



NEWSLETTER

Dear members, families and friends of NMCB 14,

This is my first corner as the new Association President, so I think a quick introduction is in order, as many of you do not know me. My Navy career started immediately out of high school when I joined the Navy Delayed Entry Program in high school in 1978. I went to boot camp in 1979 in Orlando and spent six years as a Machinist Mate with most of that time on the USS Semmes (DDG-18). So I am a Tin Can Sailor and I am a Snipe.

After receiving my engineering degree from UCF and going to work at Harris Corporation, I enlisted in the Navy Reserve and cross rated to Construction Mechanic where I was assigned to NMCB-14. After several years, I applied for a commission in the Civil Engineer Corps where I finished my career at 21 years total service. So I am a Seabee and I am a Mustang. All titles I am proud of.

My Seabee career included time at NMCB 14, 20th NCR, 22nd NCR (deployed during OIF, 2003) and US Southern Command. My final assignment was as the Executive Officer for NMCB 14. It was during that time that I began my association with this amazing organization. From my perspective as the XO, the value of this association to those killed, wounded and affected by the events of 2004 was crystalized. Several other cases made it clear that this association touched the entire population of the battalion. Time after time, situations arose where traditional aide and relief organizations either could not provide a service or were simply too slow to provide sorely needed assistance to our Seabees. Time after time, this organization stepped in to close the gap; and they did it quickly, efficiently and effectively.

As I look across the world today, the Seabee mission will continue worldwide. Our Bee's will deploy and perform magnificently; as is our tradition. Their focus should be on the mission and their safety and they should go forward with the comfort that there are those of us here standing by should they, or their families, need us. It is this clarity of mission and purpose that I committed myself when I joined the Alumni Association and served on the assistance committee. It is the importance of our mission to which I committed myself when I accepted the Vice Presidency and now the Presidency.

I truly look forward to serving you, the Alumni Association and the members of NMCB 14; past, present and future. The leadership team is engaged and we are hoping to have a truly excellent 2016! We are in the early stages of planning next year's reunion in Orlando and anticipate a fantastic event so look for the coming announcements (and maybe a surprise or two) and make your reunion and vacation plans early!

Mark Blue, President

Association Officers:

Mark Blue, President

Tel: (321) 795-5344

E-Mail: markblue78@gmail.com

Michael H. Grace, Vice President

Tel: (561) 906-9475

E-Mail: michaelhgrace3@yahoo.com

Ed Crenshaw, Secretary

Tel: (706) 897-2649

E-Mail: cecbret@windstream.net

Glenn Smith, Treasurer

Tel: 251-533-2107

E-Mail: Smithau66@gulftel.com

THE KEYS TO
SUCCESS IS
PARTICIPATION.
PLEASE DO YOUR
PART TO MAKE
THE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
SUCCESSFUL.
THANKS!!



<http://www.nmcb14alumni.com/>

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Allen Boatman

Fred Bossard

Loren Emery

John J. Hillyer III

Frank Landrau

Richard Mayo

Randy McGhee

Dwayne Polston

Janna Wiedeman

(One Vacancy)



WWII LIFE MEMBERS

James D. Rothermel
Andrew Parretti
Charles Sheppard
Ted Harwood
Jack Soliday
[LIFE MEMBERS](#)
Robert Rehkopf
Fred S. Bossard
John Dux
Ronald L. Helton
Terry B. Jamison
John R. Johnson
Randall Bushey
George Milian
William Purkis
Glenn A. Smith
Kenneth Erickson
Mike Wood
Michael Grace
Mark Monaghan
William C. Charvat
William Memory
Vernon Morris
Richard Biggs
Randall McGhee
Donald N. Bridges
Ernest Burzumato
George A. Manning
Richard Mayo
Richard Hoibraten
Kenneth Morgan
James Caulder
Chris O. Snell, Jr.
Charles Hickey
William McCallum
Tommie Tyler
William Travis
Joseph Kolodziej

Grey Duncan
Charles Miller
Alton F. Robertson
Calvin Riley
Gregg Harkness
Ronald I. Russell
Johnnie Nash
Hilrie Kemp, Jr.
William Pye
Loren Emery
Randall Felton
Terry Bailey
Charles Famshaw
Peter J. Araneo
Thomas "Ed" Clark
Harold J. Murray
John J. Hillyer III
James A. Gold
Peter R. Herrick
Robert Tuten
Raymond C. Walker
Ronald Philpott
Ed Crenshaw
James R. Kautz
Wilson K. Hunter
John Walker
Paul Mitchell
Garry L. Chitwood
William Smith
Keith Stephens
David Tilki
Thomas Kleschka
Stan Bartholomew
Herman Polston
Samantha Wood
Stephen Clark
Clarence Dukart
Robert Newman
Mrs. Dee Brockway ❖
Ronald L. Dollar
Edgar McGee
Gary Sturm
Patrick B. Upshaw

Shirley Williams ❖
Stella Langel ❖
Kirsten Neff
Benjamin Slaughter
Richard Morris
George Dore
Richard Leyde
Claude "Bob" Suggs
Anita J. Hansen
James F. George
Robert D. Litten
Jerry W. Kautz
Charles L. Meyer
Orlando "Pappa" Chase
David Vernaza
Kyle J. Croce
Michael Rambo
James N. Nappier, Jr.
Janna L. Robinson
William Wiedeman
James Boglarsky
Ralph M. Capito
Peter Reid **
Robert "Marty" Fisher
Francisco "Frank" Landrau
James R. Graham
Fred M. Derr
Allen Boatman
Donald E. Rimel
Joseph Hale
Linda Joiner ❖
A.J. "Jack" Dempsey
Karen Anderson❖
Brandi Anderson❖
Michael Doublery
Fred Frank
Anthony Muller**
Christopher Ritchie**
Lewis Haynes**
Doug Alvarez**
Aaron Felthousen**
Gregory Risner**
Odis Ray**

