

A LASTING INFLUENCE

An early retirement marks an excellent career

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S RELAY FOR LIFE

TR Sailors volunteer at the Hampton Roads Relay for Life event

USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT

ROUGH RIDER



FROCKED!

TR advances 154 new Petty Officers

Rough Rider of the Week: ADAN Johnson

By MC3 Dominique Watts

This week's USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Rough Rider of the Week is Aviation Machinist's Mate (Aircrew) Airman Adam Johnson from Aircraft Intermediate Maintenance Department's IM-3 division.

A native of Muskegon, Mich., Johnson joined the Navy in the beginning of 2009 to fulfill a lifelong ambition.

"It has always been my dream to be an officer in the Navy, more specifically, [to serve as] an aviator or in a field related to aviation," said Johnson.

Naval service is not only important to Johnson, it is a family tradition. Johnson's uncle is a retired chief and advised him on joining the Navy as an enlisted Sailor.

"I chose to be an AD because my uncle told me I should see the enlisted side of the Navy before pursuing a career as an officer," said Johnson.

"Taking this advice will keep my feet on the ground, and make me thankful for every part of the Navy by understanding that everyone has an important role."

As a member of TR's PM-21 Non-Water-Tight Door Team, Johnson has played an integral role in helping the ship move

through its Refueling Complex Overhaul. He has assisted in the removal of more than 1,100 doors onboard TR. Many of those doors have since been repaired and Johnson has helped install 163 doors back on the ship so far.

Since joining the TR team over a year ago, Johnson has impressed his chain of command by exhibiting leadership skills beyond his paygrade.

"Airman Johnson displays many characteristics of a senior petty officer," said Aviation Support Equipment Technician 1st Class (AW/SW) Mark Hicks, Johnson's leading petty officer. "He consistently takes the lead on all tasks and provides personal and professional mentoring to his peers."

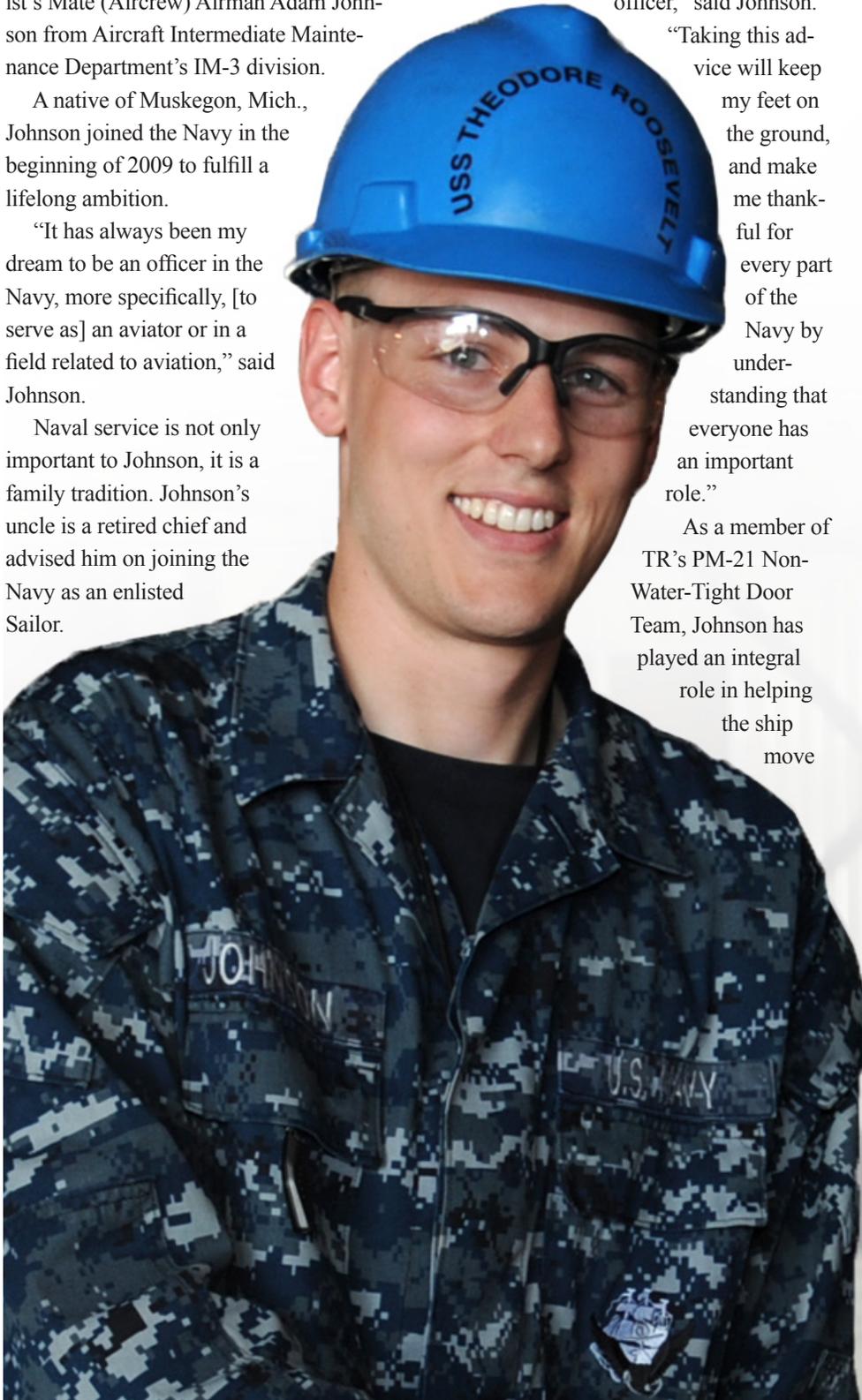
Johnson is a self-motivator whose goals include attaining warfare qualifications and eventually earning an officer's commission through the Navy's Seaman to Admiral Program.

