

NMCB 14 Association

# Newsletter



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Fall/Winter newsletter, Welcome to YOUR "NMCB 14 Association".

The name is a little different from the past as we are trying to reflect a new attitude and a new swagger. This is a new Board, and we look forward to serving all Past Present and Future NMCB 14 members.

The Daytona Beach Reunion in October was another great success and plans for the 2024 reunion are well underway...more on that later.

As we plan for the reunion in 2024, the holidays are rapidly approaching. Between Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, It is a busy time. It is a time to give thanks and reflect on our Past and Future. While the next reunion is in the planning stages, it will be about our Past but with reflection on our Future.

This Association was created after the Battalion deployed to Iraq in 2004. Since then, we've celebrated 19 years of NMCB 14 legacy, 19 years of hard work, and 19 years of sisterhood and brotherhood. It has been a blessing to have lived and served with our fallen Brothers from 2004.

In those 19 years, we have lost many Seabee Brothers and Sisters to the effects of the war and other hardships over the years. Each of us has our own daily struggles that we face. As we move forward, it can sometimes seem overwhelming to remember our past and live in the present. There is no need to feel alone! There is help out there. You have us, as well as Battle Buddies, who will accept your call even if it has been years; they are here for you, and WE are here for you.

Our Ombudsman is Betty Nelson, and the Assistance Team Chair is Rev. Richard Hoibraten. They and this board are here for you. The Association was formed by volunteers and continues to move to the future because of the members and volunteers.

Rather than being formed to support the battalion, the Association was formed to serve its people. It is for everyone, Past Present and Future members of NMCB 14.

The 2024 reunion is going to be about healing, remembrance, and service. Everyone who served has given some, and we all continue to heal and remember the good and horrible truth of war. We come together as a family, to reflect, remember, and honor our friends, our Brothers who gave all.

In order for this organization to continue, it needs you to be involved. Step up and volunteer for the Board or join a committee. Remember the Past, be in the Present and BE the Future. Without your support the Association cannot continue operating.

It takes time, money, and effort. Help where and when you can and give what you can. Even little things help. Encourage your Battle Buddies and today's drilling reservist to be part of us. ENCOURAGE them to continue the legacy of service. Be a mentor.

Our Future is dependent on you; without you there is no US!

**The reunion will be held October 12th, 2024, at NAS Jax.** The planning is on-going. We are planning a service at the Patriot's Park with an alternate site at the Chapel (in case of inclement weather). A social hour and buffet dinner catered by Mission BBQ will be held at the River Cove (Former "O" Club). We will release the information on the Association webpage and on the Association's Facebook page as plans finalize.



## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Daryl Lichti**  
E-mail: daryllicht2001@yahoo.com  
Tel: 352-348-0669

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Mike Camp**  
E-mail: utcamp@aol.com  
Tel: 239-280-8093

### SECRETARY

**Gregg Harkness**  
Tel: (407) 491-1863  
E-Mail: g.harkness@earthlink.net

### TREASURER

**Joseph P. Leahy**  
Tel: (609) 820-8723  
E-Mail: capt1952@gmail.com

### OMBUDSMEN

**Betty Nelson**  
Tel: (813) 376-3497  
E-Mail: bettybud2000@aol.com

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Richard Hoibraten—Chaplain**  
E-mail: cj\_20207947@outlok.com  
Tel: 404-683-2834

**Randy Bushey**  
E-mail: randy.bushey@jacobs.com  
Tel: 561-753-1783

**Ed Crenshaw**  
E-mail: cecbret@windstream.net  
Tel: 706-897-2649

**John Bonaccorso**  
E-mail: johntbonaccorso@aol.com  
Tel:

**Thomas Legler**  
E-mail: thomaslegler@msn.com  
Tel: 813-451-7604

**Chuck Douge**  
E-mail: combatelectric@aol.com  
Tel: 305-230-8000

**David Porter**  
E-mail: porter\_de@yahoo.com  
Tel:

Thank you.  
Daryl Lichti

NMCB 14 Association President

Fall/Winter 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

As the newly elected VP of the Association, I'd like to introduce myself to all Seabees, past and present.

