

THE **MARINER**

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The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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

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

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

National Vice President
MNI Duke Hayes, USN (Ret.)
405-360-2186
vp@nera.org

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

National Treasurer
OSCS Paul Smurawski, USNR
treasurer@nera.org

National Counselor
SKCS Gene McCarthy, USN (Ret.)
404-714-0378
nc@nera.org

Past National President
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.)
(H) 215-547-7004
pnp@nera.org

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

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

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

Printing
Mercury
240-631-1389

Design
Karen Durland
kdurland@gmail.com

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Cover Photo by Leo Wieger

The Mariner, 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 entitled to published subscription rates. Articles, letters, and JPEG photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor/DED via e-mail to: MarinerEditor1@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: vp@nera.org.



Nick Marine
National President

Thank You!

It is time to say goodbye and I want to thank my wife Jennifer, my daughter Danielle and my son Ryan for putting up with all my NERA talk. I know without their love and support I would have been unable to serve as NERA's National President.

There are so many people I want to thank. I will start by thanking the past and present NEC members, especially Geno Koelker, Duke Hayes, Marianne Mosher, Gene McCarthy and Paul Smurawski, whose help was instrumental in getting things accomplished. I also want to thank all Past National Presidents for their support, advice and guidance during my tenure. A special thanks to Chuck Sherrick, Joanne Elliott and Penny Padour for always being there for me. I can't forget to thank all the NERA Life Benefactors who helped NERA with their kindness, generosity and confidence.

I want to call attention to NERA's devoted staff who helped me tremendously. Steve Sandy- you are a great friend, great leader and one of the most amazing people I have ever worked alongside. However, with all that said, I still will never allow you on my boat ever again! Mike Hughes- thanks for your friendship, and staying the course with me. I truly enjoyed getting to know you and without your attendance at all TMC meetings, NERA would be in the dark. Mike is so devoted to NERA, he even donated his time trimming the hedges at NERA HQ. Next time I want some nice topiaries-how about a ship or dinosaur? Jennifer Abbott- thanks for running NERA behind the scenes. Mike, Steve and I actually believed we had a say, but I finally realized you are really running the show. You are loyal, hardworking and you never gave up on any of us. I consider you a great friend and I will miss hearing you say "totally" after every idea I presented to you.

“Believe you can and you're halfway there. The best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done, and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it!”

— Theodore Roosevelt

As your outgoing NERA National President, I will leave you with my last thoughts. NERA needs to increase membership, get more advertisers for the Mariner and online, all existing life members need to become benefactors, everyone should buy magazines subscription from PCI (link on NERA's website), and support USAA: NERA's affinity partner. Get the NERA/USAA credit card with the NERA logo, it is an easy and helpful way to support NERA. Thank you Joe Robles for giving us a great USAA affinity team. Chris Glennon, Collin Younger, Robert Warren and Theresa Bilotta- you are all amazing people and it was an absolute pleasure getting to know each of you.

It's now time for me to spend more time with my family. NERA has been my life since I retired from the Navy in 2006, and it will always have a special place in my heart. It has been an honor serving NERA and I thank all of you for this opportunity.

NERA Nick

A Call to Action: Recruit a Member!



**Master Chief Steve Sandy
wants you to recruit a new
member for NERA.**

For just \$30 a year, a member can get professional support, receive the Mariner magazine, scholarship opportunities and more.

Or for \$300, become a lifetime member with all those benefits and become part of an elite group of Sea Service Reservists for life.

nera.org



Joanne Elliott
Past National President

Rutherford County Veterans Advocate Loses Final Battle

By: Dan Whittle, Post Contributor, September 2, 2013

Rutherford County resident Harriett Howard, known throughout Tennessee as a tireless advocate for military veterans, kept on giving until her death. She was 89.

female veterans at the York and Nashville VA hospitals. In 1986, after Harriett launched a blitz of faxes, news releases, phone calls and letters (this was before e-mail) to senators, representatives and even the White House, the VA hoisted a white flag and surrendered to increased health care for women veterans.

A memorial service for Howard was held on Wednesday, Sept. 11, at Woodlawn Funeral Home on Thompson Lane in Nashville. "Harriett Howard is a 'force' when it comes to fighting for the benefits and medical treatment of veterans," added military veteran John Furgess, also a volunteer force on behalf of military veterans. Harriett, a Navy clerk in Washington, was privy to the most secretive wartime plans and attacks leading up to D-Day and the Normandy Invasion of France. After retirement from the military in 1984, she became a dedicated advocate for veterans throughout Tennessee.

Howard, known as the consummate volunteer at the Alvin C. York Veterans Administration Medical Center in Murfreesboro and Nashville VA Hospital, continued to give even after her death. "Harriett donated her body for medical research at Vanderbilt," said surviving family member Dottie Carter, of Smyrna. "After drawing her last breath, it was her last act of giving." In the 1980s, Howard declared "a public communications war" after VA officials continued to deny adequate medical coverage for

In the 1990s, VA executives in Nashville and Washington attempted to close the highly used York VA. More than 100,000 veterans from throughout Tennessee and the Southeast came annually for the treatment at the Murfreesboro facility that has been in service to veterans since the early 1940s. Howard helped launch a petition drive that netted more than 250,000 supportive signatures of veterans and veterans' families to keep York VA open for health care.



Harriett Howard, a longtime veteran advocate who served in the U.S. Navy, salutes during the 2010 Memorial Day celebrations in Smyrna, Tenn. Howard died Aug. 26, 2013, in Rutherford County. (TMP File Photo)

Ultimately, retired Rep. Bart Gordon (D-Murfreesboro) and Rep. Jim Cooper (D-Nashville) held a public hearing at York's auditorium, which was filled with concerned citizens, veterans and their families from Tennessee and several surrounding states. Today, York hospital remains open for ailing and aging veterans in the wake of retired Navy Chief Petty Officer Harriett Howard's barrage of publicity.

