

NMCB 14 ASSOCIATION

# Newsletter



## A Message from The President

On October 12th we meet to memorialize our brothers who gave ALL and honor those who were wounded. We come together to share our tears and our memories.

Twenty years have passed since the 2004 deployment. As those years have gone by, we have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, and personal accomplishments.

We have seen our children grow and our loved ones pass away. The time roll on, life moves on and through all these years and we continue to remember the sacrifice that our seven Brave Brothers made so long ago.

The Association's 20th anniversary will be in 2025. The Association was set up to help our brothers and sisters and our families that were affected by that deployment.

The NMCB 14 Association, as it's now called, was called NMCB 14 Alumni Association when it was first formed. The Association has helped many people throughout the years. Many people have sat on the board. Countless hours have been spent assisting families and putting on the annual reunion. It takes a village.

The board this year has a large outgoing class. Many of them have served several positions and multiple terms to keep the Association going strong. The future of the Association is in your hands. It needs new board members to step up and infuse new ideas, new energy, and increase membership.

As we meet for this year's annual meeting, I urge you to attend the meeting and get involved. You can serve as a board member or on a committee; there are many needs that could be met with your help.

Lulrick Balzora, who was our Chaplain during the 2004 deployment, will lead our memorial this year. I am happy he has agreed to volunteer his time. I hope you will attend our reunion and, again, I urge you to get involved with the Association.



Thank you.  
Daryl Lichti  
President

2024 NMCB 14 Association

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

**Daryl Lichti**  
E-mail: daryllicht2001@yahoo.com  
Tel: 352-348-0669

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Mike Camp**  
E-mail: utcamp@aol.com  
Tel: 239-280-8093

### SECRETARY

**Gregg Harkness**  
Tel: (407) 491-1863  
E-Mail: g.harkness@earthlink.net

### TREASURER

**Joseph P. Leahy**  
Tel: (609) 820-8723  
E-Mail: capt1952@gmail.com

### OMBUDSMEN

**Betty Nelson**  
Tel: (813) 376-3497  
E-Mail: bettybud2000@aol.com

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Richard Hoibraten—Chaplain**  
E-mail: cj\_20207947@outlook.com  
Tel: 404-683-2834

**Randy Bushey**  
E-mail: randy.bushey@jacobs.com  
Tel: 561-753-1783

**Ed Crenshaw**  
E-mail: cecbret@windstream.net  
Tel: 706-897-2649

**John Bonaccorso**  
E-mail: johntbonaccorso@aol.com  
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**Thomas Legler**  
E-mail: thomaslegler@msn.com  
Tel: 813-451-7604

**Chuck Douge**  
E-mail: combatelectric@aol.com  
Tel: 305-230-8000

**David Porter**  
E-mail: porter\_de@yahoo.com  
Tel:

Summer 2024



## A Message from The Vice President

Happy Summer to all

Those of us that reside in Florida full time are trying to get through another brutally hot summer season. If you reside elsewhere, it isn't much better.

Much like we must get through this hot Summer, Life also needs to go on. This thought makes me consider the status of our association. It really needs to go on, but without support from the membership, it could be in danger of becoming part of the cancel culture that we see daily. Many of the current board members have been serving since the inception of the organization. Many of them are a number of years older and wanting/needing to be replaced by some younger blood. We really need some volunteers to step forward and take a turn at staffing the Board et al. It is not extremely difficult nor is it highly time consuming; it's just decision making and protecting the integrity and assets of the association. I encourage you to consider this and if you care enough, step forward.

The upcoming memorial/reunion just may be the best ever! President Daryl has a full calendar scheduled. There are many events planned to invite and recognize all our brothers and sisters who gave their all and/or were wounded in trying to do so. So put Oct 12th on your calendar and plan to reignite some bonds created 20 years ago. Hope to see many of you then!

Best Regards

Vice President

Mike Camp UTCS (SCWS) Ret.



## Chaplain's Corner

I bring greetings to everyone and ask we all give thanks for the opportunity to serve together. I listened on our conference call and heard of the many opportunities for us to work together. It reminded me of the same issues that the Veterans Service organizations have: Recruiting volunteers for projects.

One of the greatest challenges we have in America is to recognize we serve better as a unit especially when we believe in what we stand for.

Citizens of America need to remain united for the purpose of preserving that for which this country was founded on. This is a historical time of challenge for all of us.

