

THE MARINER

2010 SPRING EDITION

VOLUME 53, NO. 1

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION



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Master Chief Petty Officer of the
Coast Guard Reserve Force**

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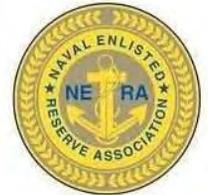
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THE MARINER



One year after the D-Day landings in Normandy, German prisoners landscape the first U.S. cemetery at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, France, near "Omaha" Beach, May 28, 1945. (AP Photo/Peter J. Carroll)

- 4** President's Message
- 5** Vice President's Message
- 6** Editor's Note
- 7** Tips & Clips
- 8** Navy Reserve Senior Enlisted Answer
- 9** Executive Director's Message
- 10** Faces of NERA
- 11-13** Retired Chief Awarded Flying Cross
- 14** NERA 53 National Conference
- 15** 1776 Award Nomination
- 16** Letters to NERA
- 21** Marine Marquee
- 22** MCPON Visits
- 23** Coastie Corner
- 25** Constitution Chapter Celebrates
- 28** Taps

The Mariner, 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 entitled to published subscription rates. Articles, letters, and jpeg photos for *The Mariner* should be submitted to the Managing Editor/DED via e-mail to: MARINEREDITOR1@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, or 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* (ISSN0164-3029), is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Periodicals postage paid at Falls Church, VA and additional mailing offices. 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: vp@NERA.ORG



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By National President Nick Marine



The last few months have been full of excitement for NERA. The new bathrooms at NERA HQ are awesome! Thank You to American Standard Company for their generation donation

of plumbing material. A personal Thank You to Don Devine (CEO), Jeanette Long (Command Chief), Nora "Hot Kettle" DePalma and Mary Ann Blackburn who all made this project possible!

In addition, American Standard Company CEO-Don Devine was presented the Seven Seals Award by ESGR for his excellent treatment of employees who are military. Some drilling reserves and others who have been activated and the policies he has in place. With that being said, next time your shopping at Home Depot or Lowes (Show military ID for 10% military discount) and buy an American Standard plumbing product. Not only have they supported NERA but our troops as well!

While in DC, I had the opportunity to sit down with FORCE Ronney Wright and VADM Debbink at the Pentagon. VADM Dirk Debbink was very interested in NERA's efforts to recognize Veterans at the VA's Annual Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. So much so that VADM Debbink will be working with his staff authorizing drill credit next year for reservists who attend this great annual event.

I also had the great pleasure of seeing the Secretary of Reserve Affairs, the Honorable Dennis McCarthy at the military coalition meeting. The Secretary also coincidentally mentioned the Annual VA National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans event at that meeting in an effort to get more military involved so it looks like the clouds and moons have been aligned. In addition, I personally asked the Secretary if he knew that The Navy Reserve news was automatically stopped for able bodied grey area reservists (ages 37-59) who would be a great pool of candidates assisting

with military funerals around the US. I also informed the Secretary that our CAC access was taken away leaving these members left in the dark until age 60 and he was truly amazed by both. Many in his staff took notes and asked me for more details after the meeting as well so I believe this will change as well very soon!

A Special Thank You, to the 37 new Life Benefactor members which brings our new total to 140 new members. This additional income has slowed withdrawals from our Life Membership Investment Fund and has allowed it to grow as it should.

We all know the reason NERA has been around since 1957 is because of the monetary support from our past life members. We are grateful to them all and they are the reason we continue to carry and keep the torch burning! With that being said the well has dried and today it's our Life Benefactors who are taking NERA into the future.

We must all remember that, "We are in this together"! Nick Marine

Have you sent your updated email address to NERA HQ yet?



Don Devine(CEO) American Standard receives seven seals award from ESGR.

Photo L-R

Masterchief Rose-Honorable-Secretary McCarthy-

Don Devine-VADM Debbink



FROM YOUR VP



By National Vice President Geno Koelker

Greetings Shipmates,

As always, one ponders about what to write in these articles. What do the members really want to hear about or do they really care. Should one get right down to business or would some levity peek their interest to keep them reading further. We all want to know what is going on and what is going to happen, next, but then what do we do about it. The usual talk around the table or bar, etc. is more hearsay than fact. Our endeavor in these articles is to keep members informed of the facts you need so that when you are doing the talking, someone listens to you.

TEAMWORK. That is a term we are well familiar with and are taught and drummed into our heads from the beginning of our military careers. Successful people or groups have developed or utilized this concept to achieve greatness or goals. In the few months that I have been active with the leadership in NERA, I have witnessed leadership at its best. Starting with our Executive Director, Steve Sandy and our President, Nick Marine, I have watched teamwork flow naturally through the executive board, and many accomplishments that started small are now budding and heading to blossoming. It has taken hard work. Our headquarters has taken on a much-improved look on the inside. This is cosmetic of course but the real litmus test is how it was achieved. The operations of NERA at different levels and function have been an “all hands” effort and have been positive with a “can do” attitude. I observed and have been a part of what is happening with our organization and have watched the enthusiasm grow. That is the good news. We are becoming a more vibrant organization with a positive future. To continue in that direction, some changes are needed. We have all been concerned about expenses, where and what to spend funds on to get the most “bang for our buck.” Decisions concerning finances are dealing with our current status and where NERA is ultimately heading in the future. Change always brings controversy and at times rejection by some members. Our biggest change coming is dealing with the Mariner. It is NOT going away. Our biggest expense to NERA is producing and mailing our issues. We will be placing the Mariner

“on line” for anyone wishing to read and print if they so wish.

If members want hard copies delivered to their homes via snail mail, it will be available to members at a small yearly charge. The majority of our younger members opt to receive a large portion of their information via the computer instead of receiving the printed versions. Due to the increase in the cost of printing and mailing, our cost has skyrocketed. Typical government bureaucracy has taken the postal service to new lows and high costs, which we have to bear. We are asking our members to understand and to support this for the good of NERA. Do your part by showing your teamwork spirit. In my last article, I mentioned that it is sometimes the little things that help the most. We have been asking members to become a “life benefactor” and again show your commitment. While we understand that not all members can afford to do this, the smaller way to help is by supporting the change in the Mariner and/or paying a portion of the cost. While this might not seem to be much, in total, it is huge. It is understandable that some of our more senior members aren’t in the computer age. However, almost everyone has a friend, family member (grandchild) to assist them in getting their Mariner. What better way to get a grandchild involved in your beliefs and values than to ask them to assist you with getting your magazine. You would be able to discuss the articles and the importance of issues in your and their lives.

In closing, we are asking that you give this a chance before you react negatively. Everyone on the executive board did some soul searching and went through the “pros and cons” on this issue prior to voting on it. The real issue is what is good for NERA and its members. With all the changes in the government, more time and money will be needed to keep our current health and other critical benefits. But that is another issue for later.

Your VP,

Geno

From the Editor:



Those who Serve...

Greeting Mariner Readers and NERA Members!

So much happens between issues it is difficult to decide where to start and what to include. NERA is on the front lines helping protect veteran's benefits and being an advocate for reserve Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen throughout our services. In order to be effective, we must stay informed, communicate the facts, recruit new members, and form relationships with those who can assist us and provide resources to be more affective in our cause.

In this issue of The Mariner, we will cover various events and occasions where your elected national members, as well as non-elected members, have been on the front lines. I'd like to start out with an account of the Navy Reserve 95th Anniversary Celebration and Reenlistment Ceremony held on March 5th in Washington DC. NERA members Nick Marine, Steve Sandy, Gene Koelker, and Mike Hughes were amongst those present. Nick spoke on behalf of NERA and recognized the ombudsman and military supporters.



