2008 WINTER EDITION

THE MARINER

VOLUME 51, NO 4 THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

Story on Page 25

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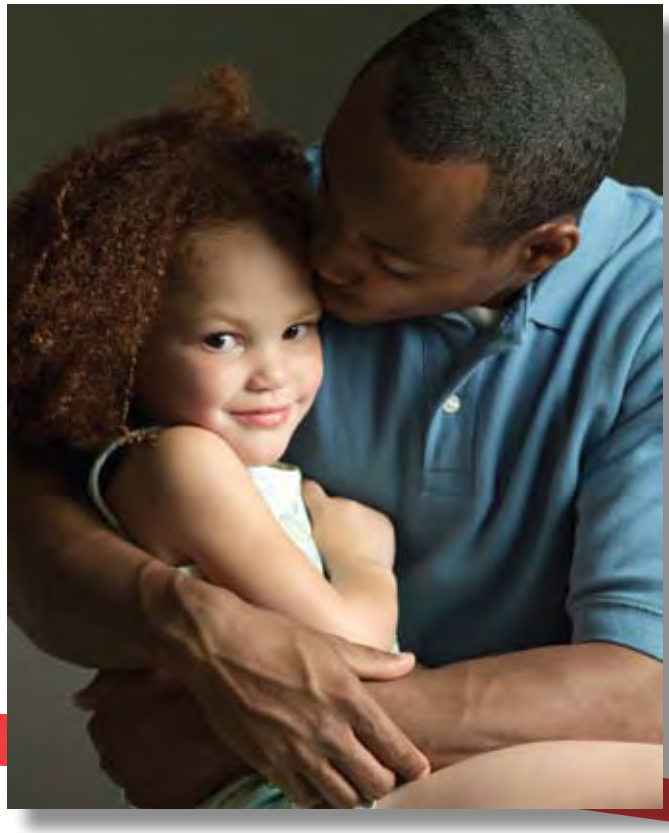

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THE MARINER

"Not For Self But For Country"

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, Secretary of the Navy the Honorable Dr. Donald C. Winter, Blue team commanding officer Cmdr. Don Gabrielson participate in the commissioning ceremony for the USS Freedom.
U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiffini M. Jones

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Cover: Marine Daniel Gilleot displays the Purple Heart he was awarded following the combat injuries he received fighting in the global war on terrorism. Photo couttesy of the Wounded Warrior Project.

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 arethey 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 Farrragut 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 Joanne Elliott

As I look back at 2008, I am thrilled when I think about all that NERA has accomplished. Four years ago, Penny Padour asked me to become her Deputy Executive Director. We hit the ground running and over the past four years, the NERA team has grown and evolved. Where once it was myself, then Nick and I working to improve the Mariner we now have a fabulous team thanks to the addition of Brian and Ron. Each issue reflects their hard work and dedication. Our website continues to improve and Jennifer and Steve work hard to keep the information updated on the system. We are working on revising the NERA video and it is on my major "To-Do" list for the coming year. The power point presentation is already in the works.

Nick, Gene and now Vincent have come up with great ideas to build new Chapters and rejuvenate or relocate others. I will let them fill you in with the details. However, we do need all of you to pitch in and help –by calling Nick, Gene, or Vincent and volunteering your help or by recruiting at least one new member. That member can either be a regular or an associate. If you're not close to a NOSC, then recruit your friends, relatives or co-workers to join as associate members. The more members we have, the easier our work will be when we approach Congress with our requests.

Vincent recently networked with "Together We Serve" and NERA will now have a link through their website. NERA members will be sent invitations to join the Together We Serve website and will be given a code to enter. For every new member they obtain from NERA, they will send us $5. Check out their website at www.togetherweserve.com.

Although we missed many of our members at the Conference, it was a great success. Colin Younger made an announcement that because of our NERA members (and he still has the names) who have pushed him for the past four years to allow Retirees to be entitled to participate in USAA's various programs, USAA has heeded the call and as of August 8, 2008, Retirees and their immediate dependants can now apply.

The hospitality that was given to NERA by CDR Brett Korade at the NOSC in Orlando was outstanding. He graciously provided us with space to host the Senior Enlisted Panel discussion. SGTMAJ Davis, FORCM Wright, and MCPO Smith all gave great presentations and answered many questions from the enlisted present.

By the time you read this letter, Steve and Gene will have attended the Family Day at the NOSC in Phoenix, Arizona. Yet another door opened!!!

The Delaware Valley Chapter has taken a page from Lehigh Valley's book and we are utilizing the Lottery Calendars as a fundraiser. They are working out extremely well and we now have funds to provide SOY awards for our NOSC, as well as continuing to contribute to the CPOA Bag of Chow and the Marines Toys for Tots. If you are interested in finding out more, give myself or Marianne Mosher a shout.

We continue to work with The Military Coalition to push for benefits for our enlisted, as well as ensuring that we do not lose the benefits that we have fought so hard to attain. We are continuing to work with sailors on med hold that need our assistance to ensure timely care. We are now encountering problems with those who have been demobilized and are awaiting assistance through the VA. Many are waiting for increases in their disability ratings. Others are trying to get approval for Social Security Disability or unemployment benefits. They have gone through their savings and are now in danger of losing their homes. If you know anyone encountering these problems, please have them call me so I can get them assistance.

I hope to hear from all of you during the New Year. Don't forget to get your Chapter Reports to National by February.

Joanne and National Past-President Chuck Sherrick
Photo by Timm Duckworth

FROM YOUR VP

WOW! What a great 51st Annual National Conference in Orlando this year! A Special thanks to all who made this event a success! The photo is from the same conference. It is me and Executive Director Steve Sandy making plans to quadruple NERA membership in 2009.

Now let's talk about one of my favorite programs! We now have 59 NEW Life Benefactors! This shows that NERA's members are committed to success. All new members' names will be listed in every Mariner since we believe that you are the true backbone of NERA. We appreciate you for supporting us in this most important program. Life Benefactors are, and will continue to be, an integral component of NERA's continued growth. I'd like to set a goal of at least 200 new members by the end of next year. This number represents roughly 2% of the Life Members who joined prior to 1997. As a reminder, if you joined as a Life Member prior to 1997 the money you paid in is gone. These funds were used to pay back rebates to your chapter, which have now been stopped. You are receiving the Mariner, but the Mariner costs us $48,000 annually to print and mail. Please join our new Life Benefactor program so NERA can thrive for another 50+ years!

Next, I announced the 1st Annual Victory Challenge at this year's National Conference. Here is the information I promised you. This program will recognize excellence in recruiting instead of awarding chapters based on size. The program will run from 1 Sep 2008 through 1 Oct 2009.

Gold Level Awardee: NERA's Recruiter of the Year will be recognized at the next Annual National Conference awards luncheon. In addition, he or she will also receive a brick set in place at NERA's Memorial Walkway and inscribed with the following: NERA 2009 Recruiter of the Year (along with the winner's name). The winner will also receive 15 of NERA's new Twice the Citizen coins. Finally, he or she will be presented with a $250.00 check card from one of our marketing partners.

Silver Level Awardee: Will receive 10 of NERA's new Twice the Citizen coins and will be presented a $150.00 check card from one of our marketing partners.

Bronze Level Awardee: Will receive 5 of NERA's new Twice the Citizen coins to give out to new prospective members and be presented a $100.00 check card from one of our marketing partners.

