

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA

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Volume 30, Edition 4, December 2020

NOW HEAR THIS!!!

NSVA 75th National Convention

8/18/2021 thru 8/22/2021

Preliminary information... Convention registration and more to follow



The group code that you will need is **S210318**. Attendees may make their reservations by calling 1-800-777-7568 and using the group code.

The last day to make reservations will be 7/28/2021

Rates and charges, you need to know about

	Wed 08/18	Thu 08/19	Fri 08/20	Sat 08/21	Sun 08/22
Room Block	10	40	50	30	15
Luxury King Rooms	\$59.99	\$59.99	\$109.99	\$129.99	\$59.99
Luxury Two Queen	\$79.99	\$79.99	\$129.99	\$149.99	\$79.99

All rates and a \$12.99 per night resort fee are subject to Harrison County room tax, currently five percent (5%), and state sales tax, currently seven percent (7%). County and state taxes are subject to change without prior notice.

ALL hotel rooms are non-smoking. A \$200 charge will be assessed for smoking in a hotel room.

Balcony rooms are available for an additional \$20.00 plus tax per night, based on availability.

Additional Incidental Deposit	Method of Payment Accepted
\$100.00 per stay	Credit Card, Debit Card

Reserve your rooms early, they're bound to go fast. This going to be a Highly Memorable Event!

The Deadline for input in the March 2021 CAN DO is **FEB. 15th**

Send all submissions to Editor Jack Tangen at jtangen@rochester.rr.com

Cover: Disney Studio creation of the 78th NCB's Seabee emblem (circa. 1942). Provided by Diane Crandall, (daughter of the late Roland Swanson, Past National Chaplain and PIC X-11 Jamestown, NY) from her father's memorabilia.

Table of Contents/Chaplains Corner	Pg. 3
Commanders Corner	Pg. 4
SVAA	Pg. 5
Seabee Senior Riddle	Pg. 7
Island Hopping	Pg. 8
Veterans Day Wreath Laying	Pg.16
An Emblem of our own 78 th NCB	Pg.16
More Updates	Pg.18
Vietnam Perspective	Pg.19
A Studebaker & Davisville RI visit	Pg.25
Events Calendar	Pg.26
SMSA, SHF Donations/Scholarship list	Pg.27
Welcome Aboard	Pg.28
Final Salute	Pg.29+

CHAPLAINS CORNER

"These are the times that try men's souls". These immortal words were penned by Thomas Paine, one of the founding fathers of our great nation on December 9th, 1776 referring to the turmoil of the times. These words are just as relevant today as then.

We are facing a number of issues that make us all wonder if we are headed in the wrong direction. A pandemic that has no immediate end in sight, civil unrest, lack of cooperation in our nations Capital, and many others.

What enabled the Great men of Paine's time to weather these storms was a firm belief and faith in an Almighty Creator who they could turn to in times of need.

Now more than ever is a time to reaffirm our trust in God and ask his help and guidance to find a cure for the virus that is sweeping across the nation and the world and to guide world leader to work together to find a solution to the problems that plague mankind.

I ask you all to join me as we approach the coming holiday season, to take the time to offer a prayer and ask God, however you perceive him, to once again to bless us and this great nation we are so fortunate to live in.

On a personal note I wish everyone a Joyous Holiday Season
Michael Boncheck, National Chaplain
Navy Seabee Veterans of America



Commanders Corner

Good day hope this finds everyone doing well,

I have noticed some extra email traffic lately about a new challenge coin to celebrate the Seabee Veterans of America, Inc. 75th Anniversary. As for the design of our new coin, my thought is to get as much input from the membership as possible. The more idea's we have for a design the more we can mix and match, then come up with the most desirable design. Please email any idea for a design to any of the Challenge Coin Committee members listed below by February 10, 2021. This way we can look everything over at our mid-year meeting in Chicago, IL, March 13-15, 2021. Then we should have enough time to have them minted in time for our Annual Convention in Biloxi, MS, August 18-22, 2021.

Thanks to Betty and Ernie Nelson we are getting closer to being self-sufficient with our Small Store needs of shirts, bolo's, patches, etc. They have done a lot of work for the Small Store as well as creating relationships with vendors and getting preliminary prices for minting our challenge coin once we have an approved design.

Yours in the Can Do Spirit,
James J. Furey
NSVA National Commander

Challenge Coin Committee

James Furey email: jjseabee@yahoo.com

Doug Bower email: bldrseab26@gmail.com

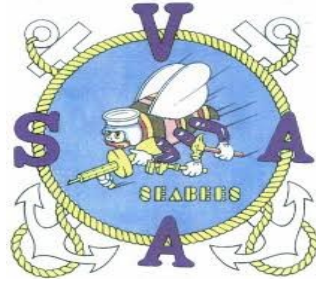
Charles Coffin email: nsvasec@gmail.com

Gerald Schmuck email: jschmuck@cableone.net

Jack Tangen email: jtangen@rochester.rr.com

The Commanders Corner is also available for viewing on the NSVA website, www.nsva.org located just below the National Officers link.

Seabee Veterans of America Auxiliary



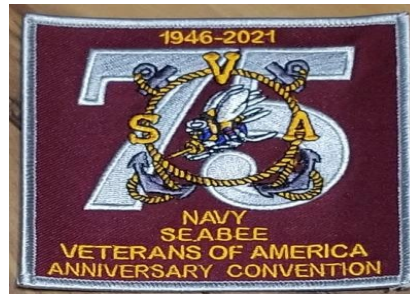
Happiest of holidays to everyone,

Mid-Year will be held 13 March in Illinois. There will be an abundance of items on the agenda. I look forward to seeing everyone again and getting on with business. Nomination suggestions will be coming up at the Mid-year if you have anyone in mind lets us know. Positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer. I hope that the NSVAA application on line has helped for immediate access. Island X-1 Texas, San Antonio has been chartered and is doing great. I am looking forward to the call that they want to start an auxiliary too.

On the local level, Island X-11 Tampa will be taking Christmas bags to the Robert Jenkins Veterans Domiciliary in Lake City Fl. Each bag will be filled with body wash, tissue, mouthwash, a pair of socks and an activity book as their gift from us. Individual snack bags will be given to each resident. The domiciliary houses veterans, 150 residents, women and men. The Island enjoys donating throughout the year items that is needed for their store that the residents get to use for free. Auxiliaries are often the catalyst for community projects. Thinking outside the box will open up many great ideas to help others.

Tennessee SVA had an All Seabee Call in 25-28 October Pigeon Forge. The leaves were changing, people were everywhere to see the beautiful Smokies Mountains in color. Fun times were had by all.

