

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

TR's basketball team wins championship

B.A.A.M SEMINAR

TR Sailor speaks at Building African-American Men Seminar

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

ROUGH RIDER



MAST-STEPPING WITH TWEED ROOSEVELT

Rough Rider of the Week: SA Yeimmy Castano

By MCSA Cory Asato

This week's USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider of the Week is Deck Department's Seaman Apprentice Yeimmy Castano.

Castano, a native of Colombia, was inspired to join the Navy because of her father's aspirations of being in the military.

"I've always looked up to my father," said Castano. "He always wanted to join the military and never did, so I joined the Navy."

Castano set the stage for

her success and hit the ground running after reporting to TR in December according to Chief Boatswain's Mate

(SW) Darrin Streater, Castano's supervisor.

"Castano was chosen for Sailor of the Week because of her hard work ethic shortly after checking onboard," said Streater.

Streater credits Castano for taking initiative and always striving to improve herself.

"Seaman Castano has qualified for in port watches ahead of time such as messenger of the watch, in port emergency team and line handler," said

Streater. "Besides seeking out assignments after completion of her other tasks, Castano works on courses while keeping ahead of certifications."

Streater said that one of Castano's virtues is her attitude. According to her chain of command, she maintains a positive outlook while maintaining a great work ethic. Castano had the opportunity to showcase her work ethic during Deck Department's major anchor chain evolution that occurred late in the year.

"Castano is constantly showing great morale, which is a key component for people to do their job on and off duty," said Streater.

Castano stated that other virtues she holds in high regard are timeliness, honesty and responsibility to herself and others.

"I try to work out at least two more times per week on top of the departmental [physical training] I participate in," said Castano. "I mainly do it for myself, to try and stay healthy."

Castano said that she would like to become a doctor or possibly do administrative work while still in the Navy.



Rough Riders Win Championship

By MC3

Christopher Church

Fans anxiously awaited the final buzzer as USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider basketball team attempted to hold off a late push by USS Harry S. Truman's (CVN 75) team, Feb. 24 at Naval Station Norfolk. When the clock ran out, the Rough Riders became the champions of the Naval Station Forces Afloat league, defeating Truman's team 52 to 46.

"Defense wins championships," said Chief Aviation Ordnanceman (AW/SW) Boris Harris, TR's coach. "We were actually down most of the game, but defense really came through at the end. We started stopping them, scoring off transition and really put it away."

The tone of the game was set at tip off as both teams battled to gain and keep ball control. The championship seemed to have been at a stalemate for most of the first half. After one team scored, the other followed with its own points.

At halftime, the



USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Rough Rider basketball team celebrates after defeating USS Harry S. Truman's (CVN 75) team 52-46 to become the champions of the Naval Station Forces Afloat League Feb. 24.

Photo by MC3 Christopher Church

13-1 Rough Riders were faced with something they rarely saw during the season—they were behind.

"I knew eventually we'd make a run and get back in the game," said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Jovann Johnson, the league's most valuable player. "I knew once we caught up, we weren't going to look back."

Johnson struggled with torn ligaments in his finger, an injury he sustained in TR's previous game. Even though

Johnson was not at 100 percent, his 14 points were instrumental in TR's second-half comeback.

"I got hurt, but my team picked me up and pushed me forward," said Johnson. "We came together as a group and we did it. We are the champs."

It took three seasons for the Roosevelt team to win this championship, but with the right team chemistry they were able to finally hoist the trophy.

"It was a tough sea-

son," said Harris. "We had to grind out a few wins, but our defense always came through, like tonight. We put it away at the end."

TR hopes to repeat their success during their summer season under new leadership. Harris, who is leaving the command, will turn over the team to Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 1st Class (AW/SW) Marcus Steward, last season's assistant coach, and Yeoman 2nd class (SW/AW) Sheena Taylor will also return.

BEWARE OF JET
FAST, PROPELLERS
AND

ONE STEP CLOSER



IT'S ROUGH RIDERS SAFETY BOARD



USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) held a “stepping the mast” ceremony aboard the carrier’s flight deck at Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News, Va., Feb. 28.

