

Navy Seabee Veterans of America

CAN DO

Volume 26, Number 1, Mar. 2016

Hueneme



Island X-23, Crystal River, FL hosted a Christmas Party for its members and those from Island X-6 Spring Hill, FL. Good food and friendship was enjoyed by all.

CAN DO is published for members of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America four times each year—in March, June, September, and December. **EDITORS NOTE:** Please send in your submittals prior to the cut-off date to allow time for editorial work to be accomplished by the printing deadline. If possible all submittals must be in either PDF or WORD file. Please send all submittals to the new e-mail address for the Can Do (nsvacandoeditor@gmail.com). Photos and listings in regular mail will be returned. All Can Do Articles with photos must be submitted as you would like it to see it with all personnel listed L-R in WORD program if you can! **CAN DO EDITOR** Carl Barrett, 1700 Glen Abby Lane, Winter Haven, FL 33881, email: nsvacandoeditor@gmail.com , Tel: 863-299-9009

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Vice President Betty Nelson

Treasurer Linda Schmuck

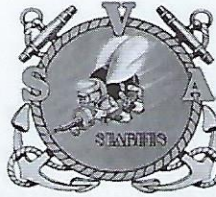
Secretary/Parliamentarian Elaine Coffin

Chaplain/Historian Linda Hillyer

CAN DO EDITOR Carl Barrett, 1700 Glen Abby Lane, Winter Haven, FL 33881, email: nsvacandoeditor@gmail.com , Tel: 863-299-9009

NOTICE: DEADLINE FOR JUNE 2016 CAN DO IS MAY 15, 2016!

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Navy Seabee Veterans of America welcomes all veterans age 18 or older, any rank, rate or branch of service, with honorable service in or with the U.S. Naval Construction Forces or Naval Facilities Command. Down load a membership application at www.nsva.org or contact National Secretary: Charles H. Coffin, 16 Graham Ave., West haven, CT, NSVA, New Seabee Phone Number: 203-843-5513.

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA
Commander's Corner

11 February 2016

Commander's Corner

Hello to ALL, I hope the start of this New Year has been good to all of you.

Things have been busy since December with Island meetings, representing the Navy SVA on a telephone conferences with the SMSA talking about some new programs they would like to see put into place to afford more scholarships to more college bound SEABEE relatives.

Many Islands are suffering from lack of members wanting to fill leadership roles thereby rendering the Islands inactive. I know we have harped on the solution being the recruitment of younger members and a lot of Islands are having some success. In the absence if people not stepping forward to be the Commanders, Secretaries and Treasurers there are measures that can be put in place to keep from having to deactivate. Recently we helped Island X-2 Lakeland avert deactivation by altering their meeting schedule to quarterly meetings and making sure there was a point of contact, a Secretary, who would keep the records current and communicate with the National Secretary as well as their Island members as needed. Congratulations! Island X-2 on a workable compromise.

I would like to thank Carl Barrett and Amy Bradley for getting the CAN DO back on schedule, with everyone's cooperation and submissions we can again have a magazine to be proud of. Remember, all submissions are due on the 15th of the month prior to publication.

The Monument program is in full swing with Island X-1 St. Louis ordering their 4th Monument for neighboring Illinois' Mounds National Cemetery. Donations are still being accepted and Monument still to be set. If you, as an individual, or your Island want to set a Monument please contact me by any of the means listed in the CAN DO.

It is sad to report we are still losing many SEABEE friends and it looks like our numbers have again As you read this we are probably finishing up the National Executive meeting in Washington, D.C. and hopefully have had a great turn out for the Dedication of the plaque in the Navy Memorial to honor MELVIN D. RAMIGE, our past National Secretary, for his 26 years of faithful service and commitment to the NavySVA. I would like to thank everyone who felt the appreciation toward Mel's commitment and donated to this very special plaque.

I will have attended the SMSA meeting and the Historical meeting and will report on these in the June CAN DO.

We are a very good organization and around the country Islands are active in their communities helping our fellow Veterans.

As always I urge everyone to Recruit, be active not only for the SEABEEs but for all VETERANs of all the e branches of our Military. We all had a duty to perform while in the Service, let's support each other in civilian life.

