

THE **MARINER**

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The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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Coast Guard Honors Top Enlisted Servicemembers

page 14



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Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)
National Headquarters
6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2189

Office: 703-534-1329
Toll-free: 800-776-9020
Web: www.nera.org
Email: members@nera.org

National President
ABHCS Eugene "Geno" P. Koelker,
USNR (Ret.)
815-209-5391
president@nera.org

National Vice President
ET1(SS) Chuck Cox, USNR
732-599-3049
vp@nera.org

National Secretary
YNC Marianne Mosher, USN (Ret.)
secretary@nera.org

National Treasurer
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.),
(H) 215-547-7004
treasurer@nera.org

National Counselor
YNC Deborah "Debbie" Fallon,
USNR, (Ret.)
603-858-4144
nc@nera.org

Past National President
SKCS(AW) Nick Marine, USN (Ret.)
770-426-8060
prnp@nera.org

Executive Director
DCCM Stephen R. Sandy, USNR (Ret.)
703-534-1329
neraexec@nera.org

Deputy Executive Director
OSC Michael P. Hughes, USNR (Ret.)
703-534-1329
neradeputy@nera.org

Managing Editor
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.)
(H) 215-547-7004
marinereditor@nera.org

Staff Writer
Yvette B. Purtill
ypurtill@nera.org

Printing
Mercury
240-631-1389

Design
Karen Durland
kdurland@gmail.com

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Cover: Petty Officer 3rd Class Giacomo Terrizzi, NERA Executive Director Steve Sandy and Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Olson pose for a photo during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, in Washington, D.C on May 7, 2015

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

Ahoy Again Shipmates,

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer vacation, despite the weather challenges. My wife, Verna, and I just returned from a short vacation in western North Dakota, where a few shipmates and their wives got together for a small celebration. It is important for those of us who forged a part of our lives together to stay in contact and share our memories (tell-

ing sea stories). A great time was had and many laughs were heard by the people around us. It always brought questions about what we had done and "Thank You" for serving. Civilians seemed amazed that service people can stay so close over a life time. It is something we take for granted and identify as normal.

With all these activities, don't forget to register for the conference, which is only a few month away. **GET IT DONE TODAY.** It is another way to stay in touch with fellow service members whom we have come to know and have a common bond. I have found that if I wear anything Navy, people will stop to talk or at least recognize you. Have you looked around and seen someone wearing a military hat, or something else and wondered what significance that has for them and our country?

At a recent picnic event, I saw a young man wearing a Seabee's T-shirt and went to ask him about the shirt. Matt had just retired and related the issues that his unit and the Seabees were having in general. I was aware that their numbers are being reduced, however, was not aware that their skill sets (what they were known for) are no longer relevant. He had been assigned to a marine attachment and was only used as another grunt. He was not working in his assigned rate or billet. When he inquired as to why, the response from very high up was "that horse has left the barn".

Additionally, when speaking with fellow shipmates who have been away from their service and not necessarily affiliated with NERA or another organization, I find out that they are not aware of the extent of cut backs that are affecting our military. Even though I try to stay in touch, I

still get shocked or amazed at what is going on behind the lines when speaking with fellows like Matt. There are still problems with people being demobilized and it is shocking the things they are told they have to do, or not to do, despite military regulations. When one is on IA, he or she is totally under the active duty side of the military, and we have all faced the impact of the word "Reserve" carries with it.

These are the challenges NERA and the TMC deal with constantly. When someone asks why they should join NERA, advise them that if they are affected by events that they feel aren't proper and cannot get satisfaction through the chain of command, they can turn to NERA. Think about it: you are on IA, you feel that something is wrong, as a reserve, you go to the active duty chain of command. What kind of response will you receive? To be fair, active duty personnel don't always understand regulations that involve Reservist. When questioned, they might react negatively, or seek advice from a superior who might not be versed in the regulations involving the Reserves. NERA can guide you through this situation.

This is all the more reason to attend our conference. If you are up to speed about relevant issues when speaking with others, it gives you credibility and you are a good ambassador for NERA.

See y'all at the conference,

Geno

**Register today for
this year's convention.
October 14–18, 2015
Norfolk, Virginia**

www.nera.org



Chuck Cox
NERA
Vice President

Shipmates,

Our conference is rapidly approaching, and we are moving into an election year. I encourage all of you to attend the conference from October 14-18 in Norfolk. One of the most famous naval battles in history occurred in Norfolk. The USS Monitor and CSS Virginia (formerly the USS Merrimac)—the first two ironclad battleships—fought within view of downtown Norfolk. Two months after this battle, Norfolk was under Union forces for the remainder of the Civil War. Since then, Norfolk has really turned into a vibrant city with a fun downtown area that has both the new and old mixed together. It

NERA. For example, we are advocating for the improving counseling and behavioral services health services, promoting the Reserve Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-911 GI Bill and closely monitoring the modernizing of the reserve retirement system. The retirement system is complicated, and we need to sweat the details to make sure no retirement benefit is inadvertently removed or neglected.

As you all know, the devil is in the details. NERA is here to keep guard over your hard earned benefits. I would like to thank everyone for their support this past year.

I encourage all to throw their hat in the ring to run for a NERA executive office. To see if you qualify, please visit nera.org and check out the NERA by-laws.

has almost 250, 000 residents. I am hoping all can come and be part of the conference and be part of NERA's history.

With the upcoming election, I have been reflecting on this past year as your Vice President. This past year has been an exciting time with the Navy Reserve 100 Centennial celebrations. 100 years is quite an accomplishment and the ceremonies have been well deserved. Behind the scenes, NERA has been closely monitoring the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. The recommendations from this commission will affect NERA member's daily lives and no one understands that better than

It has been a very busy year and I have loved every minute of it. Norfolk should be a great conference and I encourage all to throw their hat in the ring to run for a NERA executive office. To see if you qualify, please visit nera.org and check out the NERA by-laws. Also, don't forget to sign up for the Nauticus maritime science museum, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and the Battleship Wisconsin tours and Victory Rover Naval Base Cruises.

Thanks again for a wonderful year.

