

THE **MARINER**

2016 Fall Edition | Volume 59 · Issue 3

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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Cover: American flags flutter gently in the breeze at Arlington National Cemetery, placed there to honor the service and sacrifice of the nation's fallen service members. (Photo Credit: Sgt. Jose A. Torres Jr)

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



Mike Hughes
NERA
Executive Director

Representing NERA

We have been busy in the Nation's Capital Region dealing with various meetings and issues affecting our military benefits and compensation and will continue to do so. These meetings are with our partner military and veteran organizations and with representatives of various offices, departments, committees and staff from DoD and Congress. Please refer to my Legislative Updates in this edition of *The Mariner* for the latest legislative news.

I have received several contacts from members with questions and concern on how the new blended retirement system would affect them and how to calculate their retirement. First, if you are currently serving, or a gray area retiree, you are grandfathered into the current system and should not be affected by the new blended retirement system. However, note that those with less than 12 years of service at the time it goes into effect on Jan. 1, 2018 may opt to enter the blended retirement system. Those service members enlisting on or after Jan. 1, 2018 will be automatically entered into the blended retirement system.

For those near or approaching 20 or more years of service and contemplating retirement, here's a brief explanation of what to expect and how retirement pay is calculated for reservists:

- If your initial military service started on or before September 7, 1980 you would use the base pay for your rank and years of service on the date your retirement pay begins, known as Final Pay.
 - If your initial military service started after that date, it is based on the High 36 month average of pay, usually the
- last 3 years. Reserves are not affected by the REDUX plan. You should receive a notice of eligibility for retirement about 4 months prior to attaining the required years of service, usually 20 years and 60 years of age.
 - Only those years where you attain at least 50 points will count toward retirement.
 - You should also receive periodic notice of your total points accumulated.
 - Divide the total points accumulated by 360, this will give the years of service for calculating reserve retirement pay. Multiply this by 2.5 and that will be the percentage of base pay that you will receive in retirement.
 - For those members who go into the blended retirement system the multiplier will be 2.0 (e.g., An E-6 retiring today with over 20 years of service and 4200 points may have a High 36 average of \$3,700 average base pay per month. $4200 \text{ points} \div 360 = 11$ calculated years. $11 \times 2.5 \text{ multiplier} = 27.5 \%$. Then $.275 \times \$3700 = \$1,017.50$ per month retired pay. This is only an example and not intended to be actual pay.)
 - Keep in mind that base pay can change year to year due to COLA and pay raises, besides promotions and years of service. It is still unclear how those members drilling for points only will be handled in the new blended retirement system and we have raised the issue with DoD and they are looking into it.

continued on page 8



Stephen Sandy
National President

Shipmates,

I always look forward to this time of year when summer turns into autumn, the leaves change color, the children are back in school and pumpkins pop up on porches. Usually we are planning and organizing NERA's annual conference. But as you may have heard, we are taking a pass this year. Considering 2016 is not a NERA National Executive

Council Election year, we decided to concentrate our efforts on the 2017 conference. I'm sure the national presidential election will be enough politics to tide us over. The year 2017 is NERA'S 60th Anniversary year, so we are hoping to have a conference and celebration all wrapped up in one. The dates for the NERA 60th Anniversary Conference are now confirmed for Oct 12-15, 2017 in Cherry Hill, NJ (the Philadelphia area).

date (and we have had some wild meetings with hundreds of people in the past.) Remember what happens at the NERA conference stays at the NERA conference.

I recently read an article on how associations should attract new members. One of the recommendations was simplify the process of becoming a member. Well folks, we have already done this. Hopefully by now you have explored the new nera.org website. Becoming a new member is literally a click of a button away and just \$30 a year. It could not be easier to join, so don't forget to mention that when you are recruiting. Also, it is extremely easy and secure to renew your membership online with a credit card. Note that the 2017 conference information will be uploaded to the new site shortly.

In another more somber note, September was Suicide Prevention Month. NERA and many military associations want everyone to focus on this problem. If you or anyone you know needs help, reach out immediately. You

Everyone knows that the best recruiting tool is word of mouth. So I challenge you to tell as many people as you can about NERA and the upcoming 2017 conference.

My goal is to retain the usual crowd AND attract a new crowd to our 2017 conference. I feel this could be a good place to recruit and advertise all NERA does for its members. I know that time and money are very limited with the younger crowd, and attracting new people will prove a challenge. Everyone knows that the best recruiting tool is word of mouth. So I challenge you to tell as many people as you can about NERA and the upcoming 2017 conference. I'm organizing some dynamic speakers and hoping the 2017 conference will be NERA's best conference to

are not alone. Free help is waiting for you or someone you love. September and every month of the year we should concentrate our efforts in helping stop even one person from hurting themselves.

I look forward to hearing what concerns you, so feel free to reach out to me anytime.

Sincerely,
Steve

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

If you or someone you love is contemplating suicide or experiencing a psychological health crisis, contact the Military Crisis Line at 800-273-8255, press 1, or visit militarycrisisline.net.



