

THE **MARINER**

2015 Winter Edition | Volume 58 · Issue 4

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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Past President Geno Koelker
receiving NERA's 1776 Award
presented by RADM Thomas
W. Luscher and NERA
President Stephen Sandy
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Cover: (From Left: NERA President Stephen Sandy, Past President Geno Koelker, and RADM Thomas W. Luscher.) Past President Geno Koelker receiving NERA's 1776 Award at NERA's Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA.

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.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Stephen Sandy
National President

A strong membership is the key to our future, so tell your friends about NERA.

Shipmates,

As I sit down to write this letter, the Christmas tree is up and the lights are all strung. I still have some more shopping to finish, and I am looking forward to spending time with my family this holiday. The New Year is always a time to look forward and reflect back. This past year was a good one. I was elected NERA president at this last conference. After being Executive Director for 9 years, I thought I could make a bigger difference becoming President. I am thinking 2016 will hold big opportunities and changes for NERA, so I thank you for electing me to lead NERA. We have some big decisions to make with regard to NERA's future, and I am honored and humbled to lead the charge.

Looking back, NERA's 2015 annual conference in Norfolk was a huge success. Attendance was lower than I wanted, but that was my only complaint. Norfolk was a good city to visit and the hotel met all our needs. The surprise arrival at our hotel of about 50 individual augmentees (IAs) Corpsmen from 9 months in Guantanamo Bay was a fun addition. NERA opened up its hospitality suite, ordered more pizza and chicken wings

than you can imagine, and provided drinks. NERA was able to welcome home these men and women in style. Us "old guys" enjoyed the comradery. It gave our conference a real shot in the arm of energy and it was a fortuitous meeting. We wish those corpsmen a very happy holiday and hope their adjustment back home is an easy transition.

This year promises to be just as exciting. We have not picked a location yet on the 2016 annual conference. We have heard from some members that they'd like to see the conference in new cities, however we need to keep it in locations where NERA has a large base and can easily travel to assure a solid attendance. As always, NERA is monitoring benefit issues and following the VA activities closely. Do not hesitate to contact me should have any issues you would like to address. A strong membership is the key to our future, so tell your friends about NERA. Let us know what concerns you have moving into 2016.

Happy New Year,
Steve

"For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning..." — T.S. Eliot

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Mike Hughes
NERA
Executive Director

**If you
would like
to donate
or have
any ideas
on fund
raising,
please feel
free to
contact me.**

Executive Director's Message

I'm now just starting to settle in and beginning to learn the ropes of being NERA's Executive Director after being appointed at the national conference in Norfolk. I'm humbled and honored to be able to serve NERA in this capacity. I'm especially thankful that Steve Sandy will still be available and nearby to assist me in this endeavor. I honestly hope that I can do half the job that he did as Executive Director. Steve is not only a great mentor, but a trusted friend. I'm sure he'll do a tremendous job as NERA's President over the next 2 years. I'd be lost without the aid and general knowledge of our office manager Jennifer Abbott and the editing and marketing skills of Yvette Purtil. Thank God for them. My thanks to the officers of NERA on the National Executive Council (NEC) and thank you for the confidence in appointing me. I look forward to our working together for the betterment of NERA.

Although the number of attendees was smaller than hoped for, the national conference in Norfolk was a resounding success. Kudos to Penny and Jerry Padour for the work they did on arranging the conference and to Debbie and Kick Fallon for assisting.

Thanks to Dick Schreiner for assisting with the POW/MIA ceremony and to all those who contributed toward the outstanding hospitality suite during the conference.

As I look ahead, I realize the real need to raise funds for the repairs and maintenance at NERA headquarters. Thanks to those who have already contributed. I am hopeful the roof will make it through this winter, but it definitely will have to be replaced this summer. Headquarters also needs complete new soffits, new gutters, new front and back entrance porches and steps, and replacement of the back door. (We have the door thanks to PNP Nick Marine. Now we just need to get someone to remove the old door and install it.) Sorry, I'm a lousy carpenter. If you would like to donate or have any ideas on fund raising, please feel free to contact me.

If you have suggestions or issues you feel NERA should address, please e-mail me at neraexec@nera.org or call me at 443-812-9591.

I wish everyone a Happy Holidays and a healthy and prosperous 2016.

I look forward to our working together for the betterment of NERA.

Help NERA Go Paperless

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

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

Go paperless — email jabbott@nera.org





Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

TIPS AND CLIPS

We have received phone calls from individuals asking for more articles in the magazine. Requests have varied from how to advance in rate to Tricare for Life issues. Over the last several

years, we have covered many of these issues and I do hope that you are keeping your copies of the *Mariner*. If not, you can always go back and read them on the website at www.nera.org. Please call, write, or email me, Jennifer, Yvette or Steve with any requests and we will endeavor to get answers to you via the magazine or online.

TRICARE Regional Offices

For those of you who do not have access to emails or computers, I have printed out the contact information below:

The TRICARE Regional Offices (TROs) manage and oversee an integrated health care delivery system in the three U.S. TRICARE regions. In most cases, you'll call your regional contractor first:

Health Net Federal Services	Humana Military	UnitedHealthcare
1-877-TRICARE (1-877-874-2273)	1-800-444-5445	1-877-988-WEST (1-877-988-9378)
But, there are times when you will need to call your TRO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approval for the Prime Travel Benefit• Determination of eligibility requests for TRICARE Prime Remote• If your issue is unresolved with the regional contractor		
1-866-307-9749 Send an Email: TRONorth@tma.osd.mil	1-800-554-2397 Send an Email: dha.jbsa.health-opns.mbx.trosouthcs2@mail.mil	1-800-558-1746 Send an Email: TROWBCAC@trow.tma.osd.mil

TRICARE For Life

Contact the TRICARE For Life contractor: WPS-Military and Veterans Health —
Toll-Free: 1-866-773-0404 • TDD: 1-866-773-0405

The following information was pulled from the RAO Bulletin, dated November 2015

ID Card Expiration Date Update 01 Action Required if INDEF

In 2011, officials began replacing the Social Security Account Number, or SSAN, with a 10-digit number unique to the Department of Defense on all ID cards. Retirees, their family members, and survivors with an "INDEF" expiration date may not have replaced their ID card before and may therefore still have an SSAN printed on their card. DOD officials are urging people who have an ID card with an "INDEF" expiration date to visit a DOD ID card facility for a new ID card with the DOD

ID number in place of the SSAN to reduce their risk of identity theft. Officials stress that until an ID card with a printed SSAN expires, it remains valid and does not need to be confiscated or replaced. In time, every ID card will have a printed DOD number instead of a printed SSAN. Family members and survivors will have their own DOD ID number printed on their cards, not that of their sponsor. Because DoD ID cards will no longer have the sponsor's printed SSN, cardholders may be asked to provide

it verbally. To find your nearest DoD ID card facility, visit <http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/rsl> or call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102. To confirm required documentation, refer to the Pre-Arrival Checklist at www.cac.mil/docs/required_docs.pdf. Note that the nearest

facility does not have to be an Air Force installation in order to serve Air Force retirees and their family members. People should check with the issuing facility to verify appointment requirements and hours of operation. [Source: Afterburner | Spring-Summer 2015]

