Dear Alumni Association members, families and friends of NMCB 14,

First I would like to thank the Board, officers and members for their past years support and future support of the Association. We had a very successful and fun reunion this past October in St Pete Beach and are looking forward to the 2015 reunion this October 22-25 in Pensacola, FL. I would suggest that you take a minute to review the agenda which includes a visit to United States Naval Air Museum at NAS Pensacola. Those of us that take advantage of early registration will save $15.00 and help the reunion committee to better plan other activities.

The Assistance Committee, Board of Directors and Association Officers would like to thank Randy Bushey for all his hard work to come to the assistance of SK1 Joyce Ledgering when the A/C unit in her home decided to stop working after more than ten years. With contributions from a few Association members and from the Alumni Association’s assistance fund, we gave Joyce the additional funds needed to replace her A/C unit.

There are four BOD members whose three year terms will end in 2015. In addition, there were two BOD members that resigned for personal reasons with one year and two years remaining on their respective terms. (See BOD election update on Page 16 for full update.) If you are interested in serving as a member of the Board of Directors or in Officers position, please submit a short bio and answer the following questions to Fred Bossard, Alumni Association Secretary.

1) Why you want to be on the BOD or in an officers position.

2) What qualifications that you feel you have to serve.

3) What vision or plans would you propose to improve the Alumni Association?

Good news. Members of NMCB 14 deployed for seven months to Afghanistan, Africa and elsewhere; have all returned home safe and sound. You will able to hear all about their deployments from the leadership, if you attend the reunion.

Again, come and join the fun, renew old friendships and make new some friends by attending the 10th annual NMCB 14 Alumni Association Reunion this October 22-25, 2015 at Pensacola, FL.

Mike Grace, President
WWII LIFE MEMBERS
James D. Rothermel
Andrew Parretti
Charles Sheppard
Ted Harwood
Jack Soliday
LIFE MEMBERS
Russell Doe
Robert Rehkopf
Fred S. Bossard
John Dux
Ronald L. Helton
Terry B. Jamison
John R. Johnson
Randall Bushey
George Milian
William Purkis
Glenn A. Smith
Kenneth Erickson
Mike Wood
Michael Grace
Mark Monaghan
William C. Charvat
William Memory
Vernon Morris
Richard Biggs
Randall McGhee
Donald N. Bridges
Ernest Burzumato
George A. Manning
Richard Mayo
Richard Hoibraten
Kenneth Morgan
James Caulder
Chris O. Snell, Jr.
Charles Hickey
William McCallum
Tommie Tyler
William Travis
Joseph Kolodziej
Grey Duncan
Charles Miller
Alton F. Robertson
Calvin Riley
Gregg Harkness
Ronald I. Russell
Johnnie Nash
Hilrie Kemp, Jr
William Pye
Loren Emery
Randall Felton
Terry Bailey
Charles Famshaw
Peter J. Arano
Thomas “Ed” Clark
Leo Bennett
Harold J. Murray
John J. Hillyer III
James A. Gold
Peter R. Herrick
Robert Tuten
Raymond C. Walker
Ronald Philpott
Ed Crenshaw
James R. Kautz
Wilson K. Hunter
John Walker
Paul Mitchell
Garry L. Chitwood
William Smith
Keith Stephens
David Tilki
Thomas Kleschka
Stan Bartholomew
Herman Polston
Samantha Wood
Stephen Clark
Clarence Dukart
Robert Newman
Mrs. Dee Brockway
Ronald L. Dollar
Edgar McGee
Gary Sturm
Patrick B. Upshaw
Shirley Williams
Stella Langel
Kirsten Neff
Benjamin Slaughter
Richard Morris
George Dore
Richard Leyde
Claude “Bob” Suggs
Anita J. Hansen
James F. George
Robert D. Litten
Jerry W. Kautz
Charles L. Meyer
Orlando “Pappa” Chase
David Vernaza
Kyle J. Croce
Michael Rambo
James N. Nappier, Jr.
Janna L. Robinson
William Wiedeman
James Boglarsky
Ralph M. Capito
Peter Reid
Robert “Marty” Fisher
Francisco “Frank” Landrau
James R. Graham
Fred M. Derr
Allen Boatman
Donald E. Rimel
Joseph Hale
Linda Joiner
A.J. “Jack” Dempsey
Karen Anderson
Brandi Anderson
Michael Doubler
Fred Frank
Anthony Muller
Christopher Ritchie
Lewis Haynes
Doug Alvarez
Aaron Felthousen
Gregory Risner
Odis Ray
Michael Vorburger
Thomas Johnson
Robert Strickland
Earnest Anthony

