

# *THE* **MARINER**

2008 SUMMER EDITION

VOLUME 51, NO 3

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION



# NERA



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\*According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the average cost of a funeral, as of July 2004, is \$6,500. That cost includes an outer burial container, but does not include cemetery costs.



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# THE MARINER

*"Not For Self But For Country"*



Eighteen Sailors assigned to commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing Pacific Fleet (CHSMWP) and the "High Rollers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85, receive Navy Air Medals from Rear Adm. Patrick McGrath, commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve. McGrath also awarded four Meritorious Service Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals to other HSC-85 and CHSMWP Sailors for their efforts. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 2nd Class Chris Fahey.

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Top Center cover: An AS-332 Super Puma helicopter flies past the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer USS Momsen (DDG 92) and the Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate USS Curtis (FFG 38) as it transports supplies from the Military Sealift Command combat stores ship USNS Niagara Falls (T-AFS-3) to the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln (CVN 72). Lincoln and embarked Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 2 are on a scheduled seven-month deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Geoffrey Lewis.

Bottom Left cover: Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Kathleen A. Reilly is honored as the 2007 Reserve Sailor of The Year by Vice Adm. John G. Cotton, commander, Naval Reserve Force. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Roger S. Duncan.

Bottom Right cover: Navy Reservists Gunner's Mate 2nd Class Theo Carter, right, and Sonar Technician 1st Class Larry Arndt, left take turns shooting at a target target as Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Steve Urban checks the target during the All Navy Rifle Match at Camp Pendleton. Teams made up of active duty, reserve and several Marine Corps units competed in the day-long event with the active duty navy team winning the overall competition. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Michael Moratis.

*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: NERADEPUTY@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, or 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* (ISSN0164-3029), is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Periodicals postage paid at Falls Church, VA and additional mailing offices. 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: NERADEPUTY@NERA.ORG



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



By National President Joanne Elliott

Our National Conference is fast approaching and I wanted to take this time to thank the following for volunteering their time and talents to ensure that the conference will run smooth: CMDCM (AW) Linda M. Lopez, Senior Enlisted Manpower and Personnel Policy (N1C2) Advisor for Commander, Navy Reserve Forces Command has offered her services in coordinating our Senior Enlisted Panel; YNC Marianne Mosher, USNR (ret.) from Lehigh Valley has volunteered her excellent paperwork talents to handle the registration; MN1 Duke Hayes and his wife have volunteered to act as liaisons with the hotel for after hour events; and CTRC Sleeper, BMCS Chagnon, YNC Texidor, ACCM Delores Rucker and PN1 Heidi Ortley have also volunteered.

Steve is still looking for volunteers to attend meetings and functions in and around the DC area. If you are interested, give him a call, let him know when you'll be coming in and I'm sure he can set you up.

Speaking of volunteers, if anyone is considering running for national office, you need to come for-

ward and send in your bio to Jennifer at Headquarters. We will be publishing the candidates on both the web and in the next Mariner.

On May 22, Steve, Delores Rucker and I attended the Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year Recognition Ceremony. In this issue you can view the finalists, their short bios, as well as some of the pictures taken at the ceremony. As I told the finalists at the selection luncheon, knowing how I felt when I was selected as SOY for NASJRB Willow Grove over 16 years ago, I could only imagine the pride and sense of achievement they felt standing there before VADM Cotton. As VADM Cotton said, they will all be Chiefs in the near future. They represent the brightest and the best of what our Navy Reserve has to offer.

On June 24, 2008, Force Master Chief Pennington will be retiring from the Navy. We wish him Fair Winds and Following Seas. I hope that he will keep in touch with us at NERA and continue to remain "active" with the Reserve issues.



Chief of Naval Reserve Force, Vice Admiral John Cotton, is shown congratulating Master Chief Petty Officer David Pennington as he first takes the reins as Navy Reserve Force Command Master Chief. Pennington is now set to retire and NERA thanks him for his service and wishes him the best. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Cynthia Z. De Leon

*If anyone, then, asks me the meaning of our flag, I say to him – it means just what Concord and Lexington meant; what Bunker Hill meant; which was, in short, the rising up of a valiant young people against an old tyranny to establish the most momentous doctrine that the world had ever known – the right of men to their own selves and to their liberties. ~Henry Ward Beecher*

# FROM YOUR VP



Sharing the LEGACY - I would like to give a special thanks to our 26 Lifetime Benefactors.

Their names have been posted on our website. Take a look!

NERA is working hard to take care of our mobilized Sailors and Marines. Your National Executive Committee voted that all Members who joined before being activated will be automatically renewed until they return. It is up to each chapter president to inform National HQ as to which members qualify, as well as keeping up with the member's change of address for Mariner distribution.

Let's talk about NERA – NERA was just an idea 50+ years ago and we did not have much – just ask HMCM Manny Ratner. We did not have the 11,000+ members that we have today. We did not have a National Headquarters (paid off) as we do today and we had no money in the bank. Our Founding Chiefs did not give up without a fight! I hear members today ready to abandon ship due to the negative remarks (grenades) being tossed around from people who have given up. A word of advice.... Don't listen to the nay-sayers. Enough said!



The amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46) arrives in Thailand from a recent Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) exercise in the Philippines. CARAT is an annual series of bilateral maritime training exercises between the United States and six Southeast Asian nations designed to build relationships and enhance the operational readiness of the participating forces. U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Class Maurice Dayao

Now, what can YOU do to Help NERA? Sign up and become a LIFE Benefactor TODAY! After you do this, make a personal goal to sign up at least ONE new member every year. We could add 11,000 new members every year if each of us each signed up one new member every year. Have you ever considered asking others to become associate members? It's easy – just ask your neighbors, friends or work associates. We have all seen the recent trend of business leaders with no military background wanting to support troops and military organizations. Next time you go to the dry cleaners, barbershop or grocery store, drop off a Mariner and ask them to join. If you need more copies of the Mariners, just pick up the phone and call Jennifer at NERA HQ. By the way, Life Benefactors are, and will continue to be, an integral component for NERA's continued growth. Life Benefactors of this organization are special in that they share the vision and VALUE the mission of this organization. The indefinite pot of gold we used to have is almost gone and we are asking YOU to join us in this new program to ensure our growth for another 50 years.

To become a Life Benefactor you must already be a lifetime member to enroll and the cost is \$250. Your name will be placed on a plaque located in the main entry of NERA HQ in Falls Church, Va. The Life Benefactor program allows NERA to improve and expand its impact and support of Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps programs that span the US.

In the past, Life members have given thousands of dollars over the years and we have never recognized them. So with this plaque, WE HONOR YOU!

For years, NERA has supported various programs for military organizations and provided staffing as well as printed material. All of these things cost money. Without the assistance and continued support of our Life Benefactors this work would be impossible. Thanks for all that you do!

More next quarter,  
NERA Nick

*When Freedom from her mountain height  
Unfurled her standard to the air;  
She tore the azure robe of night,  
And set the stars of glory there.  
~Joseph Rodman Drake, The American Flag*



# Letters

## ■ Dear NERA Leadership,

Just a note to say nice job and thank you for the content and inclusiveness that is provided in The Mariner.

Knowing that when one authors an article for a magazine we naturally go to what we know. I noticed in the "President's Message, From the VP, Executive Director's Message and Tips & Clips" the content is for the combined membership of NERA (Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve) not Navy specific only.

Congratulations! Hopefully when a potential member for NERA takes a look at The Mariner they will see the reason to join and that their Reserve Component is addressed within the pages of the magazine.

I sincerely thank NERA for initiating the Coast Guard Enlisted Reserve Person of The Year Award in 1984 and carrying the torch until 1995 when it was reorganized by the MCPOCG to include both Active and Reserve Component members.