"I think I was chosen as Rough Rider of the Week because of my hard work, determination, leadership, and professional appearance," said Johnson. "I hope to [use those assets to] make the Navy a career and achieve my ultimate goal of becoming a commissioned officer."

So far those assets have served Johnson well as the decision to make him Rough Rider of the Week was easy according to his chain of command.

"Airman Johnson was chosen to be the Rough Rider of the Week because of his hard work and dedication to Naval Service," said Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate (Aircrew) (AW/SW) Moses Eadie, IM-3 division's leading chief petty officer. "In this harsh environment we work in, he manages to stay sharp. Every time his name is mentioned, there are only good things to talk about."

When Airman Johnson is not busy working toward achieving his career goals, he enjoys reading and playing the guitar.



FC1 Eric Middleton: Retiring early and leaving a lasting influence

By MC1 (SW) Kayla Thompson

When Sailors think of retirement, they usually think of doing so after 20 or more years of dedicated service, but for one TR Sailor, his retirement fell a few years shy of that 20-year mark.

Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Eric Middleton served aboard TR on two different tours, making TR's last deployment before she entered her present Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH) period. Middleton was diagnosed with cancer, which doctors say is terminal, and was medically retired in a ceremony June 3 aboard the battleship USS Wisconsin.

"People have come from near and far to be here and I want to thank you for coming to share today with me and my family," said Middleton. "I wasn't really sure if today was going to happen and that saddened me. My wife took it upon herself to make sure her husband wouldn't be sad. She contacted some people and because of her, today is happening."

Middleton said that although he didn't do the usual number of years, he still feels good about the things he achieved during his career.

"I didn't get to do 20 years or make Chief,



Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Eric Middleton renders his final salute while being "piped over the side" at his retirement ceremony aboard the USS Wisconsin.

Photo by MCSN Jonathan Donnelly

but I accomplished everything else I set out to accomplish. I'm very grateful for many things in my life. I've been fortunate. If I died now, I can say that I've been a lucky man. I've achieved a lot and anything else would be thick icing on the cake. I have a beautiful wife and two daughters, I've built a house. I'm not done yet, but I just wanted to say that."

