

NMCB 14 ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2026



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REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT.

Hello, fellow Seabees.

I do hope everyone enjoyed the country's 250th birthday, no matter where they were.

The reunion will be on September 25 and 26 in Lake Buena Vista, Florida. The association will meet on the 26th at 10:00 AM. The hospitality room will be open on Friday, the 25th, from 3:00 PM until whenever. As of now, you can stay at the hotel from September 24 to 28. Anyone wanting or needing to stay there longer at the nightly rate of \$89, please call me. I sincerely hope everyone can make it. The reunion is an excellent opportunity to see old friends and make some new ones.

The registration fee helps fund the other costs of the reunion. Please bring a donation for the silent auction. This helps the association in many ways. If you have any pictures, please email them to NMCB14@gmail.com. We will also need a few volunteers for some association positions. Please step up and help in any way you can. If you have a friend from 14 who does not know about the association, please tell them about us.

Chuck Douge - Can Do

WELCOME ABOARD!

Richard C. Mayo is our new Chaplain for NMCB 14. He entered the U. S. Navy Reserve on July 3, 1967 at the Reserve Center on Tigertail Avenue in Coconut Grove, Florida. He was working with FDOT on the largest public works project in the US, the intersection of SR 836 and I-95. With two years of College in Engineering, he quickly jumped into the construction family of NMCB-14.

He had two weeks boot camp at Great Lakes followed by Class A Builders School in Port Hueneme California where he graduated Top Honor Man. He served two years active duty with MCB-4 with a tour in Vietnam where he received the Combat Action Ribbon for actions on Hill 65.

He retired as a Master Sergeant in the US Air Force Civil Engineering Squadron Homestead ARB. He has been married to Beverly for 39 years. She is also a member of MCB 14 and was our secretary many years ago. They have two sons, Billy and Bradley.

They started a sewing ministry for the Veterans in the Jacksonville area 14 years ago.

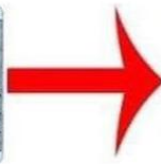
He lives in Jacksonville st 927 Birchfield Court 32221, 904-228-6985, richardcmayo7@gmail.com. He is looking forward to serving his faith, his country and the Bees for many years to come.



"IF IT MOVES, SALUTE IT. IF IT DOESN'T MOVE, PAINT IT. IF IT'S A SEABEE, IT'S PROBABLY MOVING, COVERED IN CONCRETE, AND IGNORING YOU"

- Unknown





REAL ID ACT AND NEXTGEN ID CARD

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11's recommendation that the Federal Government's "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The latest information indicates the Department of Homeland Security will start Real ID Act enforcement on 7 May 2025. This will affect what forms of ID/documentation people can use to access certain federal facilities, board domestic commercial flights or individuals visiting military installations.

Even after the Real ID Act is in effect, there is **no** change for military base access for individuals (military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses) who already possess military, or DoD issued credentials; non-DoD personnel without base access credentials will be the largest demographic affected by REAL ID requirements. If you don't have the NextGen ID card, but an "old style" ID card (DD Form 2, DD Form 1173, DD Form 1173-1, or DD Form 2765 (blue, pink, or tan ID)) you will still be able to access a base for now!

It's important for military retirees/dependents/surviving spouses to know, at some time in the future, these old forms of ID will **not** be valid to access a military installation, and you will **need** issuance of the NextGen ID card. This will be true even if your old ID card has an INDEF expiration date on it - the ID will still be **invalid**. DoD has not specified a date when this will happen, and we have no idea how much advance warning you will get before you must have the NextGen ID card. Social media and word of mouth, however, you receive information, we are hearing the deadline **may** be on 1 Jan 2026. We understand DoD will formally announce.

Based on this, we strongly encourage everyone with an old-style ID card to get a NextGen ID card now!

There are several ways to make an appointment to get a new ID card.

- (1.) You can visit the RAPIDS ID Card Office Locator website to find the closest office and either call them to make an appointment or
- (2.) Schedule your own appointment using the website. <https://idco.dmdc.osd.mil/idco/> To make an appointment using this site select the "ID Card Office Locator & Appointments" block.
- (3.) You may be able to renew your ID card online and have it mailed to you, no waiting in line! You select the "Family ID Cards" block on the website at the link above. Below are the requirements to renew a card online:
 - Sponsor must be a CAC holder or have a DoD Self-Service Logon username/password
 - Must be requesting a renewal of an active USID card
 - Sponsor and Cardholder must have email addresses listed in DEERS that they have authorized DoD to use for contacting them
 - Sponsor's personnel status must extend at least 30 days into the future
 - Cardholder has a photo saved in DEERS taken in the last 12 years
 - Cardholder's mailing address is present in DEERS and is in United States or Overseas.
 - USID cards cannot be shipped to PO Boxes

If you have an old-style ID card, you can get the new NextGen ID at any time - do it now!