This Tennessee Volunteer activism came after Navy WAVE Harriett Howard had served her nation on active military duty for 39 years, 7 months and 28 days.

Howard helped launch a petition drive that netted more than 250,000 supportive signatures of veterans and veterans' families to keep York VA open for health care.

DELTA Dental Update

When the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program TRDP contract begins January 1, 2014, it will include a number of government directed changes that will enhance the program's benefits and ensure premiums are as affordable as possible. One of these changes requires that Delta verify enrollment eligibility with the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) and initiate an allotment (automatic deduction) for enrollees receiving retirement pay. In September 2013, Delta will request

allotments for enrollees who are receiving military retirement pay, but aren't having their premiums deducted through an allotment. Upon verification by the appropriate finance center, allotments will begin for the October 2013 billing cycle. Delta has recently notified enrollees who are not receiving retirement pay that they will need to establish an electronic funds transfer (EFT) for the October 1, 2013 billing cycle. For more details please see Delta Dental's website at <http://www.trdp.org/>.

Military Service Records

If you need to get a copy of your service records go to <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/#.Uiiyx3GZOho.email>. Be advised you will need

the member's social security number or service number to obtain the information.



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.



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



Legislative Updates — Fall of 2013

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

As usual, NERA is addressing many issues with Congressional Representatives and Senators

that concern our service members and their families. I'll briefly address a few in this article.

Our main concern is the overarching specter of another round of sequestration. It is expected to impact all of the military, but especially our Reserves and retirees. Unless Congress acts, DoD will have to absorb an additional cut of \$ 50 billion in their FY 2014 appropriations. NERA,

opposed to a Chained CPI calculation. The Chained CPI would result in a loss of .3% decrease per year compared with the current CPI-W. That means that annuitants would lose 3% after 10 years, 6.2% after 20 years and 9.4 percent after 30 years. As an example, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees has calculated that someone getting a \$ 31, 440 a year annuity would lose over \$77,000 over 30 years. It would lower the standard of living for these annuitants, as they would likely have to substitute lower cost items or go without some standard items.

There are several proposals supported by the President to cut compensation and benefits for military retirees. Even a special commission has been convened to come up with recommendations to cut these military benefits. DoD is claiming that personnel and health care costs are soar-

NERA continues to fight to correct the Fiscal Year restrictions on the Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit and for concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retirement.

along with our allied military and veteran associations of The Military Coalition, are working hard to get Congress to act to curtail the effects of sequestration on our members' compensation and benefits.

Another issue of major concern is the President's proposal to change the current method of determining annual cost of living adjustment (COLA) from the CPI-W to a Chained CPI. Both are computations using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to determine needed increases for Social Security, military and federal employee retirees. Explanations of the technical differences and computations of the methodologies are too lengthy and complicated to address in this article. The major differences is in the amounts of annuity compensation to beneficiaries over time that make NERA

ing. The truth is that personnel and health care costs have remained basically constant at around 30% of the overall DoD budget for the past 30 years. They even reprogrammed over \$2.8 Million from FY 2010 to FY 2013 of "excess" budgeted health care funds.

NERA continues to fight to correct the Fiscal Year restrictions on the Reserve Retirement Deployment Credit and for concurrent receipt of VA disability compensation and military retirement. Currently only those with a disability rating of 50% or more are entitled to concurrent receipt.

If you have a specific issue or topic you'd like addressed, please let me know by contacting me at neradeputy@nera.org. I look forward to hearing from you.



Clifton Duke Hayes
NERA
Vice President

Hello NERA Members and Friends,

Well, it's been a busy summer and the National Conference is fast approaching. My efforts at recruiting have been challenging, to say the least. What I have discovered from my communications with various centers is that there is little time that can be taken from active training periods.

Reserve Center Commanding Officers and individual unit CO's seem unwilling or incapable to allow an open forum to talk

in it for me?" Which of course I have to consider the list of benefits that NERA offers the new member. I then have to ask myself, is there anything more that we can offer a new member? The honest answer is, I just don't know if there is anything else we can offer a new member. We just need to emphasize how NERA can help them professionally by connecting them to other Reservists and leaders, and advocating on their behalf in Washington.

I am still committed to finding some common ground that will help us make NERA grow.

about NERA or other service type organizations (like the VFW or the American Legion.) The general feeling that I have received is that if a Reservist wants to join these types of organizations, the sailor should seek them out on his or her own time and not during training periods.

Clearly, this is frustrating and makes our job of seeking new members much more difficult. I have sought suggestions as to how to reach out to the individuals that might be interested in joining NERA. It comes back to the age old question: "what's

Finding the answer to these problems has proven to be elusive. I am still committed to finding some common ground that will help us make NERA grow. Due to personal health issues, I feel that it is best to pass on the position of National Vice President to someone that is in a better position to move forward. It has been an honor and a privilege being the National Vice President.

Thank you,
Clifton Duke Hayes,
NERA, Vice President

**It has been an honor and a privilege
being the National Vice President.**



Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

Dear NERA Members and Friends,

By Executive Director Stephen Sandy

NERA's National Conference is being held in Chicago on October 16-19, 2013. I am truly looking forward to this conference and meeting with all of you. With all the big changes occurring at NERA, in Washington and in the world, there is so much to discuss. Considering the Syrian conflict, the additional sequestration budget cuts, Tricare problems and leadership changes at NERA, this conference should have spirited discussions. I want to thank all the NERA elected officers for their hard work and am hopeful that the new NEC elected officers will be as devoted to NERA as their predecessors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank Nick Marine for being NERA's National President these last 4 years. I know the amount of time and devotion he gave to NERA and he will be greatly missed. His dedication has set a wonderful example for future presidents, and I want to thank him for being a good friend and President. He will always be part of the NERA family and the next National NERA President will have big shoes to fill. We wish you well upon your NERA "retirement," however we hope you will still be available to give advice or tell some jokes.