And we need to stand and support our "Association" on the same level and together make the difference for God and Country.

The book of Romans 5:3-6 is a guide to help us understand our responsibilities as people to face challenges, create perseverance, character and hope for the future. Stay strong, remain committed and serve with strength and conviction.

Let us prepare for the future move forward as a team.



In God's Grace Peace,

Pastor Richard Hoibraten

U S Navy Seabees Chaplain

# 2024 Reunion!



Association Members, NMCB-14 Members and Friends: --

We hope to see you all at the NMCB-14 Association 19th Annual Reunion at the Naval Air Station Jacksonville. All Reunion activities will take place on **Saturday, October 12**. The Board of Directors and Officers will meet Saturday morning and the Association General Membership meeting will be Saturday morning. The Memorial Service will be Saturday afternoon at Patriot's Grove Park where the NMCB-14 Monument is located. The Banquet will be Saturday evening at River Cove Park on NAS Jacksonville. There will be no Sunday breakfast or meeting.



## Registration Form, Fees, and Check-in:

Use the Registration Form to complete your registration.

For **Members**, the Early Registration Fee is **\$70.00** (which includes your Saturday dinner); Saturday dinner for your spouse/guests is **\$30.00** – Deadline for Early Registration is **1 September 2024**. After that, Member Late Registration is **\$75.00**.

For **Non-Members**, the Early Registration Fee is **\$75.00** (which includes your Saturday dinner); Saturday dinner for your spouse/guests is **\$30.00** – Deadline for Early Registration is **1 September 2024**. After that, Non-Member Late Registration is **\$80.00**.

The above Fees are for those paying by check. For those paying with PayPal, the fees are 4% higher as PayPal charges us that amount. All fees and payment instructions are included on the Registration form.

**The registration form with payment must be received by September 1, 2024. Registration after this date will be assessed LATE Fee Rates as noted above.** Mail the form and payment to Joe Leahy at the address indicated on the registration form. Payment may also be made via PayPal. Late Registration after **1 September 2024** can be submitted as noted above or done at the Reunion check-in.

**Reunion Check-In.** The Reunion Check-In desk will be in River Cove Park (in the morning or prior to Dinner).

**Dress for the Reunion:** Dress choice will be Casual as in the past.

**Lodging:** We have not designated nor made arrangements for group lodging. You are on your own. There are many hotels nearby and you can try to make reservations at the Navy Lodge on base. If you need suggestions, please contact us.

## Activities and Events

**Silent Auction and Raffle** – There will be a Silent Auction & Raffle this year.

**Saturday Banquet Menu** - Food will be provided by Mission BBQ (If you need a Vegetarian option, please indicate so on the Registration Form)



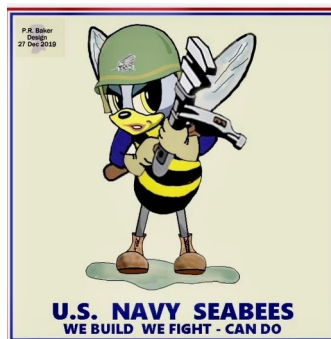
# 2024 Reunion

## PLAN OF THE DAY

Event	TIME *	LOCATION
Executive Committee Meeting	07:30 - 09:30	River Cove #
General Membership Meeting	10:00 - 11:30	River Cove #
Lunch	12:00 - 13:30	On Your Own
Memorial	14:00 - 15:30	Patriot's Grove Park
Cash Bar /Social Hour	17:30 - 19:00	River Cove #
Coin Sales	17:30 - 23:00	River Cove #
Silent Auction	17:30 - 19:00	River Cove #
50/50 Ticket Sales		
Auction Winners Announced	19:00 – 19:15	River Cove #
50/50 Drawing		
Introductions	19:15	River Cove #
All Seated		
Pledge of Allegiance	19:15 – 19:20	River Cove #
Invocation	19:20 - 19:25	River Cove #
Missing Man Ceremony	19:25 – 19:35	River Cove #
Dinner	19:35 - 20:25	River Cove #
Cake Cutting & Cake Distribution	20:25 – 20:35	River Cove #
Cash Bar/Social Time	20:25 - 23:00	River Cove #

- All times are Approximate

# - Bldg. 10; Mustin Road; Jacksonville, FL 32212 ([Hyperlink to venue](#))



# 2024 Reunion



**NMCB FOURTEEN ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
 THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL REUNION  
 REGISTRATION FORM  
 OCTOBER 12, 2024  
 NAVAL AIR STATION  
 6801 ROOSEVELT BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First