After the Mid-Year there will be more information to share. Again, if there is anything that you would like to a comment on feel free to send us a note. The BIG item for 2021 is going to be the 75th NSVA Anniversary Convention at the Golden Nugget in Biloxi MS. The hotel is secured and taking reservations. There will be a really nice Convention Polo shirt in Burgundy, available in both men's and ladies' styles. Check out the custom Patch (below) that is available now!



From the NSVAA board Lorraine, Elaine, Linda S, Linda H, Carol and myself, Merry Christmas.

Respectfully,

Betty Nelson

NSVAA President 2019-2021

Your 2020-2021 SVAA Officers are:

President: Betty Nelson
Secretary: Elaine Coffin
Chaplin/Historian: Linda Hillyer

Vice President: Lorraine Santo
Treasurer: Linda Schmuck
Parliamentarian: Carol Parker

Daily News

ATTENTION ON DECK!

Father and Son Team

(Both Retired Marines)



Wants To Be
Your "Go To" for
"Can Do" Gear!



**Your source for
Military & Veterans'**

- Hats
- Patches
- Pins
- Flags
- Magnets
- Key Rings
- Gifts
- Belt Buckles
- Decals
- Custom Items

Hat n' Patch

Our History:

2005: HatnPatch business established.

2012: Island X-6 Spokane made HatnPatch's founder, Rod, an **Honorary Life Member** for Recruiting, Fundraising, and Community Service

2018: HatnPatch moved to Jacksonville, NC!

**EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT
CODE FOR ALL SEABEES**

Visit our website:
www.hatnpatch.com

At check-out,
use code:

NSVA-2020

Hat n' Patch

Veteran Owned
and Operated

Seabee Veterans of America Island X-11 Tampa, Fl Proudly Supports the “Can Do”

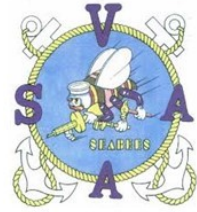


CDR Ernie Nelson
813-376-0500

VCDR Walt Sauers
813-505-7415

TREAS. Bob Marlette
813-817-7440

SEC. Dwight Ham-
borsky 813-681-5861



PRES. Betty Nelson
813-376-3947

VP Anna Baker
863-409-6493

SEC. Cinda Huntley
813-415-9681

TREAS. Doreen Doe
727-599-8253

CHAP. Dianne
Dukhart 813-837-6890

Island X-11 Restarted over five years ago. Since then we have re-gained the Seabee enthusiasm, and willingness to serve and help others. We don't just meet and eat. We help support the Robert Jenkins Veterans home in Lake City affecting the lives of 150 Veterans. We have donated and participated in the Warrior Walk in Lakeland as well as the Marvin Shields Sea Cadet Battalion. In an effort of preserving the Seabee Legacy we have placed three Seabee Monuments, Two in National Cemeteries and one at Veterans Memorial Park in Hillsborough County. “Lucky Leven”



Our meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month
18:30, Dinner is \$11.00 inclusive.
Tony's Ybor Restaurant 2001 22nd Street ~ Tpa., FL
Drive on over, Lots of parking and room to spread out!

Consider placing your Advertisement HERE or ANYWHERE in the Can Do Magazine.

The Staff here at the Can Do and all NSVA members associated with this publication wish to thank the advertisers for their generosity and willingness to take a leap of faith by donating to the NSVA Can Do magazine. The contributors are:

- Donna Furey ESQ. Attorney at Law, Astoria N.Y.
- Joshua Falcon and Family, Tampa FL.
- NSVA Island X-11, Tampa FL., Ernie Nelson Commander
- New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters, New York N.Y.
- NSVA Department of New York and its affiliated Islands
- NMCB-14 Alumni Association
- NSVA Island X-5 Whidbey Island WA., Maurice Aasland Commander
- Hat N' Patch, Jacksonville, NC
- Department of Florida
- NSVA Island X-5, Fort Lauderdale FL., Vince Mancusi

Seabee Senior Riddle: you walk into a room, there are 2 dogs, 4 horses, 1 giraffe and a duck laying on the bed, 3 chickens are flying over a chair. How many legs are on the floor?
Submitted by John Cubit X-12 Rochester, NY (see page 14 for answer)

ISLAND HOPPING

The CAN DO acknowledge the recent changes in our National, Department and Island Officers. We commend the individuals that aspire to the Seabee Motto "CAN DO" and step forward to assume the responsibility associated with leadership in our organization. Get recognized in the CAN DO, step up and take an Office.

Island X-19 in Florida held the monthly meeting Saturday the 14th of November at the VFW post in Port Orange Florida.

At this meeting Bob Atkins of the Vietnam Veterans of America presented Bob Duffy, the island Commander, with a check for their participation in the Pipes and Drums Patriots Tattoo concert previously held in Daytona Beach. The proceeds from this event was divided up between the veteran organizations that assisted in putting this on. Photo provided by X-19 member Don Rowley.



Because this is the December edition please remember that fate full day December 7th, 1941. Also remember on this day that the flag of our country is to be flown at Half Staff from Sunrise to Sunset.

As the Song of the Seabees goes:

And we promise to remember the 7th of December
We're the Seabees of the Navy, Bees of the Seven Seas.



The Navy Seabee Veterans of America's Island X-23 Crystal River, FL's Commander David Buchanan, on the right, and the Auxiliary President Nancy Staples, left, recently presented plastic bottle caps to Jim Botillo at Harley Davidson of Crystal River to be melted down for buddy benches to be placed at Veteran's parks and primary schools. Harley Davidson has partnered with the Homosassa Lyons Club for this project. The Seabees meet the third Tuesday monthly at the Riviera Mexican Cantina at 10:30 and the Auxiliary meets at 9:30 on the same day. Both Commander Buchanan and President Staples are past national officers. Provided by PAP Nancy Staples

U.S, NAVY SEABEES Deserve a Stamp Too



Mike Wheeler PIC of Island X-14 Hudson Falls NY, submitted the above photos of a newly installed handicapped access ramp. Island X-14 members Les Macura, Don McWhorter, Tom VanVrankin, Mike Wheeler and a friend Jim Braymer, built the ramp to replace an existing porch for the brother of an X-14 member. Well Done.



On Thursday at 11:00am, September 12, 2020, Island X-2 Commander Frank Acs (L) and Vice-Commander John Drexler (R) were pleased to personally present a NSVA Certificate of Appreciation to John Trotter, (C) the Shoneys Alcoa manager for both his and the Shoneys staff support of military veterans and the NSVA Island X-2 Maryville, TN.
Submitted by D. Howard, X-2.