WASHINGTON (March 5, 2010) Vice Adm. Dirk Debbink, left, Chief of Navy Reserve, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Rick West and Force Master Chief Ronney Wright, Navy Reserve Force, congratulate Sailors at the 95th Navy Reserve Anniversary and Reenlistment ceremony at the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building. During the ceremony 95 Navy Reservists reenlisted. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jennifer A. Villalovos/Released)

Here is an excerpt of events from Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Ronney Wright:

The 95th Anniversary celebration was a complete success. 95 Sailors from all 50 States including Guam and Puerto Rico reaffirmed their commitment to their country and the Navy Reserve and reenlisted with Vice Admiral Debbink presiding over the ceremony in the Kennedy Caucus Room. Each Sailor walked proudly with broad smiles as they entered the room being formally announced by State to shake VADM Debbink and MCPON West hand then mustering in formation prior to reenlist-

ing. Hearing our Sailors reaffirm their commitment to our nation in unison made us stand a little taller and feel a little prouder to be a member of this "Global Force for Good". Three Sailors were provided with the opportunity to speak to the families and guests present on behalf of their peers and there was no doubt that they were extremely proud and humbled to be able to continue to serve in our Navy. I needed to take a few deep breaths to retain my composure, but I knew I was not alone! At the conclusion of the event, there were multiple photo opportunities for the families and guests with CNR and MCPON. It is privilege that we can say that on Friday, March 5th, 2010 we shook hands with a Shipmate from all 50 States including Guam and Puerto Rico in Washington, DC.

For some of these families this was their first opportunity to visit DC and they were excited to visit the historical monuments and enter themselves into the Navy Log at the Navy Memorial.

After the morning events concluded, the attention moved to the Navy Memorial where they have been honoring the "Year of the Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps. Today the 'Can Do' Seabees celebrate their 68th anniversary.

The theme for the afternoon was Sailor, Family and Employer. The Honorable Dennis M. McCarthy, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Reserve Affairs) was the guest speaker and eloquently spoke about our 95 year history and heritage but wanted to focus on our future, that will continue to change as leadership strives to ensure we continue to be a "Ready and Relevant" force to deter any threats foreign or domestic.

Mr. Donald Devine the President and CEO of American Standard Brands who represented all employers read and signed the "Employers Statement of Support" and was presented with the "Seven Seals Award" for his outstanding employer support to the men and women who serve in the National Guard and Reserve.

Our families are our backbones and their direct link to the command is through the Ombudsman. Shana Bender, Vicky Camp and Misty Grizzle-Billheimer represented all Ombudsmen while receiving certificates of recognition for their service to 981 Sailors and their families within the Reserve Community.

The day's events wrapped up with five Shipmates being awarded medals that included the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for Heroism. When questioned- all recipients felt they were just doing their jobs, but were happy to accept the recognition on behalf of the other Employers, Ombudsman and Shipmates who support our Navy.



TIPS & CLIPS

By Joanne Elliott

Distinguished Sailors Commemorative Stamps. On February 4, 2010, the U.S. Postal Service began to issue a 44-cent, Distinguished Sailors commemorative stamp. These stamps commemorate four sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th Century: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy, and Doris Miller. The Postal Service wanted to honor the tradition of excellence that has been a part of the U.S. Navy for 235 years. This month's Block 39 recognized one of these great Sailors, Cook Third Class Doris "Dorie" Miller. For additional information on Doris Miller and to review Block 39, visit: www.history.navy.mil/photos/pers-us/uspers-m/d-miller.htm.

Social Security Benefit. If you served on active duty any time from 1957 through 2001, you may qualify for special extra earnings for your military service. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. Although you may not be eligible, you may want to keep this information for future use or share with someone you know that has served in the military during this time frame. For additional information on how to apply for this benefit or if you have questions, visit the Social Security Website at: www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm

IA CMC Volunteers. If you have questions concerning Mobilization Volunteer Opportunities and the Ready Mobilization Pool 2010! Please visit N35's webpage on The Navy Reserve Homeport at <https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/3447B/n3/Shared%20Documents/N35.aspx> for more information on our VOL process and on RMP 2010. Visiting this link will ensure that you receive the latest guidelines as we update our webpage from time to time. CAC is required. Note: Volunteer requests must be sent to CNRFC_MOBVOL@NAVY.MIL and RMP 2010 requests must be sent to cnrfc_readymobpool@navy.mil.

Warrior Games 2010. Wounded servicemen and women will compete in the inaugural Warrior Games May 10-14, 2010, in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado, through a joint effort between the U.S. Department of Defense and U.S. Olympic Committee. For additional information, please visit

the website at <http://usparalympics.org/pages/8330>.

Colorectal Cancer Screening. Although no one likes to discuss or think about this issue, we have all known too many friends and family members who have succumbed to this truly preventable cancer. Make it a priority to schedule your screening today. Learn more about colorectal cancer screening at the CDC's Screen for Life campaign at www.cdc.gov/screenforlife. For more information about TRICARE's preventive services go to www.tricare.mil.

Dept. of VA News Release. On March 9, 2010, Secretary Shinseki announced that the VA will solicit private-sector input in order to "fast-track" Veterans' claim processing for service-connected presumptive illnesses due to Agent Orange exposure during the Vietnam War. Over the next two years, more than 200,000 vets will likely file claims due to the new "presumptive illnesses" announced last year. They will affect Vets with Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B-cell leukemias, who will not have to prove an association between their medical problems and military service. The VA will also be looking to private-sector corporations to provide automated solutions for claim filing, which now takes an inordinate amount of time. The contract is expected to be awarded in April; proposed solutions within 90 days; and implementation within 150 days. For more information go to www.va.gov. Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs are available at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

Social Security Allowances. For information on compassionate allowances which quickly identifies diseases and other medical conditions to target obvious disabled individuals for allowances based on objective medical information. Go to www.socialsecurity.gov for more info.

If you are unsure as to whether or not TRICARE will cover your medical visit, go to: www.military.com//benefits/understanding_your_tricare_benefits. Click on "TRICARE"

For more information on federal, state, local, and non-profit resources for wounded warriors and vets go to www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov.

NAVY RESERVE SENIOR ENLISTED ANSWER NERA PERFORM TO SERVE QUESTION

FORCM Wright:

When an active duty sailor elects to go to the Reserves under the Perform to Serve (PTS) program, does that mean he/she now competes with a Reservist for a billet? I've had some concerns raised since the Reserves seem to be downsizing and people are concerned that active duty personnel who have to get out because of billet constraints or inability to pass tests will now take billets that are either held by a someone currently drilling or by someone who is trying to come into the reserves from the civilian sector.

Does the individual coming from the active side compete with someone who has a billet? If an active member checks the box that he wants to go to the reserve, will that give him an automatic transfer to the Reserves?

YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (ret)
Past National President
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

FORCM WRIGHT RESPONDS

First, allow me to start by saying Thanks for the great question. As you know, VADM Debbink and VADM Ferguson are working together to promote the "Continuum of Service" (CTO) so that we as a Navy retain the skills, lessons learned, experience and warfighting expertise gained from AC service. We must remain engaged with the PTS process so that we have the correct Sailors in each billet. When an AC Sailor applies for the "SELRES OPTION" within PTS, the Enlisted Community Manager has established quotas for each rating using the current Navy Recruiting Command accession plan. The PTS process allows the RC to conduct a "rack & stack" of the records of those that applied and only the Sailors that are able to fill specific quotas are authorized to transfer to the Navy Reserve in a billet using this option.

For those Sailors approved via PTS for immediate affiliation in the SELRES, the Career Transition Office in Millington will process all necessary paperwork to complete the transition and maintain contact with the Sailor during the transition process. Once the Sailor is gained at the NOSC, they must then use CMS-ID to apply for a billet, and billets are currently being filled to FIT (ensuring we have the correct Sailor in the correct billet) as per CNRF policy. Sailors that affiliate can go IAP for up to one year. These Sailors will compete for billets just like any other Sailor in IAP status.

The CTO and PTS help the RC align with Total Force requirements. We must continue to retain critical mid-career Sailors in the RC, to fill critical requirements, doing valuable and relevant work. These programs will allow the RC to meet both our end-strength and our FIT goals within the next few years.

Thanks for your continued engagement, as we work as a Total Force.

