

THE MARINER

2013 Summer Edition | Volume 56 · Issue 2

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



YN1 Stepheni Norton Selected as Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Petty Officer First Class
Stepheni Norton (center)

page 20

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National Conference
October 16-19,
2013
Chicago**

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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, 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: vp@nera.org.



Nick Marine
National President

Hello again!

NERA Members,

It has been a great honor serving NERA as your National President and soon it'll be time for me to go. Before I go, I wanted to share some thoughts. Many of you have written to me over the past few years and I want to say thank you. One of the best things

about being NERA National President is the interaction with NERA members. During my tenure, I have seen many positive things happen.

providing scholarships. USAA also offers NERA members the NERA/USAA credit card, which helps NERA's bottom line.

First, I want to thank all past national presidents for their mentoring, without them my tenure would not have been a success. Also, a very special thank you to the NERA staff: Steve Sandy, Mike Hughes, Jennifer Abbott, Yvette Purtil, Joanne Elliott, Duke Hayes, Marianne Mosher, Paul Smuralski and Gene McCarthy. Nothing would have been possible without them. As always, you are all welcome at NERA HQ. Stop by and say hi to Steve or Mike. They always have some sea story and joke to tell or check out the newly remodeled HQ bathrooms.

As I look to the future, I hope people will continue to support this great organization.

I am proud of the new NERA benefactor program, which allows a member to become benefactor with a \$250 donation. This has been a successful program and is still growing. In addition to the benefactor program, NERA has many exciting online resources: including a brand new website that is updated daily, a new Facebook page and now you can follow us on Twitter. We are currently working on updating the Constitution & By-Laws, and they should be revised and available at the time of print. In addition, NERA has created some rewarding partnerships. PCI has provided the member directory and USAA (NERA's affinity partner) has been instrumental in

NERA cannot survive without the support from you. As I look to the future, I hope people will continue to support this great organization. Become a benefactor, buy a brick with your name on it, apply for a NERA/USAA credit card or volunteer your time. I am looking forward to passing the torch and am excited to meet the future leaders at the upcoming Chicago National Conference in October.

NERA Nick

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts. — Winston Churchill



LETTERS TO NERA

Mr. Sandy & NERA,

Thank you for your heartfelt congratulations, kind words & being a generous sponsor of Coast Guard REPOY.

It was very much appreciated. I hope to meet you again in the future.

— YNC Stepheni Norton

A Call to Action: Recruit a Member!



**Master Chief Steve Sandy
wants you to recruit a new
member for NERA.**

For just \$30 a year, a member can get professional support, receive the Mariner magazine, scholarship opportunities and more.

Or for \$300, become a lifetime member with all those benefits and become part of an elite group of Sea Service Reservists for life.

nera.org



Joanne Elliott

Past National President

Rules for Saluting US Flag

Military.com

Law Now Allows Retirees and Vets to Salute Flag

Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag only while wearing their organization's official head-gear.

The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed servicemembers, military retirees, and veterans to render a hand salute during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. flag.

A later amendment further authorized hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. This was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14, 2008.

Here is the actual text from the law:

SEC. 595. MILITARY SALUTE FOR THE FLAG DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES NOT IN UNIFORM AND BY VETERANS.

Section 301(b)(1) of title 36, United States Code, is amended by striking subparagraphs (A) through (C) and inserting the following new subparagraphs:



www.navy.mil: photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Dennis Cantrell (RELEASED)

(A) individuals in uniform should give the military salute at the first note of the anthem and maintain that position until the last note;

(B) members of the Armed Forces and veterans who are present but not in uniform may render the military salute in the manner provided for individuals in uniform; and

(C) all other persons present should face the flag and stand at attention with their right hand over the heart, and men not in uniform, if applicable, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart; **NOTE:** Part (C) applies to those not in the military and non-veterans. The phrase "men not in uniform" refers to civil service uniforms like police, fire fighters, and letter carriers - non-veteran civil servants who might normally render a salute while in uniform.

Cheers Bar Wants Patches and Coins

The Navy Times (4/1/2013) reported that The Cheers Bar at Faneuil Hall in Boston is redecorating their walls with military patches, coins and other mementos. Send your item to Cheers at P.O. Box 6358, Boston, MA 02114. Do

not send any sexually provocative or excessively violent paraphernalia. A "Cheers to the Troops" reception and video game tournament is planned for March 29. Tickets are \$30 at www.cheersbostonstore.com.

Shift Colors — www.shiftcolors.navy.mil

Shift Colors can be read online at www.shiftcolors.navy.mil. To reach the Navy Personnel Command Customer Service Center you can call between 7am-7pm (central time) Monday-Friday at 866-827-5672 or email them at cscmailbx@navy.mil.

Here are some of the highlights from the Spring issue:

1. If you want a copy of your Statement of Service or Point Capture as it was once known, call 866-827-5672.
2. If you do not receive notification months prior to the date your retirement pay should begin, call 866-827-5672. You can also download the required forms off the NPC website by clicking on “Retirement Pay Application Forms.”
3. **Treasury Mandates Electronic Pay by March 1.** You must sign up for direct deposit as soon as possible to ensure continued payments. You can send a signed Fast Start Direct Deposit Form (<http://www.fms.treas.gov/eft/2231.pdf>) to Defense Finance and Accounting Services, U.S. Military Retired Pay, P.O. Box 7130, London, KY 40742-7130. You can also call the DFAS Retired and Annuitant Pay Center at 800-321-1080.
4. **New Fast Forms:** Authorization to Start or Stop An Allotment (DFAS 2558); and Retiree Change of Address/State Tax Withholding Request (DFAS 2866).



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.



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



Legislative Updates — Summer 2013

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

NERA and The Military Coalition are currently addressing numerous issues with various congressional committees and members, including the continual attacks on military pay and compensation. We are closely

monitoring cuts in retirement compensation, TRICARE premium increases, survivor benefits, and cuts to commissary and exchange privileges, all due to budget constraints brought on by “sequestration”.

I want to address two pressing issues:

Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit Correction

Unlike the active duty military who receive retirement annuities immediately upon completion of service, most reservists must wait until age 60 to begin receiving retirement benefits. The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act modified this age by allowing members of the Guard and Reserve to have their retirement age reduced by three (3) months for every 90 days served on active duty deployment, since 2008. **The current law, however, provides that only periods of service totaling 90 days within a fiscal year may count towards early retirement.** For instance, if a deployment of 90 days or more spanned two (2) fiscal years and less than 90 days occurred in one fiscal year, that service member would receive no early retirement credit.