One of Nick's mission was to increase NERA's membership. I agree that membership is the key to keeping NERA vital. When people are deciding whether to join an association, the main question that is asked is "how will this benefit me?" NERA offers perks such as a free subscription to the Mariner, or generous scholarships, but these perks are not the reason why anyone would join NERA. Most people join NERA because they want to develop professionally. I want to recruit members by letting them know how NERA is a great resource to connect with other sea service reservists and the issues that affect them. The NERA National Conference is the perfect way to keep this connection with other Reservists and develop professionally. Get the word out there about the benefits of NERA and I look forward to seeing you in Chicago.

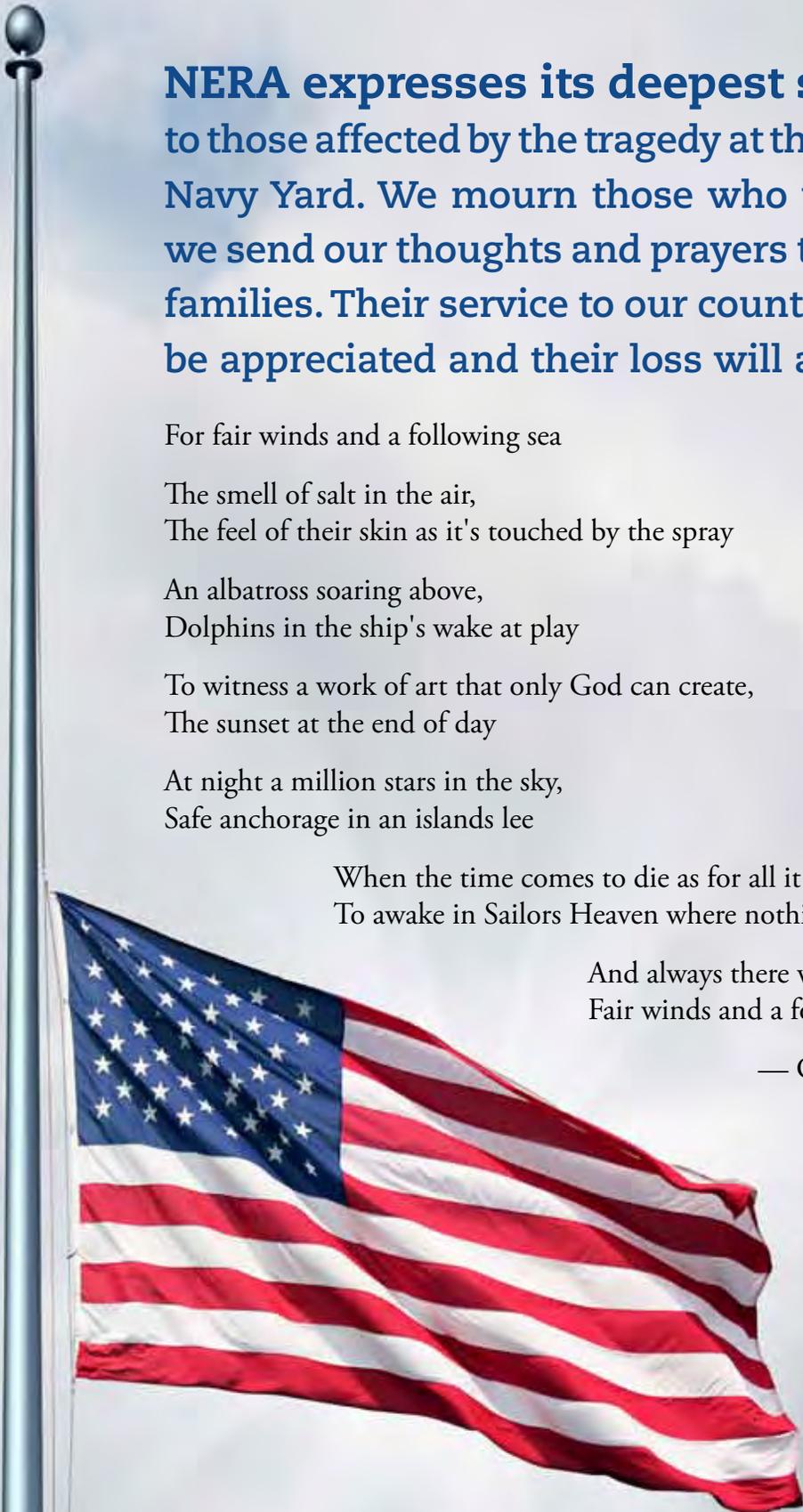
—Steve
Stephen Sandy, Executive Director, NERA

**NERA's
National
Conference
is being held
in Chicago
on October
16–19, 2013.**

**Visit
nera.org
to register.**

**“The Navy has both a tradition and a future and we look
with pride and confidence in both directions.”**

— Admiral George Anderson, CNO, 1 August 1961



NERA expresses its deepest sympathies to those affected by the tragedy at the Washington Navy Yard. We mourn those who were lost and we send our thoughts and prayers to the grieving families. Their service to our country will always be appreciated and their loss will always be felt.

