

THE
MARINER

2026 SUMMER Edition | Volume 69 · Issue 2

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



NERA NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.



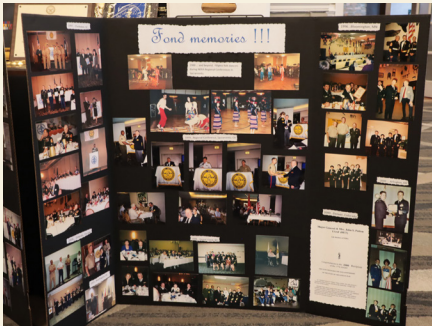
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Fair winds and
following seas,
shipmates. You
have the watch.



NERA's 2026 National Conference

Highlights from NERA's 64th Conference



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Volume 69 • Issue 2

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THE MARINER



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The Mariner, an official publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, is devoted to the interests and mutual benefit of its members. Regular Membership is open to all enlisted personnel of the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve; others may join as Associate Members. Annual dues in the amount of \$3.75 per member is set aside to defray the cost of publishing The Mariner. Single domestic subscription price is \$15 per year. Persons eligible for Regular Membership are not required to pay subscription rates. Articles, letters, and photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor via e-mail to: ypurtill@nera.org or NERA Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. Credit will be given for materials used. Letters may be condensed for publication. Articles and letters appearing in The Mariner do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the National Executive Council of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association or the Editor, nor are they to be interpreted as official policy of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The Mariner (ISSN 0164-3029) is published three times a year by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 8116 Arlington Blvd., Suite 220, Falls Church, VA 22042. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 8116 Arlington Blvd., Suite 220, Falls Church, VA 22042. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: members@nera.org.



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



Legislative Update: Final Report from Washington

Historic Benefits Expansion (The Sharri Briley and Eric Edmundson Veterans Benefits Expansion Act)

In a major win for the military community, the House recently passed this bipartisan legislation. It represents the most significant boost in decades for two of our most vulnerable groups:

- **Gold Star Families:** It provides the first increase to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payments for surviving spouses and family members beyond inflation adjustments since 1993.
- **Catastrophically Wounded Veterans:** The bill adds \$10,000 annually to the VA's Special Monthly Compensation program for those with severe injuries.
- **Reserve Component Home Loans:** Notably, this bill includes the *Home Affordability for Guard and Reserve Act*, which drastically lowers the eligibility requirements for VA home loans. If passed by the Senate, eligibility would begin after just 14 total days of qualifying service (including training periods), a massive improvement over the current 90-day/six-year threshold.

Maritime Power and Strategic Sealift

Washington has renewed its focus on maritime power as a pillar of national security. Current discourse emphasizes that ships, shipyards, and—most importantly—the highly trained mariners who crew them are essential infrastructure.

- **Strategic Sealift Officers:** There is ongoing legislative attention toward the *SHIPS for America Act* and other initiatives aimed at bolstering the merchant marine. For our NERA members with ties to the Strategic Sealift Officer (SSO) force, this reflects a growing understanding that the nation's ability to project power globally depends on our maritime readiness.

Coast Guard Pay Protections

The *Pay Our Troops Act* remains a key legislative goal. As our Coast Guard members often face uncertainty during federal funding stalemates, advocacy groups (including the FRA) are pushing for legislation that guarantees uninterrupted pay for all uniformed service members regardless of Department of Homeland Security funding lapses. Ensuring that no service member bears the burden of political gridlock remains a top-tier advocacy priority.

Ongoing Advocacy Priorities

Even as we transition, the broader military advocacy community is continuing the fight on several critical fronts:

- **Force Sustainability:** Combating recruitment challenges through competitive pay, housing, and quality-of-life improvements rather than lowering standards.
- **Concurrent Receipt:** Continuing to advocate for the elimination of the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- **Mental Health and Brain Injury:** Pushing for the *Precision Brain Health Research Act* and other initiatives focused on blast overpressure, traumatic brain injuries (TBI), and suicide prevention.

A Final Note to Our Members

Thank you for your years of partnership in this essential work. We are signing off for the last time, but the mission to support our brothers and sisters in arms lives on through you.



Joanne Elliott, YNC
National President

Dear Shipmates,

It is with a truly heavy heart that I find myself writing this good-bye letter to NERA and all our wonderful members. When I first joined NERA as a drilling reservist at Willow Grove Naval Air Station, I quickly realized that NERA was a powerful force for action. I firmly believe it was instrumental in guiding me along

my path to becoming a Chief Petty Officer. Over the years, NERA stood by us, working alongside other vital military organizations to ensure our hard-earned benefits remained protected.

I want to extend a special thanks to Steve, Jennifer, and Yvette for their unwavering support; we truly could not have achieved what we did without them. I also want to express my deepest gratitude to all our members for your years of dedication to this organization.

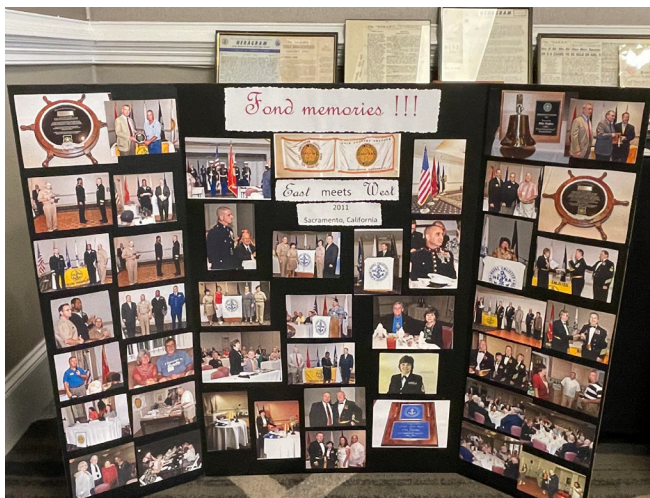
While this chapter is closing, our collective strength remains essential. **I strongly encourage you to stay involved in the military community by transitioning**

your membership to the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), or the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN). We have worked closely with these organizations to ensure they are prepared to advocate effectively for you, and we have coordinated with them to facilitate an easy transition. They are exceptional groups, and they need your experience and passion to keep our cause moving forward. If you feel another organization better suits your needs, please join one—it is vital that you remain active in naval and military advocacy.

Additionally, please keep an eye out for any NERA chapters that may continue to operate, as that remains an excellent way to maintain your local connections. I will always hold onto the hope that, in some form, we will rise again. In the meantime, thank you for your service and your steadfast commitment to one another.

Farewell shipmates. Signing off for the last time,

Joanne Elliott, President





**Deborah "Debbie"
Fallon YNC (RET)**
National Secretary

Hello NERA,

As the time for closing NERA draws near, it brings back fond memories of all the productive conferences I have attended, the wonderful people I have met, both locally through my chapter and across the nation, and the friendships that continue to endure. NERA became a family, bonded by trust, respect, and the knowledge that each of us had the other's back.

the exceptional Filipino cuisine at the Lions Gate Hotel, in Sacramento, CA, just to name a few. And of course, Jake and Sue Kriebel attending every conference making sure every vote was counted (and letting Kick and I help). I will never forget the sounds of laughter and wonderful food in the hospitality suite.

NERA has been such an important part of my life, and I'll always carry the memories with me. This isn't the end — just a new phase for all of us. I will really miss everyone and all the good work NERA has accomplished and the quiet pride of a job well done over the years.

**Until we meet again, my friends.
Fair winds and following seas to each of you.**

I find myself reflecting on the countless moments I've experienced: my first conference in 2002 at the Best Western Mainstay Inn in Newport, RI with a great wine tasting tour; dancing at the Chief's Club in Buffalo NY in 2003; taking a private tour of the submarine H.L. Hunley in Charleston, SC; listening to the violins with dinner at the Oklahoma City Conference (Duke and Linda Hayes did a great job); the view of the Capital from the Sheraton Club Lounge in Arlington, VA; and

Until we meet again, my friends. Fair winds and following seas to each of you. May your voyages be safe, your anchors hold firm, and your horizons always be bright.