Finally….My wife asked me what I wanted for Christmas and I told her I wanted a NERA brick with our family name on it, a Harley ticket and a new NERA coin! She said, "But I already bought you a Life Benefactor as a gift!" I know it's so sad when I live, eat and think NERA. More next quarter!

NERA Nick

Steve Sandy and Nick Marine at the 51st Annual NERA National Conference in Orlando. Photo by Timm Duckworth

Editor's Note:

Wow! It has been 3 months- lots have happened since the last issue. World affairs do impact our little nub of the world; sometimes we do not know just what that impact will be until it is happening. We will have a new president (Barack Obama), terrorism is impinging on more countries around the globe (India), economic conditions continue to befuddle and depress the (worldwide) market, global warming…the jury is still out on that one, and NERA had its 51st National Conference.

How does all this affect NERA? First and foremost, we are a nation of concerned citizens. We get involved because it is in our nature. Our diverse population and love of freedom drives our compassion for our fellow man's welfare; especially when that fellow man is a relative, neighbor, or close friend. Anybody who says "what their neighbor does is their business" ought to step back and analyze those very words. Ever live next to a neighbor who does not keep up their yard or home? It brings the whole neighborhood down. The neighbor's weeds become your weeds and eventually affect your property value. Sometimes that neighbor's home is in disrepair because the homeowner has lost their job or, due to an unforeseen physical disability, lost the ability to maintain their home. So what should be done? The neighborly thing -- lend a hand.

Now, more than ever, non-profit organizations such as NERA need to continue their drive to exist. This is nearly a paradoxical statement. How can I give when times are uncertain? Two words come to mind: Sacrifice and Action. Sacrifice: time and/or resources. Action: doing something to achieve a purpose. NERA is our organization. Our purpose is to help those with a shared commonality; service and sacrifice for country, past and present. Military service members and their families benefit from non-profit veteran's organizations such as NERA. That benefit would not exist if NERA members declined to take action and make sacrifices.

Our country's diversity and protection of each of our citizen's welfare, no matter what their ethnicity and values, is why our nation is involved. Today's military, particularly the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard, continue to reflect our nation's cultural diversity. In maintaining good order and discipline, our military recognized that diversity and made it a point to eliminate prejudice and play upon our strengths. It is a strength that our leaders continue to recognize and take advantage of. Our reserve force effectively adds an additional distinct factor to that equation.

This leads me to a final thought --Optimism. National heroes of the past, our most identifiable forefathers, had dreams that continue to come true. If Martin Luther King Jr. told us he would die in pursuit of equality and justice, he may have opened his famous speech with "I had a nightmare" and we may not have advanced human rights to where we are today. If Abraham Lincoln was only worried about his constituent's opinion of his performance so that he could be reelected, he would not have obsessed with holding together One Nation, Under God and we may not be a United States today. If George Washington's intentions were self-serving, he could have been king of the 13 United States and we would have failed to grow and prosper into the greatest country in world. When we remain optimistic and combine action and sacrifice, we will persevere as a nation.

In and out of the military, NERA members are involved. Your concerns are our concerns. With an unbiased hand, reach out to a neighbor in need, get involved, dedicate time and resources to those less fortunate, and remain optimistic that your efforts will make a positive impact and extend hope to fruition.

As Shakespeare said: ***Stand not upon the order of your going, / But go at once.***
I say***: Make it so.***
Ron Naida

Ron Naida at the 51st NERA National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 14, 2008. Photo By Timm Duckworth

Faces of NERA

During Family Day at NOSC Phoenix on December 13th, QM1 Stoddard, USN Recruiter for NRRS Phoenix East, spoke with NERA National VP Nick Marine. Photo by Lynn Valverde.

SKCS Rena Estes and LCDR Lew Katz, both born in 1926, were the oldest vets at the Navy Ball. Rena is Secretary of Br 101, Fleet Reserve Association, and Lew is a docent at the Moffett Museum. Both served at NAS Moffett Field at one point or another during their careers. Photo by MCCS Bob Hansen (ret.)

LTJG Jon Burrow reunites with wife Alexis and mother Patricia at O'Hare Airport on Dec 11, 2008. Jon was deployed with the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq for 15 months as the Force Protection Officer. Photo by Ron Naida

NERA National Counselor Gene McCarthy, NERA National VP Nick Marine and RDML Patty Wolfe, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Fleet Supply and Ordnance, U.S. Pacific Fleet, meet at Family Day at NOSC Phoenix. Photo by Lynn Valverde.

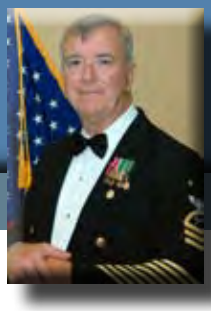
Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (SW/FMF) Joe Campa joins SK1 (SW) Jorge Vargas of NOSC Alameda at a Navy Ball held put on by the Moffett and NRD Chief Petty Officer's Associations and the First Class Associations of NOSC Alameda and NOSC San Jose. Photo by MCCS Bob Hansen (ret.)

LTJG Jon Burrow in Iraq spreading Goodwill to the locals. Oct 2008.

Jon Burrow, standing with his wife Alexis, is welcomed home by members of his hometown Police and Fire Department of Bartlett, IL (Dec. 11, 2008). Photo by Ron Naida

NERA past presidents Hank Inglese and Chuck Sherrick are compared to their photos on a Nov-Dec 1985 Mariner magazine at the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 16, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

Background photo provided by: John M. Duran Jr. YN1, VP U.S.S. Constitution Chapter "Christmas 2008 in Kuwait"



Executive Director's Message

The inauguration of the President of the United States of America takes place in a few weeks and the 44th President will be sworn into office. I'm often asked (sometimes with a raised eyebrow) what do you think of our new President? My response... He is the President of the United States of America and, no matter whom I voted for, or political party I'm affiliated with, he is my President. There is a reason for this deduction, it's based on a pledge that I've taken since I was old enough to stand and place my right hand over my heart. It goes like this:

I pledge allegiance... to the flag of the United States of America... and to the Republic... for which it stands... one Nation... under God... indivisible... with Liberty and Justice... for all.

I like to break it down this way because as we debate the sanctity of the flag or whether "under God" should be part of the pledge, we sometimes lose sight of

Executive Director Damage Control Master Chief Petty Officer Steve Sandy compliments first winner of the President's Award Patricia Hicks during the 51st NERA National Conference in Orlando. Photo By Timm Duckworth

the fact that, we pledge our allegiance, to the Republic for which the flag stands, we are one Nation, we as a people are indivisible and we guarantee Liberty and Justice for all. So if we truly believe in this simple pledge and all it represents… isn't he our president. Not the Democrats or Republicans, but

"Our President."

As we enter this new presidential era, I would like to briefly make you aware of some of the numerous proposals to congress that NERA is supporting. Below is a selection (not comprehensive) of these that affect the Guard and Reserve most directly. Please contact NERA for more specific information about these and others.