NERA strongly supports bills in both the Senate and House of Representatives that allow credit for cumulative 90-day periods of active duty deployment over two (2) consecutive years. NERA is also supporting proposed legislation for having this benefit retroactive to 9/11/2001. Passage for this retroactive benefit is unlikely due to the costs and current fiscal climate.

Elimination and/or Curtailing of Commissary and Exchange Resale System

There are numerous proposals from the Defense Business Board, the administration, Congress, DoD and others to curtail or eliminate the military commissary and exchange systems. Most of these cite flawed or erroneous data and statistics. They also note rising costs to taxpayers.

The reality is that direct cash contributions to the government exceed the appropriations spent. Costs for these programs have been kept constant or dropped in real terms in the past ten (10) years while other DoD programs have doubled or tripled in cost. The resale system provides a \$20.36 return for every \$1.00 of appropriations used.

The resale system provides services to military members and retirees world-wide and provides a return of \$5.97 for every dollar spent of appropriations. They also provide thousands of military family members with employment, reducing the need for food stamps and WIC compensation. It is also the only benefit provided by DoD to its personnel and families where costs to the government decline the more it is used. The resale system ranks at the top of government programs in accountability to patrons and taxpayers with consistently clean audits and financial statements.

In other words, the benefits of the military resale system far outweigh the costs to taxpayers. NERA continues to oppose any curtailing or elimination of resale programs or reductions of appropriations for any of these programs. More data and statistics on this system can be accessed at the Resale and MWR Center for Research on-line at <http://www.resaleresearch.org/>.



Clifton Duke Hayes
NERA
Vice President

Hello Fellow NERA Members

Well, I'm sure you have noticed that my reports have been hit and miss over the last few months. This is due to several different reasons. Foremost, my health has caused me to be hospitalized several times resulting in my losing a couple of toes. I have been house bound for several weeks.

Although my travels have been curtailed, I have tried to keep in contact with the membership. In my conversations with folks over the months, the one item that has kept surfacing is the increasing difficulty in visiting the NOSC and meeting with Drilling Reservists.

In years past, we have enjoyed an open door policy with Center and Unit CO's. Of course, we know the increased security measures have closed those doors, as well as Unit Deployments have simply dried up our flow of communications. Our chances of gaining new members will prove difficult with this lack of information and access flow.

What is the answer? At this point, I am at a loss to come up with an answer. I do know that one thing that our country has gained from this heightened awareness is the increase in civilian patriotism. This showing of support for our armed services members is in a word, "FABULOUS." There are parades and VETERAN recognition days at Ball games and various other celebrations throughout the country.

Even with this kind of remarkable support, it is extremely difficult to visit a NOSC and have a one on one talk with individuals on the drill deck. So, we must keep on trying to reach those folks and show the benefits of participating in the NERA experience.

I must shower a little praise on our local Oklahoma Chapter. As many of you may know, the Oklahoma Chapter has one of the largest "legal" American flags around. It was recently displayed in a parade and at several ball games. This resulted in recognition and a proclamation from the Oklahoma State Legislature, and Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallon.

The crew that handles these functions is led by MSCS Max Wano, his son Roy Wano, (an associate member) and as many volunteers as they can round up. In past years, we were fortunate to get Drilling Reservists. Now it is Scouts, ball teams and citizens on the streets in an incredible show of Patriotism.

In closing, I am now mobile and actively seeking input from membership and individuals that want a site visit from me to talk with their group(s). I have been in conversation with Gary Penny in the Kansas City area. I am on the job and looking forward to seeing everyone in Chicago.

See you soon.

Clifton Duke Hayes, MN1 USN Ret.

This showing of support for our armed services members is in a word, "FABULOUS."



Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

NERA Continues to Fight for Your Benefits

By Executive Director Stephen Sandy

Dear NERA members,

This is a quote from the Military Benefits website “From pay to the GI Bill, from VA home loans to health care, your military service has earned you valuable military benefits. Whether you’re on active duty, a veteran or retiree, we make using your military & Veteran benefits easy.” We wish using and keeping these benefits we have earned with our service were easy. NERA’s mission is to protect and preserve these promised benefits, but this is proving more difficult every day. Lawmakers are pressed to cut budgets and military benefits seem to be their favorite target.

Earlier this year, Tricare West transferred their contract to UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans Services and the transition was a mess. Patients could not make appointments, they could not reach a human on the phone to complain, and they were unable to see a specialist in a timely manner. Tricare West’s problems were so bad that the Pentagon had to step in and waive the referral authorization requirements for patients to see a specialized doctor. Yet even this measure hasn’t helped much, and patients are still having problems just making an appointment. UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans Services ended up ousting its chief executive officer after this fiasco.

NERA has been monitoring the proposal for cutting the cost-of-living adjustments for military and federal civilian retirees in an effort to find more money for defense programs. This chained CPI amendment could reach the Senate floor as early as this summer. In addition, the White House has been proposing to establish an enrollment fee for TRICARE-for-Life beneficiaries, who are aged 65 and older. With all these assaults on our earned benefits, we are even more committed to defending the benefits you were promised and have earned.

NERA’s annual conference is scheduled for October in Chicago and I find this a great opportunity to discuss what is happening. After speaking to you and hearing your stories, it encourages me to keep fighting Washington as they try to cut our services. A wise man once said “a smooth sea never makes a skillful sailor” and from what I have seen, the seas are rough. Join us in Chicago or keep us informed by calling or emailing with any concerns at neraexec@nera.org or (800)-776-9020.

See you in Chicago, October 16–19, 2013,

Steve

Also, I want to personally thank everyone who has donated to the NERA HQ Roof Fund and contributed to the Mariner production costs. One of our greatest expenses is mailing the Mariner, over \$50,000 of our annual budget, and many of you have contributed to offset these costs. In addition, the HQ roof is in need of desperate repair, and many chapters and members have generously reached deep into their pockets to help. A big thank you for this help. We have reached about a third of the estimated repair cost of \$13,000.



What can you do for NERA?

NERA Executive Director Steve Sandy takes calls daily from members inquiring how they can help NERA-- his favorite part of the day. It was suggested that Steve compile a list of FAQs about how you can help NERA.

1. Apply for and use a USAA/NERA Credit Card.

USAA provides great terms and low interest rates, and NERA receives cash back. Just using this card is a very easy way to support NERA.

2. Become a NERA Benefactor.

This program is available to all members. The cost of membership is \$550.00; this includes a NERA Life Membership. Existing Life Members can purchase a NERA Benefactor membership for a reduced cost of \$250.00.

3. Recruit a New Member.

4. Postage Donation.

\$15 a year can help offset our mailing costs for our free quarterly magazine, The Mariner. US Postage rates continue to increase and the cost to mail The Mariner this year alone will account for over \$13,000.

