

BASS FISHING TOURNAMENT

SPECIAL EDITION TR 30-30 CAL. CARBINE

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

# ROUGH RIDER

## TAKING THE OATH

HERE RESTS IN  
HONORED GLORY  
AN AMERICAN  
SOLDIER  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Sailor honors the fallen  
by reenlisting



# Nov. 25 Rough Rider of the Week: RP3 Armstrong

By MC3 Tyrell Morris

**T**he Rough Rider of the Week for Nov. 25 was Religious Programs Specialist 3rd Class Raja Armstrong from the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Command Religious Ministries Department (CRMD).

The native of Monroeville, Al. has been in the Navy for six years. Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Armstrong worked at a lumber company in his hometown.

“I made the decision to join the Navy because I wanted to have a better life for myself and I knew the Navy would help with my development as a young man,” said Armstrong.

Armstrong was an Individual Augmentee (IA) in Baghdad, Iraq for his last tour before reporting to the TR in May.

“I believe I was chosen as Rough Rider of the Week because of my hard work and dedication on behalf of CRMD,” said Armstrong.



Armstrong has only been on-board the TR for six months but he has made a lasting impression on his department in his short time here.

“His pride and determination to be successful in all of his attempts sets him apart from his shipmates,” said Master Chief Navy Counselor (SW/AW) Joseph D. Leff. “He’s a great benefit to CRMD.”

Armstrong says he loves his tour on the TR so far. The TR is Armstrong’s first ship in his six years in the Navy.

“It took me a while to adjust to the ship life, but now that I have adjusted I look forward to getting the ship out of the yards and getting underway,” said Armstrong.

When Armstrong enlisted in the Navy, he enlisted to become a yeoman but he cross-rated to religious

programs specialist in 2008.

“I wanted to cross-rate because as a religious programs specialist I have the opportunity to work as a morale booster for my command,” said Armstrong.

In addition to his in-rate duties, Armstrong is the IA coordinator for CRMD.

He also helps manage COMRELS and writes the watchbill.

“Armstrong is a very humble and unselfish young Sailor that will give the shirt off his back to help his shipmate,” said Leff. “He’s a very determined person who always gives his best.”

Armstrong considers himself to be a good athlete and in his spare time, he likes to play football, basketball, and softball.

His short-term goals are to get his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin and advance to PO2. His long-term goals are to make the Navy his career and get his degree.

“Hard work pays off in the end and most of the time the payoff comes a lot sooner than you think,” said Armstrong.

# Dec. 2 Rough Rider of the Week: SN Davis

By MC3 Tyrell Morris

The USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Rough Rider of the Week for Dec. 2 is Seaman Danielle Davis.

The Richmond, Va. native joined the Navy in Feb. 2011

and has been assigned to the Deck Department since reporting to the TR in April.

“I come from a military family so I wanted to continue the tradition and serve my country also,” said Davis. “The opportunities to travel and finish my degree were the selling points that convinced me to join the Navy.”

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Davis attended Virginia Commonwealth University and worked for SunTrust bank in the consumer-lending department.

“Davis is a motivated and valued worker in Deck Department’s 1st division,” said Senior Chief Boatswain’s Mate (SW/SCW) Nathan Dalton. “An intrusive and proactive leader, she trains and guides her team to meet every milestone on time or ahead of schedule,” said Dalton. “She is truly worthy of being selected as Rough Rider of the



Week.”

Davis was surprised she was chosen as Rough Rider of the Week out of her many deserving shipmates in the Deck Department but she attributes the honor to her work ethic.

“I believe I was chosen to represent the Deck Department as Rough Rider of the Week because of my hard work and dedication to my department,” said Davis.

As the Deck Department’s Tiger Team leader she was responsible for five seaman and the total rehabilitation of the First Lieutenant office and passageway, BOS’N store room, underway replenishment station 21, and aft sea bag locker.

Davis recently finished the Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist (ESWS) Academy and is actively working towards getting her ESWS pin.

“I’m the type of person who

does the work because it needs to be done – not to get recognition,” said Davis.

Davis does not plan to remain an undesignated seaman much longer, she hopes to strike one of three rates – legalman, boatswain’s mate, or yeoman.