Michael Vorburger**
Thomas Johnson**
Robert Strickland**
Earnest Anthony**
Wilbur A. Smith
Ernst W. Nelson III
Thomas E. Legler
Victor Szalankiewicz
Anthony "Tony" Matthews
Joseph Leahy
Jay Callaway
Keith Deakins
Robin Brockway ❖
[ANNUALS \(2015-16\)](#)
Robert Ashley, Jr.
Robert Dodd
David A. Katz
Pauline Crenshaw ❖
Joyce Ledgering
Jacqueline Polston ❖
Normand Dupuis
Mark Blue
Ardell Ball ♦
Mike Streckert ♦
Matthew Brancatelli ♦
Patrick Clountz ♦
Orrick Haney ♦
Dane Hanson ♦
Luis Maldonado ♦
Jamies McKinney ♦
Daniel Miller ♦
Maurice Morten ♦
Norberto Nuenzmorales ♦
Joseph Shaughnessy ♦
William "Bill" Lamb
Edmund Parada
Charles Hayman

* WW II
** Iraq WIA
*** Iraq KIA
❖ Associate
♦ Active Reserve



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CONTINUED

MEMORIALS

John J. Hillyer Jr.	Elmer Finch *	Trace Dossert ***	Bill Cramer
Fred Huntley	Boaz Blosser*	Scott McHugh ***	John Finley
Donald L. Billstone	Jason Dwelley ***	Mike Anderson***	Ed Ripoli
Jim Knox	Chris Dickerson ***	David Ludivici	Bill Schram
Ron Patterson	Ronald Ginter ***	Al Cardenelli	Harvey Warren
James V. Carney *	Robert Jenkins ***	Marlin Cochran	John Witzman

MEMORIALS

(Continued)

Bob Brockway	John T. Larsen	Cleveland Joiner	Lindon Haworth
William P. Shiver	Nick San Marco	Peter R. Brown	Robert Depew
Edward N. Orange	U.J.C. Tom Williams	Fred Ainsburg	

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Despite a “slow” start in this calendar year, our membership increase is at it’s best since 2009, our initial year. It has really “picked up” due to the efforts of Frank Landrau recruiting NMCB 14 drilling reservists. At a recent training weekend in Gulfport, Frank was successful in recruiting a dozen new members. That’s the largest “one time haul” we have ever experienced.

Also, Ed Crenshaw has continued stellar performance in picking up members from our link to “Southern Pride” on Facebook.

The Membership Committee is exploring ways to make Membership “signup” easier via technological methods instead of our current methodology “paper” signing up process. Hopefully we will have a positive report for you in our next newsletter. Ideas and suggestions are welcomed and can be submitted to Frank or Ed.

MEMBERSHIPS 2009 to DATE

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Life	47	18	16	06	05	24	23
Annual	13	06	07	10	14	16	22
Totals*	60	24	23	16	19	40	45

◆ Not Including Memorial Memberships

* Note that some previous Annuals converted to Life, and some members have passed away. Thus the “grand total” from “2009 to Date” will not match the “177” subtotal shown below.

WELCOME 2015 NEW MEMBERS

We heartily welcome new members added since the Summer 2015 Newsletter:

Life Members

Wilbur A. Smith	Ernest Nelson III
Thomas Legler	Tony Matthews
Victor Szalankiewicz	Joseph Leahy
Jay Callaway	Keith Deakins

Thank you all for your support and sacrifices.

Annual Members

Robert Dodd	David Katz
Pauline Crenshaw	Mark Blue
Joyce Ledgering	Norm Dupuis
Jacqueline Polston	Ardell Ball
Mike Streckert	Matt Brancatelli
Patrick Clontz	Orrick Haney
Dane Hanson	Luis Maldonado
James McKinney	Daniel Miller
Maurice Morten	William Lamb
Edmund Parada	Charles Hayman
Joseph Shaughnessy	
Norberto Nunezmorales	

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	5
Life Members	131
Annual Members	<u>23</u>
Subtotal	159
Memorial Members	<u>35</u>
TOTALS	194



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Our best wishes go out to the following for a very Happy Birthday:

Jack Araneo	02 December 1935	// 80 Years Young
Mark Blue	06 March 1961	// 55 Years Young



2015 ARMY - NAVY GAME FACE OFF

If you missed this years Army-Navy football game - you missed a dandy one, which Janna Wiedeman can attest to. Janna for the first time in fifteen years, sat across the field from her Army sister at the game in Philadelphia, won by Navy by a score of 21 to 17. Since this was Navy's fourteenth consecutive win over Army, we question - was there any "Sisterly Love" in the "City of Brotherly Love" after the game? 🤔 (The Devil made us say that!!)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Many of you may remember Grey Duncan, a former Supply Officer who served in the Battalion in the 70's and 80' era. We received a note that advised us that Grey has moved from Jacksonville to Orlando. His new address is 4342 Piedmont Court with a Zip Code of 32817-1370. The note appears to have been written by someone other than Grey. You might want to drop him a note to say hello and ask how he is doing.

