

THE **MARINER**

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THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION



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THE MARINER



Information Systems Technician 1st Class Vadrick Banks performs push-ups during the Physical Readiness Test (PRT) at Navy Operational Support Center Alameda. (U.S. Navy photograph by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Eliezer Gabriel/Released)

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The Cover:



QALAT, Afghanistan—Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Nelson replaces rear suspension components on an Army Humvee at Forward Operating Base Apache. Nelson is one of five mechanics at the base, three of whom are sailors. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of 79 vehicles which are used by U.S. forces while they train and mentor the Afghan National Security Forces in Zabul Province.

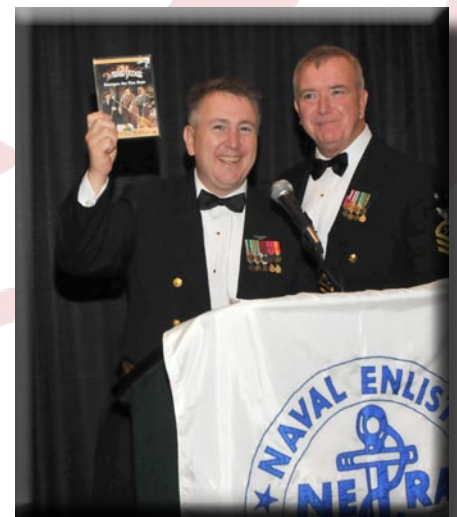
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It's a great honor to have been recently elected as NERA's 26th National President at the 52nd Annual National Conference. And what a great conference it was! Thank You to the Oklahoma City Chapter for putting on a great event. I would like to also congratulate Chuck Sherrick for being selected as NERA's TOP Recruiter, George Wardwell as NERA'S 1776 Winner and Norma Von Dohren for receiving the President's Award. Way to go! As president, my goal over the next two years will be multi-faceted. My first priority will be to get all chapters more involved once again. I'm asking that you attend the annual National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans at a local VA Hospital near you. Take the whole chapter and make this an annual get-together. NERA needs a program to identify us like the Toy-for-Tots program does for the Marine Corps. Besides, visiting forgotten veterans is the right thing to do! This National Salute will be NERA's annual national event and a chance to show our brothers and sisters that they are NOT Forgotten. Mike Hughes, Deputy Executive Director, will be the point of contact and we will have up-to-date info on our website. Another priority of mine will be asking the 7000+ existing Life members to RE-INVEST in NERA by becoming LIFE BENEFACTORS. You asked me to become president and I'm asking you to help us rebuild NERA once again! The

poor economy, mobilized Reserve forces and a smaller pool of Reserves to draw from have hurt many organizations like ours. You will see more raffles and Mariner advertisers thanks to our hard charging Laura Martin. Our strong legislation team - Steve Sandy and Mike Hughes - will be getting NERA noticed once again. Our wounded warrior team of Joanne Elliott and Jon Burrow are serving in the front lines and our famous Jennifer Abbott will continue make our database and website better than it already is! Finally, we are looking for anyone interested in becoming a NERA State Director. You will work closely with NERA's National Counselor. Are you ready for an exciting challenge? Call or e-mail SKCS Gene McCarthy today. His info is on the side front cover.

Take care and may God bless you all! NERA
Nick



FROM YOUR VP

By National Vice President Geno Koelker

Ahoy Shipmates,

Greetings and thank you's to all the members at the NERA Oklahoma Chapter. They are a great group who put together an outstanding convention and made everyone feel welcome. Those who didn't make it this year missed a fabulous time. My wife Verna and I especially enjoyed the music provided by the talented young musicians at the banquet. We can't say enough good things about the experience.

To all of the members for the support you provided in helping me get elected as NERA National Vice President- "Thank You!" Also, I'd like to acknowledge the members of the Windy City Chapter who have steadfastly encouraged me over the years. Windy City is a strong chapter with members who are ready on the sidelines to advise, guide, and provide a wealth of knowledge to assist me as I endeavor to meet the expectations of the entire membership.

President Nick Marine wasted no time to set a course of action...we are well underway. Gene McCarthy and I have already made plans to represent NERA at the Phoenix Arizona NOSC during their family day events. Our executive staff is in high gear, keeping the transition smooth and easy. No doubt, other organizations envy us when they see the dedication that Steve, Jennifer, and Laura have for NERA. Besides setting a course of action, NERA's officers continue to discuss goals and address the usual problems NERA and the other military organizations continue to face during this time of change in our military and government. Because of the rapid pace of Congress to attempt to pass legislation that may affect us, NERA must remain alert to keep from being left behind. This is where you, our members, come into play. As you carry on with your everyday lives, your elected officers require your vigilance to inform us of concerns that may influence our common interests. Even more reason why our contact information is listed inside the front cover of *The Mariner*. Do not hesitate to contact us to express concerns or provide information about issues that may have a bearing on us all. Be persistent as we may be preoccupied with many issues. We still want to hear from you.

Sometimes little things matter most; like our NERA challenge coins. How many of you have one, carry it, or exchange them during random encounters? Since the convention, I have given out a dozen of Windy City's coins. We currently have an order in for our National

coins that I plan on putting to use. This is just one way of promoting NERA.

On Nov. 18, I was at the NOSC in Madison Wisconsin for the Navy League's program that featured CDR Joe Olson, Commanding Officer of the USS Green Bay. Commander Olson and I spoke about how the Navy Reserve Force affects his ship. However, at his command there are currently no positions filled by Reservists. Afterwards, I chatted with the NOSC CO about having NERA attend their family day. He already offered us an invitation for the event.

The day before Veterans Day, I attended a couple local school events where I had the opportunity to promote NERA and the military. One event included my granddaughter's school where military personnel and organizations were invited to kick off their "Patriot Paws" program. The program raises money to pay for training dogs that will be donated to a needy veterans. Another school invited veterans to have lunch with the kids and talk to them about our military experiences in order to assist them in understanding what Veterans Day represents.

On Veterans Day, I was off to Dubuque Iowa for the dedication of a new memorial to all service members who have fought and died for our country. There was a sizable contingent of Coast Guard in attendance that day. If you are ever in the area, I encourage you to check it out. The memorial is on Capt. Schmidt Island and faces the Mississippi River.

When you make an effort to meet and interact with members of various veteran's organizations, you may be a representative of NERA and put a face on our organization. Actions such as these, contribute to the larger picture of promoting service to our country and preservation of our benefits. As a member of the TMC (Total Military Coalition), NERA represents you and adds a face for our lawmakers in Washington D.C. to identify.

In closing, I hope every one of you recognized Veterans Day, enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving, and will celebrate a very merry Christmas and holiday season with plenty of family and friends. Please do not forget our veterans who are in nursing homes or hospitals during the holidays. Along with fellow "Vietnow" members, I plan to make Christmas visits to such vets.

V.P. "Geno"

From the Editor:



Those who Serve...

Russ Vannier was born in 1923 on a small apple ranch in a tiny valley to the north of Mt Hood, Oregon. He was born with rickets and could not walk until he was six years old. In 1942 Russ volunteered and was rejected twice by army recruiters because of high blood pressure. As Russ tells the story, an army major decided to let him in "if, after basic training, you volunteer for technical training or OCS".

Despite his past medical history, Pfc. Vannier was accepted to Paratrooper school at Camp Toccoata, Georgia where the infamous *Band of Brothers* of the 101st airborne division was formed. Russ and the rest of I-company ended up on Leyte's highest peaks, starving and surrounded by Japanese forces, they fought their way out on Christmas Day, 1944. Before the war in the Pacific theater ended, Russ went on to make two combat jumps on Luzon and Okinawa. He is currently an active member in his community and serving as Commander for VFW Post 5151 in Streamwood IL.

Randy Spence is the Navy Reserve Full Time Support Command Master Chief of Navy Operational Support Center (NOSC) Chicago in Great Lakes. He is retiring after 36 years of naval service. Randy comes from a family of Patriots. His voice trembles whenever he talks about the values that his father, a Navy veteran, instilled upon him at an early age. December 5th, NOSC Chicago held the retirement ceremony for their Senior Enlisted Sailor. Judging by the attendance, CMDCM Spence was (and still is) a very popular man. He was humbled and touched by his shipmates who came out to celebrate not only his career, but celebrated and honored his father's service as well.

Thankful for all The Lord has blessed him with in his naval service, Randy is especially proud of the commitment his Chief's Mess exhibits through their

service. He has no problem expressing that gratitude in words spoken and written. He has been a mentor and leader to each one of them. Randy penned a quote that he occasionally tags on to the end of his emails. There is no doubt in my mind that even after he is gone, we will continue to remember Randy through that quote because Navy Leaders for generations to come will be using that very quote on their correspondence.



Eddie Anderson is a Navy Reserve Petty Officer. He volunteered this last spring for deployment to Afghanistan with the Army as an Individual Augmentee (IA). He never made it to Afghanistan because he was seriously injured during the intense three month IA training at the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center (ECRC) on Ft Dix and was sent home. I remember SH3

Anderson's enthusiasm as he spoke to me his last drill weekend. He was excited to finally serve in the War on Terror. He could not wait to get to ECRC to start his IA training. When members of his unit found out that the Army demobilized him and sent him home, Eddie had already started receiving treatment at the local VA. However, because he was no longer on orders, his military pay and compensation ended. This in turn created a huge financial hardship on him that will no doubt continue to climb.