V/R,
FORCM Ronney A. Wright, USN
Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

CMDCM(AW/SW) ROSE RESPONDS

Just a quick note on this. I believe the key to this process is that the Enlisted Community Managers (ECM) will ensure the health of each rating. The last thing we want to do is to overload a specific rate or community that damages future advancement potential. Our RC ECM's have consistently done a great job ensuring we maintain healthy ratings. Also, PTS with the SELRES option would simply replace the process of that same active duty Sailor joining the Navy Reserve via the recruiter. My understanding is that accession goals for recruiting would be adjusted based on those AC Sailors that continue their service in the Navy Reserve via PTS. The number of people coming into the Navy Reserve really isn't going to change. The only thing that is changing is that we are not adding an additional process that removes the recruiter. Hope this helps.

V/R,
CMDCM(AW/SW) Rob Rose
Senior Enlisted Leader
Office of the Chief of Navy Reserve
(N0951E) Manpower, Personnel, Training and
Mobilization Policy

Backdrop: U.S. paratroopers fix their static lines before a jump before dawn over Normandy on D-Day June 6, 1944, in France. The decision to launch the airborne attack in darkness instead of waiting for first light was probably one of the few Allied missteps on June 6, and there was much to criticize both in the training and equipment given to paratroopers and glider-borne troops of the 82nd and 101st airborne divisions. Improvements were called for after the invasion; the hard-won knowledge would be used to advantage later. (AP Photo/Army Signal Corps)

Executive Director's Message



Welcome to 2010 and the new Health Care Reform Act. In the old war movies, when the order "STAND BY TO RAM" was passed everyone on the ship would grab hold of something solid and start to pray, not knowing what the next few moments would bring or

whether they would survive the collision. Over the past few weeks, I have received numerous phone calls asking what effect the new law will have on TRICARE, VA, and Medicare benefits. The truth is I don't know and anyone that says they do is not being straight with you. In the last few weeks Congress has been scrambling to FIX the bill that was just signed into law. Some issues are still pending and until all concerns have been addressed, "STAND BY TO RAM." Below you will find a Q&A distributed by TRICARE to answer some of your questions. Check our website, www.nera.org; we will continue to post any additional information as we receive it.

Q & As: TRICARE and Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act

Q1. Will the new legislation transfer TRICARE into another government health care program?

A1. No. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act leaves TRICARE under sole authority of the Defense Department and the Secretary of Defense, and we are governed by an independent set of statutes. "For the Department of Defense, and specifically for our 9.6 million TRICARE beneficiaries, this law will not affect the TRICARE benefit. Eligibility, covered benefits, copayments and all other features of our TRICARE program remain in place." – Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) Dr. Charles Rice

Q2. What does deeming TRICARE as "qualifying coverage" mean?

A2. It ensures that TRICARE beneficiaries will not be impacted by the new legislation's requirement that people without qualifying coverage will have to pay a financial penalty.

Q3. Is TRICARE For Life considered "qualifying coverage" under the new law?

A3. Yes, TFL is deemed qualifying coverage under the legislation already passed by both the House and Senate.

Q4. Can I expect my TRICARE enrollment fee, premiums, deductibles or co-pays to go up because of this legislation?

A4. There is nothing in the legislation that would change any TRICARE fees.

Q5. The new health care bill allows adult children to stay on

their parent's healthcare plan until age 26 if their employers don't offer insurance. Will TRICARE adopt this policy?

A5. Many beneficiaries with dependent children are very interested on how the Act will impact their children age 26 and younger. Our current age limits – 21, or age 23, if the dependent is in a full-time school program – are set by statute, so separate legislation would be required to change them. If changes are made to the statutes governing TRICARE, then, like any other legislative initiative, time will be required for us to implement the changes. Until that time, the benefit remains unaffected by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Q6. How can I find out about updates to the TRICARE benefit in the future?

A6. We are committed to keeping our beneficiaries informed about their benefit. We will make new information available on our website, at our call centers, and via all of our educational materials as soon as we have more to share.

While Congress was making repairs I had the opportunity to attend the Navy Reserve 95th Anniversary Celebration, at the Navy Memorial on March 5, 2010. The CEO of American Standard, Don Devine, and his associates, Jeanette Long and Nora DePalma came to town to attend the celebration. Mr. Devine accepted the "Seven Seals Award" on behalf of American Standard for their outstanding employer support of the members of the Guard and Reserves. NERA had the distinct pleasure of hosting Don and his team while they were in town for this event.

American Standard donated bathroom and plumbing fixtures for the badly needed renovations to NERA Headquarters. Nick Marine arrived in force with his compadres, Tony, John and Andrew in January and completed the overhaul of the bathrooms. Lou Pagano and Hans Keller stepped up next and finished the drywall and painted. Finally, VP Gene Koekler, Mike Hughes and I refinished the floors, upgraded the trim and painted the reception room, resulting in a beautifully renovated entrance room and spectacular bathrooms. Stop by to visit and admire the work. A special thanks to American Standard for generously donating the plumbing fixtures for the bathroom renovations at National Headquarters.

Take a look at "Faces of NERA," you will see a variety of pictures sent from our Gold Country Chapter in California. For more information and photos, go to their website; www.howardgeorge.com/NERA. Perhaps some of our chapters can get some ideas and replicate them within their own chapters. I know there are other chapters out there who are also very active, such as Lehigh Valley and Chicago. Please keep us updated with what you are doing. If you have a chapter website, let us know and we will link them on our NERA homepage.

Faces of NERA



1st LT Nicholas Balk was born on 17 June 1976 to Terry & Nancy Balk in Council Bluffs, Iowa. After graduating from Lewis Central High School in June 1994, he joined the US Marine Corps (August 1994) taking his Basic Training at San

Diego, Calif. Balk transferred in 1995 to Kanoeh Bay, Hawaii, for a three-year tour and was discharged from Active Duty. He joined the US Marine Corps Reserve in Omaha, Neb., and was recalled to Active Duty in February, 2003, serving in Iraq where he was promoted to SSGT. Lt. Balk returned to Council Bluffs, Iowa, and attended Omaha University where he received a degree in Civil Engineering and made the Honor Roll in May 2007. Over a two-year period, he attended Officer Training School at Quantico, Virg., and was commissioned as a 2nd LT in the USMC. He was promoted to 1st LT in September 2009 and deployed to Afghanistan on 17 November as Platoon Leader for a seven-month tour.

Nick has been married to Lisa Reynolds since 2 June 2007. He has been a Life Member of NERA in the Leo J. Milobar Chapter since August 1998. His father, MS1 Terry Balk, has also been a Life Member since June 1992. Please keep all of our Troops in your thoughts and prayers. Submitted by Nancy Balk.



"For more information on Gold Country's activities go to their webpage at howardgeorge.com/NERA.html."

(L-R) SKCS Gene McCarthy, USNR(Ret.); PO1 Barbara Bruce, USNR(Ret.); MCPO Kevin Johnson, USNR(Ret.) {from GACNERA & Marine Corps League Detachment Sgt Rodney M. DAVIS #1251, Tooele, Utah}; GACNERA President- EOCTony Little, USN(Ret.), Master Gunnery Sergeant Frank Goalen, USMCR(Ret.) {from GACNERA & Marine Corps League Detachment #1196, Griffin, Georgia}; NERA National President-SKCS(AW)Nick Marine, USN(Ret.) with Navy Captain William J. Overend, USN(Ret.), Marketing Director for the AUSN; and Rear Admiral Casey W. Coane, USN(Ret.), ED for AUSN. National Salute to Veteran Patients at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Decatur, Georgia, February 8, 2010. Photo By: Timm Duckworth 2010.



Master Gunnery Sergeant Frank Goalen (Greater Atlanta Chapter of NERA) supporting Toys for Tots and Rock for Tots in Austell, Georgia. Photo By: Timm Duckworth 2009.

