

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA

CAN DO



Volume 33, Edition 2, Summer 2023

Cover: The picture of the Monument on “Utah Beach” (France) was supplied by Seabees Mike & Joyce Atterbery, members of Island X-23 Crystal River, FL. The monument is somewhat unique, the names on this piece of granite are indeed support forces which; without any of these elements would have inevitably resulted in more loss of life and possibly immeasurable setbacks in the invasion of Europe on WWII’s Longest Day. The Seabees contribution to this event began long before any allied force landed on the beaches of France as detailed in the article by Suzanne Pool, daughter of Chief Warrant Officer James A. Pool. See Pg. 23 Original Seabees

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CHAPLAINS CORNER

When I was young many years ago it was very rare to hear about someone being shot and murdered. Today not a day goes by without multiple stories either in the local newspaper, on T.V. or on the internet about shootings of all kinds from accidental to mass murders. When society starts accepting these as the "new normal" we as a Nation are in real trouble. We have come to accept the murders of children in schools, innocent bystanders and "road rage" incidents where some one's grievances are settled by taking out a gun and starting to shoot. I am not trying to provoke a controversy with my thoughts nor am I about to offer suggestions on how to address this problem but I am sure that many of you feel the same way as I do. I only know that with each report about senseless shootings saddens me and offering my thoughts and prayers does little to ease the pain and suffering not of only those who are injured but also the families and friends of the victims. I as an individual who firmly believes that there is a God can only do my part to try to change this is by continuing to pray for Devine Intervention that will give those who make our laws come up with a solution accepted by all sides of the gun control controversy. On a brighter note, I hope all enjoy the coming summer months with its many opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities with family & friends. Safe travels to all who go on vacations, to family gatherings or just enjoy staycations.

Michael Boncheck, National Chaplain
Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Commander's Corner

As my tenure as National Commander draws to a close, I look back at what I consider one of the most daunting, yet rewarding opportunities since joining the NSVA in 2004. The past two years as your commander have offered numerous lessons in human nature, accounting, procedures, and protocol not to mention Roberts Rules and most importantly, listening to the membership. Understandably each National Commander has stressed their own focus, management style and goals as I have mine.

I feel the goals and aspirations I shared in my first Commanders Corner (September 2021) set the tone for the past two years. Although other topics and projects have taken a priority; the main goal has remained, the health and well-being of the NSVA. Membership is still a priority and will be, for as long as the NSVA exists. This is an ongoing issue that we must face continually. We must keep in mind that every member is a representative of the NSVA and what we want potential members to see us as. Remember WE are our best advertisement and sales person, wear that Seabee motif and paraphernalia to attract attention and carry a Membership trifold to pass out.

Many projects have been completed, and many are still a work in progress to be handed over to my successor. One of the most important projects was the review and recommendations involving the NSVA Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution and By-Laws committee worked long and hard to rewrite and streamline the recommendations to be adopted at the upcoming convention.

A few of the other important projects were, the design and manufacture of our Official logo & patch, the streamlining of the Small Store accounting practices, the review of the Rituals and Procedures, securing a reliable vendor for the NSVA uniform garrison cap, the NSVA advertising on social media sites, development of an updated recruiting TRI-fold brochure. And at long last Doug Bower has secured the promise from the USPS for a SEABEE Stamp to be issued in 2026.

All these accomplishments would not have been possible without the support, efforts, and hard work from the NSVA membership. They have made it possible to move the NSVA forward. The future of the NSVA will depend on committed involvement from its members.

I salute the NSVA Officers, Committee members and its Membership. Thank you for allowing me to work with you in our common goal of continually making the NSVA the Best SEABEE organization Ever.

Yours in the Can Do Spirit



National Commander, Navy Seabee Veterans of America



Hello All Navy Seabee Veterans of America Auxiliary Members and Perspective Members. The 2023 National Convention is drawing closer. We will be in San Antonio, TX from 15-19 August at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk. The time in San Antonio will be fun and yes, there will be things to see but mainly our yearly meeting will take place at the convention. The convention information can be found on the home page of the NSVA.org site.

This is an election year. There will be a ballot sent out to all whose dues are paid. All members have the privilege of voting for the National Officers.

If you are not yet a member, an application on the NSVA.org site can be submitted with the indicated dues amount. Questions may be submitted to any of the officers and we will be happy to assist you. Interested in forming an Island Auxiliary? It only takes three members to start an Island Auxiliary. We can assist you in that also.

Nancy Staples NSVAA Vice President/Mal President Geonan5565@yahoo.com

STAY ALERT

You should **never** wire money or send money using Zelle® or similar payment platforms to:

- Anyone claiming your account is compromised
- Anyone asking you to send money to yourself
- Anyone who claims to be from a government agency
- Any stranger, no matter what reason they give
- A telemarketer trying to sell you something

Unauthorized, unverified, or unrequested cryptocurrency sites or salespeople

From the IRS: A new scheme involves a mailing coming in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service. The enclosed letter includes the IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund.”

