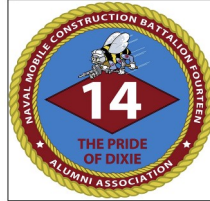


NMCB 14 Association

Newsletter



DAYTONA BOUND!

Spring/Summer 2023

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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Dear Members of NMCB 14,

I hope this finds you all in good health and high spirits. As a former member of this esteemed organization, it is my great pleasure to address you today as your newly elected Secretary. My name is Anthony Amesquita, and I am a proud alumni of NMCB 14.

As a veteran and former member of NMCB 14, I understand the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice that come with being a Seabee. I am deeply honored to have been elected as your Secretary, and I am committed to upholding the legacy of NMCB 14 and ensuring that our organization operates efficiently.

In honor of the seven Seabees who made the ultimate sacrifice in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, we continue to work tirelessly to build critical infrastructure across the globe, including initiatives like the Marvin G. Shields Memorial Tower and Seabee Veterans Memorial Park. Our 20th Anniversary is also coming up.



As Secretary, I am dedicated to maintaining accurate records of our meetings, events, and membership, and to keeping all members informed of important developments. I am excited to work alongside each and every one of you in the coming year to fulfill our mission with the utmost dedication and commitment. Thank you very much Brandi Anderson for everything you have done.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas for how we can better serve our members and our community, please do not hesitate to contact me at ajamesquita@yahoo.com or **(210) 573-9609**.

Together, we will continue to honor the memory of our fallen brothers and fulfill our mission with pride and dedication.

Respectfully,

Anthony Amesquita Alumni Secretary, NMCB 14

A story about space SEABEE'S:

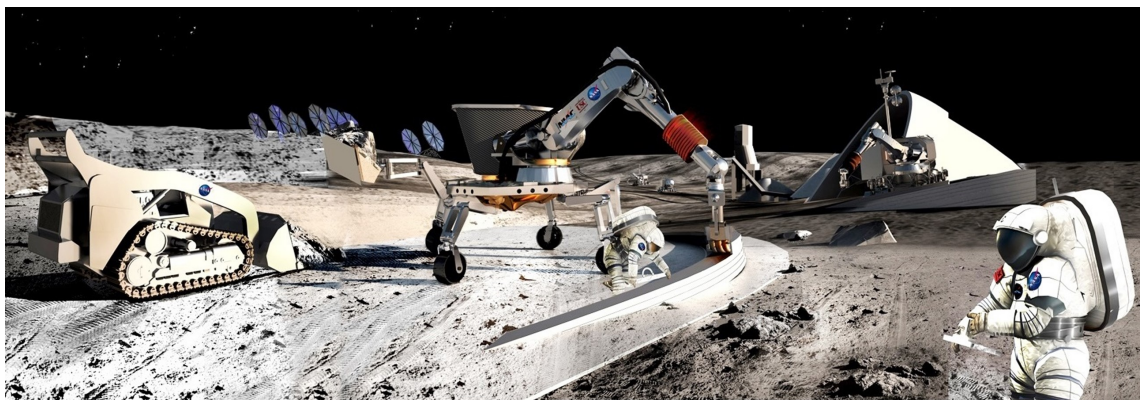
As the sun set over the lunar horizon, a group of SEABEES donned their futuristic spacesuits and stepped out of their spacecraft onto the rugged surface of the moon. They were there on a mission to construct the first permanent lunar habitat for human beings.

The SEABEES had been specially trained in space construction techniques, and they brought with them the latest in advanced robotics and 3D printing technology. They set to work immediately, laying the foundations for the new habitat and constructing its various components.

With the help of their robotic assistants, the SEABEES were able to work around the clock, making incredible progress in just a few short weeks. They built living quarters, laboratories, and research facilities, all designed to support long-term human habitation on the lunar surface.

As the project neared completion, the SEABEES looked back on what they had accomplished with a sense of pride and awe. They had pushed the boundaries of human exploration and technology, and they had laid the foundation for a new era of space exploration and colonization.

And as they gazed out at the vast expanse of the lunar landscape, the SEABEES knew that they had played a vital role in making humanity a truly spacefaring species.



2023 REUNION!

Hope this newsletter finds you and your families well. I'm excited to announce that we've secured the location for the 2023 annual reunion. This year's reunion will be held in the Daytona Beach on October 28th at the below location:

Fairfield by Marriott Daytona Beach
1820 Checkered Flag Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

All the required information will be announced soon as well as a link to reserve your hotel room and posted on the website at: [HOME | Alumni \(nmcb14alumni.com\)](https://www.nmcb14alumni.com)

I believe its a great location, the hotel is in an area called One Daytona, across the street from the Daytona International Speedway. It is surrounded by restaurants, shopping and of course my favorite Bass Pro Shop. Also its only a few miles away from the world famous Daytona beach. The hotel has offered discounted room rates prior to and after the reunion so if your looking for a mini vacation this would be a great time.