The ceremony featured guest of honor and great-grandson of the ship’s namesake, Tweed Roosevelt, along with USS Theodore Roosevelt Commanding Officer Capt. William J. Hart and Jim Hughes, Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding aircraft carrier overhauls and fleet support vice president.

“I feel like an honorary crew member,” said Tweed Roosevelt. “The bond between the ship and the Roosevelt family is deep and affectionate. I relish any chance to get on board, even during an overhaul.”

In addition to recognizing a physical change for the ship, the ceremony also linked the Sailors of the past with those of the future. During their presentations, Roosevelt and Hart talked to the ship’s youngest Sailor, Aviation Ordnanceman Airman Shanice Winston, who just turned 18. They said she represents the future, and where the ship is headed.

“I think it’s very important we commemorate the stepping of the mast because it is a linkage between crews past, the current crew and the crew of the future,” said Hart. “As we’re stepping the mast and rebuilding the ship, the story and legacy of the ship being involved in almost every major conflict in the past 25 years is passed on. Now the current crew picks up that legacy and has to build the ship and start building the new reputation of Theodore Roosevelt.”

The ceremony culminated with the long-standing naval tradition of stepping the mast which involves the welding of a plaque and time capsule to the ship’s new mast, which was landed Feb. 24.

Seventy-one cents went into the time capsule signifying the ship’s hull number, along with “challenge” coins from the TR Mustangs and other organizations throughout the ship. In addition to the coins, the capsule also contained historical markers like newspapers and a summary of current events. A boatswain’s pipe, a surface warfare pin, and the newest warfare pin for information dominance were also placed in the time capsule.

TR’s partnership with local elementary schools was also represented in the time capsule by including signed photographs, and essays from 54 students predicting what the future would be like in 25 years.

“As we place the time capsule our crew is setting the groundwork for the crew and for those over the next 25 years to carry out not only TR’s name legacy, but the great history of the ship,” said Hart.

Roosevelt said that his family is committed to do anything it can to support the ship and the crew’s morale.

“I am delighted to come back once again to the ship to see how she is progressing,” said Roosevelt. “The family is gratified that she will be able to carry on in her grand tradition for at least another quarter of a century. Theodore Roosevelt would be most proud of her stellar past record and would expect no less from her in the future.”



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1. Capt. William Hart, USS Theodore Roosevelt’s (CVN 71) commanding officer, addresses the ship’s crew during a “stepping the mast” ceremony Feb. 28.
2. Two Northrop Grumman Newport News Shipbuilding employees attach a commemorative plate to the ship’s mast Feb. 28.
3. Tweed Roosevelt, great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt, and Ensign Michael Larson, TR’s media officer, place time capsule artifacts in the time capsule attached to the ship’s mast during a “stepping the mast” ceremony Feb. 28.
4. Tweed Roosevelt, great-grandson of Theodore Roosevelt addresses TR crew during a “stepping the mast” ceremony Feb. 28.

Photos by MC3 (EXW) Joey Morgon and MC3 Christopher Church

Sailor Speaks at Alma Mater Seminar



Yeoman 2nd Class (SW/AW) Terence Richardson, a USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailor, speaks to college students at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. during a Building African-American Men seminar. Richardson graduated from the university in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Photo by MC3 Corey Hixson

By MC3 Corey Hixson

One Sailor aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) recently took time to give back to young men who are currently attending an institution that he once attended.

Yeoman 2nd Class (SW) Terence Richardson traveled to Raleigh, N. C. last week to participate in a seminar at his alma mater, Shaw University. Richardson graduated from Shaw in 2000 with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. While attending this university, Richardson became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., the organization that sponsored the seminar. The seminar is an ongoing series known as Building African-American

Men (B.A.A.M.)

Richardson, along with two of his fraternity brothers, Jermaine Simmons and Doug Wilson, were the panel members who addressed the Shaw University students. The purpose of the B.A.A.M. program is to give the young men examples of alumni who have successful careers and to help the students prepare for careers after college.

Simmons is a vice president of Bank of America and Wilson is a network engineer for IBM. Richardson, who works in TR's Executive Officers Administration office, gave his insight on the Navy and how it can be a good choice for a career

after college graduation.

"To prepare yourself for the future when you graduate from Shaw University, the military affords a lot of opportunities," said Richardson. "You name it, it's there."