- A new scam involves a mailing coming in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service. The enclosed letter includes the #IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund.” **Do not fall for it:** <https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k>
- A new scam mailing tries to trick people into believing they are owed a refund. The mailing may come in a cardboard envelope from a delivery service and have an enclosed letter that includes the #IRS masthead. See: <https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k>
- If you receive an unusual cardboard envelope from a delivery service that contains a letter with the #IRS masthead and wording that the notice is “in relation to your unclaimed refund,” it is likely a scam. Watch out for your #TaxSecurity: <https://ow.ly/t7Uv50P2K8k>



NAVYSEABEEVETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.

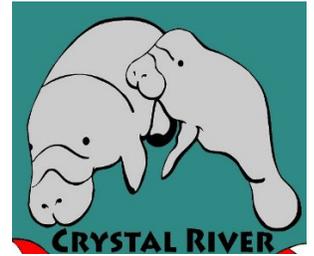
ISLAND X-23, CRYSTAL RIVER

David J. Buchanan, Commander/Secretary

John Lowe, V. Commander

David J. Buchanan, Treasurer pro-tem

Christian Westhall, Chaplain



To: **ALL**

Island X-23, Crystal River, Florida has received a very generous donation of a one of a kind knife, hand crafted by our own Life member, Dave **SPANSKI**, to be used as a “raffle” to generate funds for our Island projects.

There will be a limited number of tickets available, only 300 will be printed and they will go on sale from any Island X-23 member, on March 1, 2023.

The overall length of the knife is 9 inches, with the blade being 5 inches. This knife is made of American top quality CPM 154 steel, and features dyed giraffe bone handle with mosaic pins and an Amish handcrafted “Carriage leather” sheath.

Tickets for this unique handmade knife will be \$5.00 each and the winning ticket will be drawn at the 77th National Convention and Reunion in San Antonio, Tx. during the banquet.

Please support our Island and by doing so, help our community. To purchase tickets for the raffle, contact any member of X-23 or David Buchanan (contact info. below)



David J. Buchanan, PNC

David J. Buchanan, Commander / Secretary

Island X-23, Crystal River

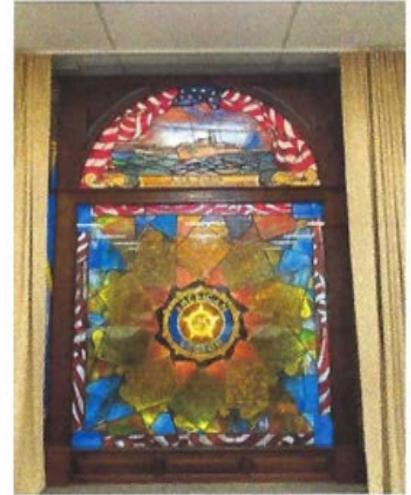
8491 N. Desertrose Terr., Crystal River, FL. 34428

Ph: 352-564-0378, E-mail: dbuchanan@centurylink.net

ISLAND HOPPING



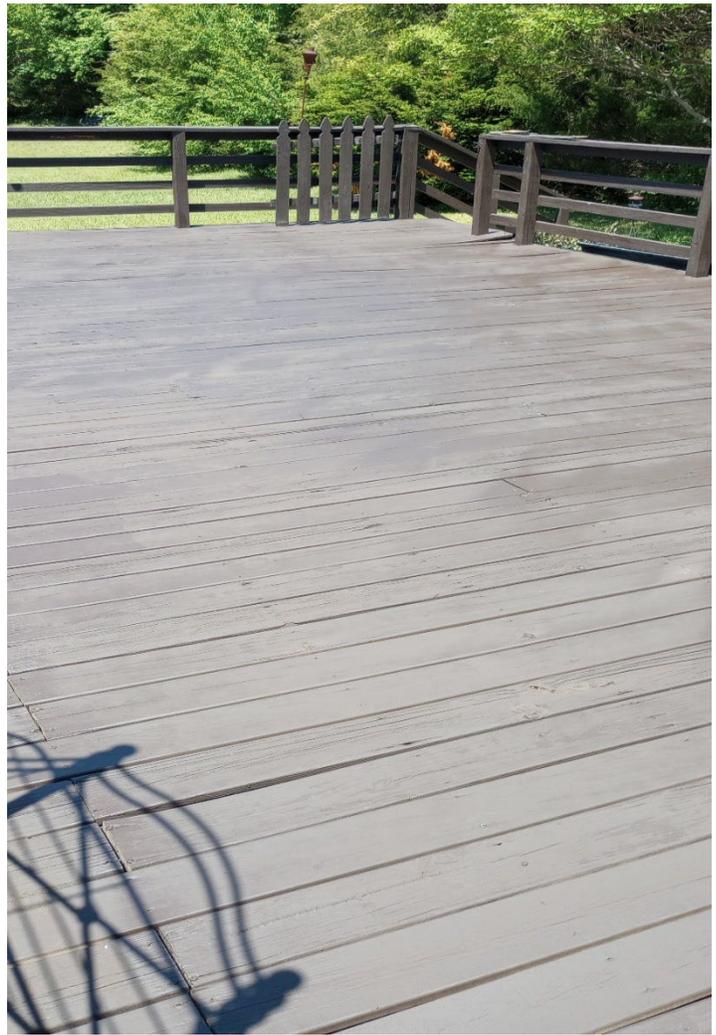
Memorial Day 2023, Seabees were invited to lay a wreath during the ceremony at the American Legion Post 5 in Tampa. This is the site of the only privately owned National Cemetery in the United States. Pictured on the left is National VCDR Dwight Ham-borsky, Then Chief Bill Monfort and X-11 CDR Ernie Nelson. Bill is a remarkable 106 years old. A Kamikaze attack survivor. He is still active and living in Clearwater. The Beautiful Stain glass is a feature from inside the Post