Personnelman Chief Petty Officer William A. Anderson, USNR-Ret; former Marine Gene Smith, from MCL Woodstock #1311; NERA National Vice-President Storekeeper Senior Chief Petty Officer Nick Marine, USNR-Ret; Marine Corps League Detachment 1196 Commandant Major Russ Vermillion (MOH)/1st Marine Division/Bravo 1/1 (1968-1970); Senior Vice Commandant R "Moon" Mullins; GACNERA President Equipment Operator Chief Petty Officer Tony Little, USN-Ret; Master Gunnery Sergeant Frank Goalen, USMCR-Ret; NERA National Counselor Storekeeper Senior Chief Petty Officer Gene McCarthy, USNR-Ret; LTCol Roni A. Meyerhoff, USMC, Inspector Instructor Marine Corps Training Center Atlanta; and Sergeant Major William Burton, USMC, Inspector Instructor from Marine Corps Training Center Atlanta, during the 31st National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Decatur, Georgia, February 13, 2009. Please Credit Photo By: Timm Duckworth 2009.



Retired Chief Awarded Flying Cross 65 Years Later

By Lt. Beth Taylor and Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand, Navy Operational Support Center Norfolk Public Affairs

NORFOLK -- Pearl Harbor survivors, service members, veterans, family and friends gathered at Joint Expeditionary Base, Little Creek-Fort Story to remember the events at Pearl Harbor and to present



NORFOLK, Va.- Frank Chebetar, President of the Tidewater Chapter Two Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association, presents Billie Brown, wife of Retired Reserve Chief Radioman Walter T. Brown Sr., with the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) award at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, Dec. 7. Brown was awarded the DFC for flying 51 combat missions, including one which an engine in his B-24 Liberator was destroyed and another where his crew assisted in sinking the German Submarine U-971. Following the War, Brown joined the Navy Reserve, was later activated in support of the Korean War and retired after 37 years of service. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand/Released)

a Distinguished Flying Cross award to the family of Retired Reserve Chief Radioman Walter T. Brown Sr., Dec. 7.

Rear Adm. Wayne E. Justice, Commander, Coast Guard 5th District, and Frank Chebetar, President of the Tidewater Chapter Two Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association, presented the award to Billie Brown, Brown's wife of 65 years, 65 years after the missions were flown. Brown's children Kolleen Gimbert, Kriste Camsky and Walter Brown Jr. also attended the ceremony. "He would have been really proud. That's all he talked about was his time in the service," said the younger Brown. "He loved his country."

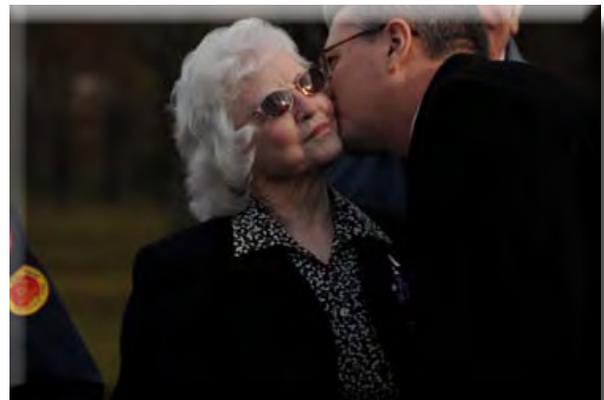
The elder Brown, who passed away July 15, 2009, served as a Radioman Second Class with Bombing Squadrons 111 and 103 with Fleet Air Wing

Seven during World War II from Aug. 17, 1943 to Oct. 1, 1944. Brown flew 51 total successful combat missions, 38 of which he flew at Dunkeswell Air Base in Devon, England.

On June 11, 1944, his B-24 Liberator was shot by German anti-aircraft fire, which destroyed one of the engines and injured a crewmate. Only 13 days later on June 24, 1944, his crew assisted in sinking the German submarine U-971. "Their mission was to patrol and protect the commerce routes in the Bay of Biscayne and the Atlantic. Had they not been there, the Germans were set on blocking and destroying food supplies," said the younger Brown. "They stopped that and kept commerce going into England."

Over the years, the elder Brown stayed in contact with many of his crewmates. In the late 1990s he learned through reading a unit newsletter that many crewmates had earned a DFC for the combat missions they flew together. Soon after the last reunion Brown learned that he too qualified for the medal.

In 2003, the elder Brown wrote a letter with his son to request the medal. He enclosed a summary of his Navy career, prior awards and a photo of himself with other crew members.



NORFOLK, Va.- Walter Brown Jr. gives his mother, Billie Brown, a kiss after she accepted the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) medal and award for her husband Retired Reserve Chief Radioman Walter T. Brown Sr. at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek-Fort Story during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, Dec. 7. Brown was awarded the DFC for flying 51 combat missions, including one which an engine in his B-24 Liberator was destroyed and another where his crew assisted in sinking the German Submarine U-971. Following the War, Brown joined the Navy Reserve, was later activated in support of the Korean War and retired after 37 years of service. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand/Released)

In 2009 Brown's health was deteriorating and the younger Brown was unaware of whether his father had ever sent the letter they had written together. The younger Brown decided to write one final letter requesting that his father be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The elder Brown was dedicated both to his military service and his family. "My dad tried to prepare his children for the world that awaited us," said the younger Brown "By words and by deeds, he projected a sense of honor, duty, fairness, respect, decency, love and affection, and personal responsibility."

Brown served three years and 10 months on active duty before joining the Navy Reserve and retired Dec. 27, 1984 as a Chief Radioman with 37 total years of service. the distinction himself a year before.

A 1990 study commissioned by the National Geographic Society, using photogrammetry to analyze Peary's expedition photos, surmised that shadows cast in



NORFOLK, Va.- Walter Brown Jr. gives a speech after his mother Billie Brown accepted the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) medal and award for her husband Retired Reserve Chief Radioman Walter T. Brown Sr. at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek- Fort Story during the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony, Dec.7. Brown was awarded the DFC for flying 51 combat missions, including one which an engine in his B-24 Liberator was destroyed and another where his crew assisted in sinking the German Submarine U-971. Following the War, Brown joined the Navy Reserve, was later activated in support of the Korean War and retired after 37 years of service. (U.S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Maddelin Angebrand/Released)

the images proved his claim.

In 1991, a U.S. Naval Institute symposium never reached a consensus, despite a substantial monetary offer from Peary family members for solid evidence that would disprove the claim. No money changed hands.

This aside, Peary earns a place on this list for his pioneering Arctic exploration and for developing

"the Peary system," a supply and support structure that proved invaluable in his various expeditions from 1886 to 1909. Congress promoted him to rear admiral in March 1911.

Richard E. Byrd—1929

While evidence surfaced in 1996 that Byrd had falsified his official 1926 report on the flight in which he and pilot Floyd Bennett claimed to be the first to fly over the North Pole, he is still credited with several aviation and exploration milestones.

To aid in navigation over the open ocean, Byrd developed drift indicators and bubble sextants for aircraft, thus leading to his participation in planning the flight path for the Navy's transatlantic crossing in 1919.

In summer 1927, he made a transatlantic flight himself and in November 1929 made the first flight over the South Pole. Byrd triumphantly returned to the U.S. in 1930 and was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Geographical Society.

In all, he made five expeditions to Antarctica, culminating in the establishment of permanent bases at McMurdo Sound, the Bay of Whales and the South Pole. For his efforts, Byrd was awarded the Medal of Honor (before it was restricted to recognizing valor in combat only).

During WWI, he was commander of the Navy's flying boat station in Nova Scotia. In WWII, he served on special missions in Europe and the Pacific. He was a rear admiral.

Edward L. Beach, Jr.—1960

The Cold War was a cat-and-mouse game of one-upsmanship, and Ned Beach (as he was known to his friends) one-upped the Soviets in spectacular fashion.

From February to April 1960, he was the skipper of the USS Triton (SSRN-586) during the nuclear-powered submarine's submerged circumnavigation of the Earth. This was the first such voyage in history and one that broke a submerged speed record that still stands. It was actually his idea, as he recalled in the last interview before his death. "Finally, I got an idea. We'll do a stunt. We'll go around the world." And what a stunt it was.

During WWII, he served aboard three subs, earning the Navy Cross. Beach was the naval aide (1953-57) to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and became a successful author. But he was most proud of his feat in the Triton.