SEABEES SACRIFICE WORLD WIDE; Thanks from the Falcons, Josh, Laura, Brittney & Michael



The Department of New York and its Affiliated Islands, wishes to Thank the NSVA for all it has done to support and promote the Seabee Brotherhood over the past 75 years.



Island X-2
The Long Island Seabees
Huntington, NY

Island X-5
Western New York Seabees
Buffalo, NY

Island X-8
The Monument Builders
Tonawanda, NY

Island X-9
The Rebuilding Seabees
Kingston, NY

Island X-10
Capital District Seabees
Albany, NY

Island X-12
The Flour City Seabees
Rochester, NY

Island X-14
Adirondack Seabees
Hudson Falls, NY

Island X-19
The Salt City Seabees
Syracuse, NY

Collectively, In the Can Do Spirit we say

Congratulations to the Navy Seabee Veterans of America on achieving 75 years of dedicated service to our country and your members, Happy Anniversary.



NAVY SEABEE VETERANS AMERICA INC.

To all of the members of NSVA Island X-16 Sun City Center Florida South Shore, I as Commander/Secretary Frank J Stulic Jr have finalized the placing of the Seabee Plaque at the, (NOSC) Navy Operational Support Center at MacDill Air Force Base Tampa FL. I met with CAPT Gregg Unger Commanding Officer of NOSC located on MacDill Air Force Base. The gift was accepted by Rear Admiral, J. A. Schommer U.S. Navy. The Plaque will be placed in the near future in a building Seabees will use for class rooms. I will be notified when this takes place and let you all know. Below is a Photo with me and Capt. Gregg Unger.

This Plaque is in Honor to all Seabees Past, Present, and Future. And to all of the Seabee Islands in the U.S. and to our National Commander James J. Furey for giving me permission to do this, I Thank You all for your patience.

Seabees CAN DO

A long time waiting, but well worth the wait.

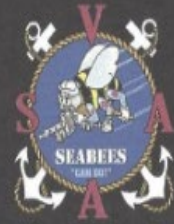


NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA ISLAND X-16 SUN CITY CENTER FLORIDA SOUTH DEDICATING to all SEABEES PAST, PRESENT and FUTURE
With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a bit longer with compassion for other We Build- We Fight for Peace and Freedom.

"We Build"

Establish March 5th 1942 WWII
NAVY SEABEES CAN DO

"We Fight"



The Origin of the Seabees Insignia by Frank J Laftate

Early in January 1942 while working as a plan file clerk at the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Civilian and Naval engineers would come in and out of my office to study naval installation drawings. As they studied these drawings, I studied them and sketched their caricatures. One day a Navy Lieutenant came in. He was the officer-in-charge of some 250 recruits who had been brought in to the newly established "Construction Battalions". This Lieutenant had heard of my cartooning, and asked me if I could produce a "Disney Type" Insignia that would identify and represent this new Battalion. These men would undergo military and construction training, and follow the marines ashore. They would not be an offensive group but could defend themselves if they had to. I first thought of a beaver, the builder. But some research at the library told me that a beaver in trouble will turn and run. So the beaver was out. Then I thought of a bee... The busy worker, who doesn't bother you... Unless you bother him, at which point he comes back with a sharp sting. This was the way of the Construction Battalions. After the idea was established, the rest came easy. I animated the bee: gave him a white hat to make him "Navy", tools to show his construction talents, and a tommy gun to show his fighting ability. I made him third class petty officer with the appropriate insignia on each arm, such as machinist's mate, a carpenter's mate and a gunner's mate. On each wrist, the C.E.C. insignia showed that he was part of the Navy Civil Engineers Corps. Finally, on the outer circle of the insignia, I put the letter Q for Quonset. Now, what would this group be called? "Men of the Construction Battalions" was a little awkward. I already had the "bee" for these men who worked at sea, putting the two ideas together, the name SEABEES was born. The insignia drawing took about three hours on a Sunday afternoon. The next morning I showed it to the officer in charge, who showed it to the Captain, who sent it off to Washington. Admiral Bed Moreell, Chief, Bureau of Yards & Docks, Chief of Civil engineers was about to start a nationwide campaign - and he saw in my sketch recruiting appeal. He requested only one revision in the insignia that the "Q" be changed to a hawser rope, for national recognition. And today, this is how we recognize that tough and talented group known as the SEABEES.

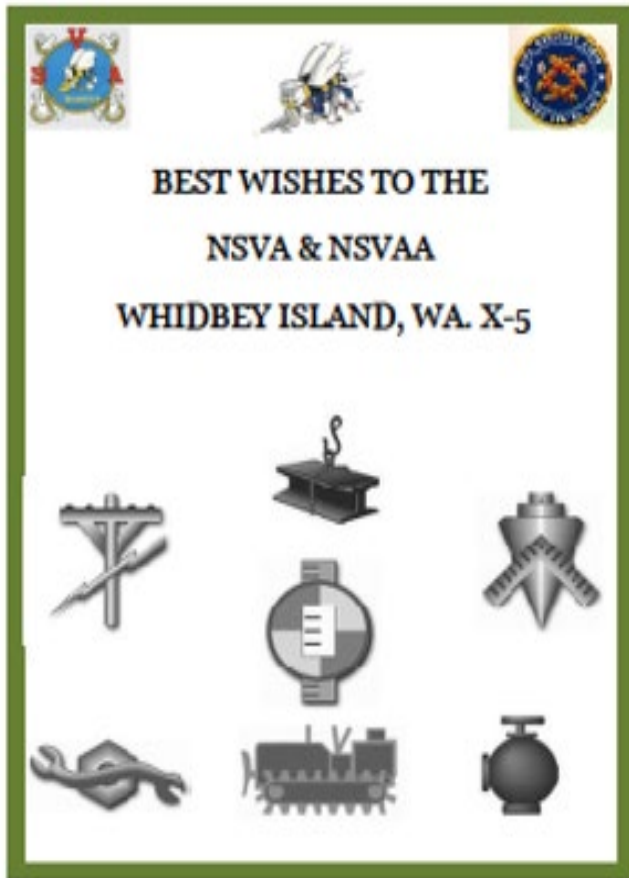
The Fighting Seabees

Seabees is the nickname for the U.S. Navy Construction Battalions (CB's) Formed during WWII, 1942. They were trained in both construction and combat. They built naval facilities, airports, roads, piers, docks, Quonset huts, living quarters, and a host of other projects, often under combat conditions and always under pressure to complete the job. They served in many countries around the world founded December 28, 1941 - Requested - branch United States Navy, their roll was Militarized construction, approximate serving 325,000 total, their motto "Can Do" colors Flag of the United States Navy (1864 - 1959) Anniversary March 5 1942 authorized. Engagements: Starting with Japan after Pearl Harbor, The first designated Construction detachment of 296 men arrived at Bora Bora on February 17, 1942. On March 5, all Construction Battalion personnel were officially named Seabees by the Navy Department. Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Los Negros, Tarawa, Guam, S, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Normandy, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, Antarctica Naval Base, Diego Garcia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and many other locations around the world serving the past and at present time today protecting our country with Honor and Pried.