Members Register Here

	<u>Rate</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pay by</u>	<u>PayPal</u>		<u>Amount</u>
	<u>Check</u>			
Early Registration (Before 1 September 2024)	\$ 70.00	\$ 73.00	_____	\$ _____
Late Registration (After 1 September 2024)	\$ 75.00	\$ 78.00	_____	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest Saturday Night Dinner	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Non-Members Register Here

	<u>Rate</u>		<u>Number</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Pay by</u>	<u>PayPal</u>		<u>Amount</u>
	<u>Check</u>			
Early Registration (Before 1 September 2024)	\$ 75.00	\$ 78.00	_____	\$ _____
Late Registration (After 1 September 2024)	\$ 80.00	\$ 83.00	_____	\$ _____
Spouse/Guest Saturday Night Dinner	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	_____	\$ _____
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

**TOTAL DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: If Vegetarian Meal(s) is/are required for Saturday Banquet, please indicate, number required:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Mail or email this form to:**

Joe Leahy  
 5 Chervil Way  
 Palm Coast FL 32137

[capt1952@gmail.com](mailto:capt1952@gmail.com)

**Payment:**

A. BY CHECK (Payable to: *NMCB 14 Alumni Association*); or  
 B. PAYPAL Use [capt1952@gmail.com](mailto:capt1952@gmail.com) as the PayPal address.

*Regardless of how you pay, you MUST send this Registration Form to Joe Leahy.*

*Registration Fee Includes the Registrant's Saturday Night Dinner*



# 2024 Reunion

## NAS Jacksonville Base Access

You must have a valid Military ID and a valid driving license to drive on base, with proof of insurance and a valid vehicle registration regardless of the state their vehicle is registered in.. All passengers must be able to present a valid US photo identification. Decals are no longer required on vehicles. Motorcycle operators must have motorcycle endorsement on their Driver's license.

If you have Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) from the VA and it has "Service Connected" under your name, you can get on the NAS JAX with that. The VHIC must display the veteran's eligibility status. All VHIC cardholders **MUST** stop at the NAS Jax Visitor Control Center (VCC) to enroll in the Defense Biometric Identification System (DBIDS) before entering NAS JAX the first time. The VCC is located in Building 9 before the NAS Jax Main Gate on the right.

If you do not have a valid ID, you can be sponsored by someone who does, and you must ride with that person ( you do not have driving privileges on base without a Military ID and the sponsor is responsible for that person at all times). We urge you to find a friend who you can ride with or meet at the gate and park in the back side of the B-9 parking lot.



An alternative option is to fill out Form 5512/1. Fill out this form and send it back with your memorial registration. This form and the registration **MUST** be returned no later than **September 15, 2024**.

This form is a request to gain access to the base for a one-time event – the Reunion - for that day (**October 12, 2024**) and is only valid for that day - you will not be able to stay overnight on base. This form must be filled out fully and correctly, do not leave any information blank. Incomplete forms will not be processed, and you will need to find alternative access. You will need to check in at Base Security and meet with the NMCB 14 Association Representative to pick up your pre-printed pass. The representative will only be available from 08:00 to 12:00 to hand out the pass. It is your responsibility to be on time.

Form 5512/1 can be accessed here: [https://ndw.onic.navy.mil/Portals/75/NSA\\_Bethesda/Documents/SECNAV%205512%20-%20May%202021%20-%20fillable.pdf?ver=JnzeXBMCpow-8X1EUKF4oQ%3D%3D](https://ndw.onic.navy.mil/Portals/75/NSA_Bethesda/Documents/SECNAV%205512%20-%20May%202021%20-%20fillable.pdf?ver=JnzeXBMCpow-8X1EUKF4oQ%3D%3D).

Or request a copy from Gregg Harkness [g.harkness@earthlink.net](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net) .

**ID Card Scanning** - All Military Installations have begun scanning ID cards for Base access. If you currently hold an older ID with the SSN printed on the face of the card, it may not scan properly and will be confiscated. Renewal of the ID will then be required.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## New Challenge Coins are Available!

We have 2 new coins available. One is a round coin, 2-1/4 - inch diameter. \$11.30 each shipped.



The other is a Dog Tag coin. \$11.00 each shipped.