For fair winds and a following sea

The smell of salt in the air,
The feel of their skin as it's touched by the spray

An albatross soaring above,
Dolphins in the ship's wake at play

To witness a work of art that only God can create,
The sunset at the end of day

At night a million stars in the sky,
Safe anchorage in an islands lee

When the time comes to die as for all it must,
To awake in Sailors Heaven where nothing ever rusts

And always there would be,
Fair winds and a following sea

— C. D. Williams



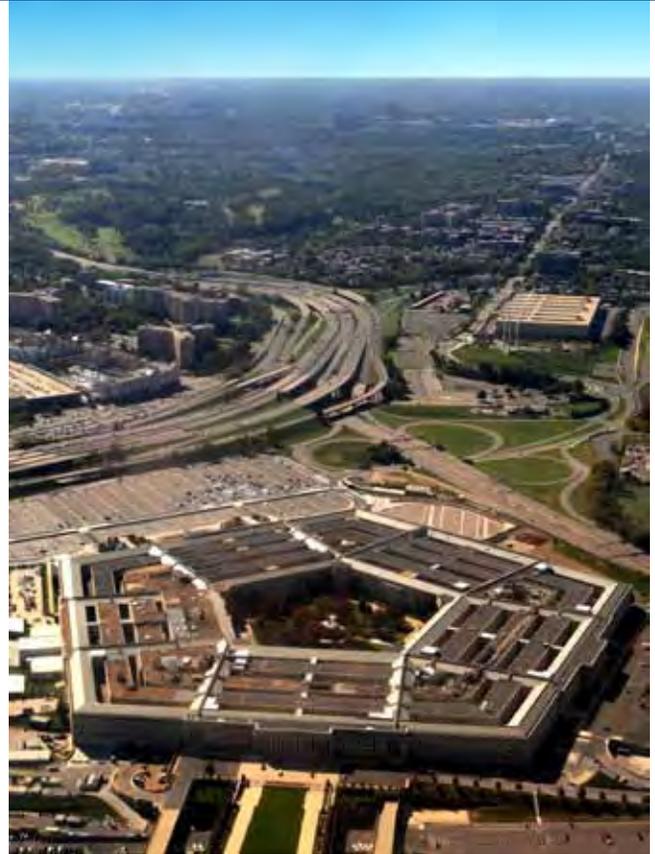
Sequestration: Round 2

By Yvette Purtil

Sequestration will not go away. The new federal fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and Congress has yet to pass a bill or come up with a plan in an effort to stop the cuts. The across-the-board budget cuts will indiscriminately continue for nine more years, cutting approximately \$100 billion a year. Half of these cuts come from Defense Department programs. Lawmakers are not fixing the problem and are using Band-Aid approaches like temporary bills to keep the government flowing at current budget levels. If Congress fails to repeal or amend the sequestration law, the Pentagon will have to cut about \$52 billion, or about 10 percent, effective October 1.

The Pentagon is considering the following cuts to meet the budget:

- U.S. Navy plans to reduce, eliminate or consolidate a total of 35 flag officers.
- The Defense Department is preparing to lay off more than 6,000 civilian employees.
- One proposal is to cut carrier groups and air wings, requiring fewer sailors.
- One idea is to reduce Basic Allowance for Housing rates, forcing troops to pay more out of pocket for housing.



With these budget restraints, Navy officials are stating that the Navy is most likely to be smaller and forces will be deployed longer. Ships will be deployed less often and pilots will fly fewer missions. The Navy may be forced to eliminate scheduled maintenance periods and cancel multi-year contracts on new ships. Troops' pay will be exempted from the budget cuts until 2014, but deeper cuts to the Defense Department's budget will most likely affect training, readiness, modernization and new weapons systems.

Troops' pay will be exempted from the budget cuts until 2014, but deeper cuts to the Defense Department's budget will most likely affect training, readiness, modernization and new weapons systems.



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**Mine was earned aboard
USS HANCOCK.
By my dad.**

Susan S., USAA member



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BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY



The Big J Experience

By PSC(sel) Natalie Howe

As a sailor serving in the active component of the United States Navy generally gets duty to a ship for their first tour of duty, reserve personnel on the other hand may not ever step foot on a navy ship. On Friday, September 6, 2013, a group of Sailors got their first chance. The Chief Petty Officer Selectees from NRD New York, Fort Dix, and MDL attended the fifth annual CPO Selectee Encampment Program onboard the second USS New Jersey (BB-62) (The Big “J”). This 887 foot Iowa-class battleship is the most decorated battleship in naval history. It has served the country in World War II, The Korean War, The Vietnam War, and The Lebanese Civil War. Throughout the years, USS New Jersey was commissioned and decommissioned, then finally retired to its current resting place in Camden, New Jersey in 1991. Today, this beautifully maintained battleship is a museum and memorial for all who has served upon her decks.

As a reserve sailor, walking up the pier to embark on one of the ships that Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr. commanded

elicited feeling of joy, excitement and fear. To know that this ship has seen battles that happened far before my birth amazed me. For this to be the first ship that allowed me and a few other fellow selectees to experience shipboard life was mind blowing. As awesome as this experience was, I was also terrified because I was actually on a naval vessel that has lead sailors in and out of war. I did not want to do anything to disrespect her. The navy is a service that has many customs and traditions, and though I have read about what to do in situations like embarking and debarking a navy vessel, it is much different when you are to perform. This fear was short lived because my fellow selectees, who have served on a ship, watched out for those of us who were not familiar with the procedures. This camaraderie was one of the major lessons of this exercise. Selectees from three different commands, who have never met before, came together and became one large cohesive squad. We meshed so well that there was no way to tell who belonged to which command. Our solidarity was apparent in the performance of our final task of conducting a ceremony to honor all that were affected by the events of September 11, 2001.



Opposite: Battleship New Jersey at Night. Photo by Leo Wieger.

Above: Retired Master Chief Joe McMahan. Photo by Joanne Elliott.

Right: OSC(Sel) Thomas Walsh (speaker) and ABHC(Sel) Jermaine Boyles. Photo by Joanne Elliott.

Below: 9/11 Remembrance Participants. Photo by Joanne Elliott.





BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY, continued



The 9/11 memorial service was beautifully executed. OSC(Sel) Thomas Walsh delivered a wonderful heartfelt speech that summed up the horrific events of that day. He also spoke about how much stronger we all became after uniting to pick up the broken pieces of our lives after losing so much. He ended by saying that, “we carry the memories of those we have lost with us, they teach us, they guide us, and they become a part of who we are. Through those memories, through our heritage we will bring the victims, the families, the fallen, with us as we build a better brighter future.” ABHC (Sel) Morden Joyles lead the ceremony as the master of ceremonies, while ABEC(Sel) Boone stood by his side as the master at arms. The burial at sea detail consisted of the following personnel: YNC(Sel) James Ampley, NCC (Sel) Jehar Ortiz, E-7 OSC(Sel) Zeppi Dyer-Johnson, SHC (Sel) Pablo Ayala, ISC(Sel) James Schreiber, E7 LNC(Sel) Inez Thompson, LSC(Sel) Christopher Cintron, NCC (Sel) Woolded Isaac, and OSC(Sel) Edwin Jimenez.



Chiefs and 2014 Chief Selectees from NRD New York and JBMDL Fort Dix/McGuire. Photo by Leo Wieger.

YNC(Sel) Paola Barreto spoke out over the 1MC saying, “All-hand remember the dead” while AEC(Sel) Suba, Christina fired one shot from one of the battleship’s smaller guns. The remaining selectees who stood in ranks looking on as the ceremony unfolded were NCC (Sel) Bruce MacDougall, AFCW(Sel) Jason Baldwin, CTRC(Sel) Frank Sarrica, NCC (Sel) Thomas Soto, HMC(Sel) William Oconnell, ABHC (Sel) Chanda Ings, ITC(Sel) Ray Terreforte, AFWC(Sel) Ryan Schuyler, and myself PSC (Sel) Natalie Howe. The friendships that formed and lessons learn on this USS New Jersey event will be something we will all remember for the rest of our lives thanks to the ship’s crew and the genuine Chiefs that attended.



**The 9/11
memorial
service was
beautifully
executed.**



Top: LNC Inez Thompson, OSC Zeppi Dyer-Johnson, NCC(Sel) Pablo Ortiz, LSC(Sel) Christopher Cintron. Photo by Joanne Elliott.

Above: ISC(Sel) James Schreiber (holding flag). To his left: OSC(Sel) Edwin Jiminez, YNC(Sel) James Ampley. Photo by Joanne Elliott.

Left: Photo by Joanne Elliott.



The New NERA National Recycle Program

I am pleased to announce the new NERA National Recycle Program. Debbie Fallon, President of the USS Constitution Chapter, who has been successfully participating in this effort on behalf of her Chapter, has graciously accepted my request to oversee this program.

I encourage all chapters and members to help NERA in this “Nationwide” Recycling Program. It is quick and easy, and will not only help the environment, but help NERA raise funds to continue to protect the rights and benefits of all Reservists.



How can you help?

Just recycle your **Inkjet Cartridges, printer cartridges, toner cartridges, cell phones, and small electronics** such as **iPods/MP3 Players, Digital Cameras and GPS Devices** from your homes, jobs, local businesses and around your community (See the Qualifying List at nera.org for all acceptable items). Get a pre-paid shipping label, package them and ship them off. And the best part of this program is it will not cost your chapter any out-of-pocket expenses.

If you are interested in supporting our new program or if you have any questions, contact “National Recycle Coordinator” Debbie Fallon at (603) 858-4144 or debbiefallon@msn.com. Or contact headquarters via the new NERArecycles@nera.org or call (800) 776-9020, or (703) 534-1329.

Please review the guidelines below and check out our ad on page 23. Thanks for your support.

How the Recycling Fundraiser works

Simple Shipping Guidelines

1. CONTACT HEADQUARTERS or DEBBIE FALLON FOR SHIPPING LABEL:

A few items you might need:

Shipping box	Pre-paid shipping label (one per box)	Newspaper or bubble wrap	Sealable plastic bags	Packing Tape
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2. USE YOUR OWN BOXES:

Find a large, sturdy box no larger than 20” Wx20H x 24” D and able to hold a maximum of 40 lbs. when full.

TIP: Use old newspaper or bubble wrap as filler in boxes to protect items during shipment.

3. PACK BOXES USING THE 20/20 MINIMUM:

20 acceptable items. **or** 20 lbs. of items.
(i.e. 10 laser cartridges + 5 inkjet cartridges + 3 cell phones + 2 iPods = 20 items)

4. Attach one pre-paid shipping label to a box and seal shut. Leave it for the UPS driver or take it to any UPS drop-off location.

NOTE: Do not call UPS for a pick up. If called for pick-up, UPS will charge a mandatory fee that cannot be waived or reimbursed. Call 1-800-742-5877 or visit ups.com for the drop-off locations nearest you.



Dear Mr. Sandy,

I would like to say thank you for the gift as part of the Sailor of the Year event. I appreciate your organizations participation in an event such as this.

From Brian & Shanda DeNike

To Everyone at NERA,

I would like to sincerely thank you all for awarding me this scholarship. It has helped my family tremendously with college expenses this year. I hope to do well and look forward to my years at UNCC.

Best wishes,
Jessica Norwood



Jessica Norwood, will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She will be studying Business, specializing in Advertising and Marketing. Pictured with her is her grandfather, William J. Kaczor. Machinist Mate Senior Chief Kaczor served active and reserve time between 1954 and 1982, for a total of 28 years.

(Forwarded message to NERA *Mariner* Editor from CMDCM Ron Naida)

FORCE,

I wanted to share this good news story.

We have an absolutely awesome group of Deployed Naval Reservist here in Germany from Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit (MEMU) 14. They are located at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) and the Warrior Transition Program Center in Sembach Germany.