My name is Mike Camp and am a retired UTCS that spent 20 + years of service affiliated with NMCB 14 in some capacity. I chose to run as an officer of this organization because not only do I believe in its purposes, I also have great faith in your newly elected President Daryl Lichti. He has big plans and the enthusiasm necessary to get this organization back on track. I will do all that I can to support him while I serve my term on the board. Please join me with your support because this Association is a uniquely valuable asset for all, new and old.

MIKE CAMP



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Lord God please send Your Holy Spirit into the hearts of everyone as we reflect on the truth of our freedom to worship and to serve You.

May we never forget that celebration covers many things in life and now especially the birth of Your son and our Savior.

Guide us to share this with joy and love with all who will receive .

Amen

In God's Grace Peace,

Pastor Richard Hoibraten  
U S Navy Seabees Chaplain



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the  
NMCB 14 Association!**



"I know you've got friends in NMCB 14, Santa, but we need to talk about this!"



# 2023 Reunion!



L to R: Linda Lou Williams, Dave Williams, Dave Grass, Paula Grass, Gina Legler, Tom Legler



L to R: Daryl Lichti, Patrick Valentini, Dan Scheer, Dwight Hamborsky, Joe Leahy, Chuck Douge, Jandra Douge



L to R: Loren Emery, Beverly Mayo, Gregg Harkness, Ed Crenshaw, Randy Bushey, Al Robertson



Richard Mayo and Loren Emery present the Missing Man Table



L to R: Richard Mayo, Al Robertson, Randy Bushey



L to R: Ed Crenshaw, Linda Emery, Loren Emery, Billy Ray Smith, Carol Ball, Heather Fleming, Pauline Crenshaw



Pat Robertson and Beverly Mayo

**Next Year: NMCB 14 Association 20th Annual Reunion!**

**We're still in the planning stages, but the 20th Annual NMCB 14 Association Reunion is currently set to be at NAS Jacksonville on 12 OCTOBER 2024!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!!**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Celebrate  
The Seabees  
82nd Birthday*

*9th Annual Military Ball  
All Services  
Organized By  
The Navy Seabees  
Island X-3, Blairsville, Georgia  
Saturday, March 2, 2024  
At The Ridges Resort, Hiawassee, GA*



**Times:**

Social Hour: 1730

Dinner: 1830

Ceremony: 1930

Dancing: 2000-23:30

**Attire:**

*Military: Dinner Dress*

*Civilian: Black Tie (Optional)*

*Ladies: Evening Wear*



**Cash Bar:**

Dinner Buffet:

Hotel:

The Ridges Resort

On Lake Chatuge

Young Harris, Georgia

(706) 896-2262

[www.theridgesresort.com](http://www.theridgesresort.com)

Ask for the Seabee Rate

**Speaker:**

*Randy Bushey, Captain CEC, USNR (Ret)*

**Tickets:**

On Sale until 15 Feb 2024

\$75.00

\$5.00 (\$70.00) discount if purchased by 1/31/24

Tables of 8: \$600.00 (discount \$500.00 by 1/31/24)

**Ticket Sales Point Of Contact:**

Keith Hunter—904-733-8698

[wkhunter@yahoo.com](mailto:wkhunter@yahoo.com)

Mail Checks to: (Payable NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville)

Ed Crenshaw—706-897-2649

9021 Sharons Way

Young Harris, GA 30582

Email: [cecbret@windstream.net](mailto:cecbret@windstream.net)







# Announcements

## Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation become Navy Seabee Foundation

On December 2nd, 2023, the boards of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation signed an agreement to merge the two organizations and become the Navy Seabee Foundation. The agreement will take effect on December 31st, 2023. This was the culmination of nearly two years of research, discussion and negotiations.

The purpose of the Navy Seabee Foundation is the preservation and protection of the history and heritage of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps; the awarding of scholarships to deserving family members of Seabees, CEC Officers, and all who served with the Naval Construction force; supporting the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, monuments, memorials, and other heritage sites dedicated to the U.S. Navy Seabees; and supporting current and former members of the Seabee/CEC Community and their families.

The board of directors of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the board of trustees of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation will merge to lead the Navy Seabee Foundation. RADM Kevin Slates, CEC, USN, Ret and RDML Lou Cariello, CEC, USN, Ret. will serve as chair and vice chair respectively and the new position of Vice Chair, Senior Enlisted Leader will be filled by CMDCM Doug Heiner, USN, Ret. Dan Miller, currently Executive Director of both organizations will continue as Executive Director. The Navy Seabee Foundation will be headquartered in Springfield, Virginia and have an office at the Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport Mississippi.

