

THE **MARINER**

2017 Summer Edition | Volume 60 · Issue 2

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

NERA's 60th Anniversary Coin and Annual Conference



NERA NAVY RESERVE
Ready Now. Anytime, Anywhere.



Cherry Hill, NJ
(Philadelphia Suburb)

October 12–15, 2017

www.nera.org



USAA is proud to be the
Exclusive Provider
of Financial Services for the
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

USE THE CREDIT CARD THAT SUPPORTS NERA.



USAA Bank is proud to offer members ways to support organizations like the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. You can also benefit from great rewards, competitive rates and USAA's legendary customer service. Plus, now you can extend your support by redeeming your rewards points for a donation to the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association.



APPLY TODAY.

usaa.com/neravisa or 877-503-NERA (6372)

USAA means United Services Automobile Association and its affiliates. USAA products are available only in those jurisdictions where USAA is authorized to sell them.

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. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Purchase of a product other than USAA auto or property insurance, or purchase of an insurance policy offered through the USAA Insurance Agency, does not establish eligibility for, or membership in, USAA property and casualty insurance companies. NERA receives financial support from USAA for this sponsorship.

This credit card program is issued by USAA Savings Bank, Member FDIC. © 2016 USAA. 233315-0916

CONTENTS

2017 SUMMER EDITION

Volume 60 • Issue 2

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

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

National President
Stephen R. Sandy, USNR (Ret.)
301-219-2647
president@nera.org

National Vice President
ET1(SS) Chuck Cox, USNR
732-599-3049
vp@nera.org

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

National Treasurer
YNC Joanne Elliott, USN (Ret.),
(H) 215-547-7004
treasurer@nera.org

National Counselor
YNC Deborah "Debbie" Fallon,
USNR, (Ret.)
603-858-4144
nc@nera.org

Past National President
ABHCS Eugene "Geno" P. Koelker, USNR
(Ret.)
815-209-5391
pnp@nera.org

Executive Director
OSC Michael P. Hughes, USNR (Ret.)
443-812-9591
neraexec@nera.org

Editor-in Chief
Yvette B. Purtill
ypurtill@nera.org

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

Design
Karen Durland
kdurland@gmail.com

THE MARINER



- 4 Executive Director's Message
- 5 President's Message
- 6 2016 Enlisted Person of the Year
- 7 NERA Executive Counselor
- 9 USAA/NERA College Scholarship Program
- 10 Tips & Clips
- 12 Legislative Updates
- 13 Enlisted Persons of the Year
- 14 Coastie Corner
- 16 NERA Members
- 18 NERA's 2017 National Conference
- 19 NERA's 1776 Award
- 20 Reserve Sailor of the Year
- 22 TAPS
- 23 NERA Benefactors

Cover: For 60 years, the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) has been representing the enlisted Reservist members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Join us in celebrating this milestone at NERA's Annual Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ, October 12-15. For more information, go to www.nera.org



Mike Hughes
NERA
Executive Director

a New Financial Literacy application for mobile devices designed to provide sailors, active and reserve, with access to training and resources to assist them to make informed decisions on finances. This is especially important as they get ready to begin to plan for the new Blended Retirement System that begins January 1, 2018. Those currently serving or enlisted prior to Jan. 1, 2018 are grandfathered into the current retirement system, but those with less than 12 years of service as of that date will have the option to opt into the new blended retirement system by the end of 2018. The Navy Financial Literacy mobile app is available free of charge from the iTunes and Google Play online stores, search "Navy Financial Literacy" in the app stores or in your Web browser.

Ware fast approaching our 60th Anniversary National Conference

in October in Cherry Hill, NJ. I sincerely hope that we can have a good turnout. Check elsewhere in this issue of the Mariner for more details. This is an election year to select your national leaders on the National Executive Council (NEC) and for any changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. If possible, please attend and renew or make new friendships and provide input to NERA's decisions on the association.

Blended Retirement System

I'm repeating this from our previous Mariner issue because it is extremely important as we get closer to the implementation of the new Blended Retirement system. The Navy has released

DFAS Address Changes

The Defense Financing and Accounting Service has changed their mailing addresses as of May 1, 2017:

Retired Pay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U. S. Military Retired Pay,
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1200

Annuitant Pay

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
U. S. Military Annuitant Pay
8899 E 56th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46249-1300

The previous PO boxes in London, KY will remain open for one year, but their use will add 3 to 5 days to normal processing time. The phone and fax numbers are not changing. Additional contact information on-line can be obtained at: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary.html>

Navy Bans Electronic Cigarettes and Similar Devices

The Navy has banned electronic cigarettes and vaping devices throughout the fleet due to concerns about battery fires and explosions. It "suspends the use, possession, storage and charging of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems aboard ships, submarines, aircraft,

boats, craft and heavy equipment." The prohibition applies to Sailors, Marines, Military Sealift Command civilians and any personnel working on or visiting those units." Devices are to be removed from the fleet by June 14, 2017.

Chief of Naval Reserve Names 16th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief

On May 16, 2017 Commander, Naval Reserve Force Vice Adm. Luke McCollum announced the selection of the 16th Navy Reserve Force Master Chief. Command Master Chief Christopher D. Kotz will take charge from Force CJ Mitchell in October.

North headquartered in New Orleans. He enlisted in the Navy in February 1991 and completed Recruit Training at San Diego, attended Basic Hospital Corps School and Naval School of Health Sciences in San Diego. He is a graduate of Surface Force Independent Duty Corps School and the Senior Enlisted Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Ashford University.

Command Master Chief Kotz is from North Augusta, South Carolina and currently serves as Command Master Chief of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces

continued on page 5



Stephen Sandy
National President

Dear Shipmates,

As we go into the summer months, I look forward to spending time in my RV or on the water. I am not as spry as I used to be, but I still enjoy getting out there and being in the fresh air. Before we know it, fall will be here, so I wanted to mention the upcoming NERA 60th Anniversary Conference. This year we are celebrating 60 years of NERA helping enlisted

Reservist members of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. I am so proud of the fact that NERA has been helping members since 1957. We might be on Capitol Hill fighting big policy issues, but we are also hands on answering your phone calls and helping with personal concerns.

In commemoration of this anniversary, NERA has a new challenge coin. On one side of the coin is the NERA logo and on the other side is the 60th anniversary logo. We will have these coins available at the conference, or you can order them from nera.org. The cost is \$15 and there is a discount if you purchase 10 or more. I am hoping you are already aware that the big conference this year is October 12-15 in Cherry Hill, NJ. Not only are we celebrating our 60th Anniversary in style, but also it is an election year. Election years have a tendency to add excitement to our conferences, so it should be a good meeting.

NERA is so thankful to everyone who helped out and

especially the League Island Chapter, Philadelphia, PA. They have really stepped up and organized this conference. Dennis Hunt has dedicated many hours, site visits and numerous phone calls pulling this all together and I am personally grateful for his hard work and diligence. There is a lot of work behind the scenes and we could not have done it without him. If you see him at the meeting, don't be shy in thanking him for all his efforts. Register early for the conference in order to get the good rates on both the conference and the hotel. You are able to stay early or late by a few days with the discounted hotel rate if you want to tour Philadelphia. Go to nera.org to register online or contact Dennis Hunt at (856)795-4273 or dhlorden@verizon.net.

In addition to planning the upcoming conference, NERA has also been busy with the NERA/USAA scholarships. We have a dedicated scholarship committee that pours over the applicants qualifications and determined who best represents NERA. Six lucky scholarships recipients were chosen to receive a good chunk of money to help them further their education. Picking up the phone and calling these winners is the best part of my job. These recipients are so grateful that we are able to ease their financial burden just a little bit. We have some really amazing applicants, so check out their stories.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the conference and if you can't make it in person, please buy a 60th anniversary challenge coin to commemorate our big anniversary.