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Debbie Fallon
NERA
National Counselor

Dear NERA Members,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and a great Labor Day holiday. Fall is upon us and those of us in the northeast have closed our pools and are putting away those grills. For the NEC of NERA, it is time to shake the cobwebs from our heads. We need to put our hands on the grindstone to get back to work and put the word out there that this is the organization to join.

Over this summer, I had the pleasure of speaking to so many of our members across the country, providing input or asking questions on various issues. Whether it was checking on the status of a membership, finding out how to purchase a brick, looking to order a copy of a members military record, how to obtain a copy of a W-2 or just to discuss the upcoming elections, it was a pleasure to answer these important questions. If I didn't know the answer, I tried to at least point members in the right direction and I enjoyed just shooting the breeze.

I am also happy to see local NERA chapters taking advantage of social media like Facebook. Chapters such as the Oklahoma Sooner, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Windy

City, Chicago, Illinois; USS Briarcliff Chapter, Staten Island, New York and the USS Constitution, Northern Massachusetts, Southern New Hampshire, have found a free way to keep members informed about special events and upcoming meetings.

Congratulations to the 2016 NERA/USAA Scholarship Winners. These scholarships are possible through generous grants from USAA, plus additional donations from NERA and its members. This year \$16,000 in scholarships were awarded.

In closing, I would like to remind all chapter presidents that access to your Chapter Roster on line is now available. To access it, log in, click your name at the top of the screen, then click the "Chapter Roster tab". Type in the name of the chapter, and then click "Export". You can choose which format to download it.

As always, if you have any other questions, concerns or suggestions, please let me know at nc@nera.org, or by calling me at (603) 858-4144.

Sincerely,

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

**If you have additional questions, contact
Debbie Fallon at 603-858-4144 or NC@nera.org.**

Help NERA Go Paperless

The electronic version of the *Mariner* is sent via email or instantly available for download at nera.org. If you want to go paperless, just email jabbott@nera.org and say you want the electronic version of the *Mariner*.

If you would like to help defray the costs of the *Mariner* and its postage, please feel free to donate to NERA. (Even \$15 can help someone keep their printed *Mariner*.)

Go paperless — email jabbott@nera.org





SK1 Alvin H. Wright, USN (ret)

December 28, 1931 – December 25, 2015



Sadly, we have belatedly learned of the passing of Al Wright. Al died Christmas Day (12/25/15) at the VA Medical Center in Erie, PA at 83 years old. He was a lifelong resident of Erie, PA and a life member of NERA. He is survived by one sister, Doris Atkinson, Millcreek Township, PA. He never married.

Al joined the Navy after graduating high school and served as an Electricians Mate (EM) during the Korean War. He joined the Navy Reserves and changed his rate to Storekeeper (SK) to more closely match his civilian occupation as a parts man and manager at car dealerships in

the Erie, PA area. He retired from the Navy Reserves with 36 years of total service.

Al was a familiar participant at NERA national conferences and his presence will be sorely missed. He was always friendly and enjoyed chatting about NERA and Navy issues with anyone. His popularity was evident when he wasn't at the 2015 NERA National Conference and numerous people commented, wanting to know if he was OK. Unfortunately, we weren't able to contact him and we have recently learned he was already ill and a patient at the VA at the time of the conference. Al was always generous and donated substantially to NERA and our building fund.

NERA is proud to call Al a shipmate and friend. May he rest in peace.

Executive Director's Message, continued from page 4

Navy Blue Camouflage (Blueberries) On the Way Out

Naval Personnel Command has announced that the Navy Working Uniform (NWU) Type 1, blue camouflage utilities, commonly referred to as "blueberries" will be replaced. The new uniform will be the forest-green NWU Type III camouflage utilities and is the primary working uniform ashore and in port by Oct. 1, 2019. Sailors may keep wearing their black boots with the NWU Type III, but expeditionary forces, deployed or stateside, will be allowed to wear coyote brown or desert tan boots at the discretion of unit commanding officers.

In other Navy uniform changes, beginning immediately, female chiefs will be able to wear the signature men's khaki pants, without belt and buckle, with khaki over-blouse. They are still conducting wear tests of the women's khaki pants for the chief's uniform and are expected to be available for purchase at the end of 2017 or early 2018. Navy sweats are getting a new "NAVY" logo in silver reflecting lettering, already on the Navy PT shirt and shorts. To cover the costs of these uniform changes the enlisted clothing replacement allowance will be adjusted.

NERA Headquarters

We are still needing contributions for repairs to NERA headquarters in Falls Church, VA (including the roof, gutters and eaves, front and rear entrance steps). We also would welcome any help from experienced members who would like to volunteer their time and tools.

Recruit at least one new member. Our strength in maintaining your compensation and benefits depends on a strong membership base. If you have suggestions on issues you feel NERA should address, email me at neraexec@nera.org or call me at 1-443-812-9591.