Thank you,  
Bill Phillips  
MCPO-CGRF (ret)



## ■ Extra Support

Please accept my congratulations for an excellent Mariner. Each segment had a good quality of "meat" to be digested. As one who has traces of Agent Orange and is under the bimonthly care of the National Naval Medical Center (NNMC), I could certainly relate to the article.

I was glad to learn that MC Ronney Wright will be the next MC of Naval Reserve. I met him several years ago and was impressed.

During my trips to NNMC, I try to stop by the wards of our returning veterans. While I can't solve some of the problems, I do make them known to RADM Jefferies, the Commander. He is most receptive and I encourage anyone to stop by the wards.

I was sorry to learn of the passing of Bernie Fink, a true patriot and friend of the sailor.

My best to all!  
Dave Davidson  
CAPT, USN (Ret.)

## ■ Dear Scholarship Committee:

My name Kylie E. LaSota, and I am currently a second-semester freshman at Duquesne University. It was truly an honor for me to have been a recipient of your 2007 scholarship to help finance my college education.

I graduated Valedictorian from Trinity High School in Washington, PA in June 2007. In high school, I coordinated four Central Blood Bank blood drives for the National Honor Society among various other events for the Future Teachers of America Club. I also participated in Television Production, Chorus, Key Club, and was treasurer of Math League, Chair of Publicity for the Young Republicans, and president of Students Active for the Environment.

The opportunities that I have been afforded just during my first semester at Duquesne are countless. I feel excited every day to go to classes where the professors are of such a top-notch caliber. My campus, here at Duquesne, is such a tranquil place amidst the bustling city of Pittsburgh, and I appreciate being a part of it. I have, in just one semester, had the privilege of being exposed to an intellectually stimulating and motivating environment, in addition to speaking with alumni who have gone on to bigger things and meeting other students from across the country who share my passion for knowledge.

I plan on graduating from Duquesne in 2011 with a degree in Elementary Education in hopes of becoming a teacher. I am an active member of the Duquesne University Student Education Association along with treasurer of the Pittsburgh Association for the Education of Young Children (Duquesne Chapter). Outside of my academic focus, I participate in Bible Study, College Republicans, Council for Exceptional Children, Asian Student Association, International Student Organization, and the Duquesne athletic support group, the Red and Blue Crew.

All of this was made possible for me by your generous scholarship. The words "Thank You" hardly seem adequate enough to convey my feelings of indebtedness to you for your generosity. You can rest assured that your investment in me was worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Kylie E. LaSota

Enclosure: Copy of Fall 2007 grades

Background Photo: Camp Rhino, Afghanistan – Lcpl. Jorge A. Acevedo from Long Beach, Calif., takes time at Camp Rhino to write a letter home. He and his unit are in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Andrew Meyers.



# Letters cont.

## ■ The Cost of Free Speech

“If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear.” (George Orwell)  
Finding ardent haters of the war in Iraq is not difficult. Many civilians may be surprised to learn that those in uniform are not always sold on the realities of war either. Our men and women in uniform see their role as peace keepers with a job to do and a commitment to do the very best job possible.

Free speech is a liberty that most take for granted and many people bend its definition to advance their goals and ideologies. At the very core of the first amendment, speech includes the right to receive information, hold beliefs, communicate them to others, engage in ideological silence, and engage in symbolic speech. The trouble comes when they attempt to communicate either verbally or symbolically.

In the rural town of Waterville, New York, John Sigsbee, a young soldier killed in action, was brought home to rest. He was honored by many and heckled by few. Members of the controversial Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) from Topeka Kansas threatened to protest Sigsbee’s funeral because they believe God is killing soldiers in Iraq because of America’s tolerance for homosexuality. WBC members routinely protest military funerals across the country.

The WBC protests with peaceful intention, but it stirs emotion among citizens, veterans, and military members honoring the return of fallen soldier. This is a volatile mix so it is vital that we know our rights and the rights of others. Fighting words, incitement to riot, and hate speech are not only divisive, but they do not enjoy the protection of the Constitution nor the Uniform Code of Military Justice {Art 116 and 117}.

Communications amounting to “fighting words” is not protected by the First Amendment. According to Constitutional scholars, the fighting words doctrine is limited to: (1) insults,; (2) uttered in an individualized face-to-face encounter (language directed at a crowd will not suffice), (3) under circumstances that are, as a matter of common knowledge, inherently likely to provoke an immediate violent response. The third factor requires consideration of factual context, including the proximity of the parties and other circumstances that affect the likelihood of a violent response.

*A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole  
It does not look likely to stir a man’s soul,  
’Tis the deeds that were done ‘neath the moth-eaten rag,  
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag.  
~Sir Edward B. Hamley, 1824-1893*

Threats are another class of speech that receives no protection under the First Amendment. Many legal scholars agree that for a statement to be a true threat, the speaker must “mean to communicate a serious expression of intent to commit an act of unlawful violence to a particular individual or group of individuals.”

Hate speech refers to speech that expresses loathing for others because of race, religion, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, or other vulnerable characteristics. Examples include epithets and symbols such as swastikas.

Not only are you a member of the strongest military force in the world, you have the privilege of being a citizen of the finest country in the world. Each of us enjoys the freedoms secured by the Constitution and by those in uniform past and present. But, when the uniform comes off many can often forget that our strength is in our diversity. The irony here is that the WBC right to protest is the right we are embattled to protect.  
Christopher M. Riddell, QM1 USNR. Ret

*The opinions in the Letters section do not necessarily reflect those of NERA or the Staff of The Mariner.*



Damage Controlman Fireman Cierra M. Dodd, a native of Wilmington, Ohio, verifies mailing tags while Chief Postal Clerk Tony Zarate supervises prior to mail departing the ship. Bonhomme Richard Expeditionary Strike Group is conducting maritime operations in 5th Fleet. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Jeffery J. Gabriel Jr.

Background Photo: Postal Clerk 3rd Class Michelle Rock stamps letters in the post office aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68). Nimitz is on a western Pacific deployment operating as part of the U.S. 7th Fleet. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Michael N. Tialemasunu.



# Executive Director's Message

As I sit and write this, I am keenly aware that you and I belong to a very unique – and vulnerable group – a fact that can be likened to the vulnerability of sitting ducks during hunting season.

What am I talking about? Identity theft. Current and former military and DoD personnel are among the highest risk groups. That's because of past standard operating procedure that made our social security numbers (SSNs) a common means of identifying ourselves.

Consider these items of interest:

*In 2006, some of the nation's most influential former military and intelligence officials were informed they were at risk of identity theft after a break-in at a major government contractor netted computers containing the SSNs and other personal information about tens of thousands of past and present company employees.*

*In April 2004, 19 officers aboard the aircraft carrier George Washington had their identities stolen in a fraud ring that involved a crewmember.*

*A Navy retiree had his identity stolen after filing separation papers at a county courthouse, according to Transition Center officials. Investigation revealed a lawyer had stolen the retiree's identity as part of a list of several thousand names, SSNs, and other information. The common link among veterans on this list was that they had filed their DD214 form with local county courthouses so they always could get a certified copy if necessary. (Once a DD214 is filed at a courthouse, it becomes a public record. Some courthouses have put this information online and even more plan to do so in the future.)*

There's some good news ... the Defense Finance and Accounting Service has now dropped the first five digits of SSNs from pay statements and checks, as many of you may have noticed. And Transition counselors are now advising service personnel to consider safety deposit boxes for storing their DD214.

Despite these steps, there is virtually no way to absolutely ensure dodging the bullet when it comes to avoiding becoming an identity theft victim.

That's because even though you might take certain cautionary steps to avoid risk, you have almost no way to keep your personal data from being stolen from a data vendor.

If you do find yourself an identity theft victim, recovery will be a long, often frustrating journey through a bureaucratic maze. And the damage may go further than just your credit history. It could also threaten your military career in regard to security clearance. But you can take steps to limit the damage by enrolling in a theft I.D. service such as the one NERA has made available to its members through our strategic partnership with USBA Services, Inc. (Go to <http://www.usba.com/nera/> and click on Theft I.D Assist in the product list.)

