

THE MARINER

2014 Fall Edition | Volume 57 · Issue 3

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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2014 NERA Service
to Reservist,
DC1 Myron C. Perrigan

page 12



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**Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
National Headquarters**
6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2189

Office: 703-534-1329
Toll-free: 800-776-9020
Web: www.nera.org
Email: members@nera.org

National President
ABHCS Eugene "Geno" P. Koelker,
USNR (Ret.)
815-209-5391
president@nera.org

National Vice President
ET1(SS) Chuck Cox, USNR
732-698-3049
vp@nera.org

National Secretary
YNC Marianne Mosher, USN (Ret.)
secretary@nera.org

National Treasurer
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.),
(H) 215-547-7004
treasurer@nera.org

National Counselor
YNC Deborah "Debbie" Fallon,
USNR, (Ret.)
603-858-4144
nc@nera.org

Past National President
SKCS(AW) Nick Marine, USN (Ret.)
770-426-8060
pnp@nera.org

Executive Director
DCCM Stephen R. Sandy, USNR (Ret.)
703-534-1329
neraexec@nera.org

Deputy Executive Director
OSC Michael P. Hughes, USNR (Ret.)
703-534-1329
neradeputy@nera.org

Managing Editor
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.)
(H) 215-547-7004
marinereditor@nera.org

Printing
Mercury
240-631-1389

Design
Karen Durland
kdurland@gmail.com

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Cover: 2014 NERA Service to Reservist, DC1 Myron C. Perrigan, NOSC Buffalo with Walter (Zeb) Zawieruszynski and Jim Babcock, Niagara Frontier chapter

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: marinereditor@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 quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: members@nera.org.



Geno Koelker
National President

I want everyone to stop and think about what it would be like if there was no NERA, no TMC, or other veteran organizations to constantly keep our issues in front of Congress and other leaders.

Ahoy Fellow Shipmates,

As I type this, I have almost finished unpacking and going through the mail (bills) from our trip to San Antonio and our conference. The Oklahoma Chapter graciously organized the conference, and what a great job was done by the “Sooners.” I am so sorry we missed Duke Hayes, President of the Oklahoma Chapter and his wife, Linda. We wish you a speedy recovery, Duke.

Stepping up to the plate was Kaye Rote-Davenport, who handled all the registrations, catering, organizing the hospitality suite, name tags and everything else. Also thank you to John Meeks, Duke’s running mate and the rest of the Oklahoma chapter. So, a big thanks to all who helped out — the conference was a great success and wonderful cooperative effort. San Antonio lived up to its reputation with the beautiful “Riverwalk”, the Alamo, and the entire ambiance. Those of you who could not attend the conference really missed a one of a kind event.

Since there was no election or by-laws, etc., there were no heated issues, just good information and fellowship. The main issue we dealt with was membership and the ongoing struggle faced by our members to get our message across to the young drilling Reservists. Our VP, Chuck Cox, presented a marketing program that was developed at the home office by Yvette Purtill, NERA’s staff writer. This was to give ideas for the chapters to use or develop their own techniques. Good job, Chuck and Yvette.

Younger sailors don’t know of the struggles our senior members and my era faced when drilling. They don’t remember not having exchange or commissary privileges or the cards for only 12 visits a year or the lack of per diem for flight crews. I want everyone to stop and think about what it would be like if there was no NERA, no TMC, or other veteran organizations to constantly keep our issues in front of Congress and other leaders. We are always struggling to keep from losing benefits, which they like to call “entitlements” from those choosing to serve their country. Congress doesn’t blink an eye at playing the old pea shuffle game. Ask anyone who was promised free lifetime medical and dental benefits for themselves and their dependents. They now have to jump through the hoops just to get those benefits without buying a supplement. If NERA and other veteran organizations were not around, it would only take a few years for everything gained to be eliminated.

Today, more is asked from our Reservist, with less being given. Trying to complete 20 years and retire is now more difficult than ever. Ask our FTS (full time support) members about these difficulties and then ask if they are NERA members or even heard of NERA.

As we face life’s struggles, we have to look ahead and keep our objectives in site. We know as Reservist, we don’t accomplish the mission by ourselves, but as a team. NERA needs you on board as one of our team members to keep on going, not just for ourselves, but for the future Reservist.

In closing, I wish to thank everyone who keeps the torch lit and moving forward. Thank you to all that attended this year’s conference and I look forward to Norfolk next year. I want to say a special thanks to Robert Warren who was able to give a lucky few a tour of the USAA complex. In all, it was awesome going to San Antonio.

Smooth sailing,
Geno



Chuck Cox
NERA
Vice President

We need to engage the younger generation and show them the importance of NERA.

Shipmates,

As you may have heard, we had a very successful 57TH Annual NERA Conference in San Antonio, Texas. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to NERA. I would also like to thank all those who travelled to attend. It was a productive meeting and San Antonio is a wonderful city. The Riverwalk was just steps outside our hotel and it was the perfect backdrop to our meeting. The weather was hot, the food was spicy, and the conversations were lively — it was perfect.

During the meeting, one major point of concern seemed to be a theme throughout the entire conference: NERA member recruitment. I know increasing NERA membership is a mantra you hear over and over again. I don't want to beat a dead horse, but I wanted to stress the importance of increasing younger members into organization. We need to engage the younger generation and show them the importance of NERA. The best way to get new members to join NERA is the following:

1. Recruit personally

Word of mouth is clearly the best way to get the NERA message across to the younger crowd. We are looking for younger members to carry the torch of our mission. Personally reaching out to those you know and telling them about NERA is a very effective way to get our message out there. So please reach out to those younger Reservists and tell them about our fine organization.

2. Demonstrate how NERA can help them

Tell the younger Reserves what NERA has to offer. It is a "help us help you" kind of situation. NERA needs younger members. Younger Reservists need information, a point of contact to help with military issues, and someone fighting for just them in Washington. So it is a perfect fit. Explain to new recruits how joining NERA will be a valuable tool in their careers. NERA members can reach out to senior members and the NERA Executive Counsel with questions about their benefits, about their careers or general Reservist information. We are on Facebook, Twitter and have an updated webpage: www.nera.org with excellent resources to help Reservists.

Don't forget to tell everyone how NERA offers scholarships for both themselves and their family members. You don't even need to be in the military to become a member, just someone dedicated to promoting a strong Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reserve.

NERA helps Reservists personally and collectively. NERA is on the front lines fighting those in Washington willing to give away our hard earned benefits and yet is also focusing on the small details of a Reservists life. Promote NERA and our mission.