Chuck



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

TIPS AND CLIPS

Gun Locks from the VA

I recently received a letter from the VA advising that I could request up to 4 free gun locks to encourage firearm safety. They further state that once they mail the locks to you, your request form will be destroyed. In the Philadelphia

area, you can request them at the Medical Center at University and Woodland Avenues, Philadelphia, PA. I've discussed this issue with our Executive Director,

Steve Sandy, various members of my VFW post, and some retired chiefs who now work at other VA medical facilities. Some members are concerned that the VA will use the information against them if they have applications in place because of PTSD. The individual I spoke with from the VA stated that the VA doesn't have any "irons in the fire" on this and does not intend to use the information they receive against our individual veterans. He further stated that the VA doesn't want to incur any more adverse publicity. Please feel free to sound off on this issue. I would love to hear from you.

ID Cards

We received a phone call from an individual who had some issues receiving his retirement ID card. This is the second report that we received. It seems that some facilities were issuing pink ID cards to those retirees over the age of 60 instead of the blue ID card. The pink ID card is only for those who have retired and are under the age of 60. Once you turn 60 you need to go to the nearest facility and obtain the blue ID card. This card will be good until age 65 and will be stamped indefinite on the front. However on the back will have an actual expiration date (5 years from the date you turn 60). Once you turn 65, return to the issuing facility and you will receive another

blue ID card which will then be stamped "indefinite" on the back. This card will be used in conjunction with your Tricare for Life. For more information go to this website: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl/appj/site?execution=e1s1>.

You may receive a message that states "There is a problem with this website's security certificate." Click the "Continue to the website" line and you will be taken the RAPIDS Site Locator, where you can enter your address and it will show you where the nearest location is to obtain ID cards. There is also a "contact us" tab and a tab for "required documents."

VA Loan Benefits

I recently read an article by Jerome Greer Chandler in the February Issue of the VFW Magazine. He reported that one of the benefits of having a VA Loan becomes evident if a veteran runs into a problem with continuing to pay on his or her mortgage. He states that if you default on your mortgage payment, the VA will assign one person to you to become your advocate and to work with you. If the lender will not work with you to help you remain in your property, the VA will take

the loan back and you will be able to work directly with the VA. He further states that the VA will help you in every way they can to remain in your home. For more information on the HOPE NOW Alliance, call 1-888-995-4673. To find out more about VA Home Loans (Pamphlet 26-4) or summary of VA Home Loan Guaranty Benefits (Pamphlet 26-12-1) call 1-877-827-3702 or go to www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans.



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



I just got home from work (2030 hrs PST).
I received the anniversary challenge coin. It looks great.
I'm proud to have it in my collection.

All the best! —Ken

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

Spring Mariner 2015

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

As of we get ready for press, we are awaiting the final passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2016 from Congress. The House (H.R. 1735) and Senate (S. 1376) have passed different versions with some significant variances and there will be a joint conference committee convening to coordinate final language to be sent to the President for enactment. Many of the proposals are a result of the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC). Following is a review of some of the key provisions in both bills of interest to NERA and our members:

Common to both House (H.R. 1735) and Senate (S. 1376) Versions

- Continues the cost-of-living raise at 1% below the Economic Cost Index (ECI) for military personnel in 2016. (1.3% in 2016 vice the 2.3% of the ECI that everyone else gets.) NERA supports full ECI.
- Both versions include a blended retirement proposal similar to the MCRMC recommendations with a TSP/401K type contributory program with government contribution of 1%; continuation pay at 12 years of service; government matching of a percentage of member contributions to the TSP at 2 years of service; and grandfathering of the current force under the old retirement system with an option to convert if wanted. NERA supports all of these.
- Both provide a disability multiplier of 2.0%. NERA supports the DoD proposal of a multiplier of 2.5%
- Both include a retainer pay multiplier of 2.0% which NERA opposes.
- Both versions of the blended retirement proposal fund the new system by reducing the annuity for those service members who serve 20 or more years by 20%. NERA opposes this as detrimental to recruitment and retention of career members.
- End strength for Selected Reserves- USNR increased 100 to 57,400, USMCR reduced 300 to 38,900 and USCGR unchanged at 7,000.
- End strengths for reserves on active duty in support of the reserves (FTS) – USNR unchanged at 9,984 and USMCR reduced 1 to 2260.
- Both authorize several enhanced sexual assault provisions. NERA supports these provisions.
- Both have differing provisions on developing a report and setting up a pilot program to privatize the commissary system. NERA is opposed to any privatization of the commissary or exchange systems.
- Both have provisions for improvement of financial literacy, preparedness and training for members of the uniform services. NERA supports this, with the addition of including family members.

Provisions Only in the House (H.R. 1735) Version

- Government matching up to 5% in the TSP. NERA supports.
- Electronic tracking of operational active duty service performed by members of the Ready Reserve. NERA supports.
- Consolidates the number of different Reserve active duty orders from 30 to 6. NERA supports, with the proviso that coverage is adequate to facilitate in favor of the Reservist.
- Reserves are exempted from the 5-year limit on

reemployment rights under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) when activated for assistance in a major disaster or emergency and Selected Reservists are exempted when activated for preplanned missions in support of combat commands. NERA supports.

- Directs Sec Def to initiate a pilot program for job placement assistance and related services for Guard and Reserve members. NERA supports.
- Provides veteran status for reserve members who serve 20 or more years of service and/or qualify

for retirement, but do not have the required active duty time under the current law. This veteran status does not create any additional benefits other than to officially be called a “veteran”. NERA supports.

- Availability for purchase of VA memorial headstones and markers for member of Reserve components with certain performed active duty for training. NERA supports.
- Requires DoD and VA to establish a joint pharmacy formulary for use by both. NERA supports.

Provisions only in the Senate (S. 1376) Version

- Government matching funds for TSP up to 4% in the blended retirement proposal. NERA opposes and supports the House version of up to 5% match.
- Government matching ends at 20 years of service. NERA supports no end of matching regardless of years of service.
- Sunsets the program of educational assistance for Reserve members supporting contingency operations and other operations in 4 years after date of enactment. NERA opposes.
- Prohibits entitlement to unemployment insurance while receiving Post 9/11 educational assistance. NERA opposes.
- Increase from 90 to 180 continuous days of active duty required by Reserve members for that duty to be considered for federal service for unemployment compensation for ex-service members. NERA opposes
- Authorizes reductions of up to 5% in Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH). NERA opposes.
- Spouse with a lower rank in dual-military married couple living together off base will no longer receive BAH. Cohabiting service members will have BAH reduced 25%. NERA opposes.
- Amends provisions in law to allow election of a new spouse beneficiary under the Survivor Benefit Plan after the death of the former spouse. NERA supports.
- Authorizes a beneficiary under TRICARE up to 4 urgent care visits per year. NERA supports.
- Increases co-pays for prescriptions under TRICARE at much higher rates. NERA opposes.
- Expands continued health benefits coverage to include discharged and released members of the Selected Reserve. NERA concurs.
- Waiver of the recoupment of erroneous payments due to administrative error under TRICARE. NERA supports.