An annual fee of \$59 (for individual or family membership) provides access to specially-trained agents who can step in and advocate on behalf of the identity theft victim during the crucial 48-72 hours immediately following discovery of the crime. This service goes into action to correct problems and identify further costly damage. From monitoring credit reports, contacting creditors and authorities to legal support regarding fraudulent credit reporting.

While it can't prevent identity theft, it can be one of your better lines of support and action if you should become one of the millions hit by this crime. To learn more about this, go to [www.usba.com/nera/](http://www.usba.com/nera/) and click on Theft I.D. Assist in the product list. Or call USBA at 1-800-368-7039. Be sure to identify yourself as an NERA member, as we have worked closely with USBA to ensure a very exclusive affordable price for you.



Executive Director  
Steve Sandy and  
Del Val President  
Jack Quigley



# 2008 Navy Reserve Force Sailor of the Year Finalists



**Commander, Naval Reserve Force, Vice Adm. John G. Cotton recently named Aviation Electronics Technician 1st Class Kathleen A. Reilly the 2007 Reserve Sailor of The Year. Following are the official biography on all of the Reserve Sailors who were selected as finalists for this honor.**



U.S. Navy photograph by Mass Communications Specialist 1st Class Roger S. Duncan

BU1 (SCW/FMF) Estephan D. GARCIA is assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Unit Twenty-Eight located in Shreveport, Louisiana. Petty Officer Garcia joined the Navy in January 1991 as a Sea/Air Mariner. His hard work and dedicated service has earned him four Navy Achievement Medals, and one Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Most recently Petty Officer Garcia served in Iraq and completed 32 projects in the Al Anbar Province. He has a Bachelors Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He celebrates 9 years of marriage to his wife Dena and they have two children, daughter Annissa and son Michael.

AT1 (AW/NAC) Kathleen A. REILLY is assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Five-Three located at Andrews Air Force Base, Washington DC. Petty Officer Reilly joined the Navy in November 1988. Her hard work and dedicated service has earned her two Navy Achievement Medals and Two Air

Medals. AT1(AW/NAC) Reilly is an air crewman who has flown all over the globe to include multiple trips in support to the global war on terror. She has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Aviation Management.

MM1(SS) James R. GREENWELL is assigned to Joint Regional Maintenance Repair Center D113 in Yokosuka, Japan, supporting Navy Operational Support Center in Grand Rapid Michigan. Petty Officer Greenwell joined the Navy in June of 1997. His hard work and dedicated service has earned him Five Navy Achievement Medals and one Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. Most recently Petty Officer Greenwell served as Assistant Ship's Superintendent during ship's restricted availability for USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63). He is a nuclear submariner and has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Applied Systems Technology. Petty Officer Greenwell and his wife Mindy are the proud parents of daughter Courtney, son Daniel and daughter Lana.

PS1 Julia N. RAE is assigned to Operational Health Support Unit-Dallas Detachment-Q supporting Navy Operational Support Center in Waco Texas. Petty Officer Rae joined the Navy in June 1996. Her hard work and dedication has earned her a Army Commendation Medal, six Navy Achievement Medals and one Flag Letter of Commendation. PS1 Rae just returned from mobilization to Kuwait where she worked for the Navy Customs Battalion ROMEO and was ranked 1 of 66 Sailors. She has an Associates of Arts Degree. Petty Officer Rae is married to Evan and they have two daughters, Margot Adia and Marisa Andrea.

MA1 Preston D. NOKES is assigned to Naval Reserve Force Protection, Physical Security Unit FP2 supporting Navy Operational Support Center in Alameda California. He joined the Navy in June 1995. His hard work and dedicated service has earned him one Army Commendation Medal and one Navy Achievement Medal. Petty Officer Nokes recently returned from mobilization to Kuwait where he was the LPO for the Theater Field Detention Facility ASG-Kuwait. He has an Associates of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Petty Officer Nokes and his wife Lori have two children: daughter Chelsea and son Richard.

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Is Spouse/Guest a NERA Member or Associate Member: YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest Nickname (for Nametag): \_\_\_\_\_

**AIRLINE TRAVEL NOTE:** For transportation from Orlando Intl. Airport to Holiday Inn Main Gate East, call Mears Transportation (407)423-5566, [www.mearstransportation.com](http://www.mearstransportation.com), \$32 r.t., per person, \$25 children. **On-line use Priority Code: 335301007 (\$6 discount coupon r.t.)**. For transportation from Sanford Intl. Airport to Holiday Inn Maingate East, call Orlando Carriers (407) 936-0513, \$50 r.t. Car rentals also available.

*If arriving by air, please complete the flight information:*

Your Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Airport: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Flight Arrival Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Number in your party: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions for Registration Charges:** Enter number of people attending and multiply by the charge.

14-19 October '08 – Early Registration (by Aug. 30) # \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost: \$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Late Registration (after Sept. 1) # \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost: \$75 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*\*It would be GREATLY appreciated if you register as early as possible. Last minute registration adds extra work for our volunteers!*

14 October '08 – 1800-2000 – Welcome Reception # \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost: FREE \$ 0

15 October '08 – 1200-1330 – Awards Luncheon # \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost: \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Choice (write in number for all attending on this reservation):**

\_\_\_\_ Tuscan Steak Salad \_\_\_\_ Cajun Chicken Pasta \_\_\_\_ Roasted Pork Loin \_\_\_\_ Chicken Napoli

*\*\*Please see NERA website for full menu descriptions and choices\*\**

18 October '08 – 1900-2100 – Installation Banquet # \_\_\_\_\_ X Cost: \$45 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Choice (write in number for all attending on this reservation):**

\_\_\_\_ NY Strip \_\_\_\_\_ Seared Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib Au Jus

\_\_\_\_ Herb Roasted Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala

*\*\*Please see NERA website for full menu descriptions and choices.\*\**

> > > > **Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**TOUR NOTE:** Additional tours are being scheduled. Reservations for these tours can be made upon arrival at the hotel.

➔ **Please make check payable to: NERA**

**Mail to:**

Marianne E. Mosher  
5542 Shawnee Drive  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

*For questions, please call 610-262-3597 or*

*Email: [yncmosher@verizon.net](mailto:yncmosher@verizon.net)*

*If you are bringing children, please contact us via email if child portions are requested.*

# NERA's 51<sup>st</sup> National Conference Orlando, FL Agenda- Tentative

To change as speakers and events are confirmed

## Tuesday, 14 October 2008

1300-1600 Registration begins...Location TBA  
1800-2000 Meet and Greet Mixer...Location TBA

## Wednesday, 15 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet  
0800-0845 Opening Ceremony (Dress Uniform)...Location TBA

- Parade the colors, Chaplain Invocation by Chuck Sherrick
- Welcome to Orlando (Host Chapter and National President.