“I really want to pursue the Legalman rating because of my educational background in criminal

justice, but I have been doing the job of a boatswain’s mate since I got to the TR and I have prior administrative and customer service experience that yeomen use daily,” said Davis.

She only needs five classes to finish her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. Once she receives her degree, Davis plans to apply for a commission.

In her spare time, Davis enjoys dancing and shopping.

“I’ve been dancing since age 3 – ballet, tap, jazz – I’ve done it all,” said Davis.

Davis plans to make the Navy a career and do at least 20 years.

“My mom always told me no matter how hard the work is if you just get it done the better the outcome and reward will be,” said Davis. “I’ve always tried to apply this to whatever I am tasked with.”

# I do solemnly swear...

By MCSN Andrew Sulayao

At the end of a servicemember's enlistment, they have a choice to make with the potential to change their lives forever. That choice is to either re-enlist as an active-duty servicemember, or to leave active-duty and finish serving their eight-year contract as a military reservist. For one Sailor, he chose to re-enlist with a bang.

USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Louis L. Farmer, assigned to the Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department (AIMD), re-enlisted and laid a wreath in Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Nov 18.

As the U.S. military continues to shape its force, many servicemembers are not guaranteed re-enlistment. The rise of Perform-to-Serve and Enlisted Retention Boards are sure to test a servicemember's

future. Because of that, re-enlistments have much more significance compared to only a few years ago.

"I wanted to do something different for my re-enlistment," said Farmer. "I've always wanted to go to Arlington National Cemetery, and it's not guaranteed that a Sailor can re-enlist anymore. Therefore, my first re-enlistment had to be memorable and meaningful in Arlington."

As part of a re-enlistment ceremony, Sailors are discharged from the Navy to re-enlist again by reciting the Oath of Enlistment. The Oath of Enlistment is usually administered by a commissioned officer. However, for Farmer's re-enlistment, he had his leading petty officer, Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Seanery S. Lindsey administer the Oath of Enlistment.

"When I was asked to administer the oath to Farmer, I was honored," said Lindsey. "We studied the oath for days and memorized it word for word to bear the importance and the significance of an enlisted man administering the oath to another



enlisted man.”

After the re-enlistment ceremony, Farmer and a few sailors from his division laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a monument to represent all service-members who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The wreath read “USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT” in gold trim.

“The Theodore Roosevelt made me who I am – the trials and tribulations that I’ve experienced made me grow,” said Farmer. “From the day I stepped foot on the TR I started learning. TR put my life in perspective and gave me real world experiences that I wouldn’t have gotten if I stayed home. For that, I decided to lay the wreath to represent the TR.”

Every day at the start of every hour, a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier occurs to change the monument’s watchstanders/guard. Farmer’s ceremony and the wreath laying ended around 11:45 a.m, just in time to watch the ceremony.

“They do this in the heat, the sleet, the rain and the snow,” said Lindsey. “I couldn’t imagine myself doing that every day, but it’s a very ceremonial event



and I’m happy I saw it.”

Overall, re-enlistments have and always will be a tradition in the United States Navy. Some will

have small, informal ceremonies, and some will make it a grand event like Farmer.

“It is wonderful to have my first re-enlistment held at a very beautiful, memorable place that honors our military,” said Farmer. “Being in Arlington put everything in perspective – I saw other service-members that swore the same oath I have and who have died wearing the same uniform I wear. I thank the USS Theodore Roosevelt for the years of learning and experience, and my division at LIFAC for



**Opposite:** Farmer recites the re-enlistment oath during his re-enlistment at Arlington National Cemetery.

**Top:** A watchstander/guard places the wreath Farmer had made at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**Left:** Farmer signs his new enlistment contract after his re-enlistment ceremony.

# Former Sailor donates special edition TR carbine

By MC2 (EXW) Joey Morgon

A former USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailor donated a special edition Model 94 carbine commemorating the ship's namesake, Theodore Roosevelt, to the command.

Ronald Lafrenierre served aboard the TR from 1986 to 1990 as an enlisted Sailor and once again from 1996 to 1999 as a Chief Warrant Officer. He donated the 1969 Theodore Roosevelt 30-30 cal. carbine as a thank you to the command where he spent much of his Navy career.