DBIDS Update 02 Retiree, Family Must Register for Base Access

The Defense Biometric Identification System, or DBIDS, uses scanning devices to manage access at most Air Force installations. DBIDS verifies access privileges for cardholders through the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Guards scanning ID cards will see a red or green display at the bottom of their scanner screens. A red display will say “stop” to indicate why base entry is not authorized, giving up to 26 different messages. Besides showing if access is authorized or denied, the scanner allows a gate guard to see a detailed view that provides more information about the card holder. The photo of the card holder will be the image taken when the card was registered in the system. The system also crosschecks information with the National Crime Information Center every 24 hours to determine whether or not Department of Defense cardholders have any active wants or warrants. Finally, DBIDS also displays installation debarments and

law enforcement alerts. Updates have been made which allow the majority of people -- active-duty and civilian personnel, retirees, dependents, etc. -- to register in the lane of traffic without adding to wait times, according to Air Force Security Forces officials. The system has been used to successfully enroll more than 5 million people, provide installation security forces with over 4,000 wants/warrants, 9,000-plus suspended driving privileges and more than 500 debarments to date, said officials. One issue with DBIDS specific to retirees is the expiration of the Department of Defense Form 2 (Retired). Although the expiration date on the front of the retiree ID reads “INDEF”, there is an expiration date printed on the back of the card which coincides with the retiree’s 65th birthday. Retirees will be required to obtain a new ID card after their 65th birthday. [Source: Afterburner (Courtesy of Air Force Security Forces) | Spring-Summer 2015]

POW/MIA Recoveries Reported 150901 thru 150914

“Keeping the Promise”, “Fulfill their Trust” and “No one left behind” are several of many mottos that refer to the efforts of the Department of Defense to recover those who became missing while serving our nation. The number of Americans who remain missing from conflicts in this century are: World War II (73,515) Korean War (7,841), Cold War (126), Vietnam War (1,627), 1991 Gulf War (5), and Libya (1). Over 600 Defense Department men and women -- both military and civilian -- work in organizations around the world as part of DoD’s personnel recovery and personnel accounting communities. They are all dedicated to the single mission of finding and bringing

our missing personnel home. For a listing of all personnel accounted for since 2007 refer to <http://www.dpaa.mil/> and click on ‘Our Missing’. If you wish to provide information about an American missing in action from any conflict or have an inquiry about MIAs, contact:

Mail: Public Affairs Office, 2300 Defense Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-2300, Attn: External Affairs
Phone: (703) 699-1420
Message: Fill out form on <http://www.dpaa.mil/Contact/ContactUs.aspx>

[Source: <http://www.dpaa.mil> | NOV 2015]

Wounded Warrior Leave H.R.313 Signed Into Law

President Obama has signed into law the Wounded Warriors Federal Leave Act of 2015 sponsored by U.S. Rep. Stephen Lynch aimed at giving federal workers who are also veterans extra time off to seek medical care. The new law provides the employees with 104 hours of what Lynch calls “Wounded Warrior leave” during their first year in the federal workforce so that they can seek medical treatment for service-connected disabilities without being

forced to take unpaid leave or forego their appointments. The Massachusetts Democrat said getting the proposal to Obama’s desk was a bipartisan effort. The measure passed the House unanimously on 28 SEP and then passed the Senate, also unanimously on 26 OCT. Lynch said the new law reflects Congress’ gratitude and appreciation for the hardship and sacrifices made by veterans. [Source: The Associated Press]



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Winter Mariner 2015

By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.)

In an effort to enhance and preserve those hard earned benefits and compensation for our NERA members, NERA continues to advocate for and against many legislative proposals in Congress. Below are just a few of the initiatives NERA is involved with on your behalf.

NDAA for 2016

The big news is that the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2016 was enacted. Following are some key provisions included in this Act:

1. Increases from 90 to 180 the number of days of active duty required to be considered Federal service for purposes of unemployment compensation.
2. Requires the Secretary of Defense to conduct an assessment of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) recommendation to reduce the 30 different types of orders for Reserves to be ordered to duty to 6 and determine if they will increase efficiency in the Reserves.
3. Several provisions addressing sexual assault in the military, including counseling, appeals, improvements and policies.
4. Reduces Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) in CONUS by 1% per year through 2018.
5. Extends for 1 year the bonus and special pay authorities for Reserve forces.
6. Raises co-pays for TRICARE Pharmacy benefits.
7. Mandates establishment of a joint VA and DoD uniform formulary for pharmaceutical agents critical for transitioning patients for DoD to VA (i.e., sleep disorders; psychiatric medications, including for PTSD; pain).
8. Authorizes implementation of the MCRMC recommended new retirement system on or after Jan. 1, 2018. We have covered this extensively in previous issues of the Mariner. Some important areas of note are:
 - Service members serving on 12/31/2017 can remain in the older/current retirement system.
 - Members serving on 12/31/2017 with fewer than 12 years of service may switch to the new system with a reduced multiplier from that date. The open election period to make that switch is from 01/01/2018 until 12/31/2018.
 - Government contribution to the Thrift Savings Plan are 5% maximum. (1% automatically contributed and up to 4% matching of member contributions). There is no government contribution to those members with 26 or more years of service.
 - Requires financial literacy and preparedness training for all service members.
9. Requires a report from DoD on making the commissary and exchange programs budget neutral, including a study on contracting with private sector providers.

Agent Orange Exposure/Blue Water Navy

Please see the article in this Mariner by John Wells concerning the legislation about this. It should be noted that although there are over 400 ships on the VA's list of presumptive exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam ports

and inland waterways, they are for very specific times and dates and some are for very short durations. This current legislation covers all ships that operated within offshore waters of Vietnam during the entire war.

Veteran Status

The long battle we have waged to give the title of “veteran” to certain reservists seems to be close to resolution. Currently, reservists who serve 20 or more years, but have not served at least 180 days of active duty are not considered veterans by law. Legislation has now passed both the House and Senate giving reservists who have served 20 or

more years under honorable conditions and qualified for retirement to be called veterans, with no additional benefits accorded as a result. As of this writing the legislation has passed both the House and Senate, but there are differences between the bills and it is awaiting a conference committee to iron out the differences.

Military Health Care

The MCRMC made several recommendations on reforming the military health care system, including TRICARE. Congress decided not to address this in the FY 2016 NDAA because they felt a more in depth study and hearings were needed over the next months or year. Both the Senate and House have started scheduling hearings

on the entire health care programs for military members and their families as of this writing. NERA will follow these hearings, along with our partners of The Military Coalition (TMC), and advocate for our members and report on their progress.

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.”





USAA/NERA College Scholarship Program

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) offers a college scholarship program for NERA members and their family

General Information

Applications Due June 10, 2016

USAA/NERA College Scholarship Program recognizes the service to the United States and sacrifices by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. These scholarships are made possible by generous grants from USAA (www.usaa.com) and additional donations from NERA and its members. The application is available at www.nera.org.

(NERA reserves the right to modify or discontinue the scholarship program at any future date should funding not be available. In the event of non-qualifying NERA member applicant, NERA reserves the right to award these scholarship to a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of a NERA member.)

