

2008 FALL EDITION

THE **MARINER**

VOLUME 51, NO 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION



13th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief, Ronney Wright

Change of Office story
and photos on page 23

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THE MARINER

"Not For Self But For Country"



At the Navy Reserve Force Change of Office Ceremony held on June 24th, VADM Cotton explains Maritime Strategy to the next generation Sailor. HMCM Naida assists the Chief of Navy Reserve with his recruitment efforts.

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Cover: 13th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Ronney A. Wright

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By National President Joanne Elliott

Today, I find myself reflecting back on my first, nearly full term as your President. Although it has been a lot of work and a bit time-consuming, it has also proven to be one of the most fulfilling positions that I have ever held. When I started out as NERA's Deputy Executive Director (DED), I realized that we were traveling down a tough path. As I look back I can see that we have definitely made a difference both through Penny's term and mine. We now have a wonderful team working to ensure that NERA remains a viable entity. I am encouraged by the incredible response from members wanting to volunteer, in any capacity and represent NERA. Every time we send out an email blast announcing committee vacancies, we are overwhelmed with responses. Thanks to our new Mariner Committee and the foresight of Nick Marine, the Mariner has gone from 24 pages where NERA paid the cost of producing four issues annually to 28 pages with four advertisers absorbing the cost of two of the issues. The new driving force(s) is Ron Naida and Brian Brannon, who have lifted the burden from our shoulders. This new Mariner Committee is awesome and we can look forward to even bigger and better things in the coming year.

Steve spends many long hours either in the office, attending meetings and functions, or traveling around spreading the word about NERA. We speak on a daily basis and he tells me the number of calls that he receives asking for NERA's help in specific situations; people asking how they can help, and even some asking how to leave a bequest to NERA in their wills. Hundreds of calls and emails have come in telling us how much they love the new improved Mariner and the job that Jennifer and Steve are doing. Jennifer has become the master of multi-tasking, and with her positive "can do" attitude, has been able to successfully overcome all obstacles placed in her way. Vincent, along with the Limited Maturity Income Fund (LMIF) Committee, has come up with a positive solution, which will help sustain our funds.

Nick and Gene have been working hard with recruiting and assisting our Conference team with the National Convention. Marianne Mosher is handling

the Conference Registrations and working with Nick on other events for the Conference. Lou Pagano will be overseeing the Awards Luncheon. The other members of the team are Darlene Nickelson, CTCR Edward Sleeper, MN1 Duke Hayes, and Armand Chagnon.

Our DED, Bill Severns, was instrumental in securing the recent article on Agent Orange for the Mariner. Our National Secretary, Mike Hayes, has capably taken our minutes, set up all our phone conferences and offered his sage advice on a myriad of issues.

At this time, Nick's idea regarding the Life Member Benefactor Trust has produced almost 50 donations since its inception last October. Additionally, we continually accept donations towards the Building Fund. This has prevented the need to tap into the LMIF Fund from last October until recently.

I must not forget to mention Jerry Swift "SWIFTY" who has been instrumental in obtaining our building donations and keeping us all on our toes. George Wardwell has been busy this past year giving out plaques to the Senior Enlisted Academy, thereby bringing NERA's name to yet another source of future members. Last, but not least, I cannot forget to mention the continued recruiting efforts of Chuck Sherrick and Delores Rucker. They are truly amazing individuals and between the two of them, they recruit nearly 100 members each year!

I don't want to steal Steve's thunder, but he has come up with a way to make even more money for NERA. I will let him tell you about that himself.

Our long anticipated website has been up and running for almost a year. It has proved to be very popular and we have received tens of thousands of hits. If you have suggestions, please email them to us. We are striving to provide better information to all of you via the website and through the Mariner and have received many "Bravo Zulus."

See you all in Orlando!!!



What has NERA done for YOU lately?

Military ID cards

NERA prepared correspondence and worked closely with the Secretary of Reserve Affairs to remove Social Security Numbers from Active, Reserve, Retired and Dependent ID cards. This transition is expected to occur as the cards expire.

Naval Reserve Retirement Points

NERA located a disconnect between the Naval Reserve Retirement Point system and the Navy Knowledge Online system. Completed courses were posted to the SMART transcript but not to the members' actual point capture/retirement record. NERA worked with the Navy policy board which agreed to correct the error. This problem has created a 3 year backlog of courses not being posted in a timely manner and sometimes not at all.

What is NERA working on now?

VGLI- Veterans Group Life Insurance

NERA plans to work with the VA Secretary to change the VGLI acceptance period from 120 days to **360 days**. We will also ask that all members separated after Sept 11, 2001 be given 360 days from the date this change goes into effect to enroll. We also plan to work on lowering insurance rates.

Tri-Care(Prime-Extra-Standard-Prime remote and Plus)

NERA will also work with Tri-Care to expedite claims' processing. This change will encourage more physicians to accept Tri-Care. We will also ask for chiropractor coverage in all plans.

Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance

We also plan to work with the VA Secretary, staff and local officials to increase disability coverage from \$10,000 (written in 1951) to \$25,000.

What can YOU do to help NERA?

Sign up and become a Life Benefactor TODAY!

WE have **41 NEW** Life Benefactors. I would like to THANK you all personally! You are the backbone of NERA and the reason I stay on to fight! Life Benefactors are, and will continue to be, an integral component for NERA's continued growth. Life Benefactors of this organization are special in that they share the vision and VALUE the mission of this organization.

Do you know why this program is so important? Our Life membership database for members over 10 years is quite large. After 10 years of being a Life member, however, Life members actually COST NERA money (although not as much now since the rebates have stopped). This is because we still continue to mail out the Mariner to these Life members. Even with advertisers paying half the cost of our issues yearly, the Mariner still costs \$24,000 per year. Our advertisers stepped up, now WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE!

More Next QTR,
NERA Nick

The Commander of Navy Reserve Force Command, RDML Little sent out this General Message to the Navy Reserve Force announcing the NERA Service to the Reservist Award winner for 2008:

It is with great pleasure that I announce SK1(SW) Kenneth L. Goldwire, USN, as the winner of the 2008 NERA Service To The Reservist Award. SK1 (SW) Goldwire is attached to Navy Operational Support Center (NAVOPSPTCEN) Orlando, Florida. Petty Officer Goldwire provided outstanding customer service and logistical support to 650 selected reservists assigned to NAVOPSPTCEN Orlando as well as 150 mobilized sailors supporting the Global War on Terror.

As the 2008 NERA Service To The Reservist Award winner, Petty Officer Goldwire will be awarded a Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal, receive an engraved plaque from NERA and COMNAVRESFOR at the NERA National Conference held in Orlando, FL 14-19 Oct 2008.

MY congratulations to our outstanding nominees. All should be proud of their accomplishments and the exceptional support they provide to our customers, the Selected Reserve Sailor. I would especially like to thank SK1(SW) Goldwire and his family for his selfless devotion to duty and service.