Leo S. 'Uncle Leo' Ciskiewic, Sr., 93

July 22, 1923 – August 15, 2016



Leo S. 'Uncle Leo' Ciskiewic, Sr., age 93, of Niagara Falls, NY, passed away on Monday, August 15, 2016 in Springville, NY. He enlisted in the Navy on October 16, 1943 and did his boot training at Sampson, NY, CO. 141-BKS C-21. He then went to Little Creek, VA for gunnery training and from there to the Armed Guard Ctr., Brooklyn, NY.

He was on the SS Exford, June 27, 1944 and made the Murmansk, Russia run. A 2nd trip was back to England, July 29, 1944, in convoy to Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. He earned several awards and commendations for his gun position accuracy during WWII. He received an honorable discharge in July, 1946.

Leo re-enlisted in the naval Air Reserve, August 24, 1949, at the Naval Air Station, Niagara Falls, NY. He was flight plane Captain for fourteen years on patrol bombers, PV2 Harpoons, P4Y Privateers(B24) and long range P2V Neptunes. He retired from the military on July 22, 1983 as an Aviation Machinist's Mate 1st Class. While and after serving his country, Uncle Leo was a 1st Shop Operator for 35 years at DuPont until his retirement. He is survived by his children Kathleen (Dennis) Pengelly and John Ciskiewic; grandchildren, Jeffery, Danielle, Michael and Crystalee and great-grandchildren, Rayanna, Slader and Logan.

Memories of Leo will remain fondly to those of us who attended the 2015 NERA National Conference with him in Norfolk, VA and to those who were fortunate enough to have served with him in the Navy. He will be sorely missed and NERA expresses its sincerest condolences to his family.



"Uncle Leo" in the middle of the action with the blue cap.



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 Visa Signature, 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 Visa Signature. 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.



USAA Rewards Visa Signature:

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

Apply for yours today! usaa.com/nera

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NERA loves feedback. Keep them coming by emailing us at members@nera.org.

Dear Steve and the Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for selecting my granddaughter Desaraé Finck-Fugazi as a recent recipient of the \$2500 2016 NERA Scholarship. You don't know how much it means to our family. She will not only have her work cut out for her over the next 5 years, she needs to meet her goal, but at least she will have this financial blessing to ease her first year.

Sincerely,
Betty Fugazi

Hello Chief Cox,

I just wanted to write and let you know that I did read your NERA message concerning the "Golden Years", concerning the difficult to navigate waters of medical insurances. I have been retired over ten years now, and still have not figured out who pays what and what order. Among others, being with VA and Medicare, Tricare eligible, and other employer insurances (retirement benefits), it is a headache and a mess. I am looking forward to any future articles printed on this subject. Everyone has different situations on medical coverage it seems.

Thank you for looking at this confusing subject.

Sincerely,
SKCA Carroll G Flaherty, USNR (RET.)

Hi Joanne,

Great article on Steve Butterhof Sailor of the Year. You are probably not aware, or maybe he didn't want it to be known. He is a third generation Chief Petty Officer. I served with his grandfather, HTC Bill Butterhof in the Submarine Repair unit SSF-404. He owns and still runs a feed store in Egg Harbor NJ.

I don't know if this is worthy of mention in future Mariners.

Regards,
Marc Willard



NERA.ORG

Check out nera.org. Browse the new site or login to review your membership status.

(For returning members: just use your email address as your username and click forgot password.)



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

TIPS AND CLIPS – FALL 2016

Hope For Veterans

If you live in Central or Southern New Jersey or in Eastern Pennsylvania, and need employment services, support services, or links to community resources, call 855-483-8466, email SSVF@MJ211.org or visit hopeforveterans.com. They may be able to provide temporary financial assistance.

Volunteer4Vets

If you would like to help out and volunteer for vets, check out <http://volunteer4vets.com> for different opportunities near you.

Retirement with Pay

Here is the information you will need if you are getting close to retirement age:

Applying for Retirement with Pay

1 Notification is forwarded in Applying for Retirement with Pay

Notification is forwarded in advance to advise you how to submit an application for retired pay at age 60. If you have not received notification four months prior to your 60th birthday, please contact PERS-912 by calling 1-866-827-5672. The earliest date retired pay may commence is your 60th birthday or the day after completion of 20 years of qualifying service, whichever is later unless early retirement is authorized under NDAA 2008.

2 The following forms must be completed in duplicate and returned to PERS-912 at the address listed below (original signature required on all forms).

- **DD Form 108**, Application for Retired Pay Benefits
- **NAVPERS 1800/13**, Questionnaire for Applicants for Retired Pay
- **DFAS-CL Form 1059**, Direct Deposit Authorization
- **IRS Form W-4 in duplicate**, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate

3 Complete processing of an application normally takes several months. Please include your social security number on all correspondence. If you have a change of any information, before your 60th birthday, please report the update to PERS-912 by calling 1-866-827-5672 immediately.

4 Mail all forms with original signatures to:

Commander
Navy Personnel Command (PERS-912)
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055

Do not fax or email retirement with pay requests, original signatures are required.

- 5 Specific guidance and additional information may be found at Guidance for Submitting Application for Retired Pay Benefits.
- 6 If you are transferring to the retired pay status from a drilling status current policy requires endorsements from your chain of command.

Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)

The Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP) is a program administered by the Department of Defense (DOD) that allows you to leave a percentage of your future Navy Reserve retired pay as a monthly survivor annuity to your beneficiaries. Read this information very carefully and if married, discuss it with your spouse. This information is designed to provide you with adequate and accurate information regarding your survivor benefit options. Gather facts and data unique to your situation, consider your options and then decide what is best for you and your beneficiaries. Guarantee your survivors a share of your military pay after you are gone.

For detailed information on the management of the RCSBP program, visit the DFAS website <http://www.dfas.mil/>

If you need additional information or assistance in computing the cost of participation, please call 1-866-827-5672.



Changes to TRICARE Pharmacy Network

Effective December 1, 2016, the TRICARE pharmacy network contractor, Express Scripts Inc (ESI) announced that Walgreens Drug stores will rejoin the pharmacy network. The current CVS drug store chain will be dropped from this network.

This means TRICARE users will now be able to fill their prescriptions off-base at Walgreen's pharmacies without paying out-of-network rates. However, CVS users will have to change pharmacies or pay **unsubsidized** rates for their medications. By adding Walgreens into the network, TRICARE hopes it is providing their beneficiaries a network pharmacy within 5 miles of their home. This new network will have more than 57,000 locations nationwide.

Save the Date!



60th Anniversary Conference

October 12-15, 2017

Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill, NJ



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Fall Mariner 2016

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.)

Here are just few of the many legislative issue we are following. If you have others issues you are interested in learning more about, please contact me by email at neraexec@nera.org or call me at 1-443-812-9591.

Veteran Status

The previous veteran status bills are dead right now. The conference committee between the

House and Senate was unable to come to agreement to iron out the difference between their bills. There is again proposed legislation in both the House and Senate to

give veteran status to reserve members who serve 20 years or more, but don't have the required active duty time to qualify (usually 180 days). There is also an initiative to give veteran hiring priority consideration for federal jobs by allowing cumulative days to count versus the current consecutive days requirement. These legislative proposals are supported by NERA.

NDAА

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017 is still hung up in Congress with conference committees to iron out differences. Major differences of interest are outlined in the previous Summer 2016 Mariner edition. As of this writing this, the 114th Congress is in summer recess from July 16–September 5, October 1–November 13 for the election season, November 18–28 for Thanksgiving and adjourns on Dec. 16, 2016, until the new 115th Congress convenes in January 2017. It is unlikely that the budgets for FY 2017 beginning October 1, 2016 will be enacted in time and there are already plans for a Continuing Resolution (CR). There is a debate in Congress on whether to have a CR until December 10, 2016 as in the previous 2 years and have the “lame-duck” Congress deal with a huge omnibus bill before adjournment or extend it till early March of 2017 and let the next Congress deal with it. A CR basically restricts spending to the previous year's levels and can put even further stress on an already tight Defense operational budget.

One area that we haven't covered much is how the NDAА for 2017 impacts on health care for members and their families. There is good and bad news in both the House and Senate versions. Thanks to Karen Ruedisueli of the National Military Family Association for much of the following info:

Good News

- Both versions would remove the requirement for a referral and or authorization for urgent care access.
- Scheduling Appointments- the House version has plans for first call resolution, meaning no being told to call back and setting up a 6 month window for scheduling appointments. The Senate version requires a centralized scheduling process. Both proposals have merit and would be an improvement.
- Both versions require reports on Reserve families' problems during activations and an evaluation of alternative health coverage options for Reserves and their families.

Bad News: Fees

- The House bill includes a provision to maintain current levels of fees for retirees and service members who enter before January 1, 2018. Those who enter or retire after that date would face increased out-of-pocket fees and expenses. NERA opposes these increases. Retirees and all service members have earned their health benefits as a result of their sacrifices, risks and demands and increasing costs to them is unjust.

This provision would also lead to an unhealthy disparity where senior officers and enlisted would be paying less for health care than junior enlisted. This is not good for retention nor recruitment.

- Enrollment fees are proposed for TRICARE for active duty families. NERA categorically opposes this.

- The Senate version proposes fee increases in the catastrophic cap and enrollment fees for TRICARE, including retirees. NERA opposes this proposal because this is just a back door increase to those who gave and are giving a lot to their nation and don't deserve a cut in their benefits.

SBP/IDT Inequities for Reservists

Recent accidental deaths while on inactive duty for training (IDT) of members of the reserve and guard serving alongside active duty personnel have brought forward a continuing unfair disparity between active and reserve/guard Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity that is spelled out in Title 10, e.g., A reserve E-5 killed while on IDT orders would have his family receive an SBP annuity

payment of \$142 a month, while an active duty E5 serving alongside and killed with the reservist would have his family receive \$1,217 a month. NERA supports an initiative for legislative action by the Reserve Officers Association to update Title 10, United States Code, Chapter 73, Subchapter II, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) to correct this unjust difference.