Scholarship Amounts

- Two \$3,000 scholarships for any Regular or Associate NERA member.
- Four \$2,500 scholarships for any Regular or Associate NERA member, spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of a regular NERA member. Children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the scholarship, the applicant must be any Regular or Associate NERA member. NERA members may also sponsor a qualified applicant: a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild. Sponsored children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23 on the scholarship deadline: June 10, 2016.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, the applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing and all

member dues must be paid in full by the scholarship deadline: **June 10, 2016.**

Scholarship applicants may be either graduating high school seniors or students already attending a college or university. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll, full-time or part-time in the fall semester immediately following award of the scholarship. Enrollment may be in any undergraduate program leading to a bachelor's degree or associate's degree at an accredited college or university. All applicants must currently have an overall GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact NERA at (800)-776-9020 or members@nera.org.

Scholarship Use Requirements

The NERA Scholarship can be awarded in addition to any other partial scholarship, including a ROTC Scholarship. Those applicants already in possession of an appointment to a U.S. service academy or receiving a "full scholarship" to any accredited college or university are not eligible. A "full scholarship" is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees, and university supplied dormitory room and board.

Essay Requirement

Applicants must write ONE 500 word essay

The requirement is a two part essay consisting of a 500 word minimum and 600 word maximum. The first part shall identify the applicant's aspirations, course of study and the school in which the applicant is enrolled for the coming fall. If the applicant's major course of study is undeclared, please indicate such but still identify their interests. The second part of the essay should identify and explain the role of the Reservist in America and the importance of the Reserves to our national defense.

The application and additional instructions are available online at www.nera.org. Apply today!



IN MEMORIAM



James M. Duffy, NERA Past President

1939–2015

James Michael Duffy of Mount Holly passed away peacefully at Olde Knox Commons, in Huntersville, N.C., on November 22, 2015, at the age of 76, after battling Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases for several years. Mr. "Jim" Duffy was born in Chicago, on June 12,

1939. He grew up in several small towns west of Chicago and graduated from Sycamore High School, in Sycamore, IL. Jim was pre-deceased by his mother Vivian James Duffy Callander, step-father William W. Callander, Sr., brother William W. Callander, Jr., and father Earl Francis Duffy.

His is survived by his wife of 52 years, Shirley Matz Duffy, daughters Lynn M. Duffy of Chicago and Janice Duffy Lowrance of Mooresville, N.C., and son-in-law Jeffrey Lowrance and granddaughters Anna Paige Lowrance and Avery Grace Lowrance of Mooresville. Also surviving are siblings Patrick Duffy and Maureen Duffy Hills of Chicago.

Jim proudly served in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Chief Petty Officer in 1981. He thoroughly enjoyed a second

career with Duke Energy as Manager of Resource and Recovery until retiring in 2003. Jim was involved in scouting for much of his life, first as a Boy Scout and later as a leader of Explorer Scouts. He was a Past National President of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA).

He was a faithful Christian who enjoyed singing in church choirs and served on the Church Council and as past Council President of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Charlotte. Jim was an avid reader; loved music, photography, hunting, fishing, and traveling; appreciated good food; and was especially talented at woodworking. So many of his family and friends will always cherish the wonderful creations Jim crafted in his woodshop.

His family and friends were very dear to Jim, and they loved his wry sense of humor and generous spirit. He was a wonderful husband and father. He taught his daughters to be self-reliant, and loved to spend time with his granddaughters, telling them jokes and stories.

NERA is deeply saddened to hear of Jim's loss and would like to offer our deepest condolences to Jim's family. He will be greatly missed. Fair winds and following seas, our friend.



YNC Henry V. Inglese, NERA Past President

1933–2015

NERA is sad to announce the passing of Past NERA National President, YNC Henry V. Inglese. Hank joined the Navy in 1952 and served NERA as National Secretary during 1982 and 1983; as Vice President in 1984; and as National President in 1985 and 1986. He was a charter

member of the Garden State Chapter of Northern New Jersey and served in a number of offices in his chapter, including President, Vice President and Membership Chairman. Hank served with several Navy Reserve units during his career, including Mobile Inshore Undersea

Warfare Unit 22 as Assistant Administrative Officer and Command Chief; NR Surface Division 3-37; and NR Surface Division 3-18.

As a civilian, Hank was employed in the food management industry as an accounts manager. He was a graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University with a degree in Business Management. Hank was a member of the Elks, American Legion, and served as Chairman of the Scholarship Fund for St. Joseph College (School of Food marketing).

Our condolences go to Hank's wife Lucille and his family. Hank will be greatly missed. Fair winds and following seas, our friend.



Department of Veterans Affairs Happenings

By Michael P. Hughes

VA has been under increased attack and scrutiny by Congress and in the media, much of it deserved and some undeserved. Following is a short summary of some of the issues:

Health Care

Choice Program

Mandated by legislation and a direct result of negative access issues at several VA health care facilities and falsification of scheduling data to meet performance standards. Increased funds and in the number of veterans referred for care outside the VA.

Denver/Aurora, CO replacement hospital construction project.

Cost over-runs of over an estimated \$1.5 billion has resulted in a mandated oversight by the Army Corps of Engineers on the project.

Accountability

Due to the scheduling and performance scandals, legislation gave the VA Secretary more power to fire the over 400 Senior Executive Service (SES) for non-performance. There is legislation pending to extend this authority to cover all supervisors. It limits and/or freezes all performance awards and bonuses for VA managers.

Infrastructure

Half of the VA medical facility hospitals are over 60 years old and in need of major upgrades and improvements. The Secretary has asked for more construction funds to address this issue.

Access

There has been an over 44% increase in referrals for health care to providers outside the VA system recently, but issues still remain with an antiquated scheduling system.

VA is working on a new scheduling system, but the process needs to be accelerated to adequately provide service to veteran patients.

Even with the issues noted above the Veterans Health Administration still has some the best health care available in our nation. Satisfaction surveys show that veterans are overwhelmingly satisfied with the care they receive at VA and the VA scores on the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) are consistently higher than those of private sector and other public medical facilities.

Benefits

Claims

The main issue confronting the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) over the last few years is the claims backlog for compensation and pension benefits. There are currently over 4 million veterans receiving compensation and pension benefits. VA has been striving to reduce the backlog of claims awaiting adjudication to meet the goal of 125 days from receipt and has made real progress. The backlog has gone from a high of over 611,000 in March of 2013 to approximately 74,000 at the end of November 2015. Unfortunately the number of claims appeals has risen and VA attributes this to the increase in the number of claims filed by 990,000 over the last 4 years. VA has noted that the number of appeals has remained at 10% to 12% of the overall number of claims. VA is striving to meet a goal of zero backlog of claims over 125 days from receipt by the start of calendar January 2016 and is diligently working to establish a fully digitized claims process.

VA is striving to meet a goal of zero backlog of claims over 125 days from receipt by the start of calendar January 2016 and is diligently working to establish a fully digitized claims process.



Blue Water Navy Update

Courtesy of Commander John Wells, USN (Ret.)

Report from Capitol Hill. Military-Veterans Advocacy (MVA) spent the last week in Washington advocating for veterans issues. Executive Director, Commander John B Wells, USN (retired) met with the Committee staffs for the Majority and Minority on both the House and Senate side.