Deborah "Debbie" Fallon, YNC (ret)
National Secretary



Joanne Elliott, YNC
National President

TIPS AND CLIPS

DEERS: The Foundation of Your Benefits

Your status in the **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** is the "master switch" for your benefits. If your record is inaccurate, your TRICARE claims will be denied, and your ID cards will be invalid.

- **Action Required:** Log into [milConnect](#) regularly to verify your contact information, address, and family member status.
- **When to Update:** Always update DEERS immediately following a "Qualifying Life Event" (marriage, divorce, birth, adoption, or moving to a new address).

- **Pro Tip:** Your TRICARE contractor and DEERS are two separate entities. Always update your address in **both** systems.



TRICARE: The 90-Day Window

Retirement is a “status change” that automatically disenrolls you from your active-duty TRICARE plan.

- **Don't Miss the Window:** You must re-enroll in a new TRICARE plan (Prime or Select) within **90 days** of your retirement date to ensure there is no break in coverage.
- **The Cost of Waiting:** If you miss this 90-day window, you can only enroll during the annual **TRICARE Open Season** or following a specific Qualifying Life Event. In the meantime, you will lose coverage and face significant out-of-pocket costs.
- **Stay Informed:** Visit [TRICARE.mil/Retiring](https://www.tricare.mil/Retiring) to review your 2026 plan options and catastrophic caps.

Free Resources to Keep in Your Pocket

You have earned lifetime access to support that many veterans overlook. Bookmark these resources today:

- **Military OneSource (1-800-342-9647):** Provides free, confidential support for non-medical counseling, financial planning, and transition assistance for you and your family.
- **DAV (Disabled American Veterans):** Offers free professional help with navigating VA claims and benefits, ensuring you receive the compensation you've earned.
- **Transition Assistance Programs (TAP):** Even after retirement, keep the materials from your final transition counseling. They remain your best roadmap for benefits eligibility.

Financial & Insurance Security

- **VGLI Enrollment:** If you are transitioning out of SGLI, you have a limited window (240 days) to enroll in **Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI)** without a medical exam. Don't let this deadline pass if you need continued coverage.
- **The TSP Advantage:** Your Thrift Savings Plan remains one of the lowest-cost retirement vehicles available. Consult a financial advisor before withdrawing or rolling it over to ensure you aren't sacrificing long-term growth for short-term liquidity.

Military & Veteran Specific Savings "Clips"

- **The TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) Advantage:** If you qualify, switching from a civilian employer health-care plan to TRS is often one of the single biggest monthly savings clips available to reservists. Compare your current civilian premium and deductible rates against TRS—the savings frequently amount to thousands of dollars annually.
- **Maxing the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP):** If you are under the Blended Retirement System (BRS), ensure you are contributing at least 5% of your drill pay to get the full 5% government matching contribution. Turning down matching funds is essentially leaving free money on the table.
- **Commuter & Lodging Offsets:** Always ensure you are tracking and claiming IDT (Inactive Duty Training) travel allowances if you drill outside your local commuting area. Additionally, keep tight records of your mileage and unreimbursed uniform or travel expenses; depending on your tax filing status and distance traveled (over 100 miles), these can still provide valuable federal tax deductions.
- **The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Cap:** If you are called to active duty orders (like a mobilization or extended ADT), remember that the SCRA mandates a 6% interest rate cap on any financial obligations—like credit cards or car loans—incurred before you entered active duty status. Call your lenders immediately upon receiving orders to clip those high interest rates down.



Stephen Sandy
National Past
President

To the Members, Friends, and Families of NERA

There is an old navy saying that you can't direct the wind, but you can adjust your sails. For decades, the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association has been our steady ship, navigating the waters of advocacy, camaraderie, and unwavering service to those who served.

Together, we've weathered storms, celebrated monumental victories on Capitol Hill, and built a brotherhood and sisterhood that spans generations.

Now, the time has come for NERA to make its final port of call.

As we prepare to close this chapter and officially wind down our association's operations, I find myself looking back not with sadness, but with an overwhelming sense of pride and gratitude. Serving as your President and Executive Director has been one of the greatest honors of my life. But NERA was never about the titles or the headquarters; it was always about you.

It was about the dedicated reservists who answered the call, the families who stood resiliently at home, and the tireless volunteers who ensured our collective voice was always heard loud and clear. We accomplished exactly what we set out to do: we protected the benefits, honored the sacrifices, and elevated the standing of the Naval Enlisted Reserve.

While the organization may be lowering its flag, the bond we share doesn't come with an expiration date. The sea stories will still be told (and will undoubtedly get more exaggerated with time), the friendships will endure, and the legacy of what we built together will remain secure in the history of our nation's defense.

Thank you for the trust you placed in me, for your unwavering dedication to our mission, and for a lifetime of wonderful memories. It has been a magnificent cruise.

Fair winds and following seas,

Steve Sandy





Geno Koelker
National Counselor
and Past National
President

Dear NERA Shipmates,

As I sit here in the early morning hours, reflecting on what to say in this final message, my mind wanders. Part of me wonders if I should sound the alarm and offer warnings for the future. But who would listen at this stage, and what difference would it truly make? We all know the old adage: "Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it." I will leave those reflections for others

to contemplate. Instead, I choose to focus on the positive.

At our convention in April, I spoke about what belonging to NERA has meant to me. Today, I simply want to say thank you. Thank you for the lifelong friendships and the incredible people I have met. Thank you for the benefits that have supported my family. Thank you for the immense satisfaction of serving a purpose, striving to do better for others, and learning valuable life lessons along the way.

I take great comfort in knowing that I didn't just complain about the state of things; I stepped up, gave back, and returned the kindness that was once shown to me. It reminds me of a small placard my daughter—a proud Navy Brat—gave me: "I walked the walk. NAVY VETERAN."

Life has taught me that saying goodbye is always painful, but it doesn't mean everything ends. The memories, both happy and sad, remain. The lifelong friendships remain—and I urge you not to let them go. I am trying to focus on a piece of advice once given to me: "For every ending, there is a new beginning."

As I say goodbye to this chapter, I look forward to that new beginning.

Fair winds and following seas,

Geno Eugene P. Koelker,
Past President (My Honor)



Curtis DeYoung
NERA Vice President

Dear NERA Shipmates,

As your National Executive Council (NEC) NERA Vice President, it has been my absolute honor to serve you over the last five years. It was wonderful seeing so many shipmates and their families at our 64th NERA Conference this past April outside of Philadelphia. Sharing sea stories and talking about past conferences reminded me of

the deep bonds that unite us.

I know this is an incredibly difficult time for all of us, both NERA life and annual members alike. Please know that your NERA National Executive Council worked tirelessly and did everything within our power to keep NERA open, operational, and thriving. However, as time marches on and demographics change, retaining membership has become an uphill battle that many veteran organizations face.

Though this chapter is closing, my devotion to our maritime heritage remains. I plan to stay involved with the Navy community and look forward to finding new ways to serve alongside fellow veterans.

I want to extend a special thank you to my wife, Eileen, and my daughters. Their unwavering love and support made my dedication to NERA and the U.S. Navy possible.

As a NERA Life Member and your Vice President, it breaks my heart to say goodbye. Thank you for your trust, your service, and your camaraderie.

Wishing you all fair winds and following seas. Please take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

EN2 Curtis DeYoung NEC,
NERA Vice President, Life Member



From the Editor's Desk: A Final Salute to NERA

By Yvette Buchanan Purtill, Deputy-Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief

As I sit down to write this, my heart is incredibly full. While it is deeply painful to watch the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association lower its colors after 69 years of dedicated service, I am filled with an overwhelming sense of pride. An organization is only as strong as its people, and NERA has been blessed with the absolute finest.

Before we close this chapter for good, I want to take this space to personally thank the incredible individuals who stepped up, leaned in, and poured their souls into our mission.

precision, and we found that in **Debbie Fallon and her husband, Kick**. Thank you both for being so incredibly organized, keeping the gears turning behind the scenes, and ensuring nothing slipped through the cracks.

