



# NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENTS CORNER

The start of a new Association Year provides each of us with the opportunity to contribute more than we did last year, and to allow those that were not able to contribute to join in the "Can Do" spirit. The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Association celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reestablishment of the Battalion honoring those "Plank-Owners" among us, brought the spouses into a more meaningful dialogue to support the Association goals, and was successful in bringing us closer to the active Battalion with their participation in the dinner-ceremony. Each of those attending in person and those joining us in spirit were responsible for the continued progression of our organization in serving the Seabees of NMCB 14. I want to thank Mike and Jackie Wood for setting up and managing the Hospitality Room and Ed Crenshaw for managing the fund raising activities during the reunion. Many others also supported these activities and I want to thank you for willingly jumping in where needed.

2012 can bring us to even greater achievement with the increased participation of the membership, both Seabee and Spouse. I propose that we move forward in 2012 as the Ombudsman Year – where we support the deployed Seabees of NMCB 14 and their families, never losing sight of the families of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, and those that were injured in supporting our Country and their Battalion. The Ombudsman Program initiated by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting and to be implemented this year will be the focus of our energy in 2012.

Anna and I want to thank those spouses who were able to attend the President's Luncheon and contributed with your ideas, your desire to actively participate in supporting our Seabees, and your enthusiasm. Anna will be contacting you in the near future to seek your continued contribution to the many ideas developed at the luncheon, and those yet to be born in the spirit of giving.

Welcome to Keith Stephens, our new Director and continuing Web Master, to the continued service of Mark Monaghan as Director, and Fred Bossard who left the post of Association Secretary to be a Director while continuing as the Newsletter editor. I look forward to working with Mike Grace, who is serving as the new Association Secretary, Al Robertson as the Association Vice President, and George Manning as the Association Treasurer. The new Directors, the Officers, and the existing Directors make a winning Team – a Team that always has room for more contributors. Many of you provided valuable support at the Annual Meeting and I will be calling on you to continue that support over the years to come and increase your participation as Officers and Directors of the Association in the following years.

Do not wait for September of next year to put the Association Annual Meeting on your calendar; start becoming involved now and each month of 2012. You are the most important part of the organization. We need you to grow our membership, through your examples of supporting our Seabees and their families – the reason that NMCB 14 Alumni Association was established.

Anna and I wish you and your family a blessed holiday season and a prosperous new year.

**Randy Bushey, President**

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



THANKS!!

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

### 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Don Bridges     | Mark Monaghan  |
| Ed Crenshaw     | Glenn Smith    |
| Randy Felton    | Keith Stephens |
| Ron Helton      | Fred Bossard   |
| John J. Hillyer |                |



Spouses at the President's Luncheon - 2011 Reunion



# NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER 2011

## NMCB 14 "PLANK-OWNERS RECOGNIZED"

A very memorable and touching part of our reunion dinner was the recognition of twenty two (currently identified) plank-owner members of NMCB14. It was especially noteworthy that ten of those plank-owners were present at the dinner.



Although some opinions differ about the use of the term "plank-owner" instead of "plank-holder," we think the question is satisfactorily resolved by the Maritime Dictionary which makes no reference to "plank-holder" and simply defines a "plank-owner" to be someone who is part of "The first crew to take a new ship to sea." Today (and in 1961), the term "plank-owner" can be applied to members of newly commissioned units, new military bases and recommissioned units as well. RMCB-14 (as it was designated on 01 July 1961) was actually a Naval Reserve component rebirth (or recommissioning, if you will) of the 14<sup>th</sup> NCB, which was commissioned at Camp Allen in July 1942 and disestablished in April 1946.

In the "Can-Do" spirit of the Seabees, EQCM Bill Purkis, himself a plank-owner, played a key role in the ceremony by presenting a very special "plank" to those honored members who were present. These "planks" were fashioned by the Master Chief from lumber used originally in the Library of Congress (circa 1800) as book shelving and, when replaced, "procured" in true Seabee fashion by our late Seabee brother, Lou MacNaughton. The historical significance of the planks well reflects the great respect we all have for those members who have faithfully served their country and were affiliated with the Battalion for many years.