5. Buy a Brick.

Memorial Bricks can be used to celebrate your military career or honor the life of a loved one. The bricks will be strategically placed at NERA headquarters. For more information, visit nera.org.

6. Contribute to the Building Fund.

NERA Headquarters is in need of a new roof and gutters. The most recent bid on the project was \$12,451.50. To contribute to this fund, contact Penny Padour, Chairman of the Building Repair Fund. (Phone: 815 322-6277 Email: nerawindycity@hotmail.com)

7. Make a Donation.

Make a general donation to NERA. Any amount is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. Use the Donation button at nera.org.

Any further questions should be directed to Steve Sandy at (703) 534-1329 or neraexec@nera.org.

Join at nera.org or use this form and mail it to NERA Headquarters at:

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Attn: Membership, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189

Information

NAME _____

RATE/RANK _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

SPONSOR _____

Branch of Service

- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Coast Guard
- Other
- Civilian

Duty Status

- A - Active Duty
- I - Inactive Duty (SELRES, IRR, VTU)
- R - Retired

Membership Type

- Active
- Associate

Dues Payment Amount

- \$30 - 1 Year
- \$57 - 2 Years
- \$84 - 3 Years
- \$300 - Life
- \$100 - Life Member (Payplan)*
- \$550 - NERA Benefactor (existing Life Members can purchase at reduced cost of \$250)

** Partial Pay to be paid within six months*

Payment Information

- CHECK (enclosed) CREDIT CARD Visa MasterCard

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____



NERA Constitution and Bylaws Proposed Amendments 2013

On behalf of the USS Constitution chapter board of directors and in accordance with the specific items as outlined in Articles 6 and 9 of the NERA Constitution and Bylaws the chapter submits five (5) amendment proposals to be presented for consideration and a possible vote at the 2013 National Conference in Waukegan, Illinois.

Proposal 1 Addresses the need to keep the Constitution and Bylaws up-to-date.

A printed version of the most current Constitution and Bylaws be completed according to existing format / guidelines by the end of the first quarter of 2013 with all passed amendments from the 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013 National Conferences incorporated into the body of the document. Beginning in 2014, the NERA Constitution and Bylaws be updated by the end of each January (following a National Conference), copies of the new documents are mailed to all Chapter Presidents by the end of March, and an online copy is available to general membership by the end of April of the same year.

Proposal 2 Proposes that instructions and official forms for submitting Resolutions and Proposals be printed in the Spring Edition of the Mariner.

The original proposals and amendments will be printed in the Summer Edition of the Mariner as they will appear in the voting process. The final outcome including the original proposal, all amendments and recommendations, and the actual voting results of passed and defeated articles will be printed in the Winter Edition of the Mariner in the same format as presented at the National Conference.

Proposal 3 Develop an Operations Manual for the National Organization and Office.

An Operations Manual be developed and completed by National Staff, NEC, committees and individual members with appropriate experience by the end of the second quarter of 2014, distributed to local chapters for review, and then voted on at the 2014 National Conference for implementation January 1, 2015.

Proposal 4 Develop an evaluation form and process for all national staff.

Beginning in 2014, evaluations be completed by the appropriate Supervisory staff and/or board member(s) by the end of the second quarter of that year and continuing on a regular basis following the same time table of an NEC election year.

Proposal 5 Update and/or develop job descriptions for all NEC and staff.

Existing Job Descriptions for staff will be updated to reflect current organization needs and trends and new Job Descriptions for other staff will be developed following the same standards. All Job Descriptions will be completed by the end of the second quarter of 2014, distributed to local chapters for review and then voted on at the 2014 National Conference for implementation at the start of 2015.

The complete, full version of the amendment proposals are available to download and review on the NERA website, www.nera.org.



REGISTER TODAY!

NERA'S 56TH National Conference

October 16-19, 2013, Chicago



Name _____
FIRST LAST RANK

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ Phone () _____

E-Mail _____ I need a map Y N

Number of People attending: _____ Date & Time: of Arrival / _____ of Departure / _____

Airline _____ Flight # _____

Special Needs Requirements: _____

Chapter _____ Office _____ 1st Conf? Y N

Hotel Room: Fee has been contracted at \$85.00 Max. /Room /Night (plus 11% room tax).

Spouse/Guest name: _____
FIRST LAST RANK

Please NOTE: These SPECIAL rates are available for any night before and after the conference.

REGISTRATION

| | Cost | X | # Attending | = | \$ Total |
|--|--------------------|---|-------------|---|----------|
| Before October 2, 2013 | \$35.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| After October 2, 2013 | \$45.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| !!! LATE FEE WAIVED – COME JOIN US !!!! | | | | | |
| Taxi / Bus Service to Hotel | \$38.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| Taxi / Bus Service to O'Hare | \$38.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |

EVENTS

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|---------|---|-------|---|----------------|
| Wed, Oct 16 | Mixer | FREE | X | _____ | = | \$ <u>FREE</u> |
| Thrs, Oct. 17 | Awards Luncheon | \$30.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey <input type="checkbox"/> Orange Roughy <input type="checkbox"/> Beef | | | | | |
| | Base Tour / Burkey NEX (AM) | FREE | X | _____ | = | \$ <u>FREE</u> |
| | (Intended for spouses) | | | | | |
| | Rivers Casino (PM) | \$21.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| Fri, Oct. 18 | RTC Graduation (AM) | \$11.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| | Navy Pier (PM) | \$21.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| Sat, Oct. 19 | Installation/Dinner Dance | \$45.00 | X | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Prime Rib <input type="checkbox"/> Chicken | | | | | |
| Registration/Events Total: | | | | | | \$ _____ |

CONFERENCE PAYMENT INFORMATION

Send registration form with payment directly to:
SKC (Ret.) Penny Padour, 1010 Darlington Lane, Crystal Lake, IL 60014
Make checks payable to: **Windy City Chapter 313.098**
www.wcchapter.org

ROOM RESERVATIONS (visit or call):

Ramada Waukegan-Gurnee
Group Code - Mention NERA
ph: 847 244-2400 • fax: 847 249-9716
www.ramadinwaukegan-gurnee.com



July 4th, Remember...

By CMDCM(FMF) Ron Naida

Independence Day conjures images of barbecues, fireworks and families celebrating together. However, for these deployed Navy Reservists and their families, Independence Day 2013 took on a different significance. Deployed Reservists from Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit (NEMU) 14, Landstuhl, Germany and the Warrior Transition Program (WTP), Sembach, Germany chose to celebrate their Independence Day differently. They performed community service by honoring fallen warriors at the Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery and at the Remember Museum, located in Clermont, Belgium.

