



Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Seabees! I hope everyone is well and staying COVID-free and safe.

The Reunion is quickly approaching. If you haven't registered yet and/or made your hotel reservation, please do so soon. Hope to see you all there

Speaking of the Reunion, our contract with the hotel stipulates we need to have 20 rooms reserved on each night (OCT 8, 9 and 10) – and the group rate expires on September 8. We also have a clause that if the COVID-19 scenario results in our having to cancel the Reunion, that the hotel will refund all moneys paid in from the Association and our members. And of course, your Registration fees would be refunded. But we certainly hope that doesn't happen!

By now you have also seen multiple requests for donation items for our silent auction, door prizes, etc. The income from these auctions help us fund our assistance efforts for NMCB 14 and Alumni Association members. Maybe someone could provide some Seabee-related face masks!

Speaking of relief efforts, hurricane Laura has just devastated area in Texas, Louisiana and elsewhere. If there are any of our NMCB 14 or Alumni members who are in need of assistance, please contact one of our Ombudsmen (Debbie Croxton and Betty Nelson) or our Assistance Committee Chair (Daryl Lichti) to initiate the support request. [Their contact information is listed in this newsletter]. That's why this organization exists!

Again, stay safe and I hope to see you ALL at the Reunion.

Gregg Harkness

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings fellow Seabees, friends, and family of NMCB 14 and all alumni. This memo will be my last as Vice President. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve the Alumni Association in this position, acting President and acting Treasurer for the last couple of years. If approved I look forward to continuing as the Treasurer.

By now you must be aware that our annual reunion is fast approaching, and we are looking forward to an outstanding turnout. The Board and officers have been planning it since the conclusion of the 2019 reunion and we expect this to be a great opportunity for folks to get together in a location close to home.

The annual reunion is key to the operation of the association. It allows us to conduct our required business, support our fundraising effort and especially provide the forum for our community to reacquaint with friends and family. Both new officers and board members will be recommended for the association approval.

I personally look forward to seeing everyone October 08-11 in Orange Park for a great reunion. If you are not already registered, please do so immediately and show us that "Can Do" spirit.

-Joe Leahy

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MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	03
Life Members	162
Annual Members	05
<hr/> Subtotal	<hr/> 169
Memorial Members	38
<hr/> TOTAL	<hr/> 208

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hello Everyone! I hope you are all staying safe during these crazy times!

We are so looking forward to seeing you all at the October Reunion in Jacksonville! Please keep sending your registration forms to **139 Jubilee Circle, Daytona Beach, FL 32124**. I have been trying to send confirmation emails once I receive your registration. If you do not get an email, please contact me; it may be that I have just not opened my mail yet. ☺

Thank you to everyone who voted in our most recent election. The results will be announced soon! Again, feel free to contact me about anything, anytime via email or Facebook!

P.S. If you have any pictures either from when you served or at any of the past Reunions, be sure to send them to secretary.nmcb14@gmail.com to have them featured on our website.

-Brandi



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Many wars have been fought, and many people have remained strong and courageous while performing their duty as people who held their faith strong and made the ultimate effort to move forward in spite of the challenges.

In the book of Nehemiah 4: 17-18, it reads that those who built on the wall, and those who carried burdens, loaded themselves so that with one hand they worked construction and with the other held a weapon.

This is the Seabee culture and proof of the strength in our Hive.



God's blessings to all,
Pastor Richard Hoibraten
U S Navy Seabees Chaplain

Announcements

2020 ANNUAL REUNION ACTIVITIES

Hospitality Room - The Courtyard by Marriott is providing us with a nice Hospitality Room. It will have a refrigerator, cupboards, and a sink. Chairs and tables for snack food, cold drinks, beer, and other beverages will be available. Members are encouraged to bring snack food (cookies, candy, chips, dips, drinks, etc.).

A sign-up sheet will be available for volunteers to man the hospitality room through-out the weekend.

