



Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings NMCB-14 Bees & Spouses -

I hope you are all well and getting ready to attend our Reunion in Tampa on 5-7 November. I hope to see a large turnout! Register now – Remember, the fee goes up after 1 October.

Speaking of the Reunion, you don't want to miss our Spouse Luncheon on Friday, 5 November this year. Doreen Doe will be telling us about Trusts – what they are, the pros / cons, who should consider having one, etc. (and I will give a brief overview on burial planning at National Cemeteries). Remember, these "Spouse" luncheons are for BOTH spouses – both need to hear the information.

This is my last year as President and it has been my pleasure to have served this great organization in that capacity. The Board of Directors has modified our Bylaws to add a new officer position of Past President – so I will still be around for a couple more years!!

It was sad to hear of the passing of Kevin Trost and Mike Wood. Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

We previously announced our new Scholarship opportunity. Please forward the details to anyone who is eligible and might be interested. If there are any questions on this, please contact me.

We are always in need of members to assist on various committees. If have any interest in helping out, please let me know. Speaking of which, our 2022 Reunion is tentatively planned for Savannah. We desperately need someone in the vicinity to coordinate this and identify the Reunion hotel.

See you in Tampa and Stay Safe!!

Gregg Harkness

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and excited to attend the annual NMCB 14 Alumni reunion in November. I'm really looking forward to this years' reunion. Most of the plans have been made, and November will be here before we know it. The information is posted on the website, and reservations can be made at the hotel. The planning for the annual reunion is very time-consuming, and it takes a team effort to ensure everything goes as planned. That being said please take the time to thank the Officers, Board of Directors, and volunteers for the work they put in to make it all happen. We are in need of donated items that can be auctioned during the reunion.

We still looking for candidates for our Board of Director positions. Ballots for the BOD election will go out soon.

Also, new this year is the offering of an NMCB 14 Alumni scholarship. Information and instructions for how to apply are posted on the website. The submittal deadline line is November 1st. Good luck to all the applicants.

Again I'm very excited about this year's reunion and hope you plan to attend. Until then please stay safe and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Thomas Legler

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hello everyone,

I hope you all are having a very fun and safe summer and are looking forward to our annual Reunion this fall!

NMCB14 elections are coming up! Be sure to keep an eye out to vote for your newest Officers and Board Members!

More updates are coming to our website, so please keep an eye out! We're looking forward to see everyone soon!



-Brandi

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

I bring greetings to all as we have reached September 2021 and in the preparation for the fall season and new opportunities to move forward in serving the community.



There are many things happening in our world and community, and this adds to the reality of; what can we do to make life better. Currently I would remind everyone to please pray for all of our veterans. There is a serious concern about survival in God's creation and this requires all of us to slow down, pray and find our niche to move forward and serve.

This begins with our "moving forward" attitude and using our gifts and talents for the greater good. In I Peter 4: 7-12 it reads of the ways we can make a difference and bring peace for our future generations. Never give up and always move forward.

Praise God and be blessed.

Pastor Richard Hoibraten

U S Navy Seabees Chaplain

Have you ordered your Challenge Coin Yet?



The NMCB 14 Alumni Association Coins are in and available for purchase!

These beauties are \$10 each (plus \$1 for shipping and handling within the US),

To get your hands on one (or more), contact Gregg Harkness (g.harkness@earthlink.net) for ordering information!

You have time to order one as a Christmas Present to your favorite Seabee!

These coins will be available for purchase at the Reunion in Tampa!

Honoring one of Our Own



In May of this year, Peter Herrick, one of our own, was honored with the presentation of his Quilt of Valor from the Quilts of Valor Foundation.

The QOVF is an organization that awards handmade, high quality quilts to Service Members who have been touched by war.

Pete was one of the men injured in a mortar attack when NMCB 14 deployed to Iraq in 2004. Of 43 men involved, five were killed and another 33 wounded.

He was one of the worst injured. The attack left him with multiple wounds to his right arm and leg; his left leg had to be amputated. One piece of shrapnel lodged in his lung. Another struck him in the neck, damaging his spinal cord and paralyzing him from the neck down.