We Salute you all Our Motto "Construmius Batuimus" "We Build" "We Fight" "Can Do"

This is a close up of the Plaque pictured being held by Seabee Frank Stulic Jr. and Captain Gregg Unger. The plaque will be located in an adjacent building the Seabees will be using for training.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR WISHES TO ALL OUR SEABEE BROTHERS AND SISTERS



NOW HEAR THIS

There still remains some confusion around the publishing and distribution of the CAN DO magazine. The CAN DO is published (currently) four (4) times a year. Two of the issues (March & September) are printed (hardcopy) and mailed to a members address as recorded by the NSVA Secretary. The two remaining issues (June & December) are NOT printed, they are available "On Line" for viewing and down loading on the NSVA website; www.nsva.org . Please make sure your mailing address is updated if you relocate, or you won't be receiving the CAN DO. If you are experiencing issues with receiving the CAN DO please notify the National Secretary at nsvasec@gmail.com or call 1-203-843-5513

The deadline for input in the March '21 edition of the CAN DO is February 15th.

Please be aware (as if you already weren't) that there are numerous unscrupulous people out there in the real world. They are making their living by cheating you out of yours. The NSVA or its members will not request or solicit funds or gift card donations for any ambiguous veteran's or charitable organization. There have been and undoubtedly will be many more scams and attempts to defraud us by attempting to use the NSVA leadership and its members email addresses. Please be aware of these attempts to separate you from your \$\$\$.

Riddle :10





New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters

Joseph A. Geiger
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

Paul Capurso
President

Michael Cavanaugh
Vice President

THANK YOU TO THE NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA FOR THEIR SERVICE.



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Wreath laying ceremony on a rainy Veterans Day, 2020 at the Seabee Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, VA.



Pictured are the wreaths presented at the Seabee Memorial and the Veterans Day Ceremony attendees: L-R CEC Rear Admiral John Corka, Force Master Chief Delbert Terrell, NSVA 1st. Vice Commander Doug Bower and Ret. CEC Rear Admiral Robert Marlay. Photos submitted by Doug Bower.

An Emblem of Our Own

By Ralph T. Rowland

From the day it was officially approved by Admiral Ben Moreell in early 1942, every Seabee has been proud to wear and display the insignia designed for the Navy's Construction Battalions by Frank LaFrate: the image of a determined bee, wearing a sailor's hat and carrying a machine gun as well as his builder tools.

Members in the 78th U.S. Naval Construction Battalion were no exception. The fighting-working-seagoing bee appeared on the shoulder patches of their uniforms and they fondly remember the big sculptural version that stood more than 50 years at the entrance to Camp Endicott in Davisville, RI where the 78th received its basic training.

Like numerous other military units, squadrons and crews, however the 78th had a distinctive emblem of its own. One painted on its many jeeps, trucks and equipment to identify "ownership". This emblem though similar to Frank LaFrate's bee, shows a much more sociable insect, still carrying a tommy gun and equipped with a hammer and wrench, but wearing a disarming smile. This unique emblem was created specially for the 78th Seabees by one of the world's famous cartoonists- Walt Disney.

Just how it happened that Walt Disney designed the 78th's bee isn't entirely clear. That studio did of course, create many such caricatures for military units at the time, but would obviously have been necessary for someone to request such a favor. Who did? And how did the contributed art work reach the battalion? I don't know for certain but offer the following clues:

In our first days of boot camp in Camp Perry, near Williamsburg VA, at the end of December 1942, I met Richard Ammann of Poughkeepsie, NY, a fellow recruit. We had been assigned to the same platoon and I soon learned that Dick was a friend and co-worker of my sister's fiancée. Both had been employed (and would return after the war) by Western Printing and Lithographing Company.

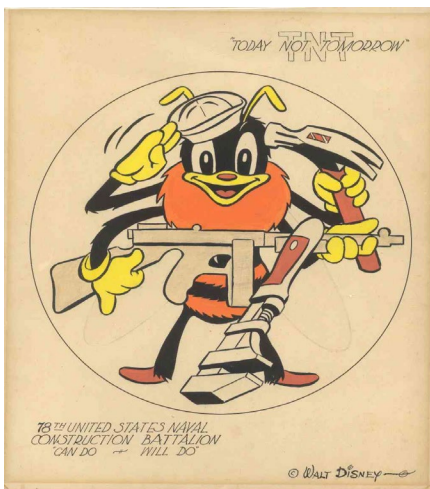
Dick was a sales representative and nephew of the company's president. Among its high volume printing work, Western Printing produced coloring books and other publications of the Walt Disney Studio. Dick Ammann and I became good friends and often went on liberty together, though we were assigned to different companies when the 78th was commissioned in February, 1943. On one occasion while we were stationed at Davisville we exchanged duty assignments so Dick could spend the night with his wife who had traveled to Providence. When he received the news 9 months later that their first child had been born, I was especially pleased to join the celebration at the Saddler Bar in Noumea, New Caledonia.

On a Saturday in May or early June, 1942 while we were in Los Angeles on a weekend pass from Camp Rousseau at Port Hueneme, CA, Dick asked me to accompany him to the Walt Disney Studio in Burbank, where he had an appointment. I remember traveling there in one of those big red Pacific Electric trolleys then waiting for him at the Disney Studio, while he met with some of the staff. He probably told me what transpired at that time, but I don't remember the details. I do not believe, however that he obtained any artwork to take back to the battalion.

Oddly, though Dick and I spent a lot of time together over the next two years, I don't recall that we ever discussed our trip to the Disney Studio or the Seabee emblem that Disney designed for the 78th battalion. After the war he was a member of the original reunion association, although he didn't attend any of the reunions of that era. I think I lost touch with him and was told some years ago he had passed.