Sincerely,
Chuck

The best way for NERA to obtain new members is word of mouth! www.nera.org.



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

Please contact all your fellow veterans about joining NERA.

There is power in numbers and we need everyone onboard so we can continue to fight for our benefits. We also need to recruit

those who are still on the deckplate, so get your phone-books out and start dialing. **Every new member who signs up for 3 years will get the new NERA 100th Anniversary coin which is shown on facing page.**

SecNav Explains Concurrent Disability-Related Payments: *Courtesy SecNav Combat Related Special Compensation Board*

There are two concurrent receipt programs available to Navy and Marine Corps retirees who have VA-rated disabilities. They are the Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP) program and the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) program. Retirees who receive VA disability payments have their retired pay “offset” (reduced) by the amount of VA pay. These concurrent receipt programs “restore” some or all of that retired pay.

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) calculates and pays monthly CRDP and CRSC compensation. It is highly recommended that you have a myPay account set up with DFAS to manage your retired pay: <http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/manage/mypay.html>.

In order to be eligible for these programs, disabled retirees must be eligible for retired pay AND be in receipt of VA disability compensation. Medical retirees (TDRL & PDRL) with less than 20 years of service are eligible for CRSC only. Twenty year and Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) retirees (15-19 years of service) and Reservists (age 60) are eligible for both CRSC and CRDP, but can receive compensation from only one program. Applicants must apply to the service CRSC Board from which they retired. <http://www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/DD%20Forms/dd2860.pdf>

CRDP is automatic and is paid to 20-year and TERA retirees who have VA rated service connected disabilities of 50 percent or higher. There is no application required, nor acceptance. DFAS determines eligibility and pays monthly CRDP compensation. CRDP payments are taxed.

CRSC is for military retirees with combat-related disabilities of 10% or greater. Combat-related determinations are made by the CRSC Board for the branch of service from which the member retired. A combat-related determination is made for each VA disability claimed. The retiree must apply using the CRSC application form (DD-2860 July 2011). The “burden of proof” is on the claimant and the claim should include the member’s DD-214, VA Rating Decisions, applicable Service Medical Records (SMRs), the PEB Findings Letter (for medical retirees) and pertinent service personnel records. Reconsiderations are accepted if new documentary evidence as to the cause of the disability is provided or for any new disabilities rated by the VA. Appeal authority for CRSC is the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR).

CRSC compensation for medical retirees is calculated by DFAS using a complicated formula that takes into account the PEB, VA and CRSC percentages. CRSC pay can never exceed what would have been the years of service (YOS) retired pay amount, but can be much less and sometimes zero. CRSC pay is not taxed. Medical retirees can go to <http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/woundedwarrior/disabledretireest.htm> to determine the approximate CRSC pay they will receive. Applicants may apply for CRSC under one of four categories: 1) Direct result of Armed Conflict (AC), 2) while engaged in Hazardous Service (HS), 3) in the performance of duty under conditions Simulating War (SW), and 4) disabilities resulting from the operation of an Instrumentality of War (IN).

In order for a CRSC claim to be approved, there must be a direct causal relationship between the armed conflict or training exercise that simulates war and the resulting disability. The CRSC board makes combat-related determinations only on VA rated service-connected disabilities. Slips, trips, and falls, lifting heavy objects, as well as physical training, are not combat-related disabilities. The fact that a veteran incurred a disability during a period of war or simulated war; or in an area of armed or simulated conflict, or while participating in combat or simulated combat operations; is not sufficient to support a combat-related determination. Only the CRSC Board for each branch of service is authorized to make combat-related determinations. Combat Zone (CZ)

notations in VA and PEB documents are not combat related determinations.

A reconsideration request to the CRSC Board is required if your VA rating percentage increases due to the VA approval of a new or unclaimed disability. <http://www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB/Pages/CRSCB%20main%20page.aspx>

Please review the CRSC website prior to applying or contacting the Board at <http://www.public.navy.mil/asnmra/corb/CRSCB>. The primary means of communication with the DoN CRSC Board is by email at: CRSC@navy.mil If you want a call, send an email with your phone number.

NERA's NAVY Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin

The US Navy Reserve has been ready to answer our Nation's call for almost 100 years. The mission of the Navy Reserve is to deliver operational capability and strategic depth to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces. On March 3, 2015 the US Navy Reserve will celebrate its centennial anniversary and NERA wanted to commemorate this special occasion with these coins. If you would like to purchase a coin for \$10.00 (\$2.00 shipping), please contact jabbott@nera.org or call at (800)-776-9020. (Discounts for orders of 10 or more).



NERA 100th Anniversary coin



For the latest news and information visit www.NERA.org



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Fall of 2014

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.), Deputy Executive Director

NDAAs for FY 2015

There has been no movement on the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2015 since our last writing in the Summer Mariner.

Congress returned from their summer recess after Labor Day and then recessed again in early October until after the elections in November. They did pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) that funds the government at FY 2014 levels until December 10, 2014. It is unclear if they will hold a conference committee to iron out the differences between the House and Senate versions to attempt to pass the NDAA during the “lame duck” session or wait until after the new Congress convenes in January 2015.

Veterans Access, Choice and Accessibility Act of 2014

Just prior to the August recess, the Veterans Access, Choice and Accessibility Act of 2014 was passed by Congress and signed by the President. This fast-tracked legislation was passed to correct the issues of veteran access and scheduling delays brought to light by the recent VA scandals. The Act allocated a total of \$16 billion for the VA (with \$10 billion for contracted private sector care over 3 years). \$5 billion has been allotted for hiring new clinical personnel, leases and minor construction of new clinic spaces.

One of the issues with this Act is a provision that mandated that VA issue a medical Choice Card to the over 9

million veterans enrolled in VA care. The card is intended to ensure access to private sector health care if they reside more than 40 miles from a VA clinic or medical center (or if they face long wait time—usually longer than 30 days).

Based on recent talks with VA personnel, it is anticipated that this medical Choice Card will be initiated in phases and approximately 10% of the current enrollees will partake in the initial phase. The initial phase will consist of those enrollees who live at a long distance from VA care and/or those already experiencing long delays in access to care. Later phases will issue cards to those enrolled in VA health care as of August 1, 2014, and those who enroll after that date who have served in a theater of combat operations in the previous 5 years. Contracted providers would have to meet VA timeliness and quality measures and make timely transfer of veteran patient records back to the VA. NERA and other military associations support the use of the existing VA Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) network contracts with TriWest and Health Net that already meet VA requirements.

