

*Navy Seabee Veterans of America*

# **CAN DO**

**Volume 28, Number 3, Sept. 2018**



2018 CONVENTION ISSUE

The CAN DO is published for members of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America four times each year—in March, June, September, and December. March & September issues are printed and mailed to members in good standing, June and December issues are posted on the NSVA website for everyone’s viewing pleasure. **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. Submittals must be in either PDF or WORD file. Please send all submittals for the Can Do to [jtangen@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jtangen@rochester.rr.com) Photos and listings received in regular mail will not 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 a WORD program.

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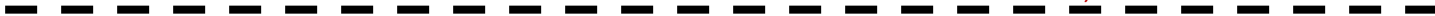
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**NOTICE: DEADLINE FOR December 2018 CAN DO is November... 25, 2018.**



**VISIT THE NSVA WEBSITE AT: [nsva.org](http://nsva.org)**



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The meeting minutes from the 2018 NSVA National Convention can be viewed on the NSVA Website under the tab 2018 National Convention Minutes. Please visit [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org)

Various Pictures from the NSVA 72<sup>nd</sup> National Convention held in Stamford, CT  
August, 29<sup>th</sup> thru September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018



L-R 2018 Convention, Officer Table, 1<sup>st</sup> vice Cdr. J. Furey, Sec'y. C. Coffin, National Cdr. J. Hillyer, Treasurer J. Schmuck and PNC, D. Buchanan (taking picture)

Visit the NSVA website @ [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org)





Joint opening 2018 Convention



Auxiliary President, Betty Nelson, Auxiliary Treasurer, Linda Schmuck with MC Charlie Coffin preparing to present donation to SMSA and Monument Fund



Commander J. Hillyer swearing in New NSVA Commander Jim Furey.



CDR. Hillyer presenting gavel to CDR. Furey



PNC Dave Buchanan accepting SVAA donation for the Seabee Monument Fund.





Youngest and Oldest Seabees present

Cutting the Seabee Birthday Cake



L-R SMSA Chief Development Officer, Dan Miller, SMSA Scholarship Recipient Huyen Lam, her father Hung Lam and CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation President Capt. Bill Hilderbrand, CEC, USN (Ret.)



NSVA Banquet Attendees



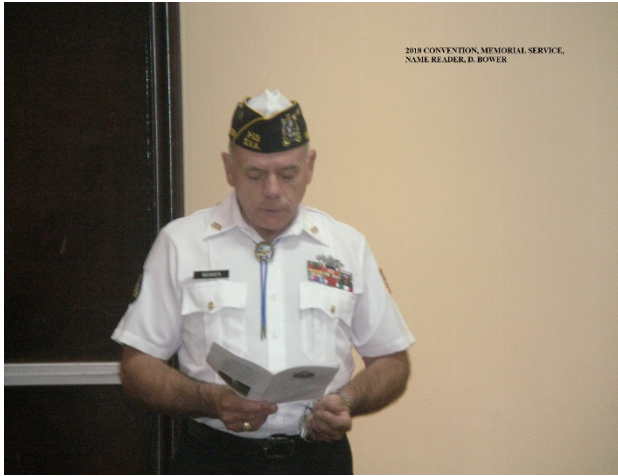
Mixer and Banquet entertainment provided by Guitarist-Musician Thalys Peterson

Pre Banquet Mixer



2018 Convention Memorial Service Readers

D. Bower, D. Hamborsky, N. Dupis, P. Justin, B. Nelson, T. Montuori, C. Parker, W & J Buchanan





## **National Seabee Veterans of America, Auxiliary Officers 2017-2019**

Hello SVAA members. My name is Betty Nelson and I am the 2017-2019 National SVAA President. I was elected at the September 2017 National Convention in Tampa, Florida. I am excited to start off this term with a supportive board. Your 2017-2019 National Officers are as follows:



L-R Linda Hillyer Chaplain, Linda Schmuck Treasurer, Elaine Coffin Secretary/Parliamentarian, Lorraine Santo Vice President and Betty Nelson President. Not pictured Darlene Carpenter Historian.