I'd like to remind all that during the reunion we hold important meetings to discuss the business and way forward for the association. It is imperative that we have the involvement and input of the members during the general membership meeting as it is vital to the NMCB 14 Association's future. We are always looking for members which would like to serve the association. Please consider serving as our association benefits all current and past members of NMCB14.

So mark your calendars and plan to attend. I'm looking forwarded to reconnecting and seeing everyone. Until then stay safe and see you soon.

Board Member, and former NMCB 14 Association Vice President

Thomas Legler



NMCB 14 Alumni Association Challenge Coins

If you are interested in purchasing an NMCB 14 Alumni Association Challenge Coin to help support us, they are available for \$10 plus \$1 shipping and handling.

Contact Gregg Harkness (g.harkness@earthlink.net) for ordering information!



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Swarm!!!

The Hive is Alive!! Mark your calendars for this event Seabees. NMCB 14 Alumni Association is proud to announce a Summer swarm to be held Saturday **May 20th (Armed Forces day)**

This is a social event. No speeches No agendas just an opportunity to relax and enjoy each other with no other pressures!!!

Time: 12:00 to 4:00 pm

Lunch served starting at 12:30

Menu -
Hamburg's - Hotdogs
Potato Salad
Baked Beans
water and soda

Sorry No alcohol can be consumed on premises due to city ordinances.

There are two brewery's and other eatery's in town that serve Adult beverages.

Location -
Clermont Historic Village
490 West Avenue
Clermont FL 34711

Beautiful down town Clermont FL, is situated conveniently in Central FL between Orlando and Tampa.

We have rented space with Picnic Tables and a great view of the lake.

You can bring your own Lawn - Camp chairs to enhance your comfort!!

Looking for some one to supply a corn hole game or two - please let me know

RSVP only for meal planning purposes only - NOT required but helpful

RSVP to daryllict2001@yahoo.com

Hope to see you there !!!!



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Association Changes Its Name (Slightly)

At the 2022 Reunion, the General Membership voted to remove the word “Alumni” from the Association’s name. The Board of Directors subsequently approved this change. Henceforth, we will be the “NMCB FOURTEEN ASSOCIATION, INC.” The membership and the Board felt the word “Alumni” focused membership at only those who were at one time (but not currently) members of the Battalion. By revising the name we feel that this will attract more of the current NMCB-14 current members. The change must still be submitted to the State of Florida for approval. We are also changing the Association seal—more to come on that.

NMCB 14 Receives USFF Retention Excellence Award!

From Skipper, NMCB 14:

I want to give my utmost appreciation of all in NMCB 14, especially leadership that contributed to making retention a priority. We must continue to strive for excellence in everything we do, including investing in our Sailors. We are helping our people achieve great success and as a result are leading them! Thank you all for everything you continue to do, making NMCB 14 the greatest Battalion in the NCF!

Useful Information for Association Family Members

SURVIVOR’S ASSISTANCE CHECKLIST

There are numerous tasks to be completed following the death of a retiree. This checklist is designed to assist your surviving family members in taking the necessary actions in the event of your demise.

Immediate Actions

1. Notify the Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland Center (DFAS-CL) of the retiree’s passing. DFAS-CL will stop the member’s retired pay and provide the required information regarding the Retired Service member’s Family Protection Plan (RSFPP) or the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) if the member was enrolled in either program.

Call DFAS-CL: (800) 321-1080
Date completed: _____

2. Contact your nearest Navy Retired Activities Office (RAO) for assistance if there is one nearby. Alternatively, use an Army Retirement Services Office (RSO) or an Air Force Retiree Activities Office (RAO).

Check a recent edition of Shift Colors or call (866) 827-5672 for a listing of Navy RAO telephone numbers.
Date completed: _____

3. Contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to obtain:
a. Flag for burial (frequently funeral directors will assist in this matter);
b. Burial assistance (if member died of a service-connected disability or in VA hospital);
c. Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) (if the cause of the retiree’s death was service connected).

Note: You will need a copy of the service member’s discharge document(s) to include the DD Form 214, retirement certificate/orders to apply for any VA benefits.

VA Regional Office: 800) 827-1000
Date completed: _____

4. Contact the Social Security Administration (SSA) to apply for the \$255 burial payment paid only to spouses, not adult children. (Note: You will need to schedule an appointment with the local SSA office to review eligibility for additional benefits.)