Become a Part of History! Join NERA's Memorial Walk

Become a part of history by purchasing a brick on the NERA Memorial Walk. NERA has a long history of protecting the rights and benefits of the enlisted reserves. You can help continue this tradition. By purchasing a brick you can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick will be custom engraved to your specifications and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA Headquarters. Just fill out the order form and send back to NERA headquarters.



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

- The first phase of the NERA of Memorial Walk will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole. The next phase will be construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA headquarters
- Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Tax ID number is 23-7238557
- NERA reserves the right to review all submitted copies.
- Please let us know if you have any questions by contacting Laura Martin at 703/534-1329.

Pave the way for NERA's future by naming a brick today!

Brick Inscription: Please enter the text that you wish to be displayed on your Brick. Please note that 3 lines are permitted with up to 14 characters for each line. If you would like to use one of the below symbols, enter the 4-letter code on the line and the location that you would like it to appear. Please highlight the 4 letter code on your order.

the 4-letter code on the line and the location that you would like it to appear. Please highlight the 4 letter code on your order.



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NERA Headquarters, Attn: Laura Martin, 6703 Farragut Ave., Falls Church, VA 22042

2007 NAVY RESERVE FORCE SOY

This year's Reserve Sailor of the Year had her Advancement Ceremony on Monday Aug 25th, 2008 at Andrews AFB in hanger 14, where she is assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 53. ATC (AW/NAC) Kathleen A. Reilly received her anchors from her father, James, and former Commanding Officer CDR Susan Hogan (USN RET). The ceremony hosted guest speakers Vice Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, Chief of Navy Reserve, as well as MCPON (SW/FMF) Joe R. Campa Jr, and Force Master Chief (FMF) Ronney A. Wright. (Released by SN Nathan Powers)

The Naval Air Facility Washington's Command Master Chief shakes the hand of ATC (AW/NAC) Kathleen A. Reilly during her Reserve Sailor of the Year Advancement Ceremony. Photo by SN Nathan Powers



5/22/08 -- WASHINGTON, DC-- The Reserve Sailor of the Year Award finalists, along with the FORCM and CMDCMs, started their day with PT at the Iwo Jima Memorial. Photo by MC1 Roger S. Duncan



AT1 Kathleen Reilly,
Reserve Sailor of the Year.
Photo by MC1 Roger S. Duncan



5/22/08 -- WASHINGTON, DC-- Judges for the 2007 Reserve Sailor of the Year finalists (front row L to R) BMCM Edwin Musielewicz, FORCM Ronney Wright, OSCM Larry Richardson; (back row L-R) CMDCM Boyd Briggs, CMDCM Michael Curry, CTRCM Pamela Buelow, and FORCM Dave Pennington. Photo by MC1 Roger S. Duncan



Executive Director's Message

Wow!! How about those Olympics? I sat and watched this spectacular event unfold on television and was thrilled by Michael Phelps and others as they fought their way to record breaking medals. But I had one lingering thought, if the Chinese could spend thirty eight billion dollars to build a venue to host a two week athletic event, how much are they spending on their military? This bothered me, so I changed the channel just in time to catch the news and observe Russian tanks roll down the highway invading Georgia (the country not the state). Hey! I thought the Russians were nice people just trying to build a democracy. I then recalled a warning by the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the late Admiral William Crowe that went something like "Always beware of the Russians." All the while, we continue to reduce the size of our Navy and Reserves. Just a thought...

NOW HEAR THIS!!! The election of NERA National Officers and vital changes in the Constitution and By Laws (C&BL) will take place at the 51st National Conference in Orlando Florida, on October 14th. My advice with election of all types is, if you do not participate in the process then do not complain about the outcome. Our opening speaker at the conference will be The Honorable Thomas F. Hall Assistant Secretary for Reserve Affairs. Also invited is Vice Admiral Dirk J. Debbink the new Chief of Navy Reserve Force and our Senior Enlisted Panel consisting of Sergeant Major Joseph Staudt Senior Enlisted Advisor to Secretary Hall, Force Master Chief Ronney Wright along with the Master Chief of the Coast Guard Reserve Jeffrey Smith and Sergeant Major Kim E. Davis of Marines Forces Reserve. Numerous legislative issues have been proposed or signed into law recently. Some are headliners such as Senator Web's bill that greatly improved education benefits. However, others are only stopgap measures that have merely postponed cuts in our promised benefits.

Two of these issues are:
Cuts in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors-these cuts have been stopped for now and will actually increase by 1.1% January 1, 2009. Nevertheless, this was only a temporary fix. If Congress does not change the statutory payment formula that forces these cuts, the problem will return in January 2010 with an even larger 21% cut in payments to doctors.

What good is it to have a healthcare plan if a doctor cannot afford to accept it?
TRICARE -Fee increases recommended by a Pentagon panel have been stopped for now, but DOD continues to pursue a four hundred percent increases in fees for retired members and their families in the next budget. Check out HR 579 and S 604 on our website <http://www.nera.org>. These bills would give permanent relief on this issue. So please remind your senators and congressional representatives how you feel about these issues.

As always membership and fund raising continue to be an issue. We have a slight increase in membership and the Life Benefactor program has been a great success. Other donations continue to help defray the cost of repairs and maintenance to our building. Currently, we are proposing two new fundraisers: the first is a walkway at headquarters that will be a memorial to a loved one or shipmate. The second, a raffle -is a trip for two to Washington DC for the Memorial Day weekend riding your brand new HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE to "THE WALL"! Look for details on the website <http://www.nera.org>.

One last thing, as you know I'm not fond of computers but in today's world it's very difficult to do business without them. We need your email address! Please send it to Jennifer at jabbott@nera.org.

Steve Sandy
Executive Director

Quote of the day:

"For the genius to write these things I would gladly give up this office." Abraham Lincoln



Editor's Note:



In addition to Labor Day, the month of September is known for many other observances that include, but are not limited to- Hispanic Heritage Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Classical Music Month, National (US) Coupon Month, International Self Awareness Month (not sure what that means), and of course Patriot Day- not to be confused with Patriot's Day.

On Oct 25, 2001, Joint Resolution 71 was approved by a U.S. House vote of 407-0 with 25 members not voting. On Nov 30, it passed the Senate unanimously. Amending title 36, United States Code, to designate September 11 as Patriot Day, President Bush signed Public Law 107-89 on Dec 18, 2001.

Patriot Day, also known as "9-11" is a date that will be remembered by Americans for decades to come. The irony of the date known throughout our country as the three digits to dial in an emergency will ensure it is committed to memory by countless future generations. As a civilian Firefighter/Paramedic and a career Navy Reservist, that day of the month has significance beyond the obvious. It is also my wedding anniversary. My wife Jennifer and I chose to be wed on Sep 11, 2004 to celebrate the day and remember those who died living the American dream; a way of life that so many take for granted.

Each year, The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States:

1. To observe the day with appropriate programs and activities
2. To display the flag of the United States at half-staff
3. To observe a moment of silence in honor of those who lost their lives as a result of the terrorist attacks against our country on Sep 11, 2001.

