

THE MARINER

2015 Fall Edition | Volume 58 · Issue 3

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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Chief Selects on the USS New Jersey

page 20



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Cover: Front row: EMC Kotlyar, ISC Rodriguez, ATC Francis, AWFC Fitzpatrick, ISC Tam, ISC Ross, ASC Lyle, OSC Cox, EMC Moore, FCC Webster, OSC Kopp, SHC Tinsley, ABEC Robinson, LSC Francis, NCC Stevenson, NCC Cedeno, Back row: HMC Conklin, ADC Vamos, AMC Delgado, CTTC Bixby, CSC Frasier, HTC Birkey, ABHC Rodriguez, ABEC McLean, LSC Marshall, AMC Harnisch, MAC Sidwa, Photo by ITC Michael Bayer.

The Mariner, an official publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, is devoted to the interests and mutual benefit of its members. Regular Membership is open to all enlisted personnel of the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve; others may join as Associate Members. Annual dues in the amount of \$3.75 per member is set aside to defray the cost of publishing The Mariner. Single domestic subscription price is \$15 per year. Persons eligible for Regular Membership are not required to pay subscription rates. Articles, letters, and photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor via e-mail to: marinereditor@nera.org or NERA Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. Credit will be given for materials used. Letters may be condensed for publication. Articles and letters appearing in The Mariner do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the National Executive Council of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association or the Editor, nor are they to be interpreted as official policy of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The Mariner (ISSN 0164-3029) is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: members@nera.org.



Geno Koelker
National President

My hope is that everyone will contemplate these issues and provide input to our new leadership.

Ahoy Shipmates,

I have been asked to put together some current and future issues concerning NERA. By the time this goes to publication and comes out in our *Mariner*, the conference will be upon us and I will soon be in the past president's position. In an attempt to keep this brief, I will do this in a bullet format, with qualifiers. My hope is that everyone will contemplate these issues and provide input to our new leadership. This reminds me of the old eval format that we used to struggle with and could not make any sense. When dealing with these issues, we are told to think outside the box, however, too far out could lead to infinity.

Membership

Concerns, maintaining members and growing new members, access to drilling reservists and NOSC's, delivering NERA's message and benefits of membership, dues vs operational costs, and the MLIF program.

Communication

Cut backs in CNAVRES equals loss in information flow between their office and organizations (NERA), local chapters and home office concerning activities benefitting all aspects of operations, local chapters and the NOSC's, costs associated with all levels of operation.

Headquarters

Maintaining current facility verses a virtual environment, funds to complete new roof project, brick walkway, and future increase of operational costs.

Mariner

Increasing costs of publications (sizable), sponsors concerns (i.e.: numbers of members vs benefits returns), timely information and space allowances, mailing costs per issue, new sponsors, magazine's impression to member and associated organizations, and areas of placement for maximum benefits.

Representations

Memberships with related organizations (TMC) and awards programs and associated costs vs return of benefits to members and membership.

Conferences

Numbers of attendance vs costs associated, attendance of junior members and drilling reservists, areas of most effect for attendees for associated costs, travel restrictions for active military attendees.

Local Chapters

Members willing to hold office, new prospective officers, chapter attendance, senior members vs amount of new, junior, members, new chapters forming vs losing chapters and benefits of staying informed. The bonding together opposed to individual working separately for the benefit of all and the organization.

These issues are not just inherently NERA's but almost all organizations are struggling with some or all aspects of these related topics. Anyone who is a member of other organizations knows this well. Some of the solutions would be rectified with an influx of capital (money), while others with more participation, new ideas or inputs. As they say at the Pentagon, "It's not about the money, but it's ALL ABOUT THE MONEY." This article's purpose is to put down the hard facts and ask everyone to "brainstorm" and help the officers find the appropriate solutions. If you know of ideas or have ways of assisting, please let us know. Our membership possesses expertise in many areas and NERA would like to tap into this resource. Thanks to all for taking the time and consideration of these important issues. Smooth Sailing,

— Geno



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Chuck Cox
NERA
Vice President

Shipmates,

As the children go back to school, the temperatures fall and the pumpkins start popping up on porches, I think about autumn as a way to re-motivate myself in both work and home life. I like to take this time to get organized, set and re-evaluate my goals and most importantly I try to incorporate gratitude in my life. As this "new year" approaches, I look back on what NERA has accomplished and the work still needed to be done. I am grateful for what we have accomplished and feel focused on what needs to be handled in the upcoming year.

On a lighter note, I am looking forward to meeting and greeting all in Norfolk, VA in October. NERA's Annual Conference is a time of connecting with shipmates, swapping stories and looking to the future. Considering this a voting year, I hope to see everyone out to cast their ballots. Also, NERA's headquarters has been receiving numerous emails and phone calls regarding their membership status. Please note that NERA has three categories: NERA Member, Life Members and Benefactor. In order to become the

This centennial year for the Navy Reserve has been a tremendous accomplishment and all should be proud of reaching this milestone.

This centennial year for the Navy Reserve has been a tremendous accomplishment and all should be proud of reaching this milestone. The Senate recently confirmed the nomination of Adm. John M. Richardson as the Navy's 31st chief of naval operations. We wish him well as the service's top military officer and fair winds and following seas to Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert. A job well done. On a very sad note, the Chattanooga shooting really shook the military community this year. As you know, four U.S Marines and a Navy Petty Officer were shot on July 16, 2015 at an Armed Forces Career Center/National Guard Recruitment Office in Chattanooga, Tennessee. I am hoping the "new year" holds no more senseless acts of violence.

highest order of NERA Benefactor and be acknowledged within the Mariner pages, you must upgrade your Life Membership with a \$250 enrollment fee to become the Benefactor status. I hope all will consider becoming a NERA Benefactor and join the ranks of the elite.

I am looking forward to cruising through downtown Norfolk on the Elizabeth River with you, so don't forget to register today for NERA's Annual Conference on October 14-18, 2015.

Cheers,
Chuck

Register today for this year's convention.

October 14-18, 2015 • Norfolk, Virginia

www.nera.org



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

Affordable Care Act

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), all Americans including all military members (active duty, retired, Selected Reserve, or Retired Reserve) and their eligible family members must have health care coverage that meets a minimum standard called minimum essential coverage or pay a fee. Your TRICARE coverage meets the minimum essential

coverage requirement under the ACA.

“The term “active duty” means full-time duty in the active service of a uniformed service for more than 30 consecutive days”.

Beginning in January 2016, DFAS will be providing IRS Form 1095-C to all U.S. military members, and IRS Form 1095-B to all Retirees, Annuitants, former spouses and all other individuals having TRICARE coverage during all or

any portion of tax year 2015. An IRS Form 1095 documents you (and your family members, if applicable) have the minimum essential coverage. More information will be forthcoming about the delivery method of these forms.