Silent Auction and Raffle – The Silent Auction and Raffle(s) will include a major prize, craft items donated by the Officers, Board Members and general members, a 50/50 drawing and a door prize. The proceeds from these events will benefit

**SILENT
AUCTION**

the fund for aiding the families of those KIAs and WIAs from NMCB 14 as well as current and past members of NMCB 14 and their families who need financial assistance.



Local Attractions: Visit Jacksonville has created a personalized website for our group which has information on all that the area has to offer. This will certainly keep you busy! The website is

www.visitjacksonville.com/NMCB14

You can also check the Courtyard website for ideas: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/local-things-to-do/jaxco-courtyard-jacksonville-orange-park/>

The following websites offer listings of recreation, dining, and shopping menus in the area:

<https://www.visitstaugustine.com/>

<https://www.ameliaisland.com/>

<https://www.simon.com/mall/st-johns-town-center>

<https://orangeparkmall.com/>

<https://www.simon.com/mall/the-avenues>

Hours of operation of many facilities have been curtailed and may differ from those posted on websites, so calling in advance is advisable.

Entertainment – Entertainment at the Saturday night dinner will be provided by the “Salt Driven Ride” band from the St. Augustine area.

Courtyard by Marriott Entertainment Amenities

Swimming Pools - An outdoor pool and spa are available.

Fitness Center - Maintain your good health between meals at the complimentary fitness center.

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.

President and Vice President’s Luncheon with Spouses - Spouses

please join Joe and Bina Leahy for a luncheon at NOON on Saturday. The topic of this luncheon will be to discuss furthering the spouses’ roles in the Alumni Association as well as how we can enhance our assistance to our current and past Seabees and/or their families. We need your ideas and participation.

Did you miss your chance to register? It’s not too late! You can still do late registration! We’d love to see you!

**IT’S
NOT
TOO
LATE!**





ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

I want to remind you all, both past and present NMCB 14 members, that this Association was started to assist those in need. We were ready then and continue to stand ready now to give you a hand if needed. This assistance is not intended make your troubles disappear, nor can it be the answer to end all your financial problems. It is intended to relieve some hardship you may be experiencing.

The Association has gone to great lengths to prepare a fair path for those who wish apply for assistance. While getting assistance is not Guaranteed, we will consider all available facts. Our aim is to assist the member/family as much is within our power. We now have two Ombudsmen on board and of course our Chaplain who are eager and ready to serve you. Please feel Free to contact us. Your information will not be shared outside the Committee—we are committed to your privacy.



Ombudsmen:

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Betty Nelson
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Chaplain:

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NMCB 14 ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP

Did you know we currently offer a Free Life Membership to any of the WIA from the 2004 Iraq Deployment?

Members of NMCB 14 who were WIA during that deployment can contact [Brandi Anderson](#) or Membership Chair [Jimmy Cochran](#) with their information and receive a Lifetime Membership in the NMCB 14 Alumni Association.

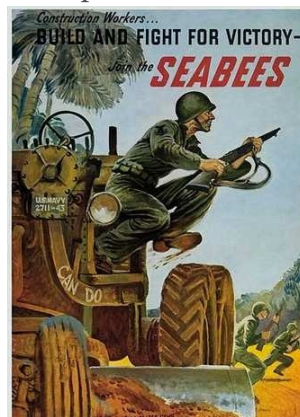
Additionally, any immediate family member of the 7 KIA of the 2004 Iraq deployment are also

offered a Free Life Membership in the Alumni.

We are always looking for new members to join with us in the Alumni as we maintain friendships and help those of "14" who may be in need.

All membership information can be found at the Alumni web page:

nmcbl4alumni.com or contact Membership Chair Jimmy Cochran with any questions



A GLIMPSE AT LIFE IN THE WWII SEABEES



Ralph G. Fallert

(1914-2002) served for more than four years in the South Pacific with the Seabees during World War II. During that time he wrote several poems about his experiences that were not published. They have been provided to Navy magazine courtesy of his daughter, Christine Fallert Kessides.



"My father always said that during his wartime overseas service, his dominant memories weren't so much of the fighting, but rather of the many mundane and often boring discomforts (that being an era with little access to distractions) she told us. "So, while overseas, he wrote a number of humorous poems about annoyances such as the food, constant relocations, long hikes with knapsacks, rain-soaked tents, army cots, etc.