I don't know if asking the Disney Studios to design a unique emblem for the 78th was Dick's idea or not. I do believe that however that the design came about because of his service in the battalion. My best guess is that through his employment with Western Printing he was aware that Disney was designing emblems for various military units and he may have suggested the idea to our officer in charge then Lieutenant Commander (eventually Rear Admiral) James F. Cunniff. Perhaps he obtained his uncle's support to pass the request on to Disney. The original artwork may well have gone to Western Printing for duplication with a copy eventually sent to the 78th headquarters. The image must have been in the battalion's possession while we were stationed in New Caledonia between July and November, 1943 because it appeared in a photograph on the battalion's orchestra's drum taken during that time period and published in the "Battalion Log".

We may never know exactly what part Richard Ammann played in obtaining the Walt Disney designed emblem that the 78th Seabees have treasured for so long, but I feel certain we would not have had it without his participation.



Emblem and article submitted by Diane Crandell, daughter of the late Roland Swanson member of the WWII, 78th Battalion and charter member of the 78th Reunion Association.

"Have You Hugged a Swede Today"?

More Updates...(for your information)

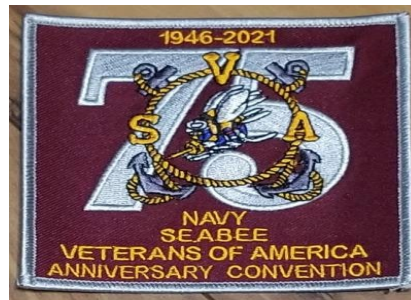
Our NSVA National Secretary, Charlie Coffin is relocating, consequently any and ALL written communications going forward from this publication; should be sent to the following address:

Charles H. Coffin, Secretary
Navy Seabee Veterans of America
2047 Ridge Road
Queensbury, New York 12804

Because the NSVA is about to celebrate 75 years of service to our country and its membership, the CAN DO would like to feature a few articles or pictures from previous (earlier) CAN DO publications. We would like you to dust off your archives and send us anything you feel your fellow Seabees would find interesting and might bring back some memories. We'll try to accommodate everyone's contributions (or at least give you an Honorable mention for your effort).

We prefer JPEG format for article with pictures, or Word documents. If you send hard copy (original editions/articles will be returned if requested). Who has the 1st Edition of a CAN DO? Can you share it with us?

Contact Jack Tangen at (585) 637-9272 (and leave a message, if you don't your number goes into Call Blocked file) or email me at jtangen@rochester.rr.com for instructions on how to share your NSVA Memorabilia.



“We’ll pave our way to Victory and guard it day and night”. Guam 1945

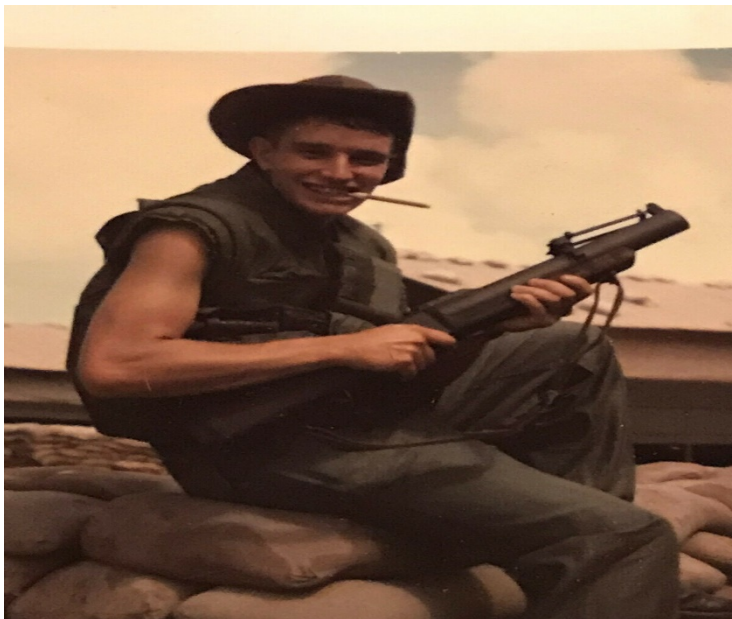


Vietnam Perspectives



Surprise visitors (a pair of Special Forces/Green Beret personnel) inspect construction site and fortification installations by MCB-4 at Nui Con Thien west of Route 1, circa 1967.

From the looks (smiles) on their faces I think a Seabee might have made a comment like, "why don't you jump down here in the mud with me and take a closer look"?



This is a November 1967 snapshot of Seabee Seth Pickering (sporting a tiparillo cigar) modeling a new "Flak Jacket" (vest with lead plates to prevent against shrapnel) and an M-79 grenade launching rifle. Location unknown.

Below is picture of "Greens" era company of Seabees, no dates, or location, anyone have any idea as to who they were, and when pic was taken? With the "Fighting Bee" in the background it appears that the picture was taken in (someplace with a lot of pine trees)? Company flag displayed is CTU K Company.



Vietnam Vet Lives with deeper purpose after loss of friends
By Carol Robinson, Staff writer Williamson Herald

The loss of two friends in Vietnam brings a deeper meaning to both Veterans Day and Memorial Day for Williamson county resident Bill Robinson. When Robinson was a youngster in Syracuse, NY, one of the boys he attended Christian Brothers Academy with was Edward "Eddie" Krukowski, a neighbor friend. Although Eddie was two grades ahead, the boys were still friends. A few years later, Krukowski would be Syracuse's first casualty in the Vietnam war.

"We used to wait on his porch for the bus to take us to school," Robinson recalled. "When it was cold his mother would make us hot chocolate while we waited. Eddie was smart and a good athlete."

Krukowski attended the US Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1962. After attending Airborne and Ranger schools, in September 1964, Krukowski volunteered to go to Vietnam as a combat advisor to the South Vietnamese. On June 10, 1965 Krukowski and the unit he was advising were among other units traveling in helicopters when they came under heavy enemy fire at Dong Xoai. Krukowski was killed in the battle. "I remembered he married his high school sweetheart and they had a son," Robinson said.

In August 1965, Robinson enlisted in the Navy and was sent to a Mobile Construction Battalion, known as the Seabees, MCB-1. In March 1966 they were deployed to Vietnam and stationed near Da Nang. It was there he would become friends with Blair Starkey. "He wasn't a big guy, but he was tough" Robinson said.

After a rough readjustment that included a lot of alcohol and a stint under a latrine, Starkey turned his life around and found a home in MCB-1. The two met up again in 1967 during their second tour of duty in Vietnam. By August Robinson was ending his second tour. On August 10th he headed to Long Beach Naval Base in California to complete the paperwork for his discharge. He received his discharge papers on August 20th and headed home. Two weeks later he received a letter from Bob Miller, a Seabee friend who was still in Vietnam, with news about Starkey.