- Change Guard and Reserve retirement so it covers those that have served since 9/11.
- Improve education benefits for Guard and Reserve to more closely reflect those of the Active Component.
- Reduce the rates charged for Tricare Reserve Select (TRS) and give "gray area" retires an opportunity to buy into TRS.
- Improve and fund Wounded Warrior and Seamless Transition programs for activated Guard and Reserve and Their Families.
- Give full Veteran status for Guard and Reserve Retirees.
- Update and improve the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) to cover tuition paid to a college or university
- Expand the protection provided by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Act (USERRA).
- Family support programs that meet the needs of Guard and Reserve families.
- We urge Congress to maintain and increase Guard and Reserve Force end strengths, and provide funding for their equipment and training.
- Restore tax-deductibility for non reimbursed expenses for training.
- Expand tax credits for employers of the Guard and Reserve.
- Improve the Reserve Compensation System.

On other fronts, NERA has entered the 21st Century! Check out our Facebook page as well as the NERA blog edited by me and maintained by the National Headquarters staff. You can find the links to these websites on the right side of the homepage

at www.nera.org. Make comments, vote on issues and interact with other "bloggers." There is no need to register for Facebook or the NERA blog to view the pages (but you do need to register to make a comment). Both are updated frequently with current information affecting both NERA members and the nation as a whole. Past issues include: Tricare, the bailout, Obama's presidency and Veteran's Day as a national holiday. By creating these pages, it is one way NERA can reach out to a younger generation. We hope you will join us in our discussions and vote on what is important to you. If you have trouble viewing or registering on the pages, please contact Laura or Jennifer at NERA Headquarters, (703) 534-1329.

On a personal note: As many of you know Mary and I lost our youngest child Michael Jebediah on November 16, 2008, and we would like to thank you all for your prayers, and letters of support. Mike was 28 years old, six foot six and 230 lbs. He was a gentle giant with a contagious smile who lit up the room when he ducked his head and stepped inside. I worried about Mike because at 28 he didn't fit my definition of success, you know, job, home, start a family. Mike graduated from high school and then proceeded through a hundred jobs and adventures. If the occupation didn't suit him he would quickly cast it aside and look for the next—carpenter, electrician, plumber, he even had a job with a traveling animal show. He volunteered as a tour guide for a group of priests and nuns on a trip to Turkey, he coached little league baseball and the kids loved him. He considered the military and I worried. Mike lived at home most of the time, so there was plenty of time for fatherly lectures; me talking and Mike listening. Then Mike met a girl, found a job he loved, and was planning on moving into a home of his own. Our worries were over; all the lectures had paid off. Then the call came that Sunday morning: our little Mikey had died in his sleep, for no apparent reason. At the wake a few days later we listened as several hundred people, young and old, told us how Mike had touched their lives: how he would tell a joke, crack a smile or swoop them up in a gentle bear hug and take away their worries, stress or anger. They said he was a true friend that was always there when you needed him, someone to listen or a ride home. When we asked for pallbearers, fifty lined up for the honor. In his death, Mike taught me that the true test of a man's success is not his possessions... but the friends he leaves behind and that I should talk less and listen more. My advice to those with children...love without conditions...listen to every word and.. .linger until they are out of sight... for we don't know how long we will have them.

The phone just rang. It's one of Mike's friends who needs our truck to pick up the family Christmas trees.

Of course I'll help, that's what Mike would do.

In this Season of Joy, remember those who are serving and their families.

May your holidays be blessed with love, hope and joy.

Steve and Mary Sandy

NERA Memorial Walk

The NERA Memorial Walk campaign is off to a great start! Join Deputy Assistant Navy Secretary Fred Davidson and other NERA members in purchasing your brick on the walk today!

The Memorial Walk will be prominently displayed in front of NERA Headquarters, surrounding a lighted flagpole. Memorialize a shipmate, family or even yourself by custom engraving a brick to your specifications . For each brick purchased, a commemorative certificate will be sent to you.

Pave the way for NERA's future today!

Send in your check ($100 each brick) to NERA Headquarters, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042
Go to www.nera.org for a Brick Order Form
Or call Laura Martin 703/534-1329 for more information.

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Help for Homeless Veterans

By YNC Courtenay Nold, USNR

Many people who hear about homeless veterans ask, "How can a veteran become homeless?" The sad truth is that veterans become homeless on a daily basis due to lack of affordable housing, substance abuse, family problems, unemployment and mental illness, including post-traumatic stress disorder.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans reports that there are as many as 900 veterans who are homeless in the Indianapolis metropolitan area; more than 4,000 in the entire state; and over 200,000 homeless veterans nationally with "an estimated 500,000 veterans experiencing homelessness at some time during the year".

One such organization, HVAF of Indiana, Inc. has been working in this capacity since 1993. The organization started with one house and five beds for homeless veterans, and has grown to provide 150 veterans with a place to call home. HVAF currently has 128 beds at 13 supportive housing sites and an additional 22 beds in a substance abuse treatment housing program. Over the past year, HVAF has provided 22,516 individual services to 3,407 individuals (veterans, family and children).

Programs focused on helping homeless veterans must address the root causes of homelessness in order to be effective, beginning with the lack of safe and affordable housing.

As examples, HVAF provides the following:

- The Residential, Employment and Substance Abuse (REST) Program: REST is a supportive, recovery-dynamics based housing program for homeless veterans whose primary goal is to maintain sobriety while obtaining employment and permanent housing. Veterans receive individual and group counseling, psycho-educational classes and intensive case management.

- Special Needs/Vet to Vet Program: intensive case management and housing services to 24 homeless veterans with chronic mental illness diagnoses. The Special Needs staff includes two full-time Masters of Social Work and two Peer Counselors who are formerly homeless veterans. The Vet to Vet support group meetings are held every day. In-depth case management is provided, focusing on assisting the 24 veterans in making a positive reintegration into the community while learning to manage their mental health issues.

- Raymond E. Childress Veterans Service Center: on-site supportive services for homeless and near homeless veterans. Services include food, clothing, personal hygiene items, household goods, drop-in shower facilities, transportation, housing assistance, employment assistance, and financial benefits counseling.

- Outreach: Peer Outreach Workers canvass the city streets and shelters for homeless veterans, providing them with food, clothing and personal hygiene items and assisting them in obtaining safe, supportive housing. Outreach workers are formerly homeless veterans.

If you would like to help homeless veterans through HVAF of Indiana, Inc. or would like more information on their programs, please contact them at:

HVAF of Indiana, Inc.
964 North Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: 317-951-0688
Fax: 317-95-0811
E-mail: hvaf@hvaf.org
Web site: www.hvaf.org

HVAF believes that no American, especially a veteran, should ever be homeless.
What do you believe?

From the Force Master Chief

Allow me to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to NERA for the invitation to attend your 51st National Conference in Orlando Florida. I was excited to visit with the Sailors and Marines who attended the Saturday morning event at the Navy Operational Support Command Orlando. We all benefited greatly as we listened to the words of wisdom from SGTMAJ Davis, USMC, and MCPO Smith, USCG. It was a beautiful day.

Happy 233rd Birthday! We recently celebrated our Navy's birthday and took the time to look back at our impressive history and consider how it has shaped us into the Navy that we are today. This year's theme was focused on the 100 year anniversary of the "Great White Fleet ". The deployment of sixteen American ships painted white, manned with 14 thousand Sailors and Marines who traveled to six continents in 14 months and made 20 port calls a century ago signaled our emergence as a world power and provided a diplomatic message of peace and partnership to countries around the globe.