TENTH REUNION NEWS AND UPDATE

Although we had slightly fewer Pensacola, it was considered by all to went to work on Thursday with their minuted details and action items for "Meet and Greet" and a President's Ladies to have lunch and do some sight On Friday, Larry Orvis, from the presentation to us about the wonders emphasis on the NAS Air Museum. Memorial Service in the morning. Museum, while others took the beaches and/or other environs. cocktail (or two), dinner highlighted Joe Leahy (SMSA), a phone call with donated an original Handmade Aboriginal Boomerang, the Brockway Award(s), door prizes, a 50-50 drawing and announcement of the major prize winners. Whew! What a memorable evening we had. Sunday morning after an early BOD meeting we wrapped the reunion with our Missing Man Service and Remembrances of those recently deceased members. Prior to departure, we introduced our new officers and Board of Directors and said our "so longs" 'til



First National Bank, Palafox Place

attendees than usual at our Tenth Annual Reunion in be a huge success. The Officers and BOD promptly first three meetings where they focused on last Friday, Saturday and Sunday activities. In lieu of a Ladies Luncheon on Friday, Sharyn Grace arranged for the seeing in Pensacola's historic district, the Palafox Place. Pensacola Visitor's Bureau, made an interesting of Pensacola and the surrounding area with an Saturday was a busy day with the NMCB 14 Saturday afternoon, many toured the NAS Air advantage of the beautiful weather, paid visits to After a busy afternoon in the sun, it was time for a by presentations from EACS Ball, (NMCB 14) and Life Member Marty Fisher from Australia who



Larry Orvis of the
Pensacola Visitor's Bureau



At Entrance to NAS Air Museum



Pensacola Beach View from a Tower



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

TENTH REUNION NEWS AND UPDATE (Continued)

Officers & BOD
Present Certificate of
Appreciation to Mike
& Sharyn Grace for
their service this year.
(Right ———>)



Thanks Also To:

Richard Biggs, Jim Caulder,
Loren Emery and Richard
Hoibraten for their faithful
BOD service for the past
three years - and also to
outgoing Mark Blue (VP)
and Fred Bossard
(Secretary) for their
services this past year.

Long Lost Souls - Long lost (but not forgotten), both EAC Jack Dempsey and CDR Tony Matthew made it to the reunion. Jack was in attendance all four days while Tony could only make for a few hours on Saturday, which was better than not at all.



Ed Crenshaw Welcomes Jack Dempsey



Tony Matthews (center) says "hi" to old friends, Shirley and Bill Purkis.



Tony arrived as a "Cubs Fan" and "Left" as a Life Member. Thanks Tony.

Saturday's NMCB 14 Memorial Service - Since the Battalion is no longer located in Jacksonville, the original plan was to have a joint service at the reunion with the Battalions's Command structure. (CO, XO, CMC, etc). However, due to travel restrictions, they could not be in attendance. They were however, adequately represented by EACS Ardell Ball, Company Commander of "North Company" with detachments from south Georgia to Norfolk and everything in-between. The Ceremony, was held inside in the Ballroom with all the proper decorum and respect due our KIA's. Janna Wiedeman represented the Alumni Association and Richard Mayo presided as Chaplain. The Memorial Wreath was provided by the Alumni Association.



"The Missing Man Table"
was set up and managed by
Richard Mayo



"The Memorial Wreath"
EACS Ardell Ball and Janna Wiedeman
Representing NMCB 14 and the
Alumni Association



"The KIA Monument"
that resides at NAS, JAX was present by
virtue of an enlarged photograph
mounted on poster board that sat on an
easel. Mike Grace made this happen.



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

New BOD's & Election of Officers- During Friday afternoon's General Meeting, the newly elected Board of Directors were announced. Elected to Three Year Terms were: Allan Boatman, Frank Landrau and Richard Mayo; to a Two Year Term - Fred Bossard and to a One Year Term - Loren Emery. Following the General Meeting, the new BOD convened to elect this years "new" Officers. Elected were: Mark Blue - President, Mike Grace - Vice President, Ed Crenshaw - Secretary and Glenn Smith (for a fourth year) - Treasurer. Since Mike did not "roll over" to the BOD as usual for an out-going President, the BOD nominated and elected Randy McGhee to fill this Board slot for one year.

Partial Officer & BOD (L-R)

Mike Grace (VP), Fred Bossard (B), Ed Crenshaw (Sec), Glenn Smith (Treas), Loren Emery (B), Richard Mayo (B), John J. Hillyer III (B), and Mark Blue (President)



SMSA Update - Prior to dinner on Saturday night, Joe Leahy, Executive Director of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association, provided us with an update on the status of the SMSAa, NMCB 14 Scholarship (Established in 1978) and it's recipient, Skylar Dickinson. Skylar (daughter of Chris Dickerson, a 2004 KIA) graduated with the Class of 2015 from Polk State College (Lakeland - Winter Haven, FL). She, as the majority of SMSA scholarship recipients are, was an outstanding student. By Joe's account, the SMSA is in good shape, but can always put new donations to good use. In other news, before departing on Sunday morning Capt Leahy, who was at one time a member of NMCB 14, signed on as a Life Member of NMCB 14 Alumni Association. Welcome aboard Joe! At the left Joe received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mike Grace and Ed Crenshaw.