NERA's NAVY Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin

The US Navy Reserve has been ready to answer our nation's call for 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 celebrated 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), see below. (Discounts for orders of 10 or more).

Choose one of these payment options:

- 1 **Send a check to NERA**, 6703 Farragut Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042 (Write Coin in memo)
- 2 **Pay by Credit Card** by calling NERA at (800)-776-9020.
- 3 **Pay online at nera.org**. Click Giving and Support, and click Products.





Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Admiral Robin Braun Retires

NERA would like to congratulate Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun on her retirement after 37 years of service in the Navy. On September 26, 2016, Vice Adm. Robin Braun was relieved by Vice Adm. Luke McCollum during a Change of Command Ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson presided over the ceremony.

Robin Braun is the daughter of a career naval aviator. Born in Pensacola, Florida, she is a graduate of Northern Arizona University and was commissioned in 1980. Designated a naval aviator in February 1981, her first assignment was to Training Squadron (VT) 31, Naval Air Station (NAS) Corpus Christi, Texas, where she served as an instructor pilot in the T-44 aircraft.



WASHINGTON (Sept. 26, 2015) Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun was relieved by Vice Adm. Luke McCollum during a Change of Command Ceremony at the Washington Navy Yard. Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. John Richardson presided over the ceremony. Braun retired after 37 years of service in the Navy. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Chief Elliott Fabrizio/Released)

In 1983, Braun was assigned to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron (VQ) 3, NAS Barbers Point, Hawaii, serving as a mission commander, aircraft commander and instructor pilot in the EC-130Q aircraft. Subsequent squadron tours include Fleet Logistics Support Squadron (VR) 61, NAS Whidbey Island, Washington, and VR-51, NAS Glenview, Illinois. Staff assignments include naval intern on the Joint Staff (J3), aviation detailer at Navy Personnel Command and chief of staff, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Operations and Plans supporting OPNAV N3/N5.

Braun served as commanding officer of VR-48, Naval Air Facility (NAF) Washington, D.C. During her tour, the squadron was awarded the Battle Efficiency Award and CNO Safety Award. Subsequent command tours include: Navy Air Logistics Office (NALO), Navy Reserve Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 10 supporting the USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and Joint Task Force Katrina and Tactical Support Center 0793 supporting Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 5.

Flag assignments include deputy commander, Navy Recruiting Command; director, Total Force Management for the deputy CNO for information dominance (OPNAV N2/N6) and deputy director of operations, U.S. European Command, Germany.

Braun became the chief of Navy Reserve on the staff of the CNO in August 2012. As commander, Navy Reserve Force, she led approximately 60,000 reserve component personnel who support the Navy, Marine Corps and Joint Force.

Braun has accumulated over 5,800 flight hours in Navy aircraft. Her awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (three awards), Meritorious Service Medal (four awards), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards) and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards).



(U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist Chief Elliott Fabrizio/Released)

NERA wishes VADM Braun fair winds and following seas in her retirement.



Coast Guard Sector New York Reservist Honors Special Connection to 9-11

Story and Photos by Petty Officer Third Class Michael Himes, 1st District Public Affairs South

It was a warm Sunday afternoon in May, just before Fleet Week and the members of the Sector New York Incident Management Division (IMD) gather for a unique re-enlistment ceremony. Marine Science Technician First Class Robert McNeill stood with his right hand raised ready to renew his commitment. He is steps away from a section of the 9/11 Memorial in Lower Manhattan which reads the name of another eternally dedicated member of Sector New York, Port Security Specialist Second Class (PS2) Vincent Danz.

Petty Officer McNeill could think of no better place to renew his vow to devotion to duty. “I chose the 9/11 memorial because that day is the reason I joined,” remarks McNeill. Like many others, he answered a call to action on that tragic day. And, like many, has a post-9/11 career that took him directly to the front lines of the global war on terror.

“I served one year in Afghanistan on Redeployment Assistance Inspection Detachment Team XV,” recalls



Petty Officer Robert McNeill with his supervisor Lt. Cmdr. Arthur Hudman during his re-enlistment at the 9/11 Memorial

“I chose the 9/11 memorial because that day is the reason I joined,” —Petty Officer McNeill



Members of the CG Sector New York Incident Management Division join together to honor Petty Officer McNeill's re-enlistment along with the memory of Vincent Danz.

McNeill. “We assisted units that were returning home to pack up their hazardous material and assisted with the customs clearance process ensuring a smooth transition home of their property. At night I volunteered at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital where I helped carry the wounded soldiers on and off the medivac flights and kept the soldiers company while they waited to go home. On Sundays I helped teach English to local children 6 to 10 years old.”

Petty Officer McNeill has a deeper connection with PS2 Danz than many Coast Guard members because of their civilian jobs. “I did not know Vincent Danz,

but we both chose the same path. We both chose to be police officers and Coasties.” Petty Officer Danz served in the Emergency Services Unit of the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and was the first of New York’s Finest identified during the recovery efforts in the months after the destruction of the World Trade Center. Danz also served with the Port Security Unit with duties that led to the formation of the Incident Management Division at Sector New York. Today, Petty Officer McNeill serves as the lead Petty Officer for Reserve IMD Team 2 as well as a member of NYPD’s 81st Precinct, serving and protecting the people of New York City.