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**NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.**

**Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery Project**

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Date: 08/29/18

To: Membership of the NavySVA

Subject: Monument Update

The **SEABEE Monument in every National Cemetery** program has been doing well.

As of this 2018 Convention we have placed Monuments in the following National Cemeteries:

	<u>CEMETRY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPONSORED BY</u>
1.	Great Lakes National Cemetery,	Holly, Michigan	Monument Fund (2010)
2.	Ft. Custer National Cemetery,	Augusta, Michigan	Monument Fund (2011)
3.	Dayton National Cemetery,	Dayton, Ohio	Monument Fund (2010)
4.	Western Reserve National Cemetery,	Rittman, OH	Monument Fund (2010)
5.	Alleghenies National Cemetery,	Bridgeville, Pennsylvania	Monument Fund (2009)
6.	Woods National Cemetery,	Milwaukee, Wisconsin	Monument Fund (2011)
7.	Camp Nelson National Cemetery,	Nicholasville, Kentucky	Cliff Hardstat and KY. Area SEABEE's (2010)
8.	Danville National Cemetery	Danville, Kentucky	Island X-1 Cincinnati (2012)
9.	Sandhill Veterans Cemetery	Fayetteville, North Carolina	J.C. and Sherron Hampton (2011)
10.	Sacramento Valley National Cemetery	Dixon, CA.	Island X-1 Sacramento (2012)
11.	Camp Butler National Cemetery	Springfield, IL.	Island X-4 Peoria, IL. (2013)
12.	Grafton National Cemetery	Grafton, WVA.	Dept. Of Ohio, Island X-3
	Pittsburgh, personal donations from Warren and Maryjane Cintron and Navy SVA member Dave Clem, who coordinated the project. (2014)		
13.	Veterans Memorial Park	Adel, Iowa	John McCurdy and area SEABEEs (2013)
14.	Lake Baldwin Veterans Park	Lake Baldwin, FL.	Island X-4 Orlando SEABEEs (2013)
15.	Indiantown Gap National Cemetery	Annville, PA.	George Bips and SEABEEs of Island X-5 Lancaster PA (2013)
16.	Biloxi National Cemetery,	Biloxi, Mississippi	Island X-1 Gulfport, MS. (2010)
17.	Bakersfield National Cemetery	Bakersfield, CA.	Single donation (2013)
18.	Corinth National Cemetery	Corinth, MS.	Island X-1 Gulfport, Ms. (2017)
19.	Natchez National Cemetery	Natchez, MS.	Island X-1 Gulfport, Ms. (2017)
20.	Jefferson Barracks	St. Louis, Mo.	Island X-1 St. Louis, Mo. (2012)
21.	Jefferson City	Jefferson City, Mo.	Island X-1 St. Louis, Mo. (2013)
22.	Missouri State Veterans Cemetery	Bloomfield, Mo.	Island X-5 St. Louis, Mo. (2014)
23.	Springfield National Cemetery	Springfield, Mo.	Island X-1 St. Louis, Mo. (2013)
24.	Salisbury National Cemetery	Salisbury, NC.	Island X-1 Selma. NC. (2013)
25.	Ft. McPherson National Cemetery	Maxwell, NE.	Island X-1 Kearney (2015)
26.	South Florida National Cemetery	Sarasota FL.	SVAA funded and
	placed by Ernie Nelson and family from Island X-11 (2017)		



	<u>CEMETRY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SPONSORED BY</u>
27.	Indiana National Cemetery	Marion, IN.	Islands X-3 and X-4, IN.
28	Miramar National Cemetery	San Diego, CA.	Island X-3 San Diego
29	Mounds National Cemetery	Mound City, IL.	Island X-5 Cape Girardeau, Mo. <b>(2015)</b>
30.	Sarasota National Cemetery Island X-11Tampa, Ernie Nelson and son Ernie Nelson <b>(2017)</b>	Sarasota, Fl.	SVAA Funded and placed by
31.	Jacksonville National Cemetery	Jacksonville, FL.	Island X-11 Tampa <b>(2017)</b>
32	Memphis National Cemetery	Memphis, TN.	Island X-1 Gulfport <b>IN Production (2018)</b>
33.	Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery	Elwood, IL.	Island X-4 Peoria/ Do IL. <b>IN PRODUCTION (2018)</b>

We also have serious consideration from Island X-4 Peoria/Department of Illinois for the placement of additional Monuments in Alton National Cemetery, Alton, IL. Danville National Cemetery, Danville, IL., Quincy National Cemetery, Quincy. IL.