A major issue currently being debated is a provision in the Act that requires the VA to begin issuing the Choice Card within 90 days of enactment, which means by November 5, 2014. Currently, this seems unlikely considering the VA has not yet to issue any implementation instructions or regulations to their clinics and medical centers, nor have they issued a solicitation for the purchase of the Choice Cards. This could spark another public relations problem for VA in the media if this deadline is not met.

A major issue currently being debated is a provision in the Accessibility Act of 2014 that requires the VA to begin issuing the Choice Card within 90 days of enactment.



Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

“There is no substitute for experience; however, when experience is not readily available, there is no substitute for training.”

**—Admiral
Chester W.
Nimitz**

Shipmates,

By Stephen Sandy, Executive Director

The 2014 NERA Annual Conference in San Antonio has come and gone. It was a very successful meeting and I would like to personally thank the Oklahoma Chapter. This Oklahoma Chapter is one helluva group who really stepped up to the plate. About 18 months ago, they were tasked with putting on this conference. During this time, they faced tragedy. The passing of both Max and Tosh Wano left a huge hole in this chapter. Max and his lovely wife will be truly missed. On top of this great loss, Chapter President Duke Hayes was hospitalized. (We wish you the speediest recovery Duke.) I was so impressed with how this chapter overcame losing these major leaders within their organization, and were still able to put on such a great conference. San Antonio was the perfect venue. The Riverwalk was steps outside our hotel. Everything went so smoothly and I truly commend the Oklahoma Chapter for overcoming hardship to accomplish this. I left San Antonio so encouraged by everyone's dedication to NERA and our mission.

We had some wonderful speakers during our conference, including USAA representative Robert Warren. USAA is based in San Antonio and some of us were able to receive a tour of the USAA facilities. It is an impressive campus and NERA is proud to have a relationship with USAA since 2010. Robert gave us some insight on USAA and explained how their employees are 28% military, ex-military, and military spouses. They give all their new employees a taste of military training. Note that USAA/NERA credit cards will begin to use the more secure smart chip beginning in 2015. Also, you will be able to use your credit card points to pay your NERA dues in 2015.

Also, NERA is proud to announce the winner of the Service to the Reservist award. DC1(SW/AW) Myron C. Perrigan, USN

currently attached to the Buffalo, NY Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) went above and beyond to support the Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors. This award was well deserved and a big congratulations to DC1 Perrigan. The winner of the NERA 1776 Award honoring someone devoted to NERA is our past president: Nick Marine. I had the pleasure of hand delivering this award to Nick in his home in Atlanta, GA. As always, it was a good time catching up with Nick and his family and I congratulate Nick on this winning this award. Lastly, the Top Recruiter Award was given to Chuck Sherrick, Garden State Chapter (he recruited over 35 new members to NERA.) Congratulations Chuck — job well-done!

Now that 2014 San Antonio Conference is complete, I am looking ahead to the 2015 NERA Conference in Norfolk. Considering NERA does not have an active Norfolk chapter, I would like to call the local chapters of Virginia, Maryland, DC and North Carolina to step up and help organize this conference. This next conference will be an important one considering we will hold officer elections, introduce and vote on changes to the NERA bi-laws and then the induction of these new officers. Everyone is excited about the Norfolk venue, and I am looking forward to seeing how these chapters can rally like the Oklahoma Chapter did for the 2014 conference.

Thank you again to all who helped make this annual meeting a success. I look forward to hearing from those who could not attend this year and I enjoy touching base with our membership to hear about the issues they are facing on the front lines. Contact me at neraexec@nera.org or (800)-776-9020

—Steve



Debbie Fallon
NERA
Executive Counselor

To NERA Members,

First, I want to start by saying thank you to all the MALs who have taken the time to call me regarding their MAL status. These words of support as NERA transitions through this new phase of membership status is encouraging. Remember, as your National Counselor, I am here to listen to your concerns, suggestions and welcome the input.

I just returned from NERA's 57th National Conference in San Antonio, TX. It was wonderful to catch up with old friends and make new ones. One notion I took from the conference is how NERA remains steadfast in protecting the benefits of our sea service branches. This applies to those who have served, those who are serving, and those who will serve.

To continue to do this good work, we need the support of existing members and new enrolling members. You do not have to be a current member of the military or a veteran to join NERA — just someone who cares about helping our organization continue supporting our troops, veterans, retirees and their families. Generous contributions to NERA clearly shows that there are many people who care about Reservists, and we would love for you to join our organization.

For those of you who have children or grandchildren enrolled in college, or you or your spouse have decided to continue your education, the NERA/USAA Scholarship Program is a wonderful opportunity to

help curb those high college expenses. I know the success of this program first hand as my chapter (U.S.S. Constitution "Old Ironsides") has proudly sponsored scholarship winners in three of the last five years (\$8,000 total).

And to those still on the deckplates who know a Full Time Support (FTS) person who has gone above and beyond, the Service to the Reservists Award nomination would be a nice way to say thank you. COMNAVRESFORCOM will select and announce the awardee via message. The awardee will receive a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (NAM) from COMNAVARESFORCOM. In either instance, please contact a local NERA chapter, or contact me and I will put you in touch with the right person.

If you have not submitted your NERA Chapter Officer Report, please do so ASAP by completing the form on line at: <http://www.nera.org/officer-report>, or print, complete and fax the form to my attention at (978) 521-4083. If you need a blank form mailed to you, please call me at 603-858-4144 or email me at nc@nera.org.

If you have any other questions, concerns or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Deborah Fallon
Deborah "Debbie" Fallon, YNC (ret)
National Executive Counselor

You do not have to be a current member of the military or a veteran to join NERA — just someone who cares about helping our organization continue supporting our troops, veterans, retirees and their families.



Underway with a Boston Vessel Boarding Security Team

Story by PA2 Jennifer Robertson, 1st District Public Affairs
Reprinted from the Reservist, Volume LXI, Issue 3, 2014

As the first city to create a U.S. Coast Guard Reserve unit, Boston has been headquarters to the rich tradition of protecting the waters of New England. From Joshua James and Ida Lewis to the over 4,500 ship-mates who protect the waters today, the 1st District and Boston have always held great pride in their mission.



Vessel Boarding Security Team Senior Chief Matthew McClintock supervises Chief Sean Roberts and Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Hendricks as they inspect a recreational boat in Boston Harbor.