Don Walsh—1961

The “Deepest Dive” happened in 1961. Only unmanned remotely operated vehicles have matched the feat since then.

While the rest of the world focused on the space race, the Navy was looking inward, to the uncharted waters of the oceans’ depths. In this case, it was the Challenger Deep in the Pacific Ocean’s Marianas Trench near Guam.

With Swiss explorer Jacques Piccard, Walsh set the manned deep-dive record at nearly 11,000 meters (36,000 feet)—with the pressure being more than eight tons per square inch at that depth.

In an interview, he referred to the expedition as “just another day at the office.” Walsh is still diving today at age 77, leading expeditions to the wrecks of, among others, RMS Titanic and the German battleship Bismarck.

And his exploration of Antarctica led to a mountain ridge on that icy continent being named after him.

Walsh was executive officer of the submarine Bugara off Vietnam in 1963.

M. Scott Carpenter—1962-65

One of the original Mercury astronauts, Carpenter also was an aquanaut, the first human to explore both inner and outer space. He flew the Aurora 7 in the second manned orbit of the Earth on May 24, 1962.

Following that mission, he consulted on the design of the lunar module for the Apollo project. Three years after his orbital flight, he went on leave from NASA to participate in the Navy’s Man-in-the-Sea Project as an aquanaut in the SEALAB II experimental endurance program. He spent 30 days 205 feet below the surface off the coast of La Jolla, Calif., in 1965.

In a recent interview, Carpenter explained the purpose of sea exploration: “In a way, it’s still defense-oriented; but we’re trying to defend the planet now, instead of just this country.”

Off Korea in 1951-52, he flew P2V Neptunes on recon missions with Patrol Squadron 6. Later, he operated out of Adak, Alaska, and Guam.

Neil Armstrong—1969

If you’re old enough, you must remember the grainy television broadcast of Armstrong stepping onto the floor of the Moon’s Sea of Tranquility, mesmerizing the inhabitants of Earth on July 20, 1969.

With his first words from the lunar surface, “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind,” he became a hero to youngsters around the world.

(Armstrong also was command pilot of Gemini 8 in

1966, a mission highlighted by the first docking of two vehicles in space.)

A naval aviator in the Korean War, he flew 78 missions between Aug. 22, 1951, and March 5, 1952, as part of Fighter Squadron 51, Air Group 5, aboard the USS Essex. He was shot down once.

Robert Ballard—1985

Few explorers have covered as much of the world’s sea floor as Ballard has. And none has gained more fame and fortune for those expeditions. While he has dived on some of the most famous shipwrecks in sea history, he was the first to locate, study, and film the remains of the Titanic, the passenger liner sunk by a collision with an iceberg on April 15, 1912.

The expedition—to depths of 2.5 miles—was funded by the Navy, which mandated that Ballard locate the wrecks of the mysteriously sunken nuclear-powered submarines Scorpion (SSN-589) and Thresher (SSN-593). Finding the Titanic in late summer 1985 was a bonus. Ballard also was an outspoken critic of later operations that salvaged artifacts for profit from the sunken liner.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1970, and was assigned to the Deep Submergence Group at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

‘Celebrate and Honor’

All these Navy explorers accomplished amazing feats. But sadly, today, their names are lost to history in a society that seems to place little value on, or celebrate, such achievements.

As Navy Vice Adm. Melvin G. Williams, Jr., commander of the U.S. 2nd Fleet, recently said regarding the centennial of Peary’s North Pole expedition, “We should celebrate and honor the exploits of heroes.”

Fred Schultz is managing editor of U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings and consulting editor for Naval History. Originally printed in the October 2009 issue of the VFW Magazine.

E-mail magazine@vfw.org

Background: KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, AFGHANISTAN - MARCH 21: A coffee cup sits next to U.S. Navy Chaplain LCDR. Charles Hodges as he and medical staff await the arrival of a patient via helicopter medevac on March 21, 2010 at the military hospital at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan. Chaplain Hodges comforts wounded patients and counsels medical staff who often deal with a heavy caseload of patients, many suffering from traumatic war injuries. (Photo by John Moore/Getty Images)

53rd NERA National Conference November 11-14, 2010 Registration Form

Sheraton National Hotel 900 S. Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204
Phone: 703/521-1900 Toll Free: 1-888-627-8210
This form will NOT reserve your hotel room.

Name (First -MI-Last): _____
 Rank (Or 'Civilian'): _____ Service Branch (circle): USN USMC USCG
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip Code: _____
 Phone Number: (Home): _____ (Office/Cell): _____
 Email: _____ Nickname (For Name Tag): _____
 NERA Chapter: _____ (If no chapter affiliation, state 'MAL')
 Spouse/Guest Name (First-MI-Last): _____
 Is Spouse/Guest a NERA Member or Associate Member: (circle) YES NO
 Spouse/Guest Nickname (for Name Tag): _____

Please enter number of people attending and multiply by amount noted

11-14 November 2010

Early Registration (<i>postmarked by August 1</i>)	# _____	x \$75.00	\$ _____
Late Registration (<i>postmarked after August 1</i>)	# _____	x \$100.00	\$ _____

Registration includes:

- Meetings all day Friday & Saturday
- Continental Breakfast and Beverages provided in meeting room each day
- Meet and Greet Mixer on Thursday
- On-Going Hospitality Suite

Thursday 11 November: On-Going Hospitality Suite *Donations Accepted* \$ _____

Friday 12 November: 1200-1330 Awards Luncheon # _____ x \$35 \$ _____
Check here if a special meal is required

Friday 12 November: Washington, DC Event TBD # _____ \$ _____ TBD
Event is not yet confirmed, please let us know if you are interested and we will contact you with details once they are confirmed

Saturday 13 November: 1900-2100 Dinner/Dance Gala # _____ x \$65 \$ _____
Check here if a special meal is required

Conference Booster Roll *Minimum \$5* \$ _____
Names will be listed in Conference Book as indicated in registration above

TOTAL: \$ _____

 PAYMENT INFORMATION –(VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER)

Credit Card Number _____ - _____ - _____ Exp Date _____ Signature _____

Make checks payable to: **NERA**
 Mail to: NERA
 ATTN: Laura Martin
 6703 Farragut Avenue
 Falls Church, VA 22042

Please address any questions to:
 Laura Martin 800/776-9020 or lkmartin@nera.org

NERA's 53rd National Conference
Arlington, Virginia
11 November – 14 November 2010
Tentative Agenda

Thursday, 11 November 2010

- 1100 Veterans Day Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery
1300-1600 Registration begins...Main Lobby
1900 Welcome Reception

Friday, 12 November 2010

- 0745-0815 Opening Ceremony (Dress Blue or appropriate Civilian Attire)...
 - *Parade the colors, Chaplain Invocation – Chuck Sherrick*
 - *Welcome – Steve Sandy*

0820-0900 National President – *Nick Marine*
0900-1000 Welcome Remarks – *U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus (invited)*
1000-1015 -----BREAK-----
1015-1115 Secretary Reserve Affairs -*The Honorable Secretary Dennis M. McCarthy (invited)*
1115-1155 -----BREAK-----
1200-1330 Awards Luncheon – *Vice Admiral Dirk J. Debbink, Chief of Naval Reserve-Commander Naval Reserve Force (invited) and Force Master Chief (FMF) Ronney A. Wright, Navy Reserve Force (invited)*
 - *Service to Reservist*
 - *1776 Award*
 - *SOY Award*
 - *USCG Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year Award*
 - *Recruiter and Chapter Awards*

1345-1415 Wounded Warrior Hospital Brief
 - *Laurie Ott, Executive Director Wounded Warrior Care Project (invited)*

1415-1530 Business Session
1600 Tentative Private Tour of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum

Saturday, 13 November 2010

- 0745-00845 State of the Association-Reports by National Officers
 - *Executive Director-Steve Sandy*
 - *Vice President-Gene Koelker*
 - *Secretary-Marianne Mosher*
 - *Treasurer-Paul Smurawski*

0845-0900 -----BREAK-----
0900-0930 Budget Business Sessions
 - *National President*
 - *Constitution & By-Law Proposal*

0930-0945 -----BREAK-----
0945-1100 Senior Enlisted Panel
 - *Master Chief Mark H. Allen, Coast Guard Reserve Force (invited)*
 - *Force Master Chief (FMF) Ronney A. Wright, Navy Reserve Force (invited)*
 - *Sergeant Major Kim E. Davis, Marine Reserve Forces (invited)*
 - *Command Sergeant Major John D. Gipe, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Asst. Sec. of Defense for Reserve Affairs (invited)*

1100-1115 -----BREAK-----
1115-1145 Time and Place Committee
1145-1315 Lunch Break (on your own)
1315-1345 Budget Business Sessions
1345-1600 Business Sessions
1900-2300 Dinner Dance (Dress Blue or Cocktail Attire)

Sunday, 14 November 2010

- 0745-0815 National Executive Council Public Meeting

1776 AWARD NOMINATION FORMAT GUIDELINES

Each year the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association selects an active NERA member who has best exemplified by personal or group action significant performance and service to the Naval, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserves; outstanding service to his or her community; and outstanding service to NERA.