Starkey had been shot in the back by a Viet Cong sniper on August 28th and died on the scene. Starkey was working on the same bridge in Hai Van Pass and in the same location where Bill had been working just weeks earlier.

“ I wondered then, why him?” Robinson said. “It could have been me. I still do (wonder)”.

Route 1 through Hai Van Pass was the main north-south corridor with the Pacific Ocean on one side and the dense jungle on the other. It made bridges along the route common targets. Snipers in the jungle made the bridge rebuilding a challenge the Seabees faced every day. That August and September there where four Seabees killed working on the Hai Van Pass.

“I always thought, if someone was killed instead of you, you had the responsibility, the obligation to carry on with life”, Robinson said. “be a better person and live life as an opportunity you were given – show you earned it.” Submitted by J. Ratomski



Department of Florida 51st State Convention

Island X-5 will host in Orlando, Florida

30 April to 01 May 2021



Comfort Suites Maingate East (407) 397-7848

use Group Code: HK23D1

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Rate is \$89.00 plus taxes

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Vince Mancus

Vice Commander:

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Secretary:

Chuck Dougé (305) 230-8000

combatelectric@aol.com

Treasurer:

Daniel Cuentas



Chuck Dougé

(305)230-8000

combatelectric@aol.com

For any questions and for the forms, please call or email me. We hope to see many of you there.

You may make reservation for a few days before and after the convention as you wish.



NMCB-14 Alumni Association

<http://www.nmcb14alumni.com/>

The 2020 annual reunion was a great success. Our 2021 reunion is currently planned for Tampa, Florida in the Fall of 2021. Details on dates, hotel, registration, and schedule will be posted when available on the Association's website and our Facebook page.

If you are or ever were a member of NMCB-14 or RNMCB-14, you are encouraged to join the Association. Application and dues structure can be found at the Association's website.

NEW - NMCB-14 Alumni Association Challenge Coin



Cost \$10 each plus \$1.00 shipping within the US. Contact Gregg Harkness at g.harkness@earthlink.net for ordering information.

The NMCB-14 Alumni Association is a non-profit organization under Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (19). Our purpose is to provide charitable, educational, and spiritual support and to help provide for some of the basic necessities of life for widows, children and other family members on active or inactive duty and former members of NMCB-14, especially for members that were wounded or killed in conflict while on active duty with the Armed Forces of the United States of America.



Many of us I'm sure grew up in the late '40's, 50's. The Saturday Evening Post and LIFE magazines were a staple (must read) that provided the news from around the world. The daily morning and evening papers provided the local news. Before the advent of mass produced electronic products, devices and gadgets we received our news from news print or the radio.



This picture was sent in by J. Ratowski. It was cropped from a larger photo that was taken in WWII in the European Theater, a village in France. The jeep is pulled up tight to a building but if you look closely at the emblem of the seagull you'll see "USNCB 28" and in the middle center below the windshield you'll see: " Officer in charge 28th C.B." there are few pictures of Seabee involvement/deployment after D Day that document the Seabees moving inland off the beach. It's not because they weren't there.

Department of Florida Welcome All Seabees and those who served with the Seabees to contact us through the NSVA.ORG. Departments and Islands are listed on the Website. Find an Island near you



Department of Florida
Officers



Seated L to R
VCDR Gary Chitwood,
CDR Dwight Hamborsky,
Treas. John Lowe
Sec. Chuck Douge



Vermont Syrup Co.' built and operated by the Seabees of the 110th Naval Construction Battalion.



Not quite sure what the "Vermont Syrup Co. was up to at this installation. We see a lot of sugar cane stalks piled up. Distilling fuel or other types of spirits?

Rhode Island by Clayton Nadeau

I am a retired 27 year US Navy Seabee veteran, joining 13 March 1974. I was stationed in Little Creek, Virginia from 1975 to 1978, and after completing my active duty tour I joined the reserves. I was stationed at Davisville, Rhode Island from 1980 to 1990 when they decommissioned the 21st Training Regiment. I would had completed my Steelworker "A" school training there had it not been for them shutting the base down for active duty training in 1974. Politics had a play in the closure. Anyway, I thought it would be a good day to drive to Davisville and take a few pictures of my 1963 GT Hawk and the Navy Seabee.

All that's left there now is some Quonset huts, some equipment donated by former Seabees and is now home to the Davisville Seabee Museum. I also took a picture in front of one of



the Quonset buildings. I am also sending a old WW2 ad used by Studebaker to show their involvement and support of the war, showing family members working and those serving, one being a Seabee. So I kind of feel connected in some way, both being a Seabee and owner of a Studebaker. I think it would pretty interesting to see if there are any family members left who are connected to the families Studebaker showed in the advertisements. I can't wait for next years International meet.

SWC Clayton Nadeau USN-Ret.

Below: The text of WWII ad (left) used by Studebaker to show their involvement and support of the war, showing family members working and serving, one being a Seabee.



This article was forwarded to me from an Island X-19 member in Syracuse, NY. It was passed on to them because of the Seabee connection (and I'm glad it was). I contacted both Seabee Clayton Nadeau (author of the article) and Turning Wheels editor Ann Turner in order to publish this in the CAN DO. Both parties were more than willing to share the article with our membership.

I know you'll find it as interesting as I did. The closest I've come to a Studebaker is either driving a 6 by or (mostly riding in the back of one). Clayton has a beautiful car, I'm glad he took the time to share his story. By the way you'll find new Life Member Clayton Nadeau listed in the Welcome Aboard on page 28.

Blessings to you
and your families!



Thank you
for your service
to our country!



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CONVENTION AND REUNION INFORMATION

ATTENTION ALL SEABEES

75th NSVA National Convention 8/18/21 thru 8/22/21

Golden Nugget, Biloxi, MS. ([Go Back to page 2 for details](#))

NSVA Mid-Year meeting will be held in Rosemount, IL

The morning of Saturday, March 13th 2021 at the
Hampton Inn and Suites Rosemont Chicago O'Hare
1-800-426-7866

Department of Florida Convention

Orlando, FL. at the Comfort Main Gate East April 30 – May 1, 2021
Contact Chuck Doug'e for info. combatelectric@aol.com 1-305-230-8000

MCB-11 Association Reunion

September 9th - 13th in Nashville, TN
Contact Larry Hagler at mcb11.2021@earthlink.net for details

Navy Fleet Hospital 15 (CBHU 20 Desert Storm '91, Saudi Arabia) Reunion

September 17 & 18, 2021, Bethlehem, PA. contact G. Lebeduik: jmnl@ptd.net

The 133 Seabee Association Reunion

Woodbridge, VA Sept. 24th- 27th, 2021
Contact D. Ruocco at gulfport67@gmail.com for info. & registration

Visit the NSVA Website at www.nsva.org for updates and contact information covering the full spectrum from the National Officers to the local Island level.

Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and The Seabee Historical Foundation Donations

The CAN DO will acknowledge donations to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and The Seabee Historical Foundation.

Donations should be mailed directly to:

NSVA National Secretary, 2047 Ridge Road, Queensbury NY 12804.

Please indicate on the Memo line which scholarship you wish to donate to.

SMSA Scholarship Donations:

- A donation in the amount of \$200.00 was made by Island X-9 Kingston, NY to the Seabee Wounded in Action Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$25.00 was made in the name of Horace Ellis by Robert Marlette to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A Donation in the amount of \$250.00 was made by James Sorenson to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$25.00 was made in the name of Fred Hummel by Island X-5 Lancaster, PA to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$25.00 was made in the name of Mervin Lehman by Island X-5 Lancaster, PA to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$50.00 was made in the name of Martin Sharp by Robert Marlette to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$100.00 was made in the name of Clarence Dukart by John Walker to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$100.00 was made in the name of Clarence Dukart by Island X-11 Tampa, FL to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.
- A donation in the amount of \$100.00 was made in the name of Clarence Dukart by Walt Sauers to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Thank You for your generous contributions



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
Dale Cockrill	6847	X-1	Atlanta	GA
John Walker	6848	X-11	Tampa	FL
Richard Hoffman	6849	X-5	West Valley	AZ
Antonio Amesquita	6850	X-1	San Antonio	TX
John McGraw	6851	X-5	West Valley	AZ
Leroy Morgan	6852	X-24	At Large	TN
George Swatzbaugh	6853	X-6	Spring Hill	FL
Joseph Sewack	6854	X-1	Davisville	RI
Jeffery Harrison	6855	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Dick Turnwall	6856	MCB-7	At Large	SD
Christopher Montoya	6857	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Mark Mayfield	6858	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Dennis Ward	6859	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Clayton Nadeau	6860	X-1	Davisville	RI
Mark Bierschenk	6861	X-1	Gulfport	MS
Henry White	6862	X-1	Kearny	NE
Lawrence Bouska	6863	X-1	Kearny	NE
Nicholas Ramirez	6864	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Boyd Brown	6865	X-4	Longmont	CO
Bobby Smith	6866	X-5	Cape Girardeau	MO

Fellow Seabees, I'm John Cubit the NSVA Life Membership Chairman. I will do my best to ensure that all new membership applications are processed in a timely fashion. 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 Kislisbury Street
Rochester, New York 14613-1611
Phone: 585-647-9294
Email: eqcmcubit@gmail.com



FINAL SALUTE

COMPILED BY THE NATIONAL
SECRETARY, AS REPORTED BY THEIR
ISLANDS AND UNITS

Blue = SVA Members

Black = Brother Seabees Non NSVA
Members



LM#	Last Name	First	MI.	Island #	City	State
4804	LANDCASTLE	GERALD		X-5	SURPRISE	AZ
1807	BERTIE	LARRY	L	X-1	HUNTINGTON	WV
3819	CALDWELL	JAMES		MCB-1	At Large	AZ
3051	URBATI, Jr.	CHESTER		X-1	GULFPORT	MS
4987	HAVENER	MELVIN		X-8	LEE COUNTY	FL
6363	FARFARD	ROLAND		X-1	DAVISVILLE	RI
5239	WELKER	PAUL	R	X-9	CLEVELAND	OH
1846	BELLIVEAU	PHILIP	J	X-1	DAVISVILLE	RI
2979	FLETCHER	BOBBY	D	MCB-9	At Large	AZ
3504	CROWDER Jr.	ALLISON	F	X-13	SARASOTA	FL
3438	McLEAN	DONALD	W	X-3	PITTSBURG	PA
802	STEPHENSON	HARVEY	T	X-4	ALEXANDRIA	LA
3239	RICHARDS	RONALD	D	X-8	TONAWANDA	NY
3330	MILLICAN	BILLY	C	X-1	GULFPORT	MS
1410	WEISS	DAVID	W	X-3	CLEVELAND	OH
3422	TATUM	LEONARD	F	X-1	RED BANK	NJ
5137	MIGNONE	MICHAEL		126	At Large	
879	SWAIN	WALTER		X-76	Delaware Valley	PA
6220	FIELD	WILLIAM	I	MCB-7	At Large	
5251	MITCHELL	GEORGE		X-5	LANCASTER	PA
3515	MICHELSON	JOHN	A	X-4	TOLEDO	OH
5543	WALKER	BENJAMIN	J	X-1	TORRINGTON	CT
5064	RICE	JAMES	R	MCB-9	At Large	CA
2717	DeLOIS	JOSEPH	A	X-2	HILLSBOROUGH	FL
3062	LOGAN	WILLIAM	L	X-5	Ft. LAUDERDALE	FL

6357	ASH	HAROLD	R	X-4	SCRANTON		PA
3847	BARKER	BOBBY	J	Battl.	At Large		
4577	BELTON Jr.	Johnny	R	Battl.	At Large		
5875	BREWER	WILLARD	L	Battl.	At Large		
6080	CLIFFORD	EUGENE	W		JOHNSTOWN		PA
3739	ERB	ALBERT	R	X-1	RED BANK		NJ
5209	FOWLER	CAROLL	F	Battl.	At Large		
5710	GALLAGHER Sr	CHARLES	R	X-8	LEE COUNTY		FL
3668	GRAHAM	THOMAS		X-5	FT. LAUDERDALE		FL
6426	HEFNER	JOHN	L	Battl.	At Large		
2167	HIGGINS	ROBERT	W	X-5	BUFFALO		NY
4747	KAY	RONALD	D	X-9	CLEVELAND		OH
3646	KEELER	DUANE	L	X-8	LEE COUNTY		FL
3851	KINARD	C.	T.	Battl.	At Large		
1756	KONEMANN	WILLIAM	T	X-4	TOLEDO		OH
5984	KONTNY	VINCE		X-2	PUEBLO		CO
4590	LEHMAN	MARVIN	L	X-5	LANCASTER		PA
6126	LENTS	GENERAL	H	X-5	CAPE GIRARDEAU		MO
2096	McDERMOTT	EDWIN	B	X-1	DAVISVILLE		RI
3755	NEWSOME	LOUIS	H	Battl.	At Large		
3824	NICHOLS	ALVIN	E	Battl.	At Large		
6500	NORMAN	RALPH		X-3	PITTSBURGH		PA
3570	ROSS	WILLIAM	D	X-5	WHIDBEY ISLAND		WA
4345	SHARP	MARTIN	D	X-3	PITTSBURG		PA
974	SMITH	CHARLES	R	Battl.	At Large		
6188	STONE	WAYNE		X-1	GULFPORT		MS
4788	TERRY	FLOYD		X-9	JACKSONVILLE		FL
4329	THALL	FRANK	W	Battl.	At Large		
5319	TINCHER	DREWEY	A	X-1	GULFPORT		MS
1576	VANDERWARKER	RAYMOND	E	X-11	TAMPA		FL
4291	WALEJKO	NORBERT	B	Battl.	At Large		
5667	WHEELER	C.	C.	Battl.	At Large		
3790	WICKER	DONALD	R	Battl.	At Large		
4047	WRIGHT	ALLEN	D	Battl.	At Large		
Ann.	SCHUSTER	GEORGE	H	X-1	TORRINGTON		CT
Ann.	CANTOR	RICHARD	P	X-4	NEW CASTLE		IN
Ann.	DAVIS	RICHARD		X-4	DICKSON CITY		PA
Ann.	DIERKES	RAYMOND	B	X-1	ST. LOUIS		MO