We also look back with fond memories and a touch of heartache to remember those we've lost. **Fair winds and following seas to Mike Hughes**. Mike, we miss you terribly—from your famously corny jokes that always brightened the room, to your selfless dedication, right down to

**An organization is only as strong as its people,
and NERA has been blessed with the absolute finest.**

First and foremost, a massive thank you to **Steve Sandy**. Steve, you have truly been the absolute heart of NERA. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment kept our pulse steady, even during the toughest of times. We owe you a debt of gratitude that words simply cannot repay.

To our National President, **Joanne Elliott**—thank you for your steadfast leadership, your vision, and for steering our ship through these final, turbulent waters with grace, strength, and dignity.

A special salute goes to our National Treasurer, **Dennis Hunt**. Dennis, thank you for your meticulous oversight and for tirelessly keeping the money in order. Your financial stewardship ensured we could carry out our mission responsibly right up until the very end.

We always knew who to turn to when the pressure was on. Thank you to **Curtis deYoung** for always being there exactly when we needed you most; your reliability was an anchor for us all. And where would we be without **Geno Koekler**? Geno, thank you for always bringing the fun, lifting our spirits, and reminding us to smile, no matter what the day brought.

Every great organization needs a keeper of the rules, and **Jake Kriebel** served that role perfectly. Jake, thank you for knowing the bylaws inside and out and keeping us on the right and true path. A project of this scale requires military-grade

literally mowing NERA's lawn at headquarters. Thank you for everything! You are forever in our hearts.

As an editor, my job would have been impossible without our brilliant graphic artist, **Karen Durland**. Karen, thank you for your incredible talent and patience. You consistently took a chaotic mess of ideas, random pictures, and articles and magically turned them into something beautiful, professional, and perfectly in order.

Finally, my most profound and special thanks goes to **Jennifer Abbott**. Jennifer, you have handled literally *everything* thrown your way with unmatched due diligence, a brilliant sense of humor, and a bottomless well of kindness. You have been the glue holding the day-to-day operations together, and NERA simply could not have functioned without you.

To our members, our leaders, and our families: thank you for allowing me to be your editor. We may be closing our doors, but the legacy of what we built together will live on in the lives of every enlisted reservist we protected and served. I will always be proud of my time at NERA.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Yvette Buchanan Purtill,
Deputy-Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief, NERA



Announcement: The Dissolution of NERA

After decades of service and advocacy, the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) held its final national conference on April 17–19, 2026, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Membership and leadership reached the difficult decision to formally dissolve NERA. While this marks the end of NERA’s national presence, many NERA chapters have opted to continue.

The following chapters have notified NERA that they are continuing:

Oklahoma Sooners — MSG John Meek jwmeeksfc@aol.com

Greater Lehigh Valley — EM1 Thomas Rafferty tjrhave@ptd.net

Oliver Hazard — EMC(SW) Ray Barber rbarber@velocity.net

Central Pennsylvania — PH1 Bob Bentley rjbentley@atlanticbb.net

Windy City — ABHCS Gene Koelker genokoelker@yahoo.com

The conference served as both a reunion and a meeting to wind things down. NERA’s leadership was able to honor NERA founders, past presidents and the countless volunteers who maintained the deckplates of the organization for nearly 70 years.





NERA's 2026 National Conference



A New Chapter: Partner Organizations

To ensure that no NERA member is left without a voice or a community, several premier military associations have graciously opened their doors, offering a seamless transition for our members to continue their advocacy and fellowship. We encourage you to explore membership with the following organizations, all of which share our commitment to the Sea Services:



[Association of the United States Navy \(AUSN\)](https://ausn.org)
ausn.org



[Fleet Reserve Association \(FRA\)](https://fra.org)
fra.org



[Reserve Organization of America \(ROA\)](https://roa.org)
roa.org

The invitations from each organization are on the following pages. Please reach out to each organization with any questions regarding membership or to further understand their mission.



Good afternoon to the Members of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



I'm LCDR Steven Rogers, Executive Director, Association of the United States Navy.

I am pleased to share with you that AUSN is making strong progress, and our mission achievements have exceeded expectations.

That means bringing the voice of enlisted sailors to the forefront—because when we say, “all hands,” we mean every rank, every voice, and every family we serve.

When I became Executive Director, I quickly saw we couldn't fulfill our mission without the enlisted voices joining us. I say, let's live up to what AUSN stands for.

I served as an enlisted Sailor before commissioning, which gave me valuable insight into what our Sailors and their families need.

Recent Developments

I could outline all the benefits we offer — many similar to those of other organizations. But I would rather focus on you. So, for more information about AUSN, please visit www.ausn.org.

However, I'll share two recent developments, then offer one idea for you to consider.

1. AUSN produces “*Peace Through Strength: America's Navy*,” a nationally syndicated radio show heard across the country and streaming on major podcast platforms like iHeart, Spotify, and Amazon.
2. We're partnering with the Navy Museum Development Foundation to build a multi-million-dollar Navy Museum in Washington, D.C., and AUSN has already invested \$1 million in the effort.

We need Navy enlisted members at the table —helping shape these efforts and ensuring they deliver real impact for Sailors and their families.

My Offer to You

Now, my offer to you. I do not believe this is the end for you; instead, I believe this is a fresh start — an opportunity to preserve your identity, strengthen your relevance, and carry your mission forward.

Your mission matters — because it strengthens the Navy, supports our Sailors, and serves our nation. That is why I'm inviting individuals and chapters to join AUSN as part of the AUSN Navy Enlisted Reserve Services.

AUSN already elevates enlisted voices: enlisted members serve on our Board, and my chief of staff is enlisted. Joining AUSN gives you full backing while we handle governance and financial oversight, letting your team focus on the mission.

Most importantly, your mission keeps moving forward, with greater impact, visibility, and relevance.

The next step is yours. We invite you to transfer your life membership to AUSN, and we offer a complimentary one-year AUSN membership, followed by standard dues. If your NERA Chapter would like to remain active locally, we welcome transitioning your chapter as a whole to AUSN. Together, we can build what comes next and deliver lasting results for Sailors, families, and the Navy.

I salute you and thank you for your service.

Respectfully,
Steve Rogers
LCDR, USN (Ret), Executive Director
Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)



An Invitation from Fleet Reserve Association — FRA



Fleet Reserve Association Invitation To NERA Members — Stronger Together in Continued Service

NERA members are invited to join the **Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)** — Similar to NERA we are dedicated to protecting the rights, benefits, and future of enlisted service members and veterans of the Sea Services.

For more than 100 years, the FRA has served as a strong and trusted voice for all enlisted Sailors, Marines, Coast Guards, and their families. FRA and NERA share common values, traditions, and a continued commitment to service beyond the uniform.

Why Join the FRA?

- Strong legislative advocacy before Congress, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Protection of earned benefits including retired pay, health care, survivor benefits, and quality-of-life programs
- Leadership opportunities, camaraderie and fellowship through local branches, regional activities, and national conventions
- Enhanced Scholarship programs, youth initiatives, Access to Veteran Service Officers and community service support
- A stronger, united enlisted voice at the national level

Your Voice Matters

NERA members who meet eligibility requirements are encouraged to join the Fleet Reserve Association and

continue making a difference for today's and tomorrow's Sea Service community.

For Membership Information:

visit www.fra.org/benefits

1 (800) 372-1924 ext. 1

Donna Jansky, National Executive Director
Fleet Reserve Association
NED@fra.org

Fleet Reserve Association

Serving the Sea Services — Past, Present, and Future



An Invitation from Reserve Organization of America — ROA



To the Members of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association has a proud history of advocacy on behalf of enlisted reservists. That work matters. It does not end because an organization changes status. Advocacy endures through people, shared purpose, and the ability to carry influence forward.

The Reserve Organization of America exists for that purpose. ROA is the only congressionally chartered reserve association representing all Services and all ranks, with a singular focus on Reserve Component policy, readiness, and benefits.

For more than a century, ROA has operated where decisions are made—on Capitol Hill, within the Department of Defense, and across the federal interagency—advancing the interests of reservists who serve and have served.