This week was unusual because Congress was out of session, there were a number of court cases and everything was closed for Veterans Day. That gave me a great “veg time” which I used to wander around the various veterans monuments. I found this inspiring.

HR 969/S 681, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2015 continues to be the focus of much of MVA's work. This bill is supported by virtually every veteran's organization. I am happy to report that MOAA, the American Legion, VFW, FRA, AUSN and others have consistently focused this bill in their sessions with members of the House and Senate. Their comments, as well as ours, have been well received.

HR 969 has 289 co-sponsor and the Senate version S 681 has 34 co-sponsors. It is on the radar of both the House and Senate Committee Chairman. There are two things that are holding the bill up at this point. First, is the requirement to go over the Congressional Budget Office score. CBO has missed two deadlines and the Committee is continuing to pressure them. The second holdup is the VA draft regulation to be issued in response to Gray v. McDonald, which is supposedly over at the White House. Both of these items will directly affect the cost of the bill and the need to identify any offsets.

The Senate Committee staffs (both Democrat and Republican) have been trying to contact the VA to find the status on the regulation. So far there has been no response. Notably a planned meeting between a supporting Veterans Service Organization and Secretary McDonald was postponed until next year with little notice. One staffer told me that a “cone of silence” had descended over the VA on this issue.

Consequently, I met with two other attorneys Friday morning concerning pending Da Nang harbor cases that had been disapproved by the Board of Veterans Appeals. We are all filing next week. We intend to cooperate on the cases, ask the court for expedited consideration and possible consolidate cases. Accordingly, it is important that if anyone knows of a Da Nang Harbor case denied post-Gray, please have that the veteran or his/her attorney contact me immediately. We need to coordinate these matters. Contact me via e-mail at jwells@hillandpontoon.com or instant message me.

I also met with the House Committee on HR 1769 the Toxic Exposure Research Act. They are working on fine tuning the bill. Again, the CBO is required to score the bill and there is no indication when that will happen.

We also won a Motion to Dismiss on a military religious freedom case. Based on a recent court decision, there was a strong possibility that the case would be dismissed because of a relatively obscure administrative remedy. The government agreed, however, that we had begun the compliance and we were able to convince the judge to continue the matter and allow the Service Secretary to respond. I also had a very good oral argument on a case not connected to Military-Veterans Advocacy. I also conducted a one hour webinar on veteran's law for the Federal Bar Association. I will return to Washington DC on December 8. Our goal is to meet with the House leadership on HR 969 and to follow up on the post-Gray litigation.

I realize that some of you think this is an endless process. I started going to the Hill in 2010 and this version of the Bill was introduced in the autumn of 2011. I was told it takes 5–7 years to get a “new money” bill through Congress. So, we are actually on schedule. This is not the time to give up hope. Keep the cards and letters coming to Members of Congress, the Senate, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the White House. Visit Military-Veterans Advocacy on Facebook and like us.

Keep the cards and letters coming to Members of Congress, the Senate, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee and the White House.



NERA's New National Executive Council

Master Chief Stephen R. Sandy

National President, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



Master Chief Stephen R. Sandy is a retired 32 year veteran of the United States Navy Reserve. His career spanned from 1967 and the Commissioning Crew (Plank Owner) on the John F. Kennedy (CVA 67) thru his retirement in 2003. He was the Command Master Chief of Navy Reserve Navy Command Center 106,

in support of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) N3/N5 under the command of (at the time Captain) now Rear Admiral Jeffrey A. Lemmons. During his navy career, Master Chief Sandy was awarded numerous awards and ribbons the last and highest being the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

Master Chief Sandy's civilian career with the District of Columbia Fire Department was equally as long as his naval career. Beginning on March 17, 1974 and ending with his retirement as a Lieutenant on March 17, 2007

(33 years), Steve qualified for just about every certification in the fire service from Firefighter/ Emergency Medical Technician to Homeland Security's Weapons of Mass Destruction "COBRA" program. Steve also graduated from the Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute's Fire Service Instructor program and taught Basic and Advanced Firefighting at the D.C. Fire Department Fire Training Academy.

Steve has served as the Executive Director (ED) for the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) from 2006 until 2015. In his capacity as ED, he handled the day to day operation of NERA, tracked political issues that are pertinent to NERA members, and represented NERA at The Military Coalition (TMC), attended meetings with Congress and Department of Defense. He was recently elected NERA's National President and is NERA's spokesman at ceremonial functions such as Change of Commands, Sailor of the Year Awards, Enlisted Person of the Year Awards and represents NERA on Capitol Hill.

Charles Cox

National Vice President, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



IC1/ET1 (SS) Charles (Chuck) Cox has been a NERA since 1988 and a Life Member Since 1995. He began his military service in 1969. Chuck served aboard Served onboard the USS Ethan Allen SSBN 608 Blue Crew from December 1969 until April 1974. He reenlisted in the Naval Reserves in August 1986 and

served onboard the USS Clark FFG for 11.5 years. He was at the Naval Submarine Support Facility for 8 years, Det 404 Weapon Station Earle New Jersey for 3 years and served 1 year Force Protection Weapon Station after 9/11.

Chuck has been a certified teacher since 2004 and still teaches at the Applied Technology Department

instructing Introduction to Computers and Computer Repair at Irvington High School in New Jersey. His additional duties include coaching the bowling team and Robotic Club Mentor. He is a member of The Knights of Columbus, Catholic War Vets and the American Legion. Chuck has been NERA'S

Garden State Chapter secretary from Secretary 2004-2005, Vice President from 2008-2009 and Chapter President from 2006-2007 and 2010-Present. Chuck is currently serving his second term as NERA's National Executive Council Vice President

He currently lives in Monroe Township, New Jersey with his wife Marielise. They have three children Alicia, Samantha and Darin.

Marianne E. Mosher

National Secretary, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



Marianne E. Mosher is a life member of NERA since 1980, a Life Member Benefactor, and has served as National Secretary since 2009 to present. She is an active member of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chapter, having served as newsletter editor (1991-Present), Secretary (1992-Present), and Treasurer (2003-2009). Marianne

enlisted in the Naval Reserve in October 1978, and joined her husband, Duane, commuting to NASJRB Willow Grove for weekend drills.

She grew up and still resides in Bethlehem, PA. Her husband was on active duty in the Navy in the sixties, and then returned to the Reserves in 1977. In 1978, he came home from drills at Willow Grove and told Marianne that they were recruiting candidates for the Advanced Pay Grade program. Her 15 years' experience as a Secretary/Admin Assistant in the civilian field qualified her to enter the APG program as a Yeoman Second Class Petty Officer. She advanced to Yeoman Chief Petty Officer in September 1990, and retired from drilling reserve status in February 1999.

During her 20 years of Reserve duty at Willow Grove, she was assigned to NR NAS Bermuda 0693 (1978-1992) and NR NAS Keflavik 0293 (1992-1999). Her biggest challenges and also most rewarding experiences were adjusting to service in Bermuda and then in Iceland—two very different and interesting islands! Chief Mosher was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal (2), Meritorious Service Medal (4), National Defense Medal, Overseas Service ribbon (4), Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and Marksman Pistol ribbon. In civilian life, Marianne is retired from Agere Systems (formerly Lucent Technologies/AT&T Microelectronics/Western Electric) where she was employed as an Administrative Assistant/Secretary for 36 years.