Pictures and text supplied by Ernie Nelson

Members of X-2 Maryville, TN completed repairs and re-finishing on a back deck of a disabled veteran's house





Submitted by Dave Howard X-2 Maryville, TN

Nice Work

UPDATE from Island X-5 Lancaster, PA

Back in 2000 Joe DiFranco decided to form Island X 5 out of Lancaster, Pa. Our Island has 80 members on the books but average 9 to 20 at our meetings and work details. Our meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at Ephrata V.F.W. at 1900 hrs. We hold a rededication ceremony for our memorial at Fort Indiantown National cemetery on Armed Forces Day and Memorial Day. We also raise money for Wreaths Across America for the past 6 years. Last year for the Seabee 80th birthday we held a sit down celebration with members of the Pittsburgh Island coming to giving us about 80 people present for a good time. We road trip to Washington D.C. for our Seabee birthday at our statue to help celebrate and on Veterans Day. We do work parties for Hawk Mountain Boy Scout camp building 3 roofs and 2 sheds inside their pavilions in the last 4 years. We are an active group that supports the "CAN DO" spirit.

Yours Truly CM3 Paul Sobolewski, Island Secretary



Island X-19 Syracuse presented the Veterans Park at the New York State Fairgrounds with this bench and plaque. The plaque was shown in the Spring edition of the 2023 CAN DO.

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 donate to the NSVA Can Do magazine. The contributors are:

- Donna Furey ESQ. Attorney at Law, Astoria N.Y.
- New York City and Vicinity District Council of Carpenters, New York N.Y.
- IBEW Local #3, Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, "New York's Brightest"

DISCLAIMER: The content of the CAN DO is made of input of our membership, articles, and pictures of interest about the Seabees and provided relevant information. Occasionally a submittal is rejected due to political or untrue interpretations of the facts. On occasion the CAN DO has listed erroneous or outdated information, and we apologize for any inconvenience caused. We strive to do our best in providing NSVA/Seabee oriented, interesting, and informative articles and stories. Please continue to provide your stories, articles and pictures to Editor Jack Tangen at jtangen@rochester.rr.com



Our Johnstown Pa Island completed a service plaque placement on the Local VFW Post 155 in time for Memorial Day. The working party consisted of CDR Marty Brezovic, Treasurer Dan Till, Jack (Radar) Smith Life member and John Bernot Life member and Dennis Bugosh Life member (also Photo Shy)

Proud to Serve! Submitted by Island X-6 CDR. Marty Brezovic

WELCOME ABOARD NSVA ISLAND X-3 FALLON NV.

Island X-3 in Fallon Nevada has become the latest Island to join the Navy Seabee Veterans of America. X-3's Commander is Bruce Reed, Vice Commander Clyde Folz, Secretary Bruce Reed, Treasurer Jennifer Lynch

Navy Seabees Build Home for Native Americans in Need



GALLUP, NM, UNITED STATES

06.15.2023

Photo by Chief Petty Officer Christopher Okula

Navy Reserve - Navy Public Affairs Support Element West

GALLUP, N.M. (June 15, 2023) Navy Reserve Sailors assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 18, based on Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California, work to complete the finishing touches on a home built as a charitable contribution and training opportunity in partnership with the Southwest Indian Foundation. The home's construction served to educate Seabees in various practical construction techniques needed for mission readiness while fulfilling the needs of a community partner as part of the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) program.

CALLING ALL HANDS *** CALLING ALL HANDS**

Hey there. I am Justin Frehlich. Retired CMDCM and Lifetime SVA member. Prior tours of duty include three tours with NMCB4 and one tour as Force Master Chief, Pacific Fleet Seabees. As you read the attached, I can truly use your help. Please be a "Live Donor." Thank you.