SEABEES

Can Do!



NMCB 14 Association

2026 REUNION

★ SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026 ★



COURTYARD[®]
BY MARRIOTT
ORLANDO
LAKE BUENA VISTA
AT VISTA CENTRE

8501 Palm Parkway
Orlando, FL 32836

Minutes from Disney[®]
in the heart of Orlando!

★ **RATES: \$89-\$109** per night
includes **FREE** hot breakfast buffet

MORE INFO & REGISTRATION FORM AT:
★ **NMCB14ALUMNI.COM** ★

CONTACT GREGG HARKNESS AT:
✉ g.harkness@earthlink.net
☎ (407) 491-1863



BOARD MEMBER REMARKS

As we continue into 2026, our Association remains focused on preserving the legacy of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOURTEEN while strengthening connections among our veterans, families, and future generations.

More than two decades have passed since many of us served together during Operation Iraqi Freedom, yet the bonds forged through service remain strong. The Association continues to support reunions, memorial activities, veteran outreach, and historical preservation efforts that ensure the sacrifices and accomplishments of NMCB-14 are never forgotten.

One area of focus moving forward is improving long-term continuity of Association records, membership information, historical archives, and family engagement. Our goal is to build systems that allow future generations to understand who we were, what we accomplished, and the legacy we leave behind.

As always, we encourage all members to stay involved, attend reunions, support Association activities, and help us locate former battalion shipmates who may not yet be connected with the organization.

We remain committed to honoring our fallen, supporting our veterans, and preserving the history of NMCB-14.

Respectfully,

Anthony Amesquita Jr. NMCB-14

REMEMBERING THOSE WHO GO BEFORE US

Fair winds and following seas to our friend and brother in uniform, William Edgar McCallum better known to us as "Gabby" McCallum for obvious reasons. He passed away peacefully on May 24 in Jacksonville, Florida at the age of 96.



Born on 15 July, 1929, he spent most of his childhood in Jacksonville, FL and graduated from Jackson High School in 1947.

He proudly served in the U. S. Air Force during the Korean War receiving the Korean Service Medal and the United Nations Service medal. He also served over 32 years in the U. S. Navy Seabee Reserves while working for the City of Jacksonville for 45 years as an Engineer, where he was greatly respected for his dedication, skill, and steady commitment to his community.

NMCB 14 Association Secretary Randy Bushey and Chaplain Richard Mayo were present at the funeral service to honor him and to thank the family for sharing "Gabby" with us for so many stories.

To know Eddie was to know how much he cherished spending time with his family, going fishing and hunting with his friends at Two Gate Hunting Club, cheering on the Florida Gators, and, of course, smoking a good cigar. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his kind nature, giving spirit, and unmatched gift of "gab."



Reaching Out

The **NMCB-14 Association** is looking for contact information for the following Life Members.

If you have any information about these members, please contact Steve Koch at subbeemech@yahoo.com or 843-202-5633.

- Joseph F. Austin
- Richard Biggs
- Ralph M. Capito
- Russell Damewood
- Keith Deakins
- Frank DeVito
- Ronald L. Dollar
- Robert (Marty) Fisher
- Joseph Hale
- Charles (Charlie) Hickey
- James R. Kautz
- Barry Klose
- Joseph Kolodziej
- Fernando Labrada
- Stella Langel
- Richard Leyde
- Robert D. Litten
- George A. Manning
- Robert Massey
- Anthony (Tony) Matthews
- Joseph McClung
- Roberta McLaughlin
- Richard Morris
- Calvin Riley
- Donald E. Rimel
- Wilbur A. Smith
- Julio Soto
- David Vernaza
- Michael Vorburger
- Moises Zaragoza

ENS JOHN E BUSSELL NORMANDY - 06-JUN-44

On Memorial Day this year the Navy Seabee Foundation posted a "Roll Call" of all Seabees & Civil Engineer Corps Officers that were killed in action. One of the listings sadly reminded me of a trip I had made to the American Cemetery in Normandy in 2015.

I was walking around the cemetery and saw this grave marker:



At the time I thought, how did an Ensign get killed on D-Day?