The Boomerang - Our International Member, Marty "Ozzie" Fisher, from Oaklands Park, South Australia, Australia, two years ago started on a project to obtain and donate to the Alumni Association - a handmade Aboriginal Boomerang. His initial contact with David, a member of the Gunningurr tribe, turned out to be fruitful in getting the process started. Marty learned that David's father and grandfather had worked with the Seabees in World War II. From then on it was like downhill, except for the actual presentation of the finished Boomerang to Marty. As it turned out and to shorten the story, the Boomerang had to be presented to Marty by the Tribal Elder, who decided to go on a "Crocodile Dundee" type "walk-about". Unfortunately, it was a LONG walk-about which resulted in a long delay in the presentation of the Boomerang. This unique gift will ultimately be housed in the yet to be built/located NMCB 14 Heritage Center at CBC Gulfport. Until then, it will reside with the current President or Vice-President of the Alumni Association. The full story of this unusual gift is follows in a reproduction of Marty's letter below.



SC Ball, Mark Blue, Mike Grace and Ed Crenshaw presented the Boomerang to the audience.



The Boomerang Up Close



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

Robert M. "Marty" Fisher

1 Mark Place

Oaklands Park, South Australia 5046

Australia

(08) 8298 9006

0417 999 021

ozziemartyfisher@yahoo.com

September 24, 2015

Dear Alumni Association members, families and friends of NMCB 14,

It is with great pleasure, I present this token of Australian Aboriginal wood craft to the Naval Mobile FOURTEEN Alumni Association in recognition of it's tenth annual reunion. Not only was this boomerang and base handcrafted by a true Australian Aboriginal craftsman, it was crafted in the small town of Kuranda (pronounced Ker-ran-da), Queensland; which was occupied by a detachment of Seabees from the 55th U.S. Navy Construction Battalion during World War 2. Similar to the Aboriginal man who handcrafted this display, other Aboriginals residing in Kuranda are descendants of grandfathers, fathers and uncles who worked with the "Bees" during the period of May 1943 thru April 1944. What is now Fanny O'Reilly's Irish Bar and Grill was the Kuranda Hotel and Pub, established in 1880, and was the "watering hole" for the U.S. military. Timber carved signs are mounted on the outside of the "pub" from past U.S. military units like the U.S. Army Field Ambulance and others.

The journey of this boomerang display began February 2014 with my hopes of presenting it to the Alumni Association during the 9th annual reunion. I wanted a handcrafted symbol of Australia, but believe it or not, Aboriginal politics got in the way. The only way I could receive a true handcrafted boomerang was approval from a tribal elder who would direct a named Aboriginal to cut and handcraft my boomerang from an Aboriginal tree grown on Aboriginal land. After the boomerang was completed, I would have to attend a presentation ceremony, conducted only by a senior tribal elder which I was more than happy to attend. After months of waiting, I contacted my tribal source in Adelaide, South Australia of the status of the boomerang - explaining the urgency and shipping time back to the states. The status of that boomerang is still a mystery with suspicions that Aboriginal politics is involved between elders and non-Aboriginals. Very confusing to say the least! Or...maybe like the Crocodile Dundee movie, the Aboriginal went "walk-about"! The meaning of "walk-about" is "walk in the outback ("the Bush") by an Aboriginal that lasts for an indefinite amount of time.

I couldn't believe all I was hearing or witnessing, so as a Seabee, the "can do" spirit took over and I started my research. I know Queensland has a U.S. military presence in Townsville and Darwin. From a previous trip to Kuranda, I knew the "Bees" were in Kuranda during World War 2. I learned the 55th U.S. Navy Construction Battalion left the states and arrived in Brisbane, Australia the 5th of March 1943 and built Camp Seabee. A detachment of "B" Company sent the city of Cairns (pronounced 'Cans') Queensland to build a mine depot. Cairns is located on the waterfront with no protection from enemy intrusion. Kuranda was the chosen site for the "Bees" because it's a mountain village that overlooks the city of Cairns, the Pacific Ocean, had a primitive road and an existing rail system the city. This small Seabee detachment built several buildings in Kuranda to include churches and several warehouses which are still standing and used today. Aboriginals worked with the "Bees" to improve the road from Cairns to Kuranda which I traveled on this year. The rail system was also improved by the "Bees" and still in service today.

As mentioned, I traveled the mountain road to Kuranda from Cairns while on holiday with my lovely wife Sandy in June. I noticed several shops advertising Aboriginal art and all advertising "original and locally handcrafted". I questioned a shop owner about "locally handcrafted" and she directed me to the Didj Shop in Kuranda. While visiting the Didj Shop, I was told the shop was managed by non-Aboriginals but all the wood workers, wood carvers and artists are Aboriginals and all from different local tribes. While talking to the shop manager (can't remember his name) and learning more about Kuranda's history, I learned four of these carvers and artists are descendants of families who worked with the "Bees" during World War 2.

After explaining my boomerang display and dilemmas with elders and Aboriginal customs from South Australia, I was



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

introduced to David from the Gunningurr (pronounced 'Gun-n-ger') tribe. He is a wood worker, carver and artist whose grandfather and father worked with the "Bees" on the main road and several of the buildings. David explained that his father would tell him stories about the war, the U.S. Navy and the security provided against the Japanese. David believes he was named after a friend of his father who was an American serviceman.

The boomerang on this display was carved and painted by David at no cost.....just as a token of friendship to the United States Navy and Seabees. David explained the warehouse used to store the timber for making this boomerang, this display base and other timber crafts are stored in a building built

by the Seabees in World War 2. He chuckled and said this about the building, "not so good now but no leaks!" The name "wirrimbah" (pronounced 'wer-in-bar') painted on the boomerang has the Aboriginal meaning of "to preserve", aimed to protect and maintain the cultural heritage of traditional Aboriginal people. After receiving this boomerang, I was wondering if David also meant to preserve the traditions of the U.S. Navy, the Seabees and the "can do spirit".