—Steve

Register for NERA's 60th Anniversary conference today. NERA.org

continued from page 4

Kotz's tours include USS Estocin (FFG 15), USS Samuel Eliot Morison (FFG 13), USS Stephen W. Groves (FFG29), LCS Crew 101 in USS Freedom (LCS 1), and USS Fort Worth (LCS 3), a combat tour with Task Force Military Police, 1st Battalion, 14th Marines (Reinforced) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His shore tours include Navy Reserve Center Tyler, TX, Branch Medical Clinic Fort Worth TX, Navy Reserve Readiness Command South (formerly REDCOM 11), Inspector/

Instructor Company F, 2nd Battalion 23rd Marines and Littoral Combat Ship Squadron ONE. NERA is looking forward to working with him and will always be grateful for FORCM Mitchell's steadfast loyalty and excellent guidance over these last years.

If you have suggestions on issues you feel NERA should address or comments please email me at neraexec@nera.org or call me at 1-443-812-9591.



Honor, Respect, Devotion to Duty: Enlisted Persons of the Year

Posted by PA2 Diana Honings

The Enlisted Person of the Year program recognizes exemplary men and women from the active and reserve enlisted workforce who reflect the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty. These enlisted personnel demonstrate sustained exceptional standards of proficiency and conduct, and their military appearance and bearing are consistently impeccable.

Seaman Gregory W. Jacquet is recognized as the 2016 Enlisted Person of the Year – Active Duty Component – and Petty Officer 1st Class Nicole K. Cimino is recognized as the 2016 Enlisted Person of the Year – Reserve Component.

Jacquet served as the leading seaman of the Coast Guard Cutter Valiant's deck department. He demonstrated remarkable initiative by qualifying in positions normally reserved for experienced petty officers, while directly overseeing the training of 20 helmsmen, lookouts and boatswain's mates of the watch. He voluntarily assumed additional leadership responsibilities to include spearheading preparations for boat and helicopter standardization assessments, and the bi-annual command assessment of readiness for training. His extraordinary work ethic and attention to detail were critical to Valiant receiving near perfect scores during each assessment.

His skill and readiness to perform the work of a rated Boatswain's Mate greatly enhanced Valiant's operational capacity. His efforts helped interdict eight drug smuggling vessels laden with 4,300 kilograms of cocaine, and interdict and/or embark 221 distressed migrants. Having



Petty Officer 1st Class Nicole Cimino of Port Security Unit 313 in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, performs colors for the 75th anniversary of the Coast Guard Reserves. U.S. Coast Guard photo.



Seaman Gregory Jacquet on a training flight. U.S. Coast Guard photo.

recently completed a temporary duty assignment aboard the Dutch Warship HNLMS Holland, knowingly delaying his orders to Avionics Electrical Technician "A" school, he served as a helicopter tie-down team member alongside a deployed Coast Guard HITRON aviation detachment. Showing initiative, he assumed responsibility of routine maintenance tasks, allowing the HITRON detachment to focus on more complex maintenance duties.

Steadfastly dedicated to his shipmates and community, he served on Valiant's Leadership and Diversity Advisory Council, volunteered countless hours to Jacksonville food banks, and read to school-aged children.

Selected as the 2016 Enlisted Person of the Year – Reserve Component – Cimino proved that a part-time job can be performed with full-time devotion.

Cimino, a gunner's mate, serves as the lead petty officer for Port Security Unit 313's weapons division. During the PSU's deployment to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, she led the armory team to an outstanding score in all inspection categories during the integrated forces readiness command and naval station explosive safety inspection team assessments.

Setting the example for others, she volunteered as a Coast Guard victim advocate aboard the naval station's critical incident management team. Additionally, she worked jointly with the Navy First Class Petty Officer Association to develop a legal charter allowing

continued on page 7



Debbie Fallon

NERA
National Counselor

Hello NERA Members,

For those of you who do not know me, I am Debbie Fallon, NERA's National Executive Counselor. I am also the President of the USS Constitution "OLD Ironsides" Chapter, so I know the concerns that chapters face to remain active and viable.

First, let me begin by saying thank you to each chapter that took the time to submit their NERA Chapter Officer Report. This tells me that you are not just a great bunch of people to be around, but you are people who care about our fellow brothers and sisters who have served. It is important to defend the benefits and services for those currently serving and those who will serve in the future.

However, we are still missing chapter reports. Your participation plays an important role in presenting a complete picture of our organization to other military organizations, donors and fundraising efforts, and help to strengthen NERA. The National Executive Council (NEC) relies on up-to-date and accurate data such as that provided by your chapter to help

us analyze, understand and promote our cause.

We all have stories of people who we happen to meet in the most unusual circumstances who have a problem with benefits, services or getting answers when they do not know what to do. Because of our involvement with NERA and our contacts, we are able to lead them in the right direction.

NERA is grateful it has been able to help people with these problems for the last 60 years. We have had 60 years of national conferences to share ideas and learn new strategies, working locally through active chapters and through The Mariner.

If you have not submitted your NERA Chapter Officer Report, please do so by completing the necessary form and fax it to my attention at (978) 521-4083. If you need a blank one, please email me at nc@nera.org, or I can fax or mail it to you. Please contact me at 603-858-4144 if you need any help or if you have any questions or suggestions.

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

Submit your Individual or Chapter Ad for the 2017 National Conference Book!

The 2017 National Conference is in Philadelphia (Cherry Hill, NJ) from October 12-15, 2017

Format: Press ready PDF via email; **Submit** your Ad by **September 15, 2017.**

Payment can be made by check or credit card (Visa, Mastercard, Discover);

E-mail your Chapter/Business/Personal Advertisement to Jennifer Abbott, jabbott@nera.org.

Cost for Ads are: **Full page:** \$110.00 **Half Page:** \$75.00 **Quarter page:** \$50.00

continued from page 6

fundraising for both her own unit and future commands deploying to Cuba.

In her personal life, she serves as an emergency department nurse, assessing and initiating triaged patient care at a Level-1 Trauma Center for a five-state region.

"Seaman Jacquet and GM1 Cimino are remarkable examples of adherence to our core values of Honor, Respect, and

Devotion to Duty," said Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard Steven W. Cantrell. "It's inspiring to witness members of our service go above and beyond the call of duty to the degree that these two have, and I'm looking forward to formally recognizing them both in person. I am very proud of both of them and wish them many congratulations!"

Jacquet and Cimino were recognized during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 11, 2017.



Save a bundle.

**USAA members can save when they
bundle USAA home and auto insurance!
Find out how to get your savings.**

Get a quote.

➤ [USAA.COM/NERA](https://www.usaa.com/nera) • 877-503-NERA (6372)



¹ Multiple product savings do not apply in all states or to all situations. Savings subject to change. Restrictions apply.

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. Membership eligibility and product restrictions apply and are subject to change. Property and casualty insurance provided by United Services Automobile Association, USAA Casualty Insurance Company, USAA General Indemnity Company, and Garrison Property and Casualty Insurance Company, San Antonio, TX, and USAA Ltd. (Europe), and is available only to persons eligible for P&C group membership. Each company has sole financial responsibility for its own products. Naval Enlisted Reserve Association receives financial support for their sponsorship. © 2016 USAA. 227160-0316



2017 NERA/USAA Scholarship Awardees

NERA Members



LCDR Herman Sharrer: LCDR Sharrer has been an RN for 25 years and is now working on his BSN at DeSales University. He also intends to move on into the MSN program once he has achieved his

Bachelor's degree. His ultimate goal is to teach nursing. He has been able to maintain a 3.6 GPA while working full time in a critical care nursing position.

He is a retired Navyman, after 17 years as a Corpsman with several deployments to Iraq. LCDR Sharrer spent the last 11 years in the Navy as a nurse. Perhaps it's in his genes since his mom was a marine from 1953-1955.