ANNUALS (2013-14)
Pauline Crenshaw
Normand Dupuis
David Cherry
David A. Katz
Mark Blue
Brittany Robinson
Renée Dial
Jacqueline Poston
Lloyd Hawthorne
Patrick Valentini
Charles Hayman
Ed Parada
Robert Ashley, Jr.
Robert Dodd

* WW II
** Iraq WIA
*** Iraq KIA
◆ Associate
◆ Active Duty
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER CONTINUED

MEMORIALS
John J. Hillyer Jr. Elmer Finch * Trace Dossert *** Bill Cramer
Fred Huntley Boaz Blosser* Scott McHugh *** John Finley
Donald L. Billstone Jason Dwelley *** Mike Anderson*** Ed Ripoli
Jim Knox Chris Dickerson *** David Ludivici Bill Schram
Ron Patterson Ronald Ginter *** Al Cardenelli Harvey Warren
James V. Carney * Robert Jenkins *** Marlin Cochran John Witzman

MEMBERSHIP REPORT
Despite awarding many “free” Life memberships this past year, our growth rate has declined. Seven or more 2014 Annual members have yet to renew for 2015. (They have been or will be notified.)

Ed Crenshaw has proposed the following: Any current member who would like to "Donate" a membership to a person in "14" who is not a current member can do so by either - 1) Filling out the membership form found on the Alumni web page at: nmcb14alumni.com with all the requested information and return it to Fred Bossard with a check for $20.00, or 2) Send a check in the amount of $20.00 to Fred Bossard indicating you are "sponsoring a membership" for a person from "14" to be chosen by the Officers/ BOD of the Alumni. Life Memberships are also available at a graduated rate based on age as noted on the Membership Application. Break out those check books NOW!!

MEMBERSHIPS 2009 to DATE ♦

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♦ Not Including Memorial Memberships
♦ Note that some previous Annuals converted to Life, and some members have passed away. Thus the “grand total” from “2009 to Date” will not match the “177” subtotal shown below.

WELCOME 2015 NEW MEMBERS
We heartily welcome new members added since the Winter-Spring 2014-15 Newsletter:

Life Members
None

Annual Members
Robert Dodd

Thank you all for your support and sacrifices.

◆ Life Members were erroneously reported at 115 in the Winter-Spring 2014-15 edition. The correct number should have read 121, the Subtotal 143, and TOTALS 173. Our apologies for these errors.
BIRTHDAY WISHES

Our best wishes go out to the following for a very Happy Birthdays:
Andy Paretti    02 August 1924 // 91 Years Young
James Rothermel 20 August 1918 // 97 Years Young

These two gentlemen represent the GREATEST GENERATION EVER!!
May God Bless you both!!

SPEAKING OF THE GREATEST GENERATION EVER!
One of brother-in-arms, CAPT Dean Battles, USN Retired, advised in an email, that Nevada’s oldest Veteran, Ivan Woodford, is a Seabee who had just turned 105 on 21 July. Dean provided the link below about about this extraordinary man and some of the highlights of his life. Unfortunately the article does not identify what Battalion Ivan was associated with. If anyone out there has a clue, please let us know. [Click for link]
Thank you Dean for this very interesting piece of Seabee history.

FACEBOOK REPORT FROM ED CRENSHAW

We currently have 415 members on the NMCB-14 Alumni/“Southern Pride” Facebook page. A lot of good information and pictures are posted on a regular basis and is an excellent way to keep up with what is going on with the “14” family.
If you are currently not on Facebook it is easy to establish an account, just go to Facebook.com and log in, you can give them as much or as little info on yourself as you like. Once you are logged in go to NMCB 14 “Southern Pride”/NMCB 14 Alumni Association and request to become a Friend of the NMCB 14 “Southern Pride”/Alumni Facebook page. [Editor’s NOTE: This is not to be confused with the NMCB 14 Alumni Association, which is not the same. They are two DIFFERENT organizations. “Friending” Southern Pride/Alumni Facebook page DOES NOT make you a member of NMCB 14 Alumni Association.
Membership applications for NMCB 14 Alumni Association are available at: nmc14alumni.com ]