To assist Anderson this holiday season, his shipmates had taken up a monetary collection during their December drill weekend to help him out with essential needs. One fellow unit member, GM2 Leonardo Santos works near the naval base where Anderson's reserve center is located. Occasionally, whenever Anderson comes to the base, he calls Santos who drives to pick him up from the train station and take him around the base. Eddie Anderson has been on my mind lately. He is strong and will soon be back on active duty to continue medical care and receive the benefits he is entitled.

...Heroes, each one!

Should my grandchild ask me if I was in the Navy, I shall reply; "Yes child, I was."

Should my grandchild ask me if I was in the War, I will answer; "Yes child, I was."

Should my grandchild ask me if I was a hero, I will answer; "No child, but I knew many."

-CMDCM (SW/FMF) Randy Lee Spence



Randy and CPO Mess



TIPS & CLIPS



By Joanne Elliott

The following information was pulled from the MCPON's Bottom Line: Up Front (BLUF) and Force Master Chief Wright's weekly.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command has developed and posted the Navy Individual Augmentee (IA) iPhone app to the iTunes store. It is now available free of charge. The instructions for downloading are on www.ia.navy.mil/new.htm. This app will allow IA Sailors and/or IA families with an iPhone or iTouch to download into their device the entire content of the IA website for easy reference anytime. USFF will keep the app current with the latest revisions to the website.

Department of the Navy Wounded Warrior programs information: Contact Safe Harbor toll free at (877) 746-8563 or on the web at www.safeharbor.navy.mil. This site is for all those who have served, not just for those that were injured.

In alliance with the USO, eKnowledge is offering SAT and ACT test prep programs valued at \$200, free to Military Service Members and their extended families. The eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance includes Veteran Service Organizations such as AMVETS, the American Red Cross and DANTES, as well as a group of professional athletes from the NFL and MLB including Warrick Dunn and Chipper Jones. The eKnowledge Sponsorship Alliance had provided over 120,000 SAT/ACT Prep Programs to military families worldwide. Families interested in obtaining the FREE \$200 v6x SAT/ACT PowerPrep Programs may order online www.eknowledge.com/nfl. Enter Sponsorship Code: 15E41DB9A6 or by telephone, 951-256-4076.

NAVADMIN 043/09 directed all commands to use NSIPS/ESR as the single field level data entry point for all Sailors. It all also requires for all active duty and Reserve personnel to establish and maintain a self-service ESR account. Self-service accounts can be created at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil> or on the Navy Standard Integrated Personnel System (NSIPS)/ESR server on board ship. Having this account established with updated information will become more important

next year as Navy Personnel Command phases out the Enlisted Field Service Record.

NAVADMIN 326/08 announces the official merger of the Storekeeper (SK) and Postal Clerk (PC) ratings into the Logistics Specialist (LS) rating as of 1 October 2009. Today, more than 11,000 active and reserve Postal Clerks and Storekeepers are now designated Logistics Specialist. The Logistics Specialist rating brings the valuable work Storekeepers and Postal Clerks perform in line with the Logistics requirements needed in today's global logistics environment. The 'crossed keys' of the Storekeepers rating badge will be retained for the new Logistics Specialist rating. An additional 2,500 reserve component E1 to E5 Storekeepers and Postal Clerks will officially merge into the Logistics Specialist rating 1 April 2010.

On December 31, the Post 9-11 GI Bill Transfer Eligibility Benefits (TEB) exception to policies granted by NAVADMIN 203/09 will expire. Sailors with 90 days of active duty after 10 Sep 2001 have earned education benefits under the Post 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, with no buy-in costs. Plus, this benefit can be transferred to certain family members shown in DEERS. However, a recent informal web poll showed 62 percent of Sailors responding think they can wait until after retirement to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Wrong! Sailors, both active and SELRES, wanting to transfer must do so before their Armed Forces service commitment ends at retirement or EAOS, even if the intended recipient is only a baby at that time. Encourage Sailors to consult career counselors to fully understand requirements.

1. To transfer benefits please visit the DMDC Website to apply: <http://bit.ly/5oSQA>
2. For frequently asked questions and transferability information please visit the BUPERS Website: <http://www.npc.navy.mil/CareerInfo/Education/GIBill/> and the Dept of Veterans Affairs Education Website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
3. Navy Transferability Policy is detailed in NAVADMIN 203/09 <http://bit.ly/1505du>

Continued on next page

TIPS & CLIPS CONT'D

Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom

Award: ESGR has begun the Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award Nomination Season. They are accepting nominations 2NOV09 - 18JAN10. For more information and a nomination form visit <http://www.freedomaward.mil/>.

ESGR Patriot Award employer recognition: The MCPON has stated that "...on any given week, 29% of the Navy's RC, or 19,000 reserve Sailors are providing global operational support. It's no mystery that you and your Sailors of the Navy Reserve are actively engaged. However, it can be a mystery to employers. During the month of October, we had over 10,000 Navy Reservists on some form of official orders ... mobilization, ADSW, ADT, AT, IDTT, or IDT. Sailors are able to do this and add value because of the support provided by their civilian employers. I would like to make a push to encourage Sailors to recognize the sacrifice and support offered by the employers of our Navy Reserve Sailors who volunteer to support and defend. Below is a link to the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) application website for the DoD approved Patriot Award. I encourage you to inform your Sailors through the best communication means possible so they can use this quick and simply method to say thanks to their employer. We can't forget that employers are as critical to a Sailor's readiness as the family. Patriot Award application: <http://www.esgr.org/newforms.asp?p=patriot>"

African American History Month Recognition

Award Criteria: The 2010 DoD African American History Month Recognition Awards honor Service men and women who have supported oversea contingency operations and demonstrated role model qualities and the core values of their respective Military Service. The period of performance for this award is from February 2008 to January 2010. Nominees are expected to attend the recognition events during the month of February 2010 with the consent of their command and consistent with mission requirements. The recipient's unit is responsible for paying related per diem and travel costs. *One active duty member and one reserve member from the Navy will be recognized.* The package

should contain a one page (single-spaced) description of accomplishments, one page (single-spaced) biography, Citation (not to exceed twelve lines of narrative, 12-pitch font, with 1 inch left and right margins) summarizing the nominee's accomplishments, high resolution head and shoulders digital photo (.jpg), award nomination form, and a cover or transmittal memorandum (added as an attachment in this weeks weekly). Submit the application electronically to LT Enjoli Ramsey, enjoli.ramsey@navy.mil, 703-614-6851

COMNAVRESFOR Shore and Selected Reserve (RSOY) 2009 Sailor of the Year:

The announcement for CNRF Shore and RSOY 2009 board message was released this week. Begin preparing your packages early. CNRF Shore packages are due to CNRFC Norfolk by 15 February 2010 and RSOY packages are due by 15 March 2010. Review CNRFINST 1700.1L for guidance on package format, <https://www.navyreserve.navy.mil/Pages/default.aspx>.

FY11 Selection Boards: You can now apply to be a selection board member/recorder at <http://www.npc.navy.mil/Boards/ReserveEnlisted/GeneralInfo.htm>

Selection board membership/recorder applications for reserve component members should be sent directly to the POC on the application after obtaining Command/CMC endorsement. Navy Reserve FORCM endorsement is not required.

Around the Force:

Reserve Sailors of VP-62 Serve as a True Force Multiplier. 22 Reserve aircrew and maintainers are *helping fulfill the Navy's requirements* forward deployed in Comalapa, El Salvador. Augmenting the efforts of their AC counterparts from VP-45, the Reservists recently completed seven sorties and 47.2 flight hours which resulted in the intercept of two airborne narcotics traffickers and the seizure of approximately 645 kilograms of cocaine. *Enhancing the Total Force effort*, the ongoing detachment of Reservists *leverages many of the civilian employment skills of the Sailors* which include Customs/Border Patrol Agents and law



Executive Director's Message

Thanks to Duke and Linda Hayes, John Meeks, Max Wano, and their Oklahoma Crew for their Herculean efforts sponsoring the 52nd National Conference. A special thanks to Max and the Citizen Potawatom Color Guard for the opening ceremonies. Business was conducted, elections were held, tours were taken and then the most magnificent installation dinner I've ever had the privilege of attending, as we entered the dining hall we were met by "The Silver Strings" of Putnam City. There were more than 50 young musicians working the hall with their brilliant talent and enthusiasm. One young man stepped up to play taps for the MIA/POW portion of the ceremony — breathtaking to hear that piece played on the violin! They played before dinner, and then strolled through the dining hall while members enjoyed their meals. It truly was a memorable occasion — thanks to the Oklahoma Chapter.

A new year begins with renewed excitement and much work ahead of us. The newly elected officers have a great challenge before them — keep NERA strong and growing.

I believe Washington is one of the most beautiful and exciting cities in the world and as a native Washingtonian I'm very proud to announce that it has been selected as the site for The 53rd National Conference. The conference will be held November 12–14, 2009. The reception will begin on Thursday (November 11, 2010) evening for the early arrivals and the conference will end with the Awards Dinner on Saturday night. Come to town early and participate in the Veterans Day events in the city. Watch for more information at www.nera.org and the Spring *Mariner*.