Our Navy's past is tightly woven to our current mission, and continues to shape our Navy's future.
For those currently serving, the Chief of Naval Operations published the Maritime Strategy entitled, "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower." Our strategy centers on six core capabilities: Forward Presence, Deterrence, Sea Control, Power Projection, Maritime Security and Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response. During your career, where do you see yourself as part of the six capabilities? I am confident that you could place yourself in each of the six at any given time.

After standing numerous mid-watches, you know that whether we are a country at war or at peace, we are a persistent global presence. The Navy is on watch 24/7.

People are the key to our success … culturally diverse Sailors execute the missions that support today's global economies and free trade through an international maritime presence.
It is assumed that many Sailors come from primarily our coastal states, but now more than ever they hail from the heartland of our great country. Our Sailors are more reflective of our country's make up in terms of race, gender and religion, and I feel we are a stronger, more relevant Navy.

As we enter the Holiday Season and celebrate with our families and friends, please remember your fellow service personnel who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, by keeping their families as well as the volunteer service members from our sister services currently deployed around the globe in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy Holidays
FORCM Ronney A. Wright
United States Navy Reserve Force

Navy Reserve Force Master Chief Ronney Wright speaks to reservists at the Navy Operational Support Center Orlando during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 18, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

51st Annual NERA Conference, Orlando, Florida

NERA held its 51st annual conference on October 14-19, 2008, in Orlando, Florida.

Along with the outstanding weather and well organized schedule of events, our host hotel, The Holiday Inn, Maingate East, was the perfect background for meetings and social outings. With over 60 attendees, the diverse group meshed well and we had a strong showing from many of the NERA Chapters across the country. Many familiar faces welcomed some newcomers and comments like, "this is my first NERA Conference, but it won't be my last" seemed to be a common sentiment.

Members of NERA in attendance at the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 19, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

The crux of the meetings began at 0745 and typically ended by 1400 giving the attendees plenty of time to enjoy the local theme parks and attractions. There were a significant number who simply chose to relax by the pools and soak up the warm October sun. We were entertained one afternoon by BU1 Fred Leppig (ret) when he showed his strength by performing multiple pushups, sailor style. If a seventy-something year old man can do it, our current serving young-ones should be able to as well!

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference visit to Navy Operational Support Center Orlando, October 18, 2008. Photo by Ray Robson.

Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Orlando went well with over 250 sailors and Marines in attendance. Speakers included the Senior Enlisted Leaders from the Navy Reserve Force- FORCM Ronney Wright, Marine Forces Reserves- SgtMaj Kim Davis, and Coast Guard Reserve Force- MCPO Jeff Smith.

U. S. Coast Guard Reserve Person of the Year, Health Services Technician Chief Petty Officer Victor M. Ramirez, from Marine Safety Unit Port Arthur, Texas, at NOSC Orlando's Senior Enlisted Call during NERA's National Conference (October 18, 2008). Photo by Timm Duckworth

Honorable Thomas F. Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs speaks on Reserve Affairs at the 51st NERA National Conference in Orlando, Florida (October 15, 2008).
Secretary Hall is a retired two-star Rear Admiral having served almost 34 years of continuous active duty in the United States Navy. His final military assignment was as the Commander/Director/Chief of Naval Reserve. He was accompanied by Sergeant Major Joseph A. Staudt USMCR, the Senior Enlisted Advisor assigned to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.
Photo by Ray Robson.

The NERA Executive Council gets sworn in by NERA National Past-President Chuck Sherrick during the Installation Banquet at the National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 18, 2008. Photo by Ray Robson.

Builder First Class USNR (Ret.) Fred Leppig at NOSC Orlando's Senior Enlisted Call during NERA's National Conference (October 18, 2008). Photo by Timm Duckworth

Marine Corps Reserve Command Sergeant Major Kim E. Davis speaks to reservists along with Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Reserve Forces Jeffrey D. Smith at the Navy Operational Support Center Orlando during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 18, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

Petty Officer First Class Figueroa checks paperwork during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 19, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

NERA's Marianne E. Mosher handles the rush after NOSC Orlando's Senior Enlisted Call during NERA's National Conference (October 18, 2008). Photo by Ray Robson.

Attendees of the Installation Banquet/Dinner Dance at the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 18, 2008. Clockwise starting from the empty chair- Paul Smurawski, Jim Premeske, Diana Premeske, Brenda Janey, Betty Fugazi, Dorothy Texidor, Heidi Oertley, Delores Rucker, Francis Heywood, and Joe Rendon. Photo by Ray Robson

Wounded Warrior Project

By Brian Brannon

Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Guardians continue to go into harm's way as the war on terror continues into its seventh year. Most return in one piece, ready to be reunited with their families and friends, but others have endured severe injuries that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives. Helping these brave warfighters adjust once they've come home is the goal of The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP).

WWP Executive Director John Melia served in the Marines before joining the Maryland National Guard. He was injured after his helicopter crashed off the coast of Somalia. Melia felt the need to provide care and comfort items to other wounded servicemembers.

Marine Daniel Gilleot pauses beside an ongoing automotive project. The Wounded Warrior Project aids and assists severely injured servicemembers as they return and adjust to civilian life. Photo courtesy of the Wounded Warrior Project.

"In 2002, along with my family, I purchased these items for severely wounded soldiers returning from the war on terrorism, packed them into backpacks in the basement of our home, and hand-delivered them to patients at their bedside at Walter Reed Medical Center: Wounded Warrior Project was born," Melia said. "Today, Wounded Warrior Project provides programs and services that include benefits and career counseling, adaptive sports and educational opportunities, advocacy initiatives, career and employment assistance, and more, to aid in the transition from a hospital bed to an independent and productive life."

Since its humble beginnings, WWP has delivered almost 13,000 packages. The project provides programs and services to wounded warriors and helps them aid and assist each other. In addition, raising awareness and enlisting the public's support for the needs of severely injured service men and women are additional goals of the organization.

WWP does not differentiate between services, or Active and Reserve components. All wounded servicemembers are treated with honor, respect and dignity regardless of their affiliation, as the organization helps them adjust to living with their injuries.

Though Melia keeps no record of what percentage of Active Duty versus Reservists receive assistance from his organization, he continues to see the commitment and sacrifices all are making. "The Guard and Reserves are being called upon in ways that we have never before seen and WWP stands ready to assist these brave men and women who have so ably answered their nation's call," he said.

In his "Rat-Pac Report" podcast on Nov. 19, Adm. Robert F. Willard, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet said the ongoing war on terrorism requires Navy medical professionals to continue to serve the wounded in the field and in hospital beds.

"We've achieved remarkable advances in Navy medicine, in military medicine across the board," said Adm. Robert F. Willard. "Our corpsmen are serving forward and are a community that has given a great deal of themselves in support of the Marine Corps and just in general terms in support of the ongoing war fight. And, our hospital facilities have been busier than ever, as is true anytime that we're at war."

Although military medical personnel do everything they can to attend to the needs of those in their care, wounded warriors still must adjust to an entirely different set of circumstances upon their release. This is where the Wounded Warrior Project comes in with a multitude of different programs. Soldier Ride is a rehabilitative long distance cycling program that began when Chris Carney from Long Island, New York, rode coast to coast. Warriors to Work helps injured servicemembers build careers and transition to the civilian workforce. And the TRACK program grants scholarships that cover all class fees, books and materials, while providing a laptop and individual housing and living expenses for a 12-month period.

