

THE **MARINER**

2015 Spring Edition | Volume 58 · Issue 1

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



NERA NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime. Anywhere.



Reserve Sailor of the
Year CM1(SCW/EXW)
Jimie Bartholomew (center)

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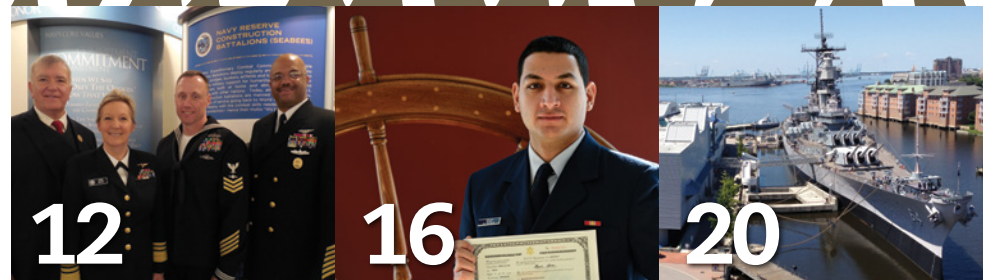
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Cover: Reserve Sailor of the Year Ceremony. NERA Executive Director, Steve Sandy. VADM Braun, RSOY Winner CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew, FORCM (AW/SW) CJ Mitchell (far right). Photo Courtesy of ACCM Delores Rucker

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



Geno Koelker
National President

Ahoy Shipmates,

It has been over a month since my wife, Verna, Executive Director Steve Sandy and I attended the 100th anniversary celebration of the Navy Reserve at the Navy Memorial in Washington D.C. We wish to thank Vice Admiral Braun for recognizing NERA, Steve Sandy and me in her opening remarks. This event was well attended with numerous flag

officers and past Naval Reserves commanders in attendance. Much was made of the rich history of the Navy Reserves and all it has accomplished during the last 100 years. It was noted that it was a Reserve ship and crew that fired the first shot in WWII which sank a Japanese mini-sub, attempting to enter Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941.

food and service was class "A" and their shuttle service was outstanding. I urge everyone to mark your calendar for this year's convention. Remember, it is an election year and in addition to the business issues, such as the cost and expenses of maintaining our current office. The Joe Wasson Chapter has been working hard to provide the same quality conference that we experienced last year.

In other business, in my traveling and speaking to Navy/Marine and Coast Guard military members, I have become aware of the very sad state of affairs our military is currently having to contend with in their operating environment. Training, maintenance and other critical SOP is being reduced, delayed or done away with to deal with the current budgetary restraints. Simple things, such as trying to find which base gate is open, or at what times you might have access, are frustrating enough and only signify the depth of the problem. Now they are consid-

**"I urge everyone to mark your calendar for this year's convention."
October 14–18, 2015 • Norfolk, Virginia**

At the event, we were able to view the Navy Memorial's 100th year commemorative coin and the book, *Ready Then, Ready Now, Ready Always: More than a Century of Service by Citizen Sailors* by Commander David F. Winkler, U.S. Navy Reserve, (Retired). I must admit, however I am not totally objective, that NERA's coin is a fine looking coin, especially for the price. The hard cover book was very well done and a nice addition to anyone's library. I was honored to attend this event and represent the fine men and women of NERA, past and present and future.

Presently, most of us are shaking off the winter blues and dealing with the welcoming spring time and all the chores associated with the changing of the season. Be careful not to overdo it and cause yourself the associated muscle aches and pains, or injuries, which often occur. We need everyone healthy and planning on attending our upcoming convention (which is only 6 months away). While on our way to D.C., Verna and I spent a couple of nights at our host hotel, the Holiday Inn at Norfolk, to check out the area and facilities. For me, being an Aviation and a WESTPAC sailor, I had never had the occasion to see this part of the country and Navy. We were well pleased with the accommodations and staff at the Holiday Inn. The

ering shorter cruises, which may sound good, however, what is that really addressing? If the active duty side is struggling that much, where does that leave the reserve community? More cutbacks or elimination of services, or worse, personnel. Being at the bottom of the heap, we all know and have felt the effects this transfers to the reserves, no matter what is said. It is more critical than ever that your voice and concerns are heard.

NERA deals with these issues on a daily basis and only by attending your chapter meetings and our conventions can you show how much these issues mean to you. For us lucky retired folks, it signals to the Navy and our drilling reservist our unending support of them. In closing, there are so many people I wish to say thank you to for helping me. I am only a phone call away if needed. There are always little things that some people feel are no big deal which really matter to me. It is that attitude that really keeps me going and wanting to do more when I can. With that, I will say that I am looking forward to seeing you all again and soon.

Yours truly,
Geno



Chuck Cox
NERA
Vice President

Dear Shipmates,

As we celebrate 100 years of the Navy Reserve, we reflect back and look forward. The American Citizen Sailors-Reservists have built a proud history from the American Revolution to current Middle East engagements. Reservists are a shining example of those values that guide all of America's Navy: honor, courage and commitment.

However, the same problems that haunted the Reserve in its infancy, still plague it today. Congress is still looking for ways to cut costs and seem to think that the military pay, benefits and retirement system is an easy target. Clearly, these benefits are big ticket items and run a high percentage of the overall budget. So, the president tasked a group (Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission) to write a report detailing budgets and recommendations for lowering costs. NERA, in conjunction with The Military Coalition (TMC), a large group of uniform services and veterans associations, have been closely monitoring the recommendations provided by this Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

This commission was tasked to review military compensation and retirement systems and to make recommendations to modernize the systems. NERA and the TMC have strong concerns regarding how the Guard and Reserve retirement benefits are addressed in this commission and could create some real inequities. NERA is fighting hard to protect all benefits earned by reserve component members. Congress needs to understand that these inequities could create a backlash and could hurt career retentions in the Reserves. For example, most Guard and Reserve families do not have access to the same level of counseling and support that active duty members have and many Reserve component retirees do not have "veteran" status. NERA and the TMC are addressing issues related specifically to the Reserves and closely monitoring all activity that could affect benefits for all service members.

We will closely follow this commission and keep you updated. Please don't forget to register for the upcoming NERA Annual Conference being held in Norfolk, VA from Wednesday 14 October 2015 to Sunday 18 October 2015. This is a voting year, so come and be part of the NERA officer's elections. Also, check out the NERA scholarships at nera.org. These generous scholarships are available for you AND your family members and the deadline is June 19, 2015.

Looking forward to warmer weather and seeing you at the conference.

—Chuck

NERA is fighting hard to protect all benefits earned by reserve component members. Congress needs to understand that these inequities could create a backlash and could hurt career retentions in the Reserves.



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

Retiree Checklist: What Survivors Should Know

Shift Colors periodically provides a checklist for retirees and their family members. This checklist is designed to provide retirees and their loved ones with some help in preparing for the future. The checklist is not all-inclusive and should be used with other estate planning tools.