Ariana Ellsey: Miss Ellsey graduated from high school this summer with honors and a GPA of 3.6. She reached the rank of Captain in the JROTC at school and after spending seven years in the Navy League

Cadet Corps, she reached the highest level of Chief Petty Officer just last January.

She has also devoted a great deal of time to achieve her long range goal of becoming a teacher. She plans to earn a Master's degree in Education and Health Sciences, in which she will be majoring in the fall.

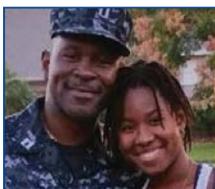
Associate Members



Summer Davis: Miss Davis is a three time winner of the USAA/NERA Scholarship. As the daughter of a Marine, she knows about giving back to her community. Next year she will be volunteering

with the JusticeCorps, which is a program that allows college students to offer free legal help to those who cannot afford it.

Miss Davis was allowed to graduate magna cum laude at her community college even before she received her high school diploma. She is now enrolled at the University of California San Diego in Economics and Environmental Studies before she pursues her law degree. She has maintained a GPA of 3.6.



Chelese Washington: Miss Washington maintained a 4.12 GPA when one takes into consideration the advanced nature of her high school classes. That's even more impressive when you look at

all of the activities that she was involved in during those four years, from art to athletics to mathematics.

Miss Washington intends to enroll in Florida State in the fall with a dual major in computer science and biomedical

engineering. She has a long term goal of working in nanite technology (which is medical tools with artificial intelligence and a very exciting field at the cusp of great exploration.)



Joseph Gerlach: Mr. Gerlach will be a third year student at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the fall. He has maintained a GPA of 3.6. He has been very active in his

school and his fraternity, serving on his high school Board of Education as a student ex-officio representative.

He is studying Biological Sciences with a concentration in Molecular and Cell Biology with a minor in Spanish. He is on a pre-medical track with plans to become a doctor.



Sam Wisotzki: Mr. Wisotzki is majoring in Electrical Engineering at the University of Vermont. He loves math, computers and the understanding how things work. He has maintained an impressive 3.8 GPA.

His dream is to make the world a better place to live and he has several different ways of accomplishing that dream from the Department of Defense's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to Tesla.



Joanne Elliott
National Treasurer

Tips and Clips

For those of you who like to travel, check out Armed Forces Vacation Club (<https://www.afvclub.com>). You can elect to register for free for a standard membership or upgrade to premium for \$119 per year.

Women's Memorial

If you are in the Washington, DC area, make a point to visit the Women's Memorial. For more information, visit their website at <https://www.womensmemorial.org> or go to their facebook page. Search for WomensMilitaryMemorialWIMSA.

From Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. (NNS) -- The Navy announced Tuesday in NAVADMIN 119/17 that personnel who wrongfully distribute or broadcast intimate images in violation of Article 1168 of U.S. Navy Regulations will face mandatory administrative separation processing.

"There is no room in our Navy for this toxic behavior," said Chief of Naval Personnel, Vice Adm. Robert Burke. "This new policy shows that we are committed to eradicating this behavior from our force."

These changes align with All Naval Message (ALNAV) 021/17, released April 18, which updated U.S. Navy Regulations with Article 1168, making it unlawful to share an intimate image of someone without their permission for personal gain or to humiliate, harm, harass, intimidate, threaten, or coerce the depicted person or

with reckless disregard of harm to the victim.

Military Personnel Manual (MILPERSMAN) Article 1910-233, Mandatory Separation Processing, and MILPERSMAN 1910-142, Separation by Reason of Misconduct - Commission of a Serious Offense, have been updated to reflect this new policy for enlisted personnel.

This mandatory processing shall be conducted based upon the version of the MILPERSMAN in effect on the date the violation occurred. Officers who violate Article 1168 will be subject to administrative separation processing in accordance with SECNAVINST 1920.6C.

For more information read NAVADMIN 119/17 at www.npc.navy.mil or visit www.navy.mil, www.facebook.com/usnavy, or www.twitter.com/usnavy.

Burial at Sea

It has been a while since I posted information on Burials at Sea. Here is information that has been updated in 2016:

(<http://www.navy.mil/navydata/questions/burial.html>)

United States Navy Mortuary Affairs Burial at Sea Program

Burial at Sea is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on United States Navy vessels. The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed. Therefore, family members are not allowed to be present. The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

Eligibility: Individuals eligible for this program are: (1) active duty members of the uniformed services; (2) retirees and veterans who were honorably discharged. (3) U.S. civilian marine personnel of the Military Sealift Command; and (4) dependent family members of active duty personnel, retirees, and veterans of the uniformed services.

How to get started: After the death of the individual for whom the request for Burial at Sea is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) should contact the Navy and Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs office at 1-866-787-0081 to request a packet and for additional information.

Supporting documents which must accompany this request are:

- (1) a photocopy of the death certificate
- (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
- (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

The Burial at Sea Request Form and the three supporting documents listed above make up the Burial at Sea Request package.

Burial Flag: A Burial Flag is required for all committal services performed aboard United States Naval vessels, except family members, who are not authorized a burial flag. Following the services at sea, the flag that accompanied the cremains/remains will be returned to the PADD. If the PADD does not wish to send a burial flag for the service, a flag will be provided by the Navy for the committal service, but will not be sent to the PADD.

Cremated Remains (Cremains): Cremains must be in an urn or temporary container (preferably Bio-degradable) to prevent spillage in shipping. Recent changes in law

prohibit the discharge of plastics at sea. Families are encouraged to have the cremains inurned directly, or transferred to a sturdy biodegradable urn at their local funeral home to facilitate burial at sea. Burial at Sea Coordinators at the ports of embarkation are available to field any questions regarding the urns. The cremains, along with the completed Burial at Sea Request package should be forwarded to the Burial at Sea Coordinator at the desired port of embarkation (listed below). Prior to shipment, it is recommended that a phone call be made informing the coordinator of the pending request. ONLY Priority Mail Express Service is authorized when shipping cremains and it is recommended that that Tracking and Signature On Delivery is used to ensure the package is delivered to the correct individual in a timely manner.

Intact Remains (Casketed): Specific guidelines are required for the preparation of casketed remains. All expenses incurred in this process are the responsibility of the PADD, who will select a funeral home in the area of the port of embarkation. After this selection has been made and notification has been provided to the coordinator, the casketed remains, the request form, supporting documents, and the burial flag are to be forwarded to the receiving funeral home. The coordinator will make the inspection and complete the checklist for the preparation of casketed remains. It is recommended that funeral homes responsible for preparing and shipping intact remains contact the Mortuary Services office at Navy Casualty in Millington, TN to receive the preparation requirements.

Ports of Embarkation/Coordinators

Norfolk, Va.

Commander, Naval Medical Center
ATTN: Code 0210C
620 John Paul Jones Cir.
Portsmouth, VA 23708-5100
Phone: (757) 953-2617/2618

Jacksonville, Fla.

Officer in Charge
Naval Hospital Branch Clinic
P. O. Box 280148
Naval Station
Mayport, FL 32228-0148
Phone: (904) 270-4285

San Diego, Calif.

Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Center
Decedent Affairs Code: 09O4
34800 Bob Wilson Drive
San Diego, CA 92134-5000
Phone: (800) 290-7410

Bremerton, Wash.

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Bremerton
Code: 015-BAS/HP01 Boone Road
Bremerton, WA 98312-1898
Phone: (360) 475-4313

Honolulu, Hi.

Navy Liaison Unit
Tripler Army Medical Center
Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000
Phone: (808) 433-4709
(808) 577-7590

Questions concerning Burial-at-Sea?

