



From left to right: Nicole Palazzo; Samantha Palazzo; SN Brian Rumrill; ET1 (SS) Charles Cox, USN (ret.) (President of Garden State Chapter); VP of NERA, ABHCS Gene Koelker, USN (ret.); and CAPT Kelly, CO of Cape May Training Center.

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President's Message	4
<b>Executive Director's Message</b>	5
Tips & Clips	6
Letters	7
<b>Deputy Executive Director Report</b>	8
Faces of NERA	10
Coastie Corner	12
2011/2012 USAA Scholarship Recipients	16
Marine Marquee	17
Agenda, NERA 54th National Conference	19
Amendments for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference	20
<b>Candidates for National Office</b>	23
NERA Bequest Form	24
Corporate Sponsors	25
TAPS	26
Life Benefactors	27

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# **President's Message**



by National President Nick Marine



Hello Again!

More news on returning injured reservists! Not as many calls but they are still happening. If you hear of any member being returned to your local NOSC with injuries it's up to you to report it up the Chain of Command. If this doesn't work please let us know so we can assist. Not taking care of Sailors, Marines or Coastie's is contrary to the Navy's Core Values of Honor, Courage and Commitment. We need to be sure every Sailor, Marine and Coastie is returned home in the same condition as when they were mobilized. I feel it is NERA's duty to ensure that promises made to them, their families, the unit CO's, and the civilian employers are upheld.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's NERA/USAA Scholarships (names are posted on the website www.nera.org). THANK YOU to the 2011 Scholarship committee, Ward Wollesen, Ralph Hensley, Judith Minick, Dwayne Mitchell, Forrest Croom, and David Nelson, for doing such a great job selecting the winners from a large group of highly-qualified candidates. We need to support those who support us! USAA has pro-

vided this great benefit to our members for many years. Please consider going to our website and applying for the NERA/USAA credit card.

The 54th NERA National Conference is just around the corner and we will be voting on some major issues that may or may not impact the way NERA operates. We have reduced costs in every possible way, have stopped the withdrawal on our LMIF fund, and membership has actually increased. This is a poor economy and we have seen other organizations becoming partners like the Reserve Officers Association and the Reserve Enlisted Association. AUSN seems to be interested in us so this may or may not be discussed if it's beneficial to us. It's your NERA so we want to hear your ideas for the future of NERA.

Virtual NERA—Steve, Jennifer and Laura can now access NERA emails/Facebook from their phones and provide even faster service. We have had suggestions from members to sell NERA Headquarters (HQ) and become a virtual office. This would greatly decrease our overhead costs and I like the idea of possible investments with USAA. Only a few members have visited HQ in the past year so it wouldn't be bad idea. Your NEC needs you to make your voice heard so being at this conference is important.

-NERA Nick

On this Veterans' Day, let us remember the service of our veterans, and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free.

—Dan Lipinski

The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war.

-General Douglas MacArthur

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.

-John Fitzgerald Kennedy

It is the soldier who salutes the flag, serves beneath the flag, whose coffin is draped by the flag.

-Zell Miller

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers.

-Jose Narosky

# **Executive Director's Message**

by Executive Director Steve Sandy



NERA's National Conference convenes on September 28 this year at Lions Gate Inn in Sacramento, California. How NERA is organized and whom we should align ourselves with, in order to ensure our continued strength, will be major discussion points this year. With the economic conditions facing our country this may be the most important conference since NERA was established in 1957. Major changes in the

National Defense Budget loom on the horizon, changes that will affect each and every one of us and every aspect of our military from manpower and equipment to healthcare and retirement. While deficit reductions must be achieved, those of us who have witnessed budget cuts in the past recognize that these cost-cutting measures must be done carefully, with a surgeon's scalpel and not with a woodman's axe. The differences in these two approaches can be severe. In the former lies the possibility of a highly-trained, well-equipped military whose members are confident in the knowledge that promises made will be promises kept. In the latter we may find the hollow force of the 1970's that were poorly paid, faced cuts in healthcare, retirement, and found it difficult to rise to the smallest challenges to our National Security. It is vital that NERA, along with other members of The Military Coalition, remain strong in leadership and membership so we will continue to be recognized as a source of wisdom, knowledge and voice of reason that might prevent history from repeating itself.

Right now may be a good time to sit down and scribe a note to your representative, or maybe a phone call, letting them know how you feel about the job they're doing. Congress will return from recess in September and will have about 60 days to fix this mess or automatic cuts go into effect: most notably a 50% cut in defense spending along with cuts in so-called entitlements such as MEDI-CARE and Social Security. "SNAFU "Situation Normal All F--- Up" is an acronym grunts use to describe an organization that is dysfunctional but manages to somehow get the job done. FUBAR "F---- Up Beyond All Recognition" is when an organization goes that extra step and becomes totally dysfunctional. This summer I believe the Executive Branch and Congress took that extra step.

As part of my position as Executive Director I had the distinct pleasure of notifying this year's NERA/USAA scholarship winners. The most rewarding part of this task is getting to converse with the recipient and/or their parent and hear the genuine joy and gratitude in their voice for being selected for the scholarship and the difference it will make in their ability to continue their studies. Thank you, to those who applied, if you were not selected please try again next year. Thank you to the committee who had the daunting task of making the selections and last but not least, thank you to USAA and our membership for the financial support that makes these scholarships possible.