Another area of note, separate from the NDAA, is a renewed legislative push for presumption of Agent Orange exposure for the “Blue Water” Navy and Coast Guard veterans who served off the coast of Vietnam for consideration of disability claims with VA. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015 (H.R. 969 and S. 681) has received a renewed push, especially by Sen. Gillibrand of NY. The bills would give coverage for those if they served within 12 miles of Vietnam’s coast. NERA has and continues to support for Agent Orange presumption of exposure for Blue Water veterans.

NERA and our partners of The Military Coalition have also voiced and supported removing the requirements of sequestration by Congress. The DoD budget is approximately 16% of the overall federal budget, but is receiving 50% of the sequestration cuts currently in the law. These arbitrary budget cuts are a threat to our national security and a very real threat to the all-volunteer-force.



Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

Shipmates,

I can't believe how fast this year has gone by and that the summer heat is already upon us. This has been an exciting year. I have already attended celebrations for the Navy Reserve centennial year, Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) and the Reserve Coast Guard Person of the Year (REPOY) ceremonies. I always leave these ceremonies full of hope for the future. Meeting these inspiring young people gives me confidence that the Navy Reserve is in good hands in the future. I think FORCM (AW/SW) CJ Mitchell said it best when he said "These Sailors are indicative of and representative of the outstanding Sailors we have in the Reserves. They have volunteered and mobilized and gone forward. They have families and have civilian jobs, such as teacher, firefighter, benefits auditor and railroad conductor. They are students and college graduates and they volunteer in their community. Most importantly they are Sailor leaders."

Every Navy ship, station and command around the world chooses its Reserve Sailor of the Year based on leadership, professionalism, dedication and superior performance. The Coast Guard chooses its Reserve person of the year based on enlisted personnel who best reflects the Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty. After meeting these nominees, I understand completely why they were chosen. Their dedication inspires me to give that same dedication to NERA and the issues NERA is facing.

As you probably know, this fall NERA is holding its annual conference in Norfolk. This conference will be a pivotal point in NERA's history. It is an election year and we are facing some real challenges. For example, the cost of our beloved printed Mariner is about one fourth of NERA's entire operating budget. Print material is expensive and this magazine is eating up a huge chunk of our budget. I encourage everyone who can, to opt out of the printed version and sign up for the electronic version. I understand some of you need the printed Mariner, so please know it is not going anywhere. I just wanted to encourage those who are more tech savvy to sign up for the electronic version. It arrives sooner than the printed Mariner can be mailed to you. Just email jabbott@nera.org and say sign me up for the electronic Mariner. NERA and the trees will thank you. Also, in an effort to keep NERA relevant and current, we want new members. I encourage everyone to recruit younger members and become active in your chapters. I know you hear NERA constantly sounding the alarm for new members and we want you to participate more, but it is really the only way we can stay current and vital.

Please register for the conference and seriously consider becoming a NERA officer. We need your dedication. I look forward to seeing you in Norfolk.

— Steve

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them."

—Albert Einstein



Dear NERA Members,

There is a social media scam, predominately seen in Instagram, which is targeting military service members. This scam has been around for over a year, but has picked up steam over the past few months and more and more people in and out of the military are falling prey to fraudsters. Please review the following items and stay alert.

DO NOT provide your personal banking information through social media.

The fraudsters are targeting military, veterans and their families. In exchange for their personal banking information, they are promised the ability to make easy money. The victim provides their log in/password information and the fraudster gains the ability to deposit fraudulent funds directly into their account. They immediately pull out their fee, before the institution can identify the credibility of the deposit, and the victim is left responsible for the used funds. The amounts range from \$2K to \$20K, growing the debt of the victims in a matter of minutes.

The consequences are very unpleasant - you are responsible to pay back the entire amount. Funds are transferred to collections, impacting the victim's credit score and could even result in criminal charges.

Take a moment and think about offers that seem too good to be true. If you have to question if it is legit, walk away. Many victims thought the most they could lose was the balance in their account – they were wrong.

Here are some tips. Make sure to read, follow and share, regardless of where you bank.

- 1** Offers of free money. USAA (and no other legitimate financial institution) is NOT going to post offers of easy money on social media.

- 2** Odd phone numbers. A credible USAA number is either a 210 area code or 800 number.

- 3** Requests for your information. Fraudsters ask for things USAA or any other legitimate institution would never ask for, such as personal identifiers, debit card information and account numbers — USAA and legitimate banks already have all that.

- 4** Unprofessional pictures. The pictures (fraudsters use) on Instagram might show cash or risqué images of women. They are not images representative of legitimate bankers, investors or USAA employees. That's not USAA's image.

- 5** Directions to send money back. USAA recently had a conversation with a fraudster posing as a USAA official. The scam was an offer to deposit unclaimed insurance money into the member's account but required a 50% fee to be sent back to the fraudster after the deposit was made. USAA or any other legitimate financial institution would not deposit funds into a member's account and ask them to send half back.

Remember: If someone leaves an inappropriate comment on your photo/video, you can delete it. When you report an inappropriate comment, your report is anonymous. It is not recommended to post a message to the fraudster. They could report you for harassment and your account could be blocked by the social media platform.

Thank you for your attention and your partnership in protecting our service members and fighting cybercrime together.

Sincerely,
Steve Sandy
Executive Director, NERA

DO NOT provide your personal banking information through social media.



Debbie Fallon
NERA
Executive Counselor

Female Veterans

By Debbie Fallon

After watching a commercial on homeless female veterans, I decided to research this topic further. With the increasing numbers of female veterans, this is an important issue that needs further attention. Women have been in the armed forces for more than 220 years, beginning in the

American Revolution and continuing through the present day. Even though women represent a numeric minority in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the numbers are ever increasing.

According to the Veterans Health Administration Sourcebook: Women Veterans in the Veterans Health Administration, Volume 3, among the 362,014 female veteran patients in FY12, roughly 19% or 67,522 women served in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and Operation New Dawn (OND). This is notably higher than the proportion of male veteran patients in FY12 who served at least one OEF/OIF/OND tour (9% or 463,868 men). Over the past two decades, VHA has rolled out numerous initiatives designed to improve access and quality of care for women veterans. Considering that the number of women veterans using VHA care nearly doubled in the past decade, from 200,631 in FY03 to 362,014 in FY12 (an 80% increase), the increase in services is vital.