0845-0900 -----BREAK-----  
0900-0915 Nominations for National Officers  
0915-1015 State of the Association-Reports by National Officers

- ED-Steve Sandy
- VP-Nick Marine
- Sec-Mike Hayes
- National Counselor-Gene McCarthy
- Past Pres-Penny Padour

1015-1030 -----BREAK-----  
1030-1130 Guest Speaker:

- Honorable Thomas F. Hall (Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs)

1130-1230 -----BREAK-----  
1230-1400 Awards Luncheon...MC Lou Pagano

- Service to Reservist
- 1776 Award
- SOY Award
- Recruiter and Chapter Awards

1430 Disney Events Begin



## Thursday, 16 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet  
0800-0930 Business Sessions:

- National President
- Constitution & By-Law Proposals

0930-0945 -----BREAK-----  
0945-1045 Business Session: Constitution & By-Law Proposals, Final  
1045-1100 -----BREAK-----  
1100-1145 National Vice President/National Counselor Membership Report

- Recruiting and Retention

1145 Early Adjourn----- Meeting Session Ends-----  
1200-1230 Special Meeting (Chapter Presidents)... Location TBA

*Cheers for the sailors that fought on the wave for it, Cheers for the soldiers that always were brave for it,  
Tears for the men that went down to the grave for it,  
Here comes the flag!  
~Arthur Macy, The Flag*

## Friday, 17 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet  
0800-0830 National President  
0830-0900 Candidate Forum  
0900-0915 -----BREAK-----  
0915-0945 Business Session: Introduction of Budget FY08 (Treasurer)  
0945-1000 -----BREAK-----  
1000-1030 Business Session: Adoption of FY09 Budget  
1045-1145 National Guest Speakers  
1200-1215 -----BREAK-----  
1215-1245 Time & Place Committee: Future Conference Site  
-----Meeting Session Ends-----  
Chapter Presidents/Officer Special Events  
1300-1400 Fund Raisers/Events (Chicago/OK Chapters)

## Saturday, 18 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet  
0800-0830 National President  
0830-0845 Voting of New National Officers  
0845-0900 -----BREAK-----  
0900-1130 Senior Enlisted Panel Discussion (Location TBA)

- Navy Reserve Force
- Marine Forces Reserve
- Coast Guard Reserve Force

-----Meeting Session Ends-----  
1300 Disney Events Begin  
1830-1900 No Host Cocktail Hour (Dress Uniform)  
1900-2100 Dinner Dance (Dress Uniform)

- Inauguration of New National Officers

## Sunday, 19 October 2008

0700-0745 Breakfast, Full American Buffet  
0800-0900 National Executive Council Public Meeting

Sailors from various U.S. Navy commands throughout Navy's Southeast Region march throughout Navy's Southeast Region march before Cinderella's Castle before entering onto Main St. inside Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom. The Sailors were greeted by family members and guests and joined Disney World's Military Salute for its 2005 Christmas Day Parade taping. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class

Adam J. Herrada



# The Holiday Inn Main Gate East Welcomes The NERA's 51st Conference - Orlando, FL! October 14th - October 19th, 2008.



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# 'High Rollers' Recognized for Efforts During 2007 Wildfires

By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class (SW/AW) Chris Fahey

**SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- Twenty-three Sailors from the "High Rollers" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85 and Commander, Helicopter Maritime Strike Wing, U.S. Pacific Fleet (CHSMWP) received medals from Commander, Naval Air Forces Reserve (CNAFR), Rear Adm. Patrick McGrath, March 31, for their efforts during the 2007 October Wildfires.**

From Oct. 22–28, the 'High Rollers' coordinated with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to conduct hundreds of water drop missions across miles of San Diego country side. The team flew a total of 20 sorties, dropped more than 320,000 gallons of water, 420 gallons per drop, and saved countless homes and properties from destruction.

During the awards ceremony, McGrath presented four Meritorious Service Medals, 18 Navy Air Medals and two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals.

McGrath explained the awards serve as a token of thanks to the men and women who upheld the Navy's standing commitment to aid its local community during a time of crisis.

"When the fires started in October, CAL FIRE and HSC-85 were flying on the very first day, in very difficult conditions due to the winds, and were on the front lines during the days fighting the fires and often at night spotting for firefighters on the ground," said McGrath. "The men and women of HSC-85 and the North Island helicopter community are a great example that reminds everyone that the San Diego community is our community, and in times of crisis,

we [the Navy] will always be there to lend a hand and protect our city and homes."

Based on data taken from California's Office of Emergency Services Web site, the 2007 fires were among the worst in California's 130 years of recorded history, resulting in statewide damages of more than \$1 billion, with more than 2,000 homes destroyed and more than half-a-million acres sent up in smoke.



Still, despite the fires' destructiveness, CAL FIRE representative Jim Barthol, an air tactical group supervisor from the Ramona Air Tanker Base, said HSC-85's efforts were effective in helping save and protect many areas of San Diego. Barthol supervised water drops from the air.

"This was a very successful operation," said Barthol. "The first day [Oct. 22] we were out in the Poway area which was very residential. [There was] lots of smoke and lots of fire. We protected the homes and people as the fire approached. The next day we were out near San Miguel doing fire containment – keeping the fire away from homes until ground fire fighters could get out there. I wasn't sure if we could do it, but the piloting was outstanding. We kept that fire contained."

One of the first families to witness Navy support

Background and insert photos:

An MH-60S Seahawk assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85, dumps water from a full 420-gallon extinguishing trough onto one of the many areas in San Diego County suffering from an ongoing wildfire. The blaze has already forced more than 250,000 people from their homes. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Chris Fahey

during the blazes was the Francois'. Loyce Francois who resides with her family close to the San Miguel Mountains, which were ravaged by the Harris Ranch fires, awoke Oct. 22 at 1 a.m. to thick black smoke. She and her family immediately evacuated their home.

“Later that morning,” said Francois, “we were watching the news and were flabbergasted by how quick help was able to respond. We could see the fire zigzag down the mountain and, from where we were, could hear the helicopters in the air. It gave us some peace of mind knowing they had gotten there so quick. We were able to return to our home at about noon that same day.”



An MH-60S Seahawk, assigned to the “High Rollers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85, leads a Bell 212 HP helicopter assigned to the San Diego County Fire Department and a Bell 205 helicopter assigned to the Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agency of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office to Petco Park to perform a ceremonial flyover for the opening game of the 2008 San Diego Padres major league baseball season. The flyover was part of a tribute to the first responders and fire fighters who fought the 2007 October wildfires. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Dustin Kelling

The pilots and aircrew from HSC-85 and CAL FIRE worked diligently around-the-clock to ensure as much water was dropped as possible. Air Medal recipient, AEC(AW/NAC) Rex Sackett, an aircrew chief with HSC-85, noted his squadron’s contribution as the single most rewarding experience since his service in Iraq.

“That was a huge source of pride, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom, and I feel the same level of gratification when it comes to HSC-85’s participation during the fires,” said Sackett. “It’s awesome knowing that our squadron, as a whole, directly contributed to not only preventing possible loss of life and the saving of homes, but also taking a huge workload off the firefighters on the ground and in the air.”

The High Rollers first started supporting CAL FIRE with water drop missions after the Cedar Fires in 2003. Recognizing the benefit of having a capable and reliable resource available when needed, the Navy and CAL FIRE began a joint training process that included multiple flights operating a “Bambi” bucket – the device used to carry and drop water from the helicopter. CAL FIRE also required specialized annual training as well as periodic exercise participation to fully integrate HSC-85 during actual disasters.

“If my arms were long enough, I would hug all of them at the same time,” said Francois. “They put their life on the line to save ours ... and we are just really grateful the Navy was there to help our city.”



Crew members aboard a MH-60S Seahawk helicopter activate a release button, dumping 420 gallons of water below them on a burning target. HSC-85 has teamed up with the San Diego California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to help put out the wild fires blazing across Southern California. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Dustin Kelling

**Background Photo:**

An MH-60S Seahawk, assigned to the “High Rollers” of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 85, leads a Bell 212 HP helicopter assigned to the San Diego County Fire Department and a Bell 205 helicopter assigned to the Aerial Support to Regional Enforcement Agency of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Office to Petco Park to perform a ceremonial flyover for the opening game of the 2008 San Diego Padres major league baseball season. The flyover was part of a tribute to the first responders and fire fighters who fought the 2007 October wildfires. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communications Specialist 3rd Class Dustin Kelling



# Faces of NERA



MCL, Dept. of MI, Detachment # 148; Wendy Zamora, Detach. Commandant (rear)



Dana Dawson Address Identity Theft



WWII Vets with BG Fausone; Picture 1: (Left to Right) Islia Brandell, BG Carol Ann Fausone (Asst. AG, MIANG), Rachel Babcock, Marie Harvey, Eleanor Robinson, and Mary Smith.