Keep warm, it's even cool in the South, stay health and I hope to see you at a meeting or a Convention in the future. Thank you for your support of the Navy SVA and me.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL FACILITIES ENGINEERING COMMAND
1322 PATTERSON AVENUE, SE, SUITE 1000
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD, DC 20374-5065

1400
Ser 00/115
10 Apr 15

From: Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
To: President, National Seabee Veterans of America

Subj: HONORARY CONFERRAL OF SEABEE COMBAT WARFARE DEVICE

1. We received a letter from one of your members requesting authorization to wear the Seabee Combat Warfare (SCW) device for Seabee veterans that either served in combat or were honorably discharged prior to 1992 when the Seabee Combat Warfare program was initiated.

2. The issue of grandfathering veterans to wear warfare devices is one that is occasionally raised. The CNO has been consistent in his decision to not allow this. A recent example involved a request from Vietnam-era Swift Boat veterans to be authorized to wear the Special Warfare Combatant-craft Crewmen warfare insignia. Their service preceded the establishment of the warfare device and qualification program. The CNO denied the request and stated that the warfare insignia is awarded upon completion of a qualification. Without this qualification, he thought it would be inappropriate to award the insignia. Navy leadership has indicated a similar request for Seabee Veterans to be authorized to wear the SEW device will not be supported.

3. The Navy recognizes and values the service of all veterans, especially ones that have fought and served in combat. However, the recognition of their service and sacrifices is best accomplished through the various existing awards and combat ribbons and not through the SEW device. We appreciate the interest shown by the many Seabee Veterans that support this, and acknowledge their point of view expressed in the letter. However, we must follow the decisions of our leaders in the Navy. We continue to be very proud of our Seabee Veterans and all that they do. We look forward to honoring them and supporting them in other ways.


K. L. GREGORY

Copy to:
CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation



President's Perspective
Nancy Staples

YOUR 2015-2017 NSVAA NATIONAL OFFICERS



President Nancy Staples, Vice President Betty Nelson, Treasurer Linda Schmuck, Secretary/Parliamentarian Elaine Coffin, not shown, Chaplain/Historian Linda Hillyer

If you missed the National Convention, you missed a good time. Branson was great. Now get ready to go to New York State for the 2016 convention.

The Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery is still an ongoing event. The first monument paid for by donations from the Auxiliary was installed in Sarasota, FL. Thanks to Island X-11 Tampa for making sure the installation was complete and correct. Thanks to everyone who has donated to this project. Your continued support is appreciated.

Donations this year at the National Convention went to the Monument project and to the Marvin Shields Memorial Scholarship. The NSVAA voted to donate \$250 towards a plaque at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC to honor NSVA National Secretary, Mel Ramige, who has retired after 26 years of service to the Organization. At the convention, his wife, Rosemary, was presented with a corsage and love gifts from the Auxiliary. She was thanked for her support for his service.

One change to the bylaws that was approved at the convention is that all dues are to be sent to the Treasurer, Linda Schmuck, who will deposit the money and email a copy of the application or list from an Island to the Secretary. This will eliminate additional postage and get the dues deposited in a timely manner. It is requested that secretaries include a roster of all their members with their current address, with Island NSVAA officers indicated. For those who are Members at Large, send your \$5.00 yearly dues directly to Linda.

Another item that was approved at the convention is that all Island Auxiliary Secretaries will receive a supply of membership pins to give to new members. This will cut down on postage also.

I want to thank all the officers who have been dedicated to their office for the past two years. I could not have done my job without your help.
THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.

If you need information on how to form an Auxiliary or become a Member at Large, please let one of the officers know. Application for membership is on the NSVA.ORG website.

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linda_hillyer@aol.com



David Buchanan, National Commander, Navy Seabee Veterans of America(NSVA) and Nancy Staples, National NSVA Auxiliary President have recently returned from the National Convention in Branson, MO where both were re-elected to their present offices. Commander Buchanan is also the Secretary of Island X-23 Crystal River, FL and President Staples is the local Vice-president of Island X-23 Auxiliary. The NSVA Island X-23 Crystal River meets the third Tuesday monthly.