Even though the VA has increased the initiatives to female veterans, they are still more likely to be homeless than their male counterparts. It is estimated that there are currently 55,000 homeless women veterans in the United States, and many of these women are disabled as a result of their service. Many of these forgotten heroes have children. Yet there are limited

services designed to meet their needs, and even fewer that accept children.

Homeless women veterans face different barriers to employment than male veterans. In FY 2010 according to the VA, 77% of homeless female veterans were unemployed. One of the major factors for this high percentage could be the lack of accessible and affordable childcare. According to the recent FY 2010 Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education And Networking Group (CHALENG) report, the VA and community providers ranked childcare as the highest unmet need of homeless veterans between 2008 and 2010.

To help with this problem, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) established the Women Veterans Call Center (WVCC) 1-855-VA-WOMEN (1-855-829-6636). This call center provides information regarding VA services and resources to female veterans. Even though strides have been made to help this rising population, there is still more that needs to be done. If you know of a women veteran who needs assistance, please pass the word to get them the help they need. You can print a poster to display the WVCC information by logging on to http://www.womenshealth.va.gov/WOMENSHEALTH/docs/WVCC_Poster_Final_8_5x11_508c.pdf.


NERA is committed to this cause and hopes to get the word out there regarding homeless veterans, both male and female. If you have any questions or suggestions, please give me a call at (603) 858-4144 or drop me an e-mail at nc@nera.org.

Enjoy your summer! See you in Norfolk in October.

Deborah Fallon

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

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



NERA would like to express our deepest sympathies and extend our prayers to the families of those killed and wounded in service to our nation in Chattanooga. Their service to our country will always be appreciated and their loss will always be felt.

1. Petty Officer 2nd Class Randall Smith
2. Sgt. Carson A. Holmquist
3. Gunnery Sgt. Thomas J. Sullivan
4. Lance Cpl. Squire K. Wells
5. Staff Sgt. David A. Wyatt



2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Awards

**Saving Lives and Guarding the Coast Since 1790.
The United States Coast Guard—Proud History. Powerful Future.**

On May 7, Adm. Paul Zukunft, commandant of the Coast Guard, presided over the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, in Washington, D.C. Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan M. Olson, the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year — Reserve Component and Petty Officer 3rd Class Giacomo Terrizzi, the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year — Active-Duty Component, were recognized for their contributions to the Coast Guard.

Each year, commanders from each of the Coast Guard's nine districts nominates one active-duty Coast Guardsman and one Reserve Coast Guardsman from the units. The Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard convenes a panel and chooses one awardee for each component. As a result of being selected as the Coast Guard's Enlisted Persons of the Year, Olson and Terrizzi were authorized to be advanced to the next higher paygrade. During the ceremony, Terrizzi was advanced from petty officer third class to petty officer second class, and Olson was advanced from petty officer first class to chief petty officer. Olson and Terrizzi were each presented the Coast Guard Commendation Medal and received numerous gifts from sponsor organizations, including NERA.

NERA was able to present Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan M. Olson, the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year — Reserve Component with a plaque from NERA. Olson is a maritime enforcement specialist assigned to Coast Guard Port Security Unit 313 in Everett, Wash. Olson grew up in Olympia, Wash., and graduated from Capital High School there in 1996. He would go on to graduate from Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Wash., in 2000. He enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 2010 and is currently assigned to Port Security Unit 313, where he is the lead petty officer and training officer in PSU 313's Shoreside Security Division.

During 2014, Olson developed high-level training opportunities through the creation of key relationships with U.S. Navy personnel, resulting in the unit's unprecedented access to 3,000 acres of Jim Creek Naval Radio Station's restricted areas, improving the unit's ability to train for convoy operations and



Adm. Paul Zukunft, Coast Guard commandant, Petty Officer 2nd Class Giacomo Terrizzi, Chief Petty Officer Ryan Olson, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell pose for a photo during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)



Adm. Paul Zukunft, commandant of the Coast Guard, delivers remarks during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. During the ceremony, Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Olson was recognized as the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Giacomo Terrizzi was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Year - Active-Duty Component. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)

quick-deployment exercises in realistic field conditions. His leveraging of these unique resources facilitated over 5,400 additional man-hours of field training during expeditionary exercises, raising the overall proficiency of the division by qualifying numerous members in various positions. To ensure the safety of his division during these high optempo training evolutions, he attained National Registry Emergency Medical Technician certification. In March 2014, Olson responded to a deadly mudslide in his hometown of Oso, Wash., leading reconnaissance patrols and setting waypoints for what would become a portion of the grid map of the impacted area.



The Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard's Silent Drill Team wraps up their performance during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. During the ceremony, Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Olson was recognized as the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Giacomo Terrizzi was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Year - Active-Duty Component. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)



Adm. Paul Zukunft, commandant of the Coast Guard, chats with Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan Olson and his wife Cyndy Olson prior to the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. During the ceremony, Olson was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)

"Being selected as the 2014 Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component is an incredible honor," said Olson. "It is by far the most humbling experience that I have had within the Coast Guard. I am always quick to note that throughout my career I have been surrounded by incredible people. The successes that I have enjoyed would not have been possible without them."

NERA would like congratulate both Olson and Terrizzi for embodying the pride, professionalism, and dedication of the United States Coast's Guard core values.



Adm. Paul Zukunft, Coast Guard commandant, Cyndy Olson, Chief Petty Officer Ryan Olson, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell pose for a photo during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. During the ceremony, Olson was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component, an honor that comes with a meritorious advancement - in Olson's case, an advancement from petty officer first class to chief petty officer. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)



Adm. Paul Zukunft, Coast Guard commandant, Petty Officer 2nd Class Giacomo Terrizzi, Chief Petty Officer Ryan Olson, and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell pose for a photo during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)



Sailors of the Year 2014

NERA is proud to announce the four Sailors of the Year for 2014: Steelworker 1st Class Brenton Heisserer, Logistics Specialist 1st Class Blanca Sanchez, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Joe Mendoza, and Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew for Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) for Shore, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sea, U.S. Fleet Forces Sea, and U.S. Navy Reserve, respectively. These nominees competed against stiff competition from other commands at the highest levels.

As nominees, they spent one week with their families in Washington, D.C. touring historic sites, attending special events held in their honor, and were presented with their chief petty officer appointment letters from the CNO during a pinning ceremony hosted by the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens.