"Wounded Warriors face numerous challenges that go beyond the physical wounds they may have received," Melia says. "The mind, body and spirit have all gone through trauma and WWP works to heal the entire warrior."

The TRACK program in particular received high marks from Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield. Classes are provided through Florida Community College at Jacksonville and credit can be applied toward a bachelor's, associate degree, or vocational certificate. Following the coursework, veterans enter an employment internship with local employers in Jacksonville, in the fields of IT, general business, and logistics.

"I was impressed with the innovation of the TRACK program," Mansfield said. "With a motivated set of students, and a dedicated staff, these troops have a plan for a quick recovery and reintegration in society. This is the kind of work that the VA can and should do with interested groups such as Wounded Warrior Project. I want to emphasize how impressed I was with the total concept."

Serving an important place in the fabric of American society as it helps severely injured servicemembers find their stride; the Wounded Warrior Project continues to reach out to those who made great sacrifices in the service of their country. Public response to the program has been tremendous, demonstrating that Americans have not forgotten those who fight for freedom.

"Our supporters, friends and donors have grown dramatically over the years as the American public has clearly learned from the mistakes made in the past," Melia said. "People understand that it's not about the war but about the warrior and that we must take care of our wounded regardless of our politics or feelings about the ongoing conflicts. The battles for the wounded will continue for a lifetime and we will need the public's continued help throughout the years ahead."

For more information, visit www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

TIPS & CLIPS

By Joanne Elliott NERA President

CNO Selects Fleet Master Chief Rick West to Serve as U.S. Navy's 12th MCPON

Release Date: 12/5/2008 5:39:00 PM
By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW) Rebekah Blowers, Chief of Naval Operations Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) -- The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO), Adm. Gary Roughead announced his selection of Fleet Master Chief (FLTCM) (SS/SW) Rick D. West, as the 12th Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) in NAVADMIN 349, dated Dec. 5.

The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy serves as an advisor to the Chief of Naval Operations and to the Chief of Naval Personnel in matters of importance to enlisted personnel and their families. The MCPON is also an advisor to the many boards focused on enlisted personnel issues; is the enlisted representative of the Department of the Navy at special events; may be called upon to testify on enlisted personnel issues before Congress; and, maintains a liaison with enlisted spouse organizations.

WASHINGTON (Aug. 12, 2008) Fleet Master Chief Rick West answers questions during an interview at the U.S. Navy Memorial before a free summer "Concert on the Avenue" performance by the Navy. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jennifer A. Villalovos

Military Retiree Cola: is set at 5.8% for FY 2009, which should be reflected in the December retirement direct deposit you will receive in January 2009. This is the largest COLA since 1982.

TRICARE will reduce the rates for TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS): Monthly premiums for TRS individual coverage will drop 44% from $81.00 to $47.51, and TRS family coverage will drop 29% from $253.00 to $180.17.

VA Hikes Mileage Reimbursement: The mileage reimbursement rate for travel to medical treatment facilities operated by the Dept. of VA is now 41.5 cents a mile (up from 28.5). Veterans with service-connected disabilities, who receive pensions, or meet low-income criteria are eligible for the increase, which took effect Nov. 17. The deductibles for certain mileage reimbursements will remain at $7.77 for one-way and $15.54 for round-trip visits and capped at $46.62 per calendar month. On Jan. 9, these deductibles will drop to $3 for one-way trips, $6 for round trips, and $16 per calendar month. In cases of hardship, the fees may be waived altogether.

Partial Reimbursement of Burial Expenses: When the cause of death is not service-related, VA may be able to pay two modest allowances – one for burial and funeral expenses; and one for the cemetery plot. The VA can pay a reimbursement only if the expenses have not been reimbursed by another government agency or some other source. To check for eligibility requirements call 1-800-827-1000 or visit https://iris.va.gov and search the Frequently Asked Questions. To complete an application use VA Form 21-530 "Application for Burial Benefits." You can download the form at http://www.va.gov.vaforms.

Background photo of canon at Gettysburg National Park by Ron Naida

Home Loan Regular Refinance: If you are a veteran (including Reserve and National Guard called to active duty), Current Reserve and Guard members (with at least 6 years of service); active duty, and certain surviving spouses, you can refinance your current loan, whether it's a VA guaranteed mortgage or not. The new loan is usually limited to 90% of the appraised value of the house. You will need a Certificate of Eligibility to apply (download form VA Form 26-1880). Complete it and mail it with your DD-214 to VA Loan Eligibility Center, P.O. Box 20729, Winston-Salem, NC 27120. Once you get your Certificate of Eligibility, take it to your Lender.

Respite Care: VA medical centers can give the veteran's caregiver (family member or friend) a "break" by taking over the veteran's care for a limited time for up to 30 days in a calendar year. Additional days may be given due to unforeseen difficulties. For more information visit http://www.va.gov/geriatricsshg and http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility. If you have any questions call 1-877-222-8387.

Change in Service-Connected Disability Veterans' Preference Eligibility: The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has acquiesced to the Merit Systems Protection Board's decision in Hesse v. Department of the Army, 104 M.S.P.R. 647 (2007) that affects eligibility for veterans' preference based on a service-connected disability under section 2108(2) of title 5, United States Code if they served on active duty in the armed forces, including for training, and were separated from active duty under honorable conditions; and either (1) establish the present existence of a service-connected disability, or (2) are receiving compensation, disability retirement benefits, or pension.

Senior Chief Mass Communication Specialist Bob Hansen retired after more than 42 years of service to the nation after joining the Navy in 1966 and serving in Vietnam and a number of duty stations. During a ceremony on November 1 at Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Alameda, Hansen received the Meritorious Service Medal from Cmdr. Jon Hughes, commanding officer of NOSC Alameda, and a certificate of accomplishment from California State Senator Leland Yee. The audience included Hansen's family, friends and shipmates, including Chief Religious Programs Specialist Robert Page, who earned the Bronze Star for heroism in Iraq.

California State Senator Leeland Yee presents MCCS Bob Hansen a certificate of accomplishment from the California State Senate during his retirement ceremony. Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Tom Howser (ret.)

–Photo by Chief Photographer's Mate Tom Howser (ret.)

YEARS AGO IN NERA

By Manny Ratner

THIRTY YEARS AGO

The 21st Annual National Conference was held from 18–21 October, l978, at the Fountain Bay Club Hotel in New Orleans. For the first time, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Admiral Thomas B. HAYWARD, USN, attended a NERA Conference. Bill KREH, Editor of Navy Times was the keynote speaker and we also heard from Bud OTTO, a key advisor to Congressman Bill CHAPPEL of Florida, a very strong supporter of NERA. The Honorable Robert T.CONNORS, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs, advised us as to what was happening legislatively. NERA member Senator John T. TOWER, the

NERA 1776 Award recipient Master Chief Petty Officer Don Baumann, from the Minnesota Chapter of NERA, with previous winners during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 15, 2008. Photo by Ray Robson

only enlisted Naval Reservist in Congress, presented the Outstanding Enlisted Naval Reservist Award to YN1 Gustav J. STANGLINE from the Naval Reserve Center in Avoca, Pa. The 1776 Award went to EN2 James BROWN (Greater New York Chapter) for his service to NERA, the nation, and to the Naval Reserve, and was presented to him by Senator TOWER.