SSA: (800) 772-1213
Date completed: _____

5. If covered under Veterans’ Group Life Insurance (VGLI), report the death to the Office of Service member’s Group Life Insurance (OSGLI). If covered by VA National Service Life Insurance (NSLI) call (800) 669-8477

VGLI Office: (800) 419-1473
Date completed: _____

Follow-up Actions (to be completed within 6 months):

1. Obtain a new dependents identification card (ID) (will change/update DEERS) from the nearest military installation. Questions concerning ID cards should be directed to the Navy Personnel Command, Benefits/Identification Eligibility Branch, PERS-312, at (866) 827-5672.

Date completed: _____

2. If enrolled in RSFPP or SBP and not yet receiving an annuity, contact Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Cleveland Center.

DFAS-CL: (800)321-1080
Date completed: _____

3. When necessary, call DFAS-CL for member’s 1099R (for tax purposes) and call DFAS-CL for SBP annuitant’s 1099R.

DFAS-CL: (800) 321-1080
Date completed: _____



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pete Herrick Featured in PVA Newsletter



Paralyzed Veterans of America

801 Eighteenth Street, NW • Washington, DC 20006
www.PVA.org/SupportVeterans



**The real value of this nickel is much more than you may think.
It shows the value of Americans working together!**

Dear Fellow American,

As the United States entered World War II, nickel became a critical wartime material needed for tanks, artillery shells, and armor plate. So, in 1942, the nickel coin underwent a significant change when Congress authorized the Mint to transform the currency by adding other metals in place of nickel.

Our young men were at war, fighting for our freedom, and there was nothing more important than giving them the support they needed.

When Americans pull together, there is nothing we can't achieve. We won World War II, together with our allies, and we changed the world!

When the war ended, hundreds of thousands of American heroes returned home wounded. They needed help. That's when Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) was formed. We had a critical mission then and it's just as critical today.

I am a paralyzed Veteran and the national president of PVA. We are working every day to ensure that our Veterans receive specialized medical care, earned benefits, employment services, and groundbreaking research, all free of charge.

You see, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not take care of all the needs of our paralyzed and disabled Veterans. The VA does provide medical benefits that average about \$16.00 a day — but, sadly, the need is so much greater.

That's why I've enclosed a nickel in this letter — as a symbol of the ongoing commitment we need from all Americans to support our paralyzed and disabled Veterans today.

If you believe nothing is more important than supporting our paralyzed and disabled Veterans who have served and sacrificed for your freedom, then I'd be personally grateful if you'd do two things today.

Support us today with your most generous gift of \$8, \$10, \$15, or more to PVA — one of America's oldest, most trusted, and most effective Veterans service organizations.

(over, please)



While serving on active duty in Iraq, Navy Seabee Peter Herrick was paralyzed from the neck down from shrapnel from a mortar attack. After returning home, Peter wondered how he could ever recover his life...



Thanks to generous friends like you and hands-on help from Paralyzed Veterans of America, Peter and his wife Diana got the assistance their family needed for Peter's recovery.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NMCB 14 Association Scholarship

The NMCB 14 Association Scholarship is available again! Criteria as follows:

- 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.
- 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 for great grandchildren.

How to Apply:

The applicant must provide a Cover Sheet which includes:

1. Student name, address, email address and phone number.
2. Name of College/Trade School
3. Name of relative that is or was a member of NMCB-14 and how the applicant is related to them. This must be two sentences to describe their relative – member of NMCB-14 and how the applicant is related.
4. Date application submitted.

In addition, the applicant must submit the following:

1. Written proof of acceptance to a college or trade school. For students already in college or trade school, the student must submit their grades from the last semester and their statement that they are enrolled for the following year at the college or trade school
2. 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)
3. An essay that meets the following criteria:
 - i. Typewritten essay, in English, between 300-500 words (not including references) based on the selected topic for the year. Essays over 500 words will be eliminated.
 - ii. The THEME for the 2023/24 School Year is: “**Are Today's Youth Patriotic?**”
 - iii. The student must write their own essay.
 - iv. The essay shall be submitted in MS Word. References shall be placed on a separate page at the end of the essay. Use Times New Roman font 12 – or Calibri font 12.
4. Applicant shall include a picture – head and shoulder front view (selfie).

Application Submittal

The completed scholarship application must be submitted to the NMCB-14 Alumni Association President or his representative no later than **31 May 2023**. 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.
 - i. Knowledge of the Theme
 - ii. Theme Development
 - iii. Clarity of Ideas
 - iv. The selection of the scholarship awardee will be made solely by the Scholarship Committee and said selection shall be final.