The Henri-Chappelle American Military Cemetery is one of 24 permanent American burial grounds on foreign soil and is administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Located approximately 70 miles southeast of Brussels, Belgium, this cemetery is the final resting place for 7,992 warriors, many of whom sacrificed their lives during the Battle of the Bulge. Members of NEMU 14 and the WTP were greeted by the cemetery's superintendent, Mr. Bobby O. Bell.

Mr. Bell, a US Navy veteran himself, provided a guided tour of the Chapel and the map room. There two maps

of military campaigns are carved in black granite with inscriptions recalling the achievements of the Allied Forces. After the guided tour, Mr. Bell escorted the sailors and guests through the cemetery grounds to the flagpole, where 10 United States Flags would be raised and lowered. As the flags were lowered from the pole, Chief Petty Officer Tim Alber and Senior Chief Petty Officer Michael Pike assisted with the flag folding. A flag was then solemnly presented to each sailor in the formation.



Flag raising ceremony at the Henri-Chappelle American Military Cemetery.



Mr. Bobby Bell, Superintendent of the Henri-Chappelle American Military Cemetery, explains the significance of the names engraved on the memorial pillars. Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida.



July 4th flag ceremony participants L-R: MMC James Zeigler, HM1 Erica Snow, HMCS Michael Pike, GSMCTim Alber, HMC Andy Hoysock, HMCS Steve Neeley, HM1 Tom McLean, HMC Joy Lail, CMDCM Ron Naida, HM1 Nicholas Kirk, HMCS John Jenkins, HM1 Josh Carroll, HMC Robert Duff, CMDCM Mark Turner. Photo by AO1 Penny Couvillion

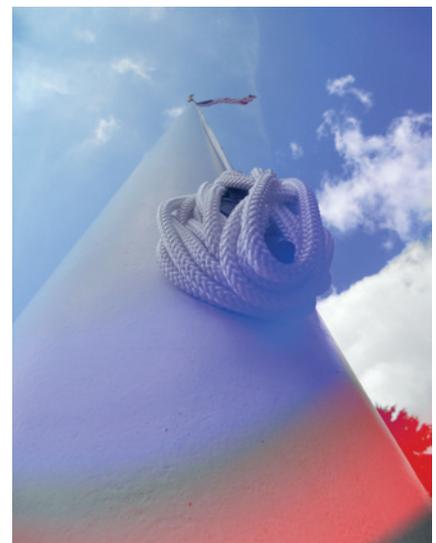


The Henri-Chappelle American Military Cemetery. Photo by AO1 Penny Couvillion

Two miles down the road is the Remember Museum.

The Remember Museum first opened in 1994 and is dedicated to the memory of the American war-fighters that helped liberate Belgium. The museum is run by its founders, Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz. Marcel was a young boy when his country was occupied by Nazi Germany. He recounts the days when German forces controlled every aspect of their lives, including what language they would learn in school and speak in public.

Many of the artifacts on display were left on Marcel Schmetz's parents' farm by 1st Infantry Division soldiers, who had stopped to rest at the farm during the Allied advance on Germany. Over the years, additional items have been donated by WWII veterans. He saved numerous relics from the war and kept them in an old barn. It



Old Glory waiving from the flagpole at the Henri-Chappelle American Military Cemetery, Clermont, Belgium. Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida.



At the entrance to the Remember Museum are painted names of WWII veterans who have visited the establishment. Photo by Mrs. Tonya Neeley.



Remember Museum, Thimister-Clermont, Belgium. Photo by Mrs. Tonya Neeley.



INDEPENDENCE DAY, continued



Standing in their front yard with a Sherman tank in the background, founders of the Remember Museum, Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz chat with Sailors while their granddaughters listen. Photo by AO1 Penny Couvillion

was not until he met Mathilde, that he was convinced to share these mementos of history with anyone who would journey to the picturesque and serene Belgium village of Thimister-Clermont. Countless service members, dignitaries, ambassadors, general officers, and admirals have visited the museum.

In 2006, the Chief Petty Officer Mess from the first NEMU deployed to the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in support of OIF/OEF adopted the Remember Museum and assisted the aging couple with ongoing maintenance projects. Every NEMU since has made it its mission to keep a strong relationship going with Marcel and Mathilde. The pair, who are in their 80s and 60s respectively, have the energy of a young couple in their 20s. They proudly express their love of the United States and appreciation for American Service Members.

Earlier in the day, members of the NEMU 14 and WTP, performed community service by cleaning the display artifacts and performing maintenance on the facility. After an overnight stay at the museum, the remainder of the tasks



GSMC Tim Alber and HMCS Steve Neeley clean a replica of a Sherman tank inside the Remember Museum. Photo by Mrs. Tonya Neeley.



Sailors clean a WW2 parachute at the Remember Museum. Photo by AO1 Penny Couvillion.

was completed the next day. The day would not be complete until dinner was shared in the hall with a visiting member of the Belgium Army and his family. After dinner, hugs and au revoir ("goodbye" in French,) the Sailors of NEMU and WTP along with family and friends returned to their respective bases in Germany to enjoy the rest of the holiday weekend and to reflect upon their shared experiences.

For more information on the Remember Museum,
visit their website: <http://www.remembermuseum.com/en/>

The Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial
website: <http://www.abmc.gov/cemeteries/cemeteries/hc.php>



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Sequestration Grounds Blue Angels and Thunderbirds

By ISCS(SW) Joshua William Mangum

Due to sequestration, one of the proudest traditions of the U.S. Navy has been cancelled for the remainder of the 2013 season. A Commander Naval Air Forces press release regarding the Blue Angels states, “Recognizing budget realities, current Defense policy states that outreach events can only be supported with local assets at no cost to the government.” A proud tradition beginning in 1946 as part of Admiral Nimitz’s vision to raise public interest in naval aviation, the Blue Angel’s mission is to enhance Navy recruiting, and credibly represent Navy and Marine Corps aviation to the United States and its Armed Forces to America and other countries as international ambassadors of good will. This cancellation comes at a time when the U.S. Navy could use a morale boost after almost a decade of living the Fleet Readiness Program, increased deployment lengths and shorter time in port with their families.

The press release also stated, “the Navy believes there is value in demonstrating the professionalism and capabilities of our Navy and Marine Corps Naval Aviation team, thus inspiring future generations of Sailors and Marines. The Navy intends to continue aerial demonstrations in the future as the budget situation permits.” This is the same future generations who will be asked to tackle challenges



USN Blue Angels, <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil/aircraft/historical.aspx>



1949 USN Blue Angels, <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil/aircraft/historical.aspx>



1946, USN Blue Angels, <http://www.blueangels.navy.mil/aircraft/historical.aspx>

like the growing Chinese and resurgent Russian Navies. It isn’t lost on this sailor that those two nations are combining during the summer of 2013 for their largest combined sea exercise ever for the Chinese Navy.