**Are you the one? Can you be the One?
Will you be the One?**

90,000 people are waiting each year for a kidney transplant.
5,000 of them die. Over 20,000 kidney transplants
are performed each year in the U.S.
8,000 of them are from Live Donors.

You can be a Live Donor. You can save a life!
**My wife Dora needs a kidney. My daughter
Theresa needs a kidney and pancreas with a dying
friend or family member being the donor.**

BE A HERO!

*Contact the Living Donor Coordinator at:
Jeffrey.klister@aah.org, 414-646-0584.
More information is available at: www.unos.org*

Remember their names, Dora and Theresa Frehlich



Here is a little known fact: The father of the Seabees, Admiral Ben Moreell had a baseball stadium named after him in Aliquippa, PA. Admiral Moreell, after retirement from the Navy, worked for the steel industry in the Pittsburgh area. This is a picture of the entrance to the field as it exists today. Photo supplied by Island X-3 Commander David Wojtaszek.

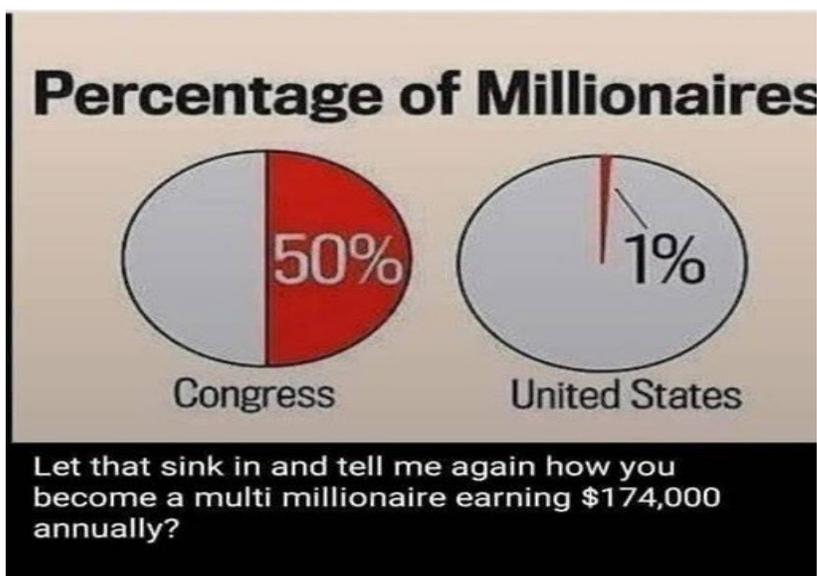
NOW HEAR THIS NOW HEAR THIS NOW HEAR THIS AGAIN

- At the National Convention in San Antonio, Texas on August 16th thru 19th, Election of many National Officers will take place, including the office of Treasurer. Jerry Schmuck has decided it is time to step down from the position he has held for 14 years. Jerry's departure leaves the NSVA in need of an individual with a background in financial and accounting principles with a good working knowledge of electronic accounting programs. All candidates will be interviewed by the nomination committee and should have a resume' or BIO outlining their skills, experience, and involvement in the NSVA.
- **SECOND NOTICE:** To cut publication costs of the CAN DO the National Secretary has been authorized to institute a program that will remove members from the mailing list of the magazine if they cannot be located or their mailing address verified in response to his request. Post cards are being mailed out requesting member contact information be updated. Failure to provide this information may result in a members **Removal** from the CAN DO mailing list.
- Important proposed changes to the NSVA Constitution & By-Laws as reviewed at the 2022 National Convention, are posted on the website. Additional resolutions and recommendations for 2023 have been posted there as well. Review these important issues under the Resolutions tab on the NSVA website at www.nsva.org and be prepared to vote on them if you are a Registered Delegate at the National Convention.

The Deadline for the FALL 2023 electronic edition of the **CAN DO** is September 1st 2023



**"You can't get rich in politics unless you're a crook."
-- Harry S. Truman**





Doug Bower's Seabee Float in the Camillus NY Memorial Day Parade. Pictures from Doug



Here is the pic from X-19 visit to Camp Clark and the Sea Cadets. Pictured from left to right are LTJG Jackie Shostack, John Rybak, CDR Melissa Hanavan, Pete Skowron and Jim Hilgers



Pictured L-R are Brian Ford and Island X-10 CDR Paul Wilson in Port St. Lucie, FL. Their Fundraiser was in the St. Lucie Mets Stadium.

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.

77th NATIONAL CONVENTION AND REUNION REGISTRATION FORM



AUGUST 16-19, 2023 San Antonio Texas

Last day to Register at hotel

July 17 2023

!!!!!!!!! 1 REGISTRATION FOR EACH ATTENDEE!!!!!!!!!