In an unusual contested election, delegates chose Senior Chief HTC Raymond A. VAUGHAN as president over incumbent YNC Lindell C. CLYMER. QMC Chester HANCOCK was elected Vice President, ENCS David D. BROCK as secretary, SKCM Nat LEIDERMAN was reelected as Treasurer and CBM Matt GUTMAN remained as national executive counselor. The first dues increase since 1970 raised the fee to $15, membership climbed to over 10,000, and the number of chapters rose to 101. NERA had been very politically active the previous two years, taking part in saving the TAR officer program and reversing deep cuts in drill strength. The Survivors Benefit Program was signed into law on 30th September, l978, after a long drawn-out campaign by NERA.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The 3lst Annual National Conference was well attended in Green Bay, Wis., from 25–29 October, l988, sponsored by the Packerland Chapter. BMCM Ed COUDO was reelected as president, ETCM (SS) Bob POWELL chosen VP, SKC Paul COLWELL, secretary, MS2 Eddie OCA executive counselor, MM1 (SS) Floyd WING as legislative director, RMCM Floyd SANDLIN appointed as executive director, and RM1 Pam POWERS chosen as treasurer. NERA dues rose to $20. Life Membership was close to 4,000, and General Membership rose to 17,000. YNCM (SW) Andrew J. VARGO had to resign as the NED due to his transfer to NAS Dallas. Reserve Sailor of the Year Keith GALANG was present along with the Marine Corps and Coast Guard selectees to receive their awards. We heard from the Senior Enlisted Advisor (Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs) Larry D. RHEA, and from Force Master Chief of the Naval Reserve Jeffrey A. BRODY. Capt. “Navy Davy” David L. WOODS wrote two fine articles on High Year Tenure and what it meant to our drillers.

TEN YEARS AGO

On 21 October, l998, at 0800, l40 people representing nationwide chapters gathered outside at the Western Hills State Lodge embracing the cool, crisp, Oklahoma air. The great flag, which was 50 x 76 feet in size, unfurled and the 4lst Annual National Conference was officially open. Our keynote speaker was the Honorable Charles L. CRAGIN (Asst. SecDefResAffairs), followed by an outstanding enlisted panel headed by Naval Reserve Force Master Chief Chris GLENNON along with the Marine Corps Reserve Force SGTMAJ, the Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief, and other top leaders… Hay wagons served as the means for transportation the evening’s festivities, which included a covered wagon steak cookout and Indian dancing and music. The officers’ installation the following evening was one to be remembered. We were honored by the Silver Strings Putnam City Schools band who strolled amongst the audience with musicians ranging from fourth grade through high school and performing on violins, cellos, and basses… Elected officers were AVCM Don BAUMAN as president, YNC Chuck SHERRICK as VP, MSC Mary CARPENTER as secretary, SKCM Charles BRADLEY as treasurer, and Don WALDEN as national counselor...BMCS Joe RENDON wrote a page and a half article in The Mariner about the Naval Reserve.

The day was proclaimed as Naval Reserve Center, Freeport, NY Day in the County of Nassau. Shown with the Proclamation are: SK1 William B. Brown, Jr., President, GNY Chapter NERA; Lt. John Lumetta, USNR, C.O., NRC Freeport; Honorable Francis Purcell, Nassau County Executive; and HMCM Manny Ratner, former Chief Recruiter and Command Master Chief, NRC Freeport, NERA Past President and party coordinator.

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

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Marine Marquee

Leaders Of Marines!

By SgtMaj Kim E. Davis
Sergeant Major
U.S. Marine Corps Forces Reserve

"There are only two kinds of people that understand Marines: Marines and the enemy. Everyone else has a second-hand opinion." –Gen. William Thornson, U.S. Army

In accordance with Marine tradition, being the oldest Marine present, Chief Warrant Officer Bert Stoller (middle), and the youngest Marine present, Lance Corporal Dain Jacobs (right) accept a piece of cake from the Marine Forces Reserve (MFR) Commanding General Lieutenant General Jack W. Bergman during the MFR Marine Corps Ball on November 7 at the Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Ball celebrated the 233rd Birthday of the Marine Corps. (U.S. Marine photo by LCpl Christopher J. Gallagher)

No service celebrates its proud heritage and birthday quite like the U.S. Marine Corps. Our nation's smallest and third-oldest military service, the Marine Corps was founded 233 years ago on the 10th day of November 1775 when the Second Continental Congress ordered the raising of two battalions of Marines.

Known for our reputation of combat skills that often surpass the reputations of other military organizations, each and every Marine is first-and-foremost a rifleman. It is this philosophical approach to training and combat that distinguishes the Marine Corps from other branches. Nothing validates this more than the words expressed by a frantic terrorist whose radio transmission was intercepted by U.S. forces during the assault on Fallujah, Iraq in 2004: "We are fighting, but the Marines keep coming. We are shooting, but the Marines won't stop."

During World War I, U.S. Army General John J. "Black Jack" Pershing said, "The deadliest weapon in the world is a Marine and his rifle."

Army General Douglas MacArthur said in 1950, "I have just returned from visiting the Marines at the front, and there is not a finer fighting organization in the world." I could not agree more. We are good!

We are about to embark on what other governments in the World envy … peaceful transition of power. What a great time to be AMERICAN!

On behalf of the Marines, sailors and civilian Marines of Marine Forces Reserve, a very Happy Birthday to you! Thank you for your service and for defending the freedom of this great country each and every day.

Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General James E. Cartwright (left) accepts a piece of cake from Marine Forces Reserve (MFR) Commanding General, Lieutenant General Jack W. Bergman during the MFR Marine Corps Ball on November 7 at the Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Ball celebrated the 233rd Birthday of the Marine Corps. (U.S. Marine photo by LCpl Christopher J. Gallagher)

The Cake Detail marches into position during the ceremony portion of the Marine Forces Reserve, Marine Corps Ball on November 7 at the Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana. The Ball celebrated the 233rd Birthday of the Marine Corps. (U.S. Marine photo by Cpl Brandon. S. Mountain)

COASTIE CORNER

Mid-Carolina Chapter Honors Coast Guard Vets

By Delores Rucker

Coast Guard veterans were honored by the Mid-Carolina NERA Chapter as part of the Medallions/Flags/Wall of Honor dedication at the Stone Veterans Pavilion, Columbia, South Carolina, on November 19.

The Mid-Carolina Chapter donated the funds to purchase the Coast Guard Military Seal which was mounted along with other service seals on the columns of the Stone Veterans Pavilion on the grounds of the Tucker Center which is a South Carolina State Nursing Care Center.

Seaman Apprentice Scotty Noe, USCGR, and Master Chief Air Traffic Controller Delores Rucker, USNR(Ret), unveiled the Coast Guard Medallion during the Dedication Ceremony.

In addition to the Military Seals, bronze stars were mounted to the outside columns. The lobby of the Stone Veterans Pavilion was redecorated to honor veterans by adding the US flag and all the service flags. A Wall of Honor was designed to honor volunteers who have served the veterans with many years of service and extraordinary accomplishments. The first honoree served the Veterans of Stone Veterans Pavilion with monthly activities and visits for 33 years. The Coast Guard flag was purchased with funds donated by the NSDAR Granby Chapter and Roger and Delores Rucker.

Maria Barrera, Community Resource Development Representative of the Tucker Center and Delores Rucker were the committee members who coordinated the project. They solicited various civic groups, veteran organizations, and individual volunteers who responded with donations and other essential items to make the dedication a reality.