Believe it or not, nothing is more powerful than your vote; The National Health Care Bill is being

debated in Congress as I write. This bill is over 2,000 pages of legalese and no one can say for sure how the regulations it produces will affect your hard earned benefits. My strong recommendation: Follow the debate closely, Read any information you can find on the subject and Decide for yourself how it will affect your benefits and then **"VOTE"** accordingly. As my Aunt Henry used to say, "Those chickens will come home to roost."

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

- Early retirement for all Reserve members who have served at least 90 days on Active Duty retroactive to September 11, 2001.
- Improve Wounded Warrior and Seamless Transition Programs for Activated Reserve and their Families.
- Establish Full Veteran Status to Reserve Members who have served twenty years or more but were not called to active duty.
- Continuum of Health Care Insurance Option and Accelerate the implementation of "Gray Area" TRICARE.

"Remember 99% of all the stuff you receive in email is BULLCRAP!"

The Master Chief

Mary and I wish you and yours "Happy Holidays and a Very Promising New Year"

Stephen Ray Sandy DCCM (Ret)
Executive Director for NERA

The number of medals on an officer's breast varies in inverse proportion to the square of the distance of his duties from the front line.
--Charles Edward Montague--

Faces of NERA



Celebrating the Navy's 234th birthday, VADM Debbink joins the oldest and youngest Sailors in cutting the Navy's traditional Birthday Cake at the Northern California Navy Birthday Ball. The youngest Sailor in uniform this year was Master-at-Arms Seaman Cameron Gianfala, assigned to COMSUBGRU 9 Force Protection Det, NOSC Alameda. The oldest Sailor in uniform this year is Chief Aviation Machinist's Mate Tom Flowers, who flew PBY patrols from Guadalcanal in WW-II and R5D missions during the Berlin Airlift. Tom is a member of Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 101. Photo by MCCS Bob Hansen (retired).



CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan (Oct. 13, 2009)

Front row L-R IT3 Steven Davidson, ET1 Luis Rivera, ITCS Beth Day, IT2 Christina Walthour and ITCM Mark Kraus sing Anchors Aweigh along with other sailors during the Navy's 234th birthday celebration at the Camp Phoenix dining facility, Kabul, Afghanistan, Oct. 13, 2009. MCC Rodney Furry read a brief history on the beginning of the Navy then a large cake decorated with a ship sailing on the sea was cut by the youngest and oldest Sailors along with a representative from the Army. Around 50 Sailors work at Camp Phoenix. Day, Walthour and Kraus are mobilized reservists (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Dimitra Burns/Released)



Torpedoman's Mate 2nd Class Jeffrey P. Kendall, Yeoman 1st Class Jose A. Ramirez and Boatswain's Mate 1st Class Patrick Thompson represent NOSC Alameda as part of the honor guard at the Northern California Navy Birthday Ball. Photo by MCCS Bob Hansen (retired).



Congressman Mark Kirk (R-IL) with NERA Member and the reigning Mrs Illinois Int'l, Jennifer Naida. Congressman Kirk is a Naval Reserve intelligence officer and holds the rank of Commander. He recently became the first member of Congress to serve in an imminent danger zone since 1942 when he deployed as a reservist to Afghanistan in December. The U.S. Navy named Kirk "Intelligence Officer of the Year" in 1999 for his combat service in Kosovo.

As an IA in Afghanistan, Kirk served with NATO forces and spent a great deal of his time outside the wire, which gave him the unique perspective of the challenges our deployed National Guard and Reservists face daily in a combat zone. In his Navy career, Kirk also served during conflicts with Iraq, Haiti, and Bosnia.

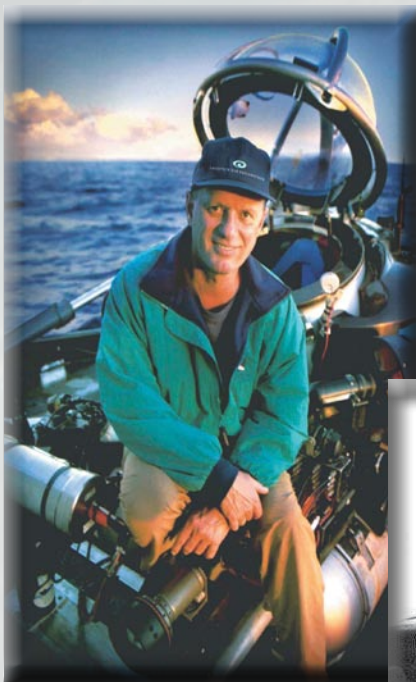
(Photo by Mariner Editor Ron Naida)

AMERICA'S TOP 10 GREATEST NAVY EXPLORERS

provided by the VFW Magazine

by Fred L. Schultz

Death-defying exploration of the globe's perilous uncharted regions may be mostly a preoccupation of the past, but its leading practitioners—modern and centuries gone by—are no less deserving of respect and recognition.



Throughout its history, the U.S. Navy's principal function—war fighting—has often yielded exploration and discovery as byproducts. Cases in point are the brave and tenacious explorers presented here.

These men made especially significant contributions to our understanding of the ocean depths, the expanse of space, the capacity and capability of vessels ranging from leaky wooden ships to high-tech spacecraft, and the limits of human endurance.

This is my list of the "Top 10" in U.S. naval history. See if you agree that they rate this exploration standing. They appear in chronological order, not by precedence of achievement.

Robert Gray—1792

Lesser known for his naval service than for his exploration of the Pacific Northwest, Gray served in the Continental Navy during the American Revolution. He

also commanded the privateer Lucy during the quasi-naval war with France in 1799.

Under the auspices of a Massachusetts trading company, Gray and John Kendrick set out from Boston for Oregon in 1787. After trading with natives for sea otter pelts, they set their sights on Asia, where they traded for tea and other products.

Continuing his journey west, Gray then became the first American merchantman to sail around the world. But his crowning achievement came during his second trip to the northwest in 1792, when he discovered what he believed to be "the great river of the West," naming it "Columbia Rediva."

Gray never returned to Oregon, but his momentous discovery laid the groundwork for America's claim to the rich resources of the Columbia River territory.

Charles Wilkes—1838-42

He is best known in naval history annals for his role in "The Trent Affair" in the American Civil War. But in world exploration circles, Wilkes is forever connected to his Wilkes Expedition, formally known as the U.S. South Seas Exploring Expedition (1838-42).

Appointed in 1830 to the Navy's Department of Charts and Instruments, he was an early

developer and user of astronomical instruments.

In 1838, he set sail on the exploring expedition (the *Ex Ex*, as it was known then) in the *Vincennes* with six other vessels that carried the nation's leading natural history scientists and artists.

Four years and almost 87,000 miles later, the expedition returned to the U.S. with thousands of plant and animal specimens and other artifacts, the largest such collection ever gathered up to that time. It later served as the basis for the U.S. National Herbarium, the U.S. Botanic Garden, and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

Wilkes also is well-known for his 1841 exploration of Puget Sound and the Columbia and Sacramento rivers in the American West. All told, the expedition explored most of the world's continents, including the Antarctic coast.


William Lewis Herndon—1851

How many Naval Academy plebes know the origin of the



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YEARS AGO

By Mannie Ratner

Fifty Years Ago: The “NERAGRAM” was the new service for NERA members designed to fill the news gap between NERAN issues and circulated among NERA membership only. The NERAN was circulated also to top echelons in the Defense and Navy Departments, Congress, and other military organizations. EN1 Charles DULD, President of the Delaware Valley Chapter was elevated to Police Sergeant — the youngest Sergeant on the Philadelphia Police Force. YN2 Ed ABRAHAMS, President of the New York Chapter was a top court reporter in Manhattan. National Secretary, Dennis BARWOOD, wrote members asking them to become active participants and reminding them that constructive criticism for the improvement of NERA was always welcome by the National Officers. The Third Annual NERA Conference was held 14–15 October 1960 at the Roger Smith Hotel in Washington, DC. (Registration was \$1/Single Rooms were \$6.50/Doubles — \$9.50). At that time we did not have a headquarters building. NERA dues were \$4. Editor, ENC Tom PATTEN, was working on issues such as travel, money, news, clothing instruction changes, new exam concepts, etc.

Forty Years Ago: Editor ENC Joe WASSON reported on the Annual National Conference held 17–19 October, 1969 at the Sheraton Hotel in Washington, DC and read a fine letter of personal greetings to NERA from then CNO, Admiral MOORER, USN. In the letter, he commended National President Duncan FORSYTH and NERA for our active and effective participation in the Navy-Marine Corps Council and our leadership of “Operation Welcome Back” in greeting and assisting returning veterans. Presentations at the Conference were given by Major General John S. PATTON, USAFR, the Military Executive of the DOD Reserve Forces Policy Board, CAPT George M. SCABOO, USNR, the Assistant for Mobilization and Training to the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Naval Reserve, and by several other dignitaries. National elections resulted in FORSYTH being reelected President. The new National VP was Mike BUCKLEY; Secretary was YNCS Helene EDMONDSON; DCC George LANGE was reelected Treasurer; and PRCS Howard SAYERS as Executive Counselor. Joe WASSON was reappointed Executive Director as well as Editor of the NERAGRAM. YN2 Jim DUFFY was appointed as Assistant to the Executive Director. A new chapter was formed in St. Joseph, MO. Some statistics from the National Conference were that 75% of all enlisted Naval Reservists were under the age of 35 and had less than one year of active duty, while 77% of all Ready Reserves officers had more than one year of active duty and 47% have had more than three

years of active duty. The greatest incentive for enlisted reservists to stay would be more useful training, fringe benefits such as SGLI, survivor benefits after 20 or more years of satisfactory performance, and a lowering of the age requirement for retirement.