A prime example of this was on display with a Reserve Vessel Boarding Security Team (VBST) which got underway in Boston Harbor, June 21. This group is charged, in part, with ensuring the safety of our ports and waterways. That's no small task. Boston is one of the principal ports on the east coast and historically has led to the growth of the region through both commerce and immigration. According to Massport in 2013 alone, the port of Boston processed over 11 million metric tons of cargo, 52,000 vehicles, 380,000 cruise passengers and countless recreational boats.

“Experience breeds calm,” said Chief Petty Officer Stephen Gregorczyk, a maritime enforcement specialist (MEC) who is employed as a full time Massachusetts State Police officer.

“We have corrections officers, state troopers, police officers and environmental police on our team. That civilian experience plays a big part in our ability to build a plan and work as a team.”

Gregorczyk, through his contacts, secured a state police boat for the patrol and teamed up with fellow reservists MEC Sean Roberts, MECS Matthew McClintock, and ME2 Benjamin Hendricks.

This resourcefulness gives the Reserve team a chance to get underway and approach a variety of vessels, conduct safety checks, look for obstructions in the water, monitor suspicious activity, or just talk with the locals in an effort to get to know the people they serve better. Through recreational and commercial vessel boardings, terrorism training, environmental protection and law enforcement, these individuals illustrate the Coast Guard's commitment

to the people of Boston with tenacity and dedication.

Having a clear approach, that isn't clouded by emotion in an operational unit, is key to its success. Whether faced with a tragedy, like the Marathon bombings in April 2013, conducting safety checks on a liquid natural gas container ship or simply interacting with locals, it is imperative that they maintain a professional demeanor.

However, a team doesn't just acquire these skills without effort. Like every other part of the Coast Guard, the Reserve VBST has training to fulfill and challenges to overcome. To accomplish their mission, the VBST has taken a highly structured approach that ensures every member of the team is not just qualified, but ready to deploy seamlessly with their active duty counterparts. Close contact with the active duty side is of primary importance. “Communication between the two groups enables one hand to know what the other is doing,” said Roberts.

Members who are new to the team will find a three-tiered training plan that helps new personnel navigate their way through qualifications and provides seasoned team members with the ability to take on more responsibility

continued on page 13



Service to the Reservist Award Winner

By Yvette Purtil

Each year, NERA recognizes a Full-time Support (FTS) or an Active Component Sailor. This Sailor is recognized for providing outstanding support to Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors that is at a level above and beyond what is normally expected in performance of their duties. This year, DC1(SW/AW) Myron C. Perrigan, USN, went above and beyond to support the Selected Reserve (SELRES) Sailors and is the 2014 winner. DC1 Perrigan, who is attached to the Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC) Buffalo, will be awarded a Navy achievement medal, an engraved plaque from NERA and COMNAVRESFOR and become part of a very exclusive group.

NERA was interested to learn more about this amazing candidate, so we asked DC1 Perrigan to tell us about himself.

Where did you grow up?

Why did you enlist?

In 1982 I was born in Mansfield, Ohio. I lived in Ohio for the majority of my life before I chose to join the US Navy.

I always wanted to enlist to see the world and for a better education than I had at the time. However, after the events on September 11th 2001, I decided I could not wait any longer and left college and began basic training on September 28th 2001.

What are some challenges have you faced in your career?

Being in the Navy has presented numerous challenges. Some challenges you see only once or twice while others are reoccurring. The ones that present themselves only once or twice are actually rewarding after the fact, because you get to learn from them and they teach you how to deal with adversity. One challenge that I have faced is converting from Aviation Ordnanceman (Active) to Damage Controlman (Full Time Support). After 11 years in the Navy and being a First Class Petty Officer for over 4 years, I now had to re-learn my job and learn a whole new community. It was very hard at first learning all the new ins and outs of my job as not only



2014 NERA Service to Reservist, DC1 Myron C. Perrigan, NOSC Buffalo with Walter (Zeb) Zawieruszynski and Jim Babcock, Niagara Frontier chapter

a Damage Controlman, but also on the Reserve side of things, including being at a Navy Operational Support Center, running Maritime Pre-positioning Force Utility Boats and now leading engineering vice aviation Sailors, so late in my career.

Tell us about your most professionally rewarding experience?

As is with challenges, rewarding experiences come often in the Navy. The most professionally rewarding experience I have experienced was deploying to Iraq as an Individual Augmentee. I believe that assignment is what helped shaped me into the leader I am today. That experience will continue to mold me and help me, and in turn, help those who work for me and those I work for.

Tell us about your life outside your career.

As with any Sailor, life outside of the Navy gets hectic. I am married to my wonderful wife, Diana, who is one of the biggest influences. I also have three children, Preston, Paige and Anton, who continue to support me and are my inspiration. As a family, we love hiking and being outdoors. It is my family's aspiration to hike the Appalachian Trail. Recently, I re-enrolled in Hawaii Pacific University to earn my degree in Supervisory Leadership. I also like to help those in need. In my spare time, I volunteer to clean the Buffalo community, collect non-perishable items to deliver to families, work on computers and complete automotive repairs to my Shipmates.

Thank you for your interest and for thinking to publish this interview in the Mariner magazine, as well as my selection for the award.

V/R
DC1 (SW/AW/SC) Perrigan , Myron C.
NOSC Buffalo Command 3MC
Travel and Order Specialist
Command Financial Specialist
MPFUB Program Coordinator
GOVCC Coordinator
CMEO Advisor
Asst. Training Officer

Asked why DC1 Perrigan was nominated for this award, this is what his commanding officer had to say:

“DC1 Perrigan has always been driven to take care of the mission and the Sailors who accomplish the mission. He has consistently been able to go above and beyond any expectations to ensure mission accomplishment. His care of the Reserve Sailors under his charge has been nothing short of phenomenal. He is always available to help and has often come in after hours on short notice to ensure that Sailors get to the time critical items they need to be able to support the Active Component missions that the Sailors are assigned. DC1's initiative and his motivation are another part of the reason why he has enjoyed so much success here in Buffalo. He sets the example for others to follow here in Buffalo. I am very fortunate to have Sailors like DC1 Perrigan on my team to better serve the Reserves and accomplish the mission every time.

V/R,
LCDR Pat Griffin
Commanding Officer
Navy Operational Support Center Buffalo, NY
3 Porter Ave, Buffalo NY 14201

Congratulations to DC1 Perrigan! NERA is proud to honor you and your exemplary service with the Service to the Reservist Award. You set a fine example and this award was well-deserved.