Currently, she is employed part-time as Church Secretary for a Lutheran Church in Bath, PA. Marianne, her husband Duane and son Christopher, are an “all-Navy” family. Duane, also a NERA Life Member and Life Member Benefactor, retired from the Navy Reserve with 20 years service. Chris spent four years on active duty as a Sonar Tech in the submarine service. In addition, they have two grandchildren, Holly (19 years old and a junior at Temple University) and Benjamin (17 years old, senior at Nazareth High School).

YNC Joanne Elliott

National Treasurer, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



YNC Joanne Elliott is currently the Treasurer, Contributing Editor and Wounded Warrior Advocate of NERA. She also held the offices of DED and VP under Penny Padour. In 2008 she became National President.

During her 28 years with the Navy, she drilled mainly out of NASJRB Willow Grove with various units. In 1999 she was mobilized during the Kosovo operation and was assigned as the Joint Universal Lessons Learned Coordinator for Joint Task Force Noble Anvil. She was then assigned as the Navy Cell Chief at Da Molin in Vicenza, Italy. In 2001, she was recalled again to Washington, DC as the Admin LCPO of the OPNAV Mob Cell, where she was responsible for

processing and tracking over 15,000 Navy Reserve billets. YNC Elliott was then sent to CINCUSNAVEUR, London to head a team of Volunteer Income Tax Assistants (VITA). In 2003, YNC Elliott was again mobilized in support of Iraqi Freedom to Norfolk, VA where she not only processed individual personnel on and off active duty but supervised the Admin department of the Transient Personnel Department for the Norfolk active duty personnel. She also became one of the Casualty Assistance Calls Officers for the Mid-Atlantic Region as well as a Command Financial Specialist for the active duty station.

Since 2003, she has worked with the Navy and advocacy groups to aid reservists returning from active duty who are experiencing problems obtaining continuity of care as well

continued on page 16



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, continued

as helping to ensure that these individuals receive proper medical care. She has also assisted sailors with issues concerning pay, retirement, and USERRA issues.

As a civilian, YNC Elliott is a licensed realtor with over 38 years of experience and was affiliated with several law firms from 1970 to 2009, as a secretary, paralegal, and as an administrator of an immigration department. From January 2009 to February 2011 she worked at the Pentagon.

She is a member of the American Legion Post 0148, United States Naval Institute, The Navy League, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6393, The Women's Memorial, the U.S. Navy Memorial, and a life member of the Willow Grove Chief Petty Officers Association.

She is a graduate of Excelsior College (cum laude) and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Debbie Fallon

National Counselor, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



Debbie Fallon grew up in Somerville, Massachusetts as the first of seven children (one girl, six boys).

When she was small, her father always told her stories of how much he enjoyed being in the Marines and how it changed his life. Regrettably, her father died from injuries sustained

from a hit and run accident when she was fourteen years old. After high school, her mother was financially unable to help her continue school, so she enlisted in the United States Navy under the delayed entry program.

She started her military career in 1978 as a female fireman recruit and subsequently working in an almost all male environment. She said it was one of the most challenging parts of her career. Debbie was very capable to do the work however her challenges lay more in the every change of duty, or rotation of her fellow sailors. She had to begin the learning curve again to earn their trust and instill the

confidence that "women" could do the job.

Debbie informed us that without a doubt, becoming a Chief Petty Officer was her proudest moment in her career. It was not easy, but the day she was pinned was the day that she will keep in my heart forever.

Describing her worst experience, Debbie told us that the feeling she felt after 9/11 and knowing that there was nothing those in uniform could have done to stop it, was horrendous. And for those of who were in service that day, she felt like it happened on their watch.

Debbie told us that she thought that life after retirement would be allowing more free time, but she was wrong. It seems that with chores at home, work, being a mother and grandmother, a NERA Chapter President, NERA National's Executive Counselor and NERA's Recycle Coordinate, her days are quite full. However, Debbie wouldn't change a thing and lives happily with her husband Kick in Salem, New Hampshire.

Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret)

Executive Director, Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



Michael P. Hughes, was born in Elmira, NY. He enlisted in the Navy Reserves at the end of his junior year of high school under what was then known as the 2x6 Program (2 years of reserves, 2 years of active duty, and 2 more years of reserves). He re-enlisted several times in the Reserves after

the initial enlistment and retired after 27 years of total service. Mike attended boot camp and Radarman "A" school at Great Lakes Navy Training Center, IL while still in Reserve status during the first 2 years. On active duty, he served on the USS Sunbird (ASR-15) homeported in New London, CT and sailed on her for a North Atlantic and Mediterranean deployment. He next served as a plank owner on the recommissioning of the USS Sanctuary

(AH-17) and served on her while deployed for over a year in Vietnam. The last active duty assignment was on the USS Pivot (MSO- 461) while in the yards in Long Beach, CA. Mike drilled with several reserve units at reserve centers (now called NOSCs) in Horseheads, NY, Lehigh Valley, PA and Anacostia, DC. He has been a member of NERA since 1974.

Mike said the most memorable time of his Navy career was making Chief Operations Specialist while drilling at the Lehigh Valley Naval Reserve Center in Allentown/Bethlehem, PA. Especially noteworthy was that he had to go through the chief's initiation twice.

Once at Lehigh valley and again a week later while on a 2 week active duty for training aboard the USS Miller (FF- 1091). According to Mike, the chiefs' initiations back then (1976) were nowhere near as tame as they are now.

In his civilian career, he retired from the Department of Veteran Affairs after 35 years of service as a GS-15, Senior Medical Program Analyst. Mike and his wife Terri have been married over 50 years and have two grown daughters, 2 granddaughters ages 25 and 9 and 1 grandson age 19.



LETTERS TO NERA

**NERA loves feedback. Keep them coming
by emailing us at members@nera.org.**



November 2, 2015
403 Audubon Dr. N.
Satsuma, AL 36572

NERA Scholarship Committee
6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042-2189
(800) 776-9020

Committee members:

I would like to express my gratitude to the NERA Scholarship Committee for awarding me a \$3000 academic scholarship for the 2015-16 year. This award helps to relieve the financial burden that accompanies the pursuit of an undergraduate degree, and generates in me a sense of prestige and accomplishment that no other scholarship is able to provide. I am extremely humbled and honored to be considered for such an award, and would like to thank the Committee for its generosity. The scholarship is very much needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Burleson



Marine Corps Family Day

The Marine Corps Family Day held at the Marine Corps Reserve Center Sacramento was attended by about 200 people. NOSC Sacramento and Marine Corps Reserve Center Sacramento share the same building, the same picnic ground, and same drill hall. Marines, family members, friends and support groups attend this event. The event was held on September 12, 2015 and the weather was beautiful. NERA's Gold County Chapter has been attending this event for over ten years and enjoys serving the community. We are proud of your good work and salute you Gold County Chapter. You really live the motto "Not for yourself, but for your country."