For additional information contact Dan Miller at [danmiller@seabee.org](mailto:danmiller@seabee.org) or 859-327-1830.

To stay current with Navy Seabee Foundation news and events, visit [www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org).



## PHOTOS PHOTOS...

If you have Pictures of your time in NMCB 14. we are going to have a PowerPoint collection that will run during the reunion, especially the 2004 Deployment.

All photos Submitted become the property of NMCB 14 Association all photos may or may not be used at the discretion of the Editor of the PowerPoint

we encourage you to submit these to:

[Photos.NMCB14@gmail.com](mailto:Photos.NMCB14@gmail.com)



## All Hands All hands .....

The NMCB 14 Association is looking for a 2024 Challenge coin design, we are going to produce two coins this year for the 20th Anniversary of our 2004 deployment in remembrance of our Fallon Brothers.

The 1st coin will be a limited edition in the shape of a Dog Tag 2 inches in size, we will produce 100 of these and the 2nd coin will be a round 2-inch 20th anniversary edition coin. There will be 300 of these produced.

The winner in each division will win a free Coin that is chosen and BRAGGING RIGHTS!!! The Board will select the final winner.

Send your sketches or Drawings to [daryllict2001@yahoo.com](mailto:daryllict2001@yahoo.com) The closing date for all submissions is January 15, 2024. When submitting your sketch or drawing please submit them separately with the subject line of the email with " Dog tag – Limited Edition "or "Round 20th anniversary".

You can submit for one or both, the winner will be contacted in February and we anticipate to start selling these in late March early April

Get your design in NOW!!!!



# Announcements

## More Burial and Funeral Costs Can Now Be Covered by Veterans Benefits

The Department of Veterans Affairs is expanding benefits to help pay for veterans' end-of-life expenses, the department announced Friday.

The expanded benefits include reimbursements for transporting remains to state and tribal veterans cemeteries, in addition to previously eligible national cemeteries; allowances for VA plots or interments for tribal organizations; and higher payments for non-service-connected burial benefits, according to a news release Friday.

"Last fiscal year, VA delivered more than 84,000 burial benefits to families of veterans," Joshua Jacobs, the VA's under secretary for benefits, said in the news release. "Expanding burial benefits means we are able to ensure veterans are honored in their final resting place, and assist their family, caregivers, and survivors during the difficult time of their loved ones.

The expanded benefits comes after the department earlier this year made a push to encourage more veterans to use the burial benefits.

Fewer than half of veterans who qualified for a burial allowance or headstone last year used the benefit, while just 20% of eligible veterans were buried in a cemetery managed or supported by the VA, a benefit that comes at no cost to the veteran's family, department officials said in January.

The VA manages 155 cemeteries nationwide and funds an additional 121 state, territorial and tribal veterans cemeteries.

The department will pay a veteran's surviving spouse, child, parent or executor for expenses related to burying the veteran if they have not been reimbursed by any other organizations. The veteran must have been discharged under something other than dishonorable conditions.

If a veteran's remains are unclaimed, the department also provides benefits to the funeral home or third party who handled burial arrangements.

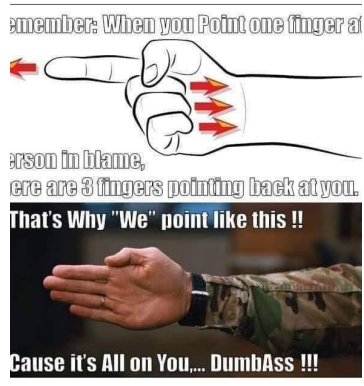
Depending on when the death happened, service-related deaths can get up to \$2,000 in expenses covered, while non-service-related deaths have been able to get up to \$893 for a burial allowance and \$893 for a plot.

The average cost of a funeral was nearly \$8,000 in 2021, according to the National Funeral Directors Association.

The expenses that the VA will cover can include a veteran's gravesite, burial, funeral and transportation of remains to the final resting place, and benefits are available for all legal burial types, including cremation, burial at sea and donation of remains to a medical school.