Enlisted members are not peripheral to that mission. They are essential to it. Effective reserve advocacy fails without enlisted experience, enlisted leadership, and enlisted voice. ROA recognizes that reality and incorporates it directly into its work.

Two leaders who have served both communities understand this deeply.

CWO4 Dale Andersen, USN (Ret), National Councilman Nebraska and Past National Navy Vice President, brings unique perspective as a Life Member of NERA and past chapter president during his enlisted days:

“As a Life Member of NERA and a past president of a chapter during my enlisted days, I can say that the mission statement and goals of both NERA and ROA are on the same page. Both organizations have more in common than not. ROA is chartered by Congress to focus exclusively on all the uniformed Reserve Components, and has a strong voice on Capitol Hill. NERA advocacy can still continue while joining forces with ROA. Your voice lives on. We are the only recognized reserve association whose membership of all branches, all ranks with the focus on reserve matters, period.”

CAPT Henry E. Plimack, USCG (Ret), Vice President of the Naval Services Section, shares a similar call to action as a former NERA member:

“Dear NERA shipmates, as a former member of your Association and current Vice President of the Naval Services Section of the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), I would like you to consider joining our team. We represent all Services and all Ranks and are a powerful advocate for the Reserve Components in the Pentagon, the Veterans Administration, and Congress. Located on Capitol Hill, we have over a century of successful advocacy for active and retired Reservists. Visit ROA.org for the past decade of ROA achievements. As we have very similar advocacy goals, we believe you will feel right at home in ROA. Semper Paratus, Semper Fi, and Semper Fortis.”

These are not simply endorsements. They represent continuity. Both leaders have walked the path from NERA to ROA and found that the mission remains the same—effective advocacy for those who serve in the Reserve Component.

ROA considered membership options designed to welcome NERA members in a manner that is respectful, deliberate, and consistent with sound governance. The intent is continuity of advocacy, preservation of voice, and consolidation of strength. This is a moment to carry forward what you built, not to leave it behind. As part of this transition, NERA Life members and NERA Annual members can transfer their membership directly to ROA at no cost. NERA Annual members will be able to renew for just \$20 upon expiration.

Your experience as enlisted reservists, your commitment to advocacy, and your voice matter. ROA stands ready to ensure they continue to matter where policy is made and decisions are rendered.

Respectfully,

John B. Hashem

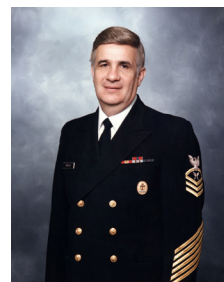
Major General, USA (Ret)
Executive Director,
Reserve Organization of America (ROA)

[ROA-NERA Membership Transfer Form](#)

Learn more about ROA’s mission: [ROA-NERA Presentation](#)



NERA PAST PRESIDENTS



Not pictured: DCCM Steve Sandy 2015-2019, ABHCS Eugene Koelker 2013-2015, YNC James P. DeLoach, Jr. 1957-1962



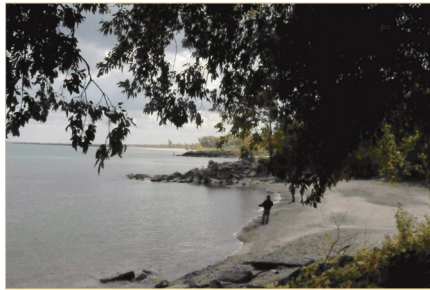
NERA CONFERENCE 2011





NERA CONFERENCE 2013







NAVSEA Announces 2025 Active and Reserve Sailors of the Year

By Naval Sea Systems Command Corporate Communications / Published April 22, 2026

WASHINGTON — Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) announced the active and reserve 2025 Sailors of the Year during a ceremony held at its headquarters.

Navy Diver First Class Andrew D. Turner, representing the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Division, Keyport, was named the Active-Duty Sailor of the Year.

Electronics Technician First Class Carl R. Frost II, representing Navy Reserve SurgeMain Norfolk Naval Shipyard (NNSY) — Raleigh, was named the Reserve Sailor of the Year.

“These exceptional recipients reflect the excellence and dedication of Sailors across the Enterprise,” said Vice Adm. Jim Downey, Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command and Portfolio Acquisition Executive for Industrial Operations. “They stand among 10 extraordinary finalists this year—technical leaders who impact their commands and accelerate Fleet readiness. They are the Warfighters who make our Navy great.”



Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) 2025 Sailor of the Year (SOY) ceremony

WASHINGTON, DC (April 16, 2026) - Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) 2025 Sailor of the Year (SOY) ceremony was hosted by Vice Admiral Jim Downey, Commander, NAVSEA, and held in the auditorium at the Washington Navy Yard. ND1 Andrew Turner, Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Keyport, was the active duty winner, and ET1 Carl Frost II, SurgeMain Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Raleigh, was the reservist winner. Congratulations to all the finalists. (U.S. Navy photo by Laura Lakeway)

As one of the Navy's premier warfare centers, NUWC Division, Keyport provides advanced technical capabilities that support the Navy's undersea dominance. The center's work encompasses test and evaluation, engineering, and fleet readiness support for submarines, torpedoes, and unmanned systems.

Turner's leadership as the dive locker Leading Petty Officer directly supported this complex mission. Guiding a team of 14 divers through a wide range of critical operations, including site surveys, ship husbandry, and torpedo recovery, he ensured the warfare center could meet its demanding operational requirements.

Turner was also vital to the Navy's only Deep Sea Expeditionary No Decompression (DSEND) demonstration. During this event, he safely supervised 34 complex dives, ensuring the validation of a critical Office of Naval Research capability and helping secure its future funding. Additionally, Turner's mentorship drove the professional development of his team, resulting in the selection of four junior Sailors of the Quarter, two Sailors of the Quarter, and the awarding of 16 Navy achievement medals.

For the Navy Reserves, the Surge Maintenance (SurgeMain) program is a crucial component of the NAVSEA enterprise. Established to provide skilled, supplemental manpower to the nation's public shipyards, SurgeMain Sailors ensure the Navy has the maintenance

In the days leading up to the ceremony, the finalists representing 10 field activities, shipyards, and reserve units met with NAVSEA and Navy senior leaders and visited locations around the Washington, D.C. area. In addition to Turner and Frost, the finalists included:

Active-Duty Sailor of the Year Finalists:

Engineman First Class Alejandra Baxter

Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Norfolk, Virginia

Hull Technician First Class Trenton Jorgensen

Southeast Regional Maintenance Center, Mayport, Florida

Gas Turbine Systems Technician Mechanical First Class Erica Martinezgomez

Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, San Diego, California

Gas Turbine Technician First Class Sharlyn Yambogonzalez

Pearl Harbor Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii



capacity needed during peak workload periods to get ships back to the fleet on time.

Serving as the Leading Petty Officer and Command Career Counselor for SurgeMain Raleigh, Frost is responsible for the readiness, training, and career guidance of 127 Sailors. Demonstrating outstanding leadership, he was hand-selected to assume the role of Region Training Chief, a billet normally reserved for a Chief Petty Officer.

His proactive mentorship and orchestration of 49 career development boards led to four reenlistments and nine advancements, ensuring vital technical expertise is retained within the reserve force. Frost also put his technical skills directly to work for the fleet during his annual training at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. While aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Laboon (DDG 58), he overhauled critical shipboard equipment, restoring the ship's vital communications suite to full operational status, directly contributing to a successful maintenance availability.

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Active and Reserve Sailors of the Year, continued from page 17

Reserve Sailor of the Year Finalists:

Electrician's Mate First Class Joshua Brown

Navy Reserve, SurgeMain Kitsap, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Bremerton, Washington

Boatswain's Mate First Class Nanette Lewis

Navy Reserve, Mid-Atlantic Regional Maintenance Center, Louisville, Kentucky

Electronics Technician First Class Steven Miedke

Navy Reserve, Northwest Regional Maintenance Center, Fort Worth, Texas

Yeoman First Class Mary Yosinao

Navy Reserve, Southwest Regional Maintenance Center, San Diego, California

The Sailor of the Year program was established by former Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet to recognize Sailors who best exemplify the Navy's ideals of professional and personal dedication. The program

was later expanded to recognize outstanding Sailors from shore establishments and the Navy Reserve.