These forms will document the information that DFAS will provide to the IRS on yourself and your authorized family members. The forms will be required to be reported with your 2015 federal tax return. DFAS will provide you with IRS Form 1095 series forms no later than Jan. 31, 2016

You can find more information about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on your federal income tax at: <http://www.irs.gov/Affordable-Care-Act>, or <http://www.dfas.mil/taxes/aca.html>.

You can act now to make sure your forms remain secure once they are available using myPay. Just look for the link to “Turn On/Off Hard Copy of IRS Form 1095” in your account and select Electronic Delivery Only. Your information will remain safe until you need it.

Service Dogs at VA Facilities

As of September 16, 2015, veterans visiting the Veterans Affairs facilities will be allowed to bring their service dogs into the building. The Army Times reports that this is a change from the old policy, in which only seeing-eye guide

dogs were allowed. This change was initiated by Christina Roof, a former national acting legislative director for AMVETS. For more information check out Christina M. Roof’s facebook page.

Changes Coming to TRICARE Pharmacy Benefit

Starting October 1, 2015, a new law requires all TRICARE beneficiaries, except active duty service members, to get select brand name maintenance drugs through either TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery or from a military pharmacy. Beneficiaries who keep using a retail pharmacy for these drugs will have to pay the full cost.

Maintenance drugs are those you take regularly for a long time, such as drugs to control blood pressure or cholesterol. The law does not apply to drugs you take



for a short time, like antibiotics, or generic drugs. Beneficiaries living overseas, or with other prescription drug coverage, are not affected.

The TRICARE pharmacy contractor, Express Scripts, is sending a letter to beneficiaries taking an affected drug, explaining their options. Beneficiaries can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-363-1303 to see if they are affected.

After October 1, beneficiaries still filling an affected drug at a retail pharmacy will receive another letter informing them of the change to the benefit. After that, beneficiaries have one final “courtesy” fill at a retail pharmacy. If they fill at a retail pharmacy again, they have to pay 100 percent of the cost of their medication.

TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery is a safe, convenient and low cost option to get maintenance drugs. You can get up to a 90-day supply, as opposed to a 30-day supply from a retail pharmacy. You save up to \$176 a year for every brand name drug you switch to Home Delivery. Military pharmacies offer up to a 90-day supply of drugs at zero copay, but not all drugs are available. You can check with your local military pharmacy to see if they carry your prescription.

For more information about this change to TRICARE’s pharmacy benefit, visit www.tricare.mil/RxNewRules

NERA’s NAVY Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin

The US Navy Reserve has been ready to answer our nation’s call for 100 years. The mission of the Navy Reserve is to deliver operational capability and strategic depth to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces. On March 3, 2015 the US Navy Reserve celebrated its centennial anniversary and NERA wanted to commemorate this special occasion with these coins.

If you would like to purchase a coin for \$10.00 (\$2.00 shipping), see below. (Discounts for orders of 10 or more).

Choose one of these payment options:

- 1 Send a check to NERA**, 6703 Farragut Ave, Falls Church, VA 22042 (Write Coin in memo)
- 2 Pay by Credit Card** by calling NERA at (800)-776-9020.
- 3 Pay online through Paypal.** Go to www.nera.org. Click the Donate button on the right side of the homepage. Type Coin in the message field. “Add Special Instructions to the Seller.”





Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Fall Mariner 2015

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.), Deputy Executive Director

Currently, there are no changes to relevant legislative issues from what was addressed in the recent Summer Mariner edition. Congress recessed in early August until after Labor Day without passing the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2016. There are still significant differences between the House and Senate versions that they have been unable to resolve. It is questionable whether they can complete and pass an agreed upon NDAA prior to the start of the new Fiscal Year (FY) on Oct. 1. Congress will only have 10 scheduled working days after they return from recess before the start of the new FY. With numerous other significant budget and legislative actions, it may be difficult to complete. We anticipate that Defense will be funded on a Continuing

Resolution (CR) well into FY 2016, as has been done for several previous years.

In the absence of legislative news, here is current news for our members:

Replacement Chief of Naval Operations and Marine Corps Commandant Confirmed

Adm. John Richardson has been confirmed to replace Adm. Jonathan Greenert as Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) in September. Adm. Richardson is currently the Director, Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program. Adm. Greenert will be retiring.

Lt. Gen. Robert Neller has been confirmed to replace Gen. Joseph Dunford as Commandant of the Marine Corps. Lt. Gen. Neller has been Commander U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command and Marine Corps Forces Europe. Gen. Dunford has been confirmed as the next Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, replacing retiring Army Gen. Martin Dempsey.

Navy Physical Readiness Program Policy Changes

The CNO recently released important changes to the Physical Readiness Program policy regarding Physical Fitness Assessments (PFA). These changes were promulgated in NAVADMIN message 178/15 dated August 15, 2015.

Effective January 1, 2016 the following changes go into effect:

- An updated Physical Activity Risk Factor Questionnaire will be used.
- Body Composition Assessment (BCA) will change to a three-step process:

Step 1. Apply the current height/weight tables. If the sailor is within the standards no further BCA testing is necessary.

Step 2. If Step 1. results aren't passed a single-site abdominal circumference measurement is done. An abdominal circumference of 39.0 inches or less for males and 35.5 inches or less for females is required to pass. If passed no further BCA testing is required.

Step3. If both Step 1. And Step 2 standards are exceeded a body circumference measurement technique will be done to determine body fat percentage. To pass a sailor must meet the DoD maximum allowable body fat limit of 26 percent for males and 36 percent for females, but must meet the following body fat graduated scale with age requirements or they will have to be enrolled in the Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP):

1. Males: Age 18-21= 22 %; Age 22-29 = 23%; Age 30-39 = 24%; Age 40+ = 26%

2. Females: Age 18-21= 33%; Age 22-29 = 34%; Age 30-39 = 35%; Age 40+ =36%

The Physical Readiness Test (PRT) will continue as before and the overall PFA still conducted every six months in two cycles each year.

Sailors placed in the FEP will be required to participate in a mock PFA every 30 days and that will not count as official failures. They will be dis-enrolled from the FEP when they pass the PRT and are within the new body fat standards.

After January 1, 2016, any sailor who fails two PFA cycles within the most recent three year period will be processed for administrative separation. Failing either the BCA or the PRT is a PFA failure. Anyone failing the BCA will also be enrolled in nutritional counseling.

It is not clear how the Fitness Enhancement Program (FEP) and nutritional counseling will be workable in the Navy Reserves with the limited availability of the sailors, usually one week-end a month of reserve duty.

There is considerable content in the message concerning how to handle PFA for Cycles 1 and 2 of 2014 until the full changes go into effect on Jan. 1, 2016. Questions should be addressed to the Physical Readiness Program Help Desk at (901) 874-2210/DSN882 or via e-mail at navyprt@navy.mil.