CDR Eric Humphreys  
Exec Officer NASJRB  
Willow Grove



Don Mann sings National Anthem



Battle of Midway Dinner



# Faces of NERA



Del Val VP Bill Severns Presenting award to Dan Fraley



Jerry Lebiduik President of Lehigh Valley presents CK to National



Dan Fraley Director of Bucks Country Department of Veterans Affairs



Maj. Gen. Nelson speaks on terrorism in the U.S.



Lehigh Valley Contingent

*That piece of red, white and blue bunting means five thousand years of struggle upwards. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom. ~Alvin Owsley*



# TIPS & CLIPS



By Joanne Elliott  
NERA President

**GI BILL:** Twenty-five Republican senators broke rank with President Bush to help Democrats approve overwhelmingly a new, more generous GI Bill plan negotiated by Sen. Jim Webb (D-Va.) for active duty service members, reservists and veterans who have served since the attacks of 9-11. Senate leadership virtually ignored an alternative backed by the Bush administration. The surprise 75-22 vote for the Webb plan included more than half of all Senate Republicans plus 48 Democrats and two independents. President Bush has promised to veto the bill but an override looks possible in both the Senate and House, which passed the Webb bill in mid-May. (Military.com)

**VETERAN TUITION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:** Starting in fall 2008, Pace University will be offering a scholarship program to veterans from all branches of the United States Armed Forces who served in Afghanistan and/or Iraq since September 11, 2001. The new program grants eligible veterans a 50 percent tuition scholarship for new students in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The scholarship is open to all admitted veterans who provide a copy of their DD-214 form with the following designations: It is opened to all new and current students

- Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (before 2005)
- Operation Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2005-present)
- Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal

Go to [www.pace.edu/apply](http://www.pace.edu/apply) to fill out your application then send that along with a copy of your DD214 along with the application fee waiver form to the appropriate Admission Office.

Undergraduate Students:  
Pace University  
Application Processing Center  
861 Bedford Road  
Pleasantville, NY 10570

Graduate Students:  
Pace University  
Office of Graduate Admission  
One Martine Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10570

Law Students:  
Pace Law School  
Office of Admissions  
78 North Broadway  
White Plains, NY 10603  
[www.law.pace.edu](http://www.law.pace.edu)

## TIMELINES TO REMEMBER:

Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR): You have 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or until released from the Selected Reserve or National Guard. Some extensions available if activated.

Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VocRehab): Generally, 12 years of separation from service or within 12 years of being awarded service-connected VA disability compensation.

Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI): Coverage ends 120 days after separation or can be extended up to 1 year for totally disabled veterans.

**VACATIONS FOR VETERANS** is a non-profit organization created to provide recently wounded veterans of the United States Armed Forces with a week of free lodging donated by a vacation homeowner. The Washington-based organization's focus is to get veterans wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan and their families a much-deserved respite. Homeowners who would like to participate can sign up through the Vacations for Veterans website, which is also where eligible veterans can express interest. Veterans must provide a copy of their Purple Heart documentation to establish eligibility. For more information, visit the Vacations for Veterans website.

**PENNSYLVANIA BONUS FOR VETS:** For those of you who live in Pennsylvania, State Rep. Ken Smith (D-Lackawanna) [www.pa.house.com/KSmith](http://www.pa.house.com/KSmith) has announced that Pennsylvania has started a program that will award bonuses to veterans who served active duty in the Persian Gulf Theatre of Operations between 8/2/1990 and 8/31/1991, received the Southwest Asia Service Medal, and who were legal residents of Pennsylvania at that time. The program provides veterans with \$75 per month for each month they served in the war, up to a maximum of \$525. In addition, the program pays \$5,000 to prisoners of war and to the families of troops who died in active service in the 1990-91 Persian Gulf Conflict. The deadline to apply is 8/31/2015.

**TRICARE CONTINUITY PROPOSAL:** Rep. Latta (R-OH) has proposed a bill before the House of Representatives to amend title 10 of the United States Code to provide for continuity of TRICARE Standard coverage for members of the Retired Reserve and family members who are qualified for a non-regular retirement but have not reached the age of 60. The Secretary of Defense will prescribe the premium for this coverage. NERA and the TMC support this legislation. Write your Congressmen today.

**WOMEN VETERANS OF AMERICA'S NATIONAL CONVENTION SEPT. 12-14:** All women veterans are invited to attend the National Convention of Women Veterans of America, Sept. 12-14, 2008, in Nashville, Tenn. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Irene Trowell-Harris, national director of the VA's Center for Women Veterans. For more information, visit the WVA's convention Web site.

## RESERVE INCOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (RIRP)

Developed to provide active duty income differential to those who have been involuntarily mobilized. You must currently be on active duty. For questions concerning Reserve Income Replacement Program contact N-130 Reserve Compensation at commercial 703-614-5636, DSN: 224-5636. For Processing DD-Form 2919 contact your servicing Personnel Support Detachment.

## Who is Angel Flight?

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## Medicare/TRICARE Reimbursement Bill Stalls in Senate

Legislation to replace a 10.6-percent cut in reimbursement rates for doctors serving Medicare and TRICARE patients scheduled to take effect on 1 July 2008 stalled in the Senate this week. The legislation would have also authorized an 0.5-percent increase for 18 months. TRICARE reimbursement rates are tied to those for Medicare providers and, without congressional action to halt these cuts, doctors may choose not to accept TRICARE patients. Some healthcare providers already choose not to participate in the Medicare and TRICARE programs because of low reimbursement rates, citing extra TRICARE administrative burdens and a smaller military patient population as additional challenges.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (C MMA) told Congress that in order to halt the 1 July cuts, they must do it by 16 June 2008 to allow time to reprogram computers. If there's no action by that date, CMMA must implement the cut on 1 July and undo erroneous payments later, assuming Congress changes the law.

Members are urged to use the to contact their Senators on this urgent issue.



# YEARS AGO IN NERA

By *Manny Ratner*



**FORTY YEARS AGO:** The eleventh annual national conference was held on 18-19 October 1968 at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, DC. Room rates were \$13.56 single and \$17 double. DCC George LANGE was handling all the arrangements. After opening remarks by National President Duncan FORSYTH on Friday, the speakers were CAPT George N. SCABOO, USNR, representing the

Asst. Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Naval Reserve; CAPT. Robert J. STANKOWSKI, USNR, representing the Assist. Chief of Naval Personnel for Naval Reserve; CAPT. Edward W. FIDLER, USNR and YNCM Don CODY, USNR representing the Commander Naval Reserve Training Command and CAPT Guiseppe BELLO, USNR, representing the Chief of Naval Air Training. Panel discussions by these top individuals were held all day Friday. Saturday was for NERA business. NERA dues at this time were \$5. Seven new NERA chapters formed: In Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a group came in with 36 members, and the Omaha Chapter came in with 27. A Gateway Chapter formed in St. Louis with 29 members; Lacrosse, Wisc., Chapter was the 40th NERA group and their slate of officers was submitted. Norfolk, Virg., chapter came aboard with 31 new members with later to be National President SKCS Nat LIEDERMAN as their Secretary and DCCS Joe SMULLEN as their President. Portal to Portal coverage for reservists passed the House but did not get through the Senate. The MCPO of the Navy, Delbert D. BLACK stated: "The true test of a leader is to turn a reluctant worker into a willing worker." A great deal of write-ups in the NERAGRAM had to do with the Welcome Back NERA Program which really thanked the Naval Reservists who had volunteered two to four years of their lives to serve with the Fleet or Ground Forces in Vietnam. NERA actively supported the recognition of returning Reservists, home on leave or released from active duty.