**East Valley Veterans Parade, City of Mesa, AZ
11 Nov. 2015**

Arizona Road Runner Island X-4, NSVA

**L-R: Tony Macias, Harold Williams, Gary Dickenson, John Mull, Don Prior & Ron
Dougal**



Nancy Staples, Island X-23 Auxiliary Vice-President and National President and Henry Embach, Island X-23 Chaplain delivered over 50 pounds of can tabs, Campbell Soup labels, and box tops to the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Tampa.



Department of New York 50/50 Annual Drawing, 2015

Enclosed is a picture of the Department of New York Secretary Jack Tangen presenting a check for \$500.00 to the 2015 Department of New York Fund raiser 50/50 drawing winner Seabee Ted Benjamin. We'd like to have this published in the next edition of the "CAN DO" if at all possible.

The Department of New York has conducted a 50/50 fund raising drawing over the past 6 years as its only method of raising funds for the Departments treasury. The Department will kick off the 2016 event at its Executive Committee Meeting in March and will conduct ticket sales through the middle of September. The drawing will take place at the NSVA National Convention in Queensbury, NY on September 17th, 2016.

The Department of New York 50/50 tickets are sold individually at \$1.00 each or a book of 6 for \$5.00. Requests for tickets can be made by contacting Department Secretary Jack Tangen at jtangen@rochester.rr.com

Please include the above text with the picture it would be extremely helpful in selling the drawing chances. Please contact me with any questions or concerns regarding this request.

Yours in the "CAN DO" spirit
Jack Tangen, Secretary
NSVA Department of New York
Once a Seabee, Always a Seabee

Tel: (585) 637-9272
Cell: (585) 880-3235
jtangen@rochester.rr.com



Island X-23 held it's Seabee Birthday party at a picnic at the home of Charlie and Bev Schoeffler. This is the 5th Annual Picnic.

Back row. Bud Hickok, John Lowe, Hank Embach, Lynn Spanski, Dave Spanski, Phillip Manley , David J. Buchanan, Joe Ketzer, Ray Jordan, Charles Schoeffler Middle row. Marilyn Hickok, Karen Lowe, Richard Santella (sitting), Barb Manley, Lois Ketzer, Jeanie Jordan, Joan Buchanan, Front row. Bev Schoeffler,



Orlando, Fl Island X-4 Lead Truck, 2015 Veterans Day Parade



Island X-4, Orlando Veterans Day Parade Float 2015



Island X-4, Orlando FL receiving Orlando City Mayors Proclamation for 2015 Veterans Day Parade



Island X-19 Commander Bob Duffy and Volusia County Veterans Services director Jeff Bumb. Jeff attended our January meeting and answered questions regarding VA benefits. He was very well versed on the subjects questioned. There was a list of questions the members had sent to him prior to the meeting.

DELAND

Seabees buzz by BEACON

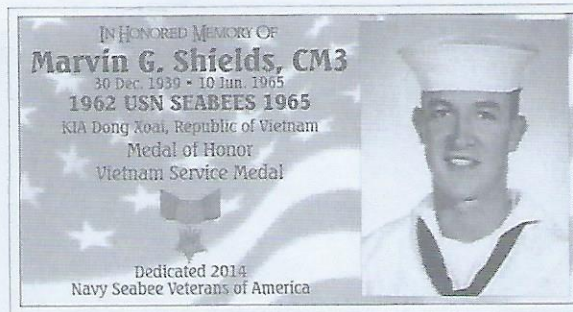


Bruce D. Henderson/staff photographer
Navy veterans ride a float representing the U.S. Navy Seabees construction battalions down Woodland Boulevard on Saturday, Nov. 7, during the DeLand Veterans Day Parade.

2015

Island X-19 Daytona FL float that participated in the Veterans Day parade in Deland Florida.