Please call Monday–Friday,
0730–1600 Central Time

Toll Free: 1-866-787-0081
DSN - 882-8576



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



Legislative and Benefit Updates Summer Mariner 2017

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

Following is a short synopsis of some of the key issues we are following. Most of these are repeats from our last report in the Spring 2017 Mariner issue, but we added information on the Camp Lejeune water

contamination benefits and recent TRICARE changes.

Title 10 U.S. Code 12304b. Selected Reserve Orders to Active Duty

Under this section, Selected Reservists may be ordered to active duty for preplanned missions in support of the combatant commands for not more than 365 **consecutive** days. NERA and our partner organizations on the Guard and Reserve Sub-committee of The Military Coalition are actively endeavoring to change this to read **cumulative** days.

Budget Control Act of 2011 (Sequestration)

This act has had an unfair adverse impact on military operations and readiness through sequestered cuts in the Department of Defense (DoD) budget. Under this act, DoD is absorbing 50% of the overall mandated funding cuts, although DoD is only 17% of the overall budget. NERA supports repeal of sequestration.

Concurrent Receipt

Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate (H.R. 303 and S. 66) to authorize full concurrent receipt of both military retired pay and disability compensation. Currently only those disabled veterans rated at 50% or more disabled can draw both forms of compensation without reductions. Those under 50% rated disability have their military retirement reduced by the amount of disability pay. NERA fully supports full concurrent receipt.

Defense Plans to Reduce Number of Reserve Duty Statuses

DoD presented a plan to Congress to consolidate the number of duty status orders for reservists from 32 to 4. The FY

2016 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) mandated a new status system for reservists be implemented by October 2018. It is questionable whether it can be done in that time because implementation will require changes to more than 400 laws pertaining authorities, benefits, compensation, legal protections, and special and incentive pay.

On-Line Exchange Privileges

DoD has announced that they plan to have in place on-line Exchange shopping for qualified veterans and disabled veterans starting on Veterans Day, November 11, 2017. This does not include in-store shopping.

Agent Orange- Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act

Legislation has again been introduced in the House (H.R. 299) to allow presumptive status for Agent Orange exposure to those service members who served in the coastal waters off Vietnam during the Vietnam War. Currently only those who had “boots on the ground” and select ships and time frames that spent time in rivers and ports have this status. NERA supports this legislation.

VA Sets Presumptive Status for Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

Members who served a minimum of at least 30 days consecutive at Camp Lejeune from August 1, 1953 to December 31, 1987 have been granted presumptive status for disability claims for the following conditions:

- adult leukemia
- aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- bladder cancer
- kidney cancer
- multiple myeloma
- non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease
- liver cancer

We have received several inquiries about the legislation, the Janey Ensminger Act, enacted August 6, 2012 that authorized health care for 15 conditions for contamination at Camp Lejeune during the same time period as

above. There is an understandable confusion between the legislation and VA's granting of presumptive status for only 6 of these 15 conditions for disability compensation consideration. The VA added Parkinson's disease and liver cancer which weren't included in the legislation. The difference is because the legislation only authorized health care for those exposed to water contamination, not disability compensation determinations. VA has since granted presumption for disability compensation for the 8 conditions listed above for those who served at Camp Lejeune during the designated period of time. Following are the 15 designated medical conditions for health care only: leukemia; non-Hodgkins lymphoma; multiple myeloma, myelodysplastic syndromes; renal toxicity; hepatic steatosis; female infertility; miscarriage; scleroderma; neurobehavioral effects and cancers of the lung, bladder, kidney and esophagus.

TRICARE Contracts May Drive Physicians Away

It is reported that the new TRICARE contracts allow the contractors to pay providers up to 30 % less than Medicare rates. Many TRICARE physicians and other health care medical professionals have expressed shock and dismay at this apparent cut. The previous contract allowed up to 10% below Medicare rates. It remains to be seen how this may cause shortages due to providers leaving TRICARE, although it is suspected to cause delays and access problems in some areas where coverage is already problematic.

As always, if you have specific issues or areas you want addressed please let me know and we'll strive to get information to publish it. You can contact me by email at neraexec@nera.org or by phone at 1-443-812-9591.



ENLISTED PERSONS OF THE YEAR

Coast Guard Honors Top Enlisted Members of 2016

The 2016 Enlisted Persons of the Year pose for a photo with the 2015 Enlisted Persons of the Year following the 2016 Coast Guard Enlisted Persons of the Year Banquet at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C., Thursday, May 11, 2017.

From left: Petty Officer 1st Class Evan Ward, 2015 EPOY — Active-Duty Component; Seaman Gregory W. Jacquet, 2016 EPOY — Active-Duty Component; Chief Petty Officer Nicole K. Cimino, 2016 EPOY — Reserve Component; and Chief Petty Officer Wilton Terry, 2015 EPOY — Reserve Component. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Nick Ameen



For the latest news and information visit www.NERA.org



Reservist's Persistence Uncovers Remarkable Story of Sacrifice and Service

By Lt. Cmdr. Brandi Graham

On Dec. 15, 2016, eight members of Special Missions Training Center Deployment Training Detachment (SMTC-DTD) at Base Portsmouth, Va., conducted a wreath laying ceremony at the grave of Civil War Union Soldier, Pvt. Charles Hazard at the Hampton National Cemetery in Virginia. Pvt. Hazard's grave, incorrectly marked and seemingly lost to his descendants, was the resting place of the great uncle of one of SMTC-DTD's instructors, Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos Sowell. In a private ceremony more than 150 years past due, Lt. Jon Berkshire, SMTC-DTD's training officer, read a eulogy as a wreath was placed at the gravestone of Pvt. Hazard. After years of research, Sowell was able to connect another patriotic branch to his family tree.

In our nation's bicentennial year of 1976, Sowell was in second grade. He was the only student of color in his class, well-liked by his peers and teachers. As a weekend homework assignment, his teacher instructed the class to ask each of their parents about their ancestors, what countries they came from, and to give a short description to the class the following Monday. As the class concluded, his teacher quietly whispered in Carlos' ear, "Carlos, you don't have to do your homework assignment. Your ancestors were slaves." Sowell said "I believe wholeheartedly that my second grade teacher thought she had acted with my best interest at heart when she excused me from that homework assignment. I remembered this instance through my adult life which helped compel me to want to learn about my ancestors, where they had come from, and how they lived. I had no idea I would discover such a profound history of patriotism and sacrifice."

In 1990, Sowell entered law enforcement as a Connecticut State Trooper. In 2007, at the age of 38, in his seventeenth year as a Trooper, he joined the Coast Guard Reserve. He was first assigned to Sector Southeast New England in Providence, R.I., then to Port Security Unit 301 on Cape Cod, Mass.

"Like many in our service," Sowell stated, "it was September 11 that compelled me to enter the Coast Guard once circumstances in my civilian career permitted."

Sowell served in Kuwait and on the Iraqi Oil Platforms on the Security Response Team in 2009 with Combined Task Group 56.5. He returned to his civilian job for several years before retiring in 2012 after 22 years of police service. It was then that he began one of many tasks on his bucket-list: to research his family's history. "What I found through my research was astounding. I had no idea that some of my ancestors had touched or participated in so many historical events in our American history" Sowell explained.

Sowell learned that his fifth great grandfather, Pvt. Simeon Simons, a Native American man from Norwich, Conn., joined the Continental Army in January of 1780 and served in the 1st Rhode Island Infantry Regiment. His unit was among the last who saw combat at the Battle of Yorktown in October of 1781 during the Raid at Redoubt #10. According to Regimental records, Simons was present and witnessed the British surrender at Yorktown.