Name; _____ Membership _____ Auxiliary _____ Annual _____ Life # _____

Mailing address; _____

E-mail; _____ Phone # _____

Island X- _____ City _____ St. _____ SEABEE'S Year of Birth _____

Positions held in Island _____

Positions held in National _____

Unit _____, Unit _____, Unit _____, Unit _____, Unit _____

DATES	EVENTS: Details available on following pages.	COST	TOTAL COST
	Mail checks to: Charles Coffin 2047 Ridge Road Queensbury NY 12804		
	Convention Registration fee for the 2023 Convention and Reunion A Registration fee is required for each convention attendee Registration Fees are Non-Refundable	\$20.00	\$20.00
8/19/2023	SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET		
	Top Sirloin	\$50.00	
	Chicken	\$50.00	
	Salmon Fillet	\$50.00	
	Vegetarian option	\$50.00	
	All meals include, water, Iced Tea, Coffee, and a Dessert		
	TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$	
	NO REFUNDS ON DINNER FEE AFTER 7/17/2023		

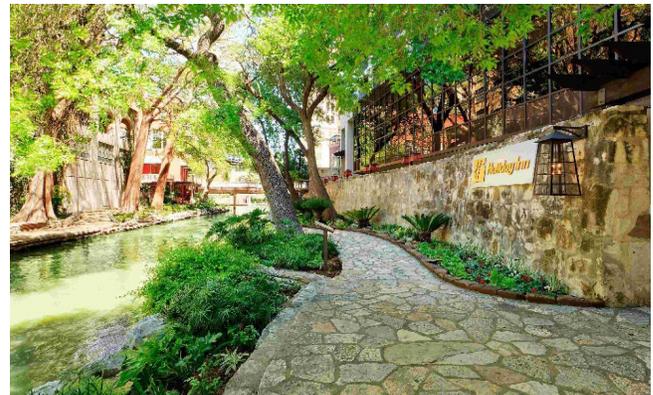
**Please make checks payable to NSVA,
with "Convention" on the memo line.**

San Antonio Texas

Come Help us celebrate the

NSVAA 75th Anniversary

Visit the Alamo
Historic River Walk



2023 National Convention

Hotel info

217 N. St. Mary's Street

San Antonio, TX 78205

Room rates available from

Tue August 15,2023- Sat August 19,2023

\$139 + taxes

24-hour reservation phone number at **210-224-2500** group's block code: **NSB**

last day to make reservations at your group discount will be on: **July 17, 2023**

\$15 Full American breakfast buffet is available to you at the discounted price

Office San Antonio Visitor Guide Link

<https://www.flipsnack.com/F8CC58BBDC9/visit-san-antonio/full-view.html>

Álamo

300 Álamo Plaza San Antonio TX

Phone 210 225-1391

Open Daily 9 am to 5:30 pm

Trip is being planned for Saturday Aug. 16th at 1 for attendees

Walking distant about 5 long blocks from hotel

Transportation Taxi, Uber LYFE Estimate around \$8.00 1 way.

Go Rio Cruises Riverwalk boat ride

Boat pickup location ½ block south from hotel.

Open daily 10 am to 10 pm

Cost \$ 11:50 seniors or veteran

Duration: 35 minutes

Market Square (Mercado) Free

514 W Commerce St. San Antonio, TX 78207

Open daily 10 am to 5:30 pm

Explore over 100 locally owned businesses that provide a unique marketplace experience.

Walking distant about 5 long blocks from hotel

Transportation Taxi, Uber LYFE Estimate around \$8.00 1 way.

Tower of the Americas

750 Ft Tower where you will get a beautiful skyline view of our city.

<https://www.toweroftheamericas.com/location/tower-of-the-americas/>

The Chart house restaurant is a revolving eatery on top of the 750 ft tower where you will get a beautiful skyline view of our city.

Observation Deck only \$16:00

Dining – No entrance cost Reservation recommend. Will take walk-in possible longer waiting time.

NSVA ISLAND X-1 San Antonio TX, 1st Annual Golf Tournament

Fort Sam Houston Golf Course, Monday August 14th, 2023

1050 Harry Wurzbach Rd. San Antonio, Texas 78209

Shot gun start @ 09:00, Lunch Provided

Entry fee \$150 single, \$500 Foursome, (off base no ID req.)

Putting contest 07:30, Chipping contest 08:00, Silent Auction

Contact Benny Hernandez @ bennyhernandezsr@gmail.com or 210-999-1076

CALLING ALL HANDS NOW HEAR THIS!! THE NATIONAL ISLAND AT LARGE IS REACTIVATED!