When I got home, I researched that and found the following:

John Bussell was born on November 17, 1919, in Coffeyville, Kansas.

He enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve on November 20, 1942, and went on active duty to attend the Naval Reserve Midshipman's School in New York on March 16, 1943.

Bussell was commissioned an Ensign on June 16, 1943, and then attended Civil Engineer training at the Naval Construction Training Center at Camp Peary, Virginia, from June to October 1943.



He next attended Navy Combat Demolition training at Naval Amphibious Training Base Fort Pierce, Florida, from October 1943 to January 1944, followed by service with Navy Combat Demolition Unit 46 from January 1944 until he was killed in action while serving with Navy Combat Demolition Unit of Force "O" at Omaha Beach during the D-Day Invasion at Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Ensign Bussell was buried at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, France.

So that explained it - but was most astonishing to me was that he was a Civil Engineer Corps officer! And this was ENS John Bussell:

I did a presentation at church on Memorial Day about him, and it brought the congregation - and myself - to tears. When you put the name and the face together, it brings you closer.

-Gregg Harkness



NMCB 14 REUNION 2026

The 2026 NMCB 14 Association 2026 reunion is scheduled for **25-26 SEPTEMBER 2026**. It will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Courtyard at Vista Center motel in beautiful Lake Buena Vista. (8501 Palm Parkway, Orlando, Florida 32836)

You will find a copy of the registration form on the next page. The room rates will be between \$89-\$109 per night and the deadline to register is 26 AUGUST 2026.

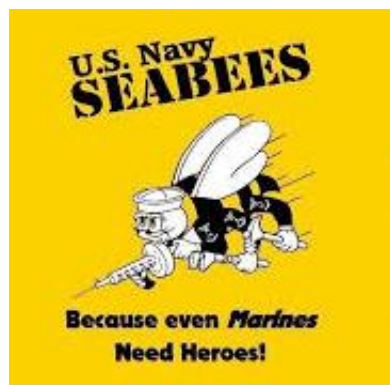
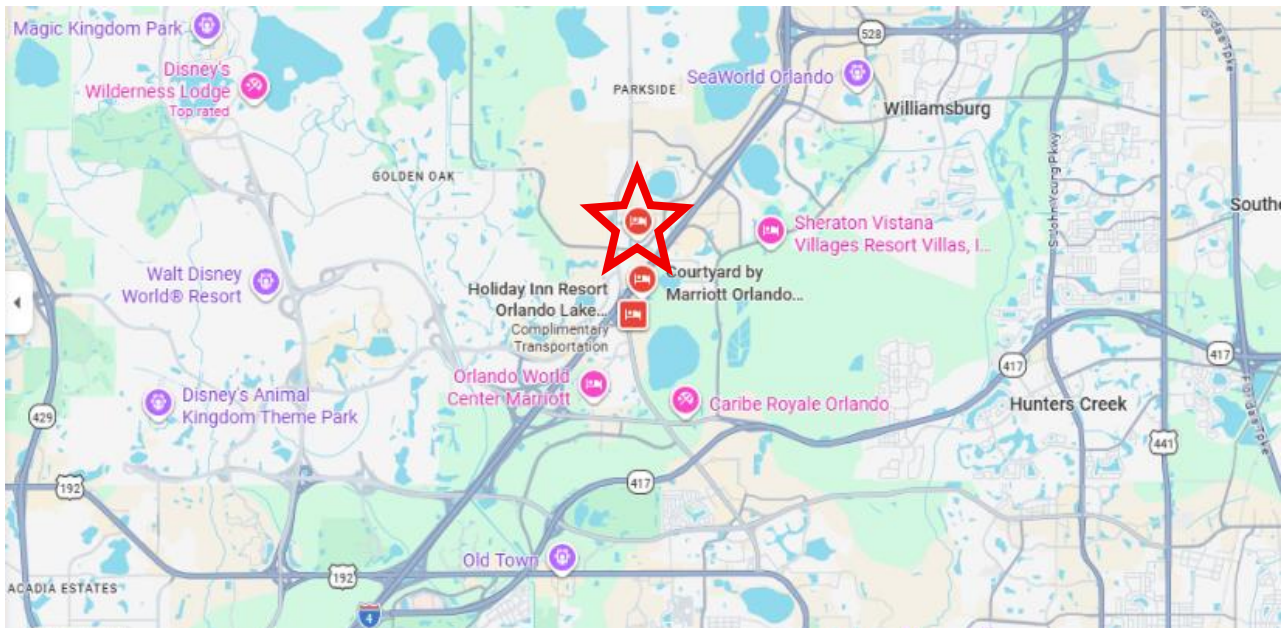
The Courtyard features two restaurants on site as well as a fitness center, an outdoor pool and of course, our hospitality room, which will be open on 25 SEPTEMBER.