Thirty Years Ago: The cover of the September MARINER showed Charlie VOLUSE presenting a certificate of membership to Senator Charles MATHIS, Jr. (R-MD) as he became an associate member of NERA. An editorial by then Executive Director Jim STEPHENS, discussed NERA well underway to attaining the goal of 15,000 members by the October Conference. NERA had gained 8,500 during the past two years and 5,000 during the past year. Preparations were underway for the National Conference to be held 10–13 October, 1979 at the Ramada Inn in Niagara Falls. Room rates were \$27/single; \$37/double with registration fees set at \$12. RADM Frederick F. PALMER, CNAVRES, the HON Robert CONNOR, Deputy Assistant SECNAV (Navy Reserve), as well as RADM Carl A. BRETTSCHEIDER, USNR, Commandant of the Fourth Naval District were to be the principal speakers. Three new NERA chapters came on board: Triangle in the Raleigh, NC, locale; Central Carolina in Charlotte, NC, and the Adirondack Chapter in Glens Falls, NY, with recruiter Thomas HAYNES as President. Results of the National Elections at the Conference were Raymond VAUGHN as President, Chester HANCOCK as Vice President, Howard BOLTZ as Secretary, and Nat LEIDERMAN as Treasurer. The Editor of the Mariner wrote a fine story about a NERA delegation that laid a commemorative plaque at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. BM2 Eugene CULLIGAN, a driller at the Naval Reserve Center in New Rochelle, NY, and a member of the Greater New York Chapter was selected as the Outstanding Naval Reservist. The CO wrote “CULLIGAN is an outstanding reservist. He nearly gave his life for his country during the Vietnam War and now he gives his time and experience to the Naval Reserve and his community at large.” NERA dues were increased to \$12 and one of the prime reasons for the hike was to enable us to hire a paid National Executive Director to run NERA. With the growth of NERA and the amount of administrative work, it was becoming too much for a volunteer to continue to run NERA. Advancement potential showed the allowance onboard count for E4, E5, and E6. The tables showed that there were opportunities and the need to try to change rate in overcrowded billets. Bills were being put forth in Congress to help correct inequities in the Survivor Benefits Plan (Reserve Component). A final page in the October issue was devoted to four reasons to have a will which is still pertinent today.

enforcement professionals.

We have received some calls regarding SGLI problems encountered by VTU/IRR members when they are recalled to active duty. Bottom line – if you are in the VTU/IRR and paying premiums directly to DFAS, ensure that your premiums are paid up to the date of entry on active duty or return to drilling status. Below is some valuable information to follow concerning SGLI/FSGLI, courtesy of CMDCM Ken Rummel COMNAVRESFORCOM (N00C):

SGLI/ FSGLI PROCEDURES

References: Servicemembers' and Veterans' Group Life Insurance

Handbook Chapter 4, section 4.01
MILPERSMAN 1741-030, SECTION
Family SGLI Procedures Guide, Part IV
BUPERSINST 1001.39F

1. SGLI and FSGLI are automatically restored to full coverage when a member's duty status changes, (i.e. member is mobilized or demobilized, recalled to active duty, or affiliated with a reserve component). No health assessment is required to re-instate coverage under these circumstances.

2. Premiums are automatically deducted from the member's pay. If a member of the drilling reserve is in non-pay status, a debt will post to the member's account. If a member has not paid the premiums, and is transferred to an active pay status, or receives pay for performed AT or ADT, the debt will be collected from DFAS directly from the member's military pay account.

3. IAW BUPERSINST 1001.39F, upon transferring to a VTU status, a Page 13 must be completed to acknowledge status change and subsequent affects of SGLI coverage. A sample Page 13 is shown in Chapter 15 (figure 15-1) of the above mentioned instruction. It states, in part, that for SGLI coverage to remain in effect, premiums must be mailed quarterly to the following address:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service-
Cleveland Center
1240 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44199

The check should be made payable to the

“Department of the Treasury.”

4. If at any time the member elects to decline SGLI coverage, he or she must complete a SGLV form 8285, and submit it to their personnel department. The personnel department must complete a page 13 verifying that the member has declined coverage and have the member sign it. A letter per NAVADMIN 012/07 must be sent to the member's spouse notifying them of the change in election.

5. When reducing or declining FSGLI, the member fills out an FSGLI Form 8286A; signs, dates and submits it to the NOSC. The individual authorized at the NOSC will need to go to the Deers (DMDC) website: (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/familysgli/index.jsp>) enter the data to decline coverage or reduce coverage and print the screen. If no one at the NOSC has access to the DMDC website to stop/reduce FSGLI coverage, contact the Reserve Component Command (RCC) for the region.

6. If a member believes there is an error in coverage, all documentation should be provided to the NSIPS Helpdesk via their NRA for the creation of a trouble ticket requesting refund of premiums. A stop must be reflected in DJMS-RC in order for a refund to be requested.

Trouble Ticket Procedures

1. If there is a valid SGLV 8285 declining SGLI coverage, or SGLV 8285a for FSGLI completed requesting termination of Coverage, then the member may be entitled to repayment of premiums.

2. In matters regarding SGLI, ensure that the Navy Reserve Activity has terminated coverage by verifying NSIPS. Submit trouble ticket via the NRA to recommend that premiums be returned based on the date the SGLV 8285 was completed.

3. In matters regarding FSGLI, verify that FSGLI for spouse was terminated in DMDC. (<https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/familysgli/index.jsp>) Authorization for access to this application is required. Submit trouble ticket recommending refund of FSGLI coverage premiums based on the date the SGLV 8285a was signed. (Circumstances may arise that will require special consideration. For Selected Reserve, Reserve Pay and Assistance Team (N11) will be the final authority for refund recommendations.)

Letters to Nera

COPYING MILITARY ID CARDS

Dear Chief Elliott,

I recently received the Fall Issue of *The Mariner* and read your column Tips & Clips. The first item in your column caught my attention relative to photocopying of military identification being illegal.

My question regarding this is that all medical providers require copies of medical cards for confirmation of coverage. The only proof that we have at this point in time is our DD Form 2. How can we provide our providers proof that we have coverage through Tricare without being in violation?

Is it possible that Tricare could issue a card proving we have coverage or can the military issue a separate ID Card that confirms our coverage that can be copied if required?

Thank you for your time and assistance with this inquiry and please continue your fine informational column.

EAC Richard W. Crow, Sr.
USNR Retired

Dear Chief Crow,

I went back and did a bit of digging. You are correct. I've attached the clarification below. As you can see, the initial advisory came out on August 10, 2009, and then a rescission was sent out on the 13th (which is probably after I sent the Tips and Clips out to print).

The military is planning on removing social security numbers on all ID. They will probably begin with the active duty and Reserve ID cards and eventually wind up with Grey Area and Retired IDs. I'll keep everyone posted as to when to expect the changeover.

It's good to know that there are those of you out there keeping watch and reading the *Mariner*.

Joanne

Copying Military ID Cards to Facilitate Medical Care is OK!

On August 10, 2009, U.S. Army North Provost Marshal published a Force Protection Advisory (0050-09-FPA) entitled Photocopying of Military Identification Cards.

It stated: "Recent incidents regarding the photocopying of military identification (ID) cards and common access cards (CAC) by commercial establishments to verify military affiliation or provide government rates for service have been reported. Commanders and Supervisors are reminded that the photocopying of US Government Identification is a violation of Title 18, US Code Part I, Chapter 33, Section 701, January 3, 2007, and punishable by both fine and imprisonment. Many military members, family member and DoD employees are unaware of this law. Please pass to the lowest level and include in training for force protection, information security and OPSEC."

The advisory was rescinded on August 13, 2009 (0050-09-FPA (Change 1)), but it has caused confusion among military personnel and providers alike in the TRICARE North Region about copying military ID cards or CACs.

Per Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) Number 1000.13 December 5, 1997, and reinforced in the TRICARE North Provider Handbook, it is both allowable and advisable for providers to copy a beneficiary's ID card or CAC to facilitate eligibility verification and for the purpose of rendering needed health care services. The DoD recommends that providers copy both sides of the ID card or CAC and retain copies for future reference.

A valid uniformed Services ID card or CAC alone is not sufficient to prove eligibility. Providers must verify eligibility via Health Net Federal Services' Web site or through the eligibility Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, available when calling 1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273).

Title 18, Section 701 of the U.S. Code and the DoDI 1000.13, paragraph 6.1.7. authorizes the photocopying of the front and back of the ID card or CAC to establish the eligibility of the patient to receive care.