The Navy’s Blue Angels were not the only ones to get a cancellation notice. America’s other military aviation tradition, the “Thunderbirds”, also posted cancellations.

Begun in 1953, this unit adopted their namesake from the strong Native American culture and folklore from the southwestern part of the United States when the 3600th Air Demonstration Unit was activated out of Luke AFB, AZ. Ironically, the 2013 season is the unit's 60th anniversary season and was sure to be a draw for every show this year. According to the Thunderbirds website: "The implementation of across-the-board cuts in federal spending has caused the curtailment of the Thunderbirds 2013 show schedule. Effective April 1, all of the team's performances has been cancelled."



Thunderbirds, <http://afthunderbirds.com/site/history>



1958 USAF Thunderbirds, <http://afthunderbirds.com/site/history>

Perhaps this was just another necessary cut in the discretionary funds for the military's budget. I imagine this was a hard sell to Congress on the value of keeping this positive and established connection with the civilian population afloat during these hard times in 2013. However, a morale boost from these goodwill ambassadors would have offered an important reminder about the military members who provide the promise of freedom to the less fortunate around the globe and ensure the security of the freedom stateside that we enjoy every day. ■



FACES OF NERA



WELCOME HOME VIETNAM VETERANS by Chapter 500 of the Vietnam Veterans Association, held at the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial by the State Capitol, on 3-30-2013.



Assemblyman Roger Dickinson, Guest Speaker, and Ted Adams, Chapter 500 VVA President.



YN1 Stepheni Norton Selected as Coast Guard Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Reprinted, in part, from a Coast Guard Compass Blog post by Lt. Stephanie Young

Petty Officer First Class Stepheni Norton was recognized as the Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year (REPOY) during a ceremony held at Coast Guard Headquarters on Friday, May 10, 2013. As part of her selection as the REPOY Petty Officer Norton was meritoriously advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer.

Norton is currently deployed with Port Security Unit (PSU) 311 at Naval Station Guantanamo Bay. The unit's members form Joint Task Force Guantanamo's maritime security detachment and are responsible for securing ports and waterways around the base.

An expeditionary unit, PSU 311 is responsible for providing port security in support of military or humanitarian operations worldwide, ready to deploy within 96 hours of notification and establishing sustained operations within 24 hours. The unit deploys on the frontlines of global operations but in order to get there they need support; that support is anchored by Chief Norton.

Norton is assigned to the operational support division of the port security unit where her administrative leadership supports the entire unit in boundless ways. She has issued 130 personnel orders; led the unit's department heads in



Petty Officer Stepheni Norton has her Chief's Anchors pinned on by her fiancé and fellow reservist Boatswain Mate 3rd Class Michael Lesley and her dad ICC/SW Stephen Norton, USN (ret.). U.S. Coast Guard Photos by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

major update of all unit instructions; led administrations preparations for a Coast Guard-wide assessment, receiving a 100 percent score and best-in-fleet assessment; and processed 500 travel claims with zero discrepancies.

These may sound like meaningless numbers to many, but in Norton's world of work, the numbers matter. These numbers affect each of the members on deployment. To Norton, these numbers are the difference between being ready for the mission or not being able to support operations.

In the words of Norton herself, "I do what I do, so they can do what they do."

In addition to their current deployment, Port Security Unit 311 also participated in Exercise Patriot Hook, a joint-service, air-mobility and contingency-response exercise. The exercise required staging out of three sites in California, more than 300 military people and moving more than 1.5 million pounds of cargo.

When inclement weather forced an unplanned redeployment for three port security units during the exercise, Norton spearheaded the amendment of 122 orders in less than 16 hours to prevent pay issues for deployed personnel.

"She is unrelenting in her drive toward efficiency and excellence, continually setting the bar for all petty officers in the unit," said Cmdr. John Caraballo, commanding officer of Port Security Unit 311.

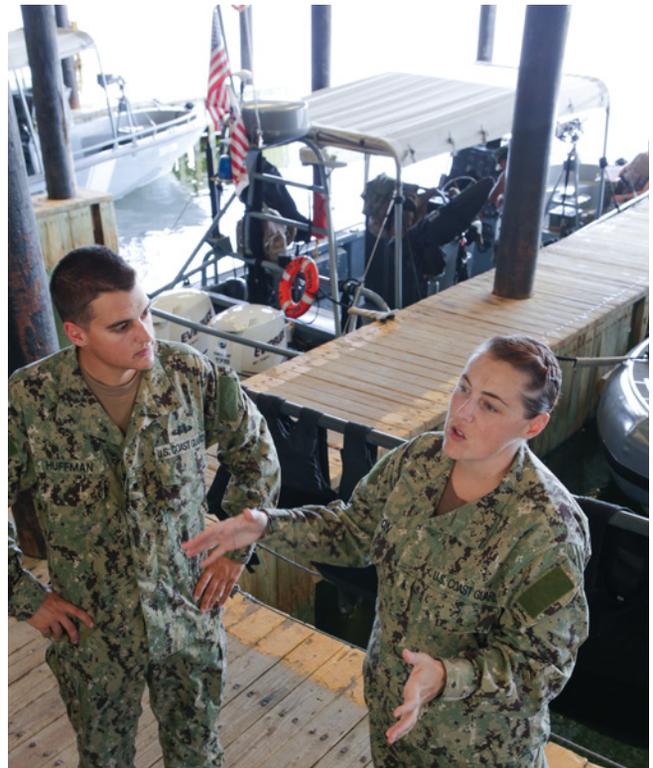
Keeping the unit ready isn't her only mission. Norton keeps them ready with morale high. Knowing that deployments can be tough on the crew, Norton coordinated a Christmas Day surprise so all members of the unit would wake up to a present to open during the holidays.

As a civilian, Norton combines her creativity and experience with project management, regulatory compliance, research, development and technology expertise as a social entrepreneur. Norton impacts her community in countless ways and develops websites to announce charitable companies and non-profit events worldwide. Further, Norton created care suitcases – large rolling suitcases with food and supplies – for homeless veterans.

"As reservists, we don't say 'this is a civilian skill, this is a Coast Guard skill,'" said Norton. "We mix our skills together, which benefits everybody."

Norton's all-encompassing commitment to Coast Guard missions is also exemplified by her role as an active Coast Guard Auxiliary member since 2004. As an auxiliariest, she co-created a ready for operations program under review for Auxiliary fleet wide acceptance.