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS
We are proud to let you know, that our very own VP, Mark Blue was presented the “Jefferson Award” for his volunteer efforts at the University of Central Florida. Mark said that he was very surprised and honored. His award was covered in the university press, the College of Engineering website and in the Orlando Business Journal. Mark’s reaction was “to be honest, I was surprised that I was selected”. He added that the “competition was stiff and the finalists were, in his estimation, fantastic folks”.
Our sincerest congratulations go out to Mark as a recipient of this prestigious award and for his dedication to UCF.
Following are links to the OBJ article and the Jefferson Award: 1) http://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/potmsearch/detail/submission/4789001/Mark_Blue 2) http://www.jeffersonawards.org/

SOME ODDS ‘N ENDS
Ed Crenshaw reported that an article on the Alumni Association’s presentation of $2,500 to the Seabee Memorial Association in the name of Jim Gold, for his dedication and cataloging work on the Heritage Center inventory, appeared in their Spring 2015 issue (on Page 9). For those that may have missed it, here is link to the article: [Click for link]

Mike Grace received an interesting e-mail and question from one Albert Miller concerning “shoulder rockers” on MCB uniforms. Following is a copy of the e-mail: [Click for link]

[Click for link]
WEBMASTER STILL NEEDED

*Hey - All you young techies!!* We are still looking for a new Webmaster. Keith Stephens, who has served us admirably for the past several years, is looking for relief. Anyone interested in maintaining our website can contact Keith at webmaster@nmcb14alumni.com. Great PAY and BENEFITS - Well at least in the form of satisfaction for a “job well done and appreciated”. Start “scratching” your heads - Keith needs some relief.

NMCB 14 BATTALION NEWS

On 29 June 2015, Ed Crenshaw forwarded the photo below of the NMCB 14 DET HOA, in Djibouti, Africa. Unfortunately, there was not any verbiage attached as to what construction projects they were undertaking at the time. As mentioned in the President’s Corner on Page 1, this detachment and all the others that were deployed to other far reaches of the globe, all safely returned home on 09 August 2015. WELCOME HOME TO ALL!! Congratulations for a job well done!!

We are eagerly waiting to hear about their exploits at this year’s reunion in Pensacola.

On the home front, we recently learned that Janna Wiedeman (nee Robinson), formerly the NMCB 14 S3C and current BOD member, is now assigned to Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4. CSG 4 is located in Norfolk, VA. CSG-4 trains and certifies combat ready Naval forces by optimizing full spectrum integration of Atlantic Fleet Carrier Strike Groups, Amphibious Readiness Groups and Independent Deploying ships, assessing their performance of weapon systems, watch teams and staffs during live exercises, synthetic training and academic instruction. Janna is the new Headquarter Directorate LCPO over Training, Admin and Supply. That sounds like a “boatload” of responsibility and we wish Janna continued success in her new assignment.
ROBINSON - WIEDEMAN WEDDING UPDATE

In our last edition (Winter-Spring 2014-15), due to timing issues, permission to use a picture of Janna (Robinson) Wiedeman’s nephew Jack was received beyond our publication date. As promised, here is Jack shown to the right. Janna wrote that Jack was the ring bearer in her cousin’s wedding the week before Janna and Bill’s wedding. Jack’s father (John) and Janna’s brother, gave Janna away at her wedding.

We thank Jack’s parents for the permission to publish his picture. We couldn’t pass up not showing off a future (?) Seabee could we?

SK1 LEDGERING UPDATE

On 28 July 2015, we sent out a mass e-mail concerning the plight of SK1 Ledgering and her Air Conditioning woes. We are happy to further report that the new air conditioning system was installed on Friday, 31 July 2015. On 01 August 2015, Randy Bushey spoke with PO Ledgering and she reported that the system is up and running and fully operational.

Alumni donations to date totaling $1,150.00 are helping to defray this expense ($3,866.21). A big Bravo Zulu to Jack Araneo, Randy Felton, Jim Gold, Ron Helton, Glenn Smith and Fred Bossard for your generosity and support in this endeavor.

And, it’s not too late. We still are accepting tax deductible contributions to help defray the cost of our largest assistance expense to date. Make all checks (big and small) payable to NMCB 14 Alumni Association with a note on the reference line “SK1 Ledgering A/C Fund”. All monies collected will be earmarked for future “assistance” funding. Please forward you donation to:

Glenn Smith, Treasurer
NMCB 14 Alumni Association
P.O. Box 1565
Orange Beach, AL 36561

ROBINSON - WIEDEMAN WEDDING UPDATE

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We thank Jack’s parents for the permission to publish his picture. We couldn’t pass up not showing off a future (?) Seabee could we?