Turner and Frost will now go on to represent NAVSEA in the Navy-wide Sailor of the Year competition.



Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) 2025 Sailor of the Year (SOY) ceremony

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Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)

For Navy reservists and military retirees, the most significant update for 2026 is the **2.8% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA)**, which took effect for benefits beginning December 1, 2025. Here are the key details regarding retirement benefits for 2026:

2026 COLA Increase

- **The Adjustment:** A **2.8% COLA** was applied to military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities, and VA disability compensation to help these benefits keep pace with inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W).
- **Implementation:** The increase was automatically applied by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) and was reflected in payments starting December 31, 2025.
- **REDUX Plan Exception:** Retirees under the Career Status Bonus (CSB/REDUX) retirement plan received a **1.8% increase** (full COLA minus 1 percentage point), as mandated by the rules of that specific retirement system.

Important Administrative Reminders

- **Stay Connected with DFAS:** If you are a reservist approaching retirement or currently drawing benefits, ensure your contact information is current in *myPay*. DFAS uses this system for all tax documents and account notifications.
- **DEERS Verification:** Ensure your information in the **Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS)** is accurate. This is the "master switch" for all your military benefits, including TRICARE eligibility. You can verify your data through [milConnect](#).
- **Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP):** As organizations like NERA sunset, if you have questions regarding your SBP or are looking to transition administrative support, organizations like the **FRA, ROA, and AUSN** have staff who are well-versed in these specific military retirement programs and can provide guidance.

Distinguishing Pay Raises from COLA

It is important to note that the **2.8% COLA** for retirees is different from the **3.8% base pay raise** that active-duty service members received in 2026. COLA is strictly an inflation-adjustment mechanism based on the CPI-W, whereas active-duty pay raises are benchmarked against the Employment Cost Index (ECI) to account for private-sector wage growth.

As you continue to navigate your retirement or reserve transition, please remember that your earned benefits are secure. For specialized questions regarding your specific retirement plan or VA claim, you are encouraged to leverage the professional advocacy support provided by the Fleet Reserve Association (FRA), the Reserve Organization of America (ROA), or the Association of the United States Navy (AUSN).



A Legacy of Support: NERA Gold Country Honors Command Master Chief Jeff Jones

For many years, the NERA Gold Country Chapter has been a steadfast pillar at Coast Guard Air Station Sacramento, supporting everything from Change of Commands to holiday events. NERA's contributions are always warmly acknowledged by command leadership. Command Master Chief Jeff Jones, however, took that appreciation a step further—always ensuring that Norma and attending NERA officers received VIP treatment, including their own **RESERVED PARKING** spaces.

That close bond was on full display at Master Chief Jones's recent retirement ceremony, held in the Air Station hangar. Highlighting his remarkable roots, Jones made a grand entrance, flying into the ceremony aboard a Coast Guard MH-65E helicopter.

This wasn't just for show; it was a nod to an extraordinary 30-year career. As a qualified helicopter Flight Mechanic Instructor (FMI) and rescue hoist operator, Jones accrued over 1,200 flight hours across the Pacific, Atlantic, and the Gulf. He braved numerous Search and Rescue cases, most

notably hoisting 64 men, women, and children to safety in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

While his operational achievements are legendary, Jones was equally driven to lead. Getting the job of Command Master Chief at Air Station Sacramento was his absolute dream position. Looking back on nearly three decades, he expressed deep gratitude to the Coast Guard for every opportunity.

The ceremony concluded with a heartfelt surprise. After verbally thanking the NERA Gold Country Chapter for their unwavering support, Master Chief Jones presented Norma with her very own, permanent **"Forever" Reserve Parking sign** to take home. The celebration wrapped up with a beautiful retirement cake proudly featuring the NERA logo, generously donated by the chapter.

As Master Chief Jones steps into his next chapter alongside his wife Alicia, daughter Alexis, and son Ransom, the NERA Gold Country Chapter wishes him fair winds and following seas!



AETCM Jeff Jones arriving for his ceremony aboard the MH-65E helicopter.

“The service made me the man I am today.” — *AETCM Jeff Jones*



Air Station CO CAPT Brad Apitz honors AETCM Jones for his 30 years of service.



The Air Station Chaplain delivers the invocation.



AETCM Jones presents Norma with her official “Forever” Reserved Parking sign.



CAPT Apitz with the guest of honor, AETCM Jones, and his wife, Alicia



AETCM Jeff Jones and his supportive wife, Alicia.



The Jones Family: Wife Alicia, Daughter Alexis, and Son Ransom.



The retirement cake featuring the NERA logo, donated by the Gold Country Chapter.



Semper Fidelis



To every enlisted Marine who has carried a NERA membership card, served on our councils, or read these pages: **Thank you.** Thank you for your fierce discipline, your unique perspective, and your unwavering commitment to our shared legislative fights.

The Marine Corps Reserve is actively shaping the future of global defense. Right now, Marine Forces Reserve

(MARFORRES) is undergoing its most significant transformation in decades. To adapt to a rapidly shifting global landscape, the command has been rolling out massive, wide-ranging mobilization exercises designed to stress-test the entire Select Reserve component.

As NERA lowers its colors, we do so knowing that the spirit of the enlisted Reservist is safer and stronger because we fought together. To the United States Marine Corps Reserve: May your next century of service be as glorious as your last. *Semper Fidelis!*

Marine Corps Update: Innovation & Readiness

- **Drone-Helicopter Integration:** The Corps is rapidly advancing its “Manned-Unmanned Teaming” (MUM-T) capabilities. In a significant recent test, Marines successfully paired a UH-1Y Venom helicopter with an attack drone during a Southern California exercise. This trial proved that operators aboard an orbiting helicopter could assume control of an FPV (first-person view) drone launched from the ground, significantly extending the range and lethality of expeditionary forces.
- **Force Design 2030 Progress:** Modernization remains the Corps’ strategic priority. The 12th Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR) is projected to reach Initial Operating Capability (IOC) in 2026, joining the 3rd MLR as a key component of our Pacific-focused strategy. These units—designed for highly mobile, long-range precision strikes—are the vanguard of the Corps’ evolution toward maritime-centric warfare.
- **Congressional Budget Hearings:** Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Eric M. Smith recently testified before the Senate Appropriations Committee to defend the Department of the Navy’s fiscal year 2027 budget request. The testimony underscored a continued push for advanced capabilities, including digital fire control systems for NMESIS/HIMARS, the fielding of “Collaborative Combat Aircraft,” and expanded prepositioning networks across the Indo-Pacific.
- **Operational Tempo:** Marines continue to play a critical role in enforcing maritime security in the Middle East. Most recently, units from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) were involved in boarding and redirecting commercial vessels suspected of evading U.S. Navy blockades in the Gulf of Oman, demonstrating the Corps’ ongoing role in maintaining stability in contested maritime zones.

A Note for Retired Marines

As we close this chapter, please ensure your records are up to date. The transition to the new SBP/RCSBP premium payment process (moving away from Treasury’s Centralized Receivables Service) is still ongoing. Continue to monitor official DFAS communications, as they will provide direct instructions when the transition is finalized.



Always Ready: Honoring the Mighty Coast Guard Reserve



At NERA, we have always proudly stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the dedicated “Coasties” of the United States Coast Guard Reserve. These maritime responders have routinely left their civilian jobs to face the most dangerous environments imaginable—protecting our nation’s ports, executing daring search and rescue operations, and enforcing maritime law.

The strategic value of the Coast Guard Reserve is more apparent than ever. Frontline operational demands have surged to historic highs, and the Coast Guard has heavily

relied on its enlisted Reservists to surge into active roles for high-stakes domestic security missions.