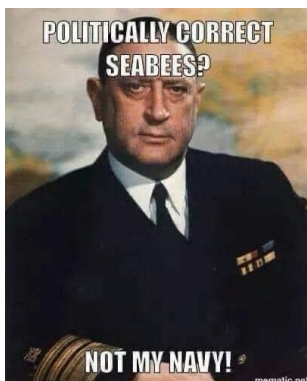
To order, contact Gregg Harkness at [g.harkness@earthlink.net](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net) (or message him at 407-491-1863) and specify how many of each you want. Payment can be made by check, PayPal Family & Friends (no fees), Venmo or Zelle. Once you indicate what you want, Gregg will reply with the total cost and the appropriate address for the payment method you select.



## Annual Seabee Birthday / All Military Ball

NSVA Island X-3 Blairsville Georgia and the Navy Seabee Veterans Support Alliance will again sponsor its 10<sup>th</sup> annual Seabee Birthday/ All Military Ball on 2 March 2025 at "The Ridges Resort" on beautiful Lake Chatuge, between Young Harris and Hiawassee Georgia. Come be with us an celebrate the 83<sup>rd</sup> Birthday of the U S Navy Seabees.

POC : Ed Crenshaw ([CE1Crenshaw@outlook.com](mailto:CE1Crenshaw@outlook.com))





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Call for Officers and Board of Directors

Are you interested in stepping up to help the NMCB Association continue to do its good work? The association has a number of Officer and Board members rotating out this year. We desperately need new volunteers to step forward and fill the following positions:

- Board Members—We need two (2) to fill 2-year terms and two (2) to fill 3-year terms.
- President—one year term but should commit to a second term
- Secretary—One year term but should commit to a second (or more) term.
- Treasurer—one year term but needs to commit for a second or more terms.
- Webmaster—must be familiar with the Wix platform.

We really need the Webmaster ASAP!!!

If you would like to help make a difference with this organization, please contact Gregg Harkness ([g.harkness@earthlink.net](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net)) or Daryl Lichti ([daryllicht2001@yahoo.com](mailto:daryllicht2001@yahoo.com)) and notify them of your interest.



**WE WANT YOU**



## New NMCB 14 Patch Available

For the first time, we now have an Association Patch!



These are fully embroidered, 3-inch diameter patches suitable for coats, hats, or vests!

Cost is \$7.00 each shipped—OR if you order coins at the same time, the cost is \$6.00 each

please contact Gregg Harkness ([g.harkness@earthlink.net](mailto:g.harkness@earthlink.net)) (or message him at 407-491-1863) and specify how many you want. Payment can be made by check, PayPal Family & Friends (no fees), Venmo or Zelle. Once you indicate what you want, Gregg will reply with the total cost and the appropriate address for the payment method you select.



# NSA Souda Bay Remembers the Seven



**NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY SOUDA BAY, Greece (May 2, 2024)**  
Naval Support Activity Souda Bay and Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC) Europe Africa Central (EURAFCENT) service members and personnel held a memorial service for Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14 at The Anchor on May 2, 2024.



*“Our ceremony today is to stop, pause, and honor our Seabees who lost their lives, so we all can live in a country with the freedom we all cherish,”* said Utilitiesman 2nd Class Brian Torres, NAVFAC EURAFCENT. *“Today, we remember Seabees who lived by our core values of honor, courage, and commitment. We stop for a few moments, so we always remember the enormous price our brothers and their families have paid so we – and all Americans – can enjoy the freedom we have been given.”*

The ceremony memorialized seven NMCB-14 Sailors who paid the ultimate sacrifice and 35 who were wounded in 2004 while the battalion was serving in Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, Seabees built bridges, conducted convoy operations, and built forward-operating bases alongside Marines, embodying their motto of “We Build, We Fight.”



*“There is a difference between being ready and being prepared,”* said retired Senior Chief Construction Mechanic Francisco Landrau, event coordinator for the ceremony. *“We were ready, but nothing can prepare you for the horrors of war. We coped and made sense of reality by shrugging it all off, and all the other close calls by laughing and commenting to each other, ‘it was just not our time, not our day.’ This was our war, and that was my fight. I retired and no longer wear the uniform. Today our battlefield and the face of our enemy has changed and continues to evolve. We all have our Mission – master yours – and never forget our fallen.”*

NMCB-14 made history as the first reserve battalion to assume command from an active-duty battalion since WW2.