Today, seated in a motorized wheelchair, his immobile fingers wrapped around two rolled washcloths, Pete will tell you he's a lucky man.

He'll tell you those injuries should have killed him.

"When you hear you are paralyzed, you think it's one of the worst things in the world. I won't paint a rosy picture, and it's not fun. But I can speak, and if I can make people smile, it gives my life meaning."

In 2005, they dug the gumball-sized hunk of metal shrapnel out of his neck. He had it mounted on a gold chain.

"It represents victory for me," he said. "By all rights, that chunk should have killed me."

He says he worries about other veterans he's met, especially those who have psychological wounds.

"That's when I thank God I can speak, and it makes me feel better to talk about it."

We can't think of a more deserving recipient than Pete Herrick. His Can Do attitude and determination represent all the best aspects of the Seabees!



Presentation of a Quilt of Valor to Peter Herrick

Jacksonville, Florida
Saturday, May 1, 2021

We are here today to present a Quilt of Valor to honor Peter Herrick. The Quilts of Valor Foundation represents dedicated quilters from all across America. Founded in 2003, by a quilter whose son was serving in Iraq, our mission is to honor our service members and veterans who have been affected by war. As of today, over 245,000 Quilts of Valor have been presented nationwide.

We HONOR you, Peter, for your service to our country. You enlisted in the United States Navy in 2001 and served for four years, having served in Ramadi, Al-Anbar province, Iraq, leaving service as a Builder 3rd Class in the U.S. Navy Seabees NMCB 14.

Peter, because of brave men and women like you, we in the United States enjoy freedoms like nowhere else on earth. We know that freedom is not free, and our quilts are meant to say THANK YOU for your military service to our country.

This quilt is also meant to be a COMFORT to you. Although you may feel you were just doing your job, it is a job most of us could not perform.

Quilters say that every quilt tells a story. This quilt began in Jacksonville, Florida, and was made by Laura R., All Stars Quilt Guild. The pattern is Twisted Log Cabin. We all share your love of our country and wanted to find a meaningful way to say Thank You. Now this quilt becomes your story, and we hope it will be a tangible reminder of our appreciation to you for a job well done.

We thank you and your family for your selfless sacrifice.

Sincerely,

Barbara Nichols
Barbara Nichols

QOV Representative
All Star Quilter's Guild, Jacksonville, Florida



Peter Herrick

The Quilts of Valor[®] Foundation

wishes to recognize you for your service to our nation.

We consider it a privilege to honor you.

Though we may never know the extent of your sacrifice and service to protect and defend the United States of America, as an expression of gratitude

We Award You This Quilt of Valor[®].

Tammy McDaniel
Tammy McDaniel, Executive Director
Quilts of Valor[®] Foundation

Barbara M. Nichols
Quilts of Valor[®] Foundation Representative





2021 Reunion

Sheraton Tampa Brandon, TAMPA, FL

We hope to see you all at the NMCB-14 Alumni Association 16th Annual Reunion at the Sheraton Tampa Brandon in Tampa, FL, located at 10221 Princess Palm Avenue, Tampa, FL 33610.

You can register for the reunion through our website: nmcb14alumni.com.



Event Summary:

NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion
Start Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021
End Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021
Last Day to Book: **Friday, October 1, 2021**
Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:

- Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel for 105 USD - 145 USD per night
[Book your group rate for NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion](#)

Silent Auction: Each year we have a Silent Auction to help gain the funds we need to continue to assist those of NMCB 14 who may be in need. We need items for the Auction, if you can make a donation or know of a business that may be able to contribute please let us know. Any donations are tax deductible. Let any of the Board members or Officers know if you can help with a donation.

Local Dining:

There are many restaurants within a short distance of the hotel. A complete list can be obtained at the hotel.

The hotel also has onsite dining (breakfast & dinner) at their Panfilo's Grille. Morning is currently a Breakfast Buffet with hours from 7:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The buffet consists of scrambled eggs, breakfast meats, breakfast potatoes and either waffles or pancakes, juice, and coffee.