Scholarship Award

- 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. For those students that have a Florida Bright Futures scholarship (or other similar state scholarship), which pays tuition, the scholarship can be used to pay some of the dormitory fees, a meal card fee, laboratory fees, or books; in such instance a current receipt for said items must be presented to and approved by the Scholarship Committee.
- Two (2) \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded per year.
- Scholarships are school-year specific and therefore must be applied for annually and no more than two will be awarded to any scholarship recipient.
- The selected scholarship awardees are requested to attend the NMCB-14 Alumni Association Annual Reunion Banquet with his or her NMCB-14 member (if alive – if not their parents). In 2023, this will tentatively be held October in the Daytona Beach, FL area. If the student cannot attend (because they attend a college away from the reunion area), then we request a short video of him or her and their school – and their selected course of study – be submitted which can be played at the Reunion banquet.
- The scholarship selection will be announced in the Alumni Association newsletter and in other SEABEE newsletters or journals and publications – each year in September.



Announcements

Your VA ID Card Is The Proof You Need For Discounts

“How do I prove that I’m a Veteran?” It’s a question often asked by those who once served in the military. Many businesses offer discounts to Veterans for restaurants, hotels, stores, recreational activities and even home improvement, among other perks. Former service members will want to take advantage of those opportunities.

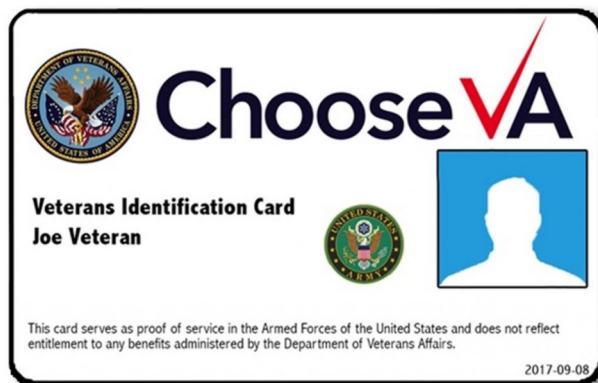
First, you’ll want to apply for VA’s Veteran ID Card (VIC), which is a digital photo ID you can use to get those discounts. Since September 2022, all new Veteran ID cards have been digital. A

Veteran with a physical ID card can continue using it to get discounts. The VIC is separate from

the VA health care ID, which a Veteran receives when enrolling in VA health care.

[Click here https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/](https://www.va.gov/records/get-veteran-id-cards/vic/) to apply online.

If you have any questions or need help, email VA’s VIC program at vetidcard@va.gov.



Don't Worry, yours will have a nice pretty USN emblem on it!

HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?



If you’ve not seen it yet, do yourself a favor and check it out!

<https://www.nmcb14alumni.com>

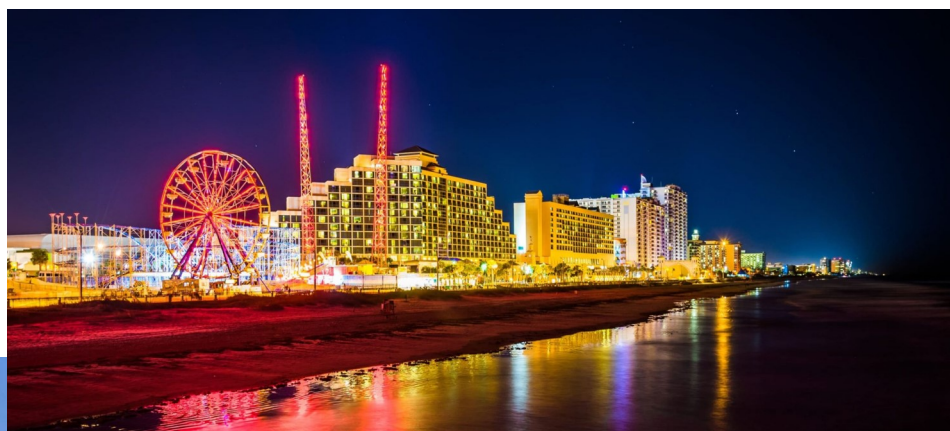
Reunion 2023



Our 2023 Reunion will be held on **Saturday, October 28** at the Fairfield by Marriott Hotel in Daytona, FL. This location is right across from the Speedway . There are many restaurants & shops in the vicinity.

Based on suggestions by members, the format this year will be different than in the past. ***ALL events will take place on Saturday only.*** The Board of Directors will meet in the morning, the General Membership meeting will be in the early afternoon, and the Banquet will be Saturday night. Our Memorial Service, which is usually held Sunday morning with breakfast, will be incorporated into the Banquet program.

This change will help reduce costs to individual members as well as to the Association. We anticipate most members will only stay overnight on Saturday but feel free to come early or stay longer to enjoy all the other opportunities available in the Daytona / Daytona Beach area. More information on registration and hotel reservations will be forthcoming.



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 Association

Web Address:

<http://nmc14.alumni.com>

Facebook Page:

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

Got something to contribute? Contact the editor:

Pat Allfrey—p.allfrey@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	03
Life Members	167
Annual Members	05
Subtotal	171
Memorial Members	38
TOTAL	213

14