**Hope to see as many of you as possible at the NERA National
Conference in Norfolk, VA, Oct. 14–18.**

Join NERA and Advance Your Career



Join or renew online at nera.org



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

Shipmates,

As I sit down to write this letter, I am realizing this will be my last letter as your Executive Director. I am stepping down from this role and running for President of NERA. I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Executive Director for the past nine years, and will be sad to leave this role. NERA staff and all of our military community have been exceptional and I have enjoyed working with them all. Most importantly, my thanks go out to the NERA members for all your support during these past 9 years.

By running for President of NERA, I am hoping to be on the voting side on decisions. NERA seems to be on the cusp on big changes and I would like to be there leading this organization from a strong position. NERA's goal and my goal are one in the same—to help the enlisted members. This will never change. Mike Hughes, the current Deputy Executive Director, will be stepping in as the Acting Executive Director until a replacement can be found. Mike is well versed in all things related to NERA and legislative affairs, and will be an excellent director for NERA. I am not going anywhere and will still be around to assist when needed.

I urge all of you to attend NERA's annual conference in Norfolk, Virginia from Wednesday, October 14 through Sunday, October 18th. These meetings are a great resource for younger members to meet us

more "mature" members. We are more than happy to dole out advice when needed. The comradery and fellowship at NERA's conference is something that is hard to describe. If you can only attend for a day or some other portion of the time, let us know because we can make accommodation as needed. We have some dynamic speakers and wonderful tours set up for this conference. Nauticus, the Battleship Wisconsin is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy. NERA has set up tours to explore its decks and see the ship that earned five battle stars during WW II. We also have the Victory Rover Cruise, which was voted as the number one activity to do in Norfolk by Trip Advisor. The cruise seats 150 people, with a snack bar, air conditioning, shaded deck so we can see Norfolk in style. We will cruise through downtown Norfolk on the Elizabeth River and see the world's busiest sea ports and the world's largest naval base, home of the Atlantic Fleet: Destroyers, Guided Missile Cruisers, Submarines, Aircraft Carriers and more.

So, in closing I hope everyone can attend the conference. It is an important election year and I am excited to reminisce with "old" members and meet new ones. Thank you again for a wonderful 9 years as your Executive Director.

—Steve

NERA seems to be on the cusp on big changes and I would like to be there leading this organization from a strong position. NERA's goal and my goal are one in the same—to help the enlisted members.



NERA loves feedback, especially complimentary ones like these. Keep them coming by emailing us at members@nera.org.



Letter to the Editor:

Ref. the article in the 2015 summer edition, page 6: Gun Locks from the VA. I agree with the comment on privacy.

The government rarely does what it says it will. It cannot be trusted. Thank you.

— Bob Brassard MMC USN (Ret.)

YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.):

I have had some dealings with the VA in regards with AO Presumptive Disability. Do I trust the VA, NO! I doubt if you can find any Vietnam Vet that will say they trust the VA. Can you trust anything anyone from the VA says, NO! Because no one speaks for the VA. Every single VA marches to their own drummer when it comes to policy, procedure, rules, regulations etc. If you want to get a good look at the VA and how Vets are being treated, go to Facebook and look at some of the Vietnam Groups that are on Facebook trying to help vets with claims and info on problems they are having and how they are being treated. Not all can be believed but within the group the people know each other and are friends and when someone is putting out lies and misinformation, they are called out on it.

I have not looked into the Vets from the Golf Wars but I have read somethings and people are having problems there also.

I believe there are good people who work at and for the VA but they are not on the outside and legitimately need help.

When all is said and done, will the VA use the info they collect against a Vets? Yes. They will use every piece of paper work you fill out and send to them, it goes in your file. They can lose it when they want to and find it again when you call your Congressional rep. and have him or her inquire about it, then it shows up.

Anytime anyone is building a data base it can be used for good or not good depending on your point of view.

NSSF has a free child safe program for gun owners and I know they are not doing what the VA is doing. It is done through local police departments. As far as I know, you do not have to fill out paper work to get the Child Safe Kits. It is a free community outreach program.

National Shooting Sports Foundation

Hope all of this makes sense. I am an avid shooter, a Vietnam Vet (boots on the ground) still with a lot of bitterness over the way the Americans treated us when we returned.

— ASC(AW) William E Harlow USNR (Ret.)

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The electronic version of the *Mariner* is sent via email or instantly available for download at nera.org. If you want to go paperless, just email jabbott@nera.org and say you want the electronic version of the *Mariner*.

If you would like to help defray the costs of the *Mariner* and its postage, please feel free to donate to NERA. (Even \$15 can help someone keep their printed *Mariner*.)

Go paperless — email jabbott@nera.org





Debbie Fallon
NERA
Executive Counselor

Hello NERA Members,

As many of you know, in addition to being your National Counselor, I am also the President of the USS Constitution, "Old Ironsides" Chapter. As a chapter officer, I recently received a request to write an endorsement on behalf of a candidate for the Service to the Reservists Award. I asked myself how I can write a recommendation for someone I have never met.

If you are ever in this position, the first thing I would recommend is to ask the NOSC if it is possible to meet directly with the person. This was not an option in my case, so I received a copy of the nominee's package

I am also preparing for the upcoming NERA annual conference in Norfolk, VA. For those of you who are still on the fence on whether or not to attend our National Conference, I strongly hope you can make it a point to be there. This is such an important year for NERA as it is election time. We are looking for qualified people to come up to the plate to serve on the national board and help guide us to a stronger future.

Also, over this past year, I have had many conversations with several people regarding the controversial Member-At-Large (MAL) issue and how something like that was voted on and passed? My response is that things should not be left to chance and I encourage all to attend the National Conference. It is important for your voice to be heard in this member organization and voting on important items is a good way to express your opinions.

This is such an important year for NERA as it is election time. We are looking for qualified people to come up to the plate to serve on the national board and help guide us to a stronger future.

explaining the reasons why this person should receive such a prestigious award. After reading of the accomplishments of this young sailor, I felt comfortable with my recommendation and was happy to help.

Moving forward, now that we are in the dog days of summer, I am enjoying the company of family and friends by the pool. However, I am starting to dread the thought of this upcoming winter. So alas, what better time to begin my fall checklist of things needing to be done. As always, we will begin by closing the pool and putting away all the outside furniture. Then we winterize the house, order extra firewood, and try to decide on whether to gamble on the Farmers' Almanac predictions to decide if we should lock in on heating oil prices. Now that the basics are done, I hope I haven't forgotten something.

The more people who attend, the more voices, opinions and discussion we have. We need to have clear and concise conversations on what direction we as an organization are heading.