2016–2017 NERA/ USAA Scholarship Winners

The Scholarship Committee had their work cut out for them this year. They had an especially talented group of candidates to choose from and narrowing it down to just six winners was not an easy task. NERA and the Scholarship Committee are very proud of the six candidates that were chosen.



\$3,000 Member, Associate Member Winners



HM3 Ian Marshman

Petty Officer Marshman is currently pursuing an AS degree in nursing (with a perfect 4.0 GPA) at Southwest college in Chula Vista, California while working as an active reservist as a Fleet Marine

Force Corpsman. He plans to continue and obtain his BS in nursing.



Madeline Morris

Madeline is from Aurora, Illinois and in part to honor her grandfather, who was a Chief Petty Officer in the Navy and his health struggles, she is also pursuing a career in nursing. She holds a 3.84

GPA through four years of high school and will be attending the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh.

\$2,500 Members and Family Winners



Nathan Arnold

Nathan has his life pretty well planned. He is attending the University of Southern Florida majoring in physics and electrical engineering with a GPA of 3.89. He will continue on with a mas-

ter's degree in nuclear physics and a Ph.D. in astrophysics and then go on to NASA.



Summer Davis

Summer was a winner of a USAA/NERA scholarship last year as well. Through a special program, she graduated magna cum laude from a local community college before she received her high school diploma.

She attends UC San Diego with a major in economics and a minor in environmental studies, earning a GPA of 3.63.



Carson Dennis

Earning straight A's through four years of high school, Carson is now ready to leave Grand Forks, North Dakota and move on to the University of Minnesota, majoring in

biology. He plans to be a dentist. He points out that there are more students at UM than the whole population of his home town.



Desarae Finck-Fugazi

Desarae graduated from high school in Stockton, California with a 3.41 GPA. She will be attending Dominican University of California studying

Occupational Therapy in a five year program that will culminate in a bachelor and a masters in Occupational Therapy. Her ultimate goal is a doctorate in OT.

Congratulations to all our scholarship winners!

NERA would like to thank the Scholarship Committee Chair Ward Wollesen, Ralph Hensley, Dwayne Mitchell, David Nelson, Judy Minkin, and Forrest Croom for all their hard work behind the scenes.

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Change of Command

Below are pictures of the Change of Command and Retirement for Captain Douglas Nash and incoming new Commanding Officer, Captain Carola List at USCG Air Station Sacramento, CA on August 5, 2016. These beautiful photos are courtesy of Howard George, Public Affairs Officer for the NERA Gold Country Chapter.



CAPT Douglas Nash,
CAPT Carola List, and
RADM Todd Sokalzuk



**Visit <http://www.howardgeorge.com/NERA.html>
to view more pictures.**



RADM Sokalzuk



The logo of the Air Station.



CAPT List



RADM Sokalzuk

continued on page 24

CHANGE OF COMMAND, continued from page 23



The different military personnel involved in this flag ceremony.



CAPT Nash and CAPT List doing a personnel inspection



The U.S. Air Force Band of the Golden West



continued on page 26



CAPT List and CAPT Nash cutting the cake



The cake was donated by NERA Gold Country Chapter



The plaque given to CAPT Nash "Fair Winds and Blue Skies"



CAPT Nash, Norma von Dohren, and CAPT List



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)
Mike Hughes, Executive Director of NERA,
at 800-776-9020 or neraexec@nera.org.**



Meet the Members

NERA is proud to honor a special member by featuring them in this Meet the Members section. This issue we are proud to feature a father and son for the first time. **MSCS Max Wano (Ret)**, was a dedicated NERA member since the 1970's and his son, **Roy Wano**, picked up where his father left off.

MSCS Max Wano (Ret) grew up in the small town of Sacred Heart, Oklahoma, with two brothers and six sisters. He was part of a hard working Native American farm family who successfully balanced their tribal beliefs and love for country. He joined the Oklahoma National Guard, and was later stationed in Korea. After completing his two year tour, he decided that the United States Navy was where he wanted to be. He became a "lifer" serving 36 years in the United States Navy and Naval Reserve. In the mid 70's, he became one of the initial Charter Members of the NERA-OK Chapter, an independent 501c3, which has been a part of the National NERA Organization for more than 35 years. He was also one of the first 'Lifetime Members' of NERA, within this chapter.

Max and his wife Tosh were vital parts of the team that hosted the National NERA Convention in Oklahoma for the first time in 1989, which was also the Centennial Celebration of the Oklahoma Land Run. Max was responsible for arranging the Chuck Wagon Cookouts and Native American dances that were enjoyed by more than 450 participants from all parts of the country.



Early days for Max Wano.

