

**Met-Ed Retirees Association**  
**Virginia International Tattoo – April 27-29, 2022**

Day one of our three-day trip was a travel day with arrival at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Virginia Beach. The hotel is located on Atlantic Avenue and all our rooms overlooked the Atlantic Ocean and the scenic North Beach. The morning sunrises were stunning.

Day two was a busy day: Cruising the Norfolk Harbor on the Victory Rover, touring the Military Aviation Museum, and ending with the International Tattoo Performance.

Aboard the ship, Victory Rover, we had a guided tour of the Port of Virginia, the harbor formed by the Elizabeth and Lafayette Rivers. The harbor, which is dredged to a depth of 55 feet, consists of 6 terminals that can handle all types of cargo. Views of the containers on the docks and the huge million-dollar cranes that are used for both imports and exports were impressive sights. The harbor is also home to the Norfolk Naval Station. Ships that were visible included Destroyers, Carriers, Submarines, as well as many smaller ships that are all part of the Naval Fleet.

The Military Aviation Museum was our next stop. The guided tour included a hangar of the WWI planes used by the fighter pilots during the first world war. In the WWII hangar, on display were the fighter and bomber planes used in the second world war. All the planes were restored to its original military condition.

After a family style dinner at the Bravo Cucina Italiana, we headed to the International Tattoo performance at the Norfolk Scope Arena. The term “tattoo” is derived from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries and refers to a ceremonial performance of military music. For those of us who were seeing the performance for the first time, it was an impressive display

of music and maneuvers by the U.S. and international military groups. The audience was entertained for two non-stop action-packed hours. The military bands were represented by all branches of the U.S. military, as well as international regiments from Jordan, United Kingdom, and Netherlands. The Tattoo dance company also had an international touch, comprising dancers from Brazil, Canada, United Kingdom. It is hard to describe the pageantry witnessed and emotion felt by all.

Day three was designated as the day to travel home. Our driver Monty did an exceptional job navigating the Virginia Beach area and the I95/Beltways. Larry Lenhart did an excellent job as trip leader, keeping us moving and on time during all the scheduled events.