As citizens of this great country, we have an obligation to ensure that our way of life is not compromised or destroyed. As members of veteran's organizations such as NERA, we have a responsibility to promote these organizations with the purpose of shoring up the pillars that protect our nation against tyranny and criminal acts of aggression. When we cease to promote veteran's organizations, we weaken the pier that our nation stands upon as well as deteriorate the security of the vessels- our allies, who tie to our pier. This September, and every month after, remain watchful for an opportunity to encourage others to become members or supporters of any military or veteran's organization. Communicate what NERA, NRA, VFW, American Legion, Marine Corps League, or any other veteran's organization has done for us and our country.

Finally, I would like to recognize one of the most important observances in September- Be Kind to Editors & Writers Month. It exists, go ahead and Google it.

At The Mariner, we make every effort to pursue zero mistakes in the magazine. We are a volunteer staff, with summers being the busiest for all of us. By the time the last issue went to print, I was on back-to-back annual training orders and the assistant editor, MC1 Brian Brannon, was gearing up for his. Furthermore, Brian started a new civilian job and will soon be pinned an MCC. Congratulations Chief Select Brannon! Nonetheless, we sincerely regret any hardship that these oversights may have caused and appreciate it when it is brought to our attention. With that, we have enforced the policy to have at least two and preferably three sets of eyes to proofread each piece. If you feel you have a talent for editing, transcribing, or writing and would like to volunteer to assist us, please send us an email.

Enjoy this issue of The Mariner and be sure to submit your registration for the National Conference in Orlando Florida. It is certain to be an awesome gathering. Drilling reservists can put in for Non-Pay AT orders through NROWS.

Sincerely,
HMCM (FMF) Ron Naida

To submit your registration you can (1) register on our website; (2) fill out the form from the last Mariner; or (3) call Jennifer at NERA HQ 1-800-776-9020 and she will get one out to you.

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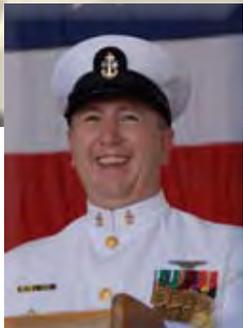
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Bio's



Candidate for National Vice President.

His accomplishments include but are not limited to:

- Created NERA's Life Benefactor Program (see page 26) that has brought additional income to NERA.
- Served as the Greater Atlanta Chapter President from 1999-2001, NERA National Deputy Executive Director 2006, Georgia State Membership Director from 2002-2006, The Mariner Managing Editor 2006-07, and earned NERA's recruiter of the year in 2000.
- Secured four advertisers for The Mariner and annual revenue to pay 50% of the magazine's costs.
- Contributes, on average, over 25 hours a week to NERA issues and concerns.
- Developing a New NERA Membership Card with Jennifer (National HQ) that will save us labor, better quality, less expensive, more attractive and will last longer.
- Producing, along with NERA's TOP recruiter, Chuck Sherrick, a New Recruiting Guide for all chapters.
- Developing the Life Legacy Program: enables members to leave monetary gifts to NERA as they pass.
- Traveled from his home in Georgia to NERA National HQ in Virginia (over 660 miles) several times this year to contribute skilled assistance on HQ Bldg's remodeling projects.

I am dedicated and involved towards NERA's continued success!

Nick is president of a successful Plumbing company in Marietta, Georgia and enjoys the November hunting season. He has been happily married for over 20 years and has two wonderful children.

Nick Marine has been a valued member of NERA's NEC and a motivated visionary with a "CAN DO" attitude. He adds a new plateau to THE MARINER through improved public relations and increased advertising revenue. Nick sacrifices time from his family and company to attend several key NERA events and ceremonies. His loyalty and dedication will contribute to NERA's ongoing success if he is elected to a second term as Vice President. I whole heartedly endorse Nick Marine for Vice President.

– Penny Padour, Past National President



Candidate for National Counselor

(Presently serving as NERA National Counselor)

Gene McCarthy has been a member of NERA since 1977. and an active member of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of NERA. He has held Chapter elective offices to include President, Vice President, and Treasurer and served as Georgia State Membership Director and Southeast Regional Director (eight state region). He received national recognition for membership activities at both chapter and regional level. Additionally, Gene served on NERA's Life Membership Investment Fund committee. He continues to volunteer his time in support of the "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans" at the Atlanta Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Gene enlisted in the Naval Reserve May, 1964 and retired from drilling reserve status October 1993. During 29 plus years of Active and Reserve duty, he served on a number of ships and at various shore commands.

In his civilian employment, Gene retired from Delta Air Lines Inc Atlanta, Georgia after 39 years as a Technical Procedures Analyst.

Gene is married to Maggie for the last 40 years; they have two Daughters, Carolyn, and Allison and three grandchildren.

Bio's continued



Candidate for National President

YNC Joanne Elliott is the current National President and life member of NERA. Before taking the position of National President she served as Secretary of the Delaware Valley Chapter from 1995 to 1999 and then as their President from 1999 to 2008 before becoming National President.

During her 28 years with the Navy, YNC Elliot drilled primarily at NASJRB Willow Grove. In 1999 she was mobilized during the Kosovo operation and was assigned as the Joint Universal Lessons Learned Coordinator for Joint Task Force Noble Anvil. In 2001, she was recalled to Washington, DC as the Admin LCPO of the OPNAV Mob Cell and was responsible for processing and tracking over 15,000 Navy Reserve billets. In 2003, YNC Elliott was mobilized to Norfolk, VA in support of Iraqi Freedom. She supervised the Administrative Group, Transient Personnel Dept and processed personnel on and off active duty. Additionally she served as a Casualty Assistance Calls Officer for the Mid Atlantic Region as well as a Command Financial Specialist.

Since 2003, YNC Elliot has worked with the Navy and advocacy groups to aid reservists returning from active duty who are experiencing challenges obtaining continuity of care. She works to ensure that individuals receive proper medical care as well as aids them with issues concerning pay, retirement, and USERRA problems.

Joanne is a licensed realtor of over 30 years. She is a member of the American Legion Post 0933, United States Naval Institute, The Navy League, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6393, The Women's Memorial, the U.S. Navy Memorial, and a life member of the Willow Grove Chief Petty Officers Association. Joanne graduated from Excelsior College (cum laude) with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.



Candidate for National Secretary

Mike Hayes is a life member of NERA and the current National Secretary. Having joined NERA in 1971, he is an active member of the Delaware Valley Chapter and has served in the following capacities: President (1993-1994 and 1997-1999), Vice President (1991-1993), and Treasurer (2002-Present).

Senior Chief Mike Hayes served 40 years as a Navy Reservist and is a plank owner of VP-64 at NASJRB Willow Grove. He qualified as a flight engineer in 1973 and became the Maintenance and Material Control Senior Chief in 1989. During the course of his career, Mike received the Meritorious Service Medal (3), Navy Expeditionary Medal, and National Defense Medal.

