



# Newsletter

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings NMCB 14 Bees-

I hope all are well, and everyone is moving towards getting COVID-19 vaccination(s). I got #1 and will be receiving #2 at the end of March.

Great news!! We have signed the contract for our Reunion this Fall. It will be held **November 5 – 7** at the Sheraton Tampa Brandon. Thanks to **Ernie Nelson** for getting this worked out. Details on making your room reservations are elsewhere in this newsletter and will also be posted on our Facebook page and website. Registration details are still being worked out but generally, the plan is that on Friday, November 5, we will have our BOD meeting in the morning. This will be followed by the Spouse Luncheon and then the General Membership Meeting in the afternoon. On Saturday, November 6, you will have all day to explore the Tampa area and then our annual Banquet will be Saturday night. As usual, Sunday morning will be breakfast and our Memorial. Mark your calendars – I hope to see a large turnout!!!

It's also time to be thinking of new Board Members. Two of our BOD will be rolling off, so we will need two more. If you have any interest, please contact me.

Be safe!!

*Gregg Harkness*

## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. Time is flying by, it's hard to believe we're already 3 months into 2021. I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I been overwhelmed at work. It has been a blessing to be in the construction industry as I've not missed one day of work throughout this pandemic.

Did you know your military construction skills can qualify and/or help to obtain a Florida standard inspector license? I've been an inspector for over 20 years and my military experience qualified me for several certifications. When you're ready to put your tools down, this is a career path worth considering. Okay, enough of the recruitment advertisement.

I'm not sure if you knew this, but NMCB 14 was awarded the Battle "E"? I'd like to give a huge HOORAH to the men and women of 14 for this fantastic achievement!

I'm looking forward to our Alumni Board of Directors and Officer's meeting scheduled in May. During this meeting, we will discuss and finalize the details for the Alumni reunion coming in November at the Sheraton Tampa Brandon hotel. I'm hopeful that by the time it gets here the COVID-19 concerns will be lessened and things will be as close to normal as possible. I urge everyone to attend this year's reunion, it's a great event and a time to celebrate our camaraderie. Until then staff safe and see you soon.

*-Thomas Legler*

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Gregg Harkness**

Tel: (407) 491-1863

E-Mail: g.harkness@earthlink.net

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Tom Legler**

Tel: (813) 451-7604

E-Mail: thomaslegler@mas.com

### SECRETARY

**Brandi Anderson**

Tel: (386) 679-8932

E-Mail: secretary.nmcb14@gmail.com

### TREASURER

**Joseph P. Leahy**

Tel: (609) 820-8723

E-Mail: capt1952@gmail.com

### OMBUDSMEN

**Debbie Croxton**

Tel: (864) 643-6373

E-Mail: 14beestrong@gmail.com

**Betty Nelson**

Tel: (813) 376-3497

E-Mail: bettybud2000@aol.com

## 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Felix Acevedo Jr.**

e-mail: felixacevedojr@yahoo.com

Tel: 407-595-4084

**Daryl Lichti**

E-mail: daryllichti2001@yahoo.com

Tel: 352-348-0669

**Richard Hoibraten**

E-mail: cj\_20207947@gmail.com

Tel: 404-683-2834

**Bob Suggs**

E-mail: suggscr@aol.com

Tel: 954-604-4132

**James Cochran**

E-mail: cmdcmcochran@gmail.com

Tel: 985-273-2066

**Stephen Clark**

E-mail: Shclark3X3@msn.com

Tel: 941-799-0707



## FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Hi all,

I hope you all have had a good start to 2021! We're all very excited to see you in Tampa in a few months! Keep your eyes peeled as we post more details of the Reunion on Facebook and our website. Speaking of which, our new website, <https://www.nmcb14alumni.com/>, is now live, so please check it out! Also a big welcome to our newest members **Daniel Hamilton, Philip Dixon, John Ballesteros**, and **Horace Dale McGee!**

### NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH



Sincerely,

*Brandi Anderson*

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

There are many activities happening in the world today and it is most important that we remain vigilant.



As March is the month to celebrate 79<sup>th</sup> birthday of the creation of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion's we need to reflect on our belief that we can make a difference. This is accomplished through the continued faith in God and country and strength in the building trade's that support the needs of the people, and to support the growth of the future generations in their communities and around the world.