Plank-Owners in attendance are identified in the photo to the right. Other Plank-Owners identified to-date that could not attend the reunion are RADM Peter R. Brown, John Larsen, Neil Orange, Ron York, Doug Snead, Bill Tydings, Bill Shiver, Ken Bethune, Ernie Bolchoz, Bill Hammett, Tommie Meeks, and Carlisle Smith.

Fred Bossard, Al Robertson and Joe Schweigart provided insights as to some of the issues, trials, tribulations and successes the Battalion endured and/or achieved in our early years.

*Editor's note: Of the twenty two known surviving Plank-Owners, at least five were enlisted (and at least one deceased as well) who retired as officers ranging from O-6 to CWO3. As RADM Brown told me, this is a real testament to the leadership that NMCB 14 possessed in those early formative years and beyond.*

**NMCB 14 "Plank Owners"**  
**(L-R) Orlando Chase, Joe Schweigart, Fred Bossard, Bill Purkis, Mike Wood, Jim Kautz, Gabby McCallum, Raleigh Ward, Charlie Sheppard, and Guy Sutton**



**Above is a photo of one of the Plank-Owner certificates presented during the Plank-Owner ceremony.**

### SEVENTH ANNUAL REUNION PLANNING

Planning for the 2012 reunion is currently centered on the Panama City, FL area and was announced as such at the reunion. However, there now are discussions underway to consider changing the 2012 site to Asheville, NC and to Panama City, FL in 2014. (The 2013 reunion is scheduled to be in the Jacksonville, FL area.) A final decision will be announced in the next several weeks. Stay tuned and checked our Website at: <http://www.nmcb14alumni.com/> for further updates.



# NMCB I4 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER 2011

## 2011 MEMBERS (TO DATE)

### WWII LIFE MEMBERS

James D. Rothermel

Andrew Parretti

Marshall Henry

### LIFE MEMBERS

Russell Doe

Robert Rehkopf

Fred S. Bossard

Peter R. Brown

John Dux

Ronald L. Helton

Terry B. Jamison

John R. Johnson

Randall Bushey

George Milian

Edward N. Orange

William Purkis

Glenn A. Smith

John T. Larsen

Kenneth Erickson

Mike Wood

Michael Grace

Mark Monaghan

William C. Charvat

Charles Sheppard

William Memory

Vernon Morris

Richard Biggs

Randall McGhee

U.J.C. Tom Williams

Donald N. Bridges

Ernest Burzumato

George A. Manning

William P. Shiver

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

Leo Bennett

Harold J. Murray

John J. Hillyer III

James A. Gold

Peter R. Herrick

Robert Tuten

Raymond C. Walker

Ronald Philpott

Raleigh Ward

Ed Crenshaw

James R. Kautz

Wilson K. Hunter

John Walker

Paul Mitchell

Garry L. Chitwood

William Smith

Mark Monaghan

Keith Stephens

David Tilki

Thomas Kleschka

Stan Bartholomew

Herman Polston

Samantha Wood

### ANNUALS (2011)

Normand Dupuis

Fred Ainsburg

Ray Cochran

David Katz

Charles Hayman

Patrick Upshaw

Ed Parada

### MEMORIALS

John J. Hillyer Jr.