As the final issue of *The Mariner*, NERA extends our deepest gratitude to the enlisted Coast Guard Reservists who have enriched our association, served on our councils, and fought for equitable benefits by our side. You have stood the watch, braved the storm, and kept the homeland safe. We salute your vigilance, your professionalism, and your legacy of service. *Semper Paratus!*

Coastie Corner

- **Modernization and Fleet Readiness:** The Coast Guard recently awarded a \$17.8 million contract for new engineering and weapons training facilities at TRACEN Yorktown, Virginia. This project is specifically designed to train crews for the next generation of vessels, including the **Offshore Patrol Cutters (OPC)** and **Waterways Commerce Cutters (WCC)**, which are central to the service’s long-term fleet modernization efforts.
- **Legislative Milestones:** The Fiscal Year 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) includes a codified “Safe-to-Report” policy. This law provides critical legal protections for service members reporting sexual assault, ensuring they are not subject to disciplinary action for minor misconduct—such as curfew violations or underage drinking—that may have occurred at the time of an incident. Additionally, the legislation authorizes the use of existing funds to complete the **National Coast Guard Museum** in New London, Connecticut.

Administrative Updates for Retirees

- **Pay and SBP Premiums:** Retirees and SBP annuitants continue to be paid on schedule. For those who pay SBP/RCSBP premiums through Direct Remittance, the transition away from the Treasury’s Centralized Receivables Service (CRS) is ongoing; continue to monitor official communications from the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for specific instructions on when to switch to direct billing.
- **DFAS Digital Tools:** DFAS has expanded its online capabilities via the “askDFAS” portal. Retirees can now securely update mailing addresses, request duplicate 1099-R forms, or verify pay online. Using these digital tools via *myPay* remains the most secure and efficient method for managing accounts.
- **Special Needs Trust (SNT) Checklist:** DFAS has released a new, helpful checklist for retirees who wish to direct SBP annuity payments to a Special Needs Trust for a dependent child. This resource details the eligibility requirements and necessary documentation to preserve the beneficiary’s eligibility for other federal or state assistance.
- **2026 COLA:** As a reminder for financial planning, a 2.8 percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was applied to retired pay and SBP annuities effective December 1, 2025, with the adjustment reflected in payments beginning in early 2026.



VA News

Expanded PACT Act Protections for Sea Services

The VA has issued critical processing updates for toxic exposure claims, which *The Mariner* has heavily emphasized for Navy and Coast Guard veterans.

- **Vessel-Specific Claims:** The VA has continuously expanded the list of recognized ships, overseas locations, and blue-water environments associated with toxic exposures (including radiation, asbestos, and tactical chemicals).
- **Reservist Presumption:** Because reservists often face a higher bureaucratic hurdle proving line-of-duty toxic exposure compared to active-duty counterparts, the latest guidance instructs veterans on how to use logs, temporary active orders, and unit history to fulfill PACT Act requirements.

Guard & Reserve G.I. Bill Parity Updates

A massive legislative focus for NERA has been the push for the **Reserve Component G.I. Bill Parity Act**. The latest updates detail ongoing efforts to ensure that *every day* a Navy, Marine, or Coast Guard reservist spends on active-duty orders (including training, operational support, and local mobilizations) counts equally toward Post-9/11 G.I. Bill eligibility, rather than only specific types of federal deployments.

Comprehensive DD-214 and Service Record Consolidation

There is a critical VA directive: **records consolidation**.

- The VA is actively urging aging or retiring reservists to formally request and aggregate all of their scattered training orders, point capture sheets, and separate DD-214s into a single, comprehensive Master Military Personnel File (MMPF) to ensure smooth processing for VA Home Loans, healthcare enrollment, and burial benefits.

Transitioning Post-NERA: Where to Track VA News

Since NERA is closing its doors, members are being instructed to transition to partnering organizations to stay updated on future VA policy shifts. The primary recommended networks are:

- **Association of the United States Navy (AUSN)** ausn.org
- **Fleet Reserve Association (FRA)** fra.org
- **Reserve Organization of America (ROA)** roa.org
- **The Military Coalition (TMC)** themilitarycoalition.org

RESOURCE REMINDER: Digital copies of these critical transition guides and previous policy breakdowns remain accessible via the official **[NERA Mariner Magazine Archive](#)**. Members are highly encouraged to **download and save these final issues for their personal reference files.**



2026 TRICARE Update: What Members Need to Know

Costs and Fees

- **General Increases:** Most enrollment fees, deductibles, and copayments for working-age retirees and their families have seen a **2–3% increase** in 2026 to keep pace with healthcare trends.
- **Catastrophic Caps:** Be sure to check your specific catastrophic cap for the year (e.g., \$3,000–\$4,635 depending on your group and status). Once you hit this cap, your out-of-pocket costs for covered services are eliminated for the remainder of the calendar year.

Expanded Access and Coverage

- **Specialty Care Travel Benefit:** The distance threshold for the TRICARE Prime Travel Benefit has been reduced from 100 miles to **75 miles**. If you are required to travel for specialty care, you may be eligible for reimbursement at this lower distance threshold.
- **Weight Loss Prescriptions:** TRICARE now covers weight loss drugs for treating obesity when prescribed by a network provider as part of a comprehensive, integrated treatment plan.
- **Medical Devices:** Coverage has been streamlined for specific devices, including TENS units for post-operative pain management and improved access to cochlear implants for those with qualifying hearing loss.
- **Prophylactic Surgery:** Coverage now extends to certain preventive surgeries for beneficiaries at high genetic risk of cancer.

New Initiatives and Pilots

- **Prime Demonstration Program:** For those living in the **Atlanta or Tampa** metro areas, there is a new TRICARE Prime pilot program administered by CareSource. It tests a new model that eliminates referral requirements for in-network care and includes a first-year enrollment fee waiver for eligible retirees and dependents.
- **MTF Utilization:** The Department of Defense is working to “re-attract” care back into Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs) by cross-credentialing providers to care for both active-duty members and veterans/retirees in facilities with excess capacity.

Important Reminders for All Members

- **Verify DEERS:** Your eligibility hinges on your data in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). With the organizational changes at NERA, take a moment to ensure your contact information, address, and family status are current in milConnect.
- **Pharmacy Refills:** You will now receive notifications (via email or text) when a prescription is due for a refill, and you must proactively log in to your account to confirm the request.
- **Stay Informed:** The most effective way to stay current is to visit TRICARE.mil/Costs/Compare and subscribe to official TRICARE news updates.



“A Tribute to HMCM Manny Ratner”

A distinguished group of NERA lifetime members whose outstanding dedication and support continues to fortify the legacy of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association thus inspiring future generations to absolute greatness.

DK2 Donnie H. Adkins
 FTCS(SS) Richard Aleksy
 HMCS William M. Allen †
 MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen
 PSCS Sal Aloiso
 SK2 Paul Anderson*
 PNC William A. Anderson †
 EMC(SS) Dale L. Arnold *
 EMC Larry M. Arnold
 SKCS(RET) Robert R. Arnold**
 HTC Andrew Avellino
 MAC(AW) India S. Aycok
 IS1 Judith A. Ayers
 SKCS B C Ballard
 CWO4 Shirley Barlow †
 DTC James D. Barksdale, Jr.
 SKCS John A. Bartlett
 BMCM Bobby H. Barnes
 LSC Michael F. Bartsch
AVCM Don Bauman †
 EA1 Warren A. Beck
 AFCM B. Kodjo Ben-Carew
 LCDR William D. Bennett
 BM1 Jeffrey Benton
 AEC Charles A. Berger †
 PCSS Sandra S. Bethea
 AVCM Russell W. Bibens
 DTC(RET) Hughie A. Black
 CUCM David D. Boman***
 OS1 Donald J. Bond †
 SM1 Bill G. Boruff
 IS1 Wayne E. Boyer***
 DKCM Charles E. Bradley
 MMFN Charles E. Bradshaw
 HTCS(SW) Peter E. Bragg**
 MCC Brian Brannon
 CMC John K. Brian, Jr. †
 ENCM James A. Brown
 SK1 William B. Brown
 SKCM Julius 'Gene' E. Brown*
 RMCM(SW) Frank Broz
 IT1 Gerald E. Bruce
 AT2 Donald C. Buchanan
 HMCM Harry T. Buckles*
 ATC Dennis E. Buisman**
 PN2 James A. Bullard**
 QMC(SS) Fred A. Bruno
 DK1 John D. Burke †
 CTRCS Charles A. Burkett