Middleton said that his family and friends have been very supportive during his illness.

"My wife's cousin and family shaved their heads for Locks of Love," said Middleton. "People honored me during their weddings and other special events. It's been tough but I'm moving on to the next chapter. Despite what the doctors say and what the statistics are, I know that if I keep believing in my heart, anything can happen."

The guest speaker for the ceremony was Lt. Cmdr. Drema Parsons, former Combat Systems Maintenance Officer aboard TR. Parsons served at two previous commands with Middleton, the last time being aboard TR.

"When I checked into Theodore Roosevelt, I remember thinking as I was introduced to the Sailors in each division, how lucky I was to have prior instructors I recognized from my time at both the Norfolk and Dam Neck schoolhouses and I knew I had some top rate talent," said Parsons.

Parsons recalled the one moment in Middleton's career for which she was most proud of him, earning his Combat Systems Officer of the Watch qualification.

"We barely got the question or the scenario



Fire Controlman 1st Class (SW/AW) Eric Middleton renders a salute during the passing of the flag during his retirement ceremony aboard the USS Wisconsin.

Photo by MCSN Jonathan Donnelly

out before he was answering, and he answered in such a manner that left no doubt that he knew exactly what he was talking about," said Parsons. "I always tried to ensure that everyone understood what a big deal that watch qualification was and that it was not a give me, and that day Petty Officer Middleton proved to me that he had earned my utmost trust, faith and confidence in his ability to command that watch station," Parsons said.

She added that Middleton accomplished a lot in his career and made many achievements that he can be proud of.

"Petty Officer Middleton has achieved something that all of us strive toward; he has positively influenced and touched the lives of scores of Sailors through his role as an instructor, technician, mentor and trainer. But I'm certain that although he is retiring, he's not done influencing others yet," Parsons said.

Middleton said he was proud to have the opportunity for a retirement ceremony and was glad to have so many people share it with him.

"You being here today is a testament of this time-honored tradition. It means a lot and I want to thank you for being here to share it with me," Middleton said.

CONGRATULATIONS

TR'S Newest Petty Officers

3rd Class

BM3 Alcide Acevedo
PS3 Estel Alexander
ABH3 Fallon Anderson ABE3
OS3 Ollie Bailey
A03 Miguel Barajas Antionette Arnold
ABF3 Charles Barbarotta
EM3 Alisa Barksdale A03 Joseph Blublitz
MM3 Michael Blair A03 Daniel Carusone
BM3 ABH3 Jose Fernandez A03
Jeffrey ABE3 Kristopher Andrea
LS3 Shannon Holmes Husbands
LS3 William Mccann IC3 Edwin Nieves
IC3 Edwin Nieves MC3 Sean Hurt MC3 Sean Weir
IT3 Logan Singleton GM3 Trendylon Smith GM3 Paul Peoples PS3 Elisa Ortiz OS3 Runkle
Adalberto ABH3 A03 Joshua Sheherd ABH3 Patrick Cook Shakismate Mcrae
IC3 Anthony Stetes ABF3 Joseph Cole YN3 Ariel Christine LS3
IC3 Samantha Wiley IC3 Zackary Coon SH3 Lacey Jackson Hiple
Tyler ABH3 EM3 Corey YN3 ABE3 James Ferrante Thompson IC3
Monica Petre EM3 OS3 Alexander CR3 Robert
Ramussensilverstein Pennington
ABH3 Gregory EM3 Guy Derenocourt
Reop OS3 Darrell Johnson
A03 MC3 Tyrell Morris
Cedae AT3 Matthew Walker
White ABF3 Joseph Haefner
ABH3 William Poland ABE3 Manuel Largolema
AT3 Aaron Christain CM3 Laquita Lewis YN3 Brian Leyva
MC3 Sandra Pimentel ABH3
ABH3 Matthew Wegner
A03 Linwood Wilson
IT3 MC3 OS3 YN3 LS3