**THIRTY YEARS AGO:** The 1978 Annual National Conference was held from 19-21 October at the Fountain Bay Club Hotel in New Orleans and room rates were \$23 single and doubles at \$28. For the first time, the CNO, ADM Thomas B. HAYWARD was the lead speaker and Guest of Honor. The MCPON Bob WALKER also attended and marched with a NERA contingent through the Bourbon Street area. The MCPON paid his dues and became a NERA member. Newly elected officers were Ray VAUGHAN as President, Chester HANCOCK as the VP, David BROCK as the Secretary, Nat LIEDERMAN, the Treasurer, and Matt GUTMAN as the Executive Counselor. What NERA had been lobbying for many years, the Survivor Benefit Program (SPB) became effective on 1 October 1978 for Reservists. Bill KREH, Editor of the Navy Times, told the Conference "NERA has a strong voice and legislatures are listening. If not for NERA's activities during the past two years, we would not have a Naval Reserve as we know it today." Bud OTTO, the key advisor to Congressman Bill CHAPPEL of Florida, RADM Carl BRETTSCHEIDER, Commandant of the

Fourth Naval District, and Mr. Robert CONNOR, the Deputy Asst. SECNAV for Reserve Affairs were also great guest speakers. Coverage under SBP – a Survivor Annuity payable on the member's death as long as the reservist has completed 20 years of service and has made an election in writing – was covered adequately by the speakers. YN1 Gustav John STANGLINE was the 1978 Outstanding Enlisted Naval Reservist and was meritoriously advanced to Chief as well as receiving a NERA recognition plaque at the Conference. NERA recruited its 10,000th member, YN2 Thomas A. REMONDI into the Green Bay Chapter by BUCS Ronald HUMMITSCH. Quotas for E-4 through E-6 were listed in the NERAGRAM. A large chapter formed at NAS North Island where YNCM Frank LUSSEK was instrumental in getting a 96 person group organized with National President Lindell CLYMER and National Executive Director Jim STEPHENS in attendance at their chartering. The USS Yorktown Chapter formed in Charleston, SC and another one, the League Island Group formed at the Naval Base, Philadelphia, PA with PNC Leo KATZ as the organizer. TEX-LA in Orange, Texas and the Permian Basin at Midland, Texas, were two other groups that joined the NERA roster. Meanwhile in Atlanta, Georgia, MSC Tom MURPHY was leading a campaign to form a chapter there. In the Green Bay – Sheboygan area, recruiters RMC John BOROWITZ and HUMMITSCH sent in a chapter request with 100 new members. NERA spent about \$1,000 in lobbying efforts which paid off by assuring drill pay for September for September 1978 with strong last minute efforts.

**TWENTY YEARS AGO:** A featured article in the July-August issue of *The Mariner* was on High Year Tenure (HYT) and was written by CAPT David L. WOODS, NERA's first Associate Life Member and publisher of *The Mariner*. By request of the CNAVRES, Woods attended a two-hour briefing of Naval Reserve Manpower Initiatives in mid-July and series of articles would summarize the reasons for HYT. CMC Larry RHEA, the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Office of Sec. of Defense wrote a fine summation of a Bridge to Employers Understanding. WOODS also had a two-part article talking with Jim DUFFY, the NERA National President in 1970-1971 and the changes he tried to make in the Naval Reserve Retirement Law. AKCM Richie VANNUCCI penned a fine write-up on VFA-303 (a strike fighter squadron) based at NAS – Lemoore and winner of the NOEL "E" Trophy for 1987. NR Regions and NERA Chapters in each plus the home address of each chapter president and the NR regional rep were printed. Elected at the outstanding Green Bay National Conference were BMCM Ed COUTO as President, ETCM (SS) Bob POWELL as VP, SKC Paul COLWELL as Secretary, RM2 Pam POWERS as Treasurer, and MS2 Eddie OCA as National Executive Counselor. The "1776 Award" winner was Jim GIBBONS of the Greater New York Chapter who accepted his plaque from John THOMAS, the 1987 Selectee. Naval Reserve allowances showing the on-board strength and allotment which gave personnel their chances of being advanced was carried in *The Mariner*.



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# Marine Marquee

## Marine Task Force Provides Critical Aid to Continuing Promise

Story by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Porter Anderson

ABOARD USS BOXER, At sea – The Reserve Special Purpose Marine Corps Air-Ground Task Force (SPMAGTF) 24, embarked aboard USS Boxer (LHD 4), is providing various levels of support for the equal partnership mission Continuing Promise 2008.

Continuing Promise is a collaborative effort between U.S. military services to work with non-governmental organizations and partner-nation support organizations so that strong partnerships are in place and can be called upon in the event of a regional situation that requires cooperative solutions.

SPMAGTF 24 is primarily embarked aboard Boxer for transportation to Peru for exercises as part of Partnership of the Americas (POA) 2008. POA is a United States Southern Command sponsored annual maritime engagement operation to enhance multinational cooperation and strengthen partnership among navies and allied nations throughout the Americas. Partner nation engagements include a series of Theater Security Cooperation events such as joint training exercises, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and maritime security operations.

During the transit, SPMAGTF 24's support to the CP mission includes the use of its Spanish-speaking Marines as translators, four Medium Tactical Vehicles Replacement (MTVR) and four CH-46E helicopters to transport personnel, supplies and equipment to worksites.

“This is a great team effort for Marines, Navy, Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and the nations we are working with,” said Marine Lt. Col. John Klink, executive officer of SPMAGTF 24. “It would be great to see us continue to help and build relationships between nations for the future.”

The CH-46E Sea Knight flown by Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron (HMM) 764 has given Boxer more resources to transport supplies ashore, HMM-764 has flown more than 24 sorties, 49 hours and 465 passengers, within the Guatemalan phase of CP. Additionally, the CP mission gave HMM-764 their first opportunity to launch from and land on a Navy ship.

“This is an historic first for this squadron,” said Maj. Francis Gala, assistant operations officer for HMM-764. “We now have had a chance to work at sea and learn how to fly on a ship.”

The MTVR, also known as the “seven-ton truck”, has a 12-ton payload on-road and a 7-ton payload off-road for transporting large amounts of equipment.



Marine Corps Staff Sgt. James Palmer and Cpl. Patrick Garcia, embarked aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), fill a wheelbarrow with debris while clearing the El Higueral schoolyard in Guatemala during Continuing Promise (CP) 2008. Boxer is deployed supporting the Pacific phase of Continuing Promise 2008, an equal partnership mission between the United States, Guatemala, El Salvador and Peru. U.S. Army photo by Specialist Brian R. Williams

MTVRs have transported cargo and troops daily to and from the Seabees work-sites at the Church of San Francisco, Aldea Linares, a culvert reconstruction site and Aldea El Higueral. They have made ship-to-shore movements via Landing Craft Utility, from the beach to the Guatemalan paratrooper base and work sites. These movements have been conducted daily since the beginning of the mission and will continue until completion.

“Its part of our job to help out anyone who needs a hand,” said Lance Cpl. Steven Yanez, a Pasadena Calif. Native. “It doesn't matter if you are Navy, Marine, Air force or Army. This is part of our responsibility and our duty to help anyone.”

SPMATF 24 has operated side-by-side with the joint forces from Boxer and the partner-nation professionals of Guatemala. The task force plans on providing the same support in El Salvador, Boxer's last stop before sending SPMAGTF 24 ashore in Peru.

Boxer and SPMAGTF 24's mission exemplifies the U.S. maritime strategy which emphasizes deploying forces to build confidence and trust among nations through collective maritime security efforts that focus on common threats and mutual interests.

Embarked units and organizations aboard Boxer for CP include Amphibious Squadron 5, Fleet Surgical Team 5, U.S. Public Health Service, Project Hope, Project Handclasp, Navy Seabee Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 5, Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron 14, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 764, Tactical Air Control Squadron 11, Special Marine Air Ground Task Force 24, Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron 23, Assault Craft Unit 1 and Beach Master Unit 1.



# COASTIE CORNER



## Thirteenth Coast Guard District selects Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year

SEATTLE - The Thirteenth Coast Guard District has selected Petty Officer Trisha Castrillo as the 2007 Reserve Enlisted Person of the Year (EPOY).