Two generations later, when our nation was cast into a bloody civil war, four of Simons' grandchildren served in the U.S. Army. Among them was Sowell's third great grandfather and third great uncle, Pvt. Charles W. Hazard. They both served in the 29th Connecticut Volunteers, an all "Colored" Unit in the Union Army. Late in the war,



ME1 Carlos Sowell renders a hand salute to his Great Uncle Private Charles Hazard. Photo by GM1 Omar Bayness

during the Siege of Petersburg, Va., the 29th Connecticut, along with the 8th U.S. Colored Troops, were involved in the offensive to dislodge Confederate forces from an entrenched position near the outskirts of the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va. On October 27, 1864, at the Second Battle of Darbytown Road, the 29th assaulted an entrenched Confederate forces near the Kell Farm House. It was there where Union forces suffered an overwhelming defeat, sustaining almost 1,800 casualties, while inflicting only approximately 100 against their Confederate foes. Among the wounded was Hazard. He was removed from the battlefield, suffered an upper extremity amputation, and was transported to Fort Monroe Hospital, Va., where he spent his last Christmas. In January of 1865, Hazard died from his wounds at the age of 20. He was only one of countless soldiers whose death and unceremonious internments went overlooked. So much so that Hazard's gravestone is still misspelled as "Hesard" among rows of other brave Civil War heroes.

"Moving from Connecticut to Virginia in 2016, allowed me to continue my genealogical research and, with a good amount of effort, locate the grave of my Great Uncle Hazard buried in the Hampton National Cemetery. When I discovered his grave amongst a field of other soldiers who died in service, our unit here at the USCG Special Missions Training Center was moved to demonstrate our appreciation for my great uncle's sacrifice and that of so many others" Sowell stated.

Chief Andrea Tole of the SMTC Detachment spoke to the occasion.

"Something with gravity like this, that affects someone on our team, affects us all," said Tole. "Having a sense of self and personal history is what defines us before we each put the uniform on. (Petty Officer) Sowell was missing part of his past, and having found it, his success brought a sense of community and reverence to us all here at the SMTC DTD. It may have been a personal endeavor to Carlos, but we each embraced it as fellow veterans and as grateful citizens to those who thanklessly went before us." The opportunity to volunteer to conduct wreath-layings was first acted upon at SMTC-DTD by Petty Officer 1st Class Jon Douglass who coordinated a group of volunteers from the unit to assist the Horton Wreath Society compose and place Christmas wreaths at the graves of American



SMTC DTD members stand at attention during a Wreath Laying Ceremony commemorating the sacrifice of fallen Union Army Soldier, Private Charles W. Hazard of the Connecticut 29th Volunteer Infantry, at Hampton National Cemetery in Hampton, Va., on December 16, 2016. Private Hazard is an ancestor of ME1 Carlos Sowell of SMTC-DTD. Deployment Training Detachment team members from left to right are as follows: YN2 Matthew Mashura, ME1 Carlos A. Sowell, ME1 Jonathan B. Douglass, GM1 Omar K. Bayness, BMC Andrea J. Tole, MECS Clinton J. Paul, CWO2 Nelson F. Del Valle. Photo by Lt. Jon Berkshire

service men and women at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, Va. Since 2008, The Horton Wreath Society has provided live wreaths for every grave site at the cemetery. SMTC-DTD, along with other military and civilian volunteers, spent over one hundred man hours to assist in the preparation and the laying of over 7,000 wreaths at the cemetery.



The headstone of Pvt. Charles Hazard.

"It was a great honor to do something for those who give their lives for us," said Douglass. "May God bless them and their families."

Formal wreath layings were started by Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine in 1992. A 2005 photo of the gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Today, volunteers lay over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. This was accomplished with help from 2,047 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands.

"It would be great if every service member could find a bit of time to give back to those who came before us," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Clinton Paul of SMTC DTD, an Operation Iraqi Freedom Combat Veteran. "It's not often that you can show support for a fellow shipmate while paying respect to an American hero," said Chief

continued on page 22



William Bert Norris

My name is William Bert Norris and I was born and raised in Brooks County, GA. It is located in South Georgia, between Valdosta and Thomasville in farm country about 14 miles from the Florida state line. We raised flue cured tobacco, cotton, corn, peanuts, watermelons, hogs, and cows and all kinds of vegetables such as cabbage, tomatoes, squash, and okra. All labor was done by hand. On the side, we also had a dairy farm, which included 20 cows which were milked twice a day, 7 days a week.

My mother had two brothers: one in the Navy, USS Essex No. 7 (I believe); the other brother was a CB in the Pacific. Dad's brothers were Army. One uncle was in the Panama Canal when war began and he met up with his brother with Patton in Africa.

At age 18, I wanted to travel and see the world. I knew I did not want to be a South Georgia farmer. Korea was going on and the draft was getting the high school seniors. A week after my 18th birthday, I dropped out of high school and joined the US Navy. I was sworn in in Jacksonville, FL. Out of the window of the Pulman Train, I could see the Atlantic Ocean. 7 days later, I looked out the window again and could see the Pacific Ocean. One company of 75 recruits traveled to San Diego, Ca. daily. My company was 616, August 1952 through February 1953. I left California by rail for Norfolk, Va. to the destroyer USS Charles S. Sperry DD697. When I arrived, the USS Sperry was on a return trip from a 6 month stay in Korea and I was part of the crew replacement, AA Fareman Apprentice Engineering. I left engineman school for the A gang. I was assigned to a boiler 2 space and knew what I needed to do to promote and pass the Navy test. A gang called me after I received BT 3. We had two fire rooms, two Chiefs, and 24 BTs on board.

After the Korea repairs, we went to Guantanamo, Cuba. That was my first set trip shakedown and I was able to see all the Islands in the 6 weeks we were down there. We came back to Norfolk after Guantanamo and the next trip to take was to Pensacola, FL to the Plane guard USS Antietam. They ran the heck out of us Monday through Friday, day and night for air qualifications. Four hours on and four hours off for boiler operations at 35 knots. Our Capitan had been a former aviator and anytime carriers needed escorts, we were assigned.



I was assigned oil king for a year. We carried 139,000 gallons of Navy special and my job was to keep fuel tanks full and to run daily boiler tests. During this time, the president went to Europe to the Geneva meeting. At that time, we were not supposed to get below 50 percent fuel on board. Unfortunately, we hit less than 50% and were given orders to divert to port to fill. Time dragged and there were no tankers on the horizon. We were released after they flew over. We limped to Argentia, Newfoundland using emergency lube oil and diesel aboard. We got to port and it took us 5 days to fill 138,500 gallons on a gravity feed. We were able to get back to Norfolk after the fill up.



Bill Norris, his grandson Bret (middle), and the Sheriff of Baldwin County, Al.

At the time, the whales were mating and we hit one. No damage was done to the ship but you could tell we had hit one. You could feel the ship moving and then all of sudden you could feel the ship slow. Thankfully no damage to the ship and hopefully the whale was all right.

I took the E6 exam and quotered September 1956. I left the Sperry with 42 months of Sea Duty in July of 1956. I came to Mobile, AL in Sept. 1956 and married my wife Helen from Mississippi. I met her on a greyhound from Madison, FL to Gulfport, MS on boot leave in uniform travel. I visited family for a week-end while in Pensacola, FL.

There were no jobs in Georgia after leaving Norfolk, VA, so I tried Mobile Powerhouse International Paper Company or Scott Paper Co. The supervisor was on vacation and he told the staff not to hire or fire anyone while he was gone. He had been gone for a week and had another five to go. That was too long to wait. So I had a Navy friend in town who was working at AT&T as an installer, unfortunately they were on strike. My friend's brother-in-law thankfully called and told me to put in an application at the post office as they were hiring seasonal help for Christmas. I ended up retiring from the post office after 34 years of service plus four years active military and one year sick leave. That is a total of 39 years.

I had a 4 year standby reserve obligation. In the second week, I met a BTC who informed me that reserve every Monday was on Blakely Island, across the river at Mobile. I joined and took the E6 test and passed. Three years later, I took the E7 exam and passed. Then they came out with the E8 and E9. I was Mobile's first E8 and then in Sept 1972, I was Mobile's first Navy Reserve E9.