I am Dwight K. Hamborsky your Commander for the NIAL. How to join is as follows:

1. Go to the NSVA Website download and print the Application for Membership
2. Top line write AT LARGE after Island and your State
3. Recommended by: print Dwight Hamborsky and the Date.
4. Select your age bracket and write a check
5. Mail to Charlie Coffin and you are DONE

Looking forward to seeing you on the WELCOME ABOARD page of the CAN DO.

Cordially,

Dwight K. Hamborsky

Commander Island At Large

Vice Commander NSVA





Navy Seabee Veterans of America



A lot has changed in the past 81 years!

One thing that hasn't changed is Seabee camaraderie. We are having fun just being together and sharing our stories and if you have served in a Seabee unit, we would invite you to join us and add your stories to ours!



nsva.org





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.



BUILD IT RIGHT. BUILD IT SAFE. BUILD IT UNION.

Since 1881



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SEABEE PRIDE



This spring the CAN DO editor received the following note from John Rose member of Island X-5 West Valley AZ it read: The latest CAN DO edition (Vol 33, Ed 1, Spring 2023) has a world map titled "Seabees Sacrifice World Wide" on Page 7 that contains a glaring omission. It shows the rating badges of the Seabees but is missing Engineering Aid. Since I sacrificed in Viet Nam, Iraq and Antarctica I am a little offended. After contacting John, he shared with us the following pictures of his 1972 Ford Bronco. He confided, I keep meaning to get some photos four wheeling in red rock country, but forget. Here are some I took at home. I have had it 43 years and it has 300,000 miles on it. Brought our babies home from the hospital in it!

Submitted by John Rose Member X-5 West Valley, AZ

Blessings to you
and your families!



Thank you
for your service
to our country!



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Email: dfurey@fureylaw.net Web: fureylaw.net

Conventions and Reunions

2023 NSVA National Convention

August 15th thru August 19th, 2023

Contact Holiday Inn, 217 N. St. Mary's St. @ 210-224-2500 for reservation
(NSVA reg. form pg.14) San Antonio, Texas

Seabee Invitational Golf @ www.seabeegolf.org

The 8th ALL SEABEE REUNION PICNIC 11:00, Aug. 12, 2023

Douglas Dam Overlook Park, Hwy 338/Douglas River Way, Kodak, TN

Contact Dave Howard at 865-933-5686 or tok500@yahoo.com

NMCB 62 Reunion, Harpers Ferry, WV 703-785-1428 Sept. 14-17

MCB 7 All-Era Reunion, Nashville, TN Sept 14-17 jandjtanger@yahoo.com

MCB 1 Swarm/Reunion, Davisville, RI Sept. 22-29 purfectstorm@comcast.net

Seabee Celebration, Davisville, RI Saturday Sept. 23rd info@seabeehf.org

CBMU 302 Reunion, Boise ID Sept 28-30 peggiev@pocketinet.com

NMCB 23 All Era Reunion CPOAA Decom, Washington DC Oct 6-8 tbrucehanna@gmail.com

NMCB 16 Reunion Picnic, Saturday Oct. 7 cnortoneqcm@yahoo.com

NMCB 3 Veterans Reunion Assoc., October 18 thru 23rd, 2023 Nashville, TN

Radisson Nashville Airport, Contact Dennis Strecker @ seabee6568@gmail.com or 262-443-0223

EAST COAST ALL SEABEE REUNION, PIGEON FORGE, TN

October 22nd thru 26th 2023 Contact Dave Howard at 865-933-5686 or tok500@yahoo.com

The Original Seabees 81 years and counting

How Seabees Prepared a 6,000 Ship Armada, 1942-1944, for the Invasion of Normandy:

The 29th Naval Construction Battalion in the Amphibious Operation and the D-day Landing

WRITTEN BY: SUZANNE POOL, daughter of Chief Warrant Officer James A. Pool

With the beginning of the World War II, the urgent need for a separate Naval construction force was recognized and was created under Rear Admiral Ben Moreell on 5 January 1942. Since he was looking for professionals, he expanded the age range for recruits up to 50 years old. These men would become known as "Seabees" from the initials of their motto, *Construimus, Batuimus, "We Build, We Fight."* By the end of the war 325,000 men had served as Seabees in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Eager to join the fighting forces, James A. Pool, 42 years old, a former boxer, merchant marine and home builder, submitted his application on July 10, 1942, but wasn't sworn into the Navy until September 22, 1942 in Cincinnati. He reported for training at Norfolk, VA the next day. On November 8, 1942 a small article with his photo in his Naval uniform appeared

in the Cincinnati Enquirer with the heading, "Builder in Navy," and stated that James A. Pool, designer and builder had been commissioned Warrant Officer

////////////////////////////////////
"Eager to join the fighting forces, James A. Pool, 42 years old, a former boxer, merchant marine and home builder, submitted his application on July 10, 1942"
////////////////////////////////////

in the US Navy with the 29th Naval Construction Battalion and was stationed at Camp Bradford, Norfolk, VA.