Sandy and I wish we could be present for the 10th annual reunion but business commitments this time of the year makes it difficult. We are present with you in spirit, heart and soul.

Take care to all!!

Sincerely,

Marty

Marty Fisher

Editor's Note - For more information on Kuranda and/or Cairns, click onto the following links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuranda,_Queensland

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cairns>

Major Prize Donors and Winners- We were fortunate once again this year to have some very special prizes donated to us which were raffled off and raised about \$800. Thank you letters have been sent to the major donors listed below. They were also sent one of our Challenge Coins and Lapel Pins as a token of our appreciation for their support.

<u>Donor Name</u>	<u>Donation Description</u>	<u>Donation Value</u>	<u>Winner's Name</u>
CAPT & Mrs Alton Robertson	One Week Stay at Ft Pierce Condo	Undetermined	Normand Dupuis
Beverly Mayo	Handmade Quilt	\$200.00	Elsie Bossard
Mr Charles Davis/Anza Knives	Handmade Knife & Sheath (2 Each)	\$300.00	Marla McGhee & Janna Wiedeman
Heather Fleming/Mary Kay	Cosmetic Gift Package	\$100.00	Anna Bushey
Mr John Wishmeyer/Home Depot	Miscellaneous Hand Tools	\$200.00	?
Marty Fisher/Sanmar Electric	Electric Drill Motor (and Postage)	\$280.00	Jim Gold
Matt Crenshaw/ 3 Percent Arms	Handmade Fillet Knife & Sheath & AR-15 Magazine	\$200.00	??
Mr Chris Wilson/Alan Jay Fleet			
Sales	65 Quart Engel Deep Blue Cooler	\$200.00	Stan Bartholomew
Randy & Marla McGhee	Weekend Trips to Lower Alabama (2)	Undetermined	Bill Charvat & Glenn Smith

Thanks also to ALL the numerous folks that donated so many beautiful items for the Silent Raffle. You are the BEST!!



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

The Brockway Awards - The Brockway Award Committee found two “finalists” that deserved recognition for their support. Keeping the “awardees” confidential to all but the fewest number of people (five) was a challenge. We are pleased to report that the two awardees are LT John Singler (CEC, NAVFAC Southeast) and Randy Bushey. It took a little bit of “subterfuge” to get LT Singler to the reunion (we knew Randy would be there). We invited John to the reunion to be a “guest speaker”. He did speak, but not in the manner he expected.

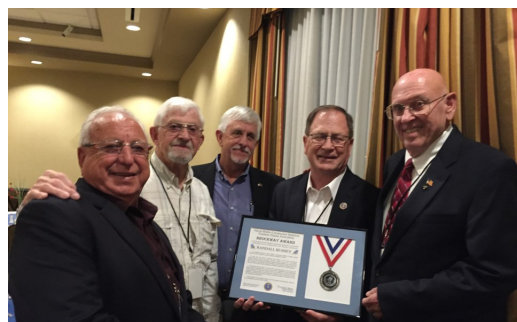
John was selected for the superb support and assistance provided to Jim Gold and others in packing up the Heritage Exhibit inventory. LT Singler was assigned to NMCB 14 when the cataloging of the Exhibit items was underway and assured access to the collection was available to Alumni Association members and others involved with the cataloging process. LT Singler arranged for the JAX DET to crate the display cases for transport to CBC, Gulfport and be placed in secure storage. LT Singler continues to be committed to the Historical Exhibits future. His dedicated and unwavering support, leadership and service to the purposes of the Alumni Association demonstrated his worthiness of this award.

Randy Bushey, Life Member and past President, demonstrated his worthiness for this award by singularly investigating and validating the needs of PO Joyce Ledgering's for a new air conditioning system. (See Summer 2015 Newsletter for the story.) Randy, without hesitation, “jumped” into this investigation with both feet, giving up weekends to validate the needs, costs, consulting with suppliers and contractors, and reviewing proposed installation contracts on behalf of Ms Ledgering. His thoroughness and professionalism assured that the request for aid was valid and at the same time assured that Ms Ledgering received a “fair” outcome.

Both of these gentlemen's support and dedication to the Alumni Association are sincerely appreciated. Bravo Zulu to both!



Left - Lt Singler listens to the reading of his citation by Loren Emery.



Right - Randy Bushey celebrates his award with Ernie Burzumato, Fred Bossard, Ed Crenshaw & Bill Charvat.



Left - Lt Singler receives congratulations from Mike Grace standing behind Loren Emery.



Right - The 2015 Brockway Award

NMCB 14 BATTALION NEWS

CDR Marc Williams, in a recent Change of Command Ceremony, was relieved by CDR David W. Wilhite. CDR Wilhite is a graduate of both Tennessee Tech (BS Civil Engineering 1996) and University of Tennessee (MS Civil Engineering 2002). He also attended the Naval War College (JPME 2007) and the Joint Forces Staff College (Advanced JPME 2011). DAWIA Acquisition Contacting Level 1 & Facilities Engineering Level 2 round out his formal training.

CDR Wilhite is a registered PE in Alabama and Tennessee. His Navy tours included the following: 2002 - 2003: Deployed OIF ISO NAVCENT & MEG, 2008 - 2009 XO NMCB 24 -Deployed to Iraq. Previous tours were: PERS-4413 (JO Detailer) / BUPERS-3 (OCM), 3 NCR (R43), NMCB 23 (S3A), 1 NCR (R7 / R3A) and NMCB 24 (D6 / B6 / S3E). CDR Wilhite also was a prior enlisted in the Army. He resides in Spring Hill, TN with his wife Carol and children Katie, Sarah and Jackson.