Top Left: 1stSGT Christian Bull

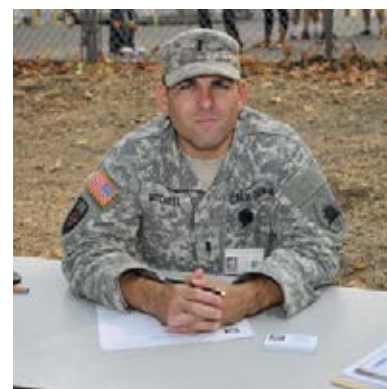
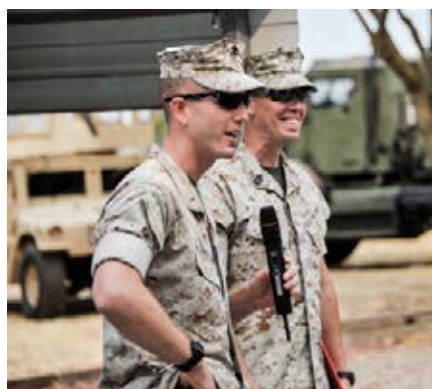


Top Right: Lynn Johnson, the Gold County Chapter Special Events Coordinator, with her granddaughter Emma.



Center Right: 1stSGT Michael Parks and his family





Second Row Center: Reserve 1stLT Christopher Coulon and 1stSGT Michael Parks

Bottom Row Left: BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse provided a delicious lunch and drinks to the attendees



Reserve Senior Leadership Visit Highlights Importance of PSUs to National Security

Story by PA3 Lisa Ferdinando, 5th District Public Affairs Detachment Baltimore

Sharpsshooters locked their gaze on activity around the perimeter, armed guards intercepted a simulated improvised explosive device at an entrance gate, and crews on the water engaged in a high-speed chase to halt a suspicious boater.

These scenarios played out in June when members of Port Security Unit (PSU) 305 staged an eight-day deployment exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina.

Rear Adm. James M. Heinz, then Director of Reserve and Military Personnel, visited the exercise accompanied by Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson.

The mission, dubbed Operation Iron Aegis, showcased the high-level expertise of the Fort Eustis, Virginia-based PSU

in establishing a base of operations and conducting important security operations, noted both Heinz and Johnson.

According to Heinz, PSUs are an integral part of national security with highly trained members who rapidly deploy for waterside and shoreside security missions around the globe. There is a great deal of visibility in the Coast Guard and the Department of Defense about what the PSUs are doing. “Whether you’re on the front lines, whether you’re preparing to go, (there is) lots of interest on what this is,” Heinz told the members in an All Hands meeting. “We understand and the commandant gets told how important this mission is with his DoD counterparts.”

PSU 305 deployed to New York Harbor after the attacks of September 11, 2001. Other deployments since 2001 include Kuwait, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Rota, Spain.



Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Eric Johnson addresses members of Port Security Unit 305 during their field training exercise. U.S. Coast Guard photo by PA2 Lisa Ferdinando

PSUs, which are staffed by reservists and supported by an active duty support staff, are designed for sustained operations in support of military and humanitarian operations worldwide. The units can deploy within 24 hours and establish operations within 96 hours.

Heinz noted how he and Johnson visited PSU 312 at Guantanamo Bay in October and that Coast Guard

Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft traveled in April to Guantanamo and met with members of PSU 308.

In a question and answer session, Heinz and Johnson covered a variety of topics, including current budget challenges, the critical role of reservists in the Coast Guard, priorities for the commandant, readiness, and entitlements.

According to Heinz, PSUs are an integral part of national security with highly trained members who rapidly deploy for waterside and shoreside security missions around the globe.

Grateful Nation

The world continues to be unsafe and the men and women of the PSUs will again be called upon to safeguard the nation's interests, Johnson said. "If you don't think we need a strong defense, we absolutely do," he said. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you for what you do and how you do it." The most important thing, Johnson said, is for reservists to maintain readiness so they can answer the call for service when it comes.

For excellence in their rates, the PSU selected five members for recognition: ME1 Derek Gawrilow, BM1 Damuel Infanti, SK1 Zachary Prince, MK2 Eric Zupan, and OS3 Ryan Carden.

Johnson called up the five and presented each of them with a coin. "Although we're recognizing five individuals, I wish I could dedicate 150 coins today to each of you," he said.

Real World Training

The Cherry Point exercise provided valuable experience that satisfied training requirements and exposed members to a myriad of situations they could face when deployed, according to Lt. Patrick Hanley, PSU 305's future operations officer. "We invented a mock environment where we really wanted to inject a bit of realism of what it may be like if they were in a host nation dealing with an adversary," he said.

The PSU base had berthing, power, climate control, and a tactical operations center with a fully operational deployable field communications package. As part of the mission, members conducted tactical training on land and water, including machine gun training for the Waterborne Security Division. "Our goal was to do a mock deployment and really test our ability to get our equipment out, stage it, put it up, and run through a full deployment and movement," Hanley said.

Members of the PSU did a tremendous job in meeting the logistical challenges of setting up a base and expertly carrying out their security mission, said Cmdr. Michelle Watson, the commanding officer of PSU 305. "I commend the entire crew for the successful planning and execution of this exercise," she said. "Our members are ready to deploy at a moment's notice. I am extremely proud and have absolute confidence in their expertise and abilities."

PSU Command Master Chief William Gillis also complimented members for meeting the challenges of the deployment while demonstrating professionalism, enthusiasm and flexibility. According to Gillis, the training exceeded the unit's goals for the exercise. "I was awed by the team effort I witnessed throughout the pre-deployment, deployment, and redeployment to Fort Eustis," he said.



NERA 58th Annual Conference

NERA held its 58th Annual Conference in Norfolk, VA. According to all accounts, this conference was a big success. A big thank you to Penny Padour and her husband Jerry who helped organized it. The hotel and staff were exemplary. Considering this was an election year, NERA's new National Executive Council (NEC) was elected with relative ease. Note that Steve Sandy stepped down as Executive Director and is now NERA's President. Mike Hughes, previously the Deputy Executive Director, has stepped into the role of Executive Director. Here is the list of the new NEC:

Stephen R. Sandy, National President
president@nera.org

Chuck Cox, National Vice President
vp@nera.org

Marianne Mosher, National Secretary
secretary@nera.org

Joanne Elliott, National Treasurer
treasurer@nera.org

Debbie Fallon, National Counselor
nc@nera.org

Geno Koelker, Past National President
pnp@nera.org

NERA was honored to have Rear Admiral Thomas W. Luscher as guest speaker for the Awards Luncheon. Rear Admiral Thomas W. Luscher, a native of Youngstown, New York, is a 1986 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. He was designated a naval aviator in January 1989 at NAS Kingsville, Texas, where he remained as a flight instructor until reporting to Fighter Squadron (VF)



101 for initial training in the F-14 Tomcat in 1991. He holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and has accumulated over 4,500 flight hours in a variety of naval aircraft. His military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal (Strike/Flight award), Navy Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and various unit and campaign awards.

According to RADM Luscher speech during the luncheon, a big concern for the Naval Reserve today is the incident in Chattanooga. They are beefing up security at the NOSC's and providing 70 armed watch standers, one at



every NOSC. They are sending a team to each NOSC to study what to do to upgrade security at the NOSC, such as bulletproof glass and hardened entry doors. They are planning to spend \$4.5 million to upgrade the Baltimore NOSC. C40 airplanes are replacing the C9B's.