Lunch is currently not available however there are salads and sandwiches available in the Market place.

Local Attractions:

There will not be any group transportation offered to Downtown Tampa or Ybor City. Those wanting to car-pool to these or other locations, come to the Hospitality Suite and we will try to coordinate this.

The Hotel does have a free shuttle that can take you to the Hard Rock Casino, Veterans Memorial Park, Florida State Fairgrounds and the Brandon Mall. The Shuttle transports in a 3-mile radius and is currently on a request basis.

Here is a partial list of local attractions:

Fairgrounds—4800 US Hwy. 301 North
Busch Gardens
Q-Zar Tampa
Grand Prix Fun Center
Big Cat Rescue
Courtney Campbell Trail
Lettuce Lake Regional Park

SS American Victory *
Tampa History Museum *
iFLY Indoor Skydiving – Tampa
Hard Rock Casino ^
Veterans Memorial Park ^
Bayshore Boulevard

Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park
ZooTampa at Lowry Park
Hillsborough River
Lowry Park
The Florida Aquarium
Ybor City State Museum

*** Advance tickets for these 2 attractions may be purchased via the Registration Form**

^ The Hotel Shuttle can be used to get to these locations

The Alumni Association can obtain tickets for the American Victory Ship and The Tampa History Museum IF enough persons want to go.

On the Registration Form, please indicate how many tickets you would want. The descriptions of the 2 attractions will indicate the minimum number we need to get the tickets in advance. Tickets will be paid for upon arrival at the Hotel at the Alumni Registration desk. [Note: The Hotel Shuttle does not go to these 2 attractions.]

Golf Nearby Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club Phone: 813-972-1991
Westchase Golf Course Phone: 813-854-2331

Tampa Trolley: Service operates with an end-to-end running time of approximately 25 minutes. Changes to the frequency, running time and operating speed are possible and will be revisited by the THS Board as ridership grows and operating needs change.



2021 Reunion

Sheraton Tampa Brandon, TAMPA, FL



PROGRAM

Thursday, 4 November 2021

1500 to 1800
1800 to 2200

Members Arrive. Check-in at Hotel Lobby
Hospitality Room Open

Friday, 5 November 2021

0900 to-2200
0830 to 1130
1200 to 1330
1400 to 1600
0900 to 2200

Members Arrive. Check-in at Hospitality Room
Board of Directors Meeting -
Spouse Luncheon with President / Vice President
General Membership Meeting -
Hospitality Room Open
Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on Your Own

Saturday, 6 November 2021

1730 to 1830
1830 to 2130

Visit and Tour Tampa Area
Reception – cash bar -
Annual Alumni Banquet -
Guest Speaker: **TBD**
Entertainment by **Les N More**
Breakfast & Lunch on Your Own

Sunday, 7 November 2021

0730 to 0830
0830 to 1100
1100

Board of Directors Meeting – Election of Officers:
Breakfast and Memorial Ceremony -
Adjourn

Reunion Ends- - Stay around Tampa and Enjoy!

Hospitality Room Hours

The Hospitality Room will have available beverages and snacks and NMCB 14 articles for sale. After the registration tables are closed on Thursday, late comers can register in the Hospitality Room. The silent auction displays will also be in the room for examination and bid submittal. The room is intended as a meeting place for members to gather and enjoy the company of other alumni. Enjoy it!

Thu, 4 NOV	1800 to 2200	
Fri, 5 NOV	0900 to 1200	1300 to 2200
Sat, 6 NOV	1000 to 1400	2200 to 2400

Sheraton Tampa Brandon Entertainment Amenities

Swimming Pool - An outdoor heated pool - Hours: Mon-Sun: 09:00 AM - 08:00 PM.

Fitness Center - Maintain your fitness between meals at the complimentary fitness center. Fitness Center is open 24/7 and you will just need your room key to get in.

Other Activities / Events

Shirts, Hats, & Jackets – NMCB 14 Alumni Association polo shirts, ball hats, cowboy hats, and jackets will be available on site for sale in our Hospitality Room.



ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

NMCB 14 is Brotherhood, Sisterhood, Family. We all come from different backgrounds, different regions of the U.S. yet we all have bonds that strengthen us, that bond is the US NAVY SEABEES.

I have always loved being a Seabee. I am proud of my personal accomplishments; I am so ever prouder of what the Seabees have done and do every day. I am often wearing a hat or t-shirt that displays my association with the Green Machine. I am PROUD to be part of this association.

While I am proud of our group, there is a missing element that is that we are afraid to open up and ask for help. We go through our lives busy with work and family putting everything ahead of ourselves. We can get so absorbed and stressed that we cannot take care of ourselves.

Many of you have been on multiple deployments and have seen things and done things that are unfathomable to Joe American.

I have received word of yet another tragic death of one of our own and am distraught with how it is that they gave up. How can you give up? While the pain you're feeling is overwhelming, and you think nobody understands and that you are alone, YOU ARE NOT ALONE!!!

I now speak on behalf of our brothers who took their own lives. I speak with experience that I have been in those dark shadows and it's hard to ask for help but you can. I DID. Some days are harder than others, I admit. I can tell you that we can all help each other by reaching out, doing a buddy check, keeping an eye out for your BUD; continue to be that friend even when it's difficult for you. We all have sacrificed, there is no need to sacrifice your life. We are here, reach out, do a buddy check, you may save a life...

There are many avenues for help.

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

800-273 8255

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/samh/prevention/suicide-prevention/>

I am here 352-348-0669

And lastly, seek help. Do not let the VA pass you by. Demand the benefit of help that's what they are supposed to do. You must FIGHT for yourself and the ones who are your FAMILY.

Thank you for your service

Daryl

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Announcements



The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation Presents:



FUN \ BEER \ FOOD \ NETWORKING

Come Celebrate OktoBEEfest!

Gather together your crew and enjoy an evening surrounded by Bees, friends and family. Tickets are only \$10 and include a commemorative, one-of-a-kind OktoBEEfest-branded beer glass.

CLICK ON THE DATES BELOW TO LEARN MORE!

OCTOBER 2
Cleveland, OH

OCTOBER 7
Port Hueneme, CA

OCTOBER 13
Great Lakes / Chicago, IL

OCTOBER 16
Port Orchard, WA

OCTOBER 21
Jacksonville, FL

OCTOBER 21
San Diego, CA

OCTOBER 22
Gulfport, MS

OCTOBER 27
Norfolk, VA

OCTOBER TBD
Denver, CO

OCTOBER TBD
Honolulu, HI

OCTOBER TBD
Washington, DC

JACKSONVILLE, FL
OCTOBER 21, 2021
5:00 -8:00 PM

Celebrate OktoBEEfest Seabee style with craft beer and comrades!
Gather together your crew and enjoy an evening surrounded by Bees, friends and family. With plenty of specialty brews on tap, food for the hungry and additional drinks for those who prefer fewer suds.

This veteran-owned brewery is a great place for Bees to be!

TICKETS: \$10/PERSON
(INCLUDES FREE COMMEMORATIVE OKTOBEEFEST GLASS)

Veterans United Craft Brewery

8999 Western Way #104
Jacksonville, FL 32256





Supporting the Battalion

Last July, your Alumni Association provided lunch and refreshments for members of NMCB 14 as they deployed to parts unknown.

Thank you Jimmy Cochran and crew for making this happen!



NMCB-14 Alumni Association Scholarship

Do you have high school or college age children or grandchildren who would like some help with college expenses? The Alumni Association is pleased to announce we are now offering a scholarship to qualified dependents.

To apply for this scholarship, recipients must:

1. Student must be either (a) a High School Senior and selected for enrolment in an accredited College or Trade School or (b) a student currently enrolled in an accredited College or Trade School.
2. Student must be either (a) a current member of NMCB-14, (b) the son/daughter of a current or former member of NMCB-14, or (3) the grandson/granddaughter of a current or former member of NMCB-14. Scholarships are not available for graduate study or great grandchildren.