We look forward to meeting and speaking with CDR Wilhite in the near future on a Conference Call and/or at our next reunion. (See his stirring Thanksgiving Message on Page 10 below.)



A NOTE FROM THE SKIPPER COMMEMORATING VETERANS ON THANKSGIVING DAY



As we approach this holiday season and rapidly upon us, Thanksgiving Day, let us remember to be grateful for the willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country, and that this has earned them our lasting gratitude. Let us all recognize that it is more than just the Veterans themselves, it is both the Veterans and their families that have sacrificed so much that all Americans can live in freedom. Thanks goes to all veterans that have dedicated so much of their living, waking lives, that we all can enjoy the highest standard of living and greatest freedoms of any nation on earth. As George Orwell put it, "people sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men [and women] stand ready to do violence on their behalf", and in the words of Harry S. Truman, "America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." President Truman must have known some Seabees, because I have never heard a quote that more accurately described a Seabee Battalion.

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO ALL THE PROUD SEABEE
VETERANS AND FAMILIES OF NMCB 14!**

"SEMPER FORTIS" FOURTEEN

(ALWAYS STRONG)

David W. Wilhite, CDR, CEC, USN
Commanding Officer NMCB 14



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

NMCB 14 NEW LOGO AND ONGOINGS

Just as EQCM Ernie Nelson was successful in getting a high quality image of the Battalion's logo (a 2 1/2 year search) for placement on a placard at the Tampa Detachment, the Battalion's logo changed. Ernie has already begun his quest for a high quality image of the new logo to replace the previous one. We think he may have already had success in obtaining one. Standby for updates in the next "Spring-Summer" newsletter. Thanks to LCDR Mike Streckert (Battalion XO) for his report below and to Mark Blue and Frank Landrau for forwarding it.

As you may have noticed, this Plan of the Month includes the new NMCB 14 Battalion logo. After the DET realignments of last year, the old map depicting the NMCB Area of Operations was obsolete, since we now extend up to North Carolina (DET 2014 - in Charlotte) and Virginia (DET 2914 in Virginia Beach). We also have cross assigned in members at 78 other NOSC locations, extending from Maine to California. The Battalion leadership reviewed the existing logo and several design concepts. The new logo reflects the global nature of the Battalion yet retains key images from our long history. Specific design items are:

- The Compass Rose = Our Worldwide Capability as well as our Members across the entire US
- Guadalcanal 1942 and Iraq 2004 = our two most significant combat actions.
- The Seabee and a BEEP emblem = two iconic Seabee emblems.
- "Semper Fortis" = Always Strong, this Latin phrase is a favorite of SECNAV and one which certainly applies to NMCB 14!
- Red, White and Blue Color Scheme = the colors of our great Nation!

I hope you all share our excitement in being part of the next phase of NMCB 14 history. Shown below, in addition to the new logo, I have included all our past logos. v/r XO



WWII



1960's

NEW



LOGO



1990's



2000's



1970's

NMCB 14 Personnel fell into Formation to Honor the KIA and WIA's at their AT in Gulfport, MS 01 May 2015 .



LCDR Streckert's Remarks

Today is May 1st, which means that yesterday was April 30th and tomorrow is May 2nd. While this may seem very obvious - what this also means is that we are standing here today, between two days that forever forged a significant piece of our Battalion history.



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL-WINTER 2015

LCDR Streckert's Remarks - Continued

On those two days, April 30 and May 2, 2004 during less than a 48 hour period, our battalion suffered the second most combat casualties of any Seabee or Navy command in the Global War on Terrorism, surpassed only by the 11 SEALs lost during Operation Red Wings - which most of the world knows of from the Lone Survivor movie or book. There are no movies nor books about NMCB 14's tragic days, our legacy is known to some in the NCF, but primarily preserved by those of us who have followed in the footsteps of our distinguished brothers and sisters in arms, here at NMCB 14.

Because we are gathered here as a Battalion today, it is only fitting that we take a moment to honor our fallen brothers. At this time, I'd like to ask Chaplain Crawford to come forward to offer the invocation.

Thanks Chaps. Although this event happened 11 years ago, we still have members of NMCB 14, here with us today,

JOB OPPORTUNITIES **New-** Glenn Smith is in his 4th year of a 3 year term as **Treasurer** of the Alumni Association. Thus we are looking for someone to take over that position starting in November 2016. If you have some accounting or bookkeeping experience, please contact Glenn for more details at treasurer@nmcbl4alumni.com The Treasurer's position is a three year term and the turn over process for it would start in August of 2016.

Old - We are still looking for a new **Webmaster**. Anyone interested in maintaining our website can contact Keith Stephens at webmaster@nmcbl4alumni.com. Great PAY and BENEFITS - Well at least in the form of satisfaction for a "job well done and appreciated" is applicable to both positions.