*“It is important to make time, like today, to step back and remember why we wear this uniform those that have built our legacy, and reflect on what we will do to carry that legacy forward,”* said Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Riege, public works officer, NSA Souda Bay. *“I have one ask for everyone here today: we figure out what each one of us will do to carry forward the legacy and carry on for these seven Seabees.”*

Seabees from the NAVFAC EURAFCENT laid a wreath as the master of ceremonies read the names of the fallen Sailors:

- Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Jason Dwelley, April 30, 2004, Iraq
- Equipment Operator 3rd Class Christopher Dickerson, April 30, 2004, Iraq
- Builder 2nd Class Michael Anderson, May 2, 2004, Iraq
- Steelworker 3rd Class Ronald Ginther, May 2, 2004, Iraq
- Builder 2nd Class Robert Jenkins, May 2, 2004, Iraq
- Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Scott McHugh, May 2, 2004, Iraq
- Equipment Operator 2nd Class Trace Dossett, May 2, 2004, Iraq



*“The desert sand has been anointed with the blood of those seven Seabees who volunteered to serve and understood that one day, their service to our nation may cost them their lives,”* concluded Landrau. *“It should be important to all of us to memorialize our fallen, so that we can assure, that as time passes, their sacrifices will not have been in vain.”*

[\(from official Navy Site\)](#)





## Remembering Our Own



**Family and Shipmates of KIA during Operation Iraqi Freedom meet at the memorial at NAS Jacksonville on 04 MAY 2024.**



## Helping our Brothers and Sisters in Need

The Association was started to assist those in need. We are ready and continue to stand ready now to give you a hand if needed. This assistance is not intended make your troubles disappear, nor can it be the answer to end all your financial problems. It is intended to relieve some hardship you may be experiencing. The Association has gone to great lengths to prepare a fair path for those who wish apply for assistance. While getting assistance is not Guaranteed, we will consider all available facts. Our aim is to assist the member/family as much is within our power. We now have our Ombudsman and of course our Chaplain who are eager and ready to serve you. Please feel free to contact us. Your information will not be shared outside the Committee—we are committed to your privacy.



Ombudsman:

Betty Nelson [bettybud2000@aol.com](mailto:bettybud2000@aol.com) 813-376-3497

Chaplain: Richard Hoibraten  
[cj\\_20207947@outlook.com](mailto:cj_20207947@outlook.com) 404-683-2834  
Assistance Chair

# Have you seen our website?



If you've not seen it yet, do yourself a favor and check it out!

<https://www.nmcb14alumni.com>



# NMCB 14 ASSOCIATION

During the 2003-2004 Iraqi Freedom deployment of NMCB 14, seven of its Seabees were killed and 34 wounded. In 2004, a Purple Heart Ceremony was held at NAS Jacksonville, Florida where NMCB 14 has its headquarters. It was well-attended by the military community, as well as retired and former members of NMCB 14. As a result of this gathering, **Capt. Bob Brockway** organized a small group of key retired officers and enlisted personnel to form an alumni association with a primary mission of aiding the families of those NMCB 14 personnel who were killed or wounded during Iraqi Freedom and any future conflict casualties.

On March 12, 2005, a meeting of the organizing committee was held at the Best Western Hotel & Suites in Orange Park, Florida. Those in attendance were **Jack Araneo, Bob Brockway, Randy Bushey, Ron Helton, Al Kenny, Bill Purkis, Joe Schweigart, Bill Tydings, and Mike Wood.** **Neil Orange**, who also was part of the organizing committee, was not able to attend. An organization was set up and interim appointments were made to the Executive Committee (Board of Directors and Officers). The initial purpose of the Association was in keeping with the following goals:

1. Camaraderie within the Seabee community, inclusive of all Navy rates, ranks, and designators.
2. Support of the inclusive Seabee community.
3. Communications with members.
4. Historical restoration and preservation.

By-laws were established and a nonprofit status was applied for. In November 2007 the nonprofit status was granted. The association was then a 501 (c) (19) military nonprofit organization.



**Join us online!**

**NMCB 14 Association**

Web Address:

<http://nmc14.alumni.com>

**Facebook Page:**

<http://facebook.com/groups/146833558670743>

Got something to contribute? Contact the editor:

Pat Allfrey—[p.allfrey@gmail.com](mailto:p.allfrey@gmail.com)



## MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY

WWII Life	03
Life Members	167
Annual Members	05
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>171</b>
Memorial Members	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>213</b>

**14**