COASTIE CORNER, continued from page 11

including training their shipmates. The plan ensures each team member, no matter what their experience or rank, has a defined path towards advancement and an active role in helping shipmates attain their career goals.

Training is further broken into seasons. The weather in Boston can be volatile from October through April, so the team focuses on qualifications such as use of force, firearms training and policy and procedure. With clearer skies comes the opportunity to get underway, according to Roberts.

The resourcefulness and the ability to pull from civilian experience ensures that reservists are training in real life situations, not just on paper. Between January and June 2014, the Reserve and active duty VBST boarded over

400 recreational and commercial vessels. But their impact reaches further than just the boats they inspect. Boardings act as a force multiplier. For every boat or ship that's boarded, there are people who will hear about it, see it or talk about it. Roberts explained that visibility alone lets the public know that the Coast Guard is always looking out for their best interest.

The VBST is a team who are dedicated to fulfill the demands of both their civilian and Coast Guard jobs. To them, the Reserve isn't a one weekend a month, two weeks a year job.

“But it works both ways,” said Gregorczyk. “Our civilian training helps us do our Coast Guard job but the Coast Guard training also helps us be better at our civilian jobs.”



Albert "Big Al"
Crawford
1924–2014

Fallen But Not Forgotten, NERA Says Goodbye to “Big Al”

It is with great sadness that NERA must announce the passing of Albert "Big Al" Crawford. He lived an extraordinary life and passed away at age 90 on October 11, 2014. Al not only started the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter with 150 members, but was also a past NERA Vice President. You will be greatly missed and we thank you “Big Al” for being such a good friend to NERA.

Here is his obituary courtesy of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette:

Born June 24, 1924, in Pittsburgh, to the late Ida Herrmann and George Crawford of the North Side. Albert served his God, Country, Family and Friends with an unwavering sense of honor and commitment. Albert retired from the U.S. Navy in 1980 after 38 years of service as a Master Chief Petty Officer. He enlisted at the age of 17, immediately after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, ultimately serving in the D-Day invasion of WWII, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars, across his accomplished military career. He was recently bestowed France's highest distinction, the French Legion of Honor medal, for his contribution to France's liberation from German occupation during World War II. After his Service retirement, he worked for the Port Authority and the

Post Office. He was a member of the Veterans Club, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and West Ridge Christian Community Church. Albert enjoyed e-mailing his friends and researching Military History. He was an extremely generous man who befriended everyone he met, always had a story to share, and made lasting impressions upon us all. He is survived by his loving wife of 42 years, Eileen Mary Bell Crawford; his children, Albert Crawford, Jr., Bobby Crawford, Jonathan Crawford and Kathleen Crawford; daughter-in-laws, Darlene Crawford and Sarah Crawford; four grandchildren, Mark, Megan, Noah, Wesley; and six great-grandchildren, Benjamin, Lilly, Mark, Kaden, Noble, Thea, Nova; and preceded in death by six siblings.



NERA Salutes Alaska Airlines' Fallen Soldier Program

By Yvette Purtil

NERA would like to salute Alaska Airlines' Fallen Soldier Program. The airline's employees follow the Fallen Soldier Solder protocols and treat the remains of our soldiers with dignity and respect as they travel home to their final resting place. The employees created a special cart reserved for the remains of these fallen heroes to transport them when they land at the airport.

According to the Alaska Airlines blog: "Alone on the airfield, one cart is reserved for heroes. With blue paint, red carpet and American flag curtains, the customized cart carries the remains of fallen service members along their journey home to their final resting place. It's the most visible component of the Alaska Airlines Fallen Soldier Program, which ensures the remains are treated with respect and dignity upon arrival.

I respect people who risk their lives for our freedoms, and I feel like this is a small thing I can do for them in return," said John Van Dyke, a line aircraft technician in Seattle who volunteered his sheet-metal skills to help customize the cart."

This cart was recently delivered to Los Angeles International Airport, with similar carts in



Portland and Seattle. The process and protocols were developed by a volunteer group of maintenance employees in 2011. Alaska maintenance employees drove the cart to Los Angeles (1,127-mile journey from Seattle), with a special "pony express" escort of motorcycle Patriot Guard riders. This escort was greeted by volunteers from the Bob Hope USO and representatives from the airport police and fire departments.



Clearly this was a large scale group effort, and NERA salutes Alaska Airlines for honoring our fallen brethren. If you would like to find out more information about the Alaska Airlines Fallen Soldier Program, please visit <http://blog.alaskaair.com/2014/08/19/at-alaska-airlines-a-final-tribute-to-fallen/>.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself." —Joseph Campbell



50th Anniversary Commemoration of The Vietnam War

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret), Deputy Executive Director

NERA has become a Commemorative Partner in DoD's 50th Anniversary Commemoration, as outlined in the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2008. This commemoration which will honor our men and women who served and their families with programs, ceremonies and activities. Over 3 million service members served in the Vietnam War. 58,000 paid the ultimate price and whose names are inscribed on The Wall in our nation's capital in Washington, DC. In excess of 1,600 are still missing.

Over 1,800,000 Navy personnel, in excess of 500,000 Marines Corps and over 8,000 Coast Guard personnel served during the war. Navy casualties totaled over 1,631 Killed in Action (K.I.A.) and over 10,000 Wounded in Action (W.I.A.); Marine Corps casualties were over 13,000 K.I.A., over 88,500 W.I.A.; and Coast Guard had 7 K.I.A. and 59 W.I.A. There is no definitive breakdown of how many of these personnel were Reservists. Very few Reserve units were actually activated for service during the war, mainly construction and air units of the Navy Reserve were used. However, it is known that numerous individual Reservists volunteered for active duty and many more served as a result of their active duty obligation, such as

the 2 X 6 Program (2 years reserve duty/2 years active duty/2 years reserve duty). 57 Marines and 16 Navy personnel were awarded the Medal of Honor for their service during the Vietnam War.

The stated Commemoration objectives are:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.



NERA's recognition award for becoming a partner in the Department of Defense Vietnam War Commemoration

NERA will be supporting many programs and ceremonies to honor all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War. Over the next few months and even years, we encourage our Chapters and members to participate, submit ideas, pictures, written stories or coverage of such events. Further information can be found on DoD's web site <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>. You can also contact Mike Hughes, NERA's Commemorative Partner representative at neradeputy@nera.org.