Mary and I plan to depart Maryland on September 15 in the NERA Mobile (36' RV). Our first stop is Fort Dix, New Jersey on the 17th to help Master Chief Fred Kurtz "Cross the Brow" into retirement after 30 years of service. Then we come about and set course for California and the National Conference posting our progress on Facebook to stay in touch along the way...See you in Sacramento! •



# **Tips & Clips**

by Past National President Joanne Elliott



### Clarifying Retirement ID Cards

I have been getting a few calls regarding retirement ID cards. For those of you who retire before the age of 60, you will have a "pink" ID (I'm not sure if this will change in the near future). When you turn 60, you will need to go to the closest military facility to get a new blue ID, which will

reflect an expiration date when you turn 65. Ensure that your DEERS is up-to-date so your TRICARE coverage will begin on time. You will need to decide whether you will be choosing TRICARE STANDARD or TRI-CARE PRIME. If you choose TRICARE STANDARD, you should also opt for a secondary insurance such as ASI. When you turn 65, you will need to obtain another "blue" ID card, which will have an "INDEF" date on the back. Update your DEERS again at this time. This will be the last time that you will need to update your ID, but you will need to update DEERS when there are any changes (Marriage, Death, change of address, etc).

### **DFAS Website**

Check out http://www.dfas.mil/dfas.html for all the information and forms you will need to receive retired pay. You can also find information on PCS and TDY travel; correcting Military Records; report a military retiree death; find a job, etc.

### **Project ARCH**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a pilot program to provide health care services through contractual arrangements with non-VA care providers. This pilot, Project ARCH (Access Received Closer to Home), intends to improve access for eligible Veterans by connecting them to health care services closer to home.

Eligibility for the pilot program is based on specific criteria including Veterans enrollment for VA health care

and distance from VHA for primary care, secondary care, or acute care. The number of Veterans who are eligible to participate in Project ARCH will depend on the specific pilot site and the Veterans' health care needs.

Five pilot sites have been established across the country. Project ARCH services will be offered in Northern Maine, Farmville, Va., Pratt, Kan., Flagstaff, Ariz., and Billings, Mont.

Veterans can find out if they are eligible by contacting their Care Coordinator at their VA Medical Center, who will work with them to assess their eligibility. The Care Coordinator will assist interested eligible Veterans to complete an application and will work closely with the non-VA providers. The Care Coordinator will also monitor the Veterans' care while they are being seen by the contracted providers.

VA will pay a negotiated contract rate for the services provided by non-VA providers. All Veterans who participate in Project ARCH will still have responsibility for co-payments, if applicable.

Veterans are eligible to participate in the program if they reside in a location where a pilot site is located and if they are enrolled for VA health care when the program starts, and meet any of the following criteria:

• Live more than 60 minutes driving time from the nearest VA health care facility providing primary care services, or

• Live more than 120 minutes time distance from the nearest VA health care facility providing acute hospital care, or

• Live more than 240 minutes driving time from the nearest VA health care facility providing tertiary care.

Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom Veterans and Veterans who served on active duty in a theater of combat operations or in combat against a hostile force during a period of hostilities after November 11, 1998, do not need to be enrolled for VA health care when Project ARCH starts. They will need to meet the above-mentioned drive time criteria and enroll in VA in order to participate in the program. For additional questions on eligibility at the pilot locations, Veterans may contact their Care Coordinator.

Each Project ARCH pilot site will contract with

## Letters

### Hi,

Thanks for the time and effort to publish The Mariner.

The Summer issue has info from Ms. Elliott on new ID cards saying that social security numbers will be released when new cards are issued. New cards will be issued when the current ones expire. My card has an expiration date of INDF which means it will never expire, until I do. Do you or Ms. Elliott, have any info on how those of us with 'indefinite' cards can or will get new ID cards without our SSN on them?

Thanks,

MMCS Robert Adams

### **Editor's Response:**

Per information on MILITARY.COM, the Department of Defense (DoD) began the process of removing Social

### Tips & Clips, continued from page 6

specific providers for each service covered under the Pilot. Veterans must use those providers to participate in Project ARCH. However, participation in Project ARCH does not affect eligibility for Fee-Basis services.

Care Coordinators will work closely with the contracted non-VA provider to ensure that they have all of the necessary clinical information from a Veteran's medical records. The Care Coordinator will also ensure that the VA receives information from the non-VA provider to keep your medical records up-to-date.

Veterans with questions about participating at one of the five pilot locations can send an e-mail message to AskProjectArch@va.gov. (Please do not include personal medical information via this unprotected e-mail route.)

### **Change in Law Results in Retroactive Benefits for Non-OEF and OIF Injuries**

(Navy News Service 03 June 11) Department of Veterans Affairs

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs announced June 3, Sailors who suffered a qualifying injury on or after Oct. 7, 2001, may be eligible beginning Oct. 1, for a payment of \$25,000 to \$100,000 regardless of where the injury occurred.

The Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection program (TSGLI) became effective Dec. 1, 2005. This program provides benefits to Security numbers from issued identification (ID) cards in an effort to prevent identity theft. The exception to this applies to Geneva Convention cardholders whose last four numbers of their Social Security number will remain on their cards. All ID card holders should wait until their cards are in need of renewal before replacing their cards with ones devoid of a Social Security number. The DoD instructed retirees with indefinite expiration dates on their cards to start replacing them in January 2010. Cardholders whose cards have expired may contact the nearest Real-Time Automated Personnel Identification System site. If the cardholder does not know where their local RAPIDS site is located, they can visit the Rapids Site Locator (http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/) to find a location nearby.

service members who have suffered physical losses as the result of traumatic injuries. TSGLI originally provided for payment to two groups of service members:

- All service members covered under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) who suffered qualifying losses on or after Dec. 1, 2005, regardless of where those injuries occurred.

- Those who suffered qualifying losses between Oct. 7, 2001, and Nov. 30, 2005, in support of Operations Enduring Freedom (OEF) or Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

With the passage of the Veterans' Benefits Act of 2010, service members who incurred qualifying injuries outside of OEF or OIF during the retroactive period may be eligible to receive benefits, regardless of whether they had SGLI coverage at the time of their injury.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2011, Active and Reserve Sailors who suffered qualifying injuries from events such as training accidents or motor vehicle accidents between Oct. 7, 2001 and Nov. 30, 2005, while serving stateside or in other areas outside of OEF or OIF, can now receive the same traumatic injury benefits as those who served in OEF and OIF. Such injuries did not have to occur while on active duty or active duty for training.

TSGLI covers a range of losses including amputations; limb salvage; paralysis; burns; loss of sight, hearing or speech; facial reconstruction; 15-day continuous hospitalization; coma; and loss of activities of daily living due to traumatic brain injury or other traumatic injuries. •

# **Legislative Updates**

by Deputy Executive Director Mike Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret)

Congress took it to the brink before finally passing legislation to increase the Federal debt ceiling on August 2, and then went on summer recess until after Labor Day. As of this writing in mid-August, they are in the midst of that recess.

The legislation to raise the debt ceiling contained large reductions in Federal spending. It calls for approximately \$917 billion in cuts over the next decade, beginning on October 1, 2011 with the start of Fiscal Year 2012. It includes an estimated \$350 billion from national security discretionary funds, the majority of which is expected to come from the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. Additionally, a bipartisan "super committee" of 12 Congressional members is to be appointed later this year to decide additional cuts of at least \$1.2 trillion over the next decade. If Congress fails to pass the committee's recommendations by December 23, spending would be cut, the \$1.2 trillion divided evenly between security and non-security funding.

We are seeing, and expect to continue to see, proposals and initiatives that will be detrimental to the hard-earned benefits and compensation for veterans and military personnel. We will need to fight hard to defeat these proposals and initiatives.

Here are just a few of the proposed cuts and reductions that have already surfaced:

- Freeze on military pay
- Reductions of military personnel levels
- Large decrease in retirement benefits
- Convert to a contributing-401K-type system with receipt of retirement delayed until age

Labor was the first price, the original purchasemoney that was paid for all things. It was not by gold or by silver, but by labor, that all wealth of the world was originally purchased.

-Adam Smith

Poorly paid labor is inefficient labor, the world over.

-Henry George

#### 57 to 60

- Increased premiums for TRICARE
- Increased TRICARE prescription co-pays
- Elimination or drastic reduction of cost-ofliving adjustments for retirees
- Survivor benefits reductions
- Elimination of subsidies for the military commissaries
- A 29.5 % reduction of physician payments for TRICARE and Medicare beneficiaries
- Reductions for military equipment, modernization, training, and operating funds
- Elimination of VA services or increased copays for Priority Groups 7 and 8
- Elimination of VA presumptive service connection for disability claims
- Reduction or elimination of GI Bill benefits for Guard and Reserve members

If enacted, all of these proposed reductions would have a negative impact on morale, recruitment, and retention. Due to funding constraints and a high operational tempo, our military is already reporting manpower shortages in some areas, inoperable equipment, and platforms deploying with ill-trained personnel and/or with less-thanoptimal operating equipment. Our military can ill afford further funding cuts.

NERA continues to work hard to fight reductions in your hard-earned benefits and compensation. I encourage you to assist in this effort by writing, calling, and e-mailing your members of Congress on these issues. •

No business which depends for existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By living wages I mean more than a bare subsistence level—I mean the wages of decent living.

-Franklin D. Roosevelt

I'm a great believer in luck, and I find the harder I work, the more I have of it.

-Thomas Jefferson

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## **Faces of Nera**

Photography by Howard George

### Gold Country Chapter Sponsors Homecoming Event

The Gold Country Chapter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association sponsored a Homecoming Celebration on June 11, 2011. A red carpet was set up for the presentation of the Certificates of Appreciation. The active duty Marines and Sailors of the NOSC/RESCEN Sacramento, were instrumental in setting the stage for this event. They built the tent. NERA-GCC prepared the yellow banner with "Thank you, Outback Steakhouse" inscribed on it, and the Marines installed it.

Outback Steakhouse and its crew of volunteers served the troops and families. Their Manager, David O'Connell, along with 12 of his waiters, worked non-pay during this event. Bariani Olive Oil gave each Sailor or Marine's family a bottle of its famous olive oil packed in a beautiful gift box. (Sebastian Bariani is a member of NERA).

In addition to Certificates of Appreciation, each awardee was given a photocopy of the Congressional Record statement of appreciation prepared by Congresswoman Doris Matsui. Diana Titus (her married name) sang the National Anthem. Diana travelled around the world with the USO, including South Vietnam, entertaining the troops and was a former Miss Idaho, in a Miss America pageant.

