

## District 7600 Alumni Association News

by PDG Jim Probsdorfer, District Alumni Advisor

It's been a while since I have updated you on our Alumni Association. Needless to say, the Covid 19 pandemic has adjusted our spring plans significantly. Hope all of you are staying healthy and safe during these unusual times. Hopefully, our new Rotary theme in 2020-21, "Rotary Opens Opportunities" will inspire us to look for new ways to connect and serve.

The Alumni Association Leadership team met in-person in February and virtually in March to develop several spring projects, most of which, unfortunately, have been placed on hold. However, one aspect of our planned Alumni/GSA Spring Service project did get completed.

This past week, two of our Alumni, President Vadim Ostrovsky and Adeeb Hamzey, went to the Goochland Pet Center and made a presentation (see photo below). We gave a check for \$325 to Mr. Tim Clough, Director of the Pet Center, to help defray the costs of medical treatments for adoptable pets. Hopefully, we will follow-up with the center in the new Rotary year on a project to work with the local Girl Scouts to help take care of the pets.



Lt. John Miller, a local hero, will be the next District 7600 2020-21 Alumni Association President. John was inducted into the Alumni Association with the Class of 2018 at the District Conference in Williamsburg. He was an Ambassadorial Scholar. John will be calling a meeting of the Alumni Leadership Team in late July to lay out plans for fall to include supporting the District Conference and World Polio Day.

See the article from the June 25, 2020 issue of the *Daily Press* below:

25 June 2020

## LOCAL & STATE NEWS

DAILY PRESS

# Norfolk sailor helps rescue child in wheelchair, caretaker

BY KATHERINE HAFNER  
Staff writer

NORFOLK — Lt. John Miller was out for an evening jog in downtown Norfolk a couple weeks ago when he heard a splash.

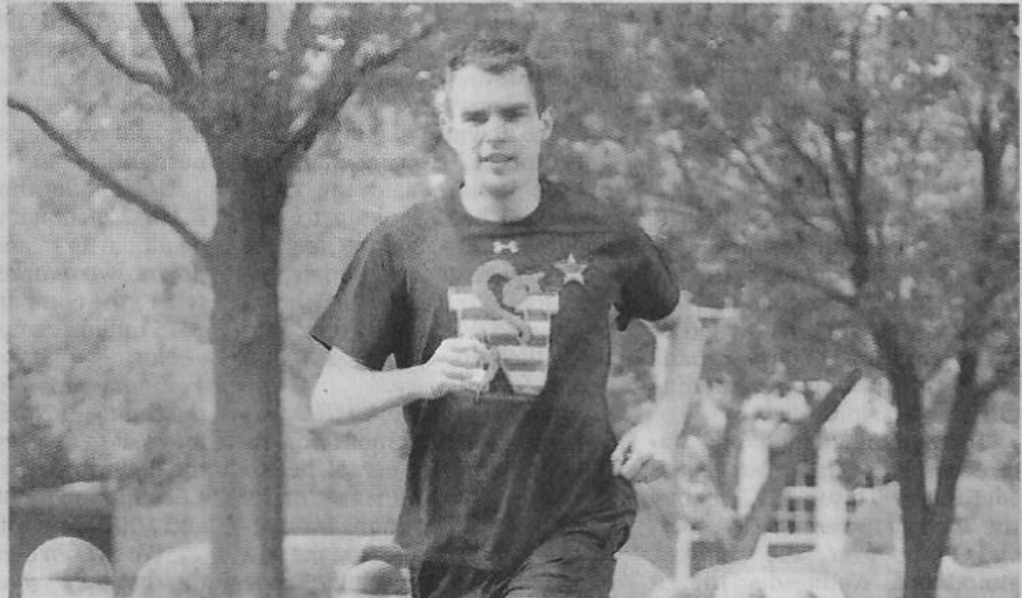
He was near the Spirit of Norfolk cruise ship along the Elizabeth River Trail around 6 p.m. on June 9, and had just seen a man and a child in a wheelchair on the edge of the seawall, according to a Navy news release. When he rounded the corner and heard the splash, he saw that the pair were gone, leaving behind the empty wheelchair.

"I sprinted back to the edge and initially saw only the man, who appeared to be floundering" in the water, Miller told Navy officials.

He jumped about 10 feet into the water, while asking another runner to seek help.

Then he pulled the caretaker and disabled child, who could not speak, back to the seawall. But the wall was covered in barnacles, Miller said in the news release, "making it impossible to grip."

"I had the man wrap his



IAN DELOSSANTOS/U.S. NAVY

John Miller saved two people who fell off a ship on the Elizabeth River Trail.

legs around me with the child safely in between us as I was concerned about the man being overly fatigued or cramping. I assumed that we would wait out rescue."

A woman standing above told Miller there was a ladder about 30 feet away, so Miller headed that way, afraid the boy had swallowed too much water, and helped the pair up. The woman who had called

authorities brought the wheelchair down the pier and everyone was back on land by the time police and fire officials got there.

"Treading and swimming with another person is difficult, but I was in the water before I knew it," Miller said. "I cannot actually process the feeling I had. I just felt an immense pressure to act."

The boy's caretaker took the crucial first step in the

rescue, Miller added.

"If one person is missing from that chain of action, it may have turned out badly."

Miller is assigned to the Navy Warfare Development Command at Naval Station Norfolk.

If he ran into the two again, "I would thank the man and the child's mother, and deliver the child a couple balloons," he said. "I've heard they make his day."