The Sentry

With the ground still wet from the morning dew,
as the sun just kissed the sky,

A solitary figure dressed in white in silence caught our eye,

His steps were measured, his focus clear,

A Sentry on duty to a spot he held so dear,

His face was old, had he been here before,

To honor the fallen from a far off war

A sudden stop a precise left face as his hand came up in a slow salute,

He stood at attention then raised his hand, his actions resolute,

With head bowed in silent prayer he touched a name only he could see,

A solemn vow to a fallen friend or a brother in arms for eternity,

The names are etched in the order they died,

All gave some but some gave all, the later is how they are tied,

His duty done and stepping back, casting a ghostly
white shadow on that Wall of black,

A final salute as he walked away, his respects are given for another day.

The snapping of flags, the clicking of heels,

The bugles last sound still rings in their ears

The service repeated day after day

With heads bowed in sorrow the families will pray,

The Chaplains last words as tears kiss the ground,

Seven rifles are fired, three times they will sound.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NERA 2014 CONFERENCE



San Antonio Conference Attendees

Executive Director Steve Sandy and President Geno Koelker presenting the 1776 award to Past President Nick Marine (Nick was unable to attend the conference).



National Counselor Debbie Fallon addressing MALs and membership.

Kick and Debbie Fallon with Norma von Dohren and Joe Humphrey enjoying the Saturday evening banquet, Geno photobombing.





President Geno Koelker introducing the new NERA Navy Reserve Anniversary Coin



President Geno Koelker presenting Top Recruiter Chuck Sherrick with recruiting award



Command Master Chief Daryl Green



Command Master Chief Daryl Green answering questions by Delores Rucker, Debbie Fallon and Norma von Dohren



USAA Tour



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NERA 2014 CONFERENCE, continued



Roger Rucker honoring the POW_ MIA, The Missing Man table at the Saturday banquet



VP Chuck Cox speaking on membership



President Geno Koelker presenting North and South Carolina States Rep, Delores Rucker with recruiting award



Robert Warren, USAA speaking to the membership Thursday morning



Verna and President Geno Koelker, with Chloe peeking up over table



John and Darlene Nicholson Dancing



Ken Harkins



Russell Snow Asking A Question



Executive Director Steve Sandy waltzing Mary Sandy around the dance floor.



Jake Kriebel and Steven Devereaux catching up during the Meet & Greet Wednesday night.



CPO Selectee Encampment Program — An Amazing Experience Onboard The Big J

By LNC(Sel) Lori Koykka



All photos by Keith Houston

Throughout the last 11 years of war, U.S. Navy active duty and reserve Sailors have stepped up in huge numbers, augmenting and supporting the Army throughout the Middle East and around the world. Because of this, many Sailors have not had the opportunity to serve onboard a Navy ship, some never having even stepped foot on one. On 9-10 August 2014, 18 Chief Petty Officer Selectees of Class 121 had the incredible opportunity to spend the entire weekend on board the USS NEW JERSEY (BB-62) for the 7th annual CPO Selectee Encampment Program, a part of CPO365 Phase II training within the regional area.

Having read about the history of the USS NEW JERSEY ("The Big J"), it was an overwhelming and humbling experience to walk up to her. The most decorated Battleship in Naval history, she had been home to Sailors 3 to 4 generations before us, having fired her guns in World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, as well as the Lebanon Crisis in 1983-84. Commissioned in May of 1943, she was the flagship of Admiral William F. Halsey's Third

Fleet. Throughout the years, she was commissioned and decommissioned four times, with the last decommissioning happening in Long Beach, CA on 8 February 1991. In September of 1999 she made her final voyage home to the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard for restoration, and then in October of 2001 she was brought to Camden, NJ to become the impressive museum and memorial that we have today.

Getting ready and planning for the encampment was a massive training exercise in itself. Each of us did our part to pull together as a team, making it a truly memorable event for both ourselves and over 30 regional Chief Petty Officers. In addition to the amazing opportunity to live onboard the Big J and experience a tiny bit of the shipboard life, highlights of the weekend included many different evolutions such as a community service project in Big J's turrets, damage control training with the Whitehall Township Fire Department, and a Heritage Run over the Ben Franklin Bridge. Throughout the planning stages and as the weekend progressed, we learned how to use

each other's individual strengths to maximize our overall potential and contribute to a strong and solid team. The strength of that solidarity was culminated on Sunday afternoon in a very moving and inspirational burial at sea ceremony to remember the victims of 9/11.

Getting to meet and talk to the crew that work onboard the ship was a personal highlight for me, as it was an honor and a truly humbling experience and one that I will never forget. Their camaraderie and their love for the Navy and the Big J are palpable and the stories they shared from their days in the Navy were both moving and inspirational. On



Participating members of CPO Selectee Class 121 included (from left to right): PSC(Sel) Sean Flaville, CTNC(Sel) Michael Ferry, ENC(Sel) Peter Hodge, NCC(Sel) Jess Rohrbach, LSC(Sel) Erik Schiltz, ASC(Sel) Brandon Duplessis, BMC(Sel) Sean Sweeney, LSC(Sel) Candy McCollin, ATC(Sel) Robert Thompson, CSC(Sel) Joanna Grzelczyk, ADC(Sel) Scott Roy, LNC(Sel) Lori Koykka, ISC(Sel) William Tuffy, ADC(Sel) Jessica Acosta, ATC(Sel) Manuel Penas, CTRC(Sel) Marc Manfredi, BMC(Sel) Gerardo Sarasua and ATC(Sel) Ryan Coffin (not pictured).



BMC Sweeney acts as the Master of Ceremonies for the Burial At Sea ceremony delivering a moving 9-11 speech in remembrance of the lives lost on 9-11.

Sunday, my family was able to come onboard for the ceremony and was fortunate to meet the crew as well. My father who had served in the Navy from 1958-62, was able to talk to them about the good old days. We were able to fly our flags in honor of CPO Selectee Class 121 and all of the crew who have served and continue to serve onboard the awe-inspiring USS NEW JERSEY.

CPO Selectee Class 121 would like to thank the crew of the Big J for their support and the Chiefs that spent their time guiding us from the beginning of the planning process, as well as those that offered their guidance throughout the encampment. It was an experience that we will remember always and take with us, not just throughout our Navy careers, but for our entire lives.

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Firefighters from the Whitehall Township Fire Department give damage control training to the CPO Selectees.