During the ceremony, MCPON shared some history about the Sailor of the Year program "For those of you that may not be aware, The Sailor of the Year program was established in 1972 by the Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jack Whittet, to honor those who best represented the ever-growing group of dedicated professional Sailors at each command and ultimately for the entire Navy," said

Stevens. "When the program began, only the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors were recognized. But within ten years, the Sailor of the Year program was expanded to include the shore establishments and Navy Reserve Sailors. I am
continued on page 19



WASHINGTON (May 14, 2015) Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Mike Stevens delivers remarks during the 2014 Sailor of the Year promotion ceremony at the Navy Memorial. Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew, representing U.S. Navy Reserve, Steel Worker 1st Class Brenton W. Heisserer, representing U.S. Navy Shore, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Joe A. Mendoza, representing U.S. Fleet Forces, and Logistics Specialist 1st Class Blanca A. Sanchez, representing U.S. Pacific Fleet, were meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric Lockwood/Released)



WASHINGTON (May 14, 2015) Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Jonathon Greenert delivers remarks during the 2014 Sailor of the Year promotion ceremony at the Navy Memorial. Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew, representing U.S. Navy Reserve, Steel Worker 1st Class Brenton W. Heisserer, representing U.S. Navy Shore, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Joe A. Mendoza, representing U.S. Fleet Forces, and Logistics Specialist 1st Class Blanca A. Sanchez, representing U.S. Pacific Fleet, were meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric Lockwood/Released)



WASHINGTON (May 14, 2015) Sailors of the Year stand at attention at the end of their promotion ceremony at the Navy Memorial. Chief Construction Mechanic Jimie Bartholomew, representing U.S. Navy Reserve, Chief Steel Worker Brenton W. Heisserer, representing U.S. Navy Shore, Chief Boatswain's Mate Joe A. Mendoza, representing U.S. Fleet Forces, and Chief Logistics Specialist Blanca A. Sanchez, representing U.S. Pacific Fleet, were meritoriously advanced from petty officer 1st. class to chief petty officers. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eric Lockwood/Released)



Meet Our Members

NERA has launched a new series called Meet the Members that focuses on the extraordinary lives of our NERA members. NERA is proud to feature Petty Officer 1st Class Ryan M. Olson, the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year — Reserve Component. After reading his story, you will see why he was chosen as Coast Guard Enlisted Person of the Year. NERA is proud to honor Petty Officer 1st Class Olson.

(If you or someone you know would like to be featured, please email ypurtill@nera.org for more information.)

Tell us about yourself. Where did you grow up? Why did you enlist?

I grew up in Olympia, Wa, and attended Capital High School. Upon graduation, I attended Pacific Lutheran University.

While at Pacific Lutheran University, I was a 3-year letterman in Tennis. I graduated in 2000 with a degree in Sociology.

Military Service had always been a dream of mine. After high school, I made the decision to pursue college rather than enlist at the age of 18. It was my original plan, to complete college and then enter the military. 8 years later after employment at Alaska Airlines, Bank of America and owning a small construction company, I enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve in 2009.

To me, there is no greater calling than to serve our country. We are afforded a multitude of privileges that others in the world could only dream of. At the end of the day, I feel honored to simply be given the opportunity to serve.

What are some challenges you have faced in your career? Tell us about your most professionally rewarding experience? Worst Experience?

The most professionally rewarding experience that I have had definitely has revolved around the selection as the Coast Guard's Enlisted Person of the Year – Reserve Component. While the recognition is great, one piece of it stands out. On numerous occasions since my selection, I have been asked by junior members for a roadmap on how they can live up to their potential. I am incredibly humbled to be able to act as a mentor for them and hopefully have a small part in their future success. I take this role very seriously and think of it as a tremendous honor.



Cyndy Olson and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven Cantrell affix new collar devices to Ryan Olson's uniform during the 2014 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C., May 7, 2015. During the ceremony, Olson was recognized as the Enlisted Person of the Year - Reserve Component, an honor that comes with a meritorious advancement - in Olson's case, an advancement from petty officer first class to chief petty officer. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Kyle Niemi)

One of the worst experiences that I have faced during my time in the military revolves around integrity and doing the right thing. During a time when I was a junior member, I saw firsthand what lack of integrity both looks like and feels like. Right then and there, I promised myself that I would never allow myself, or any one that I was associated with to bend their moral values to simply achieve convenience. This is something that has stuck with me and always steered me in the right direction.

Tell us about your life outside your career.

Outside of the Coast Guard, I live in a small town called Oso, WA, with my wife Cyndy Olson. We are heavily involved in our local Fire Department and enjoy any and all activities in the outdoors.



FACES OF NERA

On May 16, 2015, the City of Auburn (east of Sacramento) unveiled and dedicated a monument to honor COL Clarence “Bud” Anderson. Bud is a WWII Triple Ace who flew the P-51 Mustang “Old Crow.” He belonged to a Fighter Group that shot down more than 600 enemy planes in 15 months. No other fight group has ever equaled that accomplishment. He has been inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame. The photos are courtesy of Howard George.



Norma Von Dohren in front of the “Old Crow.”



The unveiling of the monument was done by the Auburn Fire Department. A fire truck had to lift the parachute covering the monument.



COL Clarence “Bud” Anderson in front of his monument.



COL Clarence “Bud” Anderson Monument



▲ Several fly-overs done in COL Clarence "Bud" Anderson's honor.
▶ The Red Dog and the Old Crow.



Norma Von Dohren attending unveiling and dedication of a monument to honor COL Clarence "Bud" Anderson.



Gary Jestice and Norma Von Dohren.



COL Clarence "Bud" Anderson received a surprise award from the FAA, the "Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award."

Sailors of the Year 2014, continued from page 16

proud to say that 43 years later we continue this proud tradition of honoring these Sailors."

Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert began his speech by thanking the SOYs for their dedication and said "Congratulations to our selectees I'm very proud to be here today and I'm very proud of you. For those of us who are serving and nearing the twilight of our career, we wonder about the future and will people be here ready to stand up. And you represent, as you know, a whole host of Sailors who are out there who will take the mantle, and it makes us feel very good about our future in the Navy and in our military, so once again, thank you."

Greenert also thanked the SOYs families, recognizing that

they were the 'the wind beneath their wings'. He stated "It shows you how our Navy is evolving - expeditionary ratings are our Sailors of the Year. It's a natural progression to who we are today and [it shows] as we look out to the future, the significance of these ratings and what they do, and how all Sailors have a very important part in what we do."

