage ship later operated in the Marianas before she sailed via Pearl Harbor for the west coast of the United States and arrived in California in June 1946.

When Ralph returned from the war, he married and started a family. He has always loved taking pictures and those family albums from the 1950s and 60s reflect many moments that he captured of his growing family. Of course, those were the days of film, so Ralph taught himself how to develop his own photos, creating a darkroom in the attic of the family's log house in Hanover County.

Fast forward a couple of decades and Ralph joined our family by marrying my mom in 1984. We have always

teased him about "charming all the ladies." Now, he has FOUR daughters to love - and spoil - him! In the past few years, he has added several other honorary daughters to his "harem." We call ourselves "Ralph's Angels!"

In 2018, Ralph bought himself a new, digital camera and I gave him a gift membership to the Camera Club of Richmond. He attended several meetings at "his church" (Chamberlayne Heights United Methodist) when CCR met there. He even joined us for a MeetUp at Three Lakes Park in April 2018 with his trusty Canon camera.

Over the years, we have chatted many times about photography. When I asked about his advice for other photographers, Ralph commented, *"Not everyone can take good pictures. My best advice is to focus on the eyes."*

He still shoots some with his new iPhone, but he told me recently, *"It frustrates me, that I can't see like I used to. I want to get back to normal."* His "normal" in the past has been fishing, playing softball, fixing his own plumbing (under his house), and repairing the roof (on top of his house!) We're not ready for him to get back to THAT much normal at the tender age of 100!



Someone asked Ralph recently for the secret to his longevity. His reply: *"Just keep breathing - and don't be crabby!"* But, if you asked his daughters, we would all say, "Stay off the roof if you're 90 years old!"

Here's to 100 years well-lived. Congratulations, Grandpa Ralph and thanks for a century of service and devotion to community, country, and kin-folk! 🍷

References:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Vent

Photos by Ralph Lett and Karen Taylor Davis, PalladinPhotography

(note: Karen Taylor Davis is the Publications Director for the Camera Club of Richmond Newsletter).

Navy Rate vs. Rank: The Difference, And How To Correctly Address A Sailor



If you've ever introduced yourself as an Army or Air Force member at a joint command and tried to address a sailor by rank, you have probably been corrected — politely, or not. The Navy does not use ranks for enlisted personnel the way every other branch does. It uses a system of rates and ratings that is more specific, more layered and considerably more confusing until someone explains it clearly.

The Three Terms and What Each One Means:

Pay grade is the starting point and the one term that works across all branches. E-1 through E-9 for enlisted, W-1 through W-5 for warrant officers, O-1 through O-10 for commissioned officers. The Navy uses the same DoD pay grade structure as every other branch. That part is not unusual.

Rate is the Navy's term for an enlisted sailor's pay grade and where they stand in the chain of command. In the Army, you would call this rank. In the Navy, only officers have rank. Enlisted sailors have rate. A sailor at E-5 holds the rate of petty officer second class. Calling it a rank is technically incorrect, though in a joint environment, most people will know what you mean, and no one will get hurt.

Rating is the occupational specialty, the job: Boatswain's mate, Hospital corpsman, Electronics technician, Machinist's mate, Intelligence specialist, etc. The rating tells you what a sailor does for a living. Every rating has its own specialty badge worn on the left sleeve of the uniform.

This gets confusing because the Navy commonly combines rate and rating into a single designation that functions as the sailor's full identity. A sailor at E-6 whose rating is electronics technician is an electronics technician first class, abbreviated ET1. The ET is the rating.

The 1 is the rate. Together they form the rate-rating combination that is how that sailor is properly addressed — not simply as petty officer first class, though that is also acceptable for E-4 through E-6.

How the Enlisted Structure Is Organized:

The Navy's enlisted structure runs through three tiers. The junior enlisted grades — E-1 through E-3 — are the apprenticeship tier. Color-coded group rate marks identify them on their uniform based on their career field: white for seaman, red for fireman, green for airman and light blue for construction man.

- An E-1 is a seaman recruit.
- An E-2 is a seaman apprentice.
- An E-3 is a seaman in the deck and administrative fields, an airman in aviation fields, or equivalent depending on career track.

The petty officer grades — E-4 through E-6 — are where the rating comes fully into play. Sailors earn their rating through "A School," which is the Navy's occupational specialty training pipeline attended after basic training at Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Illinois. Some sailors earn a rating by striking — working toward it through on-the-job training in the fleet rather than through formal school.

- An E-4 is a petty officer, third class.
- An E-5 is a petty officer, second class.
- An E-6 is a petty officer, first class.

Combined with the rating, those become—for example—hospital corpsman third class, abbreviated HM3, and so on.

The chief petty officer grades — E-7 through E-9 — represent the Navy's senior enlisted leadership tier and carry a cultural weight in the Navy that is arguably greater than any equivalent tier in any other branch. Advancement to chief petty officer is not automatic and is not simply a matter of time in service and exam scores. It involves a selection process with an initiation period known as CPO Season, which has its own traditions, mentorship components, and institutional significance that Navy insiders take seriously, and outsiders often underestimate.