With the Civil Air Patrol for over 47 years, Mike has been a Squadron Commander, Group Director of Operations, and Wing Aircraft Maintenance Officer (responsible for 23 aircraft) for the Pennsylvania Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Presently, he serves as an Incident Commander that is responsible for managing and conducting emergency services and disaster relief missions. In his role as the Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), he served as the Air Branch Director during the 2006 floods (statewide). Additionally, he is a member of the Navy League, the American Legion, and the NASJRB Willow Grove CPOA.

Employed by Fischer & Porter Company for greater than 25 years (an industrial instrumentation and control manufacturer) Mike was ultimately their Inside Sales and Service Department Manager.

Mike is happily married to his wife of 38 years, the former Willa Wagner. They have raised a large family to include five children, seventeen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

“In It to Win It Together”

Jon Burrow, ENS, LDO, USN

The biggest question I receive from people I talk with about being deployed to Iraq is “What do you actually do every day?”

My Joint Coalition Command’s function is to organize, train, equip, and mentor capable Iraqi Security Forces in order to facilitate the transition of Iraqi security. Just a few years ago, Iraq barely had 80,000 Police; by July 2009, they will have a Police Force over 500,000 strong. That kind of rapid growth is challenging no matter what type of organization you have. However, consider building that force under a Ministerial system that continues to operate on paper. Payroll is done manually; police officers are paid in cash and given time off each month to travel home and deliver money to their families. The recruiting, hiring, background checks, training, and professional development of a capable police force takes much longer and is difficult when you are simultaneously conducting counter-insurgency warfare against a few remaining radical insurgent elements.

Our staff consists of Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, DoD civilians, and civilian police contractors. We conduct advisory missions for our Iraqi counterparts through liaison activity with each of the Iraq Ministry of Interior’s departments. Each section has responsibility for a specific Iraqi Police unit or division. We provide assistance and advice to the Iraqi leadership in the management of their Police Forces. Periodically, every advisor on staff conducts detailed analysis of the progress made within each Iraqi unit and provides recommendations on areas where they can improve performance or have need of additional personnel and training.

We spend our days in a semi-safe environment: a hardened building with running water and electricity



1LT Bill Conway and ENS Jon Burrow meet with local Iraqi families during a Mission of Goodwill in Baghdad’s International Zone

(most of the time). Our contractor KBR and its DFACs (Dining Facilities) provide at least three meals a day. I could complain about the food; however, I know what it is like to eat MRE’s for days on end so complaining is not in our best interest. The most dangerous evolutions involve movement; air or ground transport to Red Zone locations ‘outside the wire.’ This movement is necessary because that is where our customers, the Iraqis, live and work every day. If you have ever taught or mentored anyone, our work is not much different. Consider the obstacles: in addition to the insurgent warfare (which has reduced drastically in recent months), we have a significant cultural and language barrier to overcome.

When you ask, ‘How much longer will this take’ I remind people of the enormous size and scope

continue on page 16

Global Medic:

The United States Army Reserve's principal annual medical exercise involved more than 2,500 reservists from the Navy, Army, Army National Guard, and Air Force.

The Mariner's Editor, HMCM Naida was the Navy's Senior Enlisted Leader for Global Medic 2008 Fort McCoy, WI. Here is what he had to report:

Ft McCoy, WI was just one of many military commands in the United States to host the training exercise. Other locations included Fort Gordon, GA, Camp Parks, CA, Charleston Air Force Base, SC, and anchored off the coast of South Carolina, the USNS Comfort. The exercise's focus was simulated medical training and lasted a total of 16 days.



Global Medic 2008 participants from Army, Navy, and Air Force reserve components gather for a photo op in the Ft McCoy airport hangar bay before loading patients onto a C-130.

Three additional military participants from overseas allied nations included physicians from the German Army and the German Navy as well as one partaker from England.

For the main exercise, two Combat Support Hospitals (CSH) were set up as Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) in separate locations of Ft McCoy. Each FOB had its own triage area, emergency room, operating room with pre-op and post-op areas, intensive care wards, psych ward, x-ray, lab, pharmacy, logistics & medical supply, chow hall, communications center,

a command post, and various berthing tents and personnel support areas.

Medical scenarios continued around the clock, just as they would in real life conditions. A combination of live personnel and manikins portrayed the roles of various casualties suffering from a variety of injuries and ailments. The sick and injured consisted of military, civilian, and animal. In addition to battle injuries, various accidents, disease, and domestic assaults contributed to the fabricated injuries. Each patient had a role to play and the corresponding medical personnel were expected to treat appropriately. Even (simulated) enemy forces were brought into the CSH to be treated for life threatening injuries.

A collection of medical and logistic observers set the stage and analyzed each area of patient care and treatment. Computer technicians assisted with patient data entry and tracking programs. Dietitians reviewed menus and feeding times. Surgeries were conducted exactly as they would in a real OR with scrubbing up and going through the anesthesia procedures. As they would in their



Used by an explosive ordnance disposal team to detect IEDs, a simulated canine patient known as "Sgt. Lew-Lew". "We think he was hit by a car, maybe he was sniffing somewhere and got away from his handler," said 2nd Lt. Jack Garcia. "Right now, he's barking and wagging his tail." The dog was placed on a medical evacuation flight along with its human counterparts.



Hospital Corpsman Chief Lynelle Wagner of OHSU Great Lakes prepares to assist Army medical professionals with surgery on a manikin patient

civilian hospital setting, some of the surgeons had their personal selection of music to play during each surgery.

Because it was a simulated combat zone, participants had to pull security detail and man guard posts round the clock. Vehicles were subject to inspection and all patients were searched for live ammo and ordinance.

Most casualties arrived by humvee-ambulance or by helicopter. Many of the wounded were stabilized and sent to the base airstrip to be evacuated by an Air Force C-130. Both ambulatory and stretcher patients were loaded on the plane and taken up



An ambulance backs up to an Air Force Reserve C-130 with simulated patients to be loaded for air evacuation at Ft McCoy Airport. Sailors, Soldiers, and Air Force personnel participated in the Army's reserve' premier joint medical exercise known as Global Medic.

for about half an hour while the plane flew over the Wisconsin countryside.

One of my personal favorite training areas to visit was the field chow hall. No MREs! The Army Cooks and Navy Culinary Specialists prepared first class meals in the field. We even had grilled steaks one evening. These Soldiers and Sailors made due with the variety of canned and fresh goods brought in.



Critical Care Nurse, Lt Bryan Jones of OHSU Great Lakes assists HM3 Karen Harkins of OHSU Dallas with a section of the hospital tent. Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen all pitch in to erect a Combat Support Hospital (CSH).



Faces of NERA



BMC John Nickelson (USNR RET) from Windy City Chapter presenting Seaman Apprentice Katherine Travalik, US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Aurora Division with The Hard Charger Award for outstanding performance for the first year in the US Naval Sea Cadet Program



Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter Past President and Life Member OSCM Hans O. Keller (far left) presents the re-enlistment oath to his grandson, AC2 Adam Keller. Petty Officer Keller is stationed at NAS Oceana and will be joining the pre-commissioning crew of the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, George H. Bush. Other Chapter Life Members attending the ceremony: Lou Pagano (center), Fritz Szutar (second from right), and Charles Malloy (far right).