After a month of training at Camp Bradford, the 29th NCB arrived at Davisville, R.I. The first wave of the battalion, consisting of 12 officers and 725 men, departed from New York harbor on 5 November 1942

for Great Britain and the second wave, consisting of 282 enlisted men and 14 officers, including Pool, departed on 8 December on the converted luxury liner RMS

Queen Mary. Refitted as a troop transport for the war, the massive ship carried 10,389 servicemen and 950 crew on this historic voyage to Scotland. Pool wrote in a letter to his wife that they had a "rough trip," one that he "never will forget." On 16 December they arrived at the port of Rosneath Bay on the Gare Loch, Scotland. Despite being a prize target for all German naval

captains, by 1945 Queen Mary had transported over 765,000 mostly US troops across the Atlantic.

The first Seabee unit to arrive in Europe, the 29th battalion reorganized at Rosneath, Scotland—one of the four original lend-lease naval bases created for both British and American use. Known as "Base II," Rosneath was bordered by the deep-water Firth of Clyde and was just 40 miles from Glasgow. The historic castle of the Duchess of Argyll, built in 1860, became the base headquarters for US Naval commanders and the quarters for some of the officers. From 1943 through 1944, the base was the main receiving station for thousands of US soldiers and sailors, who then were transferred to various training areas in Great Britain to prepare for the invasion.

After his arrival at Rosneath, Pool spent about three weeks there before he was ordered to move.



Troops on landing craft approaching the Omaha beach.
(Photo courtesy NHHC photo archives)

The personnel of the 29th CB were distributed at various bases throughout the UK during their next 21 months of service, including Gare Loch, Finnart and Exeter in Scotland; Londonderry, Ireland; Penarth and Milford Haven, Wales; and in England—Appledore, Falmouth, Fowey, Plymouth, Dartmouth, Teignmouth, Salcombe, and St. Mawes, with headquarters in London, Exeter and Heathfield. In a letter Pool explained that he moved around so much because his company-- "D" --had 7 branches in all parts of the British Isles and he had a variety of jobs. Not only was he in charge of ordnance and the armory, he was often on sea duty for weeks at a time, directing and training crews of landing crafts, such as LCVs and Rhino ferries. When he was ashore, his work involved overseeing construction of hangars and barracks, the installation of pipelines: "We have done a lot of pipeline work in parts of Scotland and built tank farms and pipelines on docks to pumping stations."

The construction of a fuel pipelines near Rosneath Bay area had been underway since 1942, but the challenges caused by the rugged terrain and ceaseless rainfall extended the difficult task started by civilian contractors. Within a year of their arrival in Britain, the 29th completed the pipeline and several other projects, including three pumping stations and fuel lines, three boiler houses, a 150-foot pier with roads and services, 50 Quonset huts, a recreation building, and installation of anti-aircraft 40-mm. and 20-mm. gun emplacements on many landing crafts and ships. During the year before the invasion, the 29th was deployed in southern England to

prepare small vessels and landing craft for the invasion.

In the spring of 1942, the Germans had increased their attacks on Allied merchant marine ships and also began to target US naval ships with torpedoes from their U-boats (Unterseeboot, under-sea-boat, or submarine). On 4 May 1943 Pool said: "I spent a big part of the day on a captured German sub." One US submarine "got 3 German ships and one sub." But until the Normandy invasion, German subs and E-boats (Schnellboot, or S-Boot ") still haunted the waters around the southern English coast and the Channel. There were many deaths during this pre-invasion period. Pool recalled sending the belongings of man in his company killed during training back to his family and attending the service in his honor.

"Important admirals of our Navy and British ones" would make visits to the military bases and training exercises, according to Pool. Three Admirals from London came "to give four of our boy's medals." The Seabees in Great Britain were under the command of Rear Admiral John Wilkes, Commander Landing Craft and Bases, Europe (COMLANCRABEU) who trained over 87, 000 men to sail, maintain and repair over 2500 ships and craft and to maintain five Advanced Amphibious Training Bases as well as numerous smaller bases.

In September of 1943 Pool and 50 enlisted men headed to Falmouth, a small town "with a lovely beach" on the southern coast. The next month he moved again, this time to St. Maws. He wrote: "I just came in on a landing barge and seas were so rough they came over the top.



(ABOVE) 1943 Airmail letter from CWO Pool to his wife (note the censor marking).



(LEFT) Chief Warrant Officer J. A. Pool, father of Suzanne Pool, author of this article



(ABOVE) WWII Map of Great Britain.



(RIGHT) February 11, 1944 Medal Presentation for 29th NCB officers of the battalion at Exter Base included (l-r) Lt. D.E. Rogers, Lt. W.B. Norton and Chief Warrant Officer J. A. Pool.