Richardson, Simmons and Wilson wanted to participate in the B.A.A.M. program to give the current students interaction with university alumni.

Simmons said that he did not have the experience of having alumni offering advice. He also said he wants the students to have real life examples of successful Shaw graduates.

"That's the main reason why we do this program," said Simmons. "We just want

to give back what we received while we were at Shaw and just encourage [them]."

The panel members placed an emphasis on education as the key to being successful. Wilson encouraged the group of young men to take their studies seriously.

"Everything they do, it relates to corporate America," said Wilson.

Richardson, who also has a master's degree in criminal justice administration, spoke to the group about the educational benefits of the Navy.

"What has the military offered me? Within a five-year span, I got a free education and then was able to add to the education I received at Shaw," said Richardson. "Right now, I'm looking into a program to get my doctorate, and it's free."

Wilson said they want to give the students a general view of how it is in the work force and what things the young men should be doing to prepare for their transition from college to corporate America. One of the young men at the seminar was glad that Richardson and the others chose to give back.

"I got a lot out of it," said Ednick Belizaire, a senior business administration major at Shaw University. "I can use this, not only keeping it to myself, I can also [relay it] other people. My brother, my friends back home, other peers on campus, so I got a lot out of this program and I was happy I attended this event."

TR Celebrates Black History Month



USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailors bow their heads at the beginning of a ceremony honoring Black History Month Feb. 24. The ceremony, hosted by TR's Diversity Committee, is held yearly with a particular theme in mind. This year's theme was African-Americans and their involvement in the Civil War.

Photo by MC3 Eric Lockwood

By MC3 Eric Lockwood

USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) Diversity Committee held a ceremony honoring Black History Month Feb. 24.

Each year the committee holds a ceremony with a particular theme for Black History Month. This year, the theme was African-Americans and the Civil War.

"Black History Month is an opportunity to pause and recognize those Americans of African descent and to reflect on their contributions to

our nation," said Cmdr. Richard Jones, TR's Mini Boss, and the ceremony's guest speaker.

Jones started his speech by relating the story of The Black Brigade of Cincinnati.

"In the first days of September 1862, Cincinnati was gripped by fear when Confederate General Henry Heath and his 8,000 Soldiers began their march north on Lexington Road to capture the Queen City," Jones began. "In response, thousands of men were called by the mayor to

construct barricades to defend Cincinnati from Confederate attack. Four hundred African-Americans were abducted from their homes and forced into service. Abolitionists in the city heard about this action and successfully demanded the men's release. The next day, those same 400 men returned with an additional 300 and volunteered their services to build the critical fortifications in Northern Kentucky. With 7,000 other men they built eight miles of

fortress in just 10 days. The new regiment was named 'The Black Brigade of Cincinnati' and received their own flag."

The contributions of African-Americans to the military have been many, and that legacy continues strongly today.

"We have African-Americans in all kinds of positions of leadership and technical ability," he said. "So just like America in general, the contribution of the African-American is well infused in the Navy."

"The message to take away is that the choices made by people fighting for change back in the 19th century were much tougher than they are now," said Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Robert Matthews. "So if they made changes for a better way of life then, we can make changes now for people in the future."

PHOTO FIND



Personnel Specialist 3rd Class Jovann Johnson drives past his defender for a lay up during the championship game.

Photo by MC3 Christopher Church

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

1. A Fork
2. A Spoon
3. A Sword
4. A Baby
5. A Nintendo Game Controller
6. A Ballcap
7. A Bottle
8. A Hammer
9. A Clock
10. Theodore Roosevelt

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MWR Upcoming Events

Mega BINGO

BINGO at the Portsmouth Naval Ship Yard drydock club featuring six \$1,000 winners, multiple \$500 winners and plenty of door prizes.

Games start at 7 p.m. March 15. Advanced ticket sale ends March 14. \$80 per person. Call 396-2660 for details.

Mario Kart Tournament

Free Wii Mario Kart tournament March 8 at 5 p.m. at Huntington Hall. Prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Call 757-688-7452 for more information.

Racquetball Tournament

Free intramural racquetball tournament March 7-10 in the Yorktown gym. The tournament is open to all active duty, reservists, retirees and DOD personnel.

Call 757-847-7828 for more information.