During the ceremony the SOYs had their anchors pinned to their collars and combination covers placed on their heads. Congratulations Steelworker 1st Class Brenton Heisserer, Logistics Specialist 1st Class Blanca Sanchez, Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Joe Mendoza, Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew and all the nominees. NERA is proud of each candidate and the exemplary dedication to the Navy each Sailor represents.



FACES OF NERA, continued

The following pictures were taken on May 9, 2015, at a monument dedication ceremony at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery with Five FRA and LA FRA Chapters. The photos are courtesy of Howard George, NERA Gold Country Chapter PAO.



Logo of FRA 230.



TAPS played by John Reece



Bob Lightfield, Chaplain



Attendees from the 5 FRA & LAFRA Chapters that funded the monument (Vallejo 8, Santa Clara 10, Roseville 230, Placeville 275 and Auburn 296)



FRA National VP and PNP, Virgil P. Courney



MRC William Donaldson, Life Member of FRA and Life Member of NERA, was the "bell ringer"



Picture of the monument with all 5 FRA Chapters inscribed on it.



Members of the FRA & LA FRA Roseville 230



Norma Von Dohren with Bob Lightfield, Don Chapman and Jerry McColley who are officers of the FRA Chapter 230. Norma is a Life Member



Smithsonian Institute Scientists and Coast Guard Reservists Study Invasive Species in Ballast Water

By MST3 Andrew Benson, Marine Safety Unit Texas City, Prevention Team

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to our global ecosystems, representing the second leading cause of species extinction. Invasive species reduce biodiversity in aquatic environments worldwide and cause severe economic losses by altering commercial and recreational use of aquatic environments. Scientists from the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center are actively researching the characteristics and longevity of potential invasive aquatic organisms in ballast water. This research will provide a greater understanding of ballast water management in an effort to reduce the likelihood of introducing invasive aquatic organisms into U.S. waters through ballast water discharges.

Coast Guard Reserve personnel at Marine Safety Unit Texas City facilitated the ballast water research by escorting several Smithsonian scientists onboard numerous vessels in the Houston/Galveston area. The reservists used their shipboard safety knowledge to ensure that scientists were given access to ballast tanks, were supplied with proper personal protective equipment, and transited on and off the vessels in a safe manner. The dedication shown by the reservists at Marine Safety Unit Texas City allowed for the scientists to meet internally, set goals by the Smithsonian Institute, and furthered their current understanding of invasive species dissemination due to ballast water discharges.



MST3 Andrew Benson (top of gangway) escorts Dr. Jenny Carney and Ms. Danielle Verna following one of their many vessel ballast water discharge inspections. Photo by Dr. Kimberly Holzer

Help NERA Go Paperless

I'm again asking for your help in reducing NERA's operating costs by switching to reading the *Mariner* online. 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 are feeling generous and 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*.)

— Steve Sandy

Go paperless — email jabbott@nera.org





Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission Report (MCRMC) Review

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC USNR (ret)



MILITARY COMPENSATION AND RETIREMENT MODERNIZATION COMMISSION

The report of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) was released in early January 2015. The final report of the MCRMC consists of 280 pages compiled over almost 2 years by the 9 commission members and their staff. We, NERA and our partner organizations in The Military Coalition, have reviewed the report and its resulting 15 recommendations. It should be noted that these are recommendations and almost all require legislation to implement. It has become clear that Congress has many questions and doubts about many of the recommendations. It is likely that most, if not all, of these will not be enacted quickly. It is anticipated that we won't see legislative action until 2016, with implementation in 2017 for those that Congress feels are worthwhile. Following is a synopsis and review of the 15 recommendations and where NERA stands on each.

Recommendation 1. Sweeping changes to the military retirement system by setting up a 401K type service member contribution program with some government matching and allowing vesting for members to leave with some pension much earlier than 20 years. The proposal puts the burden of retirement management on the individual, rather than the government and substantially reduces the annuity for those who serve 20 years or more. NERA sees merit in providing a matching 401K program for non-career members, but not at the expense of those career members serving 20 years or more. NERA does not support this recommendation in its present proposed structure.

Recommendation 2. Provide more options with a new Survivors Benefit Plan. Does not eliminate the current offset inequity for approximately 60,000 survivors and the proposed premium increase is exceptionally high. NERA does not support this recommendation.

Recommendation 3. Promotes members financial literacy by implementing financial and health benefit training programs. NERA supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 4. Consolidates the 30 duty status types of orders for Reserves into 6 broader statuses. NERA generally supports this recommendation, but further analysis is needed to assure fairness to reserve component members and proper credit for their duty.

Recommendation 5. Creates a joint 4-star Readiness Command over planning, coordination and overseeing joint operations, including Medical Readiness, for all services. NERA supports a joint medical command, but this proposal is much more far reaching and requires much more analysis and study. NERA does not support it at this time.

Recommendation 6. Eliminates TRICARE and implements a Department of Defense health benefit program using commercial insurance plans similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan for federal civilian employees. Costs to members and dependents for premiums and co-pays will rise under this proposal and more of financial burden will obviously fall onto them as a result. NERA is opposed to this recommendation.

Recommendation 7. Health care issues for Special-Needs family members. Improve support for special-needs family members by aligning services offered under the Extended Care Health Option (ECHO) to those of state Medicare programs. NERA supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 8. Improve VA/DoD Collaboration on issues of transitioning service members. Grants

the VA-DoD Joint Executive Committee added responsibilities and authorities to standardize and enforce collaboration. NERA supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 9. Consolidate the Department of Defense commissaries and exchanges into a single defense resale system to protect access to and provide savings. NERA has opposed previous proposals of consolidation because they didn't preserve the level of savings, the revenue stream for Military Welfare and Recreation and jobs for military families currently provided by the commissaries and exchanges. This proposal is unclear if these benefits will be retained. NERA does not support this recommendation.

Recommendation 10. Improve access to child care on military installations by ensuring the Department of Defense has the information and budgeting tools to provide child care within 90 days of need. NERA supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 11. Safeguard education benefits for service members by reducing redundancy and ensuring the fiscal sustainability of education programs. Proposes to sunset the Montgomery GI Bill (MGBIB) and the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) and allow transfer to Post 9/11 GI Bill for MGIB participants and REAP to complete current studies. Recommends a sunset of the housing stipend for dependents in 2017. Provides for a refund of up to \$1200 paid

into the MGIB and eligible for Post 9/11 GI Bill. NERA concurs with the recommendation, with the caveat that members who have signed Post 9/11 GI Bill contracts be grandfathered and not have added active duty commitment required under new legislation.