SAILORS HIT THE DII

Story and photos by Chief Petty Officer David M. Votroubek NR Navy Public Affairs Support Element-Northwest

From cooks to mechanics, Sailors in Afghanistan are working side by side with soldiers, Marines and airmen in roles traditionally held by land-based forces. Thousands of others are serving throughout the 26-nation U.S. Central Command region, which also includes Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain and the Horn of Africa.



KABUL, Afghanistan-Chief Petty Officer Alex Lymber and Afghan National Army Air Corps crew chief Sgt. Zulmi look at the tail of a refurbished MI-17 helicopter that just arrived from the Czech Republic. Lymber is assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and mentors Afghan crew chiefs like Zulmi in proper safety procedures, aircraft handling and maintenance.

Sailors who leave are reassigned from their command to deploy individually or with a small group are known as an Individual Augmentee (IA). As Individual Augmentees, many Active and Reserve Sailors like the opportunity an IA assignment gives them to do things they normally wouldn't do, or else do it somewhere they wouldn't normally get a chance to in a naval unit.

When Culinary Specialist 2nd Class (SS) Class Timothy Wright reported to Forward Operating Base Maimaneh in western Afghanistan, he was

the only Sailor there. He was also the only cook, so the Army put him in charge of the dining facility. It was unusual enough to have a non-contracted military dining facility in Afghanistan, but having a submarine Sailor operate one was positively unique. Wright enjoyed his IA tour in Afghanistan so much he ended up extending it to almost two years.

While some Sailors feel as if they'll lose their naval identity while working around the other services, Wright tried to spread Navy influence among the soldiers. He did it in ways that were sometimes obvious, sometimes subtle, like hanging a Navy flag on the wall of the dining facility and signs around the FOB to remind his "Shipmates" to replace water in the refrigerators. His efforts started to pay off when he started hearing soldiers refer to the latrine as the "head."

But "land" Sailors also have to learn the combat skills that soldiers take for granted. The sailors of Navy Embedded Training Team 3-205th Garrison not only needed to learn soldiering skills, they also had to learn Army Facilities Management in order to advise the Afghan National Army (ANA) on how to run their new Shorabak Garrison.

"Before I set foot in Helmand Province, I didn't know what a garrison was," admitted the team's executive officer, Lt. Cmdr. Tom Gorey, who is a submarine weapons officer.

What the team lacked in experience it made up for in organizational and mentoring skills. They learned quickly and then taught the ANA.

Soldiers mostly seem to appreciate the Sailors' willingness to adapt to the field environment. When they arrived in-country, Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Kibbe and Petty Officers 2nd Class Stuart Wood and Benjamin Nelson were assigned to the motor pool at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Apache, in eastern Afghanistan. Although they weren't trained as vehicle mechanics, Kibbe and Wood are enginemen who are trained to completely disassemble and repair

RT IN AFGHANISTAN

engines. They simply applied that know-how to the rest of the vehicle, read the manuals and figured it out.

It surprised Wood how happy the Army was to have



LASHKAR GAH, Afghanistan- Petty Officer 2nd Class David Crabb of Navy Embedded Training Team 3-205th Garrison, throws a hand grenade during weapons familiarization training. Crabb is part of a 14-man team that mentors the Afghan National Army's Shorbak garrison in Helmand Province. The team, lead by Cmdr. James Haley, is helping the ANA to outfit and improve maintenance at the new \$60 million facility.

them there, which gave the Sailors added incentive. They'd hurry one up to get someone back on the road and often worked late into the night to finish a repair. The soldiers really appreciated that dedication, according to Wood.

Training and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces is another vital function for Navy IAs in Afghanistan. One area where Sailors have been able to provide valuable training is with medical care. Navy Medical Embedded Training Teams (METTs) have worked at some of the ANA's regional hospitals, mentoring the Afghan medical staff to improve their processes.

The Sailors from one METT trained for three months at Fort Riley in Kansas to mentor the ANA medical staff at the northern regional military hospital in Mazar-E-Sharif. However, when they arrived they were surprised at how well the new hospital was already doing. It wasn't what the team expected for an impoverished country which has survived almost thirty years of war.

"These guys (the Afghan lab technicians) are very good at what they do," said Chief Hospital Corpsman Robert Garcia. "If you go fast, they'll keep up."



Zabul, Afghanistan-Army Capt. Matthew Inglis and Navy Lt. DeMar Scott fold an American flag on Forward Operating Base Apache. The flag had been used for a backdrop during a reenlistment ceremony for a Navy Second Class Petty Officer.

The team's first order of business was to establish relationships with a hospital staff that had a reputation for friendliness with their previous mentors. The simple act of drinking tea with the staff showed the team how important those relationships really are.

Continued on page 20

name attached to the granite obelisk they must climb as a rite of passage to becoming third class midshipmen?

The monument was named for an explorer who charted much of the Amazon River basin. Herndon's Amazon expedition in 1851 with Lt. Lardner Gibbon was ostensibly to assess the region's commercial value. But the Navy's superintendent of charts and instruments, Matthew Fontaine Maury, had secretly ordered the duo to determine the viability of establishing a U.S. colony there.

On his return to the U.S., the Mexican War veteran (he served aboard the brig *Iris* off Vera Cruz during 1848) wrote the two-volume *Explorations of the Valley of the River Amazon*. It is still widely cited as an authoritative source on the natural resources of the region. Herndon went down with his ship during a Caribbean cyclone in 1857.

Robert E. Peary—1909

Credit for "discovering" the North Pole is still being debated in Arctic exploration circles more than a century after Peary claimed to have been the first there on April 7, 1909.

On that date, he wrote in his diary, "The Pole at last," when he and five of his men—black American Matthew Henson and four Eskimos—ostensibly reached their goal. Those immediately questioning Peary's conquest included Dr. Frederick Cook, who had claimed the distinction himself a year before.

A 1990 study commissioned by the National Geographic Society, using photogrammetry to analyze Peary's expedition photos, surmised that shadows cast in the images proved his claim.

In 1991, a U.S. Naval Institute symposium never reached a consensus, despite a substantial monetary offer from Peary family members for solid evidence that would disprove the claim. No money changed hands.

This aside, Peary earns a place on this list for his pioneering Arctic exploration and for developing "the Peary system," a supply and support structure that proved invaluable in his various expeditions from 1886 to 1909. Congress promoted him to rear admiral in March 1911.

Richard E. Byrd—1929

While evidence surfaced in 1996 that Byrd had falsified his official 1926 report on the flight in which he and pilot Floyd Bennett claimed to be the first to fly over the North Pole, he is still credited with several aviation and

exploration milestones.

To aid in navigation over the open ocean, Byrd developed drift indicators and bubble sextants for aircraft, thus leading to his participation in planning the flight path for the Navy's transatlantic crossing in 1919.

In summer 1927, he made a transatlantic flight himself and in November 1929 made the first flight over the South Pole. Byrd triumphantly returned to the U.S. in 1930 and was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Geographical Society.

In all, he made five expeditions to Antarctica, culminating in the establishment of permanent bases at McMurdo Sound, the Bay of Whales and the South Pole. For his efforts, Byrd was awarded the Medal of Honor (before it was restricted to recognizing valor in combat only).

During WWI, he was commander of the Navy's flying boat station in Nova Scotia. In WWII, he served on special missions in Europe and the Pacific. He was a rear admiral.

Edward L. Beach, Jr.—1960

The Cold War was a cat-and-mouse game of one-upsmanship, and Ned Beach (as he was known to his friends) one-upped the Soviets in spectacular fashion. From February to April 1960, he was the skipper of the USS *Triton* (SSRN-586) during the nuclear-powered submarine's submerged circumnavigation of the Earth. This was the first such voyage in history and one that broke a submerged speed record that still stands. It was actually his idea, as he recalled in the last interview before his death. "Finally, I got an idea. We'll do a stunt. We'll go around the world." And what a stunt it was.

During WWII, he served aboard three subs, earning the Navy Cross. Beach was the naval aide (1953-57) to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and became a successful author. But he was most proud of his feat in the *Triton*.

Don Walsh—1961

The "Deepest Dive" happened in 1961. Only unmanned remotely operated vehicles have matched the feat since then.

While the rest of the world focused on the space race, the Navy was looking inward, to the uncharted waters of the oceans' depths. In this case, it was the Challenger Deep in the Pacific Ocean's Marianas Trench near Guam. With Swiss explorer Jacques Piccard, Walsh set the manned deep-dive record at nearly 11,000 meters (36,000



★

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Continued from page 17

“We’re trying to establish relationships before we get down to business,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Mark Falsario. That rapport goes a long way with the Afghans, who value friendship as much as the knowledge they gain from their mentors.

As the war effort in Afghanistan has increased, the involvement of Navy IA’s has also increased. They are currently involved in detainee operations, safety, security, administration and aircraft maintenance, just to name a few. As difficult as the missions may be, most seem glad to have gotten the opportunity to serve in such a challenging environment.

“This is the most rewarding job I’ve done in the Navy,” said Gorey, “and the hardest.”



Kabul, Afghanistan—Builder First Class (SCW) Damian Warner shows some Navy pride by affixing a Seabee plaque outside the conex office for Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan’s CJ Engineering section. Petty Officer Warner has been in Kabul for three weeks, and will be assigned to CSTC-A for a six-month tour to help oversee various construction projects for rebuilding the war-torn nation.