In closing, in addition to dealing with all the important conference business, I look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones, and enjoying the Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise, visiting the Nauticus Museum and taking the BB-64 Wisconsin Tour.

See you there.

Debbie Fallon
Deborah "Debbie" Fallon, YNC (ret)
National Counselor

**If you have additional questions, contact
Debbie Fallon at 603-858-4144 or NC@nera.org.**



NERA Visits Norfolk

Do you pronounce it Nor-fok, or Naw-fok? However you pronounce it, we hope you are able to attend NERA's 58th Annual Conference in Norfolk, Virginia from Wednesday October 14th through Sunday, October 18th. If you have not been before, Norfolk is a wonderful city to visit. With about 245,000 residents within 66 square miles, Norfolk has seven miles of Chesapeake Bay beachfront and a total of 144 miles of shoreline along our lakes, rivers, and the Bay. Norfolk is home to the world's largest naval base and the North American Headquarters for NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Norfolk was established in August 1682. The British Act of 1680 ordered the establishment of a port town of 50 acres in each Virginia county. The "Towne of Lower Norfolk County" was surrounded on the east, west and south by the Elizabeth River. By the tie of the American Revolution (1775), it had a population of about 6,000. On January 1, 1776, British forces bombarded Norfolk from ships anchored off shore. Patriots completed the job by destroying the city so the British could not house their army here. The only original structure remaining from this siege is the walls of the Borough Church (today's St. Paul's Episcopal).

Norfolk rebounded from this destruction. By 1800, Norfolk's population numbered 7,000 and Norfolk was the eighth largest town in America. The 1807 attack on the USS frigate Chesapeake by the HMS Leopard in Norfolk was a large factor for the US to declare war on Great Britain resulting in the War of 1812. President Jefferson's Embargo Act closed the port during the war, thereby crippling the economy. The city eventually rebounded and incorporated as a city in 1845.

During 1855's yellow fever epidemic, one-third of Norfolk's entire population died. Seven years later, one of the most famous naval battles occurred near Norfolk. The first two ironclad battleships – the USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac) clashed. By May 1862, Norfolk surrendered and was under Federal occupation for the remainder of the Civil War.

In 1907, Norfolk was spotlighted during the commemoration of the 300th anniversary of the first permanent English settlement in America, held at Sewell's Point. Ten years later, it became home to the US Naval Operating



Norfolk is home to the world's largest naval base.

Base, today's Naval Station Norfolk. It is the world's largest naval station, supporting 75 ships and 134 aircraft including 14 piers, 11 aircraft hangars, and home to the largest group of U.S. Navy forces. This port controls more than 3,100 ships' movements annually.

NERA hopes you will be able to explore this amazing city, and join us for the tour of the Battleship Wisconsin. NERA has set up tours to explore its decks and see the ship that earned five battle stars during WW II. It is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy. We also have the Victory Rover Cruise, which was voted as the number one activity to do in Norfolk by Trip Advisor. The cruise seats 150 people, with a snack bar, air conditioning, shaded deck so we can see Norfolk in style. We will cruise through downtown Norfolk on the Elizabeth River and see the world's busiest sea ports and the world's largest naval base, home of the Atlantic Fleet: Destroyers, Guided Missile Cruisers, Submarines, and Aircraft Carriers. We are looking forward to exploring Norfolk with you.



Women Reservists

By Kick Fallon

As the U.S. Navy Reserve celebrates its centennial this year, I wanted to offer special recognition and share with you the great accomplishments of some outstanding people. As a civilian, I am grateful for all the efforts and sacrifices of all military reservists and respect and understand the demands on their families. As a proud husband of someone who spent 22 years in the reserves (26 years overall in the Navy), I am particularly biased towards women serving in the Navy Reserves.

Fortunately, I have never experienced my wife being deployed overseas to hostile military theatres of operation. During Desert Storm in 1991, she was called to fill a billet at the Naval Air Station in Weymouth, MA for those sent to the Middle East. It felt more like an extended business trip than anything worrisome. But after the loss of innocence and safety from 9/11, knowing she was reporting to her one weekend per month behind gates that newly featured gun emplacements, additional barbed wire and barriers, was unsettling. I am proud of the work she did and know she would have done whatever was asked of her anywhere in the world.

As world crises continue to challenge us, our military remains in the forefront of defending the free world. These fearless women are put more and more in harm's way and I am reminded of the old black and white photos and grainy color films showing the wife and children anxiously waiting the return of their loved one from war. With women now serving in combat, it is interesting seeing a role reversal with concerned husbands waiting on the docks and tarmacs.

The U.S. Navy Reserve has been an integral part of the growth of America's sea power with the passing of the official act of Congress on 3 March 1915. When the U.S. entered World War I, it had a navy consisting of less than 10,000 sailors. By the end of the war, it had



over 250,000 naval reservists – more than half of the new navy (12,000 of whom were women, the first enlisting in 1917).

Speaking of these first women sailors, because of a quirk in the wording of the act specific to the enlistment of yeoman didn't address gender, the U.S. Navy became the first military branch to induct females into its reserve component. Officially designated as Yeoman (F), these first women sailors were affectionately nicknamed "Yeomanettes".

In addition to this reserve opportunity, women were able to serve in the Navy's Nurse Corps. Active duty personnel were augmented by equal to higher numbers of reservists as needed. Leading up to the start of World War II, the Nurse Corps consisted of 800 active duty and 900 inactive reserves. By the end of the war, there were 1,800 active duty nurses and over 9,200 in the Reserves serving across the globe.

Naval women Reservists came into their own in World War II with the creation of the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) in 1942. Unlike the Army's WAACs or WACs (Women's Army Auxiliary Corps) which was a separate auxiliary unit, the WAVES were an actual component of the U.S. Navy Reserve. Within the first year, the WAVES were 27,000 strong. By war's end, 100,000 WAVES were serving on active duty.

And in the spirit of NERA, let us not forget our Marine and Coast Guard family. The United States Coast Guard Women's Reserve, nicknamed SPARS was also established in 1942 with more than 11,000 serving during the war. The Marine Corps Women's Reserve (MCWR) was created in 1943. By the end of the war, 85% of enlisted personnel assigned to headquarters U.S. Marine Corps were women.

Women have been a part of the U.S. Navy Reserve nearly from its inception. Their efforts and achievements have mattered (see the list below) not only in the Navy, but accomplishing many firsts in U.S. Military history. And as the role of women in the military evolves, they will keep making a difference. Even in our organization, women have served us with dignity, grace and fortitude in leading us in the fight to keep and improve benefits for retired

and active reserve veterans. Thank you for your service to my wife Deb and all the women reservists out there, past, present and future.