Nominations may be submitted by an individual active member or a chapter and must be received at NERA National by September 1st.

The National Awards Committee Chairman will annually appoint a committee to select the winner of the 1776 award, and their decision will be final.

The 1776 Award, established in 1972, is a plaque depicting an enlisted colonial sailor and Marine with plates for entering names of annual winners. The 1776 Award will be presented at NERA's National Conference each year but retained for display at NERA National. A NERA plaque, appropriately engraved, will be presented to the NERA 1776 award winner for personal retention.

In order to provide uniformity in consideration of NERA's highest internal award, chapters and individuals must use this format in their nominations.

The entire nomination must be limited to two, 8 1/2" x 11", single spaced typed pages.

Please mail, fax or email to NERA National for receipt by September 1st of each year.

Please provide information in the order shown:

- i. Nominee (Full Name and Rate)
- ii. Date individual originally joined NERA.
- iii. Brief overview of why this person is being nominated.
- iv. NERA achievements (chapter/national offices held, chapter/national activities, previous NERA awards, etc.).
- v. Military status and awards (do not provide a history of military service).
- vi. Community service.
- vii. Submitter's name, rate, chapter, chapter office if any, and home address.
Sitting NEC members are not eligible.



Top Left: Shearton Ballroom
Top Right: Sheraton Lunch Room
Bottom Left: Sheraton Suite
Bottom Right: Sheraton Sleeping Room

Letters to Nera

SAFETY VIOLATIONS

As a mechanic for over 50 years, I take exception to the cover of the Mariner, showing blatant safety violations.

Ring finger contains a ring. Never wear a ring doing mechanical work. I've seen men with no fingers for a ring finger!

Never wear a watch. Too often can get caught and cause irreparable damage.

AD1 Harlan Hill, Retired

Harlan, You're absolutely right. Thank you for pointing this out to us (no pun intended). Safety is paramount and a little risk assessment goes a long way. -Brian

ASSIGNMENT INCENTIVE PAY

Sometime in late 2008, while deployed to Afghanistan, I asked my chain of command if I was eligible for Assignment Incentive Pay (AIP). This AIP referred to the incentive pay that the other military branches pay their members who are in-country in a combat zone for 12 months or longer, not the AIP program the Navy has in place in order to fill those billets that may otherwise remain vacant. My CMDCM stated that because I had volunteered for the extension I was not eligible to apply for AIP, had the program existed.

In late February or early March 2009, I contacted NERA about the issue. NERA was very quick to respond and advised this matter had been on its radar previously and pushed the issue through the Navy chain of command. Unfortunately, NERA received a negative response and at that point I thought the issue a dead one.

Apparently NERA had not laid the issue to rest because, several months later, in July 2009, I received an email from OPNAV N1-Financial Ops, inquiring as to the specifics of my claim.

After the redeployment process and settling back into my home, civilian life and employment, I attempted to apply for AIP. However, the result was once again not in my favor.

It is disheartening that a Sailor would be barred from receiving the same monetary compensation that other services provide their members. I do not know how many Sailors this issue may apply to, but a recent change in Navy policy limiting deployments to a maximum of 12 months has closed any possibility of dispute.

Nevertheless, I was thrilled with the level of visibility NERA was able to achieve with respect to this issue. I only hope that NERA continues to pursue issues such as this so that all service members, regardless of branch of service, are compensated equally.

Thank you NERA.
Amanda

SCHOLARSHIP THANKS

I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your generosity in giving me a scholarship. I just finished my first semester of college, and it was pretty crazy! Lots and lots of studying! (But, lots of fun as well)

This next Spring Semester I am taking Calculus, Chemistry, Biology, English and Public Speaking. Fun, Fun, Fun!

So, thank you once more and I hope you all have a WONDERFUL year!

Sincerely,
Tiffany Greer

LIFE BENEFACTOR

Enclosed is my check for \$250.00 to be applied to Life Benefactor in NERA.

Thanks for all you do for NERA. Because of you and your team of professionals, NERA has become a great source of information and help for its members.

Sincerely,
Fred Prozillo



ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 10, 2010) Sailors use computers in the Learning Media Resource Center to check personal email aboard the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). Carl Vinson is taking part in Southern Seas 2010 as part of a scheduled homeport shift. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Adrian White/Released)



2010 NERA National Conference



Sponsorship Packages

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association's 53rd National Conference will be held November 11-14, 2010 in Arlington, VA.

This is a great opportunity for organizations to not only support this conference but also guarantees that NERA will continue to inform enlisted reservists regarding the issues that they face today.

To reserve a package, contact Laura Martin at 703/532-2967 or lmartin@nera.org

Platinum Sponsorship (Three Available) \$3,000

- Company promotional items distributed in attendee gift bags
- Company logo and link featured in the official conference program
- Full page ad in official conference program
- Receive 4 tickets to the Dinner/Dance Gala on Saturday, November 13, 2010
- Receive 2 tickets to the Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 12, 2010
- Table Sponsorship at the Dinner/Dance Gala
- Company Signage at Meet and Greet Mixer, Awards Luncheon and Hospitality Suite

Gold Sponsorship (Five Available) \$2,000

- Company promotional items distributed in attendee gift bags
- Company logo and link featured in the official conference program
- Half page ad in official conference program
- Receive 2 tickets to the Dinner/Dance Gala on Saturday, November 13, 2010
- Receive 1 ticket to the Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 11, 2010
- Company Signage at the Meet and Greet Mixer and Awards Luncheon

Silver Sponsorship (Ten Available) \$1,000

- Half page ad in the official conference program
- Receive 1 tickets to the Awards Luncheon on Friday, November 11, 2010
- Company Signage at the Meet and Greet Mixer

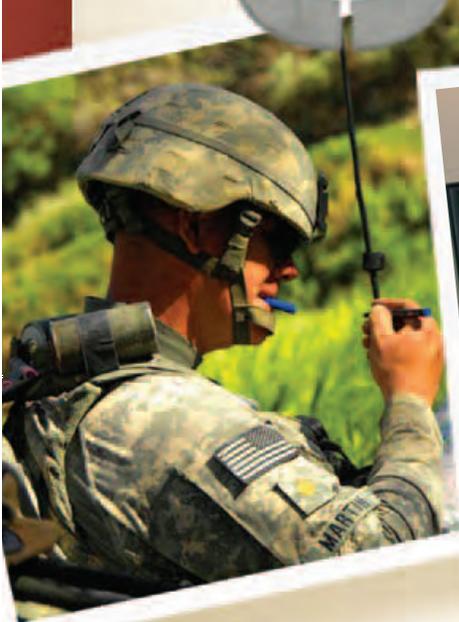
Full-Page Advertisement in the Official Conference Book \$200 – Unlimited

- Company will be also be listed by category

Half-Page Advertisement in the Official Conference Book \$100 - Unlimited

- Company will be also listed by category

WE ALL SERVE™



Chief of Police Paul Walters, center, of Santa Ana, Ca Police Department, a 2009 Secretary of Defense Freedom Award recipient, with employees Sergeant Ken Witt, First Sergeant Charles Flynn, Master Chief Mike Gonzalez and Sergeant Major Paul Hayes.