GOING DOWN MEMORY LANE

Thanks to David Katz (via Ed Crenshaw) for this photo (bottom left) posted to Facebook around April 2015. Test your memories - What years did Randy, Joe and Bill reign over NMCB14?? And who are the Seabees pictured here?
RESIGNATION
We regret to inform you that Ben Slaughter has resigned from the Board of Directors. This was a personal decision due to the time commitments that Ben has to give to work, school and other demands on what time he had left over in his busy life. We appreciate Ben’s input and service to date on the BOD and his dedication to the Alumni Association. We look forward to having Ben back in the future either on the BOD or as an officer when time permits.

SAILOR AND SEEabee STORIES FROM THE PAST
John Walker submitted the following stories from his past. Thank you for this entertaining story.

“The Tin Can Story”
By John P. Walker

Dear Tin Can Sailors,

In addition to ordering a tee shirt (order form and check included), I would like to pass along what I think is a humorous story onboard my first destroyer.

To set the stage, I was a brand-new QMSA, straight out of boot camp and QM school. This was my first cruise. (QM = quartermaster / ships navigation; SA = seaman apprentice / lowest rank possible out of boot camp)

As with any authentic sea story, it begins with: This ain’t no s_ _ _.

It was 23 November 1967, the USS Vogelgesang DD-862, a Fram I, Gearing class destroyer; the Flagship of Destroyer Squadron THIRTY-TWO, had just transited the Straits of Gibraltar to begin our Med cruise. Shortly thereafter, the squadron met with an oiler and the USS Shangri-La (CVA-38) for refueling. Being the flagship, we were the first DD alongside the oiler, on her starboard side with the carrier on her port side and the remainder of the squadron in a circle formation. As we made up to the oiler, we heard the word come over from the carrier’s 1MC that she had lost steering control. The oiler ordered “Emergency Bread-away” and it seemed like she stopped dead in the water. Lines parted, some oil spilled and if someone was watching from an airplane above, our squadron of little destroyers would have resembled a flushed covey of quail getting away from the Shangri-La.

When things settled down, we tried to refuel from the oiler, but the seas had made up too much for us to go alongside. After the carrier topped off from the oiler, we went alongside the carrier, because she offered a more sheltered lee-side. As we were refueling a large wave came over the carrier’s lowered plane elevator that was her refueling station and picked up a sailor wearing khaki (officer or chief) and carried him overboard between the two ships. A helo from the carrier picked him up before the trailing DD in lifeguard station could reach him.

Now comes the humorous part. After the Vogelgesang refueled, each of the other DD’s had to refuel from the Shangri-La, one at time with the other DD’s in a circle screen. About this time a Russian destroyer came on the scene. It was a sleek, rakish ship, definitely newer than our World War II era destroyer. I was told it was the first time a Russian destroyer started to follow one of our carriers. Don’t know if that was true or not, but being the green new kid on the ship, I believed it.

Anyway the Commodore broke us away to steam independently to keep between the Russian and the refueling operation. The Russian destroyer came up on our port quarter, maybe a hundred yards or so. You could clearly see their sailors on deck in WHITE uniforms. We of course, were all out on deck to watch them and take pictures, just as the Russians were. Those of us QM’s not on watch were up on the signal bridge, looking at them. Just below us on the port bridge wing were the Commodore, CAPT G.J. Davis and some members of his staff along with our CO, CDR R.E. Miale and some of our officers. I was right above them along the railing when you could almost see the iconic “light-bulb” of an idea come on above the Commodore’s head. He asked the CO for true wind. When true wind came out of CIC, he told our CO to “make smoke”. Now, as you remember, those old destroyers had trouble not to make smoke. You can imagine the glee in the BT’s on watch when they got the command. Shortly, you could hear a rumble down below, the whole ship shook and then heavy, oily, thick, smelly, black smoke belched out of our two stacks, just clearing our ship and landing directly on the Russian destroyer. We could clearly hear them coughing and then their engine cranked up and they came out of the smoke screen wearing their dress “GREYS”. A good laugh was had by all.

Editors Note: An edited version of the above was published in the “Tin Can Sailor” in the Spring of 2015.
2015 BOD ELECTION UPDATE

Included with our 10th Reunion Information Package and Registration Form, which was forwarded on 06 June 2016, was a “Call” for BOD Nominees. Since then, as noted above, we had another BOD member resign. So, in addition to the three new three year BOD’s and one two-year BOD, we now need to add one more BOD to fill Ben Slaughter’s remaining term. Past resignations and movement of BOD’s to officer positions got us out of sync with the normal cycle of electing three BOD members of each three year cycle. The original intent of the Association was to elect three new directors every year for a “rolling” total of nine directors plus the immediate past president. This year’s elections will put us back in sync. Anyone that is interested in serving on the BOD or as an officer, should contact Fred Bossard no later than Friday, 18 September 2015.