"I am continually inspired by the contributions of our Coast Guard reservists, especially Chief Petty Officer Stepheni Norton," said Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Mark H. Allen. "She serves concurrently as a reservist, auxiliariest, small business owner, homeowner, fiancée, daughter, and community leader. Her example has inspired her shipmates as it has me." ■



Chief Petty Officer Stepheni Norton briefs members of Port Security Unit 311 at the unit's boat house in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba where it is deployed supporting ongoing waterside security operations. Photo courtesy of Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Lesley.



Tricare West: Transition Fiasco

UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans was awarded the Tricare West region contract back in July 2012. This contract will be worth over \$21 billion over the next five years, serving almost 3 million people. UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans took over on April 1 and problems with high volumes at the call centers began immediately. Just after the transition, a large number of Tricare West customers were denied access to specialty care and then these patients could not reach anyone on the phone to help them. The concerns were so pervasive that the Pentagon reacted swiftly and took the unprecedented steps of waiving the penalty fee for seeing a specialist without obtaining authorization.

Even with this waiver to see a specialist, patients were still reporting problems. The patients say doctors were not being paid promptly because the system was reading their

claim as not having the proper referrals. Now, medical providers are reluctant to even accept Tricare West patients at all because it was known that the UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans are slow to reimburse claims. UnitedHealthcare said it has responded aggressively to fix these problems and has even shaken up their leadership.

However, with a contract worth over \$21 billion affecting 3 million people, UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans should have been better prepared. This treatment is unacceptable for our military and military families. According to the Army Times, a Marine Corps family member and veteran, said he has spent more than 40 hours on the phone trying to fix his problems with Tricare and yet he still can't get an appointment for referred services. "It's upsetting that we can't get the care we need, and I know we're not alone," he said.

If you have experienced any problems with Tricare West, NERA wants to hear from you. Email your story to neraexec@nera.org or call (800)-776-9020.

NERA,

Thank you for your article. I too, have had numerous problems with Triwest paying my medical bills since United Health Care took over on April 1, 2013. My husband is retired military and we pay for Tricare Prime coverage each month. TriCare West is our only insurance. On April 6, 2013 I had a Sleep Study done for Sleep Apnea. I had the necessary referrals and the appointment was scheduled in March, however, due to a snowstorm it was rescheduled. I knew that Tricare had switched carriers as of April 1st, so I called to make sure that everything was in order with the new carrier and I was told it was, so I went for the appointment.

Within two weeks I received a notice from Tricare that my claim was not being paid because I had other insurance.

I called and waited on the phone for an extremely long time to speak with someone. The person I spoke with said they were having issues and that not all the records had transferred over correctly and that I could take care of the issue by filling out a form online and gave me the website to go to. The form on the website did not exist, so I called back and spent another long period of time on the phone being transferred around and spoke to a gentleman who helped me find the form and told me it needed to be faxed in. I faxed the forms to United Healthcare, April 23 to let them know I do not have other health insurance. (When I sign onto the Tricare website and bring up my account, the tab on the web page that says "Other Insurance" has expired dates as of 2010 on the page).

On May 8, I received another letter from Tricare West telling me my claim was not paid because their records

show I had other insurance and I need to fill out the form — which they enclosed. It was the same form I had faxed to them on April 23. I called again and talked with Megan, then Lori, then Sandra and finally Tim (I was on the phone for over an hour). Tim explained to me that issue was with the PBGA Claims Processor, which was handling the claims for United Healthcare. He gave me a number to fax the paperwork to and told me that by faxing the paperwork to both United Healthcare and their claims processor, my issue would be taken care of.

On Saturday, June 15, I received a Triwest Summary Explanation of Benefits Claims letting me know that my Amount not covered is \$4,009.52 for 3 different claims – telling me that their records indicate I have other insurance that is primary to Tricare. I immediately tried to

call; however, their recording says they are there Monday through Friday and to call back then.

I have other routine doctor appointments scheduled in July, however, with the medical bills I am now receiving that are not being paid by Triwest, I will need to cancel the appointments and reschedule after my medical providers are paid.

Hopefully Congress can fix this mess soon. I contacted my Representative, Sam Graves about it, but never heard anything back from him.

[At the time of print, NERA was informed that this customer did speak to a customer service representative at UnitedHealthcare and is hopeful that they will help resolve this matter.] ■

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

(Please see page 24 for detailed instructions.)



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The New NERA National Recycle Program

I am pleased to announce the new NERA National Recycle Program. Debbie Fallon, President of the USS Constitution Chapter, who has been successfully participating in this effort on behalf of her Chapter, has graciously accepted my request to oversee this program.

I encourage all chapters and members to help NERA in this “Nationwide” Recycling Program. It is quick and easy, and will not only help the environment, but help NERA raise funds to continue to protect the rights and benefits of all Reservists.



How can you help?

Just recycle your **Inkjet Cartridges, printer cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones, and small electronics** such as **iPods/MP3 Players, Digital Cameras and GPS Devices** from your homes, jobs, local businesses and around your community (See the Qualifying List at nera.org for all acceptable items). Get a pre-paid shipping label, package them and ship them off. And the best part of this program is it will not cost your chapter any out-of-pocket expenses.

If you are interested in supporting our new program or if you have any questions, contact “National Recycle Coordinator” Debbie Fallon at (603) 858-4144 or debbiefallon@msn.com. Or contact headquarters via the new NERArecycles@nera.org or call (800) 776-9020, or (703) 534-1329.

Please review the guidelines below and check out our ad on page 23. Thanks for your support.

How the Recycling Fundraiser works

Simple Shipping Guidelines

1. CONTACT HEADQUARTERS or DEBBIE FALLON FOR SHIPPING LABEL:

A few items you might need:

| | | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Shipping box | Pre-paid shipping label (one per box) | Newspaper or bubble wrap | Sealable plastic bags | Packing Tape |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|

2. USE YOUR OWN BOXES:

Find a large, sturdy box no larger than 20” Wx20H x 24” D and able to hold a maximum of 40 lbs. when full.

TIP: Use old newspaper or bubble wrap as filler in boxes to protect items during shipment.

3. PACK BOXES USING THE 20/20 MINIMUM:

20 acceptable items. **or** 20 lbs. of items.
(i.e. 10 laser cartridges + 5 inkjet cartridges + 3 cell phones + 2 iPods = 20 items)

4. Attach one pre-paid shipping label to a box and seal shut. Leave it for the UPS driver or take it to any UPS drop-off location.

NOTE: Do not call UPS for a pick up. If called for pick-up, UPS will charge a mandatory fee that cannot be waived or reimbursed. Call 1-800-742-5877 or visit ups.com for the drop-off locations nearest you.