AZC(AW) John L. Busby
 FTGC(SW) James W. Cain
 ITCS David J. Camp
 GSCM Ralph W. Camp, Jr.
 AO1 Thomas B. Carroll**
 CWO4 Edwin M. Case †
 YNC JoAnn M. Cawood*
 STGCM(SW) Richard A. Chalmers *
 EN1 Charles R. Chew
 CWO4 Michael Chierico
 SKC Donna Childre
 PCC Gerald T. Chonka
 GMCS Joel F. Chosta
 BM1 Kenneth R. Christ *†
 EN2 James L. Christenson
 AMSC William F. Clark †
 BT1(RET) Michael J. Clark
 GMCM Jeffrey G. Clemmer
 RADM Casey W. Coane
 YN2 Lisa N. Cockerham
 ABH1 Eugene Dassade
 Cottingham, Jr.
 HMC Noel H. Cotton
 ET1(SS) Charles Cox
 HMCS Robert C. Cramer †
 MM1 Patrick J. Crawford
 CAPT Ted Daywalt †
 VADM Dirk J. Debbink †
 CMDM(SCW) Clarence Dexter
 Denis, Sr. †
 ICCS Milton E. Degroot
 EO1 Steven L. Devereaux
 AFCM(NAC/AW) David J. Di
 Marzio
 AE1 William A. Dickerhoof †
MMC Larry J. DiPasquale †
 SKC(SW/AW) William C.
 Donaldson
 SK1 Robert G. Doran
 UTC Stanley G. Dowling
 AMH1 David M. Drajna**
 SKC(AW) William Duda
 HTC Robert P. Dunn**
 AVCM Eugene E. Durkee
 DPC Richard B. DuRall †
 YNCS Nancy J. Duzor****
 CWO4 Walter R. Eddy
 AMCS James Edfors
 Mrs. Lois Edfors

CM1 Albert C. Edsman
 PNCM(RET) Richard J. Elfrink †
YNC Joanne M. Elliott
 HMC Harold Engelmann
 SK1 David J. Everitt
 SKC Steven J. Falk
 BMC Bruce H. Farmer
 CS1 Jim J. Feren, Sr.
 EM2 Glenn I. Fessler*
 MMC Leland T. Fillenwarth*
 HM1 Mary E. Finley
 HMC(RET) Annie L. Fitch
 EM1 Edward L. Fitzsimmons †
 UTC Paul E. Foster**
 DPC Timothy Hull Foster
 BMC George E. Fougere
 MMCS Jesse E. Fox †
 AEC Kenneth D. Freese
 LT Lindalou Friesen **
 LNC James M. Frierson**
 SHC James Bruce Fromel**†
 MS1 Victor Frumolt III
 PN1 Betty Fugazi
 SK2 Janice Gage
 QMC George M. Garcia †
SKCS Joan Gardom
 SKCS Paul A. Ghiotto
 EO1 Nunzio Giavatto
 IC1 Lloyd L. Gibbs
 YNC Geraldine M. Gill
 FORCM Chris Glennon
 FC1 Russel W. Golden, Jr.
 BM1 Claud F. Gordon, Jr.
STCM(SW) David A. Green **†
 HTCS Morris A. Greening †
 AKC Martin J. Grillo †
 RADM Wallace N. Guthrie
 SK1 Richard "P.J." Guilmette
 HMCS James B. Hagerman †
 AVCM Steveon H. Hall †
 RMC Jerry D. Hall
 CMDM(FMF) Paul Haller
 STCM Jerome A. Hamling
 MSCS Larry L. Hamm*
 UCCM(SCW/FMF) Ralph S.
 Hancock
 AO1 Arthur Richard Hapenny
 SA Kevin J. Harrington**
 ADR1 Joseph Harrison, Jr. †

MN1 Clifton D. Hayes
 Mrs. Linda J. Hayes †
 BUC Edgar E. Hedgecock
 EMC Dennis L. Heimbach
 RMCM Ronnie W. Hepler*
 CAPT John G. Herbein †
 IT1 Jay T. Herlihy, Jr.
 MMC John R. Hernandez
 SKCS Edward C. Hettel, Jr.
 CE1(RET) Francis J. Heywood
 AKCS(RET) John M. Hicks
 ETC(SS) Frank R. Hof
 AD1 William Perry Holland †
 BM1 Michael J. Horgan*
 OSC Michael Patrick Hughes †
 ETCM Joseph J. Humphrey, Jr.
 RM1 Dennis L. Hunt
 QMC Bernard F. Hurchalla
 AECS Bradlee Hutchinson
 AT1 Harold A. Hyslop**
 GSMC David L. Ingram***
 MA3 James W. Janz
 GM1 Don B. Jefcoat*
 PSCS Luther Jennings
 HMC Paul E. Jensen
 CM1 David B. Johnson
 YNCM(RET) Martha E. Johnston**
 YNCS(SCW) Arthur A. Julian III**
 GMGC Harold W. Juntenen
 TMC Alfred J. Katzenberger **
 EMC Nicholas G. Karthas
 CAPT Paul F. Keane
 MAC(RET) Tommy L. Keheley*
 RADM Stephen T. Keith**
 OSCM(SW) Hans O. Keller
 HT1 Herman M. Keller, Jr.
 SK1 K. Daniel Kelly***
 ENCS Thomas D. Kendle
 HMC George H. Kenson
 DS1 Richard A. Killingstad
 PH1 Neil A. Klingenburg
 YNCM George J. Knorr †
ABHCS Eugene 'Geno' Koelker **
 TMCM Theodore C. Kolda *
 EQCM(SCW) Michael J. Korman
 CTM1 Bill A. Kranis
 PNC Frank W. Kretchmer
 ADJ1 Frank L. Kreutzer
 IMC Gerard P. Kuebler

ABFC Fred V. Kurtz
 HM1 Dale L. Lankford**
 FTFCM Dwight Lanning*
 BMC Joseph C. Lanning, Jr.
 HM1 David M. Lawson
 YNC Jeanne Lemasters
 AFCM John M. Lenard
 BU1 Fred G. Leppig †
 RADM Martin W. Leukhardt
 SK1 Richard W. Lewis †
 AK2 Susan Lietz-Davis
 BMC Nathan Lightfoot
 MS1 Floyd E. Lindsey
 BM1 Herbert Little*
 AKCM John J. Lomax
 TSGT Joaquin A. Lopez
 EQCM Mark K. Lowe
 DPC Brian F. Lukach
 PN1 Wesley C. Maczka
 RMC Edward D. Makowski
 AMS1 William P. Mancusi †
 OS1 Herbert F. Mann, Jr.
 YNCS David J. Marden †
SKCS(SW) Nick Marine
 MR1 Michael J. Marino
 PN2 Bonnie A. Marotta
 AMHC James A. Marsh
 MRCS Nicholas J. Martocci
 YN1 Ian Mastrup
 YNC Joseph Michael Mauro*
 BUC Robert J. Mazza
 SKCS Gene McCarthy †
 AE1 William B. McCaskill
 LNC John McCormack
 BMCM William McLane
 YN1 Jacqueline P. McLeer
 BTC Terrell V. McMullin
 SKCS Arthur O. McNew
 HT1 Arthur J. Meconi
 SFC John W. Meek
 EN1 David E. Mehlberg
 QMC C. Bruce Melcher
 CUCM David N. Mentink
 PR1 King A. Merendino
 PC3 Molly P. Miller
 PHC Ronald L. Miller
 GMC John R. Millette
 QM2 James W. Mitterer Jr.
 FCCM(SW) Thomas W. Mlnarik
 AE1 Harry Moffat
 OS1(SW) Alan W. Mooneyham 🍷
 SMC James L. Monroe
 HTCS Anthony W. Morris **
 IV2 Thomas A. "Bull" Morton
 YNC Marianne E. Mosher