"I have a lot of good memories from the TR," said Lafrenierre. "It was the place I chose for my retirement ceremony in 2008 so I obviously think very high of the ship and wanted to give something back."

Lafrenierre received the carbine as a gift himself. His father-in-law found the rifle at an auction and gave it to Lafrenierre as a Christmas gift.

"My father-in-law knew I was serving aboard the TR at the time and seeing as how I collect rifles he thought it would make a great gift," said Lafrenierre.



Ronald Lafrenierre turns the 30-30 cal. carbine over to Gunner's Mate 1st Class (SW/AW) Walter Mangum as a donation to the USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71).

Photo by MC2 (EXW) Joey Morgon

"It's a fine carbine and I'm happy to be able to give it to the TR."

Once TR completes its Refueling Complex Overhaul, the carbine will either be displayed in the ship's museum or the Commanding Officer's inport cabin.



Photo Find by MC3 Tyrell Morris

## PHOTO FIND

Can you find the 9 out of place items in this photo?

1. Stapler
2. High Heel
3. Basketball
4. Nail
5. Camera
6. Grenade
7. Mouse
8. Broom
9. TR the man

TR's Fit Boss, Marley Oldham, and members of the Command Fitness Team pose for a photo in Huntington Hall gym, Nov. 23.

Photo by MC2 Corey Hixson

# TR Sailors spend a day on the Chesapeake Bay

Story and photos by MC2 Corey Hixson

Nearly 50 Sailors aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) signed up for a Bass fishing tournament, but things did not quite go as planned. The Sailors all met in downtown Hampton, VA and boarded the Ocean Eagle charter fishing boat, and the group headed out into the Chesapeake Bay.

As the TR Sailors boarded the fishing vessel, they were divided into teams Alpha and Bravo. The two teams were to compete and see who could catch the most fish. The charter boat took the Sailors near the Monitor Merrimac Tunnel, and the fishing, or lack there of, began.

The first hour went by and only one person had caught a fish. The first catch of the day wasn't quite what most would expect. This catch apparently hadn't been in existence for very long because it was only a baby, approximately 3 inches long. This was a small first catch of the day, but this was only the first hour.



Senior Chief Engineman (SW/AW) Carlos McKinnis waits for a fish to catch his bait during TR's bass fishing tournament, Nov. 18.



Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Tawanna Sanders snags one of two "catches" during TR's bass fishing tournament. The other "catch" was a 3-inch bass.

The second hour came around and still there was no one who had caught a second fish. The third hour came, then the fourth, and the time continued to pass without another fish being caught. Although no fish were being reeled in, there was one Sailor who made a catch.

"I caught a crab and it gave me a whole new sense of life," said Operations Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Tawanna Sanders. "It gave me a whole new burst of energy. I'm ready to stay out here all day."

Unfortunately, this crab was the closest thing to a bass that was caught. Six hours of fishing and only two creatures had been captured. The fishing statistics from this trip were not very impressive, but the TR Sailors were still grateful to the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) department for the experience.

"It's good for MWR to have things like this so you can get to meet other people from throughout the ship. You get the chance to meet people that you do not necessarily get to see throughout your day," said Yeoman First Class (SW/AW) William Lewis.

The group of Sailors that went on the fishing trip did not quite get what they expected. Those who did catch something were given gift cards as prizes while other received prizes from a raffle. Although this could be considered a fishing trip gone wrong, it turned out pretty good for those in attendance.

"I really enjoyed the trip," said Operations Specialist Third Class (SW) David Runkle.

# Photo of the Week



USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Combat Systems Department enjoys a departmental potluck to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday at the Bank Building, Nov. 23.

Photo by MCSN Andrew Sulayao

## ANNOUNCEMENTS — From TR —

### COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

**Update:** So far 632 personnel have contributed to the campaign for a total of \$52,577 towards our goal of \$70,000. Thank you to those who have contributed. Those who have yet to contribute please consider contributing to the campaign. We need your help in order to reach our goal. In an effort to raise money for the CFC, we will man the TR Grill Dec. 1, and again Dec. 7-9.

Again, we are looking forward to our support and contribution. Please contact Ensign Suarez or your departmental representative if you have any questions.

*“Many hands, many minds,  
one goal, let’s make a difference together.”*



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