The following poem, "Scuttlebutt," was "one of his favorites and I know he would have been very pleased to share it with other veterans," she said.

SCUTTLEBUTT

You'll be gain' about your business,
Mindin' your P's and your Q's,
When along'll come Spike, actin' casual-like,
But bustin' to tell you the news.
So you stop whatever you're doin'
And just about wiggle your ears,
'Cause you're in the humor to hear a good rumor,
And Spike's here to tell what he hears.
So Spike gives out with his story,
Which is hardly over and told,
When along comes a mate who has just got it straight,
And already Spike's version is cold.
Well, the first thing you know, comes another,
With a sort of half-scorn for the rest,
Because letter for letter his story is better,
And his sources so far are the best.

But the real fun begins in the chow-line,
When the guy who is dishin' the hash,
Points out some new angles, some twists and some tangles,
And weighs his opinions in cash!

There are so many precincts to hear from,
You hardly have time for your food,
And at last when you're able to break from the table,
You've swallowed lots more than you've chewed.

It's amazing how fast the word travels
When everyone's ear's to the ground,
Paul Revere rode a snail when compared to the gale
That can scatter a rumor around.



Seabee operating a Caterpillar D8
on a Project in the South Pacific, WWII

And consider the way that it changes,
As it goes from the ear to the mouth –
Expansions, contractions, additions, and fractions,
And one says it's North, and one South.

A ship comes into the harbor –
Like wildfire word goes around –
This time without fail there's a hold full of mail!
But by noon there is none to be found.

A mate hangs his blues for an airing,
And before he has rolled them away,
They are naming the ship and the date of the trip,
That will land us in 'Frisco Bay.

But you've got to admit it's exciting,
And it keeps you out of a rut –
The old to and fro, and the yes and the no,
Of a good run of Scuttlebutt!

- From a **Navy** magazine article, Spring 2020. Submitted by Christine Fallert Kessides



CHECKING IN WITH NMCB 14

As the years have passed, I've often wondered what's been going on in the Battalion that we all left behind. In this, and upcoming newsletters, I'd like to take a few moments to provide everyone with updates and information about the Battalion we all came from. We'll start this series with some information about the current command staff that's leading 14 to do great things.



NMCB 14 Commanding Officer, Captain Kevin Coyne



Captain Coyne is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. He is a graduate of Wentworth Institute of Technology, receiving his Bachelor of Architecture. He was commissioned as an Ensign through the Direct Commission, Reserve Officer Program.

As a reserve Seabee he served with NMCB 23 in various roles and leadership positions.

CPT Coyne has also served three active duty periods including, Battalion Intelligence Officer, NMCB 23, Al Anbar, Iraq; Detachment OIC in support of Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command, NMCB 23; and National Liaison Representative Interface Officer, North American Treaty Organization (NATO) Allied Command Transformation (ACT), Norfolk VA.

In November, 2019, CPT Coyne assumed command of NMCB 14, Gulfport MS.

In his civilian career, he is the Design Production Coordinator for the Hampton Roads area of NAVFAC MID- ATLANTIC's Capital Improvements Business Line. He is a Registered Architect and holds a DAWIA Level III Certification in Facility Engineering.

CPT Coyne is Seabee Combat and Fleet Marine Force warfare qualified. His personal awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (5 awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and other personal, service, unit, and campaign awards.

Command Master Chief, NMCB 14. Master Chief John Cullen:



Master Chief Cullen affiliated with the Navy Reserve in January 1991. He attended The University of Massachusetts Boston, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. He has also attended the USN Senior Enlisted Academy and the USN CMC/COB School, both located in Newport, Rhode Island.

CMDCM Cullen had served with NMCB 12, NMCB 27, 1st NCR, NMCB 28, 7th NCR, and NMCB 25 before he was assigned to NMCB 14.

His awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards) Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Seabee Combat Warfare, and various campaign and unit awards.

CMDCM Cullen works as a civilian general contractor.

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>