1. Create a military file.

- ☐ Retirement orders
- ☐ DD 214
- ☐ Separation papers
- ☐ Medical records

2. Create a military retired pay file.

- ☐ Claim number of any pending VA claims
- ☐ Address of the VA office being used
- ☐ List of current deductions from benefits
- ☐ Name, relationship and address of beneficiary of unpaid retired pay at the time of death
- ☐ Address and phone number for DFAS:
Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U S Military Retirement Pay
Post Office Box 7130
London, KY 40742 7130
(800) 321-1080 option #3 (for deceased members)

3. Create an annuities file, to include:

- ☐ Information about the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)
(Additional information regarding SBP annuity claims can be obtained from the DFAS-Cleveland Center office at 1-800-321-1080.)
- ☐ Reserve Component Survivor Benefit Plan (RCSBP)
- ☐ Retired Serviceman's Family Protection Plan (RSFPP)
- ☐ Civil Service annuity

4. Create a personal document file.

- ☐ Marriage Records
- ☐ Divorce decree
- ☐ Adoptions and naturalization papers

5. Create an income tax file.

- ☐ Copies of state and federal income tax returns

6. Create a property tax file.

- ☐ Copies of tax bills
- ☐ Deeds and any other related information.

7. Create an insurance policy file.

- ☐ Life Insurance
- ☐ Property, accident, liability insurance
- ☐ Hospitalization/Medical Insurance

8. Maintain a listing of banking and credit information, in a secure location.

- ☐ Bank account numbers
- ☐ Location of all deposit boxes
- ☐ Savings bond information
- ☐ Stocks, bonds and any securities owned
- ☐ Credit card account numbers and mailing addresses

9. Maintain a membership listing of all associations and organizations.

- ☐ Organization names and phone numbers
- ☐ Membership fee information

10. Maintain a list of all friends and business associates.

- ☐ Include names, addresses and phone numbers

11. Hold discussions with your next of kin about your wishes for burial and funeral services. At a minimum the discussion should include cemetery location and type of burial (ground, cremation or burial at sea). This knowledge may assist your next of kin to carry out all of your desires.

12. You could also pre-arrange your funeral services via your local funeral home. Many states will allow you to pre-pay for services.

13. Investigate the decisions that you and your family have agreed upon. Many states have specific laws and guidelines regulating cremation and burials at sea. Some states require a letter of authority signed by the deceased in order to authorize a cremation. Know the laws in your specific area and how they may affect your decisions. Information regarding Burials at Sea can be obtained by phoning Navy Mortuary Affairs at (866) 787-0081.

14. Once your decisions have been made and you are comfortable with them, have a will drawn up outlining specifics.

15. Ensure that your will and all other sensitive documents are maintained in a secure location known by your loved ones.

Organizations to be notified in the event of a retiree death:

1. Defense Finance and Accounting Service, London, KY
(800) 321-1080
2. Social Security Administration (for death benefits)
(800) 772-1213
3. Department of Veterans Affairs (if applicable)
(800) 827-1000

4. Office of Personnel Management (OPM)
(724) 794-8690

5. Any fraternal group that you have membership with:
e.g., MOAA, FRA, NCOA, VFW, AL, TREA

6. Any previous employers that provide pension or benefits.

Feedback

Our office is always looking to improve on how information is provided to the retired Navy community. Please send suggestions to MILL_RetiredActivities@navy.mil or:
Department of the Navy
OPNAV N170C
Retired Activities Branch
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-6220

NERA's NAVY Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin

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

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

Choose one of these payment options:

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





Credit: Architect of the Capitol



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES Spring Mariner 2015

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

Since our last published report deadline, a new Congress has convened with new members and changes in leadership to a few committees as a result. Sequestration and its proportionately high cuts to the Defense

budget compared to other agencies still looms for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016. See below for a synopsis of some of the issues that NERA is involved in fighting for, or against, with our partners in The Military Coalition (TMC). I'm often asked, "What does NERA do for my membership?" Here's a non-prioritized partial list of many of the goals and issues NERA fights for on behalf of our membership.

- Correct Reserve early retirement credit to include all those who have served on active duty tours for at least 90 days retroactive to September 11, 2001.
- Allow Reserve retirement credit for all inactive duty training (IDT) points earned annually. Annual IDT credit is currently capped at 130 points.
- Adequately fund Reserve equipment accounts to be able to maintain training and deployment cycles.
- Expand incentives and credits for employers of Guard and Reserve members through making permanent and expanding tax credits and payment of a stipend for employers to continue private health care coverage for dependents during periods of activation as an option in lieu of TRICARE.
- Upgrade and protect transition assistance and reintegration programs for Reserves.
- Ensure evaluation parity Reserve and Guard members being reviewed by Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) with that of active duty reviews.
- 'Veteran' status for Reserve retirees with 20 or more years of service that are currently not considered 'veterans' due to statutory requirements of lengths of active duty.
- Enactment of academic protections for mobilized Reserve members, including refund guaranties and exemption of student loan payments during activation.
- Exempt GI Bill from being considered income in any need based financial aid calculations.
- Integrate Reserve and active duty GI Bill laws in Title 38 to facilitate parity.
- Expand dental care funding to cover 180 days post-activation for Reserves.
- Ensure Reserve members have adequate access and treatment for health care during active duty and following separation from active duty service from DoD and VA health systems.
- Secure authorization and funds for government treatment of Reserve members to correct any medical or dental readiness deficiencies curing periodic health assessment screenings.
- Extend Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) beyond the 5 year limitation; amend current law to bar binding arbitration and override agreements to submit disputes to binding arbitration for USERRA issues; and amend USERRA to forbid discrimination based on Reserve status with penalties for doing so.
- Provide full Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) for any active duty service.
- Restore full tax-deductibility of non-reimbursable military travel expenses of at least 100 miles round-trip.

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Stephen Sandy
NERA
Executive Director

Please support NERA in these efforts by writing your Congress person, attending NERA's annual meeting, encouraging others to join NERA as a member, and spreading the word about NERA's good work.

Dear Shipmates,

Congratulations Navy Reserve on reaching your centennial year. I hope you have been able to attend some of the events around the country. NERA has been proud to be part of these festivities. For more than 100 years, the Navy Reserve has upheld its mission of delivering operational capability and strategic depth to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Joint Forces. After 9/11, more than 904,000 National Guard and Reserve service members have been called up. The Navy Reserve is more than 20 percent of the Navy's total assets. There has not been another time in history when the Reserve forces have been more important to the Navy. The sustained reliance on reservists only seems to grow. True to their mantra (Ready Then. Ready Now. Ready Always), Reserve combat veterans continue to reenlist. Even with these strong numbers, compensation packages have not been updated to reflect the growing needs of the Reserve force.

Reserve members and families face challenges upon returning that are different from active duty personnel. Reserve members return to employers who question their employment value, especially after dealing with multiple deployments and long absences. Reserve troops return with combat-related injuries and/or stress disorders that make transitioning back into their jobs and families difficult.

NERA and The Military Coalition (TMC) would like Congress to address these unique challenges facing the Reserve force. I think many people would be surprised to learn that Reservists do not have access to the same level of counseling and support that most active duty members have and many do not have "veteran" status. NERA is closely following these issues. To name just

a few ideas of change, NERA is demanding Congress make the following changes to help Reservists and their families:

- Improve counseling and behavioral services health services
- Improve disability rating calculations and authorizing TRICARE Reserve Select for reservist who are in Federal employment
- Foster professional and career development by improving the coordination of educational benefits for the Reserve Montgomery GI Bill and the Post-911 GI Bill for active duty service
- Modernize the reserve retirement system
- Strengthen reemployment, legal and financial protections (SCRA, forced arbitration, etc.) for Guard and Reserve personnel
- Authorize "veteran" status for certain Reserve component retirees.