Recommendation 12. Better prepare members for transition to civilian life by expanding education and granting more flexibility to administer the jobs for veterans state grants program. NERA generally supports the recommendation with the caveats that transition programs and training occur at key milestones during a member's career (i.e., upon reenlistment, at 10 years of service, within 2 years of retirement), not just a one-time event at discharge. Also, additional programs should be established for families.

Recommendation 13. Ensure service members receive financial assistance to cover nutritional needs by providing cost-effective supplemental benefits. NERA supports this recommendation.

Recommendation 14. Expand Space-Available travel to core dependents of service members by allowing travel by dependents of service members deployed for 30 days or more. NERA supports the recommendation.

Recommendation 15. Measure how the challenges of military life affect children's school work by implementing a national military dependent student identifier. NERA supports this recommendation.

Join NERA and Advance Your Career



Join or renew online at nera.org



Submit Your Individual or Chapter Ad for the 2015 National Conference Book!

**The 2015 National Conference is in Norfolk, VA
from October 14–18, 2015**

nera.org

**Please find below the guidelines for chapter
advertisements in the 2015 Conference Book**

Submit your Chapter Ad by September 1, 2015

Format preferred: PDF via email

Cost for Chapter Ads: ☐ Full page: \$110.00
 ☐ Half Page: \$75.00
 ☐ Quarter page: \$50.00

E-mail your Chapter Advertisement to Jerry Padour, jepadour@att.net

Payment can made by check or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover)

Checks send to: NERA/Joe Wasson Chapter, 1010 Darlington Ln, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Credit card payments to NERA Headquarters, 6703 Farragut Ave, Falls Church,
VA 22042 or call 703 534-1329.

Credit Card: ☐ Discover ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard

Name as it appears on card: _____

Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Exp.Date: ____/____/____ Security Code: _____

Conference Book Ads are due September 1, 2015



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



NERA 2015 CONFERENCE AGENDA (draft)

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Start	Finish	Event
1800	2100	Registration
2100	2400	Meet and Greet / Mixer

Thursday, October 15, 2015

Start	Finish	Event
0800	0830	Opening Ceremony Invocation: Chuck Sherrick, Garden City Greeting: President- Eugene Koelker Opening Remarks: Vice Admiral Robin R. Braun, Chief of Navy Reserve Commander, Navy Reserve Force
0830	0930	Business Session Discussion of Annual Financial Reports and Local Chapters Updates Vice President: Chuck Cox National Counselor: Debbie Fallon
0930	0945	— BREAK —
0945	1030	NEC Officer Nominations The following positions are open for election at this meeting: National President, National Vice President, National Treasurer, National Secretary and National Counselor. The nominee's biographies will be provided.
1100	1730	(Optional Event) Victory Rover Naval Base Cruise (2hr) Nauticus Museum & BB-64 Wisconsin Tour
1900	2130	(Optional Event) Freeman Abbey Restaurant

Friday, October 16, 2015

Start	Finish	Event
0800	0900	USAA Updates, Discussion of New Products/ Services and How that will affect NERA Robert Warren, Lead Account Manager, Military Affinity Management
0900-0915		— BREAK —
0915-1015		Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)

Updates and Open Discussion
Concerning VA Issues

1015-1030	— BREAK —
1030-1130	Business Session, C&BL - Part I
1130 1330	AWARDS Luncheon

Recognition of distinguished guests
2014 Service to the Reservist
2014 Reserve Sailor of the Year
2014 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

Awards Presented
1776 Award
President's Award

1330	1400	NEC Candidate Forum
1400	1430	Business Session, C&BL - Part II
1430	1445	— BREAK —
1545	1645	Business Session, C&BL - Part II (cont.)
1700	2400	Hospitality Suite

Saturday, October 17, 2013

Start	Finish	Event
0800	1100	Election of National Officers
0830	1030	Senior Enlisted Panel at Norfolk NOSC Senior Enlisted Panel (confirmations pending) FORCM CJ Mitchell
1100	1300	OPEN LUNCH – (Lunch not provided)
1300	1415	Business Session – Budget Review/ Planning Joanne Elliott, Treasurer
1415	1430	— BREAK —
1430	1600	Business Session, Unfinished Business
1730	1830	No Host Cocktail Hour
1830	2300	Dinner Dance followed by Induction & Swearing In Ceremony– 2015 NEC Officers

Sunday, October 18, 2015

Start	Finish	Event
0800	0900	NEC Meeting with New Officers

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association Impact Summary

I am happy to report our recycling program is making a positive impact to the environment. Since we began, the association has collected the following:

Total Units Collected

15 Small Electronics
285 Cell Phones
485 Inkjets
81 Toners

Total Weight Collected

23.10 lbs. PC Components
47.60 lbs. Cell Phones
47.69 lbs. Inkjets
199.04 lbs. Toners

Total Resource Weight Collected

36.67 lbs. Plastic
1.32 lbs. Nylon
7.74 lbs. Steel
2.01 lbs. Aluminum
0.03 lbs. Copper

Total Remanufactured and Recycled Items By Weight

Remanufactured

85.24 lbs.

Recycled

232.19 lbs.

Greenhouse Gases Prevented by Your Items

Remanufactured

0.86 MtCO₂e*

Recycled

2.36 MtCO₂e*

*metric ton carbon dioxide equivalent

Environmental Impact Equivalents

Recycling saves nonrenewable natural resources and offsets harmful CO₂ emissions. Your environmental impact is equivalent to:



Offsetting the annual greenhouse gas emissions from **1** passenger vehicle(s).



Offsetting CO₂ emissions from the consumption of **337** gallon(s) of gasoline.



Counter balancing CO₂ emissions from the consumption of **7** barrel(s) of oil.



Staving off global warming via the intake and storage of carbon of **77** tree seedlings grown for 10 years.



Staving off global warming via the annual carbon intake and storage in **1** acre(s) of pine or fir forests.



Counter balancing CO₂ emissions from **125** propane cylinder(s) used for home barbecues.

Remember, this program is **FREE** and **EASY**. If you have an **old cell phone** or **empty ink cartridge** (or newly added items: **digital camera** or **MP3 player**), please give them to a chapter officer who will forward them to headquarters or request the necessary mailing forms to send them out directly to the company.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 603-858-4144 or e-mail me at debbiefallon@msn.com.