And as part of my congratulations to the U.S. Navy Reserves, let me add an unofficial P.S. The Navy Reserves may be officially recognizing 100 years because of a legislative act, but the first efforts of our proud and beloved "citizen sailors" is actually celebrating 240 years of putting country first. On 12 June 1775, even before the newly created Continental Congress created an official navy, the residents of a seaside town in Machias, Maine, inspired by the roots of the rebellion in Lexington and Concord, commandeered a private schooner Unity and engaged the enemy by attacking the British warship HMS Margareta. After fierce hand-to-hand combat, the patriots forced her surrender.

Some of the outstanding women who have served in the U.S. Navy Reserves:

Loretta Perfectus Walsh



The first to enlist in the U.S. Navy Reserves (1917); the first allowed to serve in any branch of the U. S. Armed Forces, as anything other than as a nurse; the first woman U.S. Navy petty officer when she was sworn in as chief yeoman.

Mildred McAfee



While serving as President of Wellesley College, was sworn in as a Navy Reserve Lieutenant Commander in August 1942; the first female commissioned officer in U.S. Navy history; the first Director of the WAVES; and the Navy's first female line officer. (*LCDR McAfee while director of the WAVES*)

Anna Der-Vartanian



Resigned from the Army's WAAC to join the WAVES as an apprentice seaman in 1943; first female promoted to Master Chief Petty Officer (her promotion making history as the first female in the U.S. Armed Forces promoted to the rank of E-9). (*Navy Master Chief Petty Officer Anna Der-Vartanian (left) shakes hands with Maj. Gen. Jeanne M. Holm, USAF*)

Lieutenant Charlene I. Sunes



Became the first line WAVES officer ordered to shipboard duty in 1961.

Barbara Allen Rainey



Commissioned in the U.S. Navy Reserve at the U.S. Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island in 1970; the first female to qualify as a jet pilot in 1974.

RADM Karen Flaherty



Became the first Reservist Component Navy Nurse Corps Officer formally appointed to serve as Director of the Navy Nurse Corps in 2009.

VADM Robin Braun



Appointed Chief of the United States Navy Reserve in 2012; the first woman to lead any reserve component of the U.S. Armed Forces. (*Vice Adm. Braun greets returning individual augmentee sailors*)



U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle

By Joanne Elliott • Photos by Patrick Paley

While visiting Bermuda this year, I experienced an unexpected treat—an up close and personal tour on the US Coast Guard Barque Eagle. I originally found out that the Eagle was allowing free tours of the ship while reading the local paper and immediately emailed Retired Force Master Chief Mark Allen to tell him that I was planning to visit this wonderful ship on the 4th of July. In very short order, Mark emailed me and advised me that BMCS Rosati would meet me at the ship!

I took my friend and fellow photographer, Patrick Paley, and drove down to the dock in Hamilton, Bermuda. Up until this point, I did not know much about the history of the Barque Eagle but after 2.5 hours with Senior Chief Rosati, I was amazed at the history of this wonderful ship.

Originally built in 1936 at the Blohm & Voss Shipyard in Hamburg, Germany it was originally named the Horst Wessel. During the war it was utilized as a German training ship. After the war, it became a “spoils of war” and in 1946 was renamed the Coast Guard Cutter Eagle.

When the first skipper of the Eagle, Commander Gordon

McGowan, arrived in Bremerhaven, he was tasked with making this ship seaworthy at no cost to the American Government. Given the fact that he had to replace 3,000 yards of sail, 22 miles of line, a new engine, marlinspikes, mallets, turnbuckles, tarred hemp, wire rope, bolts and shackles, and clamps, this task proved almost daunting.

The ship was built to carry 220 cadets, 125 enlisted and 14 officers. She is 295 feet long, displaces 1700 tons and has 22,000 square feet of sail. It required two teams of twenty men each just to raise the anchor.

Because there were only 50 Americans available to bring the Eagle home, Commander McGowan was given 50 German sailors who were familiar with the Horst Wessel to help sail her back to the United States. Upon arriving in the United States they subsequently became prisoners of war and were subsequently returned to Germany.

As you walk around the ship today, you will notice brass plaques with descriptions in both German and English. We were shown the wardroom, captain's quarters, chow hall, and spent some time in the Chiefs' Mess.



The ship was built to carry 220 cadets, 125 enlisted and 14 officers. She is 295 feet long, displaces 1700 tons and has 22,000 square feet of sail. It required two teams of twenty men each just to raise the anchor.





COASTIE CORNER, continued

As stated by the current Skipper, Capt. M. T. Meilstrup:

“The Eagle provides an unparalleled at-sea leadership and professional development experience for future officers of the U.S. Coast Guard, one of the smallest but arguably the busiest of the U.S. armed forces. A seasoned permanent crew of seven officers and 50 enlisted personnel maintain the ship and provide a strong base of knowledge and seamanship for the training of up to 150 cadets or officer candidates at a time. Augmented by temporary crew during our training deployments, Eagle routinely sails with over 230 hands on board. Eagle offers our future officers the opportunity to apply the navigation, engineering, and other professional theory that they have learned in the classroom. Concurrently, they must handle the challenges of living aboard and working

a large square-rigger at sea in order to build the teamwork, character, and leadership skills necessary for success in the service.”

If you ever get a chance to visit the Eagle, take the time beforehand to read Captain Gordon McGowan's *The Skipper & the Eagle* (a copy of which was presented to me by Senior Chief Rosati), and *A Perfect Lady, A Pictorial History of the U.S. Coast Guard Barque Eagle*, by Tido Holtkamp. These books will give you an excellent history of this fabulous ship and make your visit more memorable.





Senior Chief Rosati presents The Skipper & The Eagle to Joanne Elliott.





6th Annual BIG J CPO Heritage Weekend on the USS NEW JERSEY (BB 62)

By ISC (Sel) Michael Ross Photos courtesy of ITC Michael Bayer

On the evening of August 21st, 2015, 28 Chief Selects from several different commands made their way to Camden, NJ. They boarded the most decorated battleship in US history (the BIG J) for three days of CPO PHASE TWO training. The future CPOs were tasked with leading a 3 day event that included MESS training, Damage Control training, community service, Heritage Run over the Ben Franklin Bridge to Philadelphia, shipboard watch-standing/customs, and ceremonies. The Selects had six weeks to plan the event which included attendance from over 150 CPOs and Selects from the tri-state area. As the Selects would find out in the coming days, they would need to come together as a team. They needed to use the tools they were acquiring through the transition process to complete each evolution in a timely manner while ensuring

a high quality of work and that the tight daily schedule was adhered to throughout the weekend. Ultimately, each select would have an opportunity to showcase their leadership ability with over 100 MCPO/SCPO/CPOs providing time sensitive guidance along the way.