SICK BAY

o At the 10th Annual Reunion, Ron Helton reported that he had recently had his gall bladder removed (like many of us). Unfortunately though, the doctors saw a suspicious area behind his stomach. In mid-November he was diagnosed with an invasive Gastric ADENO carcinoma, a type of stomach cancer. Ron consulted with his doctor(s) on or about 30 November 2015 to develop a chemotherapy treatment plan. The plan was effectuated on 15 December 2015 and is designed to shrink a tumor behind his stomach next spring. In a telecon with Ron on 22 December, he reported that he was in good spirits, (loved his puree diet - yea right - just kidding) and had one of the best surgeons and oncologists in the southeast U.S. He has appreciated the notes and calls from many of his ole Navy friends. (Isn't that what friends are for?)

o News of Dwyane Polston's stroke on 05 November 2015 was a shock to say the least. Especially since we had just seen Dwayne at the reunion and he looked as healthy as a bear. Fortunately, Dwyane did not have any paralysis but did suffer from some imbalance issues. Ed Crenshaw reported that Dwyane was back at home on 13 November and was doing well. Dwayne expected to be back at work about 27 November. He wants to work thru January 2016 and then retire.

o On 04 December 2015, Allen Boatman had surgery on his **left shoulder** and he reports that it is on the mend.

o We have learned the Ernie Nelson is in need of surgery on his **right shoulder**. He has a projected surgery date of 05 January 2016.

Will Allen and Ernie soon be "marching to another tune - **left/right**"?? We wish all you gentlemen a speedy recovery and a very healthy New Year!!.

OBITUARIES

o **Eldon E. Strawn** - After publication of the 2015 Summer Newsletter, Eldon's wife advised us that Eldon had passed away last May. No other information was provided.

o **Lloyd Hawthorne** - On 02 October 2015, Clarence Dukart advised us that he had received a phone call from Lloyd's wife Libby to advise him that Lloyd had passed away on Thursday, 01 October. No further information was provided by Libby, but presumably, Lloyd died of lung cancer diagnosed approximately one year earlier.

o **Libby Hawthorne** - On 10 November 2015, Clarence Dukart advised us that Lloyd's wife Libby died on 09 November 2015 apparently from a stroke suffered a few days earlier. No further information was available.



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

Obituaries - Continued

Word of the passing of **EAC Paul Davis** on 04 August 2011, arrived via emails from Mike Grace and Mark Smith on 10 October 2015. Paul was attached to the Orlando detachment. He was a Chief building official for the City of Titusville and a building inspector For Brevard County. Paul was survived by his wife Debbie, daughter Jennifer, five grandchildren, his mother Jacqueline D. Reid, his brother John and sister Victoria Reid Zelazny. A memorial service was held at Park Avenue Baptist Church in Titusville, FL on 09 August 2011.

o **Russell E. "Russ" Doe** - After more than a year of battling and fighting, Russ succumbed to an aggressive cancer. Russ was a loyal and respected member of NMCB 14 and the Alumni Association, serving as both an Officer and Board Member. He was the very first person to submit his application for membership in the Alumni Association. He thus claimed ownership to Member Number 2009-001, the very first number issued. Russ 67 years young, was born in Coral Gables and died 11 December 2011. As a Seabee, he served two tours in the Vietnam War. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant, CEC, USN, (Ret). Russ was a dedicated figure and warrior. In his last email to us, he expressed how aggressive his cancer was, but wanted to continue to serve on the Board for as long as he could; and serve he did - right to the end. There were no services. Memorial donations may be made to one's favorite charity. His obituary can be found at the following link:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sptimes/obituary.aspx?n=russell-e-doe&pid=176905891>

Other Obituaries of Note:

o **CAPT Tim Hamberg**, CEC, USN (Ret) - CAPT Dean Battles advised us that Tim, a long time member of NMCB 24, died on 09 October 2015, after an extended battle with cancer. Tim also served in SU3, and NCR3. Tim was born in Superior, WI on 20 February 1950. He resided in Greenville, SC with his wife Carolyn. Tim was an Eagle Scout. He received a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas in 1972. A memorial service was held for Tim on 17 October 2015 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Travelers Rest, SC. His full obituary is at: <http://www.westvillefuneralsandcremations.com/obits/obituary.php?id=574279>

o **CAPT John Ahl**, CEC, USN (Ret) - John J Hillyer III, in a 17 November 2015 email, advised us of John's death on 01 November 2015. John was a resident of Poulsbo, WA with his wife Catherine. He had a 30 year career in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps commencing in 1964. He had a degree in architecture from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in construction management from Stanford. He had many varied interests throughout his life which included music, nautical and whaling history, sail boating and more. A celebration of life will be held on 13 January 2016, 1100 hours, at the Stone Chapel, Poulsbo, WA. His full obituary is at: http://www.kitsapsun.com/obituaries/john-ahl-76_89087159

o **RADM Benjamin F. Montoya**, CEC, USN (Ret) - Our thanks to both RADM Noah Long and EQCM John J Hillyer, III for forwarding notice of RADM Montoya's death, who died on 19 December 2015. RADM Montoya was born in Indio, CA and graduated from Coachella Valley High School in 1953. He then attended the U.S. Naval Academy and received a commission as Ensign, U.S. Navy in 1958. He retired as Chief of the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and Commander Naval Facilities Engineering Command in 1989 with the rank of Rear Admiral.

RADM Montoya also had a degree in Civil Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering from Georgia Tech and a Law Degree from Georgetown University. RADM Montoya's awards included the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, two Legions of Merit, the combat "V" for service in Vietnam and several others.

In civilian life after retirement, RADM Montoya worked for Pacific Gas and Electric holding a position of Senior Vice President. Later in 1993, he was selected as the Chief Executive Officer of the Public Service Company of New Mexico, retiring (again) in 2000. RADM Montoya served on several boards of major companies such as Jacob Engineering and Wells Fargo. He also served on the boards of several charitable and civic organizations, including the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association.

RADM Montoya was a true leader, great mentor and friend of all Seabees and the CEC community. His leadership will be sorely missed.