Thanks again and keep up the good work.



NERA Is Looking for a Few Good Men and Women

Every other year, NERA holds its elections of officers for the National Executive Council (NEC). The National Executive Council (NEC) consists of a:

National President
National Vice President
National Secretary
National Treasurer
National Counselor

The NEC has supervision over NERA's business, policy, and disciplinary matters and assume the duties of office upon installation at the National Conference. These officers are entrusted with the responsibility of running NERA. If you or someone you know, is interested in becoming part of the NERA NEC, we encourage you to read the NERA Constitution and Bylaws to see if you are eligible. The bylaws are available for downloading on nera.org.

Here are a few of the duties required of NERA officers: the President and Vice President are required to write a letter to be printed in each edition of the Mariner, which prints quarterly. The president is required to preside at the National Conference and at all meetings of the NEC. The Secretary is required to record the minutes of the NEC meetings and responsible for all official correspondence. The National Treasurer is the chief financial officer of NERA. The National Counselor directs, assists and counsels chapter officers in most chapter issues.

If you are interested in becoming a NERA officer, please feel free to speak to past NEC officers to get a feel of the time commitment. (Visit nera.org for a list of officers.) NERA highly encourages those interested in becoming an officer to put your name in the ring and run at the next election in Norfolk, October 14-18, 2015. Contact neraexec@nera.org with any questions.

Candidate Deborah “Debbie” Fallon

To My Fellow NERA Members,

My name is Deborah “Debbie” Fallon and I am submitting my nomination for re-election as your National Counselor.

Over the last two years serving as National Counselor, I have used my strong organizational, administrative and computer skills to maintain close contact with the National Office to set up and follow through with regular scheduled reporting and the utilization of these membership reports.

In addition, I have handled the following duties:

- Responded to every inquiry via telephone or e-mail in a timely manner.
- Contacted and worked with various chapters to find out what tools and support are needed to help chapter growth and stability, especially recruitment and retention.

- Mailed to various chapters' information and suggestions on how to run a chapter and ideas on how to increase membership.
- Assisted interested parties with information for establishing new chapters.
- Participated in every NEC meeting.
- Addressed the MAL issue according to our National C&BL's.

I believe in a strong and independent NERA and will be committed to moving us forward as a powerful force on behalf of retirees and current reservists.

I am asking for your vote to continue as your National Counselor.

Thank you.
Debbie Fallon



NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION

6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189 • 703-534-1329 • FAX 703-534-3617

Nomination for National Office

I _____ of _____ hereby nominate
prepared by chapter name

rate first name middle name last name

on _____ who is a paid up member in good standing and meets the qualifications as
date

stated in the National Constitution and Bylaws for the office of _____ .
national office nomination

Signed: _____

Print, sign and mail original to:
NERA National Headquarters
6703 Farragut Ave.
Falls Church, VA 22042-2189

Candidate Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director

In August, I will have served as NERA's Executive Director (ED) for nine years, six in a paid position and the last three years as a volunteer ED. When I started this job, I thought I would do it for two, maybe three years and now here it is nine years later. That is what happens when you fall in love with your job and the people you serve. Today, I announce that I will be stepping down from the ED position in order to run for President of NERA. Mike Hughes, who has been tremendous help to me as my

deputy, has agreed to step up and fill my position until we find (if and when) a new person to fill the ED position.

As we move forward, I promise I will do my best for NERA and its members. I urge you to come to the conference, send a trusted representative or run for one of the position on the NEC yourself. We are always looking for new talent to guide NERA's future. Thank you to all and I look forward to serving NERA further.



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

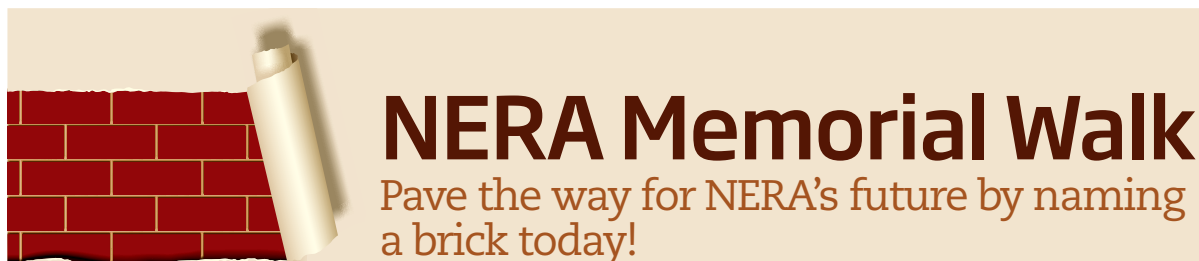
We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

OSC H. Wayne Cook
SKCM Max Long
PN1 Alice E. Heist

John D. Wood
Grand Canyon State
Greater Lehigh Valley

CMC Roger A. Nye
CDR Peter A. Young, Jr.

Herbert F. Blackman
Greater New York



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.



For the latest news and
information visit

www.NERA.org



“A Tribute to HMCM Manny Ratner”

A distinguished group of NERA lifetime members whose outstanding dedication and support continues to fortify the legacy of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association thus inspiring future generations to absolute greatness.

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MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen
PNC William A. Anderson
EMC Larry M. Arnold
IS1 Judith A. Ayers
CWO4 Shirley Barlow †
SKCS John A. Bartlett
LSC Michael F. Bartsch
AVCM Don Bauman
LCDR William D. Bennett
BM1 Jeffrey Benton
AEC Charles A. Berger
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OS1 Donald J. Bond
IS1 Wayne E. Boyer**
DKCM Charles E. Bradley
HTCM(SW) Peter E. Bragg
MCC Brian Brannon
CMC John K. Brian, Jr.
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HMCM Harry T. Buckles
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PN2 James A. Bullard
DK1 John D. Burke
CTRCS Charles A. Burkett
AZC(AW) John L. Busby
RMCM(SW) Frank Broz
FTGC(SW) James W. Cain
GSCM Ralph W. Camp, Jr.
AO1 Thomas B. Carroll**
CWO4 Michael Chierico
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ICCS Milton E. Degroodt
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DPC Richard B. DuRall
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Mrs. Lois Edfors
CM1 Albert C. Edsman
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HM1 Mary E. Finley

EM1 Edward L. Fitzsimmons †
BMC George E. Fougere
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YNCM George J. Knorr
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ABFC Fred V. Kurtz
HM1 Dale L. Lankford**
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