CMDCM Ron Naida (Cc'ed) leads this group of Corpsman and his team is responsible for receiving all MEDEVAC'ed service members from the CENTCOM, EUCOM and AFRICOM AOR's at LRMC, as well as transitioning all Navy service members returning from IA assignments in CENTCOM. This is no small task, as I am sure you are aware. His team of professionals continually meets the mission with the kind of motivation that inspires everyone to step it up.

CMDCM Nadia wrote two articles that appeared in the Summer Edition of "The Mariner", the official publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The articles outline just one of the community outreach projects that they have undertaken and lifesaving surgery on one of their own (Link below-Pages 14 and 28) but these stories are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the impact they have had here.

On behalf the AFRICOM Surgeon and the German Area Chiefs Mess, I would like to convey that the MEMU-14 Corpsman have done an absolutely incredible job supporting the Nations Wounded Warriors, the Navy's returning IA Sailors and promoting the Navy's good will throughout the German community.

Thanks for your time and continued support.

Very Respectfully,
HMCS(SW) Blake W. Cooper
Hospital Corpsman Senior Chief
USAFRICOM Surgeon
Senior Enlisted Advisor

We'd love to hear from you. Send letters to members@nera.org.



Coast Guard PSU Deploys to South Korea

By Coast Guard Petty Officer Second Class Etta Smith



A boat crew from U.S. Coast Guard Port Security Unit (PSU) 313, from Everett, Wash., conducts a security patrol in a 4th generation, 32-foot transportable security boat (TSB) off the coast of Dogu beach in support of exercise Foal Eagle, April 21, 2013. PSU 313 along with Republic of Korea military forces, provided 24-hour water-side and shore-side force protection during Foal Eagle, a Combined/Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore Exercise (C/JLOTS). (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Etta Smith/Released)

Through chilling winds and choppy seas, five-man crews aboard small, gray, security boats worked tirelessly for 10 days. They patrolled waters around a massive 348-foot petroleum vessel near the coast of Pohang, South Korea.

Boat crews from Port Security Unit (PSU) 313, based in Everett, WA, worked night and day to enforce a safety zone around the U.S. Naval Ship Vice Adm. K.R. Wheeler and an eight-mile submerged pipeline that extended from the

ship to the shores of Dogu Beach. During Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore (CJLOTS) exercise, the Wheeler simulated providing fuel for the more than 1,200 personnel involved in the exercise by pumping water through the pipeline to large bladders on shore. These bladders would then be used to fuel military vehicles and equipment in a real-world scenario.

“We provided protection for the pipeline and prevented local fisherman from anchoring or dragging fishing nets



Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Spencer Filzen (second from right), of Port Security Unit (PSU) 313 of Everett, Wash., talks with marines from the Republic of Korea while standing a joint, security watch at the Joint Operations Center during a Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore Exercise (CJLOTS), April 20, 2013. This is the first time since 2006 that a Coast Guard PSU has participated in the Korean Theater of Operations (KTO). (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Etta Smith/Released)



across the pipe,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Jordan Gere, a reservist for eight years. He has been with PSU 313 for almost three years and is a Snohomish, WA native. “We overcame our biggest challenge, the language barrier, by incorporating Korean augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) personnel into our boat crews to serve as interpreters.”

The KATUSA program provides the U.S. military with Korean-speaking soldiers, allowing greater military functionality and maneuverability. This exercise brings together U.S. military troops and Korean allies to build working relationships, enhance security and readiness on the Korean peninsula.

The crew of PSU 313 also provided 24-hour force protection on shore, side-by-side with Republic of Korea (ROK) military personnel during CJLOTS, an annual exercise comprised of more than 1,200 U.S. military personnel from 43 commands, working in conjunction with the Republic of Korea’s military forces.

“Security teams ran entry control points alongside the ROK Marines and ROK Navy,” said Gere. “ROK personnel helped with security and communication at the check points.” In addition to language barriers, unpredictable weather conditions also proved challenging for PSU 313. Temperatures would fluctuate rapidly between 30 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit. The seas would be calm one minute with more than 8-foot swells the next, and winds gusted up to 50 miles-per-hour.

“Safety was always priority one,” said Coast Guard Cmdr. Daniel Clark, commanding officer for PSU 313. “In accordance with policy, the boat crews operated the Transportable Port Security Boats (TPSB) 24/7 in a broad spectrum of weather conditions and identified some mechanical areas we need to improve. This was a good opportunity and a good environment to do that.” During roving patrols on foot along Dogu Beach, security teams would walk nearly three miles along the shore day and night, taking intermittent refuge in tents to keep warm. Shore-side security teams rotated watches through five different checkpoints, working closely with the Korean military and building relations with the Korean Navy and Marines.



U.S. Army soldiers walk along wooden planking at Camp Baldwin built by U.S. Navy Seabees during a Combined Joint Logistics Over-the-Shore Exercise (CJLOTS), April 27, 2013. CJLOTS is an annual exercise comprised of more than 1,200 personnel from 43 commands working in conjunction with the Republic of Korea’s military forces. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Etta Smith/Released)

“The Coast Guard provides security for ports across the United States,” said Coast Guard Rear Adm. Charles Ray, Pacific Area deputy commander. “We’ve been doing this for over 200 years, and we’ve got a role to play here. The only way you develop the capability is to go do it. When our nation needs us, these guys will be ready.”

“When our nation needs us, these guys will be ready.”



What can you do for NERA?

NERA Executive Director Steve Sandy takes calls daily from members inquiring how they can help NERA-- his favorite part of the day. It was suggested that Steve compile a list of FAQs about how you can help NERA.

1. Apply for and use a USAA/NERA Credit Card.

USAA provides great terms and low interest rates, and NERA receives cash back. Just using this card is a very easy way to support NERA.