I transferred from Mobile to New Orleans, LA to Red Com 10 located at Algiers, LA, across the river from New Orleans. I was just two weeks in New Orleans when Force Master Chief called me in and asked to assist on the Sailor of the Year selection board. I was the first selected Reserve to sit on that board. Next, Red Com 10 MC Ernie Rose, asked whether I would consider coming on Red Com 10 staff. I would attend on one weekend a month as a Sel Res traveling from Pensacola, FL to Corpus Christi, TX and meet with selected Reserves and chiefs.

NERA would like to thank Bill for being a dedicated and loyal NERA members all these years. The reasons he won the 1776 award in 2002 still hold true today. Bill has provided outstanding service to the Navy, Nation and NERA. We are grateful for his loyal service and are honored to have him as a member.

If you or a person you know deserves to be honored in NERA's Meet the Member, please let us know by emailing ypurtill@nera.org.



After that tour, I went to Lakeside in New Orleans. I was selected to go to the Navy Annex for E7 Board and the next year Co. Capt Hunt President Board. I served on E8-E9 boards and that was the highlight of my career.

My NERA affiliation began when Manny Ratner asked me to pick him up for a meeting and I carried him over to headquarters for his meeting with the Admiral. My first NERA conference was in Amarillo, TX and I still fondly remember the NERA conference held in Mobile, Alabama. We had a great turnout, held a big shrimpboil cookout and had a great band. The city major even supplied the conference with 3 city buses to transport the conference attendees from the Mobile Hilton to the USS Alabama, the site of the reception. NERA conferences are always a good time. Years later in 2002, I received NERA's highest internal award, the 1776 award, and the rest is history.



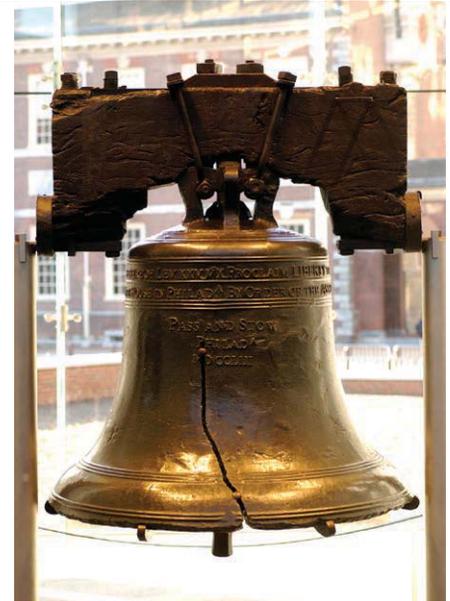


Come Join Us for Philly in the Fall — NERA's 2017 National Conference

October 12–15, 2017

Crowne Plaza Philadelphia-Cherry Hill, NJ
2349 West Marlton Pike (SR 70)
Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

Crowneplaza.com/cherryhillnj



The Crowne Plaza Cherry Hill is located 20 minutes from the Historic District of Philadelphia. There are several options for tours and trips to learn about and experience the birthplace of the freedoms that we as service members have defended by our participation in the Naval Reserve. The Venue is located 20 minutes from Philadelphia International Airport and convenient to all major interstate highways and turnpikes through the Philadelphia Area. Ample free parking is available for all types of vehicles and is conveniently located to many shopping venues.

Nearby Points of Interest:

- Olympia – Rear Admiral Dewey’s Flagship
- Liberty Bell and Independence Hall
- USS New Jersey
- American Revolution Museum

Since this is an election year for NERA and the 60th anniversary there is much to be accomplished. It is vital that as many as possible attend to chart the direction of NERA for the future. It has been successful in advocating for us reservists and we must ensure that it is viable for those coming after us. Therefore it is incumbent on us to encourage younger members to get involved to sustain the work that has been done and chart the next 60 years of NERA.

The following are costs for the conference:

Hotel: Crowne Plaza Philadelphia/Cherry Hill, NJ \$115.00 per room plus tax.

Registration: All Inclusive Registration. \$160.00

- **Meetings Thursday, Friday, Saturday
- **Awards Luncheon Friday
- **Breakfast in Mtg. Room Thurs. & Fri.
- **Dinner on Saturday
- **Meet and Greet Mixer Wednesday
- **Ongoing Hospitality Suite

A la Carte Options: (For non-meeting participant attendees)

- Friday Awards Luncheon (Feast of Philly) \$45.00
- Saturday Dinner \$65.00
- (Roast Sirloin *or* Shallot Crusted Salmon *or* Chicken Picatta with Angel Hair Pasta)

Hotel Reservations will be handled by NERA. NERA is the housing bureau for the conference. Attendees must furnish name, address, date of arrival/departure, method of payment and type of accommodations requested when registering for the conference. Actual payment will occur upon arrival at the hotel. There is a taxi service and Rapid Rover from the airport to the hotel.

**All NERA Conference questions should be addressed to
Dennis Hunt: dhlorden@verizon.net or (856) 795-4273.**

NERA's 60th National Conference
October 12 – 15, 2017, Cherry Hill, NJ

Name (Last, First, MI): _____

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

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

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): _____

CROWNE PLAZA CHERRY HILL-Rate \$115.00 per room, plus taxes

This form will be used to reserve your hotel room. NERA will book all hotel room with information provided.

Dates of Arrival/Departure: Arrival _____ Departure _____

Method of Payment (actual payment will occur upon arrival at the hotel): _____

Type of accommodations requested: _____

Flying into Philadelphia? Y N

Please enter number of people attending and multiply by amount noted

All Inclusive Registration # _____ x \$160.00 \$ _____

- Meet and Greet Mixer Wednesday
- Meetings on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Breakfast in Meeting Thursday and Friday
- Awards Luncheon Friday
- Dinner Saturday
- On-Going Hospitality Suite

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

Thursday Awards Luncheon # _____ x \$45.00 \$ _____

Saturday Dinner # _____ x \$65.00 \$ _____

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

____ Roast Sirloin ____ Shallot Crusted Salmon ____ Chicken Picatta with Angel Hair Pasta

On-Going Hospitality Suite *Donations Accepted* \$ _____

Conference Booster Roll *Minimum \$5* \$ _____

Names of donors will be listed in Conference Book

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Credit Card # _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp Date ____/____/____

Signature _____

CONFERENCE PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make Checks Payable to **NERA**

Mail Registration Form (with Payment) to: Dennis Hunt 109 Warren Ave, Voorhees, NJ 08043-1234

Questions should be addressed to Dennis: dhlorden@verizon.net or (856) 795-4273



2016 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year Announced

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok, Joint Public Affairs Support Element

WASHINGTON (NNS) (NNS) — The 2016 Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year was announced during a ceremony at the United States Navy Memorial April 6.

Naval Aircrewman (tactical helicopter) 1st Class (NAC/AW/SW) Mark Brown was announced as the winner during the ceremony by Chief of Navy Reserve (CNR), Vice Adm. Luke McCollum.

"Candidates, I would tell you, this may have been fun for you, but for me personally it was inspirational," said McCollum during the presentation. "You know you're all winners, but we only can pick one."

Brown, assigned to Naval Reserve Mobile Tactical Operations Center Detachment 273 at Naval Operations Support Center, Detroit, was selected out of five finalists. The finalist came from various backgrounds across the force, and included Machinist's Mate, Nuclear 1st Class (SS) Michael Demercado, assigned to Coastal Riverine Squadron 1 in San Diego, California; Master-at-Arms 1st Class (EXW) Jason Guthrie, assigned to SEAL Team 17 in San Diego, California; Aircrew Survival Equipmentman 1st Class (AW/SW) Robert Johnson, assigned to Fighter Squadron Composite Twelve at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia and Master-at-Arms 1st Class Thomas Lubawski, assigned to Naval Security Forces Annapolis with Navy Operational Support Center, Baltimore.