The "Bee" with the uniform on is Charley Shockey and the one next to him is Don Polan. Both are WWII veterans and charter members of Island X-19



NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS

January 1, 2015 Greetings;

As we enter the New Year and our second letter for your support, you will recall we are engaged in a fund raising to honor our Seabee CM3 Marvin G. Shields by fund raising effort to bring the level of the original Seabee Memorial Scholarship to the current level of \$50,000.00. Over the years the levels have increased to keep pace with the costs of Scholarships. 2015 Fiftieth honoring anniversary of our Seabee Brother CM3 Marvin G. Shields. Ceremony to be held on June 10, 2015 at Gardiner, WA all are encouraged to attend.

We had intended to have a second letter out prior to the end of 2014 to encourage support of the 2014 time frame but discovered there was a Historical Foundation effort to raise funds during a Seabee Giving Week in early December. That time frame and the Christmas season encouraged me to reset this letter to early 2015. That very successful effort is recognized as a major success for the Foundation in 2014. WELL DONE TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE MUSEUM EFFORT.

The NavySVA effort is off to a good start and will continue with a flow of ongoing letters and requests with encouragement for all to participate in the scholarship effort to show our 50 years of honor and respect for our Fallen Brother.

-----cut here and mail today thank you-----

Your contributions to the scholarship are encouraged and will be accepted until we have reached our goal of \$43,000.00 to bring the original level of the Scholarship Fund up to the new level set three years ago to keep pace with the ongoing cost of successful candidates selected for the Scholarship.

Circle your contribution today: \$10.00 _____/\$20.00 _____/\$40.00 _____ Other _____ (Write in)

Mail to: Mel Ramige 555 Fairview Avenue, Creve Coeur, IL 61610-3237 your name will appear in the CAN DO issue at the conclusion of the effort to increase the funds of the Scholarship. Add your name, address, phone number plus your email enclose your check and mail as shown above to the National Secretary.

Please pass this request on to all in your address book as it will assist in the effort to honor CM3 Marvin G. Shields.

Respectfully submitted: *Jerry Landcastle*, Past National Commander

ANNUAL REUNIONS / CONVENTIONS / NOTICES



26th Annual MCB-7 – NMCB-7 Reunion September 22-27, 2016 in New Orleans, LA

26th MCB 7 - NMCB 7 Annual Reunion September 22-25, 2016 in New Orleans, LA. Friday tour will take in "Big Easy" attractions, including the ever expanding National WWII Museum. For information contact Denny Blaisdell, Executive Director, email: mcb7ra@yahoo.com or (419) 867-9371.

"Reuniting Seabees from U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Seven for over 25 years" Visit us at www.mcb7.com. "LIKE" the MCB7 Reunion Association on Facebook.

2016 GULFPORT ALL SEABEE REUNION

28, 29, 30 April & 1 May 2016, Gulfport, MS.

Point of Contacts:

Richard Brown (601) 938-6488

Robert Smith (228) 424-1185

e-mail: smithrp@cableone.net

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NMCB 62 reunion will be held in conjunction with the Gulfport All Seabee Reunion, 28 April - 2 May 2016. Our Minutemen annual meeting will be held at 11AM, SUNDAY morning, 1 May before the final picnic. We invite any Seabee who was stationed in England, Scotland or Ireland to attend our meeting. Norm Hahn, Secretary. normhahnjr@yahoo.com www.nmcb62alumni.org
cell: [715-379-8482](tel:715-379-8482).

NMCB 4 Reunion- All eras
September 16-18, 2016
Springfield Hilton Hotel
Springfield, Virginia
Contact: Al Duncan
Phone: 610-247-2162
email: duncansa2000@yahoo.com
website: NMCB4Reunion.myevent.com

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you,

Al Duncan
former LT, CEC, USNR
MCB 4 1966-1968

Welcome Aboard to our Newest Life Members!

By Joe Scott, Life Membership Chairman, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
It is with pleasure that we welcome the following Seabees as Life Members of
our Organization:

NONE RECEIVED FOR THIS ISSUE



**Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) to
provide**

Check #269 for \$50.00 received from ISLANDS X-2, LAKELAND FL
As a donation in memory of PRESTON J CONOLY LM# 4954 ISLAND MAA
AND WWII VETERAN

Check #268 for \$50.00 received from ISLANDS X-2, LAKELAND FL
As a donation in memory of DAVID J MANN LM# 1998 AS WWII VETERAN HE
RECEIVED SEVEN BATTLE STARS

Check #8326 for \$25.00 received from NATIONAL NSVAA PRESIDENT, Nancy Staples, 5565
w Rochelle st, Homosassa FL 34446

As a donation in memory of Arlene Malin past National Secretary NSVAA (1993-1995)

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, Inc.