Fred Huntley

Donald L. Billstone

Jim Knox

Ron Patterson

James V Carney \*

Elmer Finch \*

Boaz Blosser \*

Jason Dwelley \*\*

Chris Dickerson \*\*

Ronald Ginther \*\*

Robert Jenkins \*\*

Trace Dossett \*\*

Scott McHugh \*\*

Michael Anderson \*\*

David Ludovici

Al Cardenelli

Marlin Cochran

John Finley

Bill Kramer

Ed Ripoli

Bill Schram

Harvey Warren

John Witzman

### ANNUALS (2012)

Normand Dupuis

David Katz

\* WW II

\*\* Iraq





# NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER 2011

## Odds 'n Ends

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CYCLE HAS CHANGED

The "Cycle" for Annual Memberships has been changed from a Calendar Year basis to a "Twelve Month" cycle from the date of receipt of an Annual Application, This was done to encourage new applicants to join at any time during the year and not just during January. During the 11th month of your annual membership, you will be sent a reminder to renew you Annual Membership in the coming month. As ALWAYS, **all membership checks, Life or Annual, are to be made out to "NMCB 14 Alumni Association"**.

### 2012 BOARD OF DIRECTOR / OFFICER ELECTIONS

This years BOD elections saw a significant increase in participation from the membership. Membership participation jumped to 60% from 2010's 45%. That's a 33% increase. One of the BOD's Christmas wish's is that we get another 33% increase in BOD voting in 2012, which would put us at 80% participation. Our ultimate goal is to get 100% member voting participation. Our sincerest thanks go out to those that did participate in the voting process.

Your new Officers and Board Directors are listed on Page 1 (in case you missed them).

### NEW ASSOCIATION AUDITOR POSITION

The Board of Directors voted to create an Association Auditor Position to conduct biannual audits of the Association's finances. As a non-profit organization we need to maintain a good business approach to all of our financial activities and the Auditor, reporting directly to the Board of Directors, will provide that accountability check. We are fortunate in having Randy Felton as the first Association Auditor. Randy, thank you for accepting the position and taking on this responsibility. Tom Williams and Randy Felton conducted an audit last year and found the Association financing to conform to good accounting practices.

### ADVERTISING

Send in your business card and \$25.00 to Fred Bossard (made payable to NMCB 14 Alumni Association) for inclusion to our advertising section, good for three issues.

All advertising proceeds contribute to our primary goal of aiding and assisting KIA families and WIA and their families.

Welcome to "Storming Normand" Dupris in our advertising section.

Due to the Holiday season, we are giving Dave and Ernie a fourth "bonus" advertising issue. Thanks to all for your support.



### ALUMNI FACES

Left to Right:

1) Grey Duncan, 2) Jim Kautz, 3) Ray Walker/Jerry Kautz, 4) The Suttons





# NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER 2011

## SEABEE DETACHMENT COODINATION

Gary Chitwood has agreed to take on the Detachment Coordination activities in the Miami area. He will be working closely with John Hillyer, our Ways and Means Committee Chairman and Normand Dupuis, who is heading up the same in the Orlando area.

Gary has reported that NSVA Island X5 (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) participated in the Miami Beach Veterans Day Parade with floats and vetches.



Randy Bushey & Al Robertson preparing Plank-Owner Certificates

the remains of a Nike Missile Site ,(adjacent to the center).

One incident I remember, was a Sunday afternoon, all were leaving the center on York St. in Tampa. A fellow Seabee's car wouldn't start, Ed lifted the car with his wrecker, pulled the starter, disassembled it and gas welded the starter drive back together using a coat hanger as a brazing rod, put the vehicle back together. The fellow was able to drive home. Ed was a very good mechanic and good person.

Our Condolences go out to Dwight Hamborsky whose wife passed away on 4 November 2011. Dwight is from the Jacksonville area. You can contact Dwight at [hamborsky@bellsouth.net](mailto:hamborsky@bellsouth.net).

## OBITUARIES

CMC Edgardo Ripoli, passed away on 17 October 2011. Following is some of John Hillyer's memories of Ed. He was in NMCB 14, then was transferred to the hospital unit , then sent to Iraq. There, after it was realized that a great number of causalities would not come about, he was assigned as the Navy liaison for the liberty ship in Dubai, after that he was assigned to an army unit as a mechanic. Upon his return to Tampa and NMCB 14, he was ordered to ACDUTRA with me on a detachment to new Miami Navy and Marine Reserve Center, to clear

## SICK CALL

We are unhappy to report that John Larsen went back to rehab prior to the reunion. Several members paid him a visit during the reunion and the good news is that he looks much better than he did last April. Also, his wife Gloria has been ailing. Neil Orange was not yet up to par and could not make this years reunion. Joe Schweigart reported that Ron York is very ill. Joe recently spoke to Ron and they reminisced for a half hour about the "good ole" days. Joe Kolodziej became ill a short time after the reunion.