Please support NERA in these efforts by writing your Congress person, attending NERA's annual meeting, encouraging others to join NERA as a member, and spreading the word about NERA's good work. Also, don't forget to register early for NERA's Annual Conference being held October 14-18 in Norfolk, Virginia. We are still looking for people to help Penny and Jerry Padmour run this meeting. If you are able to assist during this meeting, contact Penny at nerajoewas-son@outlook.com for more information.

Sincerely,
—Steve



Debbie Fallon

NERA

Executive Counselor

Hello NERA Members,

Well, here I sit on this first day of spring looking out the window and once again it is snowing! I still have two feet in my front yard and word has it that we can expect more in a few days. So, what better time for me to start my spring article for *The Mariner* than today.

I have to say, it has been a very busy quarter as your

National Counselor. I have received a number of telephone calls and emails with questions and concerns from many different members across the country. Some questions were easy to answer, some were more difficult. Here's a brief overview of these that may help some of you if you have similar questions:

1 After I have submitted my renewal and payment, how can I verify that my membership has been renewed?

I was able to look up the information for this individual, but every member can look up that information at nera.org by logging in on the website and clicking the My Profile link. If you do not have access to the internet, you can contact headquarters directly.

2 Will the NERA's Navy Reserve 100 Years Commemorative Coin be on sale at the conference?
Yes the coins will be available for \$10.00 (no added S&H costs).

3 What is the deadline for submitting information for the USAA/NERA Scholarship?

June 19, 2015. If you or a family member is interested, make sure your membership status is up-to-date.

4 How can I find an active and functioning chapter near me to join?

nera.org can supply you with a list of chapters in or near your area. You can even add or change

your chapter affiliation online after logging in and clicking Edit Profile. However, an accurate list of chapters is difficult to calculate because we are still waiting for election results to be reported, or we have not heard from some chapters who may have gone dormant. If any member has current information on chapter status, please contact me so I can update NERA records.

5 How can I make contact with a NOSC near me to recruit members?

First, I would suggest you become familiar with the Service to the Reservist Award message that comes from COMNAVRESFOR. It includes the guidelines and deadline for submission. Once you are comfortable with the procedures, you can contact the NOSC's and ask if they have any questions about this award or if they need a recommendation for a reservist. Since it has been difficult to get into the NOSC's to recruit, I suggest you use this opportunity to also talk about NERA and all the benefits of joining. Make sure to call ahead to NERA HQ to get applications, brochures, pens, decals, Mariners and other promotional material to hand out.

6 How can I promote NERA in my area to get more members?

There are various avenues available to help recruit new members depending on where you live. For example, one area is promoting NERA to your local Sea Cadet Chapter. If a cadet or parent joins NERA, they are eligible to apply for the scholarship. This is a great way to help current and future college students with much needed money. To learn if a chapter is near you, check with the National Sea Cadets at <http://www.seacadets.org/>.

7 I lost my wallet and need a new membership card. I have requested it but to date have not received one. How long does it take?

Contact headquarters and a new one will be mailed to you in a few weeks. We are also working on an online system at nera.org that will allow members to print a card from their home computer.



New VA Website

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA website has made improvements and is now easier to apply for benefits. The VA states that the website has streamlined the benefits process and it is now faster and easier to apply. The VA has standardized the forms to file disability claims and compensation appeals. They established a new intent to file claim process.

The new intent to file claim is processed through eBenefits (the online portal). It allows you to start your claim and gives you up to one year to complete it. The purpose is to give additional time to file a claim for disability compensation, pension, or survivors' benefits and preserve a date of claim while you gather evidence and complete the application



To learn more about the new VA website, please visit www.va.gov.

8 Why is the conference all inclusive? I am on a fixed income and want to attend the actual meetings, but do not have any interest in the luncheon or dinner.

I have been asked this question many times. The reason for this combined cost is to make sure we have a minimum number of our members at these functions in order to cover the meals of our invited guests. If you want to attend and need financial consideration, please contact our Executive Director Steve Sandy at (800) 776-9020. He will make considerations on a case-by-case basis.

In closing, I hope this information is helpful, or at least, generates conversation to improve our organization. If you have any additional questions, do not hesitate to contact me. And for any chapter officers, please submit your 2015 NERA Chapter Election Officer Report

before the next conference to be in compliance to vote. You can complete the form on line at <http://www.nera.org/officer-report>, contact me by email nc@nera.org, or call me at (603) 858-4144 if you need a blank form mailed to you.

Please keep NERA in your heart and conversation to bring in new blood. Remember, you do not need to be a veteran to be a member of NERA. Just someone who cares about helping us to continue supporting our troops, retirees and their families and protecting the benefits they earned.

I wish you all a wonderful snow-free spring season.

Deborah Fallon

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

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



RESERVE SAILOR OF THE YEAR

NERA is proud to announce

that the Reserve Sailor of the Year is Construction Mechanic First Class (SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew, assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25. Bartholomew was named FY-14 Reserve Sailor of the Year during a beautiful ceremony in Washington, D.C., attended by NERA's own Executive Director, Steve Sandy and ACCM Delores Rucker, NERA North Carolina/South Carolina Director, Treasurer Mid-Carolina NERA Chapter, Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun and Force Master Chief of the Navy Reserve Clarence "CJ" Mitchell praised the finalists and recognized all their contributions to the force. Reserve Sailors have responsibilities with work, family, civilian career, and Navy and all recognized the amazing work of these Citizen Sailors.



CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew

Construction Mechanic First Class Bartholomew enlisted in the United States Navy in June, 1990. He attended basic training at Recruit Training Command San Diego, California, and completed Machinery Repair "A" School in May, 1991.

CM1 then reported aboard USS Orion (AS-18) and forward deployed to the U.S. Sixth Fleet in Sardinia, Italy, from 1991-1993. Petty Officer Bartholomew served aboard USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN-69) from 1993-1994. He left active duty and affiliated with the U.S. Navy Reserve in September 2003. In 2007 he deployed with NMCB 15 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was stationed in Al Asad, Iraq, where he was the Support Shop Supervisor and Battalion Machinery Repairman (MR).

In 2010, he deployed with NMCB 25 in support of Operation New Dawn. He was stationed in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and held the position of Maintenance Supervisor (A4) for the GTMO Detachment. In 2011,

The Sailor of the Year Program was established in 1972 by the then-Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, USN, and then-Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy John Whittet, USN to recognize an individual Sailor who best represented leadership, professionalism, dedication, and superior performance. When the program began, only the Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors were recognized, however within 10 years, it was expanded to include the Navy Reserve Sailors.

Below are pictures of all the finalists for 2014 Reserve Sailors of the Year (RSOY) Award. NERA would like to congratulate CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew on winning this award, and congratulations to all the finalists. This is an amazing accomplishment for all.

Petty Officer Bartholomew was deployed with LTF-1 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan, where he held the position of Transportation Non-Commissioned Officer-in-Charge (NCOIC), and providing transportation assets to Task Force personnel. In 2014, Petty Officer Bartholomew deployed with NMCB-25 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He was again stationed in Bagram, Afghanistan, where he was the Battalion Maintenance Supervisor (A4).

CM1 Bartholomew holds qualifications in Seabee Combat Warfare and Expeditionary Warfare. Personal and Unit awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3), and various Unit and service decorations.

CM1 Bartholomew has worked for Union Pacific Rail Road for 15 years where he is a locomotive Engineer. He currently lives in Beatrice, Nebraska with his wife, Gail, and his two daughters Emily and Alison.