QALAT, Afghanistan—Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Kibbe (left) watches Petty Officer 2nd Class Stuart Wood remove a spare tire from an Army Humvee at Forward Operating Base Apache. Tires get worn out and damaged quickly on the uneven terrain in Afghanistan and need to be replaced frequently. Kibbe and Wood are two of five mechanics at the base, three of whom are sailors. They are responsible for the maintenance and repair of 79 vehicles that are used by U.S. forces for the mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces in Zabul Province.

Become a Part of History! Join NERA's Memorial Walk

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 you can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick will be custom engraved to your specifications and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA Headquarters. Just fill out the order form and send back to NERA headquarters.



NERA Memorial Walk General

- The first phase of the NERA Memorial Walk will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole. The next phase will be construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA headquarters
- Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the law. Tax ID number is 23-7238557
- NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.
- Please let us know if you have any questions by contacting Laura Martin at 703/534-1329.

Information

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

Brick Inscription: Please enter the text that you wish to be displayed on your Brick. Please note that 3 lines are permitted with up to 14 characters for each line. If you would like to use one of the below symbols, enter

the 4-letter code on the line and the location that you would like it to appear. Please highlight the 4 letter code on your order.



Personal Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

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Email: _____

Phone Number _____

Bricks to Purchase: \$100 x _____ = \$ _____

Credit Card Information

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Charge Amount (\$100 per brick) _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

Send Your Check (\$100 for each Brick) to NERA:

NERA Headquarters, Attn: Laura Martin, 6703 Farragut Ave., Falls Church, VA 22042

Marine Marquee

Reserve Motor Transportation Marines Keep The Mission Rolling

By Capt. Paul L. Greenberg

CAMP KOREAN VILLAGE, Iraq — When the Marines of 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 8 arrived at al Asad Air Base in western Iraq in early September, they were

leaving, and conduct a relief in place. According to Capt. Ryan O'Connor, the battalion's logistics officer, the reserve battalion was conducting a new mission in the ar-Rutbah district, and the Reserve Marines of 2/25 were not replacing a specific unit so there was no fleet of vehicles to fall in on.

"We had to acquire vehicles from other units, mostly ones that needed a lot of work," said O'Connor, a Charlestown, Mass. native. "When we started out, about 90 percent of them were dead-lined [non-operational]. It was a huge effort to get them up and running."

One Marine who has taken the lead on ensuring the operational readiness of the battalion's vehicles over the past four months is Sgt. Isidro Navarro, 25, an active reservist from Huntington Station, N.Y. who is currently serving as the battalion's maintenance chief.

"Setting up the maintenance shop from scratch and managing to fix an average of 35 vehicles per month is our greatest accomplishment here," said Navarro.

Navarro explained that not only do his mechanics fix vehicles throughout the battalion's area of operations, but they also serve as drivers on convoys.

"I could not have done this if it wasn't for my Marines," added Navarro.

With only four school-trained Marine mechanics and dozens of vehicles to take care of, the Reserve Marines of 2/25 were forced to rely on their civilian skills and expertise.



HWAJIN BEACH, Republic of Korea (Nov. 4, 2009) Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit (31st MEU) unload assault vehicles from a landing craft, air cushion from the amphibious dock landing ship USS Harpers Ferry (LSD 49) during a simulated beach assault. Harpers Ferry is part of the Denver Amphibious Ready Group participating in the annual bilateral Korean Integrated Training Program (KITP) exercise. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Joshua J. Wahl/Released)

faced with an immediate challenge: transportation. The battalion required a fleet of vehicles to take them to their area of operations to conduct security and stability missions further west on the fringes of Al Anbar province near the Syrian and Jordanian borders.

In the past, battalions arriving in Iraq would normally take over vehicles from another unit that's

Staff Sgt. William Wentworth, a 36-year-old maintenance chief for Company E, 2/25, has been working on cars and trucks since he was 15 years old.

After finishing a four-year active duty tour in the Marine Corps as a combat engineer, Wentworth started a trucking business in his hometown of Garland, Maine, and performed automobile maintenance on the side. He has simultaneously served as a reserve Marine infantryman with Company A, 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment since May 2008.

"I try to get all the Marines out here in the motor pool," said Wentworth. "It's important that they know how to work on these vehicles in case one goes down on a mounted patrol out in the desert. It's just like their weapons; you take care of them, and they'll take care of you."

"What I love about mechanics is being able to figure things out, kind of like doctor; only without the doctor's salary," said Wentworth, whose operational experience includes a 2005 deployment to Afghanistan. "Mechanics is like solving a mystery. And when you take a vehicle that was dead, and you can make it run, that's a great feeling."

Wentworth, like many other infantrymen in the battalion, worked day and night at the motor pool at Al Asad throughout the months of September and October to increase the readiness rate of their vehicles from 10 percent to 90 percent.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Menzen, 23, a Company E assaultman, was one of those Marines who used his civilian skills to help Wentworth prepare the battalion's fleet for their trek to the western region of Iraq. Menzen's family owns an auto body shop in his hometown of Ottsville, Pa.

"The mechanics gave us pointers when we needed them, but I knew most of it from working with my dad back at home," said Menzen.

Lance Cpl. Jordan Carl, 21, of Hegins, Pa., is a team leader with Company E. Carl's father owns an automotive service business and he has worked on vehicles "for as long as I can remember," said Carl.

In addition to helping out back at al Asad, Carl and

his team spent the entire day Jan. 20 preparing their humvee for an upcoming mission in support of the Iraqi national elections at the end of the month.

"I'm pretty much teaching everyone on my team how to do basic first echelon maintenance, such as servicing transmissions, changing fluids, filters and tires," said Carl. "It really helps to pass the time here."

In addition to hundreds of simple repairs and more than a thousand hours of basic maintenance performed by the infantrymen, the battalion's four mechanics have fixed more than 140 "dead-lined" vehicles requiring major overhauls such as fixing axles and suspensions and replacing fuel injectors, said 2nd Lt. Max Wright, the battalion motor transportation officer who has supervised the battalion's maintenance efforts over the past four months.

"What would usually be a simple repair becomes difficult with the MRAP [Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle]," said Wright. "It takes a crane or forklift to remove the armor if you want to replace a starter. It adds a lot of time to do simple jobs, which makes for longer work hours."

Wright lauded the efforts of his Marines, who have labored from early morning until late in the evening, working sometimes by flashlight to keep the vehicles up and running.

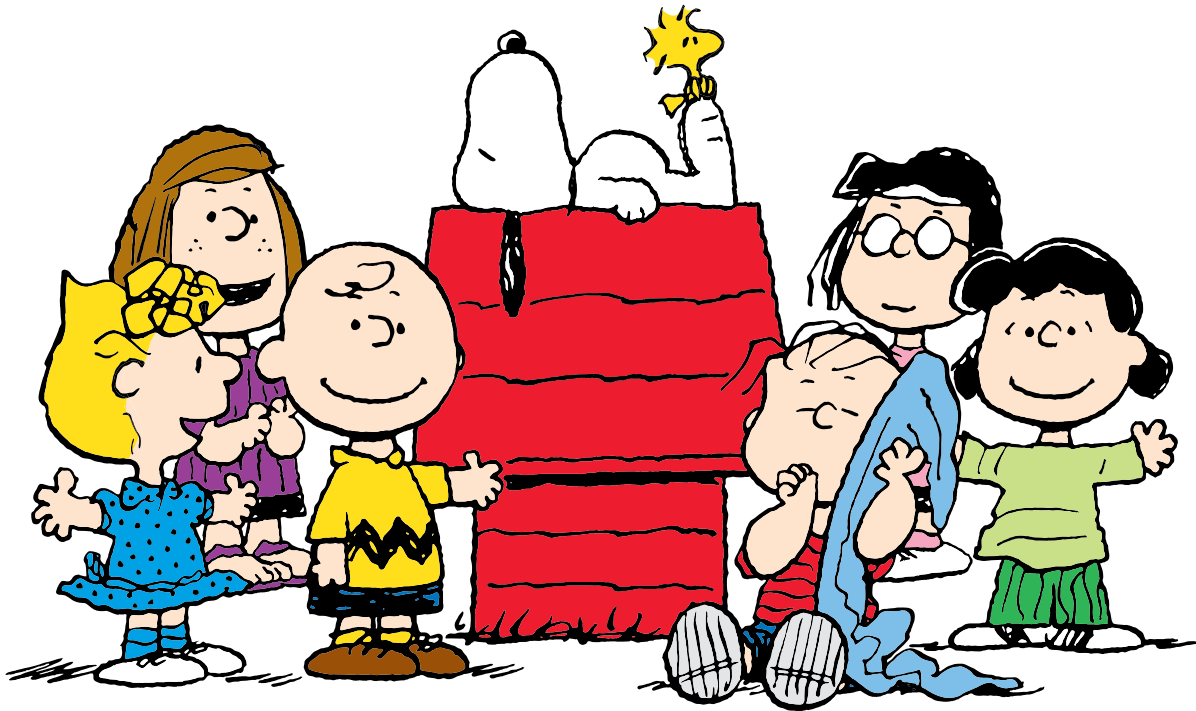
"Considering the equipment we started with and the number of the Marines I have, their accomplishments are unbelievable," added Wright, a 26-year-old native of Texarkana, Texas.