70th NATIONAL CONVENTION & REUNION

September 15th -18th, 2016

GEORGIAN RESORT LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK

The most beautiful time of the year to visit the Lake George Area.

Come on out and have a great time renewing Old Friendships & making new friends.

The Georgian Rooms consist of: 1 King Bed

2 Full Beds or

2 Queen Beds (Tell them your choice) Cost is

\$105.00 per night includes taxes.

Buffet Breakfast available @ \$10.00 per person per day.

Tell them when you make your room reservations if interested.

ALL Lodging Arrangements MUST be made by calling the Hotel: The Georgian Resort 384 Canada Street, Lake George, NY 12845.

Phone: (518) 668-5401 Fax: (518) 668-5870

Tell them your with the "Seabee Veterans of America".

If you are flying into Albany Airport & need transportation to the Hotel.

Please Contact: Pristine Limousine Service @ (518) 743-1710

(Make reservations as early as possible). The more that can share the limo, the more you can save....The limo up to 4 people is \$69.00 per vehicle plus tip.

For larger groups they have Limos that hold up to 20 people.

If you are NOT planning to stay at the Georgian but wish to attend the BANQUET you must make your booking by letting Nick know.

Contact Nick @ (518) 642-8196.

There are many sights to see in the Lake George Region. (Ft.

Ticonderoga, Gore Mt., Saratoga Casino, Fall Foliage etc.

Also available are many Shopping Centers, Malls & Lots of Restaurants.

The Georgian Resort, Lake George, NY

September 15th to 18th, 2016

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please Type or Print clearly)

NSVA Member Name: _____
Address: _____ State _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email _____

NSVA Island: _____ City: _____ State: _____
NSVAA Member Name: _____ Island: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Spouse/Guest Name: _____

Registration Fee is \$15.00 for each NSVA
and NSVAA Member Make Reservation

Checks Payable to: Adirondack Island X-14.

Mail to Nick Marschhauser 97 Mettowiee Street, Apt. 9,

Granville, NY 12832-4833 All Lodging arrangements

must be made to:

The Georgian Resort @ (518) 668-5401

To Guarantee lodging rate.. Reservations must be made by August 1st, 2016.

EVENTS	COST	# OF People	TOTAL Cost
Registration Fee for each MSVA or NSVAA Member	\$15.00		
Banquet (Choice of Prime Rib w/ Garlic Mash, Chicken Francois or Baked White fish w/ Rice Pilaf)	\$32.00		



FINAL SALUTE

By Mel Ramige, National Secretary,
Navy Seabee Veterans of America



life member
#

1446	DOE	RUSSELL	E.	X-11	TAMPA	FL	NMCB10	NMCB14
4954	CONOLY, JR.	PRESTON	J.	X-2	LAKELAND	FL		
4526	NORDQUIST	IVAN	WM.	X-6	SPRING HILL	FL	144	
4614	WELK	WILLIAM	A.	X-4	PEORIA	IL	MCB5	
4368	HUMPHREY	CHARLES		X-6	WILMINGTON	MA	30	9REG
3541	O'CONNER	DARRELL	J.	X-6	WILMINGTON	MA	CBMU625	
	DOYLE	ROBERT	A.	X-2	TWIN CITIES	MN	62	98
5121	RICKETTS	WILLIAM	H.	X-8	TONAWANDA	NY	147	125
5121	RICKETTS	WILLIAM	H.	X-8	TONAWANDA	NY	147	125
	SMITH	JOHN	N.	X-8	TONAWANDA	NY	61	
	FRONTZ	VIRGIL	E.	X-5	AKRON	OH	144	
	SCHOENAGEL	HARRY	F.	X-4	SCRANTON	PA	NMCB21	
2067	LUTH	EDWARD	J.	X-1	DAVISVILLE	RI	10	

+