The Big J, continued from page 23



"A large part of our training is to develop a sense of heritage, because as Chiefs, we are the keepers of heritage in the Navy. In order to maintain naval traditions, a Chief Petty Officer needs to understand the past and then pass that knowledge onto their junior Sailors. The weekend we spent onboard the USS NEW JERSEY and the time we spent with its crew contributed to a large part of that. We did not simply learn about the capabilities and workings of the Battleship, but we walked away with so much more. We not only departed with a better understanding of the men who served on the Big J during its many years of service, but we also took with us the individual experiences of the men and women who now maintain her. It's this 'shared history' and preservation of tradition which I think separates the Navy from other services."

—ISC(Sel) William Tuffy



CPO Selectee's perform a burial at sea ceremony to honor and remember the victims and heroes of 9/11.

Join NERA and Advance Your Career



Join or renew online at nera.org



Benefits of Being a NERA Member

As many of you know, being a member of NERA allows you to be part of an exclusive group of enlisted Sea Service Reservists. But did you know NERA teamed up with USAA, which has been recently recognized by *FORTUNE* magazine as one of their 2014 World's Most Admired Companies®?

USAA, as the exclusive provider of financial services for NERA, offers the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association USAA Rewards™ Credit Cards to NERA members. Tell your friends!

When you choose a USAA Rewards military affiliate American Express® Card or MasterCard®, you help NERA.

- With this card, you can help NERA continue supporting the enlisted sea service reservists and their families.
- USAA Bank will make a contribution to NERA when you open an account, make eligible purchases and keep an active account.
- Carry one or both the American Express® Card and MasterCard®. Even if you pay the balance in full each month, you still receive all the rewards and benefits.

Yes! There's no need to carry a balance for you and NERA to benefit!

There are two types of cards to choose from or carry both (and pay your NERA dues with them)!



USAA Rewards American Express Card:

Earn 2X on gas and grocery purchases while earning 1 point per dollar on your other purchases. Getting **2X** is not an introductory offer. Enjoy concierge service and other exclusive benefits.

The card image is an original photo taken by past president Nick Marine, solely available to NERA USAA cardholders. **Apply for yours today!** usaa.com/nera



USAA Rewards World MasterCard:

Earn 1 point per dollar on everyday purchases. Take advantage of worldwide acceptance and other exclusive benefits.

There are 6 card images to choose from including the original photo by Nick Marine (above). **Don't wait, apply today!** usaa.com/nera

Credit cards issued by USAA Savings Bank, other bank products by USAA Federal Savings Bank, both Member FDIC.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA.

Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies.



Help Secure the Future of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Suggested Language for Making a Bequest to the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

You may include a bequest to support NERA when preparing your will or by adding a codicil to your present will. Bequests may be of cash, securities, real estate or other property. Bequests of all sizes are welcome, whether they are outright, contingent or residual.

If you are considering designating how your bequest will be used by NERA or establishing an endowed fund through your estate plans, please contact (or have your professional advisor contact) Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA, at 800-776-9020 or neraexec@nera.org.



Please note: This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. We recommend that you consult with a qualified estate planning attorney when drafting your will.

Your request should be directed to The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The following language may be useful to your attorney:

Specific Bequest

“I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the general support of NERA.”

Residual Bequest

“I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, ___ percent of the residue of my estate to be used for the general support of NERA.”

Contingent Bequest

“In the event that _____ predeceases me, I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$_____ (or, alternatively, ___ percent of the residue of my estate) to be used for the general support of NERA.”

**Please contact (or have your professional advisor contact)
Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA,
at 800-776-9020 or neraexec@nera.org.**



The VA Scandal Aftermath: Radical Changes

By Yvette Purtill

Schools, communities and many Americans observed Veterans Day on November 11, honoring the more than 20 million Americans who served our country in the armed forces. As we honor the veterans who served, we should also be looking at the Veterans Affairs system and how it has failed so many. NERA is hopeful that the new leadership of Robert McDonald will shake up the VA and provide the quality service required by our veterans. We realize change can be painful and slow, and so NERA will stand watch as the VA implements updates and improvements.



The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is the country's largest health care system. It serves more than 6 million patients yearly at about 150 medical centers, and more than 800 outpatient clinics. Once the Phoenix, AZ scandal broke regarding the long wait times and fraudulent reporting by hospital administrators, a spotlight was shone on the entire VA system. The VA's Office of Inspector General (IG) launched a system wide investigation and noted that the VA problems were not isolated to just Arizona.

In Phoenix, the Inspector General's report found that at least 1,700 veterans were waiting for care without being placed on an official electronic list. The average wait time was 115 days, and there were multiple unofficial lists to get an appointment. Approximately 40 people died that were on the electronic wait list. The Inspector General report stopped just short of blaming these deaths on the long wait times, stating: "While the case reviews in this report document poor quality of care, we are unable to conclusively assert that the absence of timely quality care caused the deaths of these veterans." The latest data released by the VA indicates that more than 630,000 patients throughout the nation continue to wait longer than 30 days for appointments and more than 9,000 veterans are waiting 30 days or more in Phoenix alone.

After the scandal in Phoenix broke, the VA's IG confirmed that an additional 225 reports of misconduct in hospitals and 445 allegations of records being manipulated in other VA facilities across the country. The VA's IG launched investigations at 93 sites. Robert McDonald, the newly appointed secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, announced a 90-day reform plan.

Robert McDonald, the new secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, is the former CEO of Procter & Gamble. His approach to fixing this agency is a plan to push quality service and view veterans as a customer. McDonald's private sector plan to squash the government power structure in the VA, the second-largest federal agency, has been viewed as radical. The VA oversees the GI Bill education, home-loan benefits and the largest health-care system in the country.

McDonald aims to rebuild the trust of the veterans for the VA system. He said that "the largest restructuring in the department's history is under way" and it is reported that approximately 35 people are facing disciplinary action, with as many as 1,000 to follow. He cited some examples of change, such as fixing the very complicated VA's web sites to help veteran gain easier access to their VA benefits. McDonald removed the incentive plan that tied bonuses for VA employees to patient wait times.

In a written response, Robert McDonald stated "the VA is in the midst of a very serious crisis," and said it must work to get veterans services quickly and the VA needs to address its cultural and accountability issues. He said the VA needs to hire "tens of thousands of new doctors, new nurses, new clinicians," and make sure their salaries are competitive with the private sector, even if that means ending the pay freeze. Also, the first round of "Choice

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Dear NERA:

My name is Ed Gingra. I was a shipmate of Chuck Cox for many years with NSSF NEW LONDON. DET. 404, when I lived back in New Jersey. Four years ago my wife and I retired to Virginia Beach, VA. During these years, I have volunteered at the Retired Activity Office at the now combined base at Little Creek. It was once called the Amphib. Base.