AZ1(AW) Ansel D. Glendenning

Aviation Maintenance Administration man First Class Ansel D. Glendenning was born on April 2nd, 1972 in Mountain View, CA. After graduating high school in Loomis, CA he enlisted in the United States

Navy under the Airman Apprenticeship Program. In October 1990, he attended Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. Upon graduation he reported to NTC San Diego, CA for Airman Apprenticeship Training.

In February 1991, Airman Recruit Glendenning reported

for duty to VAW-126, NAS Norfolk, VA, which deployed onboard the USS JOHN F. KENNEDY (CVN-79) in support of Operation DESERT STORM. While attached to VAW-126, he struck AZ and was promoted to the rank of Petty Officer Third Class.

In September 1994, Petty Officer Glendenning reported for duty to VP-30, NAS Jacksonville, FL. Immediately after arriving he was promoted to Petty Officer Second Class and assumed the role of Assistant Leading Petty Officer in Logs and Records, supervising three other AZs in the management of 30 P3-C aircraft and the library of 180 logbooks. In 1997, after successfully completing his tour of duty, he was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy.

In the Fall of 2007, Petty Officer Glendenning enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He reported to CVN PAC 0376, Point Mugu, CA in January 2008 and within months had volunteered for an IA to Kuwait. In June of that same year, he married Joey McCraw and assumed the role of husband and father of two young children. On August 8,

2008, he Glendenning reported to NMPS Port Hueneme to begin his IA.

Upon returning to CVN PAC 0376 in March 2010, he was notified of the upcoming decommissioning of the command and decided to transfer to VR-61 Whidbey Island, WA. While attached to VR-61 he was promoted to Petty Officer First Class, successfully held the positions of Maintenance Administration Leading Petty Officer, and Command Career Counselor. His current position is Maintenance Control Leading Petty Officer. His collateral duties have included MWR President, Reserve Career Counselor, ESO, Sponsor Coordinator, and Technical Directive Coordinator.

Petty Officer Glendenning's proudest achievement includes being a loving husband to his wife Joey, and dedicated father to son Devon and daughter Lacy. His decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal, and numerous unit/campaign awards.



HM1(FMF) Steven R. Flemmig

Hospital Corpsman First Class Steven Flemmig was born in Austin, TX on July 27th, 1986. He enlisted in the Navy in February, 2006 and attended Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

Following completion of recruit training, he reported to Hospital Corps "A" School and graduated with the rank of Hospitalman. He then reported to Field Medical Training Battalion (FMTB) - West at Camp Pendleton, CA, where he earned the NEC for Field Medical Service Technician.

Following completion of FMTB, he was assigned to 1st Battalion 23rd Marines where he served as a platoon Corpsman and Senior Company Corpsman. During this tour HM1 Flemmig completed a 1 year activation to fill the vacant I&I staff Medical Department Representative billet.

In 2008, HM1 Flemmig transferred to 4th Reconnaissance Battalion where he was assigned to Charlie Company as

a platoon Corpsman and later as the Senior Company Corpsman. In 2010, he volunteered for mobilization with 1st Battalion 23rd Marines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. During the mobilization, he deployed to Afghanistan and served as a Platoon Corpsman and later Senior Company Corpsman of Alpha Company. Upon completion of the mobilization, he returned to 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. HM1 Flemmig was assigned as the Battalion Leading Petty Officer. During this tour he was certified as a Unit Career Counselor. In October 2014, HM1 Flemmig was selected by Division to assume the Battalion Chief billet for 1st Battalion 23rd Marines. In the private sector, HM1 Flemmig is employed as a firefighter for the Houston Fire Department. He is married with two children.

HM1 Flemmig is qualified as an Enlisted Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist. His personal awards include the Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal w/V device (5th award), Air Force Achievement Medal and numerous medals and ribbons.

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MM1 Keith Wright

Machinist Mate First Class Wright was born in Indianapolis, Indiana in February 1971. In 1981 his family moved to Jeremiah, Kentucky, he graduated from Letcher High School in 1989 where he excelled in baseball and basketball before going off to college at Eastern Kentucky University.

In 1991 he and his family relocated to White House, Tennessee where he met his future wife Kristy to whom he has been married to for 18 years. They have two children 11 year old Kailey and 9 year old Kaleb. He and his family attend South Haven Baptist Church in Springfield, Tennessee. He is employed by Cigna Health Spring in Nashville, Tennessee where he ensures 100% compliance by auditing inputs for new and current providers of Medicare.

Overflowing with patriotism, in May 2003 Petty Officer Wright joined the Navy Reserve with NAVSEA Crane 123. In 2006, Unit Leadership recognized his love for God, country, and helping Sailors and guided him to become a Career Counselor. He has held many positions in his units and is currently serving as the Leading Petty Officer for SURGEMAIN Nashville where he has made a tremendous impact on many Sailor's careers and lives. Over the course of his career he has served on orders in many countries such as Germany, Spain,

Japan, and the Middle East, as well as training sites all over the United States.

In 2009 he volunteered to deploy as an Individual Augmentee with Navy Logistical Support Group, Customs Battalion Forward Juliet in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. While there, he served as Charlie Company Career Counselor. He managed the Mentorship Program while deployed that allowed Junior Sailors to be paired with a mentor that would positively affect their careers and develop cohesion among the deployed team members. He also managed all Career Development Boards and obtained Tuition Assistance for every eligible Sailor. For his outstanding accomplishments he was recognized as Sailor of the Month for July 2009 and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal. His contributions were a vital part of an outstanding organization that was awarded the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal in August 2011. He also earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Ribbon for his numerous hours of volunteer service to the youth in his community in 2012.

A staunch supporter of furthering ones education, Petty Officer Wright received his Associates of Liberal Arts Degree from Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee on August 19, 2011 and his Bachelors of Science Degree in Healthcare Administration from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa on September 2, 2013.



GM1(EXW/SCW) Jessica L. Harrison

Gunners Mate First Class Jessica L. Harrison was born 22 April 1987 in Twin Falls, ID. At the age of 18, she graduated Salutatorian of Hansen Senior High School in 2005. Petty Officer Harrison enlisted in the Navy and entered Basic Training in July

2005. Upon completion of Basic Training, she reported to Gunners Mate "A" School and graduated as the top honor graduate. While at "A" School she was promoted to Gunners Mate Third Class Petty Officer and was assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Eighteen.

She mobilized with NMCB 18 to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After redeploying from Iraq,

she moved to Las Vegas, NV and was assigned to NMCB 17 where she volunteered to augment their battalion as the weapons division LPO and armory Chief.

GM2 Harrison volunteered for three years of ADSW orders and during this time she attended the Marine Corps Armorer's School (USMC 2111). She attended the Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor (SAMI) School and the Crew Served Weapons Instructor School earning the NECs 0812 and 0814. Returning to MSRON 9, she became the armory LPO, Qual/Cert supervisor and the Primary Range Safety Officer. In April 2010, GM2 Harrison volunteered to deploy again with MSRON 9 to Kuwait. During her tour in Kuwait, she earned her Expeditionary Warfare Specialist as well as her Associates of Arts degree.