ETC Walt Ellis, (bottom center), is presented with the Non Commissioned Officers Association's (NCOA) World War II Veteran Honor and Remembrance Medallion by Reverend Jennifer Smith (bottom right), NCOA member, at the regular meeting of the Grand River Valley Chapter NERA (GRVC) meeting in June. Chief Ellis, longtime Treasurer of the GRVC, was given the award for being part of "The Greatest Generation" for his service in WW II in the Pacific. Reverend Smith is also a member of the GRVC. Looking on with approval of this honor was HM2 Nina Heath, (bottom left), Treasurer, (top from left), BUC Philip Krauss, a Charter Member, EQCM Martin Onstad, a Charter Member, and SK1 Harold "Buck" Kuisel, President. (Photo by JOCM Dave Machtel)

In It to Win It Together

continued from pg 13,

this task of Nation building encompasses. Here is one example: prior to Coalition involvement, Iraq's judicial system was primarily a confession-based system. The prosecutors would be responsible for obtaining a confession from the suspected party in order to win a case in court. Coalition forces are assisting Iraq's judicial system to incorporate forensic science into its evidence collection procedures, including the construction of new Forensic Laboratories. It is one thing to train a civilian to be a competent police officer, but imagine the training required to develop a forensic scientist. In many areas of law enforcement, we are starting from scratch. The basic course alone is about one year of training for a Crime Scene Investigator. It takes several years of experience to develop a competent team of forensic scientists.

Mentoring is being conducted at every level, from the Minister of Interior to the basic police recruit going

through his first 8-week training course. As we grow and develop the Iraqi Security Forces, they are continually taking on more operational missions independently to include inception, planning, executing, and after action reporting. Each quarter we turn over more Provinces to complete Iraqi control, leaving only a Coalition Advisor element to perform an over-watch and consulting function. The end state will be a smooth transition of security from Coalition Forces to 100% Iraqi Security Forces, with only a small element of civilian advisors remaining, most likely at the U.S. Embassy. If we, as a Coalition, stay the course, give the people of Iraq the best possible support, and lead by example, we will succeed.

Jon Burrow is currently deployed to Iraq, serving with CPATT-Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq

NERA's 51st National Conference
Orlando, FL
14 October – 19 October 2008
Agenda

Tuesday, 14 October 2008

1300-1600 Registration begins...Location TBA
1800-2000 Meet and Greet Mixer...Location TBA

Wednesday, 15 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet
0800-0845 Opening Ceremony (Dress Uniform)...Location TBA

- *Parade the colors, Chaplain Invocation by Chuck Sherrick*
- *Welcome to Orlando (National President)*

0845-0900 -----BREAK-----
0900-0930 Guest Speakers

- *Collin Younger, USAA*
- *Pam Mobley, USBA*

0930-0945 Nominations for National Officers
0945-1045 State of the Association-Reports by National Officers

- *Executive Director-Steve Sandy*
- *Vice President-Nick Marine*
- *Secretary-Mike Hayes*
- *Treasurer-Vincent Diemert*
- *National Counselor-Gene McCarthy*
- *Past President-Penny Padour*

1045-1100 -----BREAK-----
1100-1200 Guest Speaker

- *Honorable Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs*

1200-1230 -----BREAK-----
1230-1400 Awards Luncheon...MC Lou Pagano

- *Service to Reservist*
- *1776 Award*
- *SOY Award*
- *USCG Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year Award*
- *Recruiter and Chapter Awards*

1430 Disney Events Begin

Thursday, 16 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet
0800-0815 Guest Speaker

- *Chris Glennon, USAA*

0815-0930 Business Sessions

- *National President*
- *Constitution & By-Law Proposals*

0930-0945 -----BREAK-----
0945-1045 Business Sessions

- *Constitution & By-Law Proposals: Final*

1045-1100 -----BREAK-----

NERA's 51st National Conference
Orlando, FL
14 October – 19 October 2008
Agenda

1100-1145 National Vice President/National Counselor Membership Report

- *Recruiting and Retention*

1145 Early Adjourn

-----Meeting Session Ends-----

1200-1230 Special Meeting (Chapter Presidents)... Location TBA

Friday, 17 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet

0800-0900 Candidate Forum

0900-0915 -----BREAK-----

0915-0945 Business Sessions

- *Introduction of Budget FY08: National Treasurer*

0945-1000 -----BREAK-----

1000-1030 Business Sessions

- *Adoption of FY09 Budget*

1045-1145 Guest Speakers

- *VADM Dirk Debbink - invited*

1200-1215 -----BREAK-----

1215-1245 Time & Place Committee:

- *Future Conference Site*

-----General Meeting Session Ends-----

- *Chapter Presidents/Officer Special Events*

1300-1400 Fund Raisers/Events (Chicago/OK Chapters)

Saturday, 18 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet

0800-0830 National President

0830-0845 Voting of New National Officers

0845-0900 -----BREAK-----

0900-1130 Senior Enlisted Panel Discussion (Location TBA)

- *SgtMaj Joseph A. Staudt - invited*
- *FORCM Ronney Wright*
- *SgtMaj Kim E. Davis - invited*
- *MCPO Jeffrey D. Smith*

-----Meeting Session Ends-----

1300 Disney Events Begin

1830-1900 No Host Cocktail Hour (Dress Uniform)

1900-2300 Dinner Dance (Dress Uniform)

- *Inauguration of New National Officers*

Sunday, 19 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet

0800-0900 National Executive Council Public Meeting



TIPS & CLIPS



By Joanne Elliott NERA President

The Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) provides 180 days of transitional health care benefits to uniformed services members and their families, if the sponsor is:

- Involuntarily separating from active duty under honorable conditions
- A National Guard or Reserve member separating from active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days in support of a contingency operation
- Separating from active duty following involuntary retention (stop-loss) in support of a contingency operation
- Separating from active duty following a voluntary agreement to stay on active duty for less than one year in support of a contingency operation

For those who qualify, the 180-day TAMP period begins upon the active duty sponsor's separation. During TAMP, sponsors and family members are eligible to enroll in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Prime Overseas or use TRICARE Standard and Extra or TRICARE Standard Overseas.

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is traditionally observed on the third Friday of September. This year, the day will be commemorated on Sept. 19, 2008. The theme for 2008 commemorates the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. POW/MIA Recognition Day posters can be ordered at the following website www.dtic.mil/dpmo/Posterform.htm or by calling 703-699-1131. For more information, visit the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office website www.dtic.mil/dpmo/powday/index.htm. By law, the black POW/MIA flag can be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military installations on that day.

Tricare 365. From the latest beneficiary newsletters and changes in coverage to pharmacy updates and news releases, all 9.2 million TRICARE beneficiaries now have an easy way to stay informed by e-mail. A new electronic delivery system is up and running and subscribing is fast and secure by clicking on the "little red envelope" at www.tricare.mil. "TRICARE 365" highlights some of the facts about TRICARE Management Activity and the healthcare programs that help us to serve our beneficiaries—all 365 days of the year!