This group did not lack in diversity, from ratings to ethnicity to gender and almost every part of the American melting pot was well represented. There were active duty, full time support and selected reserve CPO Selectees. From aviation ratings to Information Dominance ratings, many of the Selects had never even been on a ship prior to that weekend, while others took in the familiar scents and views of shipboard life. “No matter what ship I step on, when I go below deck I know I’m home from the smell,” said EMC Select Kotlyer from MCCAST. Being



Chief Selects drilling on pier.



Front row: EMC Kotlyar, ISC Rodriguez, ATC Francis, AWFC Fitzpatrick, ISC Tam, ISC Ross, ASC Lyle, OSC Cox, EMC Moore, FCC Webster, OSC Kopp, SHC Tinsley, ABEC Robinson, LSC Francis, NCC Stevenson, NCC Cedeno,
Back row: HMC Conklin, ADC Vamos, AMC Delgado, CTTC Bixby, CSC Frasier, HTC Birkey, ABHC Rodriguez, ABEC MClean, LSC Marshall, AMC Harnisch, MAC Sidwa



JBMDL newly pinned Chief Petty Officers



Chief Selects in front of Big J.



HERITAGE WEEKEND ON THE “BIG J,” continued

geographically dispersed, many of the Selects had never even met one another face-to-face. After many conference calls in preparation for the weekend, the Selects were now meeting and unloading their sea bags in the berthing spaces where sailors from Vietnam to the first Gulf War once slept. Those who had never been on a ship were asking questions to those who had spent most of their careers out to sea. They exchanged sea/sand stories from deployments on ships and deployments to Afghanistan/Iraq. Then they started to discuss how each other's “Season of Pride” was coming along thus far. It wasn't long before they recognized that the same themes were constant even if Genuine Chiefs methods were different.

When evening colors took place on Friday, a sense of reality had hit the Selects: they were on the most decorated Battleship in US Navy history. The USS New Jersey had proudly served its country in more than four wars over the course of 50 years. The decks that these future Chiefs were standing on was that of a ship that had been around the world protecting the country even before they had even been born. “When standing next to the guns, you get a much better sense of the ‘Big J’s’ motto ‘Firepower for Freedom,’” stated ISC Select Ross from DIA 0501.

0530, Saturday morning reveille sounded and the Selects began their day alongside the Chief's Mess. Those who were on color detail put on their dress whites and spot-checked one another to make sure they were squared away and looking sharp. Selects split up to focus on the tasking at hand and were instructed to select a battle buddy.

Selects helped preserve the ship by chipping away rust along the gun mounts, and sang motivational cadences

along the way. Many CPOs joined them and they ended up completing more in four hours than the ship's volunteers could complete in a year. Some Selects practiced the POW/MIA ceremony by doing a walk through to ensure the ceremony got the respect it deserved. “I had heard about POW/MIA tables and ceremonies but had never seen one,” said OSC Select Cox, NRD Philly, “it truly hit me when I was on the detail and listening to what each piece of the ceremony represented.”

As the Selects drilled on the pier, they were led to their damage control training stations. The Selects had hands-on training provided by Chief Ed Lubas of NOSC Fort Dix and the Jacobstown Volunteer fire department, station

461/468 North Hanover, NJ. Special thanks to Robert Gancarz and Mark Sube who are local firemen who gave their own free time to support this event. During this evolution, the Chief Selects finally came together as a team. It was vital that each Select support the next Select for the overall safety and success of their fellow shipmate. “Communication was key to our motivation and overall success during damage control training. We came out of that as a team!” said FCC Select Webster, JBMDL. Part of the training including manning hose teams and performing shoring & pipe patching.

Time was allotted for the Selects to engage Genuine Chiefs and to learn the history of the ship, while getting signatures for their Charge Books. The volunteer staff that works



The Big J Fire fight.



Fire fighting with Chief Select Birkey from NRD Philly.

“We knew that we needed to make sure we did this with purpose and pride.” —HTC Select Birkey of NRD Philly



Pipe patching team.



Group shot after fire fighting.

onboard the “Big J” was eager to answer the Select’s questions and to share their own military experiences. The pride and joy of teaching about the “Big J” was evident in each lesson. Paul Niessner, a former 2nd Class Petty Officer who served on the USS FORRESTAL during Vietnam, played the infamous Forrestal video and then provided his personal account of that day’s events which included three sailors and himself being trapped in a compartment below John McCain’s plane for three days... the room was completely silent as he described his harrowing tale.

Sunday kicked off with a Heritage Run over the Ben Franklin Bridge and into Philadelphia, PA. The echoes

of the cadences sang by the Chiefs and Chief Selects could be heard in two states that morning, and the formation was turning the heads of anyone who passed by the team. The BIG J stood in the distance on the way back from Philadelphia and at that moment we knew as a team that we represented that ship and those who have gone before us to defend Freedom and Democracy



Chief Selects completing Heritage Run over the Ben Franklin Bridge

around the world. Following the run, the Selects prepared for the culmination event of the weekend, the “Burial at Sea”, a time honored Navy tradition. That day the Selects performed one in remembrance of all the victims of the September 11, 2001 attacks. “We knew that we needed to make sure we did this with purpose and pride. It came out better than anyone could have hoped for and we knew it was a job well done,” said HTC Select Birkey of NRD Philly.

The group of individuals and loosely coupled Selectee Messes that went onto the “Big J” came out of that weekend as a single team with purpose and direction. “We will always remember that weekend.” Said ISC Ross from DIA 0501. It was a few short days of memories and pride that will last a lifetime.

Special thanks to the JBMDL CPOA for helping fund the event, and ISC Benno Sauermann who was the point man for the Selects throughout the preparation and successful completion of this event.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF THE NAVY RESERVE 1915–2015



Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve, commemorates the Navy Reserve Centennial with Navy Reserve admirals during the Reserve Flag Officers Training Symposium in Annapolis, Md.



NOSC Washington celebrates their first-year anniversary and the U.S. Navy Reserve Centennial.



Navy Reserve Unit-Joint Staff South celebrate the Navy Reserve Centennial.



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 8, 2015) - Reserve Component Sailors from Navy Cargo Handling Battalion EIGHT (NCHB 8) took a moment from their Unit Level Training to pose for a group photo at Navy Expeditionary Logistics Support Group (NAVELSG) Cheatham Annex Crane Site to honor and celebrate 100 years of the Navy Reserves. NAVELSG provides expeditionary logistics capability for the Navy and joint service customers. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Edward Kessler/Released)

Rear Adm. Thomas Reck and Reserve Sailors assigned to NOSC Bangor celebrated the Navy Reserve Centennial while attending a port visit for USS Tortuga (LSD 46) in Rockland, Maine.



Sailors assigned to NOSC Fort Dix New Jersey celebrated the Navy Reserve Centennial.



Office of Naval Research Reserve Component Sailors celebrate the Navy Reserve Centennial while standing in Times Square during the 27th annual Fleet Week celebration in New York City.