2013–2014 Scholarship Winners

NERA President Nick Marine has announced the 2013-2014 USAA/NERA Scholarship recipients. The USAA/NERA Scholarship Program recognizes the service and sacrifices made by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. We want to thank the Scholarship Committee for their devoted efforts in finding these distinguished recipients. Also, thank you to USAA and NERA members for making these scholarships possible.

\$3,000 Active NERA Member Scholarships

SN Aubrey Humphrey, USCGR — Seaman Aubrey Humphrey is from a ranching family in the Texas hill country. Aubrey graduated early from high school after receiving 29 college credit hours. Because of this early graduation, he was able to complete USCG Basic Training during his last high school semester. Aubrey plans to earn a BS degree at Texas A&M and is interested in becoming a Land Surveyor.

HM1 Ryan Walter, USNR — Petty Officer Ryan Walter spent four years in the Marine Corp Reserve. In 2005, Ryan joined the Naval Reserve as a Hospital Corpsman serving with a Marine Corps infantry battalion. He was quickly deployed to Al Fallujah, Iraq and is currently a civilian Flight Paramedic. Ryan intends to complete his Bachelor's degree and then onto graduate school in medicine.

\$2,500 NERA Family Member Scholarships

Kyle Abernathy — Kyle is enrolled in an engineering program at the University of Nebraska. Inspired by the military service of his family members, he plans to pursue a commission in the US Navy. Kyle has expressed interested in the Civil Engineering Corps or the Nuclear Power Officer Candidate Program.

Daniel Corney — Daniel, a straight A student who ran varsity track, cross country and played football, hopes to attend MIT and become a nuclear engineer. He feels strongly that we must end our reliance on fossil fuels. Daniel believes that nuclear energy has many advantages and he hopes to be an innovator in this field.

Caleb Davis — Ranked 2 out of a class of 202, Caleb Davis is another high achiever that stood out from an extremely qualified group of applicants. Caleb will be attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will be studying biochemistry, Russian and is interested in intelligence work as a career.

Jessica Norwood — Jessica, in addition to maintaining exceptional grades throughout high school, lettered in varsity tennis and was the Secretary for her class council for two years. She achieved the Girl Scouts' highest "Gold" award and plans to pursue a Business Degree in Marketing. Jessica's sister was a recipient of this scholarship the last two years and NERA is very proud of this talented family.

Congratulations to all USAA/NERA scholarship winners!

The 2013–2014 Scholarship Committee:

Scholarship Chairman: CTRC Ward Wollesen

MCPO Forrest Croom

YNCS Ralph Hensley

PN1 Judith Minkin

YNCS Dwayne Mitchell

LIC David Nelson



San Francisco Hosts Battle of Midway Commemoration

By MCCS Bob Hansen, USN (Ret)

Seventy-one years ago, the United States Navy stopped the advance of the Imperial Japanese Navy at the Battle of Midway. The Battle of Midway, like the Battle of the Coral Sea exactly one month earlier, clearly demonstrated the importance of Naval Aviation in war since both battles were fought by carrier based aircraft with limited ship to ship engagements. Millard “Tom” Fuller, a Machinist Mate aboard the carrier YORKTOWN (CV-5) during both battles, still remembers those days when as an 18 year old sailor. He was wounded during the Battle of the Coral Sea after he shifted position during an enemy attack. His shipmates, who hadn’t moved were all killed. “Sometimes when it’s not your time, it’s just not your time,” he mused as he shared his experiences. The YORKTOWN was severely damaged in battle but, like Fuller, was able to play a major role during the Battle of Midway. Unfortunately, the battle damage was too great and the YORKTOWN (along with Fuller’s personal gear and uniforms) still lies at the bottom of the Pacific. Fuller helped salvage and went on to serve



GM1 Jeff Kendall, NOSC Alameda SELRES SOY, and MA2 Scott Kroes, NOSC Alameda SELRES JSOY. Chat with Battle of Midway Veteran LCDR Phil Horne in Marines Memorial Club library GM1 Kendall is also the Submarine Force Reserve Component Force Protection Sailor of the Year. Also pictured are VETS Millard “Tom” Fuller (left) and Oral “Slim” Moore.

aboard the Battleship WEST VIRGINIA (BB-48). With the WEST VIRGINIA he participated in the Battles of Leyte Gulf, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. The WEST VIRGINIA, with Fuller still aboard, had the honor of representing the battleships sunk at Pearl Harbor at the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay. Fuller left the Navy shortly after the war and now lives with his wife Sue in Saint George, Utah.



LCpl Matthew Morrow, Sgt David McDonald, II, LCpl Julian Valdez, M2 Helen De la Cruz, IT2 Tanya Noble are from Marine Corps Reserve Center, San Jose, and the Sailors are from NOSC San Jose. (Photo by William Schultz, San Francisco Battle of Midway Celebration Committee).

Color guard consisted of Marines and Sailors in honor of General Richard Hearney, USMC, (Ret) the guest speaker at this year’s Battle of Midway celebration.

Another Midway Veteran attending was Oral “Slim” Moore who was an Aviation Radioman Third Class Tail Gunner during the Battle. Moore was at the center of one of the battle’s more noteworthy incidents when he and his pilot spotted the enemy cruisers MIKUMA and MOGAMI. Their discovery enabled our Navy to send the MIKUMA to the bottom of the ocean and severely damage the MOGAMI.

Also attending was Lieutenant Commander Phil Horne. Horne was as a pilot of a scout plane assigned to the USS NEW ORLEANS (CA-32) and had a ringside seat to the Battle.

“Twice a year, we will pause as a navy to reflect upon our proud heritage and to build in all hands a renewed awareness of our tradition and history,” Johnson said.

San Francisco has hosted a celebratory dinner in honor of our victory at Midway for 16 consecutive years. In 1999, then Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jay L. Johnson announced that beginning with the 2000 observance, the Battle of Midway would become as significant as the Navy’s Birthday in October. “Twice a year, we will pause



as a navy to reflect upon our proud heritage and to build in all hands a renewed awareness of our tradition and history,” Johnson said. Sailors and Marines from NOSC Alameda and NOSC San Jose provided the color guard and acted as personal “aides” for the Veterans while picking up some heritage.

The President of the Mess for the 2013 Commemorative Dinner was RADM Winston Copeland, USN (Ret). The Guest Speaker was General Richard Hearney, USMC (Ret). In addition to the veterans, family members of deceased veterans attended and were recognized during the dinner.