After redeploying from Kuwait, she affiliated with Navy Cargo Handling Battalion Five in September 2011, where she served Charlie Company. She advanced to First Class Petty Officer and earned a Bachelor's of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, from Columbia College in December 2011. She then

transferred to NSA Bahrain. In May of 2014, Petty Officer Harrison transferred to NOSC Greenville, SC, NR SUPP UNIT 0827. Petty Officer Harrison is currently enrolled in a PhD program majoring in Education Administration and working towards her Counselor Certification.



VADM Braun, NERA Executive Director, Steve Sandy, RSOY Winner CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew, FORCM (AW/SW) CJ Mitchell. Photo Courtesy of ACCM Delores Rucker



VADM Braun, RSOY CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew. Photo Courtesy of ACCM Delores Rucker.



Ronney Wright, USAA, RSOY Winner CM1(SCW/EXW) Jimie Bartholomew. Left: RSOY Candidate HM1(FMF) Steven R. Flemming (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released)



NERA Executive Director, Steve Sandy presenting RSOY Winner Construction Mechanic 1st Class Jimie Bartholomew with NERA plaque. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released)



U.S. Coast Guard Reservist Becomes a U.S. Citizen

Lt. Cmdr. Kevin M. Tyrrell, 1st District Public Affairs, Reserve Public Affairs Officer

On December 4, 2014, one of the newest members of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Seaman Stiven Mesa, became a U.S. Citizen. He participated in a Naturalization Ceremony at Faneuil Hall, a building rich with American history located in the heart of Boston, MA. This was a fitting place to welcome the newest citizens of this country.

In 2001, Mesa, then only ten years old, moved to the United States from Colombia with his brother and parents. In Colombia, Mesa's mother was a stay-at-home mom and his father worked for a successful graphic design and printing company. After visiting the United States on vacation, they realized that this country could offer more opportunities than their homeland. While they were successful in Colombia, his parents moved here in the hopes of providing an even better future for their children. Mesa and his family are first generation immigrants and decided to settle in Boston. Mesa's father found work in the service industry to support the family. His mother continued her job as a stay-at-home mom, taking the time to teach herself English while raising her two boys.

Mesa first became interested in the uniformed services while in high school. This is where he joined the U.S. Army Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC). After graduating from high school in 2008, Mesa attended a two year theology program, which was sponsored by the Sacred Heart Church in East Boston and paid for by the Archdiocese. After completing the theology program, Mesa worked as a live-in building superintendent in the North End of Boston, overseeing eleven buildings. He often passed by Coast Guard Sector Boston. Mesa said "passing by this Coast Guard base made me curious about what the Coast Guard does. After learning about their many missions, I started wondering how I could be a part of it."

In 2011, Mesa was hired by Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), a department within the City of Boston, as a full time life guard and swim instructor. This new life



Seaman Mesa proudly displays his Citizen Certificate which he received during a Naturalization Ceremony at Faneuil Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

saving job and his knowledge of the Coast Guard inspired him to find out more about the Reserve Program. Mesa said he wanted to do something that involved the disciplinary requirements of wearing a uniform and wanted to find a way to give thanks to the country that took him and his family in a decade prior.

In 2014, after enlisting in the Reserve, Mesa started boot camp at the Coast Guard Training Center in Cape May, N.J. Mesa said that "boot camp was difficult, but looking back, it was a great experience." He said he is "thankful for being given the opportunity to join such a great organization."

Mesa chose to become a yeoman because he feels he can contribute to the overall mission by understanding the inner workings of the Coast Guard and providing an essential service to his fellow Coast Guard shipmates. In the role of a yeoman, Mesa will be able to directly support Coast Guard members and their families, allowing those members to focus on their various missions to get the job done. He will attend the Coast Guard's eight week Yeoman 'A' School program during 2015.

continued on page 18



The VA Does Not Send Mortgage Ads

According to the Consumer Financing Protection Bureau (CFBC), over 100,000 mailings were sent out advertising mortgages using the name, seal, and logos of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA). Not only did these ads give the impression that the VA endorsed these mortgages, these ads also misrepresented the price of the mortgages. The mailings did not disclose if the rate was fixed or variable and some of the disclosure information was hidden within super fine print. Envelopes were labeled with warnings “fines or imprisonment”.

Please note the VA will not send you mailings regarding mortgages. Mike Frueh, Director of the VA Home Loan Program, said the following about these false advertisings: “VA will never email or mail out solicitations for our loan program. VA does not endorse or sponsor any particular lender; instead, we work to ensure all Veterans and Servicemembers can safely use the benefit they’ve earned, at the lender of their choice. If you have any questions about your home loan benefit, please visit the VA website, or call VA at (877) 827-3702.”

The Consumer Financing Protection Bureau and NERA want to bring attention to this problem and help anyone avoid being taken in by these deceptive practices. According to the CFBC, practice the following tips and you can avoid being tricked by these clever tactics:

- Be a savvy consumer—look at everything an advertiser has to say about the product they’re selling. Today’s action involved a mortgage lender that placed flashy seals and logos front and center, but hid important disclosures in the fine print on the back of their ads.
- Get information from trusted sources — even if an ad is plastered in official-looking seals and impressive endorsements, check with a trusted source to learn all you can about the product being advertised. Learn more about VA loans and refinances or contact CFBC with any questions.
- Report a misleading ad— if you see an ad that looks deceptive or misleading, or just looks too good to be true, submit a complaint to <http://www.consumerfinance.gov/complaint/>. CFBC accepts complaints about mortgages and other financial products marketed to veterans, such as consumer loans.

The CFPB is ordering this company that sent out these phony VA mortgage advertisements to end its illegal and deceptive practices and pay a civil penalty of \$250,000. NERA will keep you updated and will inform you of other deceptive advertising practices.

Help NERA Go Paperless

NOTICE: We have been informed by our printer that one of the few remaining suppliers of paper has increased the cost of paper by 3.9%. In addition to this paper increase, we were also informed by the post office that the cost of postage will increase approximately 2%. All these additional costs will be passed along to NERA for the printing of the *Mariner*. The current print cost of the *Mariner* consumes one fourth of NERA’s entire operating budget. It is for this reason I’m again asking for your help in reducing NERA’s operating costs by switching to reading the *Mariner* online. The electronic version of the *Mariner* is sent via email or instantly available for

download at nera.org. If you want to go paperless, just email jabbott@nera.org and say you want the electronic version of the *Mariner*. NERA and the environment will thank you.

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

— Steve Sandy

Go paperless — email jabbott@nera.org





Centennial Celebrations

On March 3, 2015 the Navy Reserve marked its centennial. Throughout the year, a series of events will be celebrating this milestone at installations around the country. It began on March 2, 2015 with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Centennial of the U.S. Navy Reserve display at the Pentagon (see image). “Our Centennial commemoration is a truly a once in a lifetime opportunity to highlight the Reserve Sailors for their service, and that of their families, to America,” said Vice Adm. Robin Braun, chief of the Navy Reserve. “We want to recognize our rich history and heritage with all of our sailors, both past and present.”

In 1915, with World War I on the horizon, Congress authorized the Federal Naval Reserve. In the beginning, only enlisted Navy veterans were eligible. Then on Aug. 29, 1916, the Navy Reserve allowed nonveterans to enroll and it was renamed the Naval Reserve Force. At the beginning of WWI, 8,000 sailors were serving and by the end of the war, more than 250,000 Reserve sailors were on active duty (more than half of the wartime Navy, including 12,000 women). During World War II, the Navy Reserve contributed 84 percent of the Navy’s manpower, including five future U.S. presidents — John F. Kennedy, Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, George H.W. Bush — and 15 recipients of the Medal of Honor.