We are also waiting on confirmation from the Nashville National Cemetery, Nashville, TN.

SEABEES have been inquiring about National Cemetery's across the country and applications have been sent to Tennessee, New York and Florida for placement of the Monument.

Monuments with our design have also been placed at the following:

1. SEABEES in western Florida have placed a Monument in **Bay Pines National Cemetery in St. Petersburg, Fla.**
2. SEABEES from Island X-24 Battalion at Large have placed a similar Monument in the Chattanooga National Cemetery in **Chattanooga, TN.**
3. SEABEES from Islands X-4 and X-5 in Arizona have placed a Monument in the **National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.**
4. SEABEES of Island X-2 Shakopee have placed a Monument in **Fort Snelling, MN.**
5. SEABEES of Island X-11Tampa have placed a Monument at the **Hillsborough Co. Veterans Memorial Park (2017)**
6. SEABEES of Island X-1, Red Banks, NJ. Have placed a Monument in the **Brigadier General William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery** in Wrightstown, NJ.
7. SEABEES of the Department of Florida placed a monument in the **Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell** in 1989.

This is a very satisfying list of accomplishments for the SEABEES to be honored in so many National and Veterans Cemeteries today.

As you heard, it is not uncommon for several people or Islands to come together, pool their resources and place a SEABEE Monument in a National Cemetery close to them. And it is a lot more affordable with the very generous donation from **ABF Freight Lines**, to transport the Monuments across the country at no cost to the Veterans.

We are looking for SEABEES in the area of the National Cemeteries to help in the fund raising and placement of the Monuments. The SEABEES or volunteers would pour a pad to the National Cemetery's specifications (38" x 24" x4") then pick up the Monument at the ABF terminal nearest the National Cemetery and transport it to the cemetery and place it on the pad and then prepare a Dedication Ceremony to donate the Monument to the National Cemetery.

We are very pleased to announce that the newly formed Auxiliary has chosen to sponsor the SEABEE MONUMENT in every NATIONAL CEMETERY program as one of their most worthy causes. We have hopes they will be able to place Monuments annually in conjunction with our NavySVA National Convention.

Donations can be made any time in any amount by making them "PAYABLE TO "David J. Buchanan" with "Monument fund "on the memo line. The address is at the top of the page.

Thanks to the cooperation of the NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA'S Islands, this program is realizing our goal of placing a **SEABEE Monument in every National Cemetery**, one cemetery at a time. David J. Buchanan, volunteer administrator, NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.

Adirondack Island X-14 Mini Jeep parade vehicle Driven in the 2018 Modern Woodsman of America Carnival Days Parade held in Wells VT.



(L-R) Island X-14 members, Wayne Keech, SEC'Y Bill Haessly, PIC Les Macura, TREAS. Tom VanVranken, Don McWhorter, Dennis Laque, Lynn Malinowski and CDR. Mike Wheeler (kneeling)



## THE PEASE GREETERS



(L-R) X-4 Chaplain Woody Freeman, Treas. Joe Dever, Ray Bilodeau, CDR. Roger LeBlanc, V.CDR. Ray Vercoe and Dan Bilodeau

**“THE SEABEES ARE ALIVE AND WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!”**

Around mid-August of this year, **Island X-4** out of **Laconia NH** attended a **meet and greet** along with the **Pease Greeters (PG)**, a nonprofit organization that has so far greeted well over 1,500 flights that are either going to Iraq or Afghanistan or other countries, or coming back, they pass through the Portsmouth NH's Tradeport on the way to Germany. About a dozen of us Seabees are regular greeters.