As an administrative petty officer for Coast Guard reserve members assigned to Station Grays Harbor, Castrillo developed a reserve boat training and qualification program.

Castrillo also helped maintain the welfare of the local Coast Guard housing community. She volunteered to maintain the Coast Guard housing area playground and participated in an annual toy drive that provided gifts to over 30 area children.

The EPOY Program is designed to recognize exemplary men and women from the active and reserve enlisted work force. Only those enlisted personnel who demonstrated sustained exceptional standards of proficiency and conduct, and whose military appearance and bearing consistently reflected Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty.

## Coast Guard Graduates Inaugural Class of Intelligence Specialists

YORKTOWN, Va. - The first class of Intelligence Specialist (IS) petty officers graduated in a ceremony aboard the parade field of U.S. Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown on May 16.

Rear Adm. Daniel May, Director of Coast Guard Reserve and Training, presided over the ceremony. Additional remarks were made by Rear Adm. Cynthia Coogan, Coast Guard Deputy Director of Intelligence and Criminal Investigations, and Capt. Anne Ewalt, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Training Center Yorktown.

Coast Guard Commandant Admiral Thad Allen formally approved the creation of the Intelligence Specialist enlisted rating in November 2006. The Intelligence Specialist enlisted rating officially stood up on January 1, 2008, there are 11 Intelligence Specialists in this first graduating class.



The United States Coast Guard became a member of the Intelligence Community in December of 2001, joining 15 other agencies, services, bureaus, and other organizations within the executive branch that play a role in the business of national intelligence.

## The Reservist Magazine Back Issues Online

Washington - In a move that will bring joy to the heart of Coast Guard historians, and current and former Reservists, the staff of The Reservist is methodically placing all back issues on line in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format.

Approximately two issues will be placed online each work day, and they are currently up to the 173rd issue, June 1970.

Beginning as a four-page newsletter in November 1953, a total of 73 issues published during the 1950s, 94 issues during the 1960s, and six have been placed online from the 1970s so far.

2008 marks the publication's 55th year of serving the members of the Coast Guard Reserve.

You can view the current and back issues at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/reserve/magazine/magazine.htm>

*Freedom's natal day is here. Fire the guns and shout for freedom, See the flag above unfurled!  
Hail the stars and stripes forever, Dearest flag in all the world.  
~Florence A. Jones*

# A Special Thank You to the Life Benefactors

## for their continued LIFETIME support of NERA

### Life Benefactor Members

SKCS Nick Marine  
 AVCM Steveon H. Hall  
 CWO4 Shirley Barlow  
 ETCM Louis Pagano  
 YNC Joanne M. Elliott  
 SK1 Alvin H. Wright  
 SKCS William J. Severns  
 CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks  
 SKCS Norma B. Von Dohren  
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 RMC Fred H. Springall  
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 YNCM George J. Knorr  
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 HMCS William M. Allen  
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#### Benefactor Memberships \$250.00

*(Offered only to fully paid Life Members)*

Sign up for a Benefactor membership by using our existing membership form today! (Check the Benefactor block). Benefactor members will have their **names engraved** on a large plaque with all other benefactors recognizing their continued LIFETIME support of NERA. This plaque will be prominently displayed at the NERA National Headquarters. Benefactor names will also be published in **every annual** National Conference book on a dedicated Benefactor page. Benefactors will receive recognition at **ALL** National Conferences during the opening ceremonies. For more info Pls contact: NERADEPUTY@NERA.ORG

#### A REQUEST FROM YOUR NATIONAL TREASURER

I would like challenge all members of our organization who will be receiving a 2008 Economic Stimulus Payment from the IRS to commit to giving a small percentage back to the Life Membership Investment Fund. If we all took a small percentage of these check and dropped it back in to our LMIF Fund - it would be an LMIF Stimulus we have not seen in quite some time. I call on all Chapter Presidents to match my commitment of writing a check payable to: NERA LMIF in the amount of 100.00. I encourage all Chapter Presidents to discuss this and their next meeting and request we blast out to our membership this challenge who may not be in contact with an active chapter.

Mail all checks to  
 NERA Treasurer  
 PO Box 154  
 Fairhope, AL 36533  
 ATTN: LMIF Stimulus

Vincent Diemert  
 NERA Treasurer

## Membership Application Form



Mail completed applications to:  
**NERA**  
 6703 Farragut Avenue  
 Falls Church, VA 22042

#### Branch of Service:

- N-Navy
- M-Marine Corps
- C-Coast Guard
- O-Other

#### Annual Membership

- \$25=1 year
- \$47=2 years
- \$69=3 years

#### Lifetime Membership

- \$250 Lifetime
- \$62.50 Lifetime \*Partial Pay  
\*Installment option to be paid within 18 months
- \$250-Life(Benefactor)  
Must be LIFETIME member



Total Amount: \$

#### Type of Service:

- A-Active Duty
- I-Inactive Duty
- R-Retired

Payment By:  Check (enclosed)  VISA  MasterCard

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Expiration Date:

Signature Required:

Name

Rate  Date of Birth

Street Address

City  State  Zip Code

E-mail Address

Chapter

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Recruiter or Sponsor

Call NERA at (800)776-9020 for updates

*Do we have your current address? If not, please use this form and send us an update.*

REMEMBER TO NOTIFY NERA IF YOU MOVE. ALSO LET US KNOW ANY CHANGES IN YOUR E-MAILADDRESS.

# BATTLE OF MIDWAY – 66th Anniversary

## June 7, 2008

By SKCS Norma von Dohren, USN (Ret.)  
President, NERA – Gold Country Chapter



A traditional Navy “dining out” was held June 7 to celebrate the 66th annual Battle of Midway Commemorative Dinner at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco.

More than 200 people attended the event and each attendee was given a

booklet with biographies and stories of some of the Midway veterans.

Rear Adm. Thomas Andrews, III, president of the mess, read the biographies of the Midway veterans who were in attendance, each of whom received an ovation from the audience.

This was the 11th annual event held in the Bay area. Last year the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) attended the event. This year Admiral Timothy J. Keating, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command, was the guest speaker.

This event was sponsored by the CNO and supported and organized by the Naval Order of the United States. The Battle of Midway Commemoration is one of only two mandated celebrations in the Navy. The other is the Navy Birthday on October 13.

Why is it so important to remember to celebrate the Battle of Midway?

In my opinion, we have a moral obligation to honor and thank the heroes – the Midway Veterans – who turned the tide against Japan in WWII.

We all remember:

December 7, 1941, when in less than two hours, Japan’s warplanes, its air fleet of fighters, dive-bombers, and torpedo planes had crippled the main force of the U.S. fleet. Their attack on Pearl Harbor left more than 2,400 U.S. Sailors, Soldiers, Marines and civilians dead, and more than 1,000 wounded.

The U.S. Fleet’s three aircraft carriers, Hornet, Yorktown and Enterprise were away from their base at that time and escaped destruction.

The first five months of the war in the Pacific proved to be a series of Japanese victories. Japan had hoped that her victory at Pearl Harbor had weakened the U.S. naval forces. In June 1942, when Admiral Yamamoto attempted to destroy the remainder of the U.S. Pacific Fleet in the Battle of Midway, planes from the U.S. carriers Hornet, Yorktown and Enterprise sank the Japanese carriers Akagi, Kaga, Hiryu, and Soryu.



It is important to note, that the success of U.S. intelligence in deciphering Japanese codes provided invaluable information to surprise the Japanese fleet in the Battle of Midway.

The Battle of Midway was an overwhelming U.S. victory. It destroyed Japan’s long range striking capability.

It was this battle that turned the tide not just for the U.S. but also for the Allies.