Since September 11, 2001, there have been more than



From left, Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Juan Garcia, Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert open the new Centennial of the U.S. Navy Reserve display at the Pentagon March 2. (Photo: MC1 Nathan Laird/Navy)

70,000 Selected Reserve mobilizations, and more than 22,000 Reserve sailors were mobilized for the first Gulf War. Navy Reserve sailors deliver essential skills and leadership from widely different work environments adding a valuable component to the Navy and Joint Forces. Ready Then. Ready Now. Ready Always. Congratulations on 100 years, Navy Reserve.

Congratulations on 100 years, Navy Reserve.
Visit the website: <http://navyreservecentennial.com>
for more information.

Coastie Corner, continued from page 16

For many people, navigating all the steps it takes to become an U.S. citizen can be a daunting task. Mesa successfully accomplished this by setting clear goals and following through every step of the way. Becoming a U.S. citizen will certainly open doors for him and he hopes to eventually get a job in law enforcement. But for now he

really enjoys his current position teaching kids to swim and protecting lives in Boston. Seaman Mesa takes great pride in his new citizenship and role as a member of the Coast Guard Reserve. “My family and I are so grateful for the opportunities this country has provided. It’s terrific to be able to give something back.”



Congratulations to the USS Constitution "Old Ironsides" New

Hampshire Chapter of NERA for celebrating 35 years of dedicated service to NERA and the community. Over this past year, this chapter has supported the local Naval Sea Cadet Corps, (USNSCC) by assisting in their annual inspection. (see in the pictures below)



Chief Deborah Fallon inspecting the troops



Constitution Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps



Constitution Division of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps Parade the Colors at the 35th Installation Dinner Dance

(USNSCC) LCDR Alfred McMullen, former LNC and lifetime member of NERA at the MIA table



President Elect Deborah "Debbie" Fallon being installed as Chapter President by LCDR McMullen



Chapter President and NERA National Counselor Deborah "Debbie" Fallon briefing guests on the importance of NERA



58th NERA National Conference

October 14–18, 2015 • Norfolk, Virginia

Register Today at www.NERA.org



Visit Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin

Article and Photos courtesy of VisitNorfolk's 2015 Visitor Guide

Nauticus

Located on the downtown Norfolk waterfront, Nauticus is a maritime science museum that explores the economic, naval, and natural power of the sea. Nauticus features hands-on exhibits, marine life, 3D movies, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and the awe-inspiring Battleship Wisconsin, one of the largest and last battleships built by the U.S. Navy and the Banana Pier Gift Shop.

Nauticus is also home to Sail Nauticus sailing center, the Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center, and the Victory Rover Naval Base Cruises. Museum highlights include Our Mighty Seaport, an exhibit which explores maritime commerce; Guns, Sweat, and Gears: Anatomy of a Battleship, with its enormous gun devices, tools, and personal mementos from the Battleship Wisconsin;



and Stewards of the Sea: Defending Freedom, Protecting the Environment, a 1,000-square-foot highly interactive exhibit exploring how the Navy protects marine life while fulfilling its mission, developed by the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and U.S. Fleet Forces Command.

The Nauticus Theater shows 3D films daily. Outside the theater, you can step inside the Clelia, an underwater exploration submersible and control an actual 9-foot long robotic arm to collect samples and artifacts from the seabed.

Don't miss Science on a Sphere, a six-foot globe displaying weather phenomena around the world, or Shark Lab, where visitors can learn about shark conservation. Be sure to also visit Horseshoe Crab Cove as well as tropical fish, seahorses, and two green Moray eels.

Be sure to visit the Hampton Roads Naval Museum on the second floor, which examines more than two

centuries of local naval history. And don't leave until you visit the Banana Pier Gift Shop, where great souvenirs are available for purchase to help you remember your day at Nauticus.

Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin are located at One Waterside Drive on the downtown Norfolk waterfront. Both are open daily Memorial Day through Labor Day 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Labor Day through Memorial Day, hours are Tuesday–Saturday 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday noon–5 p.m. and closed Monday. Admission to Nauticus includes the Battleship Wisconsin. Children ages 3 and under are free. Discounts are available for active duty military, seniors and AAA members. Guided tours of the Wisconsin's interior spaces are available for an additional fee. There is no charge to visit the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. For more information, call (757) 664-1000 or visit www.nauticus.org.

Battleship Wisconsin

One of the last and largest battleships ever built for the U.S. Navy, the Battleship Wisconsin served in three wars. Now berthed at Nauticus, she earned six battle stars for action at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Japan and Korea. In Desert Storm, the 1991 Gulf War, she led the Tomahawk cruise missile assault on Baghdad. As of December 14, 2009, Wisconsin became the City of Norfolk's permanent museum ship. She is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The ship is 887 feet long and weighs 45,000 tons; she was, literally, a "City at Sea" with a crew of nearly 3,000 men during her heyday in WWII.

Visitors can begin "walking the decks of history" inside Nauticus with a six-minute introductory film, Forward for Freedom, which brings the Wisconsin to life through the stories and commentary of those who served aboard. On board the ship, an exhibit located at the entrance to the Wardroom, For All Those in Uniform Who Have Served, pays tribute to the armed forces, with an initial focus on Senator John W. Warner, who was instrumental in bringing the Battleship Wisconsin to Norfolk.

Walk the Wisconsin's teak decks, explore her from bow to stern, inside and out, up and down five levels. For

an additional fee, guided tours are offered periodically throughout the day, taking visitors deeper into the ship's interior. Experience a combat scenario in the Combat Engagement Center, take a captain's eye view from the Navigation Bridge, or imagine the crew's life in the chow line, barber shop, ship store, and much more. Nauticus also offers special programming on the ship throughout the year, including "Haunted Ship" tours during the Halloween season.

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Register Today!

58th NERA National Conference

October 14–18, 2015, Norfolk, Virginia

nera.org



Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport

1570 N Military Highway, Norfolk, VA 23502

Reservations

(Mention “NERA 58th National Conference” when calling.)

Direct: (757) 213-2231

Toll Free: (877) 410-6679

Room Rate

\$89 per night. Hotel Room Fee has been contracted at \$89 Max. / Room/Night (plus 14.0% and a \$2 flat city tax). Rates are available for three (3) nights before and three (3) nights after the conference. Rooms must be reserved by September 14, 2015 to receive NERA rate.

Questions

Contact Penny Padour at
nerajoewasson@outlook.com

Amenities

- Complimentary Breakfast Buffett
- Every guestroom comes equipped with Microwave
- Refrigerator/ Freezer and Coffee Maker
- Free high-speed internet access
- Indoor heated pool and whirlpool
- On-site fitness and business center
- On Property Full Service Restaurant, Lounge and Bar
- Free Parking Available
- On-site Guest Self-Laundry Facilities (washer/dryer)
- Courtesy guest shuttle to shopping, eateries, theatre, etc. within a 5 mile radius of hotel

Remember... This is a Voting Year!



REGISTER TODAY!