The announcement is the culmination of a week long recognition event including a two-mile monument run on the National Mall; a tour of the Pentagon, White House and Capitol buildings and several receptions provided by organizations that support the Navy Reserve. The finalists also met with the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy and other senior military leaders.

Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell presided over the event and the board-selection process that determined the nominee.



WASHINGTON (April 6, 2017) Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 1st Class Mark Brown gives remarks after being named the 2016 Reserve Sailor of the Year. Brown, assigned to Mobile Tactical Operations Center Detachment 273 at Navy Operational Support Center, Detroit, will be meritoriously advanced to a chief petty officer at the Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released)



ARLINGTON, Va. (April 4, 2017) Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) selection board members prepare to interview RSOY finalists at the Pentagon during the RSOY selection board and recognition ceremony week. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jack Whittet initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released) KD



WASHINGTON (April 6, 2017) Vice Adm. Luke McCollum, chief of Navy Reserve, and Navy Reserve Force Master Chief C.J. Mitchell, stand with the 2016 Reserve Sailor of the Year, Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 1st Class Mark Brown. Brown, assigned to Mobile Tactical Operations Center Detachment 273 at Navy Operational Support Center, Detroit, will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer at the Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year week. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released) KD

"These are truly the best of the best," Mitchell said. "These five Sailors represent almost 31,000 junior Sailors and more than 8,500 1st class petty officers."

"In their interviews with the master chiefs they all spoke eloquently and passionately about how much they care about their shipmates and their chiefs," said Mitchell. "They value communication, training, loyalty and being ethical leaders that want to be even better. I cannot say it enough - they were impressive."

Each of the finalists received Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals during the ceremony. Brown will return to the Navy Memorial next month for the Chief of Naval Operations Sailor of the Year week to be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer.

The event was a humbling experience for Brown. "It's been an incredible journey and I've made some lifelong friends," he said. "These guys are high-caliber Sailors, and I can't believe I'm sitting here next to them," said Brown.

McCollum who took the reigns as CNR in September said the ceremony was one of the most enjoyable he has



WASHINGTON (April 4, 2017) Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) finalists and members of the RSOY selection board visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during a run at the National Mall as part of the RSOY selection board and recognition ceremony week. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Jack Whittet initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Stephen Hickok/Released) KD

ever done. "This is a highlight for me," said McCollum. "I started this job in September, and this is sort of the moment when you really get visualization on what this is all really about - our people."

The events of the week were designed to provide more than the ceremony itself according to Mitchell. "We do this week as celebration and recognition, but also as a symbol of our gratitude for their outstanding service," said Mitchell.

Mitchell ended his remarks at the ceremony by presenting the finalists to CNR. "Vice Adm. McCollum, our future is bright," Mitchell said. "With Sailors like these, we have leaders that will continue to make the Navy Reserve the outstanding organization that is under your leadership."

Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Adm. Elmo Zumwalt and Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy (MCPON) Jack Whittet initiated the Sailor of the Year program in 1972 to recognize outstanding Atlantic and Pacific Fleet Sailors. The program was later expanded to honor the top Shore and Reserve Force Sailors of the Year.



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.

YNC Robert A. Crawford	New York	ETCM Louis Pagano	Pennsylvania
YNCS Harold C. Etterman	Massachusetts	ABHC Joe M. Peake	Tennessee
Ms. Doris M. Kellow	Pennsylvania	OSCM(SW) Earl S. Raub	Florida
PNC Robert J. Koester	Pennsylvania	MMCM James E. Schirm	Pennsylvania
BMC Roy W. Legacy	Pennsylvania	GMCM(SW) Robert H. Stoner	Illinois
QMC Charles S. McGahagin	Alabama	Ms. Wilma J. Wing	Maryland
ADC Gary R. Miller	Pennsylvania	AMSC Joseph M. Zahuranec, Jr.	Pennsylvania
MMCM Martin E. Opem	Minnesota		

continued from page 15

Warrant Officer 2 Nelson Del Valle. “I am extremely honored to be part of this ceremony.” Berkshire said, “ME1 Sowell has shown a strong passion towards researching his family history, and you could tell he was emotionally invested too, not only identifying his lineage but also recognizing their accomplishments. We were proud to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, not only to support our shipmate, but also to ensure the brave actions of Private Charles W. Hazard were not forgotten.”

Hazard was eulogized in a gravesite speech read by Berkshire: “On this day, let us convey our gratitude and remember Private Charles W. Hazard, his sacrifice and his dedication to his family, his community, his tribe, and his nation. And during this holiday season, let us honor all of the courageous Americans, who bravely carried our

nation’s flag to pass to future generations, and indeed onto us, to both bear and to defend. As President Lincoln eloquently stated in his address at Gettysburg, **“They gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom— and that this government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”**

“I am extremely proud to have found my uncle’s grave and to have the opportunity to demonstrate my appreciation for his sacrifice and to tell his story,” Sowell said after the ceremony. “And I am extremely proud and honored to work with such an extremely supportive and dedicated team of professionals here at SMTC.”



NERA’s 60th Anniversary Commemorative Coin

NERA has been working hard for its members for 60 years and is celebrating this milestone with a commemorate coin.

If you would like to purchase a coin for \$15.00 (shipping included), call NERA at 800-776-9020 or visit nera.org. (Discounts on orders of 10 or more)



“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 †
 MCP0-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
 DK1 John D. Burke
 CTRCS Charles A. Burkett
 AZC(AW) John L. Busby
 RMC(MSW) Frank Broz
 FTGC(SW) James W. Cain
 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
MMC Larry J. Di Pasquale
 AMH1 David M. Drajna
 SKC(AW) William Duda
 HTC Robert P. Dunn
 DPC Richard B. DuRall
 YNCS Nancy J. Duzor
 AMCS James Edfors
 Mrs. Lois Edfors
 CM1 Albert C. Edsman
 PNCM(RET) Richard J. Elfrink
YNC Joanne M. Elliott
 HMC Harold Engelmann
 EM2 Glenn I. Fessler
 HM1 Mary E. Finley
 EM1 Edward L. Fitzsimmons †
 BMC George E. Fougere

MMCS Jesse Fox
 AEC Kenneth D. Freese
 LNC James M. Frierson
 SHC James Bruce Fromel**
 MS1 Victor Frumolt III
 QMC George M. Garcia
SKCS Joan Gardom
 IC1 Lloyd L. Gibbs
 FORCM Chris Glennon
 BM1 Claud F. Gordon, Jr.
STCM(SW) David A. Green **
 HTCS Morris A. Greening
 AKC Martin J. Grillo
 RADM Wallace N. Guthrie
 SK1 Richard "P.J." Guilmette
 HMCS James B. Hagerman
 AVCM Steveon H. Hall †
 RMC Jerry D. Hall
 CMDCM(FMF) Paul Haller
 STCM Jerome A. Hamling
 MSCS Larry L. Hamm
 SA Kevin J. Harrington
 ADR1 Joseph Harrison, Jr. †
 MN1 Clifton D. Hayes
 BUC Edgar E. Hedgecock
 CAPT John G. Herbein
 IT1 Jay T. Herlihy, Jr.
 SKCS Edward C. Hettel, Jr.
 RMCM Ronnie W. Hepler
 CE1(RET) Francis J. Heywood
 AKCS(RET) John M. Hicks
 OSC Michael Patrick Hughes
 ETCM Joseph J. Humphrey, Jr.
 QMC Bernard F. Hurchalla
 AECS Bradlee Hutchinson
 AT1 Harold A. Hyslop
 GSMC David L. Ingram**
 PSCS Luther Jennings
 HMC Paul E. Jensen
 CM1 David B. Johnson
 YNCM(RET) Martha E. Johnston**
 YNCS(SCW) Arthur A. Julian III**
 EMC Nicholas G. Karthas
 MAC(RET) Tommy L. Keheley
 RADM Stephen T. Keith**
 OSCM(SW) Hans O. Keller
 HT1 Herman M. Keller, Jr.
 SK1 K. Daniel Kelly
 HMC George H. Kenson
 YNCM George J. Knorr
ABHCS Eugene 'Geno' Koelker **
 ADJ1 Frank L. Kreutzer
 IMC Gerard P. Kuebler
 ABFC Fred V. Kurtz
 HM1 Dale L. Lankford**
 FTCM Dwight Lanning
 BMC Joseph C. Lanning Jr.
 YNC Jeanne Lemasters
 AFCM John M. Lenard
 BU1 Fred G. Leppig
 RADM Martin W. Leukhardt