As the Marines of 2/25 finish out the last few months of their tour, the mechanics, both the military-trained and those who learned from friends, fathers and technical schools back home, continue to work tirelessly to take care of their vehicles so that their vehicles can enable them to accomplish their infantry mission here in Al Anbar province.

For more information on the ongoing mission in Iraq's Al Anbar province, visit <http://www.mnf-west.usmc.mil>.

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FORCM Chris Glennon	AE1 Harry Moffat	IV2 Thomas "Bull" Morton
AVCM Steveon H. Hall	ENC(SS) William E. Vincent	YNCM(RET) Martha E. Johnston
CWO4 Shirley Barlow	MMCS Jesse Fox	AO1 Thomas B. Carroll
ETCM Louis Pagano	QMCS Henry B. Vogler, Jr.	PNCM(RET) Richard J. Elfrink
YNC Joanne M. Elliott	SKCS John A. Bartlett	AD1 Neil V. Tanis
SK1 Alvin H. Wright	AEC Roger D. Webster	AFCM(NAC/AW) David Di Marzio
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SKCS Norma B. Von Dohren	AT1 Harold A. Hyslop	AKCS(RET) John M. Hicks
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SHC James Bruce Fromel	SKC Donna Childre	SK1 K. Daniel Kelly
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CTAC Patrick G. Reding	GSCM Ralph W. Camp	CWO4 Michael Chierico
HTC James J. Vincent	MCC Brian Brannon	EMC Nicholas G. Karthas
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HMCS William M. Allen	YNCS William Vinglas	YNCS(SCW) Arthur A. Julian III
HMCS(FMF) Darryl Wahler	HMCM Manny Ratner	AMH1 David M. Drajna
BTC William C. Rendall	MAC(RET) Tommy L. Keheley	DCC(SS) Thomas V. Shields
HMC Paul E. Jensen	SKCM Robert L. Watterson	OSCM(SW) Hans O. Keller
DCCM Stephen R. Sandy	ATC Dennis E. Buisman	

In addition to being listed above, benefactor members will have their names blasted on a large plaque with all other benefactors recognizing their continued LIFETIME support of NERA. This plaque will be prominently displayed at the NERA National Headquarters. Benefactor names will be published in every annual National Conference Book on a dedicated Benefactor page. Benefactors will also receive recognition at ALL National Conferences during the opening ceremonies. There are a few ways to join: Go online at www.nera.org, call in credit card info to Jennifer at (800)776-9020, or mail in a check for \$250 to National HQ.



feet)—with the pressure being more than eight tons per square inch at that depth.

In an interview, he referred to the expedition as “just another day at the office.” Walsh is still diving today at age 77, leading expeditions to the wrecks of, among others, RMS Titanic and the German battleship Bismarck. And his exploration of Antarctica led to a mountain ridge on that icy continent being named after him.

Walsh was executive officer of the submarine *Bugara* off Vietnam in 1963.

M. Scott Carpenter—1962-65

One of the original Mercury astronauts, Carpenter also was an aquanaut, the first human to explore both inner and outer space. He flew the *Aurora 7* in the second manned orbit of the Earth on May 24, 1962. Following that mission, he consulted on the design of the lunar module for the Apollo project. Three years after his orbital flight, he went on leave from NASA to participate in the Navy’s Man-in-the-Sea Project as an aquanaut in the SEALAB II experimental endurance program. He spent 30 days 205 feet below the surface off the coast of La Jolla, Calif., in 1965.

In a recent interview, Carpenter explained the purpose of sea exploration: “In a way, it’s still defense-oriented; but we’re trying to defend the planet now, instead of just this country.”

Off Korea in 1951-52, he flew P2V Neptunes on recon missions with Patrol Squadron 6. Later, he operated out of Adak, Alaska, and Guam.

Neil Armstrong—1969

If you’re old enough, you must remember the grainy television broadcast of Armstrong stepping onto the floor of the Moon’s Sea of Tranquility, mesmerizing the inhabitants of Earth on July 20, 1969.

With his first words from the lunar surface, “That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind,” he became a hero to youngsters around the world.

(Armstrong also was command pilot of Gemini 8 in 1966, a mission highlighted by the first docking of two vehicles in space.)

A naval aviator in the Korean War, he flew 78 missions between Aug. 22, 1951, and March 5, 1952, as part of Fighter Squadron 51, Air Group 5, aboard the USS *Essex*. He was shot down once.

Robert Ballard—1985

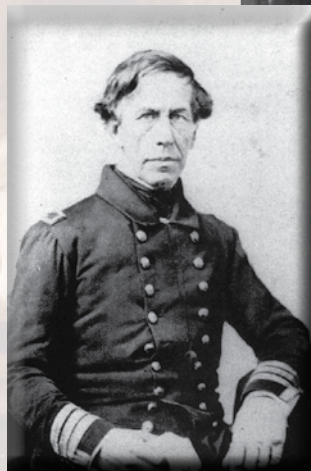
Few explorers have covered as much of the world’s sea floor as Ballard has. And none has gained more fame and fortune for those expeditions. While he has dived on some of the most famous shipwrecks in sea history, he was the first to locate, study, and film the remains of the Titanic, the passenger liner sunk by a collision with an iceberg on April 15, 1912.

The expedition—to depths of 2.5 miles—was funded by the Navy, which mandated that Ballard locate the wrecks of the mysteriously sunken nuclear-powered submarines *Scorpion* (SSN-589) and *Thresher* (SSN-593). Finding the Titanic in late summer 1985 was a bonus. Ballard also was an outspoken critic of later operations that salvaged artifacts for profit from the sunken liner. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1970, and was assigned to the Deep Submergence Group at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts.

‘Celebrate and Honor’

All these Navy explorers accomplished amazing feats. But sadly, today, their names are lost to history in a society that seems to place little value on, or celebrate, such achievements.

As Navy Vice Adm. Melvin G. Williams, Jr., commander of the U.S. 2nd Fleet, recently said regarding the centennial of Peary’s North Pole expedition, “We should celebrate and honor the exploits of heroes.”



Fred Schultz is managing editor of U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings and consulting editor for Naval History. Originally printed in the October 2009 issue of the VFW Magazine.

E-mail magazine@vfw.org

2009 NERA 1776 AWARD



Nominee: George Arthur Wardwell
RMC USNR(RET)

Date individual originally joined NERA: May 1986

Brief overview of why this person is being nominated:

George has been the President of the Edmund Couto Chapter since 1993. Since his election, his performance has been nothing by exceptional in the area of Recruitment of new members, organizing social/awards functions, participation in local Veterans parades, working with the Sea Cadet Divisions within the State and running the Chapter. Retention rate has been one of the finest nationally due to his personal interaction with Chapter members through monthly newsletters, contact via electronic mail and face to face communications while attending several other Veterans Military organization functions. His tenacious approach and follow up action with those members who have dropped out has brought us positive results and minimal loss of active members.

NERA achievements: Life Member

- a. Chapter Secretary – 1992
- b. Chapter President – 1993 – 2006
- c. Past National Conference Director 1999 – 2002
- d. Current State of Rhode Island Membership Director
- e. Current Senior Enlisted Liaison with the Senior Enlisted Academy
- f. Chairman Annual Conference in Newport RI 2002
- g. Visits local United States Coast Guard Stations and Units in the local area to conduct membership drives. Submits photo's to appear on the National web site and Mariner editions to recognize deserving Coast Guard Sailors of the Year
- h. Created NERA National Award. He presents this award to Honor Students at Senior Enlisted Academy Non-Resident Course graduations. George presents these awards at each ceremony amounting to approximately 20 each year.

Military status and awards:

- a. Navy Achievement Medal (1)
- b. Meritorious Unit Commendation
- c. Navy "E" Ribbon
- d. Good Conduct Medal (7)
- e. Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal
- f. Navy Expeditionary Medal
- g. National Defense Service Medal
- h. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (3) Stars
- i. Vietnam Service Medal
- j. Naval Reserve Sea Service Ribbon
- k. Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon
- l. Armed Forces Reserve Medal (Gold Hourglass)
- m. Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal

Community Service:

Navy League of the United States, Newport County Council – Life Member

- a. Area President, Southern New England
- b. Nominated for New England Region President to be installed at the 2009 National Convention in Corpus Christi Texas, Oct. 2009
- c. Council President 2004-2006
- d. 1st Vice President/Secretary 2003
- e. Secretary 2002/2003
- f. Member National Awards Committee 2003/2004 /2005/2006/2007/2008/2009
- g. Sea Cadet Liaison Officer for (3) sponsored Divisions
- h. National Director 2005- 2009
- i. Marched in (4) Armed Forces Day parades with the Sea Cadet's

Veterans of Foreign Wars – Life Member

- a. Past member Board of Directors
- b. Participates in annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food for the poor campaigns.
- c. Participates in the annual Poppy fund raiser drive.