He also spoke how the Seabees are consolidating and going from 10 Reserve squadrons down to 5. There is big growth in the cyber or Information Systems area. In 2001, we mobilized 10,000 sailors; this year, 2,400 were mobilized. They plan on staying at about 2,500 mobilizations/year. Projected end strength of 60,000 is the lowest it's ever been and is 68% of original strength. As of 10/15/15, end strength is 59,800. SURGEMAIN is very important using Reservists instead of hiring civilians for a month or two.

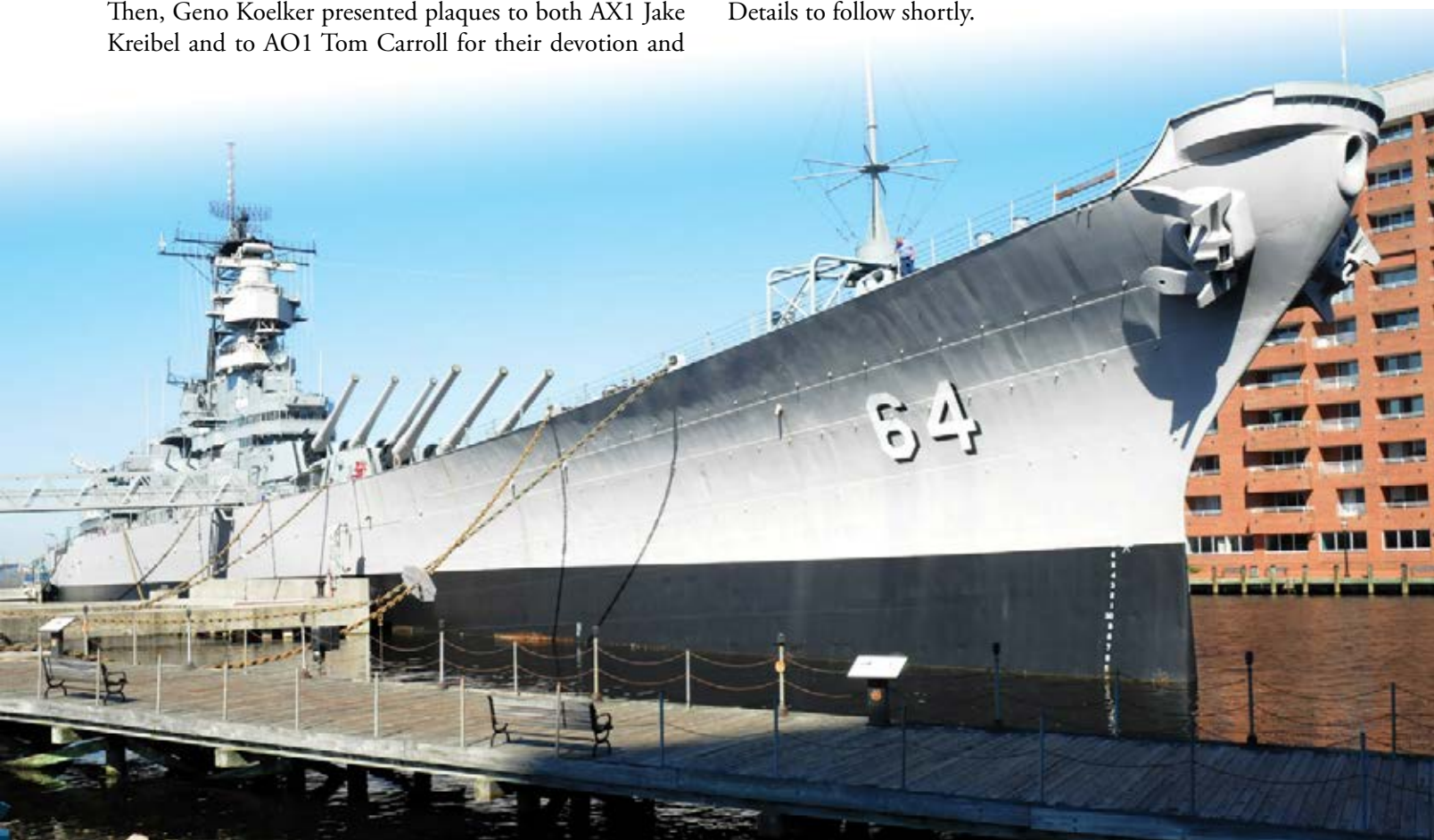
RADM Luscher presented to Past President, Geno Koelker, this year's NERA's 1776 Award. Each year, NERA selects a member who has best exemplifies superior performance and service to the Naval, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Reserves; outstanding service to his or her community; and outstanding service to NERA. Geno was honored to receive this award and NERA was pleased to recognize his service.

Then, Geno Koelker presented plaques to both AX1 Jake Kreibel and to AO1 Tom Carroll for their devotion and

hard work on NERA conferences. Their dedication over the years is truly appreciated. He also presented a plaque to PH1 Ray Robson, our photographer for all his hard work and beautiful photographs. During the luncheon PNC David K. Titus, USNR (ret.) won the \$100.00 USAA drawing and we were honored to have AD2 Richard Stancel of the San Francisco Chapter attended this as his first NERA conference.

The surprise of the conference was when two large buses pulled up in front of the hotel with about 50 individual augmentees (IAs) Corpsmen. They were exhausted and hungry from a long journey. These corpsmen were from all over the United States and had just served 9 months in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. NERA's hospitality suite soon become the hopping scene while the corpsmen and NERA members joked over pizza, some beers and chicken wings. NERA members commented how well the group bonded with each other and what a great team of professionals. The Commander who led this group was extremely proud of them and it was obvious why. NERA was honored to host these young men and woman upon their return and a fun night was had by all.

We hope you can attend NERA's next Annual Conference. Details to follow shortly.





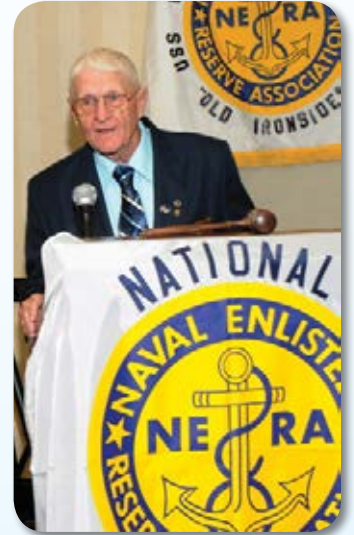
HIGHLIGHTS FROM NERA'S 58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE







58TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS, continued





CITY of NORFOLK

Office of the Mayor

Paul D. Fraim
Mayor

TO ALL THOSE ATTENDING THE
NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION
58TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 14 - 17, 2015

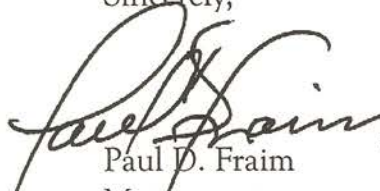
Greetings!