NERA'S 58th National Conference

October 14–18, 2015, Norfolk, VA



NAME (Last, First, MI): _____

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

Address: _____

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Email: _____ Nickname (For Name Tag): _____

NERA Chapter: _____ ☐ Please indicate if no chapter affiliation

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

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

Spouse/Guest Nickname (for Name Tag): _____

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

All Inclusive Registration

_____ x \$125.00 = \$ _____

- Meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Meet and Greet Mixer on Wednesday, Oct. 14
- Awards Luncheon on Thursday, Oct. 15
- Installation Dinner Dance on Saturday, Oct. 17
- Senior Enlisted Panel, NOSC Norfolk (transportation included)
- On-Going Hospitality Suite

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

Thursday Awards Luncheon

_____ x \$29.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner Dance

_____ x \$47.00 = \$ _____

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

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

Event Registration for Thursday, October 15

Cruise, Museum and Wisconsin Tour (1100–1730)

_____ x \$45.00 = \$ _____

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

Freeman Abbey Restaurant (1900 Bus Pickup)

_____ x \$49.00 = \$ _____

Includes bus transportation to and from the restaurant.

On-Going Hospitality Suite

Donations Accepted \$ _____

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

Minimum \$5 \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

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

Signature _____

CONFERENCE PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make Checks Payable to: Joe Wasson Chapter 120.042

Mail Registration Form (with payment) Directly to:

SKC (Ret.) Penny Padour, 1010 Darlington Ln,
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Please note, this form will NOT reserve your hotel room. You must contact Holiday Inn Norfolk Airport directly and mention **“NERA 58th National Conference.”**

Front Desk: (757) 213-2231 or Toll Free: (877) 410-6679

Questions, contact Penny Padour at nerajowasson@outlook.com



Meet the Members

NERA has launched a new series called Meet the Members that focuses on the extraordinary lives of our NERA members. If you or someone you know would like to be featured, please email ypurtill@nera.org for more information. Our first feature is about PNC Anderson, a dedicated NERA member that NERA wanted to honor by focusing on his story.

Chief Personnelman William A. Anderson, USNR, (Retired)



Tell us about yourself. Where did you grow up?

I am a native of the Nation's Capital and grew up in its inner city. I am the second child of two sisters, Yvonne and Carol. I graduated from primary schools in the District of Columbia and received my secondary education

in North Carolina, a degree in Business Administration. I also received a certificate from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Graduate School specializing in Leadership and Supervisory Skills. I am a Cold War, Vietnam, Desert Storm/Shield veteran, serving approximately 28 years active and reserve duty, retiring honorably in September 1993. I have successfully completed approximately thirty five service school and courses during my Naval career. I also retired from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service, Food Stamp Program in April 2003 as the Senior Program Specialist with thirty seven and a half years of total federal service.

Why did you enlist?

I enlisted in the U. S. Navy because I didn't want to do a tour in Vietnam. Also, I had a cousin who was in the Navy and his Navy dress blue uniform impressed me when he would come home. Also, he had a good looking automobile.

What are some challenges have you faced in your career?

I don't recall any challenges while in the Navy except going up for Chief. After being selected as the National Rated Seabee of the Year in 1984, I was sure that I would be selected for Chief when I took my first chief's exam. This award would be equivalent to Sailor of the Year, except this award was nationwide and I was the only one selected. I was finally selected for chief after the sixth try and with limited paperwork being submitted to the selection board (which I believe that was key for me being selected).

Tell us about your most professionally rewarding experience? Worst Experience?

There are several rewarding experiences that I encountered while in the Navy; being advanced the PN3, then to PN1, and of course to PNC. Others are being selected as Man of Month, Sailor of the Quarter, runner-up as the Outstanding Enlisted Naval Reservist of the Year, National Rated Seabee of the Year, and receiving numerous awards and letters of commendation.

My worst experience, with the exception for basic training, was the fear of being placed on the deck force or mess cooking on my first ship. After serving in some type of administrative position prior to entering the Navy and receiving a Degree in Business Administration, I thought that I would be automatically be placed in a similar position in the Navy— boy was I wrong. But as luck would have it, the Personnel Officer reviewed my service record and found out that I could type and had a degree in Business Administration. They needed a clerical person in the personnel office, so I was assigned to the personnel office, working on the Diary desk as a Seaman Apprentice. Boy was I relieved and happy. I took over the job of a PN1. I was the only African-American in the office and everyone was very cordial to me.

Tell us about your life outside your career.

I am a Thirty Third Degree Mason and have held several head positions on the local, state, and national levels in the male and female departments. I am heavily involved in several community activities including but not limited to Shriner Street Solicitation Collection for Children's Health Care of Atlanta (a children's hospital for under privileged children), The Henry County Special Olympics, feeding the homeless, visiting nursing homes, and visiting the sick and shut-ins of my church and of the masonic order. I am a member of The Zion Hill Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA. I am a member of two usher ministries and served as the treasurer for many years. I also serve as the treasurer of Brotherhood Ministry and

continued on page 25



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



Subject: NERA 100th Anniv. coin for the Naval Reserve

ALCON,

If you get a chance to buy this coin (DO IT). This is one of the nicest coins I have in my collection of over 250 coins! Whoever did this coin covered all their bases! This coin is top shelf! A great deal! My wife bought me 2!

R/Jerry, GLVC, NERA MEMBER



Legislative Updates, continued from page 8

- Support a proposed concept to eliminate a minimal distance requirement for military travel reimbursement.
- Support VA presumptive exposure designation for Agent Orange for all "Blue Water Navy" ships and boats that served in the off-shores waters Vietnam.

These are but a few of a multitude of issues that NERA

tracks and serves as your voice on at the national level. We've also covered in a separate article in this issue of the Mariner a review of the recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC) Report. If you have suggestions of topics you'd like to have covered in future articles or constructive comments, please e-mail them to neradeputy@nera.org.

Meet the Members, continued from page 24

have served as on the Disciples Empowerment Summit, USDA's Feeding Program, the Hurricane Katrina Relief Committee, The Sickel Cell Foundation of Metropolitan Atlanta, The Young Adult Guidance Center (a residential home for young adult males). I also served as the President of the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association and the Southern Regional Representative of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association.

When leisure time permits, I enjoy going to movies, plays, playing cards, entertaining, traveling, working on cars, and enjoy watching my two and half year old grandson grow up. In January 2004, I was hired as a National Intermittent Federal Voting Rights Poll Observer with the U. S. Office of Personnel Management (Voting Rights Program) in conjunction with the U. S. Department of Justice.

I am married to the lovely former Pauline Denise Fields of Atlanta. We have one daughter, the multi-talented entrepreneur Erin Nicole, and one energetic and handsome grandson, Eric William. We all reside in Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia's suburbs.

Post note: On February 13, 2015, Chief Personnelman William A. Anderson USNR, Retired, took time out of his "man of leisure" schedule to visit the Atlanta Veterans Medical Center in Atlanta, GA to represent the Greater Atlanta Chapter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. Members of NERA have been visiting the hospital for approximately for 25 years. The US Department of Veterans Affairs sponsors annually sponsors a program called "National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans." PNC Anderson, along with a VA volunteer, visited the Nursing Home ward of the hospital center. They distributed Valentine's Day cards made by local school students. During his visit, he meet and talked with Pete Wheeler, a patient who has an auditorium in the hospital named in his honor. The patient enjoyed the visit and especially enjoyed seeing a Navy man in his dress blues. Some of the patients even called him "Chief". If the patients were asleep, he just lay the cars on their bedside table. After visiting the patients, PNC Anderson enjoyed a complimentary lunch and visited with some more patients in the cafeteria. He is enjoyed the visit and is looking forward to another visit next year.