Best wishes to all for speedy recoveries and a healthy New Year in 2012.

## REUNION 2011 NUGGETS

### ENTERTAINMENT

Once again, we had superb after dinner entertainment from Rhonda and Harlan Hambright, accompanied on the keyboard by Deidre Singleton. They performed their own musical "Sail Away" with Rhonda as the "girl I left behind" and Harlan as the "swarthy sea captain guy". Thank you all for a capping off a great evening.

for those items. Ed Crenshaw deserves special credit for organizing and running the raffles in a typical OUTSTANDING Seabee manner. Thanks Ed.

### RAFFLES

Our Raffles prizes were outstanding this year. (See thank you note on page 6 for prizes.) The combination of three "major" raffle items, the silent auction and 50-50 raised over \$7,000. Thanks to all who participated in both furnishing craft items and the spirited bidding

### NMCB 14 DINNER GUESTS & SPEAKER

We were blessed with the presence of approximately thirty officers, men and women at our Saturday evening dinner. We all enjoyed interfacing with each other and learning a little about what they are doing in the battalion and their civilian lives. Two of the three major prizes (the TV and vacation condo) were won by NMCB 14 members.

2012 (Nov - Dec time frame). Also, our congratulations to LCDR Croce for his recent "promotion" to Executive Officer. May your tour as XO be a great success.



LCDR Croce Speaks after Dinner

The Alumni Association extends our thanks and appreciation to all the men and women of the battalion who joined us for dinner.

LCDR Kyle Croce, the Battalion XO, was our after dinner speaker, filling us in on the training and regimens that the battalion is undergoing in preparation for their anticipated deployment in

## SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL

From the Officers and Board of Directions

**MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH & HAPPY NEW YEAR**

NORTH POLE  
25 December  
2011





# NMCB 14 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2011



## IN MEMORY OF

### 2010 / 2011 Deceased

- EOC Larry Nanney
- EOI James Mack
- CMI Ron Patterson
- EOI Harvey Warren
- YNI Laurie Milligan
- UTI William Pierson
- William Kramer
- BUC Wm Paul James
- CMC Ed Ripoli
- Special Seabee Friends
- Patricia Erickson

## SPECIAL THANKS TO SPECIAL PEOPLE

Thank you again to the following for their Memorial Memberships:

- Randy Bushey \$50.00
- John J. Hillyer, III \$ 50.00
- Joe Kolodziej \$100.00
- Ray Walker \$ 50.00

### **THANK YOU - THANK YOU - THANK YOU**

**To Garry Chitwood - Beverly Mayo (Richard) - Al Robertson for your generosity, hard work and donations for the three major raffle prizes we had this year. Garry donated a 42" Plasma flat screen TV that was won by one of our active reserve Seabee's. Beverly spent hours and hours making a beautiful quilt from Seabee uniforms and Al (and his wife Lourdes) offered up a one week vacation condo on the beach in Ft Pierce.**

### **MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HANUKKAH & HAPPY NEWYEAR TO ALL**

Bravo Zulu to ALL                      May God Bless Our Troops!

## Calendar

### **27 December 2011**

Board Conference Call  
1930 - 2015 EST

### **18 February 2012**

Board Conference Call  
0900 - 1000 EDT

### **10 March 2012**

BOD Meeting/Seabee Ball  
Jacksonville

### **05 May 2012**

NMCB 14 Memorial Service  
NAS - JAX 1000 - 1130

### **01-04 November 2012**

7th Annual Re-Union  
Site & Hotel TBD

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Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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Anytown, State 54321