The flights are confidential, we are never told whether the troops are coming from or going overseas, we also are not told what branch of the service they are serving. You can imagine our surprise to see the plane filled with well over 200 Seabees walking through the hallway.

The Pease Greeters do an incredible job welcoming the troops. After greeting each and every one of them, they have a feast of sandwiches, donuts, sodas, water, coffee, chips deserts. After they're well fed, they hold a brief ceremony whereas colors are presented, patriotic songs are sung, and the troops are shone a tremendous appreciation for their service. The PG also present a signed sweatshirt with signatures of greeters to the CO whereas we give him the 'Shirt off our Backs'. I remember a ceremony when the CO was overwhelmed because of all the PG offered them.



Pease Greeters salute the Seabees

But that's not all. Each soldier got a miniature Bible, a phone card to call home, various gifts, handmade clothing, and grab bag of goodies. I had the opportunity to talk to a couple of Seabees, they were floored they were so well received. Their next stop was Germany and from there, individuals groups were heading to Africa, Spain, Israel, and other countries where their expertise was needed and the way Mother Nature has been of late, more Seabees will be needed to help in what appears to be daily national disasters all over the globe. The field trip was as rewarding for us as it was for the troops themselves.

There has been days that the PG greeted 3 or 4 flights within a 24 hour span, at all hours of the day and night, not to mention the two or so hour delays. Island X-4 presented the PG with a check for \$500.00 to help with their depleted funds. If anyone is interested in helping the PG with a donation for this worthy and selfless cause, please log on to [www.peasegreeters.org](http://www.peasegreeters.org) . Their motto is: ***"Thanking Our Troops One Flight at a Time"***

Roger LeBlanc,  
Commander, Island X-4  
Laconia NH





Commander Roger LeBlanc presents \$500.00 check to Pease Greeter in recognition for their efforts in greeting U.S. Military members re-entering and leaving the States for assignment throughout the world.

A little background on Pease (AFB) Air National Guard Base. The base is named after Harl Pease Jr. April 10, 1917 – October 8, 1942, a U.S Army Air Corp. Officer and recipient of the United States Highest military award the Medal of Honor, (2) Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Purple Heart and Air Medal for his actions in WWII. For more in-depth research log onto Wikipedia and lookup Captain Harl Pease Jr. United States Army Air Corp.

## DAVISVILLE SEABEE MUSEUM GETS A MAKEOVER



**From left to right, retired Seabees and volunteers Ed Weikman, Chris Kilpert, Joe Cormier and Lyle Reid stand in front of a replica Quonset hut.**

NORTH KINGSTOWN -Walking through the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park in Davisville, Laurie Shields, a volunteer at the museum, spoke admiringly of the Seabee Construction Battalion, both past and present.

“They’re the most unrecognized, unloved group of men,” Shields, the daughter of a Seabee veteran, said. “The Seabees are the ones that got them out of the mud—when [the U.S. was in] Vietnam—built the roads, got the equipment that they needed, wherever they were.”

The mission of the Seabee Museum and Memorial Park is to provide a memorial to the thousands of men and women who served at Davisville, Rhode Island from its inception in 1942 until its closure in 1994, to preserve the historical site and significant period in Rhode Island history, the “Original Home of the Seabees,” to document the history of the U.S. Navy Seabees, and to provide a learning site for the public.

The museum, which is currently undergoing renovations, is open to the public on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

The history of the base, and Seabees in general, is a fascinating one.

In 1940, convinced that war was coming, the U.S. Navy realized that fighting in theaters halfway around the world would present new challenges in logistics and would require a vast infrastructure.

During that same year, according to the museum’s website, the Navy began a program of building bases on far-flung Pacific islands using civilian contractors. When the U.S. officially entered the war, the use of civilian labor had to stop. Under international law, civilians were not permitted to resist enemy military attack. And so, two years later, the Seabee Construction Battalion was born.