August 20, 2008

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs by Rep. Herseth Sandlin

Legislation Helps Keep Nation's Promise to Veterans; Ensures Equitable Treatment after Service

Washington, DC—Late last night, the U.S. House of Representatives approved two bills introduced by the chair of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Stephanie Herseth Sandlin: "The Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act" and the "Improving SCRA and USERRA Protections Act." Both bills will help ease the transition of men and women who have served in uniform into civilian life following their service to their country. The bills reflect input and testimony received at field hearings on transition assistance that the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity has held across the country in the 110th Congress.

Rep. Herseth Sandlin said "These bills address issues raised at field hearings across the country, including in South Dakota, where the committee heard first-hand accounts of the challenges veterans face." Earlier this week, Rep. Herseth Sandlin held a field hearing of her subcommittee in Rapid City, to discuss similar Transition Assistance Program issues and gather testimony from South Dakota service members.

Currently, veterans utilizing their GI Bill benefits who qualify for work-study may only hold positions related to VA work. H.R. 6224, the "Pilot College Work Study Programs for Veterans Act," directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct a five-year pilot project to test the feasibility of expanding qualifying work-study activities. These include positions in academic departments such as tutoring or assisting with researching, teaching and lab work as well as student services such as positions in career centers, financial aid, orientation, cashiers, admissions, records and registration offices.

The second bill introduced by Rep. Herseth Sandlin, which passed the full House of Representatives, was H.R. 6225, the "Improving SCRA and USERRA Protections Act." Rep. Herseth Sandlin introduced this bill to help protect veterans from losing their jobs due to military service. The legislation is in response to a court case surrounding the plight of Dr. Carlos Bedrossian, who, in addition to his military service in the Air Force Reserve, was employed as a physician and professor at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. The Hospital sought to fire Dr. Bedrossian because of the inconvenience caused by his military service.

"As Chair of the Veterans Affairs Economic Opportunity Subcommittee, one of my top priorities in Congress is ensuring that our veterans receive fair treatment and the benefits they were promised upon completion of their service to their country." Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "The bills we passed in the House this week take important steps toward this goal. I appreciate the support of my colleagues and I would urge the Senate and President to act quickly as we work to keep our country's promises to the men and women who have bravely served and sacrificed."

Dot-Mil-Docs: Keeping the Reserve Component Ready,

August 26, 2008, No. 08-84: FALLS CHURCH, Va. – There is a new ally for reservists who are having trouble maintaining their health status. On this weeks show Commander Diedre Presley, Program Manager, discusses the Reserve Health Readiness Program, which provides a wide range of medical, dental, and behavioral health services utilizing a nationwide network of 45,000 private providers of various disciplines:

Hosted by the Department of Defense, "Dot-Mil-Docs" broadcasts at www.blogtalkradio.com/Dot-Mil-Docs Thursdays at 3 p.m. (EDT).

For the convenience of the listener, previous "Dot-Mil-Docs" shows are available for download from two different sources: visit the video and audio section on www.health.mil or www.blogtalkradio.com/Dot-Mil-Docs.



YEARS AGO IN NERA

By Manny Ratner



THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: Over 300 members, wives, and guests came to Hyatt House in San Jose, California for NERA's 16th annual National Conference on 5-7 October, 1973. This was the last time where the Navy provided an airlift. Both the outgoing and incoming Assistant Secretaries of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, plus one three star and five two star admirals, the Naval Reserve

Force Master Chief and many other dignitaries were present for this outstanding conference. GMGC Mike BUCKLEY was elected as President; Frank BROZ was chosen for his second term as VP; HTC M Joe SMULEN was to be the new Secretary; HTCS George LANGE was to serve his seventh term as Treasurer; and the NERA Outstanding Chapter Award went to the Boardwalk Chapter of Atlantic City for their outstanding summer program for disadvantaged children.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Lt. Col. Samuel Rouston, USMCR, who spoke about many topics stressing the fact that the nation must have strong reserve forces. Naval Reserve Force Master Chief Jeffrey A. BRODY and other fleet master chiefs had a solid appreciation of the Navy Total Force Policy and that NR Policy Board had direct access to the Secretary of the Navy and offered unique opportunities to achieve enlisted goals. Command Master Chief Larry D. RHEA, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to OASD(RA), advised that attrition in the armed forces provided staggering costs – more than one billion for all of DOD. He also told the delegates that the use of Commissary cards will start 1 January 1989. Each SELRES will be authorized 12 days of commissary visits. CMC RHEA discussed part 1 of a 2 part series giving a complete analysis of reserve retirement. NERA dues were raised to \$20.

TEN YEARS AGO: The 1998 41st National Conference with 140 delegates representing 41 Chapters gathered outside the Western Hills State Lodge in Oklahoma. Don BAUMAN was elected President; Chuck SHERRIK – VP; Lloyd THELEMANN – Treas.; Don WALDEN Natl. Counselor; Mary CARPENTER – Secretary. Keynote speaker was the Hon. Charles T. CRAGIN, Asst. Sec. of Defense (Reserve Affairs) followed by the Dep. Asst. Sec. of Navy (Reserve Affairs), Mr. Mark DAVIDSON. The MCPON, James HERDT discussed the balance of our reserve and active duty relationship. Our RSOY GM1 (Seal) was Christopher L. ZEVALLOS. The 1776 Selectee was EM1 Ed. FITZSIMMONS. Long time NERA friend, Rear Admiral G.



The second year of the 1776 Award went to BTC Frederick J. PRUETT of the Dayton, Ohio group. CDR Richard A. STRATTON was our guest of honor and dinner speaker and gave a vivid account of his years as a POW in Southeast Asia. His deep love of country and the presence of his lovely wife will be remembered by those fortunate to be present at the conference. We had two new membership incentives: For men a tie bar and for women a fine lapel pin. These were awarded to those getting 5 new members. NERA dues at this time were still only \$5.00. Retirees were reminded to sign up for the new SBP Plan which would give 55 % of retired pay to the survivor. Enlisted Naval Reservists were scheduled to begin receiving new dress blue uniforms on 1 October. During the Vietnam era almost 150,000 Naval Reservists served on active duty in Vietnam, in adjacent waters with support of our naval efforts in Southeast Asia. Navy Counselor (NC) and Master at Arms (MA) were two new ratings (effective 8/73). We took it for granted that enlisted Naval Reservists would be informed when SF's and DC's became HT' and DC's became OS's.

TWENTY YEARS AGO: The 1988 Conference was held in Green Bay, Wisconsin from 25-29 October, 1988 and sponsored by the Packerland Chapter featured Deputy



Dennis VAUGHAN, the former commander, Navy Reserve Force summed up the many initiatives the Navy Reserve Force had in progress. Rear Admiral Stephen KEITH, Commander, Naval Air Reserve Force was our final speaker. The Silver Strings of Putnam City Schools strolled among the audience. The members ranged from 4th through high school. After hay rides that took usn into the woods there was a steak barbeque and Indian dancers. John MEEKS and Duke HAYES were excellent hosts and comedians. Their great efforts will never be forgotten and hard to duplicate.