2. Become a NERA Benefactor.

This program is available to all members. The cost of membership is \$550.00; this includes a NERA Life Membership. Existing Life Members can purchase a NERA Benefactor membership for a reduced cost of \$250.00.

3. Recruit a New Member.

4. Postage Donation.

\$15 a year can help offset our mailing costs for our free quarterly magazine, The Mariner. US Postage rates continue to increase and the cost to mail The Mariner this year alone will account for over \$13,000.

5. Buy a Brick.

Memorial Bricks can be used to celebrate your military career or honor the life of a loved one. The bricks will be strategically placed at NERA headquarters. For more information, visit nera.org.

6. Contribute to the Building Fund.

NERA Headquarters is in need of a new roof and gutters. The most recent bid on the project was \$12,451.50. To contribute to this fund, contact Penny Padour, Chairman of the Building Repair Fund. (Phone: 815 322-6277 Email: nerawindycity@hotmail.com)

7. Make a Donation.

Make a general donation to NERA. Any amount is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use. Use the Donation button at nera.org.

Any further questions should be directed to Steve Sandy at (703) 534-1329 or neraexec@nera.org.

Join at nera.org or use this form and mail it to NERA Headquarters at:

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Attn: Membership, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189

Information

NAME _____

RATE/RANK _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

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CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

SPONSOR _____

Branch of Service

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

Duty Status

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

Membership Type

- Active
- Associate

Dues Payment Amount

- \$30 - 1 Year
- \$57 - 2 Years
- \$84 - 3 Years
- \$300 - Life
- \$100 - Life Member (Payplan)*
- \$550 - NERA Benefactor (existing Life Members can purchase at reduced cost of \$250)

** Partial Pay to be paid within six months*

Payment Information

- CHECK (enclosed) CREDIT CARD Visa MasterCard

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____



Problems Still Plaguing Tricare West

By Yvette Purtil

Problems still continue for the Tricare West Region after UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans assumed management of this contract on April 1. The 21-state region started experiencing problems immediately after the transfer. Patients were unable to obtain authorizations for referrals and the Pentagon took the unprecedented step of waiving this authorization requirement. Even now, it is reported that doctors are not getting paid, patients are having trouble getting treated and claims are bogged in bureaucracy.

UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans was awarded the Tricare West region contract in March 2012 and assumed management in April 1, 2013. This contract serves 2.9 million beneficiaries in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa (excluding the Rock Island Arsenal area), Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri (excluding the St. Louis area), Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas (the southwestern corner, including El Paso), Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. This healthcare contract is worth up to \$21 billion over the next five years. According to the Navy Times, Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo. invited Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Jonathan Woodson to his district to hear the problems first hand. According to Lamborn, "A lot of providers are having trouble getting paid and navigating through the

cumbersome claims process, and beneficiaries are having trouble getting treated."

According to the Navy Times, Jeff Anderson, a practice manager for the Colorado Dermatology Institute in Colorado Springs, states that his practice has dropped 33 percent in referrals because of problems at UnitedHealth Care Military & Veterans. Another complaint is that only bare minimum authorization is given to patients, resulting in patients having to return to their primary care physician to obtain additional referrals. "Beneficiaries are waiting months to even get a referral and when they come in, they are coming through with only the most basic, most generic authorization for an office visit, not for any procedures. So if you have a lesion on your skin which may be cancerous, you are only authorized to come in to see us

"Beneficiaries are waiting months to even get a referral and when they come in, they are coming through with only the most basic, most generic authorization for an office visit, not for any procedures."

and you have to go back to Tricare for another referral. The physician is faced with a dilemma: either he or she tells you to go back and get that new referral or we treat and hope that Tricare will pay," Anderson said.

UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans is aware of the shortcomings. They have hired additional staff and allowed unlimited overtime to curb the problems. The company spokesman said they have accomplished "a real, measurable progress in many aspects of operations."

NERA would like to hear from you if you have experienced any problems with Tricare West. Contact us at neraexec@nera.org.

Communication with NERA

By Yvette Purtill

In response to an article in the 2013 Summer Edition of the Mariner, NERA received a phone call from a widow of a veteran in Utah. She is having difficulties with UnitedHealthcare Military & Veterans as her Tricare provider. She informed us that she went to her doctor in May of this year and is still struggling with this claim. Blue Cross Blue Shield is her primary insurance and Tricare as her secondary insurance. UnitedHealthcare insists on sending her repetitive paperwork asking for her primary insurance information. All the information has remained the same for years, and her information is up to date in the DEERS system. She is baffled why they keep asking for information that she has provided them. The doctor's

office processed this claim 5 or 6 times, to no avail. UnitedHealthcare keeps denying the claim and asks for the primary care information, even though they have the information already.

This is just one example of the problems affecting patients and physicians for Tricare West. This patient's husband served our country for 38 years, and now she has to fight with an insurance company over a co-pay for a regular doctor's visit. If you have experienced any problems with accessing health care or claims being denied, we would like to hear from you. Contact us at neraexec@nera.org or (800)-776-9020.

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INTO CASH!**

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For more information, contact our
"National Recycle Coordinator" Debbie Fallon
at (603) 858-4144 or debbiefallon@msn.com.
Or contact headquarters via the new
NERArecycles@nera.org.

(Please see page 24 for detailed instructions.)