1st Class

ABF1 Eric
Allen
AM1 Bruce
Bowden
MM1 Charles Irwin
EM1 Christopher
Hofer ABH1 Rodney
Martinez MM1 Julia
MM1 Bradley Goebel AC1 Howard Mccray AC1 Howard
Weston ABH1 Rodney Martinez Mccray AC1
EM1 ABF1 MM1 Juan Carponpatino AC1
MM1 AC1 MM1 Lisa Rush SH1
EM1 Christopher EM1
Wright
MM1 Willie
Barber
EM1 SH1 Ebenezer
MM1 Hesswowusu
ET1 Amanda
Ramby

Weston

AC1 Brady

MM1 Kory Sims

NC1 Tonya
Simpkins

AC1

2nd Class

CS2 Rogelyn
Cambe OS3 David
ABE2 Daverris Culppepper Corvin
AT2 Michael Demateo YN2
MM2 Victor Escamilla
MM2 William Hlavacek FC2 Maghan
Justin Atterberry FC2 Maghan
EM2 Toni Candelaria Moroney
SH2 Oderrious Perry EM2 Marc Millien
MM2 Darryl Sakach
MM2 John Waters HT2
HM2 Kristopher Offill Tyson Watts
MM2 Naffeesa Williams Johnson
OS2 Milandy Rodriguez ABH2 William Steffey C
Geary IS2 IT2 Delante Sample AO2 J
IC2 Adam Armstrong MM2 Nicholas W
MM2 MM2 John Waters MC2 Joey Mo
ET2 Michael ET2 Ricky Wallen
YN2 LS2 YN2 Thishin Jackson MM2
ABE2 Derrick Blakely
PS2 James Rees
EM2 Marc Millien SH
MM2 Daniel Splinter Perr
MC2 OS2 Victoria Vargas MM2 S
ABH2 Daniel Gonzalez MM2 Justin
DC2 Larcia Glover Atterberry ABE2 Phillip
IS2 Michael Geary
YN2 Jacob Tackett
MM2 SH2 MC2 EM2 YN2



YN2 Brian Ferrin
AT2 LS2 Whitney Makinson
ABE2 Markdarrell Dagatan
MM2 Alex Caples
ABH2 Natalia Fraser
AC2 Michael Kearney
AC2 Michael HM2 Kristopher Offill
Kearney MM2 Jorge Baeza
ET2 Alfonso Soria
MM2 IT2 Christopher Redman
EM2 Ciara Clements
EM2 Marc Millien
ET2 Ricky White
YN2 Jacob Tackett Wallen
MM2 Daniel
SplInter IT2
ABE2 YN2
EM2 ABH2

Photos by TR's Media Department
 Layout by MC2 (EXW) Joey Morgon

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TR teams up with American Cancer Society to support Relay for Life

By MCSA John Kotara

More than 40 Sailors from USS Theodore Roosevelt gathered at Harbor Park in Norfolk, Va., June 3 through June 4, to help support the area's Relay for Life event sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is a two day event that goes throughout the night, straight into the next morning. During this event teams of people gather at parks, schools or other fairgrounds and take turns walking laps. The teams raise money and contribute all earnings toward research so that one day a cure for cancer may be found.

The Sailors spent the two days doing a number of different duties in preparation for the event.

"The Navy helped out so much," said Natalie Jones, Senior Community Manager with the American Cancer Society, "They arrived here, asked what they could do, and hit the ground running."

On the first day of the event the Sailors started out with a number of tasks which included the assembly of venues, tents, survivor tent, and registration booths. Although the Sailors had a lot of work to do, throughout the day Sailors could also be seen assisting with Luminaries and parking assistance. Although the first day ended without any incidents, the second day proved to be more challenging.

Rain was an ever present challenge for the Sailors who attended the second day. TR Sailors were tasked with breaking down everything that was previously constructed, along with the collection of all trash in the area. Although the rain was pelting down in torrents, the determination and attitude of the Sailors to get the job done never swayed. Throughout the morning Sailors were riding around in golf carts, picking up bags full of trash, while drenched from head to toes.