If your sixteen-year-old is sprouting wheels. If you get in a fender bender. If you finally bought that convertible. If the hail really was softball-sized. If you like country drives. If you have a lot more cars than family members. If you've been eyeing a new model car. If you inherited your granddad's sedan. If you're ready to go hybrid. If you park under a sick tree. If some thief likes your taste. If your ragtop meets a low branch. If it was their fault. If it was your fault. If some Sunday driver was out on Monday. If the rogue pebble chose your windshield. If that curb was way too high.

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Marine Marquee



Davis relieved Cummings as MFR Sergeant Major

MARINE FORCES RESERVE—During a ceremony Aug. 15 aboard Naval Support Activity New Orleans on the West Bank, Sgt. Maj. Kim E. Davis relieved Sgt. Maj. Jimmy D. Cummings.

Davis comes to MFR from 4th Marine Logistics Group. Some of his previous assignments include: 2nd Forward Area Air Defense Battery at Cherry Point, N.C.; Marine Security Guard duty at the American Embassies in Beirut, Lebanon, and Madrid, Spain; detachment commander at the American Consulate General, Calcutta, India.



Cummings retired after more than 30 years of service. During that time some of his previous assignments include: Marine Light Helicopter Squadron 167 at Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.; 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable); Co. D, 4th Combat Engineer Bn.; Co. I, 3rd Bn., 6th Marines.



COASTIE



CORNER



Coast Guard Reserve PS3 Earns Navy Expeditionary Warfare Pin

NEWPORT, R.I. — PS3 Courtney Greer, USCGR, was awarded the U.S. Navy's Expeditionary Warfare Specialist pin at a March 30 pinning ceremony at her command in the Southwest Asian theater. Greer, believed to be the first U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer to qualify for this specialty pin, earned it after weeks of classroom instruction, hands-on practical exercises, and real-world watch standing. The Navy established this qualification in November 2006 and Coast Guard enlisted personnel serving in Naval Coastal Warfare units (now known as Maritime Expeditionary Security Squadrons) are authorized to qualify for and wear this designator pin. PS3 Greer hails from Richmond, Va. and is deployed with NCWRON21 out of Newport, R.I.

— **By CAPT C.W. Zvara, USCGR**



Transition Ceremony

Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony

FORCM David R. Pennington

By HMCM Ron Naida

On 24 June 2008, a sunny summer day, the transition ceremony in honor of the Navy Reserve Force Master Chief David R. Pennington and appointment of Ronney A. Wright was held.

The ceremony took place at the United States Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Pennsylvania Avenue, just blocks from the White House. In the center of the U.S. Navy Memorial and Museum and across the street from the National Archives building, the ceremony commenced at 1000 with one brief in-



13th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Ronney Wright congratulates 12th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Dave Pennington on his retirement and receiving the Legion of Merit Medal. MCPON Joe Campa and VADM J.G. Cotton applaud.

terruption from the Presidential Motorcade. Those in attendance were friends and family of the 12th Force Master Chief, Dave Pennington, and the 13th Force Master Chief Ronney Wright. Also in attendance were the entire Command Master Chief Conference participants.



Command Master Chief conference participants attend the Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Transition Ceremony held on June 24, 2008 at the Navy Memorial, Washington DC.

Schedule of events included:

Parading of the colors, the National Anthem performed by MUC Yolanda Pelzer, an inspiring Invocation by Dave Pennington's church pastor- Reverend Pat Franks, remarks by Vice Admiral John G. Cotton and MCPON Joe R. Campa. The CPO creed was read by CMC Willie Clouse, and The Watch by CMC Evelyn Banks. The ceremony concluded with a reception inside the Naval Heritage Center.

Impressive was the number of family and friends who attended in support of Dave Pennington. He stood at the podium, named them in entirety, and asked them to stand.



Senior Enlisted Leaders from the USMC, Army National Guard, Royal Naval Reserve, and the US Navy attend the Navy Reserve Force Transition Ceremony and Retirement Ceremony of FORCM Dave Pennington.

continued on page 25

NERA President Joanne M. Elliott announces the 2008/2009 USAA and NERA Scholarship recipients.

On behalf of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, I extend my thanks and deep appreciation to the scholarship committee for taking on the surprisingly daunting task of reading, judging, and selecting the winners. The commitment and expertise of the scholarship committee has made this another successful year. Many thanks also to USAA. Without their generous funding and support the scholarships would not be possible.

The NERA scholarship program recognizes the service to the United States and sacrifices by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. This program is sponsored through substantial grant funding from USAA Insurance (www.usaa.com) and additional donations from NERA and its members.

The Scholarship applicants were required to submit a scholarship application, high school or college transcripts, and an essay. The essay portion of the application required the applicants to either discuss their career goals or to describe the importance of reservists to America. The committee received many strong applications, and the competition proved to be quite stiff this year. However, the selected scholarship recipients named below distinguished themselves from a very strong field.

Congratulations to the \$3000.00 NERA Member Scholarship Recipient:

Chief Carol Donald

Congratulations to the \$2500.00 Scholarship Recipients:

Ashley Perez
Nicholas Green
Peter Cangelosi
Katherine Rawlings
Dequan Carreker

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF YOU!!

The 2008/2009 Scholarship Committee Members were:

Petty Officer Lisa Cockerham
Master Chief Forrest Croom
Senior Chief Ralph Hensley
Chief David Nelson
Master Chief John Skahill
Scholarship Chairman: Chief Ward Wollesen

Thank you again for your involvement and fantastic dedication.



Dear President Elliott-

I am writing to say thank you to you and all of the members of NERA for honoring me as a scholarship recipient. This generous scholarship will be used to pay for tuition. I will be attending the University of Connecticut where I will be majoring in Chemical Engineering and hope to be involved in the development of alternative fuels. I also hope to continue my community service activities. I want to thank every member of NERA for their service to our country. I hope to make you all proud.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Green

USAA Announces NEW Membership Eligibility

Now ALL military retirees and any service members honorably discharged after 1995, and their families can join USAA.

Membership is now expanded to include:

- Military retirees, regardless of when they retired
- Military personnel who were honorably discharged on or after Jan. 1, 1996
- Widows or widowers of military personnel killed in action while eligible

Log into www.nera.org then click sponsor link to join USAA online. NERA will then get the credit.



Dear Mr. Sandy,

Thank you again to you and all of the people that made this happen. Katie came home from college for the first time this weekend and she has grown up so much! Her being able to go away to college really is making a difference in her life and NERA/USAA has really helped that become a reality. Ed nor I were never able to go to college when we were younger so it is so important to us that our

children get an education as soon as possible, additionally, Katie was able to see us struggle through college when she was in Elementary School and she knows the value of a college degree.