May we always be ready to advance our skills and learn new lessons each day and never give up. I reflect on I Corinthians 1: 18-19.

Let us Pray for America, and all the families that have lost loved ones and for God's peace and Grace to be with all as we move forward in time.

We all have the strength and God's Grace and the attitude of "never give up" with the "Can Do" spirit.

Take time to find your peace, reflect on our abilities, and seek the joy of life in serving. May the God of our Fathers guide and direct us this day and always.

In God's Grace Peace,

Pastor Richard Hoibraten

U S Navy Seabees Chaplain



## ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

Spring renewal – New beginnings

It has been a challenging year and how our lives have changed. It has been a rough road for some, and we all have been impacted by the Virus sweeping our country and the world. Maybe you have been extremely blessed not to have been impacted by the events but have had other circumstances happen that you need help with. The NMCB 14 Alumni Association is here for you.

We have two very Compassionate ladies who are serving as our Ombudsman. They can aid you with Our Assistance Program that can help weather the current storm you may facing or can help direct you to other avenues of support you may need. Always remember we are here to help. If you know someone is struggling to reach out to them and have them reach out to us. Let us help you help yourself we are all in this together. Our assistance team will keep your information confidential.

As we head into the Spring and look forward to new beginnings rest assured, we are here to help. We as a committee want you to spread the word we are here for PAST, PRESENT, and FUTURE Bees of NMCB 14.

Contact your Ombudsman below.

**Debbie Croxton, Ombudsman**  
14beestrong@gmail.com  
864.643.6373

**Betty Nelson, Ombudsman**  
bettybud2000@aol.com  
813.376.3497

**Richard Hoibraten**  
NMCB 14 Alumni Association Chaplain  
cj\_20207947@gmail.com  
404.683.2834

**Daryl Lichti, Assistance Chair**  
352-348-0669  
aryllict2001@yahoo.com.



## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW WEBSITE?



Thank you **Brandi Anderson** for all of the work you've put in to revamping the NMCB 14 Alumni Association Website! It looks AMAZING!

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

<https://www.nmcb14alumni.com>





# Do you have your Challenge Coin Yet?

**NMCB-14 Alumni Association Challenge Coins are available!**



**The NMCB 14 Alumni Association Coins are in and available for purchase!**

These beauties are \$10 each (plus \$1 for shipping and handling within the US),

To get your hands on one (or more), contact **Gregg Harkness** ([g.harkness@earthlink.net](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net)) for ordering information!

## **Challenge Coin Rules:**

Rules of the Challenge Coin must be explained to all new coin holders. These rules apply to anyone who has earned, been awarded, has purchased, or who is known to be a previous coin holder.

1. Your coin **MUST** be carried at all times. You can be challenged for it anywhere, at any time. You must produce the coin without taking more than 4 steps to produce it.
2. When challenging, the challenger must state whether it is for a single drink or a round of drinks.
3. Failure to produce a coin, for whatever reason, results in a bought round or single drinks (whatever the challenger stated). This type of transaction could be expensive, so hold onto your coin. You cannot challenge the same person more than once in a 24 hour period.
4. If all that are challenged produce their coins, the challenger loses and must buy the drinks for all respondents. This too can be expensive, so challenge wisely.
5. If a coin is lost, replacement is up to the individual. A new coin should be acquired at the earliest opportunity -- losing a coin and not replacing it doesn't relieve a member of his or her responsibilities.
6. There are no exceptions to the rules. They apply to clothed or un-clothed. One step and an arm's reach are allowed.
7. A Coin is a Coin. They are not belt buckles, key chains or necklaces. Coins worn in a holder around the neck are valid.
8. It is an honor to earn a coin, let's keep it that way. It is a higher honor to be the one who gives a coin. A given or awarded coin is of more personal value than a purchased coin.

# Happy Birthday, Seabees!

As March 5 was the 79th Anniversary of the Naval Construction Force, I want to say Happy Birthday to my fellow Seabees! But did you know that March 5th was not always the date that we recognized as the Seabee Birthday?

During World War II, Rear Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, recognized the need for the construction of advanced bases in combat zones. To meet this need, he requested specific authority to activate, organize, and man Navy construction units. As a result, the first Seabee units were authorized on 5 January 1942, and official authorization of the Seabee name and insignia occurred on 5 March 1942.