"They came in and started to clean at a record pace," said Jones, "With the rain we wouldn't be able to start cleaning until noon, but the determination and enthusiasm of the Sailors, got the job done before 9 A.M."

For the event to have functioned like it did, a lot of different coordination and planning was needed. This was achieved by Yeoman 1st Class Nicole Oliver (AW/SW), President of the 1st Class Petty Officer Association.

"A lot of people don't understand the time it takes to bring something like this together," said Oliver, "But a lot of people came out and

embraced the whole event, and that in turn made the event a great success."

With the day coming to close, Jones reminded people that the event not only honors those who passed, but also honors the caregivers and survivors of cancer.

"This is so divesting to their life, and to be part of that, knowing you were there for somebody through the good and the bad is a great feeling," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Handling) Airman Ashley Henderson, "We want the community to know we are there for them and we want to reach out to them."



USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) Sailors and members of the American Cancer Society pose for a photo at the end of the Relay for Life event June 4.

Photo by MCSA John Kotara

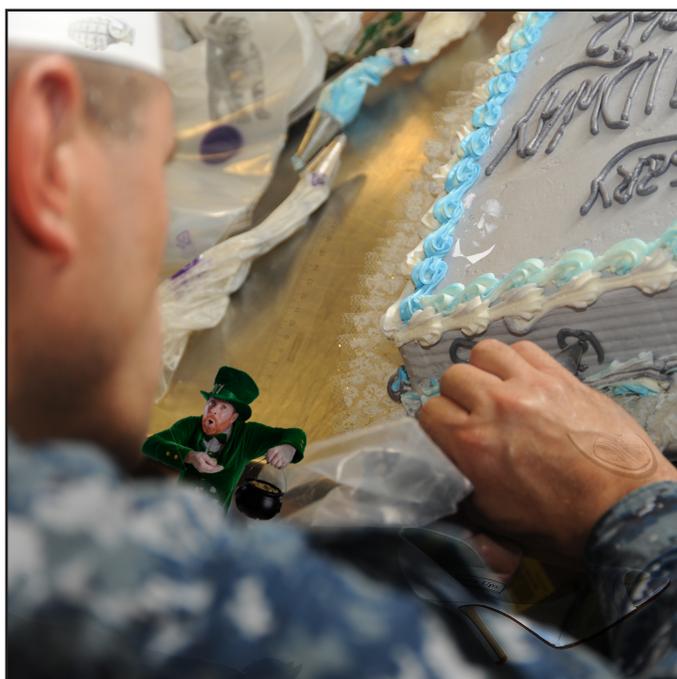


Photo Find by MC3 Sean Hurt

PHOTO FIND

Can you find the 8 out of place items in this photo?

1. A Ruler
2. Penny
3. Grenade
4. Leprechaun
5. High Heel Shoe
6. Cat
7. Batman
8. TR the Man

Chief Culinary Specialist (SW/AW) Michael Brinkman puts the final touches on a cake for a Battle of Midway remembrance ceremony.

Photo by MC3 Eric Lockwood

TR Sailors mentor community youth at elementary school field day

By MCSA Andrew Sulayao

Sailors from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) volunteered at Sewells Point Elementary School in Norfolk, Va., June 3, to support the school's annual athletic field day and positively mentor students.

The Sailors participated in many activities including races, a water balloon toss, face painting and creating sun visors. They aided in the event to not only to connect with the community, but to celebrate physical fitness, fun and the end of the school year.

According to Mary Wrushen, Sewells Point School principal, the field day has been an annual event for 12 years and needs volunteers

like TR Sailors to make a connection that makes a difference.

"We look to the military to be mentors for our children," said Wrushen. "We need the volunteers because this event takes months of planning. The military comes out here to involve themselves in a community activity.