It has been my surprise to see how many reserve members have no idea on how to apply for retirement, what medical benefits they have, or where to go for help. Just last week, a 60 year old plus reserve member had no idea he had Tricare for his medical bills. He was too young for Medicare and was facing big medical expenses. Almost all bases have RAO offices, which are staffed by retired volunteers. Out of approximately 28 volunteers, I am the only Reserve member and I have become the Reserve representative (if I like it or not LOL).

NERA's Tips and Clips was great. It will go into my reserve manual for future reference. Another tip to tell retired members is to please ensure that their ID cards are up to date. They must have the strip on the back for gate guards and commissaries to read and scan. Old cards will be taken away, they will be issued a receipt and escorted

off base. As you know, we no longer have base stickers and everything is 100% ID check. We had a deadly shooting on the main base here several months ago involving bad ID card checking, so everything here is very strict.



One last thing, please tell Coast Guard members go through Topeka Kansas for all their needs. I learned that quickly and even had to meet a widow at a Burger King to fill out all her paper work. Because they are Homeland Security, most RAO's and military offices will not help them. So here is where I go for help:

COMMANDING OFFICER (RAS)
U.S. COAST GUARD PAY AND PERSONNEL
CENTER
444 SE QUINCY ST.
TOPEKA KANSAS, 66683-3591

1-800-772-8724
1-785-339-3415

They are great people and the Coast Guard paper work is so much easier.

Thank you for your time.
Ed Gingras TM1 (RET)

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$2500 USAA/NERA Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I will be majoring in Nursing in the fall at Quinnipiac University. I plan to further my education after I receive my Bachelors in Nursing and become a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. The financial assistance you provided will be of great help to me in paying my educational expenses and becoming one step closer to my future goals.

By awarding me the USAA/NERA Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,
Emma Elizabeth Porto

Dear USAA & NERA members,

It is difficult to express on paper how grateful I am to have received this scholarship. I want to thank you all for making this scholarship possible. I would also like to thank those who took the time to review my application and had great faith and hope in my future. It is extremely encouraging to receive a scholarship from some of the most honorable people.

I am appreciative to have received this scholarship and I promise to put forth my best effort in my education and my future. This is truly a huge help. Thank you for recognizing us students and thank you for all that you do within and outside of these prideful organizations.

My sincerest thanks,
Diana Shoemaker

VA SCANDAL AFTERMATH, continued from page 27

Cards” was mailed to 320,000 VA-enrolled veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA medical facility. Veterans can take these choice cards to local facilities and doctors outside of the VA system. This is the first step in easing wait times. In late November, the second round of cards will be mailed to approximately 370,000 additional vets.

NERA is pleased to see these VA problems acknowledged and addressed. NERA is hopeful that the new administration will help solve these issues that have plagued the VA for years. We are realistic that issues this pervasive will take time to correct and we will be closely monitoring the situation on your behalf. Please let us know any issues you may have experienced with the VA.

**Recycle...
TURN TRASH
INTO CASH!**

**Help us earn free equipment
and cash by turning in...**

For more information, contact our
“National Recycle Coordinator” Debbie Fallon
at (603) 858-4144 or debbiefallon@msn.com.
Or contact headquarters via the new
NERArecycles@nera.org.

(Please see page 26 for detailed instructions.)



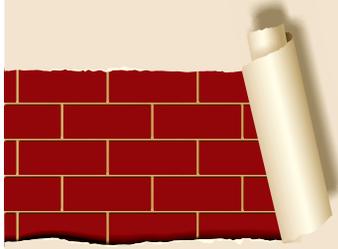
FundingFactory
fundingfactory.com



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 Dennis L. Austen	Leo J. Milobar	YNCS Gary L. Knisely	Central Pennsylvania
MM1 George Boyd	Floyd Benett	EM2 Paul V. Kordick	Tall Corn
QMCM Albert N. Crawford	Greater Pittsburgh	ENC Dean C. McCabe	Central Pennsylvania
BUC David R. Ferree	Leo J. Milobar	RMC John E. McVey	League Island
BMCS George W. Fizell	Florida State MAL	LCDR Robert P. Neal	Minnesota
Mrs. Wilma J. Fizell	Florida State MAL	BM1 Richard V. Palmer	Central Carolinas
EN1 James A. Gilstrap	Greater Greenville	YN1 Mary F. Smith	Ft. McHenry
YNCM Gerald Gomulinski	Central Carolina	QMC Anthony S. Szy	Greater Lehigh Valley
AMSC William H. Grimm	Tacoma	MR1 John M. Tyler	Joe Wasson
SWC James E. Hayes	Leo J Milobar	AWCS Francis T. Wall	Quonset Point
SK1 Michael J. Horton	Greater Greenville	MSCS Max B. Wano	Oklahoma Sooner



NERA Memorial Walk

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

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. Your brick can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or a significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100 and will be custom engraved to your specification and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA headquarters.



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

Phase 1: Will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole.

Phase 2: Construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA HQ.

Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Abbott, jabbott@nera.org or (703) 534-1329.



“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
 HMCS William M. Allen
 MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen
 PNC William A. Anderson
 EMC Larry M. Arnold
 IS1 Judith A. Ayers
 CWO4 Shirley Barlow †
 SKCS John A. Bartlett
 LSC Michael F. Bartsch
AVCM Don Bauman
 LCDR William D. Bennett
 BM1 Jeffrey Benton
 AEC Charles A. Berger
 CUCM David D. Boman
 OS1 Donald J. Bond
 IS1 Wayne E. Boyer**
 DKCM Charles E. Bradley
 HTC(SW) Peter E. Bragg
 MCC Brian Brannon
 CMC John K. Brian, Jr.
 SK1 William B. Brown
 SKCM Julius ‘Gene’ E. Brown
 IT1 Gerald E. Bruce
 QMC(SS) Fred A. Bruno
 HMCM Harry T. Buckles
 ATC Dennis E. Buisman**
 PN2 James A. Bullard
 DK1 John D. Burke
 CTRCS Charles A. Burkett
 AZC(AW) John L. Busby
 RMC(M) Frank Broz
 FTGC(SW) James W. Cain
 GSCM Ralph W. Camp, Jr.
 AO1 Thomas B. Carroll**
 CWO4 Michael Chierico
 SKC Donna Childre
 AMSC William F. Clark
 RADM Casey W. Coane
 HMC Noel H. Cotton
 HMCS Robert C. Cramer
 CAPT Ted Daywalt
 VADM Dirk J. Debbink
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