In the mid 70's, he began taking one of the largest 'legal' hand held American flags across the nation and eventually around the world. This activity allowed him the opportunity to educate others on the proper meaning and handling of the flag; honoring our nation's Veterans; promoting membership in NERA and proudly representing the NERA-OK Chapter in Oklahoma. Even after his retirement, MSCS Max Wano continued his journey of dedication to God, country and family by being a part of numerous Veteran organizations, donating his time and efforts to ensure that no veteran was forgotten.



In the mid 80's, Max began taking his oldest son, Roy Wano, on all flag events to help with the management and training of the newest giant American flag owned by the Oklahoma Chapter. Some of Roy's favorite memories were watching his father's passionate smile and glow of pride when the flag was being presented at events, standing stern, at attention and saluting. Roy was unable to enter into the Armed Forces in the late 70's, but was so inspired by his father's achievements within the military and love for the flag, that he vowed to keep alive Max's legacy. After Max's death in 2014, Roy became the Chairman of flag events within NERA-OK.



Max and Tosh Wano

NERA would like to salute the Wano family for their dedication to God, country, family, NERA and the flag. Your dedication is inspiring. If you would like to see more pictures of the NERA-OK Chapter and their flag, visit www.facebook.com/NERA-Oklahoma.



Roy Wano, the son of Max and Tosh Wano



Max and Tosh Wano



2016 Annual Veterans Awareness Celebration & Giant Flag Retirement Ceremony, at the Firelake Arena, in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

If you or a person you know deserves to be honored in NERA's Meet the Member, please let us know by emailing ypurtill@nera.org.



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.

RMC Joseph H. Bancer	New Jersey	BUC Donald N. Graham	North Carolina
YNC Marshall E. Beatty	North Carolina	RM1 Frederick L.Hatten	Minnesota
AT1 Howard W. Bird	Florida	HMCS Robert R. Heitmuller	Florida
BUCS Gene Blackburn	Oregon	DK2 Ed Hogaboom	Arkansas
ATC Michael J. Bradley	New York	EM1 Harry G. Liedberg, Jr.	Pennsylvania
BMC Stephen A. Cilino	Maryland	BMC Ned M. Pearce	Pennsylvania
AD1 Leo Ciskiewicz	New York	YN1 John F. Sheffield	Virginia
SKCM Nathan T. Conner	Minnesota	HTCS James A. Sims	Texas
BM1 William L. Day	Arizona	CWO4 Neil W. Stroesenreuther	Wisconsin
HTC(SW) James F. Dominesey	Virginia	EMC Edmund Urbas	Pennsylvania
AMHC Frank C. Ferrante	Pennsylvania	ADCS Richard Vandenberg	New York
GMCS Joseph V. Fonte	Maryland	SK1 Alvin H. Wright, Jr.	Pennsylvania
YNC Ellery C. Frankenber	Indiana		



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
 HTCM(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
 HMC Harry T. Buckles
 ATC Dennis E. Buisman**
 PN2 James A. Bullard
 DK1 John D. Burke
 CTRCS Charles A. Burkett
 AZC(AW) John L. Busby
 RMCM(SW) 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
 ICCS Milton E. Degroodt
 EO1 Steven L. Devereaux
 AFCM(NAC/AW) David J. Di Marzio
MMC Larry J. Di Pasquale
 AMH1 David M. Drajna
 SKC(AW) William Duda
 HTC Robert P. Dunn
 DPC Richard B. DuRall
 AMCS James Edfors
 Mrs. Lois Edfors
 CM1 Albert C. Edsman
 PNCM(RET) Richard J. Elfrink
YNC Joanne M. Elliott
 HMC Harold Engelmann
 EM2 Glenn I. Fessler
 HM1 Mary E. Finley
 EM1 Edward L. Fitzsimmons †

BMC George E. Fougere
 MMCS Jesse Fox
 AEC Kenneth D. Freese
 LNC James M. Frierson
 SHC James Bruce Fromel**
 MS1 Victor Frumolt III
 QMC George M. Garcia
SKCS Joan Gardom
 IC1 Lloyd L. Gibbs
 FORCM Chris Glennon
 BM1 Claud F. Gordon, Jr.
STCM(SW) David A. Green **
 HTCS Morris A. Greening
 AKC Martin J. Grillo
 RADM Wallace N. Guthrie
 SK1 Richard “P.J.” Guilmette
 HMCS James B. Hagerman
 AVCM Steveon H. Hall †
 RMC Jerry D. Hall
 CMDCM(FMF) Paul Haller
 STCM Jerome A. Hamling
 MSCS Larry L. Hamm
 SA Kevin J. Harrington
 ADR1 Joseph Harrison, Jr.
 MN1 Clifton D. Hayes
 BUC Edgar E. Hedgecock
 CAPT John G. Herbein
 IT1 Jay T. Herlihy, Jr.
 SKCS Edward C. Hettel, Jr.
 RMCM Ronnie W. Hepler
 CE1(RET) Francis J. Heywood
 AKCS(RET) John M. Hicks
 OSC Michael Patrick Hughes
 ETCM Joseph J. Humphrey, Jr.
 QMC Bernard F. Hurchalla
 AECS Bradlee Hutchinson
 AT1 Harold A. Hyslop
 GSMC David L. Ingram
 PSCS Luther Jennings
 HMC Paul E. Jensen
 CM1 David B. Johnson
 YNCM(RET) Martha E. Johnston**
 YNCS(SCW) Arthur A. Julian III**
 EMC Nicholas G. Karthas
 MAC(RET) Tommy L. Keheley
 RADM Stephen T. Keith**
 OSCM(SW) Hans O. Keller
 HT1 Herman M. Keller, Jr.
 SK1 K. Daniel Kelly
 HMC George H. Kenson
 YNCM George J. Knorr
ABHCS Eugene ‘Geno’ Koelker **
 ADJ1 Frank L. Kreutzer
 IMC Gerard P. Kuebler
 ABFC Fred V. Kurtz
 HM1 Dale L. Lankford**
 FTCM Dwight Lanning
 BMC Joseph C. Lanning Jr.
 YNC Jeanne Lemasters