From its beginning during World War II until 1954, the Seabee anniversary was observed on December 28. This was the date Rear Admiral Moreell requested authority to recruit enlisted personnel to serve in a naval construction force.

In the early 1950s, Rear Admiral John R. Perry recognized that the December 28th date fell at a hectic time of the year. Many Seabees were on leave during this time because it fell between Christmas and New Year's Eve. Because of this, Rear Admiral Perry decided to find a new day suitable for the celebration of the Seabee's birthday.

Several historically significant dates in Seabee history were considered for the new birthdate. One of these was October 31, because, on that date in 1941, the Chief of the Bureau of Navigation directed Admiral Moreell to form a Headquarters Construction Company of 99 men for duty in Iceland. March 19 was also considered because on that day in 1942 the Secretary of the Navy authorized Civil Engineer Corps Officers of the newly formed Construction Battalions.

After much deliberation by leadership, March 5, 1942, was determined to be the most appropriate day to celebrate the Seabee birthday. Not only was that the date the Construction Battalions were given official permission to assume the name "Seabees", but it was also the anniversary of the Civil Engineer Corps which had been established in 1867.



**RADM Ben "King Bee" Moreell**  
father of the Seabees



**Members of the 14th NCB stenciling a Jeep, WWII**



Since our establishment, we Seabees have been the Navy's construction force, building bases and airfields, conducting underwater construction, and building roads, bridges, and other support facilities. We play a crucial role in supporting the fleet and combatant commands while carrying out the Navy's maritime strategy.

Additionally, we Seabees also play an important role in sustaining global relationships. We are forward-deployed around the world to provide engineering and construction support while promoting regional stability and improving lives through engineering civic action projects in many countries.

Happy Birthday, Fellow Bees!!

-Pat Allfrey







# Reunion 2021

Thank you for choosing to have your Event with us!

Here's your reservation link your guests can use to make reservations:

[Book your group rate for NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion](#)

You will find the information for your online reservation link below. If you have questions or need help with the link, please do not hesitate to ask. We appreciate your business and look forward to a successful event.

## Event Summary:

**NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion**

**Start Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021**

**End Date: Sunday, November 7, 2021**

**Last Day to Book: Friday, October 1, 2021**

**Hotel(s) offering your special group rate:**

**Sheraton Tampa Brandon Hotel for  
105 USD - 145 USD per night**

[Book your group rate for NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion](#)



## Island X3 Seabee/Military Ball

On 6 March 2021 the Navy Seabee Veterans Of America Island X-3, Blairsville, Georgia sponsored the 6th annual SEABEE/MILITARY BALL. The event was held at "The Ridges Resort" on Beautiful Lake Chatuge in Harris, Georgia.

The 79th Birthday of the US Navy Seabees was celebrated and all Military Branches, Veterans, and First Responders were recognized at this Gala Event.



Island X-3 of Blairsville, Georgia, in the North Georgia Mountains has only existed for six years, and this is the 6th annual Seabee Ball they have sponsored. The Island led by Island Commander and NMCB 14 Alumnus Ed Crenshaw and Auxiliary President Pauline Crenshaw. With the valuable help of all the members of the Island, they were able to put together one of the best Seabee Balls yet with 140 in attendance. Island X-3 covers the areas of North Georgia, Western North Carolina, and Eastern Tennessee.

A good number of the NMCB-14 Alumni Members and Officers were in attendance for this Gala Event.

Watch for information on the Seabee/Military Ball to be held again in March of 2022.

CE1 Ed Crenshaw SWC (ret): Commander NSVA Island X-3, Blairsville, GA





In memory of fallen brothers and shipmates,  
Al Anbar Province, Iraq 2004



"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men  
who died. Rather we should thank God  
that such men lived"  
- General George S. Patton



E03 Christopher Dickerson



CM2 Scott McHugh



BU2 Robert "Bob" Jenkins



E02 Trace Dossett



SW3 Ronald Ginther



BU2 Michael Anderson



SW2 (SW) Jason Dwelley

# Never Forgotten

# 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://nmc14.alumni.com>

**Facebook Page:**

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

Got something to contribute? Contact the editor:

Pat Allfrey—[p.allfrey@gmail.com](mailto:p.allfrey@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

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

**14**



Front

### 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](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net)) for ordering information!



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