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NERA 2013 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 16, 2013

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
1800	2100	Registration	177
2100	2400	Meet and Greet / Mixer	Hospitality Suite South B

Thursday, October 17, 2013

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
1000	1400	Base Tour / Burkey NEX — Spouses/Guests ONLY	Main Entrance
0700	0800	Registration	177
		Coffee & Rolls	HS South B
0800	0830	Opening Ceremony Color Guard — Zion-Benton NJROTC National Anthem — Waukegan High School A Capella Singers Benediction - Chuck Sherrick YNC Honorable Wayne Motley — Mayor of Waukegan Capt. William Bullis CO NTC USAA - Chris Glennon Nat'l President Nick Marine SKCS (Ret)	South A
0830	0930	Business Session	South A
0930	0945	--- BREAK ---	
0945	1030	NEC Officer Nominations	South A
1030	1035	Guest Speakers: Debbie Fallon, NERA Recycles	
1035	1115	Radm. Dee L. Mewbourne	
1115	1145	Business Session, C&BL - Part I	South A
1200	1445	AWARDS LUNCH	East Ball Room
1445	1515	Business Session, C&BL - Part I (cont.)	South A
1515	1530	— BREAK —	
1530	1600	Business Session	South A
1700	2300	Casino Rivers DesPlaines	Main Entrance
1600	2400	Windy City Chapter	Hospitality Suite South B

Friday, October 18, 2013

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
0600	0645	Coffee & Rolls	Hospitality Suite South B
0630	1130	RTC Graduation - Great Lakes - NEC Candidate Forum / Business Session, C&BL — Part II and Senior Enlisted Panel - TBA have been rescheduled - those not attending the RTC Ceremony are on their own.	Main Entrance
1130	1330	OPEN LUNCH — Members/Guest are on their own.	
1330	1400	NEC Candidate Forum	South A
1400	1430	Business Session, C&BL — Part II	South A
1430	1445	— BREAK —	
1545	1645	Business Session, C&BL — Part II (cont.)	South A
1700	2300	Navy Pier - Friday (1700–2300)	Main Entrance
1600	2400	Windy City Chapter (Hospitality Suite)	Hospitality Suite South B

Saturday, October 19, 2013

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
0700	0800	Coffee & Rolls	Hospitality Suite South B
0800	1100	Voting	177
0830	1030	Senior Enlisted Panel (TBA)	TBA
1030	1100	Time & Place Committee	South A
1100	1300	OPEN LUNCH - Members/Guest are on their own.	
1300	1415	Business Session – Budget Review/Planning	South A
1415	1430	— BREAK —	
1430	1600	Business Session, Unfinished Business	South A
1730	1830	No Host Cocktail Hour	East Ball Room
1830	2300	Dinner followed by Introduction & Swearing In — NEC Officers & Dance	East Ball Room

**For more information about the
2013 National Conference visit nera.org.**



Sunday, October 20, 2013

Start	Finish	Event	Location / Room
0700	1200	Coffee & Rolls	Hospitality Suite South B
0900	1000	NEC Meeting with New Officers	177

WCC NERA POC's

Penny Padour

Darlene Nickelson

For more information about the 2013 National Conference visit nera.org.



NERA'S 56TH National Conference October 16-19, 2013, Chicago



IT'S NOT TOO LATE — REGISTER FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE TODAY!

Contact Penny Padour at nerawindycity@hotmail.com

Also, NERA CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS PROPOSED AMENDMENTS to be presented at the Conference can be viewed and downloaded at nera.org.



Join NERA and Advance Your Career

Your membership to NERA gives you access to resources and services that will help you advance your career. Join NERA today and become part of our elite group of Sea Service Reservists. NERA memberships are available to enlisted members of the Navy, Coast Guard and Marines. Members include FTS, IRR, VTU and retirees.

NERA wants you to excel in career, so we provide the professional resources needed for you to grow. NERA is recognized as the premiere association for Sea Service Reservists. Benefit from our hard work advocating for you and join NERA today. You will advance your career through support, participation, and advocacy and become part of the NERA's Sea Service Reservists family.

Annual 1 Year NERA Membership:	\$30.00 (1 year)
Annual 2 Year NERA Membership:	\$57.00 (2 years)
Annual 3 Year NERA Membership:	\$84.00 (3 years)
Lifetime Membership:	\$300.00 (one-time fee)

Already a Member?

You can still support NERA by becoming a NERA Benefactor. Join the ranks of this special group who recognizes the importance of NERA's work. NERA Benefactors are vital to NERA's advocacy efforts and growth as an organization. We truly appreciate their efforts in advancing NERA's cause.

The plaque honoring NERA Benefactors at NERA's Headquarters states:

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

Existing Lifetime Members:	\$250
New NERA Benefactor (includes Lifetime Membership):	\$550



Help Secure the Future of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

Suggested Language for Making a Bequest to the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

You may include a bequest to support NERA when preparing your will or by adding a codicil to your present will. Bequests may be of cash, securities, real estate or other property. Bequests of all sizes are welcome, whether they are outright, contingent or residual.

If you are considering designating how your bequest will be used by NERA or establishing an endowed fund through your estate plans, please contact (or have your professional advisor contact) Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA, at 800-776-9020 or neraexec@nera.org.

Please note: This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. We recommend that you consult with a qualified estate planning attorney when drafting your will.

Your request should be directed to The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The following language may be useful to your attorney:

Specific Bequest

“I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$_____ to be used for the general support of NERA.”

Residual Bequest

“I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, ___ percent of the residue of my estate to be used for the general support of NERA.”

Contingent Bequest

“In the event that _____ predeceases me, I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$_____ (or, alternatively, ___ percent of the residue of my estate) to be used for the general support of NERA.” ■



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.

Mrs. Suzette Allen
AMHC Elmer (Bud) F. Chapman
Ms. Millie N. Farill
MM1 Harold R. Gillman
DCC Chester J. Kowalski
HM2 Pamela A. Pechulis
CMC Thomas E. Richard
ENC Joseph Schauchulis

Grand River Valley
Floyd Bennett
John D Wood
Grand River Valley
Central Pennsylvania
Washington State MAL
Grand River Valley
Garden State



“A Tribute to HMCM Manny Ratner”

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 ** Members who are “double” NERA Benefactors.
 † Members who have Passed Away



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