RADM Montoya is survived by his wife Virginia and were the proud parents/grandparents of seven children and sixteen grandchildren.

(Funeral arrangements were incomplete for RADM Montoya at release time of this publication.)

MAY GOD BLESS ALL OF OUR FALLEN SHIPMATES AND THIER FAMILIES



NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FALL-WINTER 2015

RETIREMENTS

CAPT Dean Battles has notified us that he has retired from his civilian job as of **01 December 2015 at 1530 hours**. He stated that "over 40 years in the business - so enough is enough - at least until I start consulting".

He also said he needs a golf partner (seriously) - **Call 205-305-5276**. *Editor Note - Once Dean figures out that a retirement week is six Saturday's and one Sunday - he will give up the thought of consulting for a good game of golf and a beer at the nineteenth hole.*

THANK YOU MRS. DEE BROCKWAY

Our Treasurer, Glenn Smith, has reported that Mrs. Dee Brockway once again has shown her support and belief in our goals and objectives by making a year end donation in the amount of \$1,200.00. Thank you Dee. We will remain indebted to you and your daughter Robin for the many years of support you both have provided to us,

On our last Conference Call, the Officers and Board of Directors voted to grant Robin an Associate Life Membership. Welcome Robin! We look forward to possibly seeing you both at our next reunion. Best wishes to your both for a Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year.

UPCOMING SEABEE BALLS / REUNIONS

A host of Seabee Balls are on the horizon. Those who would like to attend one should begin their planning as soon as possible. Mark the following list of events on your calendars.

Date	Host	Location	Contact
20 Feb 2016	Ventura County Seabee Ball	Regan Library Simi Valley	Multiple http://seabeeball.org/contact-us/
05 March 2016	NSVA, Island X-3	Blairsville, GA	Ed Crenshaw cecbret@windstream.net
05 March 2016	NAVFAC SOUTHEAST	NAS, JAX O-Club	LT John Singler john.m.singler@navy.mil
28 Apr-1 May '16	ALL NSVA	Gulfport, MS	Richard Brown 601-938-6488 &
		Robert Smith	228-424-1185 smithp@cableone.net

PO LEDGERING FOLLOW UP NEWS

The Alumni Association received a very nice Thank You letter from Joyce Ledgering for our support in providing her with a new A/C system last summer. She included some photos as well. Due to space shortage, file size and time constraints, they are being forward as a separate attachment.

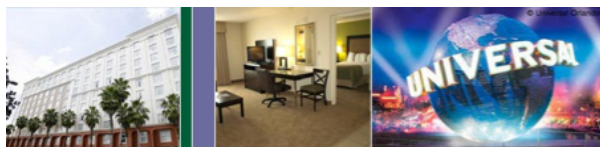
NMCB 14's ELEVENTH REUNION PLANNING

The results are in! During the General Membership meeting at 10th reunion in Pensacola, the consensus vote was to have the 2016 reunion in central Florida. This year's reunion committee, consisting of Randy McGhee (Chairman), Dwyane Polston, Mike Grace, and Mark Blue will be working hard to provide you with another quality reunion.

In November, Mike Grace and Mark Blue with assistance from Richard Mayo, explored hotel options in the Orlando area. On a Officer/Board Conference Call on 05 December 2015, the consensus was that the Holiday Inn / Universal in Orlando could best provide for and meet our requirements. The reunion committee is negotiating the final terms and conditions, details of which will be published in the next newsletter.

The hotel is located directly across the road from the Universal Studios and Resort. Other attractions and eateries are close by. So mark 06 -09 October 2016 and Orlando on your calendars for your next NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion destination.

Holiday Inn/Universal
5905 South Kirkman Road
Orlando, FL 32819
[http://www.hiuniversal.com/
contact.php](http://www.hiuniversal.com/contact.php)



TENTH REUNION CALENDAR

06 - 09 OCTOBER 2015

ORLANDO, FL

NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FALL-WINTER 2015



IN MEMORY OF

2015 Deceased

Paul Davis
Eldon E Strawn
Lloyd Hawthorne
Russ Doe

Other Notable

Tim Hamberg
John Ahl
RADM Montoya

LAST BUT NOT LEAST

Ed Crenshaw reminds us that we are fast approaching the end of another year, both calendar and TAX Year. IF you NEED a TAX Deduction, what better way to do it than to make a Year End Contribution to the NMCB 14 Alumni Association, a 501(c) 19 non-profit organization dedicated to provide support to KIA families, WIA's and their families and/or other NMCB 14 Seabees in need. Our latest Treasure's report from Glenn Smith showed that over 85% of our collected monies this year have done just that. We are proud that we have a much higher direct support ratio to overhead than majority of the more well known national organizations do. Some of them have as much as 85% Overhead to 15% direct support, a direct opposite of ours. MAKE out your CHECK to NMCB 14 Alumni Association and mail to:

Glenn Smith, Treasurer, Treasurer
NMCB 14 Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1565
Orange Beach, AL 36561

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Bravo Zulu to ALL - May God Bless Our Troops!

Calendar

05 December 2015

BOD Conference Call
0900 - 1000 EST

16 January 2016

BOD Conference Call
0900 - 1000 EST

27 February 2016

BOD Conference Call
0900 - 1000 EST

06 - 09 October 2016

11th Annual Re-Union
BOD Election of Officers
Holiday Inn / Universal
Orlando, FL 32819



NMCB 14 Alumni Association
4005 Crest View Drive
Stroudsburg, PA 18360



Addressee Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321