Deceased Brother Seabees (non SVA members) December 2020

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jean L. Downs • Sammy Davies • Leonard L. Bentowski • Robert A. DeNomme • Mark T. Banner • R. D. Cunningham • John W. Austin • Jerome A. Thompson • Ronald C. Hogue • Donald E. Weeks • Faber E. Bland • Anthony D. Messina • Christopher Fabian • Merel W. Jeppeson • Billy M. McCabe • Bruce W. Baugh • Robert M. Anderson • Duane W. Nye • Timothy B. Dyer • George W. Compton • Varian H. Howell • Dennis Sherrill • Robert E. Bonter • Ralph L. Ashenbrew • Austin A. Arenburg • William J. Williams • Hoyt D. Cartwright • Joseph S. Bruccleri • Lyle T. Johnston • James R. Svetz • James Pashby • Fletcher L. Hiott • Robert F. Newnam • Gary L. Knowlton • Chester C. Heil • Raymond Williams Jr. • Tommy R. Evans • Faber E. Bland • Peter Stonk • John J. Neville • Raymond L. Price • William L. Delker • James D. Standley II • John P. Sylva • Eugene Liske • Rex C. Roark • Dennis J. Keating • Thomas Rasell • Donald F. Lutz Sr. • Lawrence R. Tammi • Harry P. Gentle • Leslie C. Poore • Jess E. Rohrbach • Scott B. Behrens • Fred W. Blake • CAPT. Thomas Boothe • Euel T. Sims Jr. • Randal J. Younker • William J. Geiger • Manny Marfield • Arthur R. Edwards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harry "Mike" Light • Allen G. Snyder • Lester W. Meraclé • Francis A. Tedesco • Sarkis Garabedian • Robert W. Morton • Billy N. Williams • Barnet Sugarman • Huge J. Mauer • William Alexander Jr. • Jeremy W. Pieper • Capt. James Stoutamore • Dwight A. English Sr. • CDR Robert Epperly • Terry L. Bailey • Edward Orłowski • Donovan C. Campbell • Thomas R. Spoon • James Rush Jr. • Robert R. Sermon • Carl C. Zahn • James A. Alberter • Edgar Rhodes • Harold G. Chaffee • Richard M. Hass • Patrick J. O'Meara • Ivan Olson • Donald E. Woodward • Richard D. Baseler • Bruno A Schueter Sr. • Edmund Kerbyson • Mark D. Youngs • John H. Buger • Allan Hirsh Jr. • Arthur R. Wells Sr. • John G. Morris • Alexander Grieves Jr. • Ed Himmelwright • Jerald L. Brown • Milton J. Berrey • Richard Barrington • Basil Graham • Stanley J. Easler • Donald Vanderwarker • Edward Agnew • Thomas J. Forbes • Jerry R. Frame Sr. • Raymond J. Zerwick • Pat H. Farris • Peter P. Princi • Kenneth G. McNutt • Joseph Deren Jr. • Donald A. Hart • Gary L. Martindale • Richard Miner • Thomas R. Snyder • Hershel F. Bell • Douglas H. Harward • Martin R. Larry • William Hosse • John Picciano 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurelio Tassone • Lester V. Howell • James N. Ellis Sr. • John D. Gresham • John C. Strickland • Benjamin J. Walker • Ronald C. Wehn Sr. • Randy Meredith Sr. • John J. Vezoso Jr. • John A. Capozzi • Jimmy Nason • Richard H. Dodds • Thomas L. Carmody • Hayden W. Kimmel • James M. Ramsey • Richard Wallace Jr. • Virgil H. Darling • Owen Gilmore • Richard J. Sonia • Lawrence E. Mitchell • William M. Dane • John E. Ryan • Mike Lewis • John Dority • Kenneth Raum • Clifford Bennett • Stephan J. Bendas • John F. Hall • Thomas Semen • Glen R. Smith • Gary Widner • Michael R. King • William Weiss Sr. • Robert J. Dye • Guy L. Morse • Larry Franklin • Richard Campbell • Donald P. Good • Paul F. Kimball • Jared Metro • Philip A. Burton • Robert J. Thompson • Ray Sands • Charles P. Olivieri • Charles Keever • Robert Klem • Robert J. Jacoby • Anthony Warren • Steven Remillard • Thomas A. Cuccia • Eric C. Urban • CDR. Loren W. Sibilla • Thomas M. Cleays • Gerald Sharp • Bigelow Wood Sr. • Hazen E. Spaulding • Robert L. Martin • Shannon E. Seaton • George Robinson • Capt. Russell Klingemeier • Russel Minehart
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The Can Do Magazine is committed to honoring the NSVA members on their passing by listing them in the Final Salute pages. Please notify the SVA National Secretary at nsvasec@gmail.com or by calling 1-203-843-5513 of a members passing as soon as possible. Be sure to include the members Life Member number (if applicable) and their Island/Unit affiliation.

U.S. NAVY SEABEES DESERVE A STAMP TOO

SEABEES

IT'S NOT A CLUB



**IT'S A BROTHERHOOD
THAT FEW UNDERSTAND
& EVEN LESS ARE A PART OF.**

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA

CAN DO

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