The following Veterans attended this June 7, 2008 celebration:

Edward R. ANDERSON  
LCDR Philip R.  
HORNE, USN-Ret,  
Oral L. (“Slim”)  
MOORE  
QMC Francis C.  
ROUSE, Sr., USN-Ret  
CDR Robert A. SWAN,  
USNR-Ret



It was an honor to be in their presence.

*Photos Courtesy of  
MCCS Bob Hanson,  
Battel of Modway  
Commemoration  
Committee*



# Reserve retirement points for Navy e-Learning courses

Did you know many Navy e-Learning (NeL) courses are worth Reserve retirement points? NERA has worked to make claiming retirement points quicker and easier for all Navy Reservists. Retirement points are valuable to Reservists because they can make or break a “good year” and impact retirement earnings. For these reasons it’s worth the effort to claim them when completing NeL courses via Navy Knowledge Online (NKO).

The overall steps to claim your points are to print out your NeL completion certificates; verify the points offered are correct; then submit them to Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

First log into NeL via NKO. If you have trouble logging in to NKO, contact the help desk toll-free at (877) 253-7122 or email [netc.helpdesk@navy.mil](mailto:netc.helpdesk@navy.mil).

Once in NKO, click Learning tab > Navy e-Learning Online Courses > Click here to access Navy e-Learning. NeL will open in a separate window. Be sure to bypass your browser pop-up blocker, if applicable.

Next, verify that the recommended retirement points are correct in NeL. We’ll discuss verification in two parts: Courses completed October 1, 2007 or later and Courses completed before October 1, 2007.

## Courses completed October 1, 2007 or later

If you completed your NeL course October 1, 2007 or later, then the completion certificate accurately reflects the retirement points earned.

To view your completion certificate, click the My Transcripts tab. Your completed courses are listed there. For a specific course, click Certificate, which opens in a new window. Look for Recommended Reserve Points earned upon completion.

Print the certificate and mail a copy to NPC. The address is listed in a graphic on the next page.

## Courses completed prior to October 1, 2007

For courses completed prior to October 1, 2007, you’ll need to verify the points earned—IF you didn’t print your certificate out before October 1, 2007.

According to Mr. Larry Bishop, customer service center supervisor assigned to NPC PERS 912, Retirement and Retirement Points section, “If you finished the course and printed your completion certificate BEFORE October 1, 2007, you’re safe. The certificate reflects the correct number of points assigned to the course. Go ahead and submit a copy of that certificate.”

“But if you completed a course before October 1, 2007 and printed certificates after that date, the points shown will probably be wrong,” Bishop added. “In many cases the points come up as zero. That needs to be corrected with NKO before you can receive retirement points.”

To verify how many points a course should be worth for courses completed prior to October 1, 2007, check the Excel spreadsheet posted on the welcome page of NeL. Look for the paragraph and link WARNING TO ALL RESERVISTS, “Click here for a list of new reserve point values.”

If the points on your certificate don’t match up with the spreadsheet, NKO can correct your certificate. Contact the NKO help desk toll-free at (877) 253-7122 or email [netc.helpdesk@navy.mil](mailto:netc.helpdesk@navy.mil).

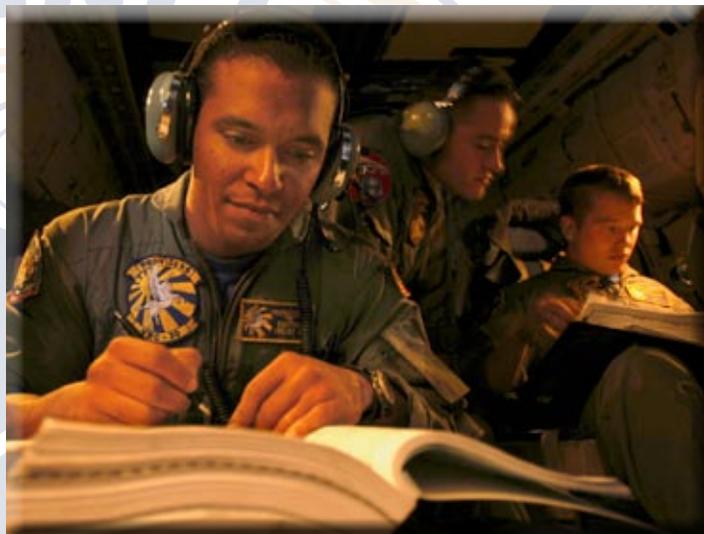
“We need the correct certificate from NKO to give you full credit for retirement points,” said Bishop.

## Submitting certificates

The retirement points aren’t automatically credited to your record upon course completion. You need to mail copies of your certificates to NPC.

Be sure to include a note that you’re submitting NeL certificates for Reserve retirement points. Put your name and social security number on each document to ensure the points are credited to your record.

If you have any questions concerning Reserve retirement points for NeL courses, call the NPC help desk toll-free at (866) 827-5672.



During a routine flight from Naval Air Station North Island, Aviation Structural Mechanic Airman Ismael Santiago-Gutierrez, (left) Aviation Machinist’s Mate Airman Christopher M. Fuentes (center) and Aviation Electronics Technician Airman Christopher R. Gregory (right), assigned to the “Providers” of Fleet Logistics Support Squadron Thirty (VRC-30) study for a NATOPS (Naval Air Training and Operating Procedures Standardization Program exam. U.S. Navy photo by Photographer’s Mate Airman Rebecca J. Moat.

## Tracking your points credit

Track your points by logging into BUPERS Online. Once in BUPERS Online, continue to ARPR/ ASOSH Online. NeL course retirement points will be listed on the ASOSH (Annual Statement of Service History) report, under Inactive Points, Correspondence Courses.

Call the BUPERS Online help desk toll-free at (800) 951-NAVY if you have questions.

Please note it may take up to 45 days for your points to post to your ASOSH report once you’ve submitted your documentation to NPC.

## Checking before course enrollment

To view points offered for NeL courses, check the Reserve points spreadsheet on the NeL welcome page. Click My e-Learning tab, then the link under **WARNING TO ALL RESERVISTS**, “Click here for a list of new reserve point values.”

An Excel spreadsheet will open listing thousands of NeL courses. Search by title or course number to find your course of interest.

# TAPS

Last Updated: 06/13/2008

AEC (Aw) Ken Burkhardt  
CWO4 John A. Bystrom  
EO1 George L. Christof  
ATC William Coughlin  
EMC Wayne E. Cromer  
BMC George E. Erwin, Jr.  
BM2 Michael R. Flamini  
HT1 Raymond W. Granville  
BT1 Leo E. Graff  
CNRCC John N. Licata  
ADC Richard C. Manning  
ETC Terrell E. Markland  
RM1 Ralph A. Masiello  
CWO4 James Mercury  
EOC John A. Nappi, Sr.  
SK1 Martin W. Obeldobel, Jr.  
HTC Raymond Petro  
YNCS George A. Platt, Jr.  
YNC David L. Plyer  
EA1 Ralph C. Reed  
SKC Joseph Romea  
MGYSGT Michael J. Schatz  
Joseph D. Sefcik  
EQCM James R. Shorter  
AO1 Joseph T. Sullivan  
AOC Daniel F. Taylor  
EMCS Arthur B. Walton  
PRCM (Ret) Edward H. Warnke  
AOC Jerry A. Williams  
PNC Robert M. Yoder

Floyd Bennett  
Floyd Bennett  
Chaplain Aloysius Schmitt  
Floyd Bennett  
Tall Corn  
Capitol District  
Fort McHenry  
Greater New York  
San Francisco  
Floyd Bennett  
Ohio State M.A.L  
Gateway  
Greater New York  
Susquehanna  
USS Briarcliff  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Quonset Point  
San Francisco  
Dayton Ohio  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Greater New York  
Floyd Bennett  
New Mexico State M.A.L  
Floyd Bennett  
Floyd Bennett  
Orlando "76"  
Greater Lehigh Valley  
Gold Country  
Maryland State M.A.L

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