**ARMY NATIONAL GUARD ARMY RESERVE NAVY RESERVE MARINE RESERVE
COAST GUARD RESERVE AIR NATIONAL GUARD AIR FORCE RESERVE**

We All Serve.™ Whether serving our communities or our country, members of the National Guard and Reserve depend on their military units, families, and employers for support. Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve is a Department of Defense agency that seeks to promote a culture in which all American employers support and value the military service of their employees by recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of the law and resolving conflict through mediation.



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

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

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

NERA Memorial Walk General Information

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

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

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



Personal Information

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____
 Zip _____
 Phone Number _____
 E-Mail _____

Bricks to Purchase: \$100 x _____ = \$ _____

Credit Card Information

Card Number _____
 Expiration Date _____
 Charge Amount (\$100 per brick) _____
 Name on Card _____
 Signature _____

Send Your Check (\$100 for each Brick) to NERA: NERA Headquarters, Attn:

Laura Martin, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042



Marine Marquee

Honoring Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Rodney M. Davis, USMC



By Chief Tony Little
assistance from Master Chief
Kevin Johns

It was 1984, Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek, Virginia. I had just walked upon a discussion involving a seasoned Marine Staff Sergeant, who was describing a fellow Marine who fell upon a hand grenade thus saving

the lives of his fellow Marines in the Vietnam War. The Staff Sergeant was a Private during the war, and like many Marines of his time, had left the Corps only to return years later. He was describing a motivated Devil Dog that led by example and paid the ultimate price to protect the lives of his fellow Marines. Of course, I could never remember anything beyond the description that he was a southerner from Georgia.

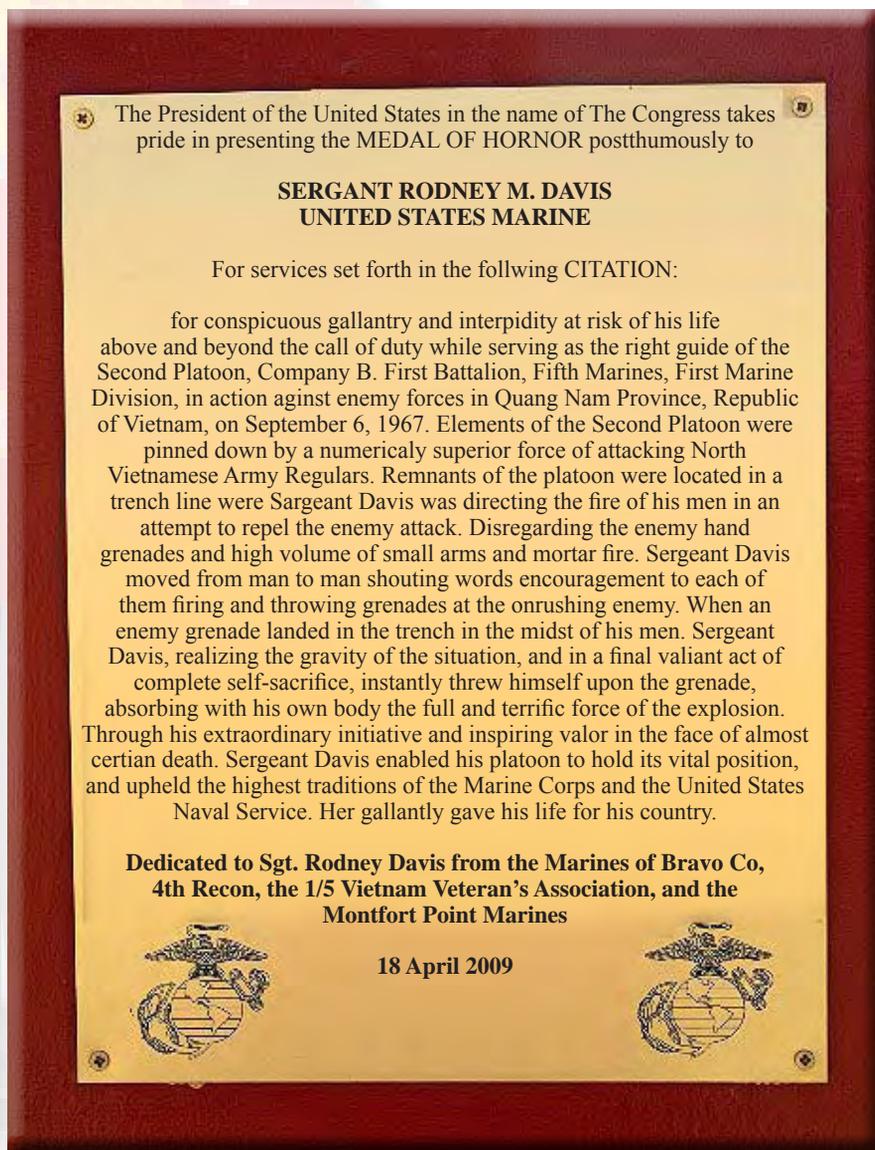
Let's fast forward to the year 2010 Macon, Georgia. The Montford Point Marine Association and NERA have united to help clean up the Linwood cemetery. This cemetery plays host to a Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Rodney Maxwell Davis, USMC and countless other veterans laid to rest, spanning from the Spanish American War to the Vietnam War. A change of owners and time have allowed this cemetery to become overgrown with every variety of tree and shrub known to man. Unless I had known previously that this was a cemetery, I would have guessed just a sector of woods not yet used for housing.

As with any function, I showed up early to "scope it out." As I walked through the ranks of veterans, I noticed Old Glory in the far end of the cemetery, and I knew this had to be the final resting place of Sgt Rodney Davis. Upon walking up to the site, I was taken aback by the number of Marines (veterans and retired) and other veterans, tending to his grave and citation area. As I read his Medal of Honor citation, I experienced the same proud feeling I had felt at Paris Island, Pearl Harbor, and

countless other sites that I had been to in my military career, which are considered "hallowed ground."

My heart felt like it had been hit by a freight train. This was the Marine I had heard about in 1984! As I turned around, I found myself in conversations with fellow Marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, family members of Sgt Davis and others. I went to Macon, Georgia, to clean up a cemetery, and left feeling proud to work among my fellow brothers and sisters from all branches of service and honored to give back to such a great cause. It took me back to my days of innocence as a young Seabee. This was quite a memorable day. You bet I plan on returning!

Rest in Peace, Sergeant Rodney M. Davis.
Semper Fidelis!



MCPON Visits Navy Reserve Headquarters

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Ryan Hill

NORFOLK, Va. -- Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West visited Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) December 14, 2009 to tour the facility and speak to the Sailors and staff here.

During his visit, West addressed the assembled Sailors and staff about the importance of the Reserve force and how integral they are to the success of the Navy's mission.

"The Reserves are completely involved and we couldn't do it without you," West said to the command enlisted personnel. This is truly one team, one fight. It's essential to have a Reserve force able and ready to help complete the mission," he said.

This marked the first time a MCPON has visited the Reserve force headquarters since it moved from New Orleans, La. to Norfolk, Va. earlier this year.

"Overall, you've got a very good place to work," said West. "The people that I engaged with here were fantastic. They knew their jobs, they knew their people and they were proud of their spaces. That's great to see."

West addressed a number of topics during the afternoon session. Topics included new uniforms, social media in the Navy, advancement opportunities, continuation boards and how many Sailors the Navy will have to account for to fill the increased deployment of military personnel to Afghanistan.

"We don't know what our portion of that will be yet," said West. "I can tell you though that our individual augmentees (IA) are doing a fantastic job. We actually have more Sailors on the ground in the fifth fleet area of responsibility than we do afloat over there. That is pretty amazing to me. I don't know how long we're going to do this as IAs- I don't think anybody can determine that- but I will tell you we won't be doing it to this degree forever."