Other Organizations:

- a. President Retired Enlisted Association 2005-2006
- b. U.S. Navy Cruiser Sailors Association
- c. Fleet Reserve Association
- d. The American Legion Post 18 Adjutant/ Treasurer 2007/2008
- e. Currently Post 18 Legion Commander, Portsmouth RI
- f. Current 2nd County Rhode Island State Commander American Legion
- g. The United States Navy Radiomen Association
- h. Fort Adams Trust Restoration Project in Newport RI
- i. Naval Order of the United States Treasurer
- j. Aquidneck Land Trust
- k. Council for International Visitors Newport RI Board of Directors/Membership Chair
- l. Association of United States Army, RI Chapter
- m. Member, Navy Surface Association, Newport RI Chapter

In addition to Chief Wardwell's many Military and Community organizations he belongs to and supports, he volunteers at a local church helping organize and conduct social gatherings and assists with the food pantry donations.

Submitter: Robert Valcourt

RESULTS OF 2009 NATIONAL CONFERENCE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS SESSIONS

By C&BL Chairman Jim Premeske

During NERA's National Conference in Oklahoma City delegates considered sixteen proposals, which were submitted prior to the conference, and two emergency resolutions.

09-01 A proposal to revise the External Audit requirement to allow an appointed NERA committee to biennially perform an internal audit of NERA finances & procedures. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-02 This proposal formalizes the dues schedule currently in place as a result of an emergency resolution submitted at last year's national conference. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-03 Proposes specific criteria for LMIF withdrawals to the General Fund; would revise the existing criteria which is based on the former rebate system. **Approved by voice vote.**



Service to Reservist Awardee, PS1 Damon Crawford, RCC Midwest Great Lakes with VADM DirkDebbink and Joanne Elliott.

09-04 Requests minor rewording of the NERA preamble to reflect current NERA and DOD policies. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-05 Proposes to clarify the allowance of National President term limits concerning consecutive terms and the eligibility of previous National Presidents. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-06 Promotes deletion of the National Public Relations Director from the C&BL. (President has the ability to appoint Ad Hoc directors as needed). **Approved by voice vote.**

09-07 Promotes deletion of the unused National Recruiting Director (which addresses Navy recruiting, not NERA recruiting). **Approved by voice vote.**

09-08 Asks deletion (and policy standardization) of reimbursement of state & regional directors. **Failed by counted vote.**

09-09 Would direct an appointed ad hoc committee review all current NERA programs, and provide their report for consideration by the 2009 NERA National delegates. **Failed by counted vote.**



Delores Rucker and Geno Koelker



Don Bauman, Gene McCarthy, Paul Smurawski, Nick Marine & Joanne Elliott

Photos By Ray Robson

Membership Application Form

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



BRANCH OF SERVICE:

- ☐ Navy
- ☐ Marine Corps
- ☐ Coast Guard
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Civilian

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

- ☐ Active
- ☐ Associate

DUES PAYMENT AMOUNT:

- ☐ \$30 - 1 Year
- ☐ \$57 - 2 Years
- ☐ \$84 - 3 Years
- ☐ \$300 - Life
- ☐ \$100 - Life (PayPlan)*

*Partial Pay Life to be paid within 6 months

DUTY STATUS:

- ☐ A - Active Duty
- ☐ I - Inactive Duty (SELRES, IRR, VTU)
- ☐ R - Retired



- ☐ \$250- Life Benefactor

Payment By: ☐ Check (enclosed) ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

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Rate/Rank _____

Date of Birth _____

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DATES:

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SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2010

CITY:

WASHINGTON, DC

Plans are in the works already for speakers, special events and more!
Be on the lookout for more details about registration.
Arrive early to spend Veterans Day in our Nation's Capital!
Contact Laura Martin with questions,
800/776-9020 or lk martin@nera.org



09-10 Revises Emergency Resolutions to be effective upon conclusion of a National Conference, to be in effect until completion of the next annual conference. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-11 Asks the recommendations of the currently ongoing National Conference Guidelines Review Committee be allowed delegate consideration to determine which are suggestions to be moved to National Handbook versus those that should be referenced (as rules) in the Bylaws. Amended to C&BL committee review. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-12 Proposes the encouragement of NERA National fundraising and intends to regulate such revenue sources. Further authorizes NEC discontinuation of non beneficial programs. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-13 Would formalize and authorize the procedures intended to recognize the contributions of the Life Membership benefactor Program. **Overcome by failure of 09-09.**

09-14 Proposes NERA provide a standardized procedure to facilitate membership participation in a NERA endowment program. **Overcome & withdrawn.**

09-15 Proposed by C&BL committee: would authorize certain verbiage adjustments from the last conference that the committee feels is beyond the scope of its authority. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-16 Would mandate a comprehensive biennial, National delegate review of NERA Awards and other Public Relations Programs, costs and where the cost is borne. **Moved, seconded and approved for withdrawal from consideration.**

09-ER1 (Emergency Resolution) Submitted by the NEC: Resolved: NERA's NEC is authorized to execute a National Conference in 2010 at its discretion, with not less than six month's notice to its membership, the location of which, duration, and agenda to be determined by the NEC. **Approved by voice vote.**

09-ER2 Submitted by the NEC: Resolved: C&BL Proposals to be reviewed by the C&BL Committee following regional conferences, sent to National for email distribution to Chapters for a vote, to be tabulated by C&BL Committee. **After an expanded, but equal, number of speakers for and against, withdrawal was approved by a voice vote of the membership.**

Photos By Ray Robson



President Elliott thanking Silver String Orchestra member for playing TAPS



Force Wright, Petty Officer Wilkinson, Master Chief Smith



Glenda Battles, Francis Heywood, Steve Sandy, Jerry Davern



Master Sgt Meek, Chief Duke Hayes



YNCS Lopez and MACS Kidd of NOSC Oklahoma.



FORCM Wright, MST1 Wilikinson, MCPO Smith



Silver String Orchestra playing for NERA Banquet Dinner guests.

TAPS

Last updated: November 20, 2009

PNC JAMES R. BAHR

RMC CYRIL L. BAUER

MS. HELEN COLLINS

SH1 LOUIS A. FISCHER

HTC JOSEPH GIBNEY

RM1 EDWARD L. GUY

EN1 LACHLAN M. NOREN

HTC GEORGE E. PORTER

TMC TED W. RYKOWSKI

RM2 ALTON TADLOCK

JOSEPH R. VOCELKA

MRS. MARICLAIRE WINE

MINNESOTA

CHUMASH

JAMES F. MCAULIFFE

CHAPLAIN ALOYSIUS SCHMITT

GREATER NEW YORK

CAPT RICHARD A. STRATTON

MINNESOTA

SAN FRANCISCO

GARDEN STATE

LONE STAR

USS YORKTOWN



Many NERA members are inquiring on how they can support NERA now and in the future? The answer: **Planned Giving.**

What is **Planned Giving**? The most frequent option for Planned Giving is through a direct bequest in your will. A direct bequest can be through a specified monetary amount or percentage of

your estate. With either, NERA can provide you with basic language that you can 1) place into a current will OR 2) make it part of a new one.

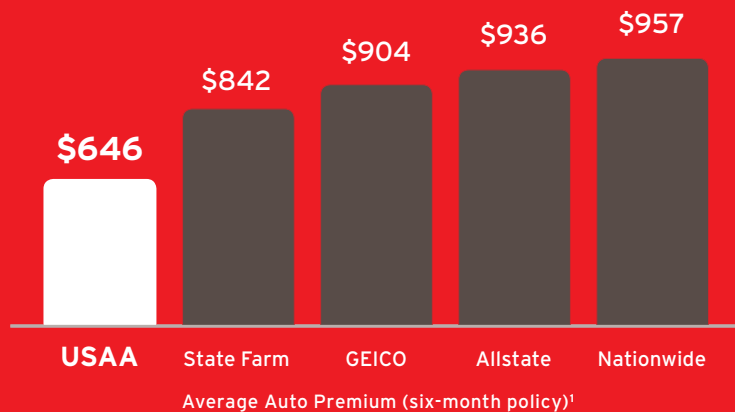
Why should you support NERA through planned giving? Not only will you receive a tax benefit for your estate but you are securing that the future needs of NERA will be met for another 60 years.

Please remember that you should always consult your tax, legal and financial professional for a complete explanation of potential benefits.

For additional information or to discuss your options, please contact Laura Martin at NERA Headquarters 703/534-1329, or lmartin@nera.org.



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¹Average auto premiums/savings based on countrywide survey of new customers from 12/1/07 to 11/30/08, who reported their prior insurers' premiums when they switched to USAA. Savings do not apply in MA. Use of competitors' names does not imply affiliation, endorsement or approval. ²Online discount is not available in CA, FL, GA, HI, ME and NC. Discount is up to \$30 in MO and MA. Discount applies to new policies only. Restrictions apply. ³Restrictions may apply to installment payment options. ⁴To qualify for the discount, the vehicle must not be driven and must be stored in a secure location. Other restrictions apply. ⁵Check with your current carrier on any fees or penalties associated with canceling your current policy. Eligibility restrictions apply to purchase of property and casualty insurance. Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status, rank or military status. Applicants must meet underwriting guidelines. Automobile insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, USAA Mutual Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. USAA General Agency means USAA Insurance Agency, Inc., or USAA of Texas Insurance Agency. CA Lic. # 0078305, TX Lic. # 7096. Purchase of a USAA General Agency product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies. © 2009 USAA. 91887-0509