The facility is located off Interstate 4 and is close to many of Orlando's major attractions.

Reunion Activities will include:

- Silent Auction
- Association Board Meeting
- Association Banquet
- Social time with your brothers and sisters
- Opportunities to purchase challenge coins

Remember, you have until 26 AUGUST to register! Don't miss out on this opportunity to re-connect with old shipmates and explore the fantastic attractions that only Orlando has to offer!



REUNION 2026 REGISTRATION FORM

NMCB FOURTEEN ASSOCIATION, INC.

ANNUAL REUNION

REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

COURTYARD ORLANDO LAKE BUENA VISTA AT VISTA CENTRE

8501 PALM PARKWAY, ORLANDO, FL 32836

Name: _____
Last First

Address: _____
Street

City State Zip Code

E-Mail: _____

Phone: _____

Spouse/Guests _____
Last First

Last First

Make Hotel Reservations Here:
Book your group rate for
NMCB14 Association September
25-27, 2026
\$89.00 - \$109.00 per night - Last
Day to Book is August 26, 2026

Members & Member's Guests Register Here

	<u>Check/PayPal</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Early Registration (Before 11 September 2026)	\$70.00/\$72.00	_____	\$ _____
Late Registration (After 11 September 2026)	\$75.00/\$77.00	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

Non-Members & Their Guests Register Here

	<u>Check/PayPal</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Early Registration (Before 11 September 2026)	\$75.00/\$77.00	_____	\$ _____
Late Registration (After 11 September 2026)	\$80.00/\$82.00	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL			\$ _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Note: If Vegetarian Meal(s) is/are required for Saturday Banquet, please indicate, number required: _____

Mail or email this form to:

Gregg Harkness
7255 Woodville Crescent
Orlando, FL 32819

secretary.nmcb14@gmail.com

Payment:

A. BY CHECK (Payable to: NMCB 14 Association); or
B. PAYPAL Use secretary.nmcb14@gmail.com as
the PayPal address.

Regardless of how you pay, you MUST send this
Registration Form to Gregg Harkness.

*Your Registration Fee Includes the Registrant's Saturday Night Dinner plus an allocated share of
general Reunion expenses*

THE NMCB 14 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.

By-laws were established and a nonprofit status was applied for. In November 2007 the nonprofit status was granted. The association was then a 501 (c) (19) military nonprofit organization.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2026 Reunion**
September 25-26th 2026 – Orlando, Florida, Lake Buena Vista at Vista Center

Labor Day

7 SEPT, 2026 (Monday)

- **Veterans Day**
11 NOV, 2026 (Wednesday)

ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS PROPOSED FUTURE INITIATIVES

- Continued preservation of NMCB-14 historical records and photographs.
- Expansion of membership outreach and engagement.
- Development of family legacy and historical archive programs.
- Increased communication through newsletters, social media, and digital platforms.
- Recognition of veterans and families who continue serving their communities after military service.
- Preservation and documentation of the battalion's Iraq deployment history and lessons learned. Veteran Spotlight Recommendation The newsletter could include a recurring "Where Are They Now?" section featuring former NMCB-14 Seabees, their careers, families, community service, and accomplishments since deployment. Legacy Corner Recommendation A recurring section highlighting:
 - Battalion history
 - Significant deployment milestones
 - Profiles of our fallen Seabees
 - Historical photos and stories submitted by members

Membership Engagement Recommendation Members are encouraged to:

- Update contact information
- Submit photographs and stories
- Notify the Association of reunions, retirements, awards, and family milestones
- Help reconnect former battalion members with the Association



NO MATTER HOW BAD YOUR JOB MIGHT GET IN THE CIVILIAN WORLD, AT LEAST YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT IN MOPP GEAR.



VA RESOURCES

- For any questions or requests, [1-800-MyVA411](tel:1-800-MyVA411) ([1-800-698-2411](tel:1-800-698-2411)) is always the right number.
- [Veterans Crisis Line:988](tel:1-800-988-9888) and press 1, or Text [838255](tel:838255)
- [Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387](tel:1-877-927-8387)
- [Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](tel:1-877-424-3838)
- VA News (<https://news.va.gov/>)

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