For more information on the Navy reserve force, visit <https://www.navyreserve.navy.mil>. For more information on the MCPON, go to <http://www.navy.mil/mcpon/index.asp>.



MCPON Rick West chatting with CDR MacKenzie



MCPON Rick D. West shakes hands with PO2 Mendoza



Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) (SS/SW) Rick D. West visited Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command (CNRFC) and spoke to Sailors.

Background: A US veteran wears his medals during a commemoration ceremony on June 5, 2009 at the German Military Cemetery of La Cambe, Normandy. Preparations are underway for the upcoming D-Day celebrations to mark the 65th anniversary of the June 6, 1944 allied landings in France, then occupied by Nazi Germany. US President Barack Obama is to lead commemorations attended by thousands of Americans on June 6 at the ceremony above Omaha Beach, where more than 9,000 US troops fought and died in June 1944. (JOEL SAGET/AFP/Getty Images)

Coastie Corner



MASTER CHIEF BOATSWAINS MATE
MARK H. ALLEN
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Master Chief Allen was born on January 13, 1959 in Takoma Park, MD. He began his Coast Guard career on April 22, 1977, attending basic training in Cape May, NJ.

His previous duty assignments include Coast Guard Leadership and Professional Development and Coast Guard Reserve Affairs, Washington, DC; Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes, MD; Coast Guard Station Washington, DC; and Coast Guard Station Alexandria, VA. Master Chief Allen has been recalled to active duty in response to contingencies such as the 9/11 terrorist attacks, *El Toro II* sinking, Air Florida Flight 90 crash, and Mariel Boat Lift. He has served at Coast Guard

Headquarters, Washington, DC on *The Coast Guard Reservist* Editorial Board; on staff in the Coast Guard Reserve Communications Division; and as Senior Enlisted Academies Program Liaison. He is currently serving as Sector Jacksonville Reserve Command Master Chief and has been selected as the Fifth Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Force.

Master Chief Allen also serves on the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance Board of Control and as a member of the Recruit Company Mentor Program. He serves on the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association National Board of Directors, and has been elected to seven terms as Washington, DC Chapter President, during which time he assisted the DC Chapter in earning its first, second, and third President's Outstanding Chapter Awards.

He is a graduate of Frostburg State University with a BA degree in English, minor in Public Relations, and concentration in Spanish. He has also completed his coursework toward an MA degree in Modern Humanities at Frostburg State. Master Chief Allen is a graduate of the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy (Reserve Class VII); is the second Coast Guard Reservist ever to graduate from the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 102 Gold); and is a graduate of the Coast Guard Senior Enlisted Command Master Chief Course.

Master Chief Allen's personal awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal; Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device; Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation (five awards); Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medal (6 awards); Humanitarian Service Medal (two awards); Armed Forces Reserve Medal (3 awards) with Mobilization Device; Coast Guard Rifleman; and Coast Guard Expert Pistol Medal.

He also wears the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Secretary's Outstanding Unit Award; Coast Guard Unit Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device; Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with Operational Distinguishing Device; Meritorious Team Commendation (3 awards); Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation; and National Defense Service Medal (2 awards).

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CONSTITUTION CHAPTER CELEBRATES BOTH ANNIVERSARY WITH OLD IRONSIDES CO

by Debbie Fallon

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, the USS Constitution “*Old Ironsides*” Chapter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) celebrated its 30th Anniversary in style. The 59th CO of the USS Constitution Robert Gillen (RET) presided as the Installing Officer. The Chapter also had the honor of the current Commanding Officer, 73rd in succession, CDR Timothy Cooper participating in the event, as well as Captain George Ripsom (RET), Captain Steve Castinetti (RET) and 75 shipmates, friends, and family.



CDR Cooper reading citation

The luncheon kicked off with the Constitution Chapter of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps parading the colors and manning the MIA table. These seven young people impressed everyone in attendance with their dedication and military bearing. CDR Cooper was so impressed that he invited the cadets to come aboard Old Ironsides to meet his crew, and CDR Gillen added his praise and asked that they march in the Charlestown, Massachusetts, Flag Day Parade.

In his installation address, CDR Robert Gillen echoed the importance of the Reserve force to our nation and how proud he was to have been in command of “Old Ironsides” when the chapter was formed in 1980. He also commended the chapter and all it had accomplished over the past 30 years.

NERA National was well represented with Executive Director Steve Sandy and Executive Council Gene McCarthy in attendance.

They presented the Chapter with a crystal 30th Celebration Award.



59th and 73rd CO of the Constitution



Steve Sandy Presenting Chief Fallon

After the Installation of the Chapter Officers, two highlights of the day were honoring two of our own. Chapter Vice-President HT1 Paul Hall, who retired after 20 years of service in the Navy Reserve, was recognized for his duty with an impromptu mini retirement ceremony. He was presented with a flag and citation from the USS Constitution by CDR

Timothy Cooper, a plaque from

NERA’s Executive Director Steve Sandy and a framed award from the chapter showing a picture of a young Paul Hall on the right, his Hull Technician “HT” insignia to the left and the US Navy emblem center.

Next, one of the Sea Cadets, Christopher Affannato who has applied to Annapolis and has been involved with Chapter Installations in the past, was presented with achievement plaques from both NERA National and the Chapter, respectively.

Overall the day was nothing less than memorable. For those who have served, for those who will serve and for those who support those that serve, this was a day to say thank you. **GO NERA!!!!**



CDR Gillen at Installation Address

TAPS

***We mourn the loss of our NERA member and compatriot.
We suffer for their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship
and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic
assembly. Amen.***

MS1 CHARLES ALEXANDER
AFCM CHARLES BROWN
HMCS HENRY CHESTER
MM2 PATRICK V CHICCI
YN1 RONALD COLEMAN
MM1 DWAIN DEAL
QM2 ANDREW FERRY
PNC H. FORD FORSTER
EO1 GEORGE J. FURTADO
GMCS WILLIAM GOFORTH
HT1 JAMES GUILD
BU2 RODGER HARTRANFT
OFFICER JOHN HENRY HARRIS
CTRC JOANNE B. KLEIN
BMC WILLIAM LANGHAM
CAPT ARTHUR A LAVENAU
HTC DONALD MORTENSEN
TDC WILLIAM NEWELL
AKCS JOSE OZUNA
GMG1 GLEN PFLUG
BU1 JOHN P PLANTE JR
MK2 ROBERT A RAIA
YN2 JANET REDZIG
BMC CHARLES E RIDOUT
MM1 EDWARD F. ROMAN
TMC TED W RYKOWSKI
ROBERT E. SOULE
BUC JACK STEPHENSON
CTA1 LAURENCE E. STEVENS
AT1 SHELDON TOOKER
AW1 LAWRENCE E VAN ARKEL

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI
JOE WASSON
USS CONSTITUTION
JOE WASSON
GREATER NEW YORK
NEVADA STATE M.A.L
LEAGUE ISLAND
GREATER PORTLAND
QUONSET POINT
DERBY CITY
GREATER RICHMOND
GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY

MILE HIGH
TEX-LA
GREATER PITTSBURGH
GREATER NEW YORK
GERALD R FORD
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CAPT RICHARD A STRATTON
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27

THE MARINER



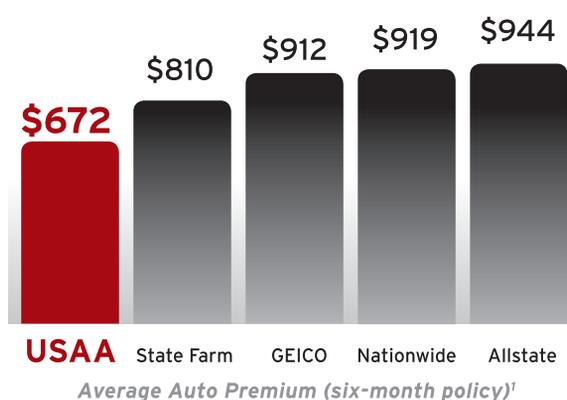
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