There is no time limit to apply for benefits for a service-connected burial, plot or interment allowance, or transportation costs, but claims for non-service-connected benefits must be filed within two years of the veteran's burial or cremation.

*(From Military.com, 22 SEP 2023)*



Santa testing a potential upgrade to his sleigh!



# Checking in With NMCB 14



## NMCB 14 to be Decommissioned and Recommissioned as NCB 14

Incoming NMCB-14, CDR Dan Scheer, CEC, explained to those in attendance at our Reunion in Daytona Beach, that in a re-visioning / reorganizing process, the Navy Reserve Battalions, NMCB 14, NMCB 18, NMCB 22, NMCB 25 and NMCB 27 will be recommissioned in 2024 as Navy Construction Battalions (NCB). Along with that comes a restructuring of the battalions that does away with the traditional Hotel, Alfa, Bravo, Charlie, & AirDet Companies.

Instead, 4 new, self-sufficient construction companies will take their place – in addition to the usual Headquarters Company, two General Construction Companies, one Mineral Products Company, and one Ground Lines of Communication Company will be established. Details are still in the works, but you may hear more at the Change of Command in Gulfport on March 9, 2024. Active-duty battalions will maintain the ‘Mobile’ but are also being reorganized to meet the latest force employment requirements. More to come on those changes in the future. We will advise you when we know more. We are also awaiting specific details on the Change of Command. Those seeking more information may want to try visiting the Battalion’s Facebook Page:



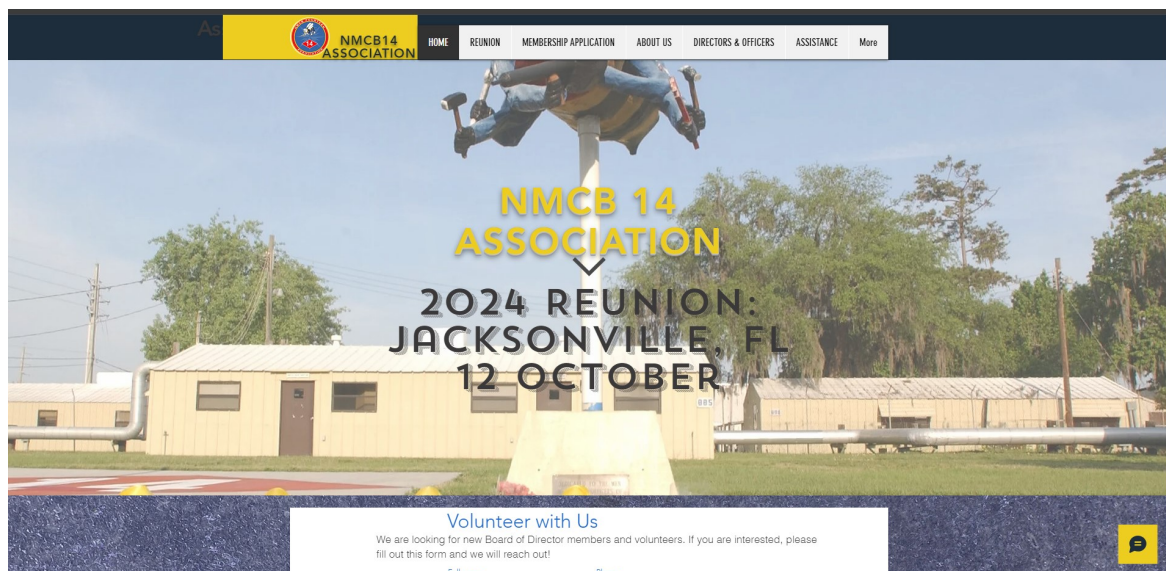
<https://www.facebook.com/NMCBattalion14>

March 9, 2024, will be a BIG weekend for the Atlantic Reserve Seabee Battalions!

- Change of Command for NCB14 & NCB27 – CBC Gulfport, MS.
- All Hands Seabee Ball (Active & Reserve) – CBC Gulfport AO
- Commissioning of Navy Construction Battalions – CBC Gulfport, MS



## Have you seen our website?



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

<https://www.nmcb14alumni.com>



# 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.



**Join us online!**

**NMCB 14 Association**

Web Address:

<http://nmcb14.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
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>171</b>
Memorial Members	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213</b>

**14**