Master Chief of the Coast Guard Reserve Forces Jeff Smith speaks to a Navy Seabee during the Sea Services Senior Enlisted panel visit to Naval Operating Support Center Orlando during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 18, 2008. Photo by Ray Robson.

Pictured with the Coast Guard Military Seal and Flag are ACCM Delores Rucker, USNR (Ret); LTJG Erick Meaders, USCGR, MSU Savannah, GA; IT1 Denise Bachmannkruz, USCGR, ESD Charleston; Seaman Apprentice Scotty Noe, USCGR, Station Tybee Island; and LT Richard Miner, USCG Auxiliary, FC12-3 Lake Murray.

USS Freedom Elevates Navy Capabilities in Coastal Battle Space

Freedom is the idea that really founded our great nation. It means to be free of restraints, it means liberty from oppression…and it is also synonymous with independence. Incidentally, if you look up freedom in Webster's dictionary, you will find that it is listed before the term "freedom of the seas" – which is the doctrine that the ships of any nations may travel through international waters unhampered. But freedom is more than a concept, more than a word to be defined in a dictionary…because today, after years of hard work by thousands of engineers, craftsmen, steelworkers, welders, and electricians, Freedom is a United States ship.

–Admiral Gary Roughead
Chief of Naval Operations

November 8th, 2008, the USS Freedom (LCS-1) was commissioned at Veterans Park in Milwaukee, Wis. In attendance were the CNO, Admiral Gary Roughead, and Secretary of the Navy, Donald Winter, and numerous distinguished guests including Congressman Dennis Moore, Admiral and Mrs. Gehman, and NJROTC and NROTC cadets and midshipmen from five high schools as well as the Chicago NROTC consortium and the NROTC unit from Marquette University.

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Gary Roughead, middle, speaks with WWII Navy WAVES at the conclusion of the commissioning ceremony. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Tiffini M. Jones

The most notable guest was Mrs. Birgit Smith. Mrs. Smith is the ship's sponsor and the wife of Army Sergeant First Class Paul Ray Smith who posthumously received the Medal of Honor on April 4, 2005, for gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action against an armed enemy near Baghdad International Airport, Iraq. She christened Freedom on September 23, 2006, at Marinette, Wisc., with the traditional smashing of a champagne bottle across the ship's bow. Her initials have been etched on a plaque that will be permanently affixed to the ship.

Sea Cadets stand in formation as the crew of the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1) mans the rails during her commissioning ceremony at Veterans Park in Milwaukee, Wis. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Katherine Boeder

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Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
LIFE BENEFACTORS

A distinguished group of NERA lifetime members whose outstanding dedication and support fortifies the legacy of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association thus inspiring future generations to absolute greatness.

SKCS(SW) Nick Marine
FORCM Chris Glennon
AVCM Steveon H. Hall
CWO4 Shirley Barlow
ETCM Louis Pagano
YNC Joanne M. Elliott
SK1 Alvin H. Wright
SKCS William J. Severns
CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks
SKCS Norma B. Von Dohren
SK2 Joyce Thompson
SKCS Gene McCarthy
AMCS James Edfors
LNC John McCormack
SKC(AW) William Duda
ADR1 Joseph Harrison, Jr.
SHC James Bruce Fromel
AEC Kenneth D. Freese
RMC Fred H. Springall
OS1 Donald J. Bond

CTAC Patrick G. Reding
HTC James J. Vincent
AZC(AW) John L. Busby
YNCM George J. Knorr
YN1 Ian Mastrup
HMCS William M. Allen
HMCS/FMF Darryl Wahler
BTC William C. Rendall
HMC Paul E. Jensen
DCCM Stephen R. Sandy
BU1 Fred G. Leppig
AE1 Harry Moffat
ENC(SS) William E. Vincent
MMCS Jesse Fox
QMCS Henry B. Vogler, Jr.
SKCS John A. Bartlett
AEC Roger D. Webster
PN2 James A. Bullard
RMC Jerry D. Hall
AT1 Harold A. Hyslop

QMC C. Bruce Melcher
YNC Joseph Michael Mauro
GSMC David L. Ingram
MSCM(SW)(SCW) David Nygaard
HMCM Ron Naida
SKC Donna Childre
AWC(AW/NAC) Michael Wadsworth
AVCM Don Bauman
PNC William A. Anderson
GSCM Ralph W. Camp
MCC Brian Brannon
ASC Howard J. Williams
BM1 Jeffrey Benton
PSCS Luther Jennings
YNCS William Vinglas
HMCM Manny Ratner
MAC Tommy Keheley
CE1 Francis Heywood
ATC Dennis Buisman

In addition be being listed above, benefactor members will have their names engraved on a large plaque with all other benefactors recognizing their continued LIFETIME support of NERA. This plaque will be prominently displayed at the NERA National Headquarters. Benefactor names will be published in every annual National Conference Book on a dedicated Benefactor page. Benefactors will also receive recognition at ALL National Conferences during the opening ceremonies. There are a few ways to join: Go online at www.nera.org, call in credit card info to Jennifer at (800)776-9020, or mail in a check for $250 to National HQ.

Constitution & ByLaws Report

by Chairman Jim Premeske

In time honored tradition, delegates to the 51st NERA Conference considered recommendations for the good of our order. Supportive and productive attitudes prevailed. Absolutely no belligerence was noted toward any of the proposals; appropriate respect and due diligence was afforded to each issue. The results are summarized below:

Senior Chief Petty Officer Ralph Hensley makes a valid point during discussion of the constitution and by-laws session during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 16, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

*08-01 proposed authorization of the NEC to consider merger with other military organizations, while specifying preferential criteria to be applied to that process. Following spirited discussion the proposal failed by a two to one margin.

*08-02 addressed a discrepancy between the NEC's handbook and the C&BL, which would have exempted the National President's Chapter from consideration for the "Outstanding Chapter Award" to alleviate any bias. The C&BL specifies the decision belongs to the National Counselor, not the National President. The members chose to retain the existing C&BL procedure.

*08-03 was a resubmission of an '07 proposal to require prior NEC experience of candidates for National President. Opponents spoke to the fact that the President had no greater power in the decision process than other NEC members. Fifty eight percent of delegates voting felt prior NEC experience was not necessary. Failed

*C&BL 08-04 proposed that Article 9.2.4.c. be revised to allow emergency resolutions motions at any time during a National Conference. The membership agreed this was an appropriate change.

*When 08-05 was considered many chapters were concerned that their utilization of the NERA logo was being jeopardized by NERA's concern for unauthorized identity use. Amended to allow "Chapter use of the NERA logo and their own local identities for their own official use only" this measure passed on a near unanimous voice vote.

*08-06 proposed permanent elimination of Chapter Rebates. For the past two years withholding Chapter Rebates had been authorized by emergency resolutions. By a substantial margin delegates voted to delete all C&BL provisions & verbiage addressing Chapter Rebates.

*Spirited discussion ensued for 08-07 which called for elimination of Member at Large Status. After the maximum allowable number of both for and against speakers, 63% of the delegates raised their hands in support of this proposal.

*08-08 proposed to allow dissolution of dysfunctional chapters, who fail to file annual officer reports, by a majority vote of the NEC. Following approval of an amendment specifying failure in two consecutive years (with only one nay vote); the Ayes approved the proposal.