On March 5, 1942 all construction battalion personnel were officially named Seabees by the Navy Department. Admiral Moreell personally furnished them with their motto: *Construmus Batumius*, or We Build, We Fight.

Their logo, the Fighting Bee, was created by a Rhode Islander at Davisville. The Davisville Advanced Base depot became operational in June, 1942. From World War II to the deserts of the Middle East, the Seabees have played, and continue to play, an active role around the world.



A pamphlet, which is handed out to all of the museum's attendees, reads, half in-jest: "Between the awkwardness of a soldier and the dignity of a Marine there is a questionable character called the Seabee."

"The average Seabee is a thick-headed individual of a variety of nationalities," the pamphlet continues. "He won't admit it to anyone or anywhere except in the defense of his corps that his is the best job in the Navy. Without him the Fleet would have nothing to gripe about; Marines would have nothing to talk about and history would have nothing to write about."

Up until its closure in 1994, the Seabee base in Davisville was a thriving place, where servicemen and women lived with their families.

"In the 1970s, it was a vital, active base," said Shields, who grew up on the base.

Now, however, the base stands as a memorial to the constructive battalion, with the iconic Fighting Bee statue outside, an original chapel, replica huts and a museum full of original Seabee vehicles, memorabilia, wood carvings and much, much more.

The base and museum are entirely kept up by volunteers, most of which are retired Seabee servicemen, and are currently undergoing several renovations, including landscaping and the restoration of the Fighting Bee statue, which Shields said "needs a little love."

"I took a job paying less money so I could come here to volunteer," she added. "I'm very passionate about it. We have a lot of vision. I want to get landscapers involved. They did an amazing job, but there's a heck of a lot more that needs to be done here."

"A lot of the gentleman that really got this going, they're gone. But we do have a good group of guys," she added. "They come every Wednesday. What they want is for more Seabees to know that this is being done. And have more Seabees come out here on Wednesdays."

Ed Weikman, the museum's corresponding secretary, said the volunteers' work more

often than not involves upkeep of the grounds and general maintenance.

"I think the youngest guy here is 69, and the oldest is 90," Weikman said, adding, jokingly, "we call them 'CB Workers.' You have to learn to abbreviate. We forget how to spell when we're older."

Weikman also handles the outreach to those who have donated to the museum –donations that the volunteers rely on entirely to keep the museum running.

"When people donate items or provide monetary donations, the museum has a policy of responding and thanking people. We don't have any employees, so if people donate 20 bucks, it goes towards something," he said. "No one's got their hand out saying where's my wages."

"We were really hurting for a while," Weikman added. "Laurie came in as an assistant, and thank God, because she's young, energetic."

Chris Kilpert, the base's electrician and, like Weikman, a retired Seabee, said the volunteers have learned to make the most out of their shoestring budget.

"We rub two nickels together and we make wonders," he said, laughing.

"Considering we have no budget," Weikman said, looking around the base, which stands as a loving tribute to his fellow retired servicemen, "this place is a gem."

The Seabee Museum is located at 21 Iafrate Way, North Kingstown. It is open on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Donations can be made at their website, [www.seabeesmuseum.com](http://www.seabeesmuseum.com).

# ATTENTION IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

At the National Convention held in Stamford, Ct. in August 2018 the Executive Board and the General Membership acted on the recommendation of the TIME and PLACE Committee and the newly formed Convention Committee by selecting 3 future sites for the National Conventions.

The Site for the 2019 National Convention has been selected as the state of Minnesota with in the first 2 weeks of August, 2019.

The site for the 2020 National Convention will be the state of Colorado and the site for the 2021 National Convention will be the state of Washington.

**All Islands can still place a bid to hold a National Convention and the rotation will be adjusted accordingly.**

The proceedings of the 2018 Convention are posted on the NSVA website for review.