NERA Scholarship FAQs

1 How much scholarship money is available?

- Two \$3,000 scholarships
- Four \$2,500 scholarships

2 Who is eligible?

- NERA members
- NERA member's family (spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of a NERA member. Children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23)
- Anyone (military/non-military) wanting to join as a NERA Associate member (\$30 membership fee)
- The applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing and have dues paid by the scholarship deadline.



3 When is the due date?

All materials must be received by June 19, 2015. (The application must be postmarked before or on the final day applications close. No fax, email or electronic submissions will be accepted. Hard copies only)

4 When will I be notified?

All applicants will be notified about the decisions around August 1st.

5 I am a NERA member, and my son is going to college in the fall. Is he eligible to apply for the NERA scholarship if he has already received a partial scholarship elsewhere?

Yes, NERA Scholarships can be awarded in addition to any other partial scholarship, including a ROTC Scholarship. *(Note: those applicants already receiving an appointment to a U.S. service academy or receiving a "full scholarship" to any accredited college or university are not eligible.)*

6 I am a NERA member and 28 years old. I will begin my graduate degree next month. Am I eligible?

No, these scholarships are designated for bachelors or associate degrees only.

7 Do I have to be a full-time student to be eligible? I plan to work and be a part-time student while working on my bachelor's degree next year?

Part or full-time students working toward their bachelors or associates degrees are eligible.

8 Why do I have to supply 7 copies of the application form, 7 copies of my transcripts, and 7 copies of my essay?

NERA has a scholarship committee that reviews these forms. In an effort to expedite the process, we ask for a copy of the complete package from the applicant for each committee member.

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 19, 2015

The 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.)

Scholarship Amounts

- Two \$3,000 scholarships
- 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 19, 2015.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, the applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing by the scholarship deadline: June 19, 2015. All Member dues must be paid in full by June 19, 2015. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility, please contact NERA at (800)-776-9020 or members@nera.org.

Scholarship Use Requirements

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.

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!



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."

**Please contact (or have your professional advisor contact)
Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA,
at 800-776-9020 or neraexec@nera.org.**



Benefits of Being a NERA Member

As many of you know, being a member of NERA allows you to be part of an exclusive group of enlisted Sea Service Reservists. But did you know NERA teamed up with USAA, which has been recently recognized by *FORTUNE* magazine as one of their 2014 World's Most Admired Companies®?

USAA, as the exclusive provider of financial services for NERA, offers the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association USAA Rewards™ Credit Cards to NERA members. Tell your friends!

When you choose a USAA Rewards military affiliate American Express® Card or MasterCard®, you help NERA.

- With this card, you can help NERA continue supporting the enlisted sea service reservists and their families.
- USAA Bank will make a contribution to NERA when you open an account, make eligible purchases and keep an active account.
- Carry one or both the American Express® Card and MasterCard®. Even if you pay the balance in full each month, you still receive all the rewards and benefits.

Yes! There's no need to carry a balance for you and NERA to benefit!

There are two types of cards to choose from or carry both (and pay your NERA dues with them)!



USAA Rewards American Express Card:

Earn 2X on gas and grocery purchases while earning 1 point per dollar on your other purchases. Getting **2X** is not an introductory offer. Enjoy concierge service and other exclusive benefits.

The card image is an original photo taken by past president Nick Marine, solely available to NERA USAA cardholders. **Apply for yours today!** usaa.com/nera



USAA Rewards World MasterCard:

Earn 1 point per dollar on everyday purchases. Take advantage of worldwide acceptance and other exclusive benefits.

There are 6 card images to choose from including the original photo by Nick Marine (above). **Don't wait, apply today!** usaa.com/nera

Credit cards issued by USAA Savings Bank, other bank products by USAA Federal Savings Bank, both Member FDIC.

Use of the term "member" or "membership" does not convey any eligibility rights for auto and property insurance products, or legal or ownership rights in USAA.

Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies.



We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

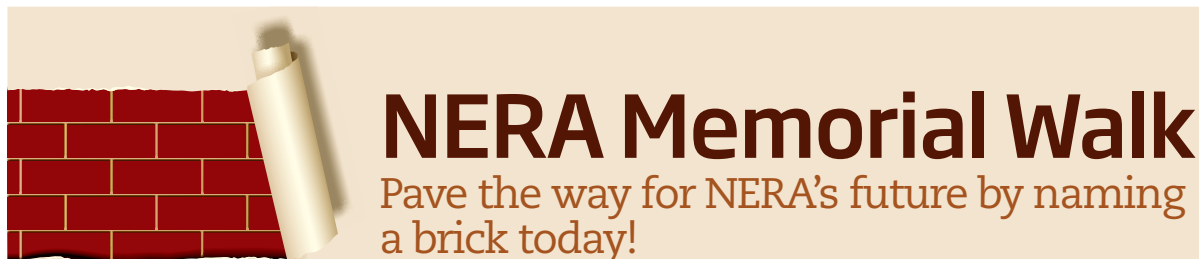
We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

EOC Robert A. DePew
HM1 Paul C. Engleman
BMC David Engelmeier
SKC Anthony J. Haiduk
PC1 John W. Hildebrand
EMCM Kenneth E. Hilton
RMCM Wayne G. Johnson
RADM Joel A. Miele

Bay Area Buccaneers
Central PA
St. Cloud
Garden State
League Island
USS Constitution
Central Wisc River Valley
Greater New York

BM1 Grover C. Newell
BTC Richard A. Paige
ENCS Arthur E. Paulsen
AW1 William Restle, Jr.
ENC Oliver Selby
AT2 Richard E. Taylor
OSCS Ray N. Trenberth
HMC Anson J. Wager, Jr.

Greater Richmond
Greater New York
Garden State
Delaware Valley
Edmund Couto
Mid Carolina
Grand Canyon State
League Island



NERA Memorial Walk

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

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

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



NERA Memorial Walk General Information

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

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

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

NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.

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



For the latest news and information visit

www.NERA.org



“A Tribute to HMCM Manny Ratner”

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

DK2 Donnie H. Adkins
HMCS William M. Allen
MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen
PNC William A. Anderson
EMC Larry M. Arnold
IS1 Judith A. Ayers
CWO4 Shirley Barlow †
SKCS John A. Bartlett
LSC Michael F. Bartsch
AVCM Don Bauman
LCDR William D. Bennett
BM1 Jeffrey Benton
AEC Charles A. Berger
CUCM David D. Boman
OS1 Donald J. Bond
IS1 Wayne E. Boyer**
DKCM Charles E. Bradley
HTCM(SW) Peter E. Bragg
MCC Brian Brannon
CMC John K. Brian, Jr.
SK1 William B. Brown
SKCM Julius 'Gene' E. Brown
IT1 Gerald E. Bruce
QMC(SS) Fred A. Bruno
HMCM Harry T. Buckles
ATC Dennis E. Buisman**
PN2 James A. Bullard
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GSCM Ralph W. Camp, Jr.
AO1 Thomas B. Carroll**
CWO4 Michael Chierico
SKC Donna Childre
AMSC William F. Clark
RADM Casey W. Coane
HMC Noel H. Cotton
HMCS Robert C. Cramer
CAPT Ted Daywalt
VADM Dirk J. Debbink
ICCS Milton E. Degroodt
EO1 Steven L. Devereaux
AFCM(NAC/AW) David J. Di Marzio
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AMH1 David M. Drajna
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