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"The first to arrive on the beaches of Normandy were the Seabees in thirty-two Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs) along with Army engineers."
////////////////////////////////////



We all got wet. I am living in a big English house when I'm ashore and have 4 officers in my room and 10 in the house. I'm the only Seabee officer on the base—all the rest are line officers. Have to go now for a chance to take a bath." When they returned from sea-duty, they all needed baths to wash off the salt from getting drenched by the waves.

In the spring Pool and his men were moved to Plymouth, "one of the most bombed out cities in Britain." He remarked how it had changed since he was first there: "You never saw Americans, now you see them all over and the bays are full of American ships. I have been here over 2 years...some of the boys longer. Had a big raid last night which lasted 3 hours. I had just gotten undressed and ran to the air raid shelter in my bare feet."

In a letter of 3 April, 1944, he explained to his wife: "There is little I can tell you, because I am the censor. If I was caught, I'd never hear the end of it." Within two weeks he was on the move again to "right back where I started in Falmouth and will be here until the big show starts." He drove down in a jeep and was living in a hut on the beach with another junior officer because the town was overcrowded." The British

people couldn't help but notice the growing number of troops in southern England-- a jump from 8,000 American personnel in 1942 to over one million in 1944. In another letter Pool commented: "all are waiting for that D-Day which won't be long." His letter of 2 June indicated the big day was approaching: "This will be the last news for a while."

Meanwhile General Eisenhower and the SHAEF team at Southwick House had to decide whether or not to postpone D-Day. The critical call depended upon the weather—due to a possible storm and cloud cover, they did postpone the invasion from 5 June to 6 June. Operation Neptune's commander Admiral Ramsay's orders were "to see that the attacking forces arrive at the beaches in time, that their landings receive adequate support, and that thereafter the build-up of our forces on the mainland proceeds as rapidly and as well as possible." To accomplish this mission was an armada of over six thousand ships and smaller vessels to transport thousands of troops and their vehicles and equipment.

The pre-invasion departure schedules for the five fleets were very complicated, not only logistically, but in regards to proper timing of arrival on the five landing beaches in Normandy—Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and

Sword. "Force U", the first to depart because Utah beach was the furthest, consisted of 12 separate convoys sailing from Belfast, Plymouth, Torquay, Weymouth and Dartmouth.

The first to arrive on the beaches of Normandy were the Seabees in thirty-two Naval Combat Demolition Units (NCDUs) along with Army engineers. They crossed the Channel in LSTs carrying smaller rubber crafts loaded with tons of explosives to blow the steel hedgehogs, clear mines and other beach obstacles. In the first light of day, the demolition teams came under intense German fire causing a great number of casualties but nevertheless were successful in their missions. Following the minesweepers, which cleared two shipping lanes for each of the five beaches, came the battleships which blasted the German bunker positions with their 14-inch guns. Then came the Seabees of the 25th NC Regiment—the 111th CB at Omaha and the 28th and 81st at Utah-- bringing pontoon causeways onto the beach to be used by the landing infantry. More Seabees manned Higgins boats and Rhino ferries loaded with troops, jeeps, trucks and bulldozers. During the Channel- crossing, the Rhinos were towed by larger LSTs. In the rough seas the tow-lines would

suddenly jerk, causing the men to get knocked off their feet.

Pool later told how the men were wretchedly seasick during the crossing due to the peaking and plunging 8-to-10-foot waves. The anxious troops on the barges asked Pool to lead them in the "Our Father" prayer. When the LCIs and Rhino ferries approached Omaha Beach, German fire rained upon them so intensely that some of the coxswains tried to reverse their crafts off the beaches, but this created a traffic jam for the following wave. The barges which weren't destroyed or sunk made numerous trips back and forth bringing more troops and equipment to the beaches and returning with the dead and injured.

The Seabees were also responsible for the construction of offshore docks and harbors to facilitate the hundreds of vessels unloading tons of military material. They sank old cargo ships to form breakwaters—called Gooseberries--and towed across the Channel huge concrete "Phoenixes" to form floating artificial harbors known as Mulberries. By 5 July the Seabees helped to bring to shore thousands of tons of vehicles and artillery as well as more than a million Allied soldiers.

Pool wrote to his wife in mid-July:

Cont. "We haven't stopped moving for the last month over water and land." He and 10 other men from the 29th NCB went to Omaha beach at the beginning of July, to assess the condition of the Cherbourg Harbor. Seabees from the 25th Regiment then made repairs to restore the ports of Cherbourg and Le Havre, which had been heavily damaged by the retreating Germans. Within a month the harbors were fully functional. By the 21st Pool was staying in a hotel outside of Teignmouth, where the battalion assembled before departure from Britain. The historical log of the 29th NCB shows the battalion embarked on the Queen Mary 4 September, 1944, arriving at New York on September 12th, 1944. On 15 September, 1944 they arrived back in