AFCM John M. Lenard
 BU1 Fred G. Leppig
 SK1 Richard W. Lewis
 MS1 Floyd E. Lindsey
 AKCM John J. Lomax
 TSGT Joaquin A. Lopez
 AMS1 William P. Mancusi
 OS1 Herbert F. Mann, Jr.
 YNCS David J. Marden
SKCS(SW) Nick Marine
 MRCS Nicholas J. Martocci
 YN1 Ian Mastrup
 YNC Joseph Michael Mauro
 SKCS Gene McCarthy
 AE1 William B. McCaskill
 LNC John McCormack
 BTC Terrell V. McMullin
 HT1 Arthur J. Meconi
 SFC John W. Meek
 QMC C. Bruce Melcher
 CUCM David N. Mentink
 GMC John R. Millette
 QM2 James W. Mitterer Jr.
 FCCM(SW) Thomas W. Mlnarik
 AE1 Harry Moffat
 SMC James L. Monroe
 HTCS Anthony W. Morris
 IV2 Thomas A. “Bull” Morton
 YNC Marianne E. Mosher
 AMH1 Duane E. Mosher
 BMCM E. J. Musielewicz †
 CMDCM(FMF) Ron Naida**
 LCDR Thomas F. Norton
 MSCM(SW/SCW) David A. Nygaard**
MS1(SS) Eddie G. Oca **
 PN1 Heidi Oertley †
 SKC(SW) Robert E. Orton
SKC(AW) Penny I. Padour
 ETCM Louis Pagano
 ENCS Raymond R. Page
 EOCs Robert D. Parrish
 SKCM James B. Parsons
 Mr. Norman S. Pearce
 DCCM Charles E. Peterman, Jr.
 ENC Carlos L. Phillis
 LTJG Brian P. Pietrandrea
 UTCS(SCW) Larry Poffenbarger
 BT1 Richard J. Potvin
 YN1(SS) Franz (Frank) Powell
 LT Fred Prozzillo
HMCM Manny Ratner †
 CTAC Patrick G. Reding †
 ETC Robert C. Reeves
 BTC William C. Rendall †
 HMC John D. Rivers
 ACCM Delores Rucker**
 LTC Roger Rucker**
 EMCM John W. Ryan

HMC Walter E. Sack
 DCCM Stephen R. Sandy
 AMHC Edward A. Schaefer
 QM2 James C. Schaub**
 CAPT Margaret M. Schmidt
 HTCM Richard J. Schreiner
 SKCS William J. Severns
 PRCS David L. Shaw
YNC Charles Sherrick
 DCC(SS) Thomas V. Shields
 QMCS Malcolm L. Slack
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 DPSC Daniel D. Smith
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 RMC Fred H. Springall**
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 YNC Dorothy Texidor
 SK2 Joyce Thompson †
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 BM2 David P. Tinyanoff
 CWO4 Charles A. Utz
 BU1 Thomas A Van Hook
 CAPT John A. Van Huyck
 AKCM Richard J. Vannucci
 PNC John M. Vargo
 MRCM Michael A. Viens
 HTC James J. Vincent
 ENC(SS) William E. Vincent
 YNCS William Vinglas †
 QMCS Henry B. Vogler Jr.
 SKCS Norma B. von Dohren
 AWC(AW/NAC) Michael E. Wadsworth
 UT1 Dennis A. Wagner
 HMCS(FMF) Darryl Wahler
 MSCS Max B. Wano †
 AM2 Roy D. Watkins
 SKCM Robert L. Watterson
 AEC Roger D. Webster
 EMCS(SS) Barrett E. Weiser
 CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks
 YNCM Roger A. Wiley
 ASC Howard J. Williams
 SK1 Alvin H. Wright Jr.** †
 FORCM Ronney Wright
 CWO4 William D. Yates
 AE1 James P. Yednak
 CSM Collin Younger
 Members in **Bold** are Current or Past National Presidents.
 ** Members who are “repeat” contributors.
 † Members who have Passed Away

Save the Date!



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October 12-15, 2017

Crowne Plaza, Cherry Hill, NJ



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