Meet Our Members

NERA has launched a new series called Meet the Members that focuses on the extraordinary lives of our NERA members. If you or someone you know would like to be featured, please email ypurtill@nera.org for more information. We are featuring **CTRC Ward Wollesen** in this issue. He is a dedicated NERA member working quietly behind the scenes to help NERA in so many ways, but especially with our annual scholarships. NERA wanted to shine a light on his story to honor his dedication.

Ward Wollesen was born in Waterloo, Iowa. He moved to Tucson, Arizona at the age of ten and grew up in the desert. He attended the University of Arizona for the first two years of college but was placed on scholastic probation for poor grades. After his sophomore year, he decided to leave school and joined the Navy to see the world. He did finish his education at the University of Miami some eight years later, just as he was also completing his final enlistment in the Navy. He joined the Navy Reserve two months after his discharge and spent another fourteen years in the reserves until he retired in 1988.

With some skills in Morse code that he learned as a Boy Scout, Ward tested high for that job duty in the Navy and was sent to "A" school for Cryptologic Technician "R" branch or Morse code operator. He spent his eight years of active duty in such idyllic spots as Guam, which is now a vacation spot for the Japanese (but not in 1967), and the Panama Canal Zone. He also spent a brief tour off the coast of Viet Nam with a small COMSEC (Communications Security) task force that was probably the most important part of his active duty career.

He was fortunate to be on a very secure ship during this conflict. This security was tested many times. The Vietnamese did not have much capability to challenge a helicopter carrier, even close to

shore. Wollesen did have one assignment to escort a classified film into Danang, entailing a helo ride in, hand off the film and get back on the helo and come right back.

However, this was during the Tet offensive in 1968 and just as they landed, the shelling started. No helos went back to the ships that day or for two more days. He was glad to finally get back home safe and secure.

Ward currently lives in Bakersfield, California with Judy, his wife of 49 years. According to Wollesen, the great mystery of his life is how she has been able to put up with him for all these years. They have three grown children, the oldest, Scott, just retired after 22 years of active duty in the Navy. Peter is a Financial Advisor in Bakersfield and Lisa is a General Manager for a fine dining restaurant in Portland, Oregon.

Ward spent over thirty years representing local government employees in their employment setting. He retired seven years ago as the Executive Director of the Kern County Employees Association. He and Judy enjoy traveling and working in the yard around their home. He is an avid reader of police and international intrigue novels. Ward also is instrumental in helping NERA with the annual scholarships and NERA is very grateful for his guidance and dedication all these years.



CTRC Wollesen and Judy (his wife of 49 years) at their home in Bakersfield



Seaman Recruit Wollesen receiving the American Spirit of Honor Medal at Bootcamp Graduation in 1966.



NERA 2015 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
Wednesday, October 14, 2015			
1800	2100	Registration (Hospitality Suite)	Landings
1900	2400	Meet and Greet / Mixer	

Thursday, October 15, 2015			
0700	0800	Registration (Hospitality Suite)	Landings
0800	0830	Opening Ceremony	Grand Concourse
		Color Guard	
		National Anthem	
		Benediction - YNC Chuck Sherrick	
		NERA Preamble - Kick Fallon	
		Rear Admiral Thomas W. Luscher Deputy Chief of Navy Reserve	
		Nat'l President ABHCS (ret) Gene Koelker	
0830	0900	USAA	Main Entrance
0900	1015	Business Session, C&BL - Part I	
1015	1100	NEC Officer Nominations	
1100	1130	EVENTS BUS BOARDING	
1800	2400	Open Hospitality Suite	Landings

Friday, October 16, 2015			
0800	1100	Business Session, C&BL - Part II	Grand Concourse
1100	1300	AWARDS LUNCHEON	
1300	1400	Business Session, C&BL - Part II (cont.)	
1400	1430	NEC Candidate Forum	
1430	1600	Business Session, C&BL - Part II (cont.)	
ENJOY NORFOLK - Members/Guest ON THEIR OWN			
1800	2400	Open Hospitality Suite	Landings

Saturday, October 17, 2015			
0800	1100	Voting	Landings
0800	0815	NOSC BUS BOARDING	Main Entrance
0900	1030	Senior Enlisted Panel	NOSC Norfolk
1100	1130	Time & Place Committee	Grand Concourse
1130	1230	OPEN LUNCH - Members/Guest are on their own.	
1230	1430	Business Session - Budget Review/Planning	
1430	1600	Business Session - Unfinished Business	
1730	1830	No Host Cocktail Hour - Cash Bar	
1830	1845	Missing Man Ceremony / Invocation	Landings
1845	2030	Dinner followed by Introduction & Swearing In of NEC Officers	
2030	2400	Open Hospitality Suite	Landings

Sunday, October 18, 2015			
0800	1200	Joe Wasson Chapter (Hospitality Suite)	Landings
0900	1000	NEC Meeting with New Officers	PRESIDENTS SUITE

Conference POC's: Penny Padour, nerajoewasson@outlook.com or Jennifer Abbott, jabbott@nera.org



REGISTER TODAY!

NERA'S 58th National Conference

October 14–18, 2015, Norfolk, VA



NAME (Last, First, MI): _____

Rank (Or 'Civilian'): _____ Service Branch: ☐ USN ☐ USMC ☐ USCG

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (Home): _____ (Office/Cell): _____

Email: _____ Nickname (For Name Tag): _____

NERA Chapter: _____ ☐ Please indicate if no chapter affiliation

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME (Last, First, MI): _____

Is Spouse/Guest a NERA Member or Associate Member: ☐ Y ☐ N

Spouse/Guest Nickname (for Name Tag): _____

Please enter number of people attending and multiply by amount noted.

All Inclusive Registration

_____ x \$125.00 = \$ _____

- Meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Meet and Greet Mixer on Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Awards Luncheon on Friday, Oct. 16
- Installation Dinner Dance on Saturday, Oct. 17
- Senior Enlisted Panel, NOSC Norfolk (transportation included)
- On-Going Hospitality Suite

Spouse Meal Options (for spouses and significant others of attendees who will NOT be attending meetings)

Friday Awards Luncheon

_____ x \$29.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner Dance

_____ x \$47.00 = \$ _____

Meal Choice for Dinner Dance: (write in number for all attending on this reservation, including spouse meal option)

New York Strip Steak: _____ Chicken: _____ Crab Cakes: _____

Event Registration for Thursday, October 15

Cruise, Museum and Wisconsin Tour (1100–1730)

_____ x \$45.00 = \$ _____

Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise (2hrs); Nauticus Museum & BB-64 Wisconsin Tour

Freeman Abbey Restaurant (1900 Bus Pickup)

_____ x \$49.00 = \$ _____

Includes bus transportation to and from the restaurant.