(Bob Hansen is a member of the Battle of Midway Commemoration Committee for the San Francisco). ■



HM2 Helen De la Cruz, NOSC SJ color guard, and AE1 Raymond Panganiban, NOSC San Jose FTS SOY



MA2 Scott Kroes, NOSC Alameda JSOY and Miss Cortnie Locke



Deployed Sailors Supporting Army Medicine in Germany

Story by CMDCM (FMF) Ron Naida



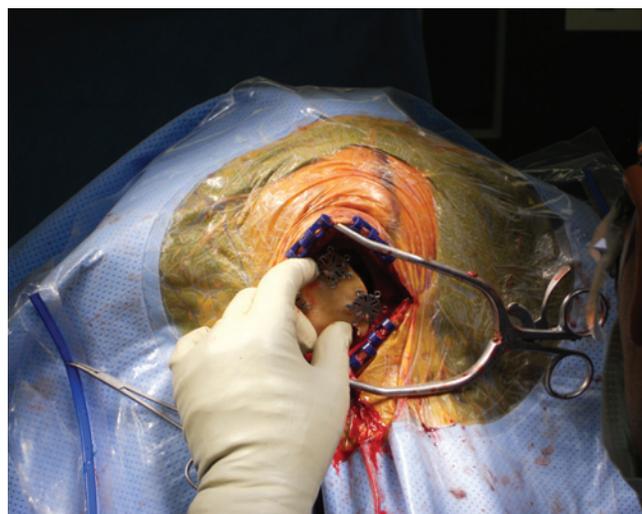
Before surgery: Senior Chief Chris Velasco (middle) with CAPT Edwardo Munoz (L) and CDR Kendall Lee. Both Munoz (a Nurse Anesthetist) and Lee are Navy Reservists from Expeditionary Medical Facility Great Lakes One. Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida.

What do an active duty Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer and an American contractor have in common? Both received potentially lifesaving neurosurgery by a team of Navy Reservists in Germany at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC). LRMC is an overseas military hospital operated by the United States Army. It is the largest U.S. military hospital outside of the continental United States.

CDR Kendall Lee, a Navy Reservist and neurosurgeon out of Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, invited me to observe two recent intense surgeries. He led a group of military surgeons and fellow Navy Reservists through a tumor removal from the brain of a Senior Chief, and the removal of a bullet from the spine of an American contractor who was medevac'd from Afghanistan.

Senior Chief Chris Velasco had his retirement ceremony on June 13, 2013. While conducting a routine full physical upon retirement, a bottle cap size tumor resting upon the center of Chris' brain was discovered in an MRI. Lucky for Chris, he and his family would be in Landstuhl, Germany

where deployed Navy Reservist and one of the top US neurosurgeons, CDR Lee would operate on him. Less than four days after the surgery, Chris, his wife JoAnn, and son Seth, would return home to Chula Vista, California.



Chris Velasco's skull plate being secured after the successful removal of a brain tumor. Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida

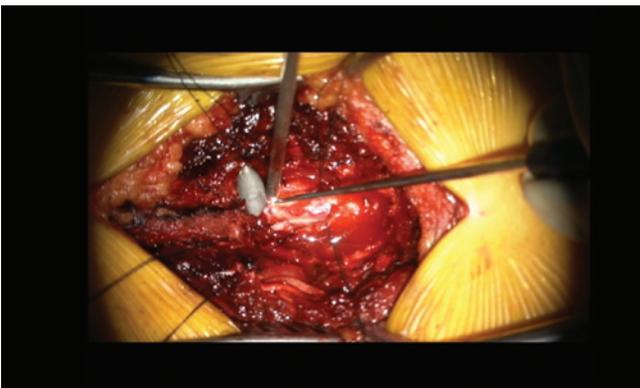


HM1 Veronica Brown and HM2 Josh Nihiser hold a tray while CDR Kendall Lee displays the bullet removed from a patient's spine.
Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida



HM2 Josh Nihiser, a Navy Reservist from Expeditionary Medical Facility Great Lakes One, prepares instruments while fellow reservist, HM1 Veronica Brown assists surgeons with patient prep.
Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida

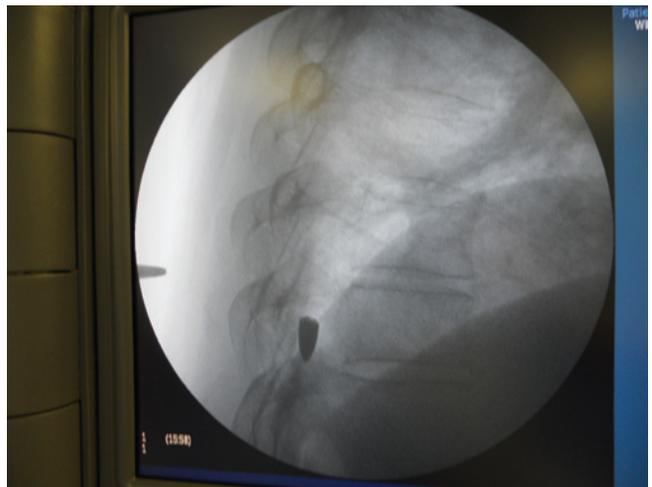
CDR Kendall Lee... led a group of military surgeons and fellow Navy Reservists through a tumor removal from the brain of a Senior Chief, and the removal of a bullet from the spine of an American contractor.



Bullet being removed from the spinal column.

Five days later, the evening of July 3rd, CDR Lee's skills would be called upon again. This time his services were needed for an American contractor who was shot in Afghanistan. The bullet was lodged between the dura and spinal cord. Miraculously, the patient did not suffer any neurologic deficit before the surgery. Nevertheless, the bullet had to be removed to ensure he would not suffer paralysis.

Assisting CDR Lee with the bullet removal was LTC Brett Freedman, an active duty Army spinal surgeon, and fellow



Location of the bullet in the spine of an American contractor.
Photo by CMDCM Ron Naida

reservists HM1 Veronica Brown and HM2 Josh Nihiser, both Operating Room Technicians. The medical team successfully removed the bullet and the patient is recovering at LRMC.

All in a day's work for deployed Navy Reservists. ■



BEQUEST FORM

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.” ■



TAPS

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.

RM1 Marvin Adcock
ETCM Larry E. Briggs
CDR Robert J. Buffa
BT2 Leslie Brown
ADR1 Ramiro Gonzalez
RM2 Fredrick L. Hatten

Leo J. Milobar
League Island
AR Vulcan
Floyd Bennett
Floyd Bennett
St. Cloud

CWO3 Robert J. Hammond
OS1(SS) Thomas E. Hopely
MMC G. William Pease
BU1 Russell Rosberg
AMSC Arthur H. Wulf

Greater Lehigh Valley
League Island
West Virginia M.A.L.
Leo J. Milobar
Floyd Bennett



“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
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