AMH1 Duane E. Mosher †
 MC1 Frederick P. Moutal
 PNC Charles R. Murphy *
 BMCM E. J. Musielewicz †
 CMDCM(FMF) Ron Naida **
 RADM John T. Natter**
 HMC Thomas E. Nichols
 EN1 Dennis P. Niles
 BTC(SW) Richard K. Noble
 LCDR Thomas F. Norton
 MSCM(SW/SCW) David A. Nygaard** †
MS1(SS) Eddie G. Oca ** †
 IC1 Dennis O'Connor
 PN1 Heidi Oertley †
 LCDR Gregory L. Oien
 CEC James H. O'Kelley
 ENC Peter Olijarczyk
 HMCS John E. Orosz
 ADC Stephen W. Orr
 SKC(SW) Robert E. Orton
 RM1 Neil D. Ostenrude
SKC(AW) Penny I. Padour
 ETCM Louis Pagano †
 ENCS Raymond R. Page
 AE1 Stephen R. Page
 ETCS Robert J. Palmersheim
 CAPT Richard J. Papesca
 SKC Michael D. Parise
 EOCS Robert D. Parrish †
 SKCM James B. Parsons
 CAPT William J. Pawlak
 Mr. Norman S. Pearce
 YNC J. Richard Pellerin
 DCCM Charles E. Peterman, Jr.
 AWCS Tony Petersen**
 OSCM Denis E. Phillips
 EN1 William R. Phillips
 ENC Carlos L. Phillis †
 LTJG Brian P. Pietrandrea
 UTCS(SCW) Larry Poffenbarger
 OS3 Scott W. Polster
 HMCM Douglas A. Pohl
 BT1 Richard J. Potvin
 YN1(SS) Franz (Frank) Powell
 OSC Kenneth J. Prinz
 LT Fred Prozzillo
 ATC Bruce L. Rainwater 🍷
HMCM Manny Ratner †
 CTAC Patrick G. Reding †
 ETC Robert C. Reeves
 BTC William C. Rendall †
 HMC John D. Rivers
 EN1 Richard W. Ronnow
 Ms. Kaye Rote-Davenport †

LNC Janice A. Roy *
 ACCM Delores Rucker ****
 LTC Roger Rucker ****†
 EMC John W. Ryan †
 HMC Walter E. Sack
 PN1 Antonio L. Sanchez *
DCCM Stephen R. Sandy
 AMHC Edward A. Schaefer †
 BUC Roderick L. Shain
 QM2 James C. Schaub **
 BMCM Wayne H. Schipper
 CAPT Margaret M. Schmidt
 HTCM Richard J. Schreiner
 UTC Joseph Segar, III
 SKCS William J. Severns
 EN1 Philip M. Shahin*
 PRCS David L. Shaw
 CTRCM Thomas A. Shearer
 DK1 Steven D. Shellenberger
YNC Charles Sherrick
 DCC(SS) Thomas V. W. Shields**
 SKCM David N. Showalter
 CMC(SCW) Roland A. Six
 QMCS Malcolm L. Slack
 CDR Gerald M. Slusher
 CUCM David B. Smith
 DPCS Daniel D. Smith
 OSCS Paul A. Smurawski
 RMC Fred H. Springall**
 QM1 Nicholas Stagliano Jr.
 BU1 Mark J. Stanek
 DK2 David C. Stanley
 HMCS Patrick P. Stasio
 CAPT G-Donald Steel
 PNCM James Stephens
 BM1 John V. Stocum *†
 ATCS Cornelius Stripling
 CAPT Eugene P. Sullivan
 AQ1 Joseph J. Surdyk
 CWO4 James H. Surfied
 CUCM Gerald M. Swift †
 AD1 Neil V. Tanis
 MACS(AW) Karl I. Tegert
 YNC Dorothy Texidor **
 SK2 Joyce Thompson †
 MMC Christopher N. Thorpe **
 SKCS Robert C. Ticke
 HMC John E. Tier
 SK1 Theresa A. Tomacchio
 BU2 Donald Tomminelli*
 IC1 Michael Treffinger
 ENC Gerard Ulrich
 CWO4 Charles A. Utz
 BU1 Thomas A Van Hook
 CAPT John A. Van Huyck *

AKCM Richard J. Vannucci †
 PNC John M. Vargo †
 EMC John F. Venier
 OSC Billy R. Vermillion
 MRCM Michael A. Viens
 HTC James J. Vincent
 ENC(SS) William E. Vincent
 YNCS William Vinglas †
 QMCS Henry B. Vogler, Jr. †
 SKCS Norma B. von Dohren*
 AWC(AW/NAC) Michael E. Wadsworth
 UT1 Dennis A. Wagner
 HMCS(FMF) Darryl Wahler †
 YNCM Mary A. Walker
 CWO4 Eddy R. Walter
 MSCS Max B. Wano †
 Mr. Roy Wano
 PSC James S. Waters
 AM2 Roy D. Watkins
 SKCM Robert L. Watterson **
 YNCS(AW) Rosa C. Weathington
 AEC Roger D. Webster *
 EMCS(SS) Barrett E. Weiser
 EOC(SCW) Philip E. Whalen **
 MM1 Charles White
 YNC Patricia A. Whitely
 ENC(SS) Michael S. Wicks 🍷
 CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks
 YNCM Roger A. Wiley
 ASC Howard J. Williams **
 SK1 Leathia L. Williams **
 YN1 Margaret S. Williams
 CDR Nancy L. Williams
 CS2 Grady Wilson
 BMC Kenneth K. Wong
 AWCS Peter M. Woodside
 ET1 Robert B. Worrell*
 SK1 Alvin H. Wright Jr.** †
 FORCM Ronney Wright
 CWO4 William D. Yates
 AE1 James P. Yednak
 CSM Collin Younger †
 MLC John F. Zelusky
 STCM Terry R. Zieba
 Members in **Bold** are Current or Past National Presidents.
 ** Members who are "repeat" contributors.
 🍷 Members who have contributed over 5 times
 † Members who have passed away



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

BMC Albert J. Carrillo
CE1 Bohdan Fediuk
CTMC Richard A. Irving
HTC James L. Klocek

Nebraska
South Carolina
Maryland
Illinois

MMCS Billie W. Maier
EMC Stanley M. Peterson
CTA1 James R. Smith
LT Frederick L. Weisgerber

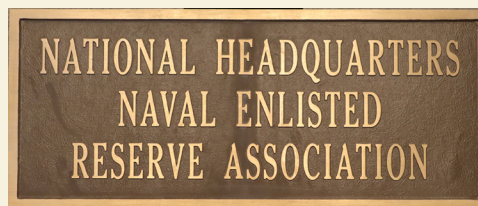
Nebraska
Iowa
Pennsylvania
New Jersey



Standing Down — A Final Message to the Members and Shipmates of NERA

To the Enlisted Reservists of the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard:

Since 1957, the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association has been the “Voice of the Enlisted Reservist.” Today, as we prepare to close our doors, that voice does not fall silent; it simply moves into the hands of the thousands of men and women who have been empowered by this association.



For nearly seven decades, NERA has stood on the front lines of Capitol Hill and within the halls of the Department of Defense. We fought for the benefits that today’s Reservists often take for granted—from retirement pay and TRICARE access to the simple security of removing social security numbers from ID cards. We were founded on the belief that the “citizen-sailor” is the backbone of American maritime power, and that those who serve part-time deserve full-time respect and protection.

To our Life Members: You are the bedrock. Your decades of commitment ensured that the “Reserve” was never an afterthought in the eyes of the Navy.

To our Associate Members and Families: You shared the burden of service, and NERA was honored to be your advocate.

As we haul down the NERA colors for the last time, we do so with heads held high. The association may be closing, but the victories we won are etched into law and the

lives of every Reservist serving today. Our mission lives on, our watch is over, and we leave the deck in good order.

Fair winds and following seas, shipmates. You have the watch.

Faithfully,

The National Executive Council, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association