In closing I have attached a picture of the check so to speak and hope it is something you can use.

Thank you, for everything!

Patti Rawlings



L-R, SK1
Lois Ruffin
USNR (ret),
Herson Dequan
Carreker, 18 yrs
old from Perth
Amboy, New
Jersey. He will
be attending
Morehouse

College in Atlanta Georgia. Presenting his scholarship check is NERA's National Counselor SKCS Gene McCarthy, USN (ret).

Transition Ceremony: continued from page 23

Dave then brought his family up and spoke about each of them individually and how much their support over the years has meant to him. He did so with pride and appreciation. He gave kudos to his wife, T.J., and made it very clear the importance of the role of the Navy Spouse.



Retiring Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Dave Pennington with wife Teresa recognizes their family and friends in the audience during the Change of Office and Retirement Ceremony.



Navy Reserve FORCM Dave Pennington's father and Navy veteran, poses with his older brother who holds a photo of his younger sibling.

A Special Thank You to the Life Benefactors

for their continued **LIFETIME** support of NERA

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 CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks
 SKCS Norma B. Von Dohren
 SK2 Joyce Thompson
 SKCS Gene McCarthy
 AMCS James Edfors
 LNC John McCormack
 SKC(AW) William Duda
 ADR1 Joseph Harrison, Jr.

SCH James Bruce Fromel
 AEC Kenneth D. Freese
 RMC Fred H. Springall
 OS1 Donald J. Bond
 CTAC Patrick G. Reding
 HTC James J. Vincent
 AZC(AW) John L. Busby
 YNCM George J. Knorr
 YN1 Ian Mastrup
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 SKCS John A. Bartlett
 AEC Roger D. Webster
 PN2 James A. Bullard
 RMC Jerry D. Hall
 AT1 Harold A. Hyslop
 QMC C. Bruce Melcher
 YNC Joseph Michael Mauro
 GSMC David L. Ingram

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\$250.00

(Offered only to fully paid Life Members)

Sign up for a Benefactor membership by using our existing membership form today! (Check the Benefactor block). Benefactor members will have their **names engraved** on a large plaque with all other benefactors recognizing their continued LIFETIME support of NERA. This plaque will be prominently displayed at the NERA National Headquarters. Benefactor names will also be published in **every annual** National Conference book on a dedicated Benefactor page. Benefactors will receive recognition at **ALL** National Conferences during the opening ceremonies. For more info Pls contact: NERADEPUTY@NERA.ORG

A REQUEST FROM YOUR NATIONAL TREASURER

I would like challenge all members of our organization who will be receiving a 2008 Economic Stimulus Payment from the IRS to commit to giving a small percentage back to the Life Membership Investment Fund. If we all took a small percentage of these check and dropped it back in to our LMIF Fund - it would be an LMIF Stimulus we have not seen in quite some time. I call on all Chapter Presidents to match my commitment of writing a check payable to: NERA LMIF in the amount of 100.00. I encourage all Chapter Presidents to discuss this and their next meeting and request we blast out to our membership this challenge who may not be in contact with an active chapter.

Mail all checks to
 NERA Treasurer
 PO Box 154
 Fairhope, AL 36533
 ATTN: LMIF Stimulus

Vincent Diemert
 NERA Treasurer

Membership Application Form



Mail completed applications to:

NERA
 6703 Farragut Avenue
 Falls Church, VA 22042

Branch of Service:

- N-Navy
- M-Marine Corps
- C-Coast Guard
- O-Other

Annual Membership

- \$25=1 year
- \$47=2 years
- \$69=3 years

Lifetime Membership

- \$250 Lifetime
- \$62.50 Lifetime *Partial Pay
*Installment option to be paid within 18 months
- \$250-Life(Benefactor)
Must be LIFETIME member



Total Amount: \$

Name _____
 Rate _____ Date of Birth _____
 Street Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Chapter _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 Recruiter or Sponsor _____

Type of Service:

- A-Active Duty
- I-Inactive Duty
- R-Retired

Payment By: Check (enclosed) VISA MasterCard

Expiration Date:

Signature Required:

Call NERA at (800)776-9020 for updates

Do we have your current address? If not, please use this form and send us an update.

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY NERA IF YOU MOVE. ALSO LET US KNOW ANY CHANGES IN YOUR E-MAILADDRESS.

TAPS

Last Updated: 09/10/2008

MMCM James G. Asch
CMC Lionel (Lee) Bedard
AW1 Karl Bonczek
ADRC William E Britton
AOC John C Crawford
EMC Wayne E Cromer
BMCS Harold W Flagg
SSGT Vicki Hrcir
BM2 Chester David Karasinski
AMHC Joseph C Kornaker
HMC Cathy J Lambert
HTC Frederick W Maninga
CEC Jesse C Mosley
MMC Joseph Obuch
AOC Kenneth J Pawlenty
TNC Russell E Radcliffe
SWC Elwin C Ray
BRC Robert L Robertson
BTCS Thomas Ruiz
PNCM Jerry R Sailers
CMC Charles L Scharper
YN1 Michael R Schoffstall
HT2 Walter Thursam
BUC Sterling C Wilde

Gateway
Edmund Couto
Floyd Bennett
Floyd Bennett
Tacoma
Tall Corn
New England States
Minnesota

Niagara Frontier
John D Wood
Packerland Branch
John D Wood
Orlando "76"
Minnesota
Colorado State M.A.L.
Grand River Valley
Magic City
League Island
Pride of Dixie
Gold Country
Greater Pittsburgh
AR-5 Vulcan
Utah State M.A.L.

Great news! These members are not deceased:

HT1 Raymond W. Granville
CRNCC John N. Licata
RM1 Ralph A. Masiello
EA1 Ralph C. Reed
MGYSGT Michael J. Schatz

Greater New York
Floyd Bennett
Greater New York
Dayton Ohio
Greater New York

The Mariner wishes to apologize for any anxiety or confusion we may have caused due to previous inaccurate postings to Taps.

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MEMBER SERVICES

SAFE DRIVERS GET EXTRA SAVINGS WITH USAA. From safe driver discounts to accident forgiveness,¹ USAA saves you money on auto insurance. In fact, most of our members saved up to \$600 a year² just by switching to USAA. We provide the coverage you need at the rates you want with the customer service you deserve. And if you need help with finding and financing your car, we're here for you. That's the type of service our members have earned.

» TO GET A QUOTE, CALL **800.CAR.USAA** OR GO TO **USAA.COM/AUTO**



We know what it means to serve.®

USAA.COM

¹Accident forgiveness is not available in CA, HI, MA, NC, NY and PA.

²Annual savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 12/01/06 through 11/30/07, and includes a discount for online purchase or quote. Actual savings may vary. Savings do not apply in NJ and MA. Online discount is not available in CA, FL, GA, HI, ME and NC. Discount is up to \$30 in MO and MA. Discount applies to new policies only. Restrictions apply.

Auto insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA County Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and USAA, Ltd. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Bank products provided by USAA Federal Savings Bank, Member FDIC. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products.