Visit [www.nsva.org](http://www.nsva.org)

## UPCOMING CONVENTION AND REUNION INFORMATION

**2019 NMCB 4 REUNION in Branson MO.**

The Welk Resorts Hotel, 1984 State Hwy. 165

Scheduled for April 25th thru 28th, 2019

For additional info. Visit [www.nmcb4reunion.com](http://www.nmcb4reunion.com)

**NSVA ISLAND X-1, Greenville TN. 5th Annual All Seabee Reunion**

Scheduled for August 10th, 2019

Contact Ray McPeek @ 865-776-1051 for additional details



**SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION and THE SEABEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS**

The Can Do will acknowledged donations to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and The Seabee Historical Society. Donations should be mailed directly to the NSVA National Secretary at the following address, **16 Graham Ave. West Haven, CT. 06516**. Please indicate on the checks Memo line which scholarship or fund you wish to donate to. The following donations have been received.

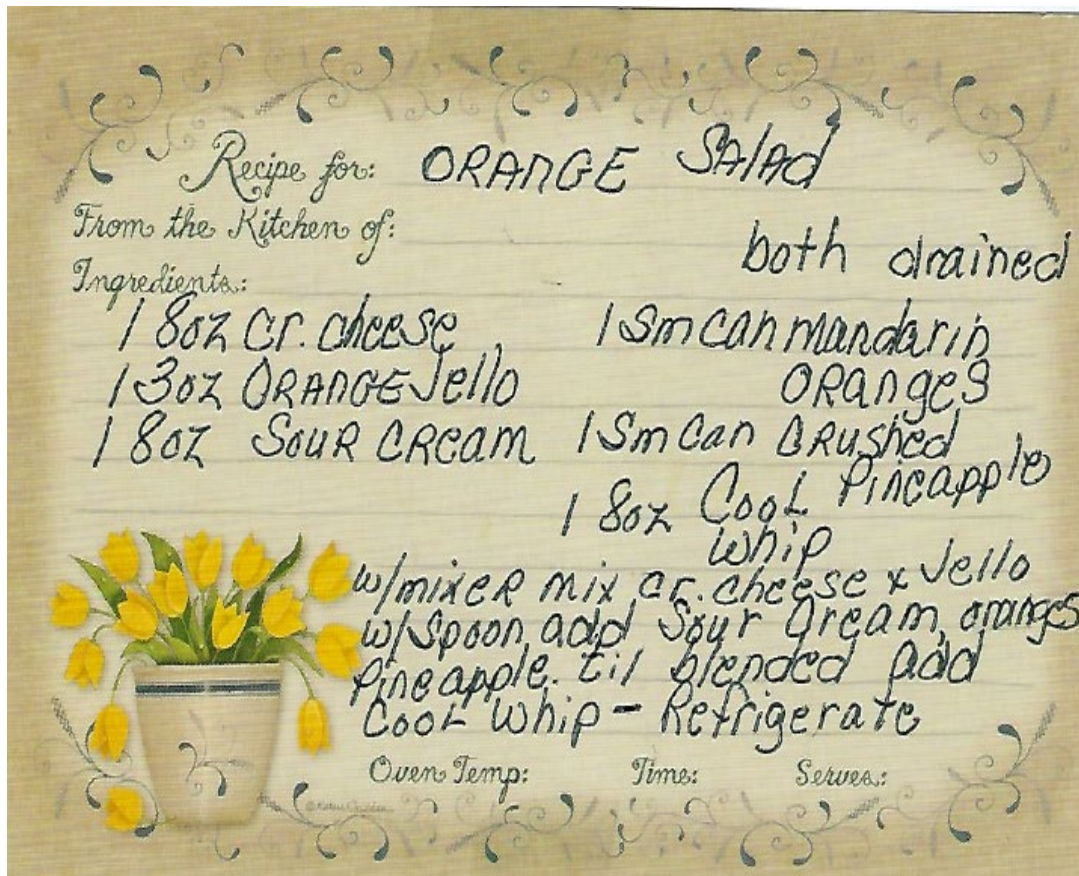
A donation for \$25 in the name of Paul Robb to the Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-5 Lancaster, PA.

A donation for \$25 in the name of Richard Santella to the Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-23 Crystal River FL.

A donation for \$25 in the name of Edwin Bezanson to the Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-1 Davisville, RI.