To Apply:

1. The applicant shall provide a Cover Sheet which includes the following information:
 - a. Student name, address, email address and phone number.
 - b. Name of College/Trade School
 - c. Name of relative that is or was a member of NMCB-14 and how the applicant is related in accordance with the criteria specified above.
 - d. Date application submitted.
2. In addition, the applicant must submit the following:
 - a. Written proof of acceptance to a college or trade school.
 - b. A short resume / biography / statement which discusses the following:
 - i. Hobbies
 - ii. Leadership positions
 - iii. Community activity
 - iv. Work experience
 - v. Future goals and objectives (work, education, personal)
 - c. An essay that meets the following criteria:
 - i. Typewritten (computer generated/printed) essay, in English, of no less than 300 words but no more than 500 words based on the selected topic for the year. Essays over 500 words will be eliminated. The THEME for the 2021/22 School Year is: **"Is this the Country the Founders Envisioned?"**
 - ii. The student must write their own essay.

Application Submittal

1. The completed scholarship application must be submitted to the NMCB-14 Alumni Association President or his representative no later than **1 November 2021**. Applications postmarked after the cut-off date will be eliminated.

Selection

1. The applications submitted will be individually reviewed and rated by the Scholarship Committee after the scholarship application deadline. All information, scholastic aptitude, work & community experience together with the essay will form the basis of the review and selection.
2. The essay will be judged using the following criteria.
 - a. Knowledge of the Theme - The applicant should show a thorough knowledge of the theme, demonstrating they have done sufficient research on the subject.
 - b. Theme Development - The applicant should answer all relevant facts about the theme in their work, such as, who, what, where, when and why. The applicant should attempt to relate the theme to their own experiences.
 - c. Clarity of Ideas - The applicant should write their essay in an easy-to-understand format. The applicant should pay close attention to punctuation and grammar. The applicant should attempt to leave the reader with a clear understanding of the theme.
3. The selection of the scholarship awardee will be made solely by the Scholarship Committee and said selection shall be final.

Scholarship Award

1. When an applicant is selected for a scholarship, a check will be sent to the college or trade school of the recipient's choice based on their acceptance to said school. In no circumstances other than compensation for books or related school items will the check be made out to the student. In the case of books or other school materials a current receipt for said items must be presented to and approved by the Scholarship Committee.
2. One **\$1,000** scholarship will be awarded per year.
3. Scholarships are school-year specific and therefore must be applied for annually and no more than two will be awarded to any scholarship recipient.



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

During the 2003-2004 Iraqi Freedom deployment of NMCB 14, seven of its Seabees were killed and 34 wounded. In 2004, a Purple Heart Ceremony was held at NAS Jacksonville, Florida where NMCB 14 has its headquarters. It was well-attended by the military community, as well as retired and former members of NMCB 14. As a result of this gathering, **Capt. Bob Brockway** organized a small group of key retired officers and enlisted personnel to form an alumni association with a primary mission of aiding the families of those NMCB 14 personnel who were killed or wounded during Iraqi Freedom and any future conflict casualties.



On March 12, 2005, a meeting of the organizing committee was held at the Best Western Hotel & Suites in Orange Park, Florida. Those in attendance were **Jack Araneo, Bob Brockway, Randy Bushey, Ron Helton, Al Kenny, Bill Purkis, Joe Schweigart, Bill Tydings, and Mike Wood.** Neil Orange, who also was part of the organizing committee, was not able to attend. An organization was set up and interim appointments were made to the Executive Committee (Board of Directors and Officers). The initial purpose of the Association was in keeping with the following goals:

1. Camaraderie within the Seabee community, inclusive of all Navy rates, ranks, and designators.
2. Support of the inclusive Seabee community.
3. Communications with members.
4. Historical restoration and preservation.

Join us online!

NMCB 14 Alumni Association

Web Address:

<http://nmcb14.alumni.com>

Facebook Page:

<http://facebook.com/groups/146833558670743>



(Seen on a random Seabee's Toolbox)



MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	03
Life Members	163
Annual Members	05
Subtotal	171
Memorial Members	38
TOTAL	209