Lynn Johnson, Gold Country Chapter Special Events Coordinator, was responsible for doing most of the fundraising and soliciting donations and presents for this event. Most of the people who provided financial support to this "Welcome Home" event are associated with Lynn's employer (Sutter Health Total Health Productivity Management).





Outback Steakhouse serving the troops.



Diane Titus singing the National Anthem.



At left, Lynn Johnson presenting plaque to Dave Bender.

Above, from left to right, Brig. Gen. Jack Hagan, Trent Sunahara from Congresswoman Matsui's Office, CDR Thomas Jones, CO, NOSC Sacramento



At left, CWO3 Brooksby

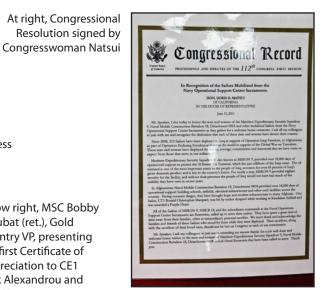
At right, AMTCM Kerry Kriske, USCG





At left, Chris McCandless

Below right, MSC Bobby Aglubat (ret.), Gold Country VP, presenting the first Certificate of Appreciation to CE1 Nick Alexandrou and wife Karen.





Below, CDR Jones





Above, LT Laurie Denny, husband Ti, and daughter Tiana

At right, Master of Ceremonies, Dave Bender, Channel 13, CBS News

At left, Lynne Marquart, daughter Julianne, and son Ryan





# **Coastie Corner**

Photography by Joanne Elliott

### Reserve Coast Guard Graduation Cape May, New Jersey

On July 1, 2011, NERA Vice President Geno Koelker, Executive Director Steve Sandy, and Past National President Joanne Elliott attended the Reserve Coast Guard Graduation, Class 04-11. NERA sponsored the Academic Award and the Leadership Award. The Awards were named in honor of two fallen heroes of the Coast Guard Reserve, MK1 Jeff Palazzo and PS2 Vinnie Danz.

### MK1 Jeff Palazzo Award

MK1 Jeff Palazzo was a reservist at Coast Guard Station New York. After completing recruit training at Training Center Cape May in 1988, he was assigned to Coast Guard Station Rockaway. During this assignment, he was involved in numerous SAR cases, including the sinking of motor vessel Bronx Queen and the grounding of motor vessel Golden Venture. In 1996, after completing his tour on board the Coast Guard Cutter Cape Horn,



Left to right, Lisa Palazzo with daughter Samantha, son Matthew, and daughter Nicole.

PO Palazzo decided to continue his humanitarian service with the Fire Department of New York and the Coast Guard Reserve.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, he and ten of his Rescue Five brothers made the ultimate sacrifice while saving countless lives in the evacuation of the World Trade Center. As on so many previous occasions he had gone to serve others and do his duty. He is survived by his wife, Lisa, two daughters, Nicole and Samantha and son, Matthew. His daughter Nicole wrote the following thank you letter:

Thank you from my whole family for inviting us here and honoring my father. My de the Coast Guard and lived dad loved "Semper Paratus motto came his always ready for whatever dedicated Was kers and to keeping people 50 would be so proved of how the not Quard has always, honored loast Congratula tions to the who i graduating Class. that will always be We hope 100 for whatever challengies your way. Thank you ready our country safe Keeping NICOLE POILOZZO

The award was presented to SN Brian Rumrill by Nicole Palazzo, Samantha Palazzo, ET1(SS) Charles Cox, USN (ret.) (President of Garden State Chapter), and Senior Chief Gene Koelker, USN (ret.).

### **PS2 Vincent Danz Award**

PS2 Vincent Danz was a member of the Marine Response Division at Coast Guard Activities, New York. As a New York City Police Officer in the Special Operations Division Emergency Services Unit, he courageously

ME3 Amos Gainey, class leader and Danz award recipient.



gave his life during the World Trade Center collapse. Petty Officer Danz joined the Coast Guard Reserve in October, 1989 after a tour in the Marine Corps. As a member of Activities New York, he had responded to numerous maritime emergencies and disasters, including hurricane Floyd harbor relief efforts in September 1999. On September 11, 2001, he was once again responding to the call for help, thinking not of his own life but only of those in need. He is survived by his wife, Angela; and three daughters, Winifred, Emily and Abigail.

The Vinnie Danz Leadership award was presented to Maritime Enforcement Specialist 3rd Class Amos Gainey. •

Photos continue on page 14



Thumbs up to Class Leader



VP Geno Koelker and MCPO Coast Guard Reserve, Mark Allen



MCPO-CGRF Mark Allen



Master Chief of the Reserve Force Mark Allen pins ME3 Ryan Weidler



Coast Guard Station, Cape May, NJ

From Left to Right: Master Chief Jason Carlson, Recruit Battalion Commander, Intelligence Specialist Rating Force Master Chief Alan Paul, BMCM Dawn Smith, TRACEN CMC, LCDR Scott Rae, Regimental Officer, CDR Matthew Smith, Training Officer, CDR Michael Senecal, Executive Officer and CAPT William Kelly, CO.