**HONEY BEE PAGE**

This editions recipe is ORANGE SALAD. I can vouch for it, it's great!!! Submitted recipes will be limited to one page in the publication. Let's hear from some of you Honey Bees out there. I'm sure you have a recipe or two to share.





**Welcome Aboard to our Newest Life Members!**  
**John Cubit, Life Membership Chairman, Navy Seabee Veterans of America**  
**It is with pleasure that we welcome the following Seabees as Life**  
**Members of our Organization:**


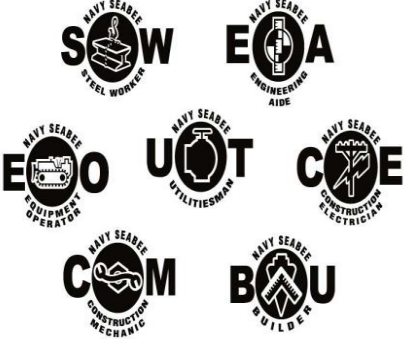
NAME	LM #	ISLAND	CITY	STATE
DAVIS, Gary	6691	X-2	COLUMBUS	OH
ACS, Frank	6692	X-1	GREENVILLE	TN
PARRINGTON, Russell	6693	X-8	SACRAMENTO	CA
JOHNSON, Kevin	6694	X-5	CAPE GIRARDEAU	MO
BOGDANY, Charles	6695	X-1	RED BANK	NJ
LOUCKS, Dale	6696	X-1	ALBANY	NY
WURTZ, Bill	6697	X-7	PORT HUENEME	CA
GUCCINI, Leonard	6698	X-4	SCRANTON	PA
ROGERS Sr., Frank	6699	X-5	AKRON	OH
DEE, Glenn	6700	MCB-1 At Large	La PORTE	IN
GAUTREOUX, Russell	6701	X-1	GULFPORT	MS
MCLEAN, Richard	6702	X-11	TAMPA	FL

**ATTENTION ALL NEW and EXISTING LIFE MEMBERS**

I would like to introduce myself, I'm John Cubit the new NSVA Life Membership Chairman. At this time I'm receiving all records from the National Secretary and past Life Membership Chairman. As I review the records and find out where we stand I will do my best to insure that all new membership applications are processed in a timely fashion. Of course I must control costs so at times it may take a little longer because of the printing one card as compared to being able to have up to 16 cards processed at one time. Please forward all requests along with any required funds to me, this will allow faster service.

My contact information is:

John Cubit, NSVA Life Membership Chairperson  
113 Kislingbury Street  
Rochester, New York 14613-1611  
Phone: 585-647-9294  
Email: [egcmcubit@gmail.com](mailto:egcmcubit@gmail.com)

	<h1 style="text-align: center;">FINAL SALUTE</h1> <p style="text-align: center;">COMPILED BY THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, AS REPORTED BY THEIR ISLANDS AND UNITS NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.</p>	
<p><b>CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT</b></p>		

LM#	First Name	Last Name		LM#	First Name	Last Name
2778	Robert	Albright		4771	Edwin	Bezanson
1772	Howard	Brown		4424	Joseph	Cintula
3105	Francis	DiCorcia II		2149	Clayton	Dereu
2177	Ernest	Fowler		2151	Robert	Evans
1808	John	Glapinski		2355	William	Griddin
6561	John	Hirth		2230	Roman	Halasinski
2713	James	Metzger		1962	Alex	Hrusa
3106	Edward	Hughs		2754	Clarence	Lintz
2432	Robert	Millett		4408	Fritz	Michaelsen
4426	Robert	Mull		3454	Burt	Nelson
2356	Jack	Phillips		3073	Harry	Queener
2495	Harry	Rucker		2373	Clifford	Schirching
915	Richard	Santella		3885	Joe	Simpson
2411	Guy	Sutton		4729	Paul	VanAlsytne
5667	CC	Wheeler				

*Deceased Brother Seabees, Not NSVA Members(none reported as of this printing)*



NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.

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