The parents, students, teachers and administrators are all involved in the field day at this school – so we certainly want to involve an organization like the USS Theodore Roosevelt."

Boatswain's Mate 2nd Class (SW) Mercy Dowell, TR's Command Religious Ministries Department's leading petty officer and a sponsor for Sewells Point School, said she wants the students to know that TR Sailors care about them.

"I would like the students to see that the United States Navy is not just about fighting wars and going overseas," said Dowell. "We're about showing that we care about our kids, our community and our society."

Dowell's sentiments were



Machinist's Mate Fireman Nadja Richardson paints a rainbow on a student's arm at Sewell's Point Elementary School's field day June 3. Several Sailors from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) spent the day at the local school as part of a Community Relations Project (COMREL). The ship's crew has built an ongoing relationship with several schools in the Hampton Roads area as part of their commitment to the community.

Photo by MCSA Andrew Sulayao



Yeoman 3rd Class Trevor Hunnicutt high fives a student at Sewell's Point Elementary School's field day June 3. Hunnicutt was one of the Sailors who volunteered to help with the event at the school in Norfolk, Va.

Photo by MCSA Andrew Sulayao

echoed by the other TR Sailors who spend the day at the school.

"The kids look up to us – the Theodore Roosevelt," said Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) Airman William Bird. "As I was eating lunch, I noticed that every kid was smiling and waving at me. They admire us for being here, being with them."

To 4-year-old student Mylea Smallwood, one particular event of the field day delighted her.

"The face painting made everybody's faces beautiful," said Smallwood. "I was happy."

"We want the kids to see that the TR can take time away from our busy schedule," said Dowell. "We want to come out and show our support for the kids and show them that we're a global force for good."



Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class (AW) Tabitha Honnold holds up the sting ray that won her USS Theodore Roosevelt's (CVN 71) 'biggest fish' contest during a fishing tournament at the Suffolk bay June 3.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

— A day off with TR —

By MC2 (EXW) Joey Morgon

Sailors from USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) took a break from shipyard life and enjoyed a relaxing day of fishing at the Suffolk bay June 3, a day designated as a free fishing day where no fishing licenses are required in Virginia.

Lt. Cmdr. Rodney Norton, TR's Admin Officer, organized a command fishing tournament after hearing about the state-wide temporary lift on fishing licenses to give Sailors a change-of-pace from the current Refueling Complex Overhaul their ship is going through.

"It's important to get days like these where we can just have fun and relax with each other away from work for a little while," said Norton. "It's great to see so many Sailors take advantage of this and come out to enjoy a little fishing."

More than 50 TR Sailors donned their fishing gear and headed to the bay to test their skill and luck in the fishing competition.

"I'm here to fish," said Information Systems Techni-

cian 2nd Class (SW) Chris Webb, a participant in the fishing tournament. "That's what this is about. It's a day of fishing and I have been looking forward to this for a while."

Aviation Boatswain's Mate (Equipment) 3rd Class (AW) Tabitha Honnold won the 'biggest fish' contest by catching a stingray that, according to Norton put up a pretty good fight in the shallow water. Honnold won a new fishing rod and a tackle box combo for her catch.

Lt. Martin Mood won the 'smallest fish' contest by snagging a four and a half inch Croaker. He won a \$50 Dick's Sporting Goods gift card for the puny fish.

Most everyone who participated in the tournament caught a fish said Norton.

"I had a lot of fun out there today," said Webb. "I would do this again in a heartbeat. It's very cool of our command to allow us to have a day off to do these kinds of events."

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TR's Media Department is looking to borrow two Star Wars Stormtrooper masks/helmets for a video production. Please contact Media Department at 4-2352 by June 13 if you are able to support the production.

Media Department is requesting all TR Sailors with acting, singing or dancing talent interested in future Media Department-produced video projects to please contact the Public Affairs Officer Lt. Cmdr. Karen Eifert at eifertke@cvn71.navy.mil or the Deputy Public Affairs Officer Ensign Michael Larson at larsonml@cvn71.navy.mil