*Proposal 08-09 applied the rising cost of travel, and chapter and National expenses as justification to conduct National Conferences biennially in odd numbered years beginning January 1, 2010. Following amendment of the effective date/year, the proposal passed with a voice vote.

*A companion was 08-10 which suggested all National Officer terms be for two years, with only

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NERA 2009 HARLEY-DAVIDSON

Electra Glide Classic Raffle

Includes Trip and Accommodations to Washington, DC for

Memorial Day Weekend 2009

Drawing on May 14, 2009

$100/Ticket **$100/Ticket**

Contact Laura Martin at NERA Headquarters for more information

Phone: 703/534-1329 Email: lkmartin@nera.org Website: www.nera.org

Raffle void where prohibited. Winner pays all extra fees and taxes. The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association reserves the right to discontinue raffle.

Permit #08-32 Raffle License #08-073

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the National President having a two term (four year) limitation. Delegates approved the motion to hold future elections (& conferences) in odd numbered years.

*08-11 proposed life membership dues be reduced to $300 (vice the $400 that would have taken effect on January 1st 2009. Passed by a large voice vote margin.

*Proposal 08-12 requesting transfer of all Mariner responsibilities to the Managing Editor. Tabled by the delegates due to the volume of questions entailed.

*The NEC proposed 08-13: removal of conference procedures from the C&BL. Motion to table (i.e: kill) passed by a substantial margin.

*Proposal 08-14 asked that payment procedure policies be deleted from the C&BL to improve administrative flexibility. The proposal passed to move procedures to the NEC's National Handbook.

Upon conclusion, Chairman Jim Premeske introduced an Emergency Resolution to increase annual dues: from $25 to $30 for one year; $47 to $57 for two years and from $69 to $84 for three years. This resolution passed by a substantial voice margin.

Jim Premeske (from the Windy City Chapter) during the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 2008 National Conference in Orlando, Florida, October 16, 2008. Photo by Timm Duckworth

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USS Freedom has two crews — Blue and Gold — consisting of 40 Sailors each. Crews rotate operating the ship for four month periods. Because of the small crew size, Sailors are trained for multiple responsibilities.

The commissioning ceremony consisted of speeches, the acceptance of the ship by the Commanding Officer, the hoisting of the commissioning pennant, setting of the first watch, and the charge of the Ship's Sponsor: "Man our ship and bring her to life." Following the ceremony was a reception in Veterans Park with an Oktoberfest theme.

Facts

Ships constructed for service today are honored on four historic ceremonial occasions:

1. Keel Laying
2. Christening (or launching)
3. Commissioning
4. Decommissioning

Commissioning is the most important ceremony in a ship's history. The Navy accepts her, entitling her to fly the commissioned pennant and be designated a U.S. Ship.

For more information, visit www.ussfreedom.org.

Hundreds of spectators attend the commissioning ceremony for the littoral combat ship USS Freedom (LCS 1). Freedom is the first of two littoral combat ships designed to operate in shallow water environments to counter threats in coastal regions. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Katherine Boeder

Membership Application Form

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Rate/Rank Date of Birth

Street Address

City State Zip

E-mail Address

Phone

BRANCH OF SERVICE:

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

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- ☐ R - Active
- ☐ A - Associate

DUES PAYMENT AMOUNT:

- ☐ $30 - 1 Year
- ☐ $57 - 2 Years
- ☐ $84 - 3 Years
- ☐ $300 - Life
- ☐ $100 - Partial Pay*

**Partial Pay Life to be paid within 6 months*

DUTY STATUS:

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

Payment By: ☐ Check *(enclosed)* ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Expiration Date _____/_____

Signature Required:

_____

Who is NERA?

Established in 1957, The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) is the only military/ veterans organization representing the ENLISTED RESERVE members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. We include retirees, Full-Time Support (FTS), drilling reservists, IRR, VTU, Retired as well as others joining as associate members supporting our enlisted sea service reservists. For more than 50 years, NERA has been responsible for many of the pay and benefits gains reservists enjoy today and take for granted. Why NERA? Today, more than any other time, Reserve Enlisted members are called upon to mobilize to serve our nation. The challenges are many - strain on families, strain on civilian careers and a higher operational tempo that exceeds what was the norm 10 years ago.

Strength in numbers. As a member of the Military Coalition, NERA has been on Capitol Hill, the Pentagon, and other policy making committees, working hard for legislation to protect your benefits, your family, your health care and your retirement. Join us and ensure your voice is added to the many. Join us to continue the success and the fight to keep your benefits strong. We are your shipmates - your fellow veterans. NERA is about you - the working Sailor, Marine and Coast Guardsman.

Some of NERA's Goals include

TRICare(Prime-Extra-Standard-Prime remote and Plus)

Working with TRICARE to ensure faster processing of claims, adding more physicians, and adding chiropractic care coverage.

SGLI Insurance- Servicemans Group Life Insurance

To provide increased coverage and lower rates.

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NERA
6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, VA 22042

Place Stamp Here

Fold Here

Exclusively representing the enlisted (sea going) reservists of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

Visit us at: **www.nera.org**

Why Join NERA?

If you want to protect the rights and benefits you and other enlisted Sea Service Reservists are working so hard to earn, you must join NERA . NERA is not only a prominent member of a powerful Coalition of military advocacy groups dedicated to fighting for service members in the Nation's Capitol... NERA is the only association whose guarantee to you is that we will give voice to your special interests as a Sea Service Reservist. You can count on NERA to be there to protect the individual rights, benefits and privileges you have earned with your commitment to military service.

TAPS

Last Updated: 12/05/2008

ADCS Albert J Ardolino	New England States
QM1 George C Barnes	North Carolina State MAL
YN1 Douglas D Booker	Joe Wasson
GMCM Walter J Douglass	Floyd Bennett
MRCS Anthony Gottlieb	Leo J Milobar Memorial
EN2 Carl W Hinger	Delaware Valley
YN1 Doris M Hoff	Mile High
SKCS Barry W Hutton	Greater New York
CM2 Joseph S Johnsen	Greater New York
CTA1 Francis E Kapsch	Minnesota
SHCM Albert W Klingele	USS Briarcliff
FN Richard L Krewson	Gerald R Ford
HMC Kenneth T Lamp	Capital District
BMCS Glenn Lawson Jr.	Central Carolinas
BM1 Donald E Meeker	California State MAL
EN1 Joseph Pelles	Ohio State MAL
DTC Arthur P Romero	Ohio State MAL
TMC Ted W Rykowski	Garden State
Roy J Sinnott	Tacoma
CTC James D Spear	AR-5 Vulcan
GM3 John J Vieira	Garden State
Willis C Willis	Mid Carolina

Many NERA members are inquiring on how they can support NERA now and in the future? The answer: **Planned Giving.**

What is **Planned Giving**? The most frequent option for Planned Giving is through a direct bequest in your will. A direct bequest can be through a specified monetary amount or percentage of your estate. With either, NERA can provide you with basic language that you can 1) place into a current will OR 2) make it part of a new one.

Why should you support NERA through planned giving? Not only will you receive a tax benefit for your estate but you are securing that the future needs of NERA will be met for another 60 years.

Please remember that you should always consult your tax, legal and financial professional for a complete explanation of potential benefits.

For additional information or to discuss your options, please contact Laura Martin at NERA Headquarters 703/534-1329. or lkmartin@nera.org.

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