On behalf of the City of Norfolk, it gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to all those attending the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association 58th Annual National Conference. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your service. We are honored to serve as host city for this gathering and look forward to sharing our hospitality with each of you.

In between scheduled events, I encourage you all to take advantage of the many opportunities our vibrant and authentic urban waterfront community has to offer. In our walkable downtown, we hope you visit the award-winning Slover Library, take a harbor cruise of the Elizabeth River, shop in the MacArthur Center Mall, explore historical artifacts at the MacArthur Memorial, or discover Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin. If time permits, I also highly recommend the serene beauty of the Norfolk Botanical Garden, the collections displayed in the Chrysler Museum of Art, and a visit with the animals of the Virginia Zoo.

While Norfolk embodies the cultural and commercial advantages of a big city, visitors and residents become wrapped up in the intimate charm, historic past and friendly atmosphere of our old seaport town. Thank you for choosing Norfolk. We are glad you are here, and we extend our best wishes for a successful conference.

Sincerely,



Paul D. Fraim
Mayor



Meet the Members

NERA would like to honor a special NERA member by featuring them in our Meet the Members section. If you or a person you know deserves to be honored, please let us know by emailing ypurtill@nera.org.

In this issue we feature Chuck Sherrick, a loyal NERA recruiter and friend.

Charles Sherrick was born in Chesterton, IN. He enlisted in the Naval Reserves in January, 1951. He was called to Active Duty on April 6, 1952 during the Korean War and spent time in the Amphibious in Little Creek, VA. Chuck was released on December 5, 1953 and returned home to Indiana. He remained in the Reserves until he retired in June 1993. He was attached to many units as the Chief Yeoman and received 4.0's from all the Commands. During his last years, he was attached to NWSPECWAR and did my two weeks with the Seal Teams. Chuck is still proud of his LIFE UDT-SEAL member of the UDT-SEAL Association.



All this took place while he was a letter carrier in the Elizabeth New Jersey Post Office. Chuck moved up the ranks to management as the Safety and Injury Compensation Specialist and retired in 1989. While working at the Post Office, he ran a root beer stand and helped his father who was suffering from MS. This did not stop him from remaining in the Naval Reserves and he said weekends came around rather fast.

Chuck was married to his lovely wife, Margaret for 57 years. Sadly, she passed away three years ago. Chuck said his Margaret was everything to him and she is greatly missed. Margaret was the Secretary in NERA's Garden State Chapter and was loved by all. When Chuck was NERA's President in 2000, Margaret accompanied him to all his locations supporting NERA. When Chuck went out to recruit at the NOSCs, Margaret was there taking applications. Chuck is the proud recipient of 10 consecutive NERA Recruiter of the Year Awards and attributes his success to his lovely wife Margaret.



Chuck and Margaret had two boys and two girls. Tragically, Chuck lost one of his sons (age 52) to cancer two years ago. He was an IBM Vice President and most likely would have been the CEO. He left behind his wife Renee and two boys, Chris and Matt. Chuck proudly speaks of his grandsons. Chris, who is brilliant student, is a senior attending Virginia Tech. Chuck's oldest son lives in Wisconsin and he looks forward to visiting him every Thanksgiving.

He is presently living with his oldest daughter, Debbie, in Berkeley Heights, NJ. Chuck said his daughters' support and love have helped him tremendously and he wouldn't know what he would do without them. If you attended the Marine Corps Ball, you may have meet one of his lovely daughters. According to Chuck, he was the only "Swabby" there as he wore his Dinner Dress outfit. (Chuck also said that he has recruited many NERA members at this ball.)

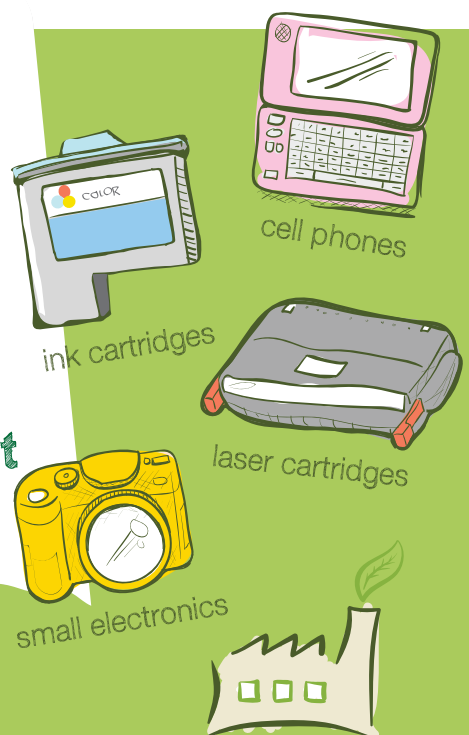
Chuck is currently semi-retired and works part-time as an Office Manager for the Jersey Mortgage Company in Cranford, NJ. Chuck is very proud and lucky to work with his daughter. She is one of the Vice Presidents and has been there for 15 years. Chuck is a Life Member of NERA, a Life Benefactor, Life Member of the FRA and the Navy League. Chuck runs the NERA Chapter's Retirement ball for the last 12 years. At the last Ball in April 2015, his shipmates honored him by changing the banner to read "CHUCK SHERRICK GARDEN STATE CHAPTER OF NERA." Most of his family was in attendance for this special night. Chuck was truly surprised and honored. He is still active with NERA's Garden State Chapter, and has held an numerous officer positions (President 9 years, Vice President 8 and currently the Secretary/Treasurer.)

NERA is very grateful to Chuck Sherrick for his loyalty and dedication. We are honored to have you as a member and are truly grateful for all you do for our organization.

Recycle... TURN TRASH INTO CASH!

Help us earn free equipment
and cash by turning in...

To learn more, go to NERArecycles@nera.org
or contact Debbie Fallon at (603) 858-4144
or via e-mail nc@nera.org.



FundingFactory
fundingfactory.com



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

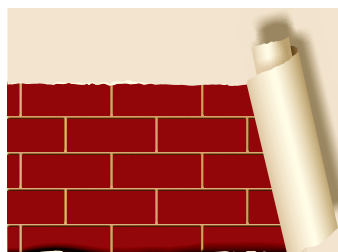
We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

AOC Alfred L. D'Angelo
QMCS Charles E. Balcom
YNC James Michael Duffy
YN2 Rosemarie Grabowski
SM1 Harry R. Hagemann
HT1 Carl H. Hazen
RMCS(SS) Douglas D. Henson
HT1 Arthur W. Irvine
YNC Henry V. Inglese

Niagara Frontier
Niagara Frontier
Central Carolinas
Niagara Frontier
Bay Area Buccaneers
Niagara Frontier
Edmund Couto
Niagara Frontier
Garden State

YN1 Neil R. Jarvis
ENC Robert Leopold
DMC Alton N. Lowe
BUC David L. Meppen
Mr. Richard S. Pulkownik
SKC Theodore W. Rogahn
CSC James E. Scott
YNC Joseph R. Zdimal

Niagara Frontier
League Island
Hampton Roads
Capital District
Niagara Frontier
Chumash
Bay Area Buccaneers
James F. McAuliffe



NERA Memorial Walk

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

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

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



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

Phase 1: Will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole.

Phase 2: Construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA HQ.

Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

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



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