MCPO-CGRF Mark Allen addressing the Coast Guard Class 04-11

#### Commanding Office of Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, CAPT William Kelly.



More photos from the Reserve Coast Guard Graduation, Cape May, New Jersey, July 1, 2011, continued from page 13.

















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You have not yet won. (1) Grand Prize: Grand Prize Winner's choice of any 2012 Chevrolet vehicle, with an ARV not to exceed \$40,000, and \$10,000 awarded in the form of a check. Total ARV of Grand Prize not to exceed \$50,000. (1) Recipient Prize: Recipient Prize vinner's choice of any 2012 Chevrolet vehicle, with an ARV not to exceed \$40,000, and \$10,000 awarded in the form of a check. Total ARV of Recipient Prize not to exceed \$50,000. (1) Recipient Prize: Recipient Prize: A four (4) day/three (3) night trip for winner and up to three (3) guests to Washington, D.C., from December 8, 2011– December 11, 2011, to attend The Army-Navy football game and the Grand Prize winner announcement. First Prize value not to exceed \$7,000 each. Odds of First Prize Winner winning Grand Prize are dependent on the total number of eligible entries received throughout the Promotion Period. Each entry, regardless of method of entry, will have an equal chance of winning. Odds of First Prize Winner winning the Grand Prize are 1:4. Taxes are winners' sole responsibility. Void where prohibited. General Motors is not a sponsor or participant in this Promotion. No implied endorsement by General Motors or by the Department of Defense or any other United States government agency. You can also enter online and view Official Rules, which govern, at www.usaa.com/win. For a copy of the Official Rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be received by January 16, 2012, to: USAA WinWin Sweepstakes Rules, Attn: Sponsorship Team, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78288. Sponsored by USAA, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78288. Sponsored by USAA, 9800 Fredericksburg Road, San Antonio, TX 78288.

### 2011/2012 USAA Scholarship Recipients

by Jennifer Abbott and Ward Wollesen

NERA President Nick Marine recently announced the 2011/2012 USAA and NERA Scholarship recipients and thanked the scholarship committee for taking on the historically demanding task of reading, judging, and selecting the recipients.

The NERA Scholarship Program recognizes the service to the United States and sacrifices by Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees, and their families. This program is sponsored through substantial grant funding from USAA and additional donations from NERA and its members.

The applicants were required to submit a scholarship application, high school or college transcripts and



Captain Pasch with MST1 Christopher McBrayer

an essay. The essay portion of the application required the applicants to either discuss their career goals or to describe the importance of reservists to America. The committee received many applications from wellqualified candidates, however the selected scholarship recipients named below distinguished themselves from a very strong field.

2011 Scholarship Winners: SSgt Francis Romanitch MST1 Christopher McBrayer Rose Dennis Katherine Norwood Deborah Maijenski Jason Sniegowski

Committee Chairman Ward Wollesen provides some in-



Tom Dennis congratulates his daughter, Rose Dennis, on receiving the NERA/USAA Scholarship.

sight into our scholarship recipients.

In the first category for active members, we have awarded the first \$3,000 scholarship to **Francis Romanitch**, a 25-year-old Marine Staff Sergeant who intends to complete his degree at Hofstra University and become a Marine officer. The second \$3,000 scholarship goes to **Christopher McBrayer**, an E6 in the Coast Guard and a student seeking a BS in Computer Science at Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi. He also intends to become an officer after graduation.

#### Continued on page 18

Katherine Norwood receives congratulations from her grandfather William Kaczor, retired MMCS.





## **Marine Marquee**

### Major General Tracy L. Garrett, Commanding General, Attends Corporals' Course in Albany, Georgia

by Marti Gatlin, Public Affairs Specialist



Maj. Gen. Tracy L. Garrett, commanding general, 4th Marine Logistics Group, New Orleans, mentors 52 of her noncommissioned officers during their two-week resident corporals' course. To help her corporals improve their leadership skills as well as advance their careers, Maj. Gen. Tracy L. Garrett, commanding general, 4th Marine Logistics Group, New Orleans, visited here and mentored 52 of them, May 25. Garrett met with the noncommissioned officers during their

two-week resident corporals' course that began May 22 at Detachment 2, Supply Company, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve, in Albany, Georgia. The corporals' course is considered a part of the Marine Corps' professional military education and a stepping stone for those NCOs to advance to the rank of sergeant.

She outlined the young Marine Reservists' roles as NCOs, reiterated their learning is constant and encouraged the young Marines to take charge of their careers. "Your starting in the corporals' course is a way of becoming more of a leader than one who is led," she said. "All of us are leaders to some degree, but when you become an NCO you become a leader of other Marines in a very distinct way. The Marine Corps has an obligation to give you the tools you need to be a good leader and that is what the corporals' course should be doing for you." PME offers experience and practice of being a good leader, Garrett said.

Garrett answered questions from the Marines and discussed the possible roles the reservists might face in the future. She explained that she believed the reserves in the future would continue to do the types of activities they have been doing like participating in training exercises in various countries as well as providing humanitarian and natural disaster support.

She also stressed the corporals should nurture professional relationships during their careers. "You will certainly learn from the instructors," Garrett said. "You will also learn from each other. Over the years, your peer group will be a wonderful resource for you in maturing your thinking, enhancing your leadership, giving you the gouge, so your peer group is something you must try to cultivate.

She also met with the instructors and other Det. 2 personnel after talking to the corporals. Accompanying



Cpl. John Simlik, right, is congratulated by Sgt. Maj. Stephen Thomas, sergeant major, Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, for being the Corporals' Course honor graduate.

Maj. Gen. Garrett was Sgt. Maj. James E. Booker, group sergeant major, 4th MLG, who spoke to the corporals the day before Garrett's

visit. "I'm proud to be your sergeant major," he said, noting he was proud of the NCOs who would continue the Marine Corps' legacy. Booker encouraged the NCOs to make recommendations to make the corporals' course better and to strengthen their leadership abilities.

In response to questions from the corporals, both Garrett and Booker talked about the Marine Corps' active-duty force structure eventually shrinking from 202,000 to 187,000. The reserves, they said, will stay the same at 39,600.

"All those who are leaving active duty who love being Marines want (the reserve slots) so the competition for billets in the reserve units is going to go way up and the quality of the reserves is also going way up," Garrett said.

Corporals' course student, Cpl. Rebekah Fields, 21,

from Astoria, Ore., administrative specialist, 6th Engineer Support Battalion Headquarters, was able to meet the

Continued on page 18



major general who signed her promotion warrant. "She signed my meritorious corporal promotion warrant last September," Fields said. "It's not that often corporals get to meet a two-star general. She takes the time to come and talk to us as the NCOs under her shows that she cares how well the next generation of leadership is growing up underneath her command." Another student, Cpl. Jason Connell's goal is to eventually apply for the warrant officer program. He inquired of Garrett about the path he needed to take and what he needed to do to be able to put in his package for the program. "It was a great opportunity to be able to ask a leader such as the major general a question like that and be able to hear directly from her," said the 35-year-old bulk fuelman from Phoenix, who serves with Bulk Fuel Company C, 6th ESB. "I think the biggest thing was just having her reiterate the importance of leadership and professional development classes such as this to help young leaders become better NCOs and be able to take this back to the unit and help their junior Marines."

One of five corporals' course instructors, Sgt. Eliza-

#### Scholarship Recipients, continued from page 16

Our \$2,500 winners **Rose Dennis** and **Katherine Norwood** were selected by each committee member immediately due to their outstanding activities, high scholastic standards and excellent essays. Rose is studying to become a pediatrician having had a life changing experience at the hands of a doctor at an impressionable age. Katherine intends to become a cellular research biologist.

Our third winner **Deborah Maijenski**, is a mother of four who has overcome some very difficult obstacles and has set some very clear goals for herself. Deborah has moved through the various levels of nursing and now is working on her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing

Jason Sniegowski and his grandfather



beth Barnes, found Garrett's comments informative and felt the corporals appreciated her time with them. "I was interested too when they asked her questions [about how our mission could change] and she expected it could be more humanitarian and I thought that made a lot sense with everything going on around the world," said the 25-year-old reservist from Homer, N.Y., who serves here with Det. 2. Barnes portrayed Garrett as inspiring especially given the major general's rank and many years serving in the Marine Corps. "She's smart," the sergeant said. "I didn't know what to expect, but I was impressed. Obviously, she spoke awesomely, carried herself so well."

Fellow instructor Sgt. Trenton Mize, 26, from Gainsville, Fla., supply admin, was glad the commanding general elaborated about the restructuring of the Marine Corps as well as other issues facing the active duty and reserve components. "I think she made a good mentoring example for (the corporals)," he said. "She seems to be very caring about her troops and you can tell she wants to do right for all her troops in her command and all Marines." •

and plans to become a clinical educator. Our final winner, **Jason Sniegowski** has just completed high school in Old Forge, PA where he was an Eagle Scout and a Navy Sea Cadet. He will attend Temple University, majoring in Electrical Engineering, to prepare for his goal of becoming an officer with the Navy.

The 2011/2012 Scholarship Committee was comprised of: MCPO Forrest Croom, LIC David Nelson, YNCS Ralph Hensley, PN1 Judith Minkin and YNCS Dwayne Mitchell. The Scholarship Chairman was CTRC Ward Wollesen.

Thank you!

Congratulations again to the 2011/2012 Scholarship Recipients! •

Jason Sniegowski with his Navy Sea Cadet Division



### Agenda for the 54th NERA National Conference

#### Wednesday, 28 September 2011 1500-1600 **Business Sessions** • Constitution & By-Law Proposals: 3–5 pm **Registration begins** Final 7–9 pm Meet and Greet Mixer-Cottage Room 1700 Event—To Be Determined Thursday, 29 September 2011 Friday, 30 September 2011 0700–0745 Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant 0700–0745 Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant **0800–0855** Opening Ceremony (Dress Blue or 0800–0845 Guest Speaker appropriate Civilian Attire) **0845–0900** — Break— • Parade the colors—Marines from the 0900–0930 National President – Nick Marine **RESCEN** Sacramento 0930–1000 New Candidate Forum Chaplain Invocation **1000–1015** — Break— • Welcome to Sacramento (National 1015–1045 Business Sessions President) Speaker—CWO3 Brian Brooksby • Introduction of Budget FY11: National Treasurer 0855–0915 USAA—Collin Younger/Chris Glennon 1045–1100 -Break--Break-0915-0930 **Business Sessions** 1100–1130 State of the Association-Reports by 0930-1100 National Officers Adoption of FY11 Budget • 0930-1000 · Executive Director— 1130–1145 Top Recruiter(s) Award Presentation Steve Sandy 1145-1200 -Break-• 1000-1030 · Vice President—Geno 1200–1430 Awards Luncheon Koelker Service to Reservist 1030-1100 · National Counselor— • 1776 Award Gene McCarthy SOY Award 1100–1115 -Break-• USCG Reserve Enlisted Person of the 1115-1130 Nominations for National Officers Year Award **1130–1300** — Break for Lunch— **1430–1445** — Break— 1300-1345 **AUSN** Presentation 1445–1545 ESGR • RADM Casey Coane—CMDCM 1545-1630 National Vice President/National Jerry Featherstone **Counselor Membership Report** National President—Nick Marine 1345-1400 Informational Tables—New Member -Break-1400–1415 ideas 1415–1445 Business Sessions Time/Place Committee: Discussion on 1630-1700 Jim Premeske/Nick Marine **Future Conference Sites** Event—To Be Determined Constitution & By-Law Proposals 1730

**1445–1500** *—Break—* 

Conference Agenda, continued from page 19

### Saturday, 1 October 2011

- 0700–0745 Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant
- 0800–0830 Voting of New National Officers Jake Kriebel
- **0830–0845** Break—
- 0900–1130 Senior Enlisted Panel Discussion
  - MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen, Coast Guard Reserve Force
  - FORCM(AW) Chris Wheeler, Navy Reserve
  - SgtMajor James E. Booker, Marine Reserve Force

- Command Sergeant Major John D. Gipe, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Asst. Sec. of Defense for Reserve Affairs
- 1300–1800 Event—To Be Determined
- **1900–2300** Dinner Dance (Dress Blue or Appropriate Civilian Attire)
  - Inauguration of New National Officers
  - President's Award

### Sunday, 2 October 2011

0700-0745	Breakfast—Hotel Restaurant
0800-0900	National Executive Council Public
	Meeting (newly-elected NEC) •

### Amendments for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference

by Jim Premeske, C & BL Chairman

### Three Constitution and Bylaws Amendments and One Internal Resolution to be Considered by Delegates at 2011 NERA National Conference in Sacramento

Only four proposals were received by the NERA HQ or the C & BL committee by the July 1st deadline, in accordance with Bylaws Article 9. Three were "durable" (of a continuing nature) and certified as viable by the committee. One was deemed to be perishable (not a continuing requirement) and therefore will be considered as an internal resolution:

11-1: Proposes an annual dues increase of \$5 to \$35 to accommodate increased operating expenses.

11-2: Requests consideration of a line-of-credit to facilitate continuing operations and to deter missed opportunities during sporadic, short term, periods of revenue disruptions.

11-3: Would permit and define procedures for electronic election of National Officers in instances where a National Conference cannot be

conducted (e.g. the September 11th tragedy.)

11-4: Is an Internal Resolution authorizing the NEC to consider conversion of the NERA HQ building and operations to a virtual office operation, with some services provided by a contractor.

Additionally, there have been inquiries, concerning the appropriateness and procedures for consideration of Emergency Resolutions, as yet not submitted.

### Form 9-Serial # C&BL 11-1

Constitution and or Bylaws Proposal for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference

Proposer: ED Steve Sandy

**Whereas**: Austerity efforts to reduce the operating expense of NERA HQ have now reached their practical limits.

**Whereas:** Efforts to further economize via the implementation of virtual office solutions cannot be immediately implemented.

Whereas: Endeavors to fund NERA National

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Amendments and Resolution, continued from page 20

operations through fundraising raffles have produced inadequate results.

**Whereas:** Increased annual dues causes life membership to appear more economically attractive.

And Whereas: Continued drawdown of LMIF assets will hasten NERA's demise.

**Therefore Be it Resolved:** That annual dues be increased from \$30 to \$35 effective on January 1st 2012.

**Consideration:** AUSN dues are currently at \$30 annually.

Approved by the North Central Regional Conference.

### Form 9-Serial # C&BL 11-2

Constitution and or Bylaws Proposal for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference

Proposer: National President Nick Marine

**Whereas:** Maintaining a professional, adequately funded operating tempo is necessary to maintain NERA's excellent reputation and continued success.

**Whereas:** NERA's current operating revenue is sporadic, and inconsistent.

Whereas: Periodic shortfalls in available cash result in HQ's inability to respond to reasonable requests and expectations from our military partners, potentially compromising NERA's reputation.

**And Whereas:** Funding generally becomes available within a few months of these unanticipated public relations opportunities.

**Therefore Be it Resolved:** That the NEC be authorized to establish a \$25,000 (maximum) Equity Line of Credit leveraged against the HQ building.

**Further Be it Resolved:** That this line of credit be arranged so that its balance is payable, in part, or in full with the next available funds from any source other than the LMIF. Two signatures of NEC members, or the ED and a NEC member be required to execute a short term loan from this account.

**Consideration:** Approved by the North Central Regional Conference

### Form 9-Serial # C&BL 11-3

Constitution and or Bylaws Proposal for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference

Proposer: Steve Sandy—Date: 4 June 2011

**Whereas:** C&BL amendments have been approved to lengthen National Officer Terms and reduce the frequency of National Conferences.

**Whereas:** Provisions have not been determined to provide contingency strategies for a C&BL required National Officer Election in the absence of a National Conference (re:9/11)

**Whereas:** Postal expenses if all members are to be notified of their right to vote would be prohibitive, and likely would produce limited participation.

And Whereas: The mailed hard copy edition, the website edition and NERA's email address database provide reasonable access to those interested and most likely to respond to an opportunity to vote for National Officers, without incurring additional expense.

**Therefore Be it Resolved:** That in any instance where the National Executive Council determines a National Conference is not feasible (as provided for in the C&BL, or otherwise) they may choose to conduct an election using electronic and mailed in ballots. The existing "Chapter vote procedure" is applicable as regulated by Article 3.2.1 of the By-Laws using the Form 6 format. Member notification shall be limited to electronic means and U.S. postage to Chapters who have complied with BL 3.2.1 having no electronic communications available.

### Form 9-Serial # IR 11-4

Internal Resolution for Consideration at the 2011 NERA National Conference

**Proposer:** Nick Marine/Jim Premeske—Date: 24 Jun 2011

**Whereas:** Continual technology advances promote operation of a virtual office providing maximum convenience at limited expense.

**Whereas:** The financial burden inherent in maintaining dedicated, fixed office facilities continues to escalate.

**Whereas:** NERA's National Headquarters Building occupies a desirable location, in the highest cost city in the United States.

**And Whereas:** Any comprehensive consideration of liquidating the National Headquarters building will require resolution of numerous factors and will necessarily be a lengthy consideration.

**Therefore Be it Resolved:** The National Executive Committee review the transfer of NERA business to a D.C. area provider of virtual business systems, having office support and conference facilities.

**Further Be it Resolved:** That the 2011 National Conference Delegates determine the means for implementation of the results of this study. •

### **Candidates for National Office**

### Candidate for National Counselor Eugene "Gene" McCarthy



SKC McCarthy, USN (ret), has been a member of NERA since 1977 and is the past President, Vice President and Treasurer of the Greater Atlanta Chapter. He served as Georgia State Membership Director and Southeast Regional Director. He is presently serving as National Counselor. He

enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1964; served active duty aboard the USS C.S. Sperry (DD-697); He also served on three destroyers, two fleet oilers, one destroyer tender and one submarine tender. He retired from the Reserves in 1993; and retired from Delta Airlines, Georgia, after over 39 years as a Technical Procedures Analyst.

### Candidate for National President Nick Marine



SKCS Marine is currently the National President of NERA. He has also held the offices of Mariner Managing Editor, National Deputy Executive Director, GA State Membership Director and Greater Atlanta Chapter President. He retired from the Navy in 2006 where he was Command Senior Chief of Car-

rier Strike Group 0367. He graduated from the Navy's Senior Enlisted Academy in Feb. 2006 and served on the USS Enterprise, USS John F. Kennedy and USS Theodore Roosevelt. He received his BA in Human Resources from St. Leo University in June 1991. He is president of Marine Plumbing Services in Marietta GA.

### Candidate for National Vice President Clifton Duke Hayes, MN1, USN, (ret.)



I entered the Navy in 1967 while still in High School. When I entered Active Duty, I attended Mineman A School then on to Naval Magazine Subic Bay, Philippines. While stationed at Subic Bay, I participated in several deployments in support of operations in Viet Nam. When released from Active Duty,

I attended college for 2 years prior to joining the Okla-

homa City Fire Department. After joining the Fire Department, I continue to drill, with a surface unit, then ultimately with NR Momag det 1711 in Oklahoma City.

I was unit training officer as well as the Leading Petty Officer for over 9 years. I enjoyed my time in the Navy but I felt that I could have achieved more. I did not really become active with NERA until after my retirement.

I have since learned that NERA is a large part of my retired benefits. My goal is to help NERA grow and to bring new members into the organization. Ultimately I want to help NERA rise to the needs of the membership and to help newly retired reservist learn how important NERA is to their retirement.

### Candidate for National Secretary Marianne E. Mosher



Marianne E. Mosher is a Life Member of NERA since 1980, a Life Member Benefactor, and has served as National Secretary 2009 to present. She is an active member of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter, having served as newsletter editor (1991-Present), Secretary (1992-Present), and Treasurer

(2003-2009). Marianne enlisted in the Naval Reserve in October 1978, advanced to Yeoman Chief Petty Officer in September 1990, and retired from drilling reserve status in February 1999. During her 20 years of Reserve duty at NASJRB Willow Grove, she was assigned to NR NAS Bermuda 0693 (1978-1992) and NR NAS Keflavik 0293 (1992-1999). Chief Mosher was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (4), National Defense Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (4), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Marksman Pistol Ribbon. In civilian life, Marianne is retired from Agere Systems (formerly Lucent Technologies and AT&T Microelectronics) where she was employed as an Administrative Assistant/Secretary for 36 years. Currently, she is employed part-time as Church Secretary for a Lutheran Church in Bath, PA. Marianne, her husband Duane and son Christopher, are an "all-Navy" family: Duane, also a NERA Life Member and Life Member Benefactor, retired from the Navy Reserve with 20 years of service, and Chris spent four years on active duty as a Sonar Tech in the submarine service. In addition, they have two grandchildren, Holly (16 years old) and Benjamin (14 years old).

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# TAPS

We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots. We suffer for their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship, and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly. Amen.

### Member

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