- An E-7 is a chief petty officer.
- An E-8 is a senior chief petty officer.

- An E-9 is a master chief petty officer.

At the top of the entire enlisted structure sits a single billet: the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, the senior enlisted adviser to the Chief of Naval Operations.

How to Address a Sailor Correctly:

In a joint environment, the practical answer is straightforward. E-4 through E-6 can be addressed as "Petty Officer" followed by their last name — Petty Officer Jones — and that is always correct. Using their full rate-rating combination — Boatswain's Mate, Second Class Jones — is more formal and more precise. E-7 through E-9 are Chief, Senior Chief, and Master Chief, respectively, followed by their last name. Officers follow standard rank conventions. The word shipmate is used broadly and affectionately within the Navy for fellow sailors at any level and is generally a safe fallback when in doubt.

The system traces its origins to the British Royal Navy, from which the early American Navy adopted its customs and terminology in the late 1700s. Rating marks were used informally until formally approved in 1869. The current structure of first-, second- and third-class petty officer rates was established in 1885. The terminology has remained largely stable for nearly 140 years, which goes some way toward explaining why the rest of the military has not caught up with it. 🚢

(source: [www.Military.com](https://www.military.com) Facebook)

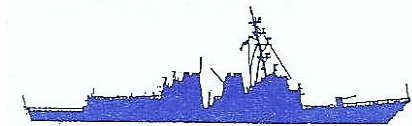
Rate Insignia of Navy Enlisted Personnel

Paygrade	Rate	Abbreviation	Upper Sleeve	Collar and Cap
E-1	Seaman Recruit	SR	None	None
E-2	Seaman Apprentice	SA		None
E-3	Seaman	SN		None
E-4	Petty Officer Third Class	PO3		
E-5	Petty Officer Second Class	PO2		
E-6	Petty Officer First Class	PO1		
E-7	Chief Petty Officer	CPO		
E-8	Senior Chief Petty Officer	SCPO		
E-9	Master Chief Petty Officer	MCPO		
E-9	Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy	MCPON		

(source: Naval Services Family Line website)

ADOPTED SHIPS UPDATE

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



USS Gravelly (DDG-107)

CO: LCDR James Showanes

XO: Vacant / Transitioning

CMC: CMDCM LeDezman Johnson

Alan Clemmons, Liaison

Courtney Mustin, Ass't Liaison

USS Gravelly 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 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. 🚩



USCGC Spencer (WMEC-905)

CO: CDR Steven M. Volk

XO: LCDR Harrison Carter

CSEL: MKC Andrew Chavez

Thomas A. Jennings, Liaison

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

The following reports are from
USCGC Spencer's Scuttlebutt News-

letter, posted while deployed.

Issue 04: This week has been full of training, teamwork, and some well-earned fun. We kicked things off with DC Olympics, giving both new and experienced crew members the opportunity to get hands-on with damage control equipment and reinforce critical skills. Six teams competed, one came out on top, but the real win was the training and team building.

We also spent quite a bit of time on the small boat, working on qualifications and giving new shipmates a chance to experience high speed boat operations. These evolutions build the required confidence, proficiency, and readiness at the deck plate. Later in the week, we conducted a gunnery exercise with the ship's major weapons systems, training new crew members while sharpening the skills of our qualified gun crews.

Following a quick stop in Fort Lauderdale, we turned toward home. The crew has put significant time and effort into this patrol, and it has been great to see everyone come together and get the job done. I am proud of the work accomplished underway, and I know we will carry that same level of commitment and hard work into the upcoming inport period. 🚩

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

DC Olympics



Damage Control (DC) Olympics helps members get hands-on experience with damage control equipment they may use during an emergency.

Small Boat Ops



Small boat operations (Ops) refers to the handling navigation and mission execution of a watercraft.

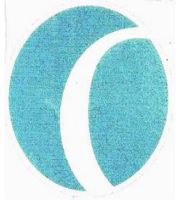


Gunnery Exercise



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
804-935-3000



10140 W. Broad St., Glen Allen, VA 23060
(804) 270-9275

PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO



Vietnam Veterans of America
Chapter 78
(804) 512-7746

A banner for Herndon Law P.C. featuring a background of an American flag and a gavel. The text includes the firm's name, tagline "Protecting what matters.", and contact information.

Herndon Law P.C.
Protecting what matters.
Estate Planning
Estate Administration
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USNS *Comfort* in New York City after 9/11



Following the terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, hospital ship **USNS *Comfort* (T-AH 20)** sailed to New York City. **USNS *Comfort*** served the police officers, firefighters, other first responders, and volunteers who were working at Ground Zero in the weeks following the attack. Onboard, individuals could get a hot meal, a place to rest, medical attention, and mental health counseling. **USNS *Comfort*** left Baltimore Harbor on 12 September 2001 and arrived in New York City on 14 September. **USNS *Comfort*** was in New York City for approximately three weeks. (sources: Naval History & Heritage Command & DVIDS websites).



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 !!!

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

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Your generosity enables the Richmond Council Navy League to support active-duty and Reserve members of the U.S. Sea Services, along with their families, and to promote awareness of the vital role our Sea Services play in our nation's defense.

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