SK1 Richard W. Lewis
 MS1 Floyd E. Lindsey
 AKCM John J. Lomax
 TSGT Joaquin A. Lopez
 AMS1 William P. Mancusi
 OS1 Herbert F. Mann, Jr.
 YNCS David J. Marden
 SKCS(SW) Nick Marine
 MRCS Nicholas J. Martocci
 YN1 Ian Mastrup
 YNC Joseph Michael Mauro
 SKCS Gene McCarthy
 AE1 William B. McCaskill
 LNC John McCormack
 BTC Terrell V. McMullin
 HT1 Arthur J. Meconi
 SFC John W. Meek
 QMC C. Bruce Melcher
 CUCM David N. Mentink
 PC3 Molly P. Miller
 GMC John R. Millette
 QM2 James W. Mitterer Jr.
 FCCM(SW) Thomas W. Mlnarik
 AE1 Harry Moffat
 SMC James L. Monroe
 HTCS Anthony W. Morris **
 IV2 Thomas A. "Bull" Morton
 YNC Marianne E. Mosher
 AMH1 Duane E. Mosher
 BMCM E. J. Musielewicz †
 CMDCM(FMF) Ron Naida**
 BTC(SW) Richard K. Noble
 LCDR Thomas F. Norton
 MSCM(SW/SCW) David A. Nygaard**
 MS1(SS) Eddie G. Oca ** †
 PN1 Heidi Oertley †
 SKC(SW) Robert E. Orton
 SKC(AW) Penny I. Padour
 ETCM Louis Pagano
 ENCS Raymond R. Page
 EOCS Robert D. Parrish
 SKCM James B. Parsons
 Mr. Norman S. Pearce
 DCCM Charles E. Peterman, Jr.
 ENC Carlos L. Phillis
 LTJG Brian P. Pietrandrea
 UTCS(SCW) Larry Poffenbarger
 BT1 Richard J. Potvin
 YN1(SS) Franz (Frank) Powell
 LT Fred Prozzillo
 HMCM Manny Ratner †
 CTAC Patrick G. Reding †
 ETC Robert C. Reeves
 BTC William C. Rendall †
 HMC John D. Rivers
 EN1 Richard W. Ronnow
 ACCM Delores Rucker**
 LTC Roger Rucker**
 EMCM John W. Ryan
 HMC Walter E. Sack

DCCM Stephen R. Sandy
 AMHC Edward A. Schaefer
 QM2 James C. Schaub**
 CAPT Margaret M. Schmidt
 HTCM Richard J. Schreiner
 SKCS William J. Severns
 PRCS David L. Shaw
 YNC Charles Sherrick
 DCC(SS) Thomas V. W. Shields**
 SKCM David N. Showalter
 QMCS Malcolm L. Slack
 CUCM David B. Smith
 DPCC Daniel D. Smith
 OSCS Paul A. Smurawski
 RMC Fred H. Springall**
 QM1 Nicholas Stagliano Jr.
 BU1 Mark J. Stanek
 PNCM James Stephens
 CAPT Eugene P. Sullivan
 AQ1 Joseph J. Surdyk
 CUCM Gerald M. Swift †
 AD1 Neil V. Tanis
 YNC Dorothy Texidor
 SK2 Joyce Thompson †
 MMC Christopher N. Thorpe **
 BM2 David P. Tinyanoff
 CWO4 Charles A. Utz
 BU1 Thomas A. Van Hook
 CAPT John A. Van Huyck
 AKCM Richard J. Vannucci
 PNC John M. Vargo
 MRCM Michael A. Viens
 HTC James J. Vincent
 ENC(SS) William E. Vincent
 YNCS William Vinglas †
 QMCS Henry B. Vogler Jr.
 SKCS Norma B. von Dohren
 AWC(AW/NAC) Michael E. Wadsworth
 UT1 Dennis A. Wagner
 HMCS(FMF) Darryl Wahler
 MSCS Max B. Wano †
 AM2 Roy D. Watkins
 SKCM Robert L. Watterson
 AEC Roger D. Webster
 EMCS(SS) Barrett E. Weiser
 CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks
 YNCM Roger A. Wiley
 ASC Howard J. Williams
 SK1 Leathia L. Williams
 SK1 Alvin H. Wright Jr.** †
 FORCM Ronney Wright
 CWO4 William D. Yates
 AE1 James P. Yednak
 CSM Collin Younger
 STCM Terry R. Zieba
 Members in **Bold** are Current or Past National Presidents.
 ** Members who are "repeat" contributors.
 † Members who have Passed Away

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

National Headquarters

6703 Farragut Avenue
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

www.nera.org



NERA's 2017 National Conference

NERA Is Looking for a Few Good Men and Women



Every other year, NERA holds its elections of officers for the National Executive Council (NEC). The National Executive Council (NEC) consists of a:

- National President
- National Vice President
- National Secretary
- National Treasurer
- National Counselor

The NEC has supervision over NERA's business, policy, and disciplinary matters and assume the duties of office upon installation at the National Conference. These officers are entrusted with the responsibility of running NERA. If you or someone you know, is interested in becoming part of the NERA NEC, we encourage you to read the NERA Constitution and Bylaws to see if you are eligible. The bylaws are available for downloading on nera.org.

Here are a few of the duties required of NERA officers: the President and Vice President are required to write a letter to be printed in each edition of *The Mariner*. The president is required to preside at the National Conference and at all meetings of the NEC. The Secretary is required to record the minutes of the NEC meetings and responsible for all official correspondence. The National Treasurer is the chief financial officer of NERA. The National Counselor directs, assists and counsels chapter officers in most chapter issues.

If you are interested in becoming a NERA officer, please feel free to speak to past NEC officers to get a feel of the time commitment. (Visit nera.org for a list of officers.) NERA highly encourages those interested in becoming an officer to put your name in the ring and run at the next election in October 12-15, 2017. Contact neraexec@nera.org with any questions.

Nominations for NERA's 1776 Award

NERA's highest internal award is presented to a member for outstanding service to the Navy, Nation and NERA. We are now soliciting nominations from the Chapters and individuals. **The deadline for submissions is September 1, 2017**, which will allow us sufficient time to review nominations and make a selection. The award presentation will be held at NERA's National 60th Annual Conference in Cherry Hill, NJ on October 14, 2017.

Nomination Format

To provide uniformity in consideration for this award, all nominations should use this format and limit remarks to one page. **If mailing**, please provide an original and 5 copies. It should be sent to NERA National Headquarters, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042 for receipt by September 1, 2017.

If emailing, please send to neradeputy@nera.org by September 1, 2017. Title the email: NERA 1776 Award Nomination and include the following:

1. Nominee (full name and rate)
2. NERA member since:
3. Brief overview of why this person is being nominated
4. NERA achievements (Chapter offices held, chapter activities, National offices held, National activities, previous NERA awards, etc.)
5. Military service record (active duty, drill status, awards, activities)
6. Community service
7. Submitted by (your full name, rate, chapter, chapter office, if any, and your address, phone number and e-mail if you have one)