OBITUARIES

1) Raleigh Ward - In response our Winter-Spring 2014-15 Newsletter, Mrs Carleen Ward advised us that Raleigh was suffering from lung cancer. As many of you know by now, Mrs. Ward advised us on 11 June 2015 that Raleigh died on 15 May 2015. Thanks goes out to John Hillyer for forwarding this sad news on to ninety-two of Raleigh's former shipmates and friends. Unfortunately, we do not have an obituary or information on Raleigh's funeral.

2) Ed Allen - Ed died in early April 2015 and was to have a memorial service and burial at the Bushnell National Cemetery in mid to late April. However, due to a family illness, it was postponed to 29 June 2015, but then had to again, be re-scheduled. At this time we can not report on what the final service and/or burial dates were, if any.

3) RADM D.O. Smart - We learned in early May in an email from NAVFAC via RADM Noah Long of RADM Smart's death. RADM Smart joined the Navy in February 1954 and served with the Reserves for 31 years until his final assignment as Commander, Reserve Naval Construction Force. He was a leader in the Navy and a pillar in the community. In addition to being successful with several businesses, he was actively involved in organizations such as the American Society of Safety Engineers, Chamber of Commerce, and Anglican Relief and Development Fund. He was an ordained priest and was a true inspiration to all of us. His leadership, positive attitude, and friendship will be greatly missed. Editor's note - Unfortunately, RADM Smart's obituary apparently has been taken off line. RADM Smart touched the hearts and minds of the many NMCB 14 members that served with, for and along side him. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

SEABEE COURIER NEWSLETTERS

If you are not receiving copies of the “Seabee Courier” from the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, MS and would like to, you can contact John Hillyer at jhillyeriii@aol.com. John has graciously provided PDF copies to many of us and we are sure that a few more would not be a problem.

NMCB 14’s TENTH REUNION UPDATE

Your reunion committee has been working hard to provide you with another quality reunion. A tour (with transportation) to the Naval Air Museum is in place as is a local DJ for our entertainment after Saturday night’s dinner. Thanks to Loren Emery for heading our “Challenge Coin” design and production. One Challenge Coin will be provided to each registrant during the registration process at the hotel. Among the top “Grand Prizes” to date are 1) a Beverly Mayo hand made “American Flag Quilt and 2) a short stay at one of Al Robertson’s finest beach condo’s. Other “surprise” prizes are in the works.

Due to the Battalion's relocation to Gulfport, the annual WIA/KIA memorial service has been scheduled to be held on Saturday morning during the reunion. This will provide for an opportunity for those that have not had past opportunities to attend the Memorial Service for NMCB14’s fallen and injured warriors. If you have not made your hotel reservation or sent in your registration, there is no time like the present to do so.

Hilton Garden Inn
1145 Airport Blvd
Pensacola, FL
http://hiltongardeninn3.hilton.com

TENTH REUNION CALENDAR

22 - 25 OCTOBER 2015
PENSACOLA, FL
In Memory of

2015 Deceased
Raleigh Ward
Ed Allen
Peter A Young, Jr

Other Notable
RADM D.O. Smart

Obituaries (Continued)

Peter A Young Jr departed this life on June 22nd, 2015 at the Medical Center of Trinity; Trinity, Florida after a prolonged illness. Peter was born on January 3, 1943 in New Rochelle, New York. Son of the late Peter A. Sr, and Dorothy Young, Peter enlisted in the Naval Reserve in 1965 and served in Viet Nam in 1966-67. After being released from Active Duty, he remained in the Reserves and applied for a Commission. He was commissioned as Civil Engineer Corps Officer and rose through the Ranks. He served in various assignments at the Battalion, Regiment, Brigade and Naval Facilities Command Units. After his retirement he relocated to Florida and was active in Island X-6, X-5 and X-17 Seabee Veterans of America. He also served for many years as Treasurer of the National Navy Seabee Veterans of America. He had no surviving family members. Services were held in Florida and New York.

Last but Not Least

They say “timing is everything” and the timing was not good for getting an image of the Challenge Coin inserted onto Page 2 of the Registration information sent out last June. So here it is for all to see below the return address.

Enjoy the rest of your Summer - See you in October

Bravo Zulu to ALL
May God Bless Our Troops!

NMGB 14 Alumni Association
4005 Crest View Drive
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Address Name
4321 First Street
Anytown, State 54321