On-Going Hospitality Suite

Donations Accepted \$ _____

Conference Booster Roll (Names of donors will be listed in Conference Book.)

Minimum \$5 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION: ☐ Credit (VISA, MASTERCARD or DISCOVER) OR ☐ Check (Check # _____)

Credit Card _____ - _____ - _____ Exp Date _____ / _____

Signature _____

CONFERENCE PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make Checks Payable to: Joe Wasson Chapter 120.042
Mail Registration Form (with payment) Directly to:
SKC (Ret.) Penny Padour, 1010 Darlington Ln,
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Please note, this form will NOT reserve your hotel room. You must contact Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport directly and mention **“NERA 58th National Conference.”**
Front Desk: (757) 213-2231 or Toll Free: (877) 410-6679

Questions, contact Penny Padour at nerajowasson@outlook.com



2015–2016 USAA/ NERA Scholarship Announcement

NERA is proud to announce the 2015–2016 USAA/NERA Scholarship recipients. The USAA/NERA Scholarship Program recognizes the service and sacrifices made by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. These scholarships have been created to honor their excellence. We want to thank the Scholarship Committee for their devoted efforts in finding these distinguished recipients.



Also, a big thank you to USAA and NERA members for making these scholarships possible.

\$3,000 NERA Scholarship Recipients



Benjamin Burleson

Ben was also a 2014 winner and we are very proud to have him representing NERA and USAA again this year. Ben has a 4.0 grade point average and is a second year Chemical Engineering student at the

University of South Alabama. He works part time in the lab at BASF and if that isn't enough, he is also an excellent pianist playing for the Dayspring Baptist Church and he plays the cello.



Summer Davis

Summer actually received her Magna Cum Laude, AA Degree from Irvine Valley College before she received her high school diploma. She will attend the University of California, San Diego

with a double major in Political Science and Economics. She has her eye on a career in the State Department.

\$2,500 Winners



Danielle Domini

Another 2014 NERA winner and a sophomore at Wheaton College in Illinois, Danielle is studying to become a dentist. She has been very active in her community and in her career choice, establishing

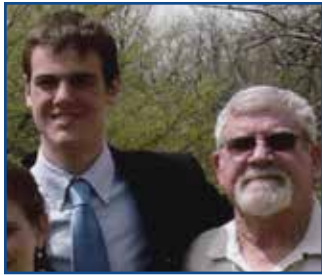
a Pre-Dental Society at Wheaton College as a sophomore and she is an active member of the American Student Dental Association.



Claudia Morello

Earning a 3.8 GPA in Astrophysics at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University on the Space Coast of Florida, Claudia is majoring in Astrophysics. If a 3.8 GPA in rocket-science is not impressive

enough, Claudia also aspires to do valuable research about the cosmos and ultimately make a world-changing discovery.



Joshua Peters

Another 4.0 GPA student, Joshua is studying to be a Mechanical Engineer. He has maintained that 4.0 while taking advanced math classes throughout high school including Honors Calculus and AP

Statistics. He will begin classes at Texas A&M University in the fall.



Brittany Shoemaker

CPO Brittany Shoemaker, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps has worked hard in the program since she was ten years old. Ranking 41st out of 491 students in her graduating class, Brittany will be entering

Saint Leo University this fall majoring in criminal justice. She envisions a career in forensic science.

NERA would like to take this opportunity to wish all 2015–2016 USAA/NERA Scholarship recipients congratulations on their accomplishments. Clearly your future looks bright and we hope these scholarships will help ease the financial burdens of obtaining a higher education. We know you will do great things in the world and we are looking forward to saying we knew you way back when you were just students. Congratulations on a job well done!

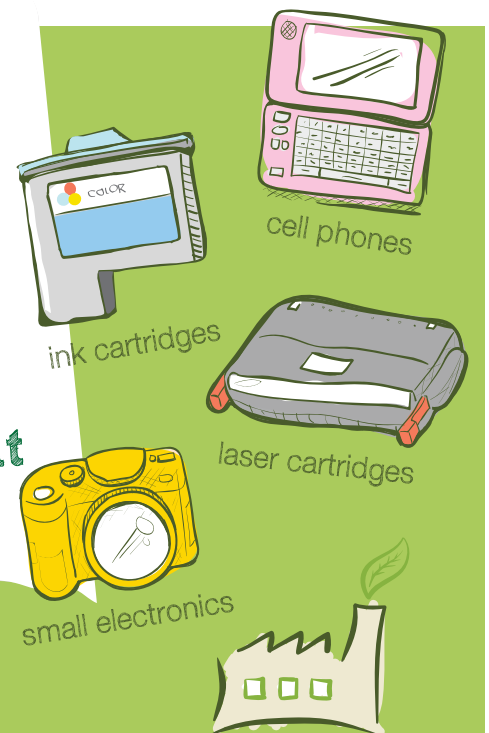
Congratulations to all USAA/NERA scholarship winners!

The 2015–2016 Scholarship Committee: Scholarship Chairman: CTRC Ward Wollesen, MCPO Forrest Croom, YNCS Ralph Hensley, PN1 Judith Minkin, YNCS Dwayne Mitchell, LIC David Nelson

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at (603) 858-4144 or debbiefallon@msn.com.
Or contact headquarters via the new
NERArecycles@nera.org.



FundingFactory
fundingfactory.com



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

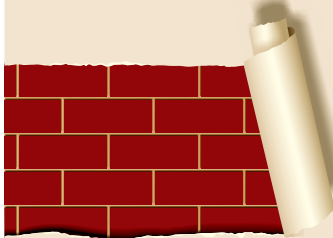
We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

HMCS William M. Allen
DM2 Thomas C. Benichasa
ATC Charles R. Brightwell
ENCs George W. Brown
SK1 Jimmie L. Cassity
YNC Robert E. Farell

Dayton Ohio
Greater New York
San Francisco
John D. Wood
Oklahoma Sooner
John D. Wood

ABHC William A. Hilbert
Mrs. Marion R. Norris
AOC Marion R. Roe
OSC(SW) Lester H. Schumacher
DTC Allen B. Waddell
MM1 Lawrence J. (Joe) Walley, Jr.

Delaware Valley
John D Wood
Minnesota
Robert E. Lee
Greater Portland
League Island




NERA Memorial Walk

Pave the way for NERA's future by naming a brick today!

Become a part of history by purchasing a brick on the NERA Memorial Walk. NERA has a long history of protecting the rights and benefits of the enlisted reserves. You can help continue this tradition by purchasing a brick. Your brick can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or a significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100 and will be custom engraved to your specification and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA headquarters.



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

Phase 1: Will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole.
Phase 2: Construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA HQ.

Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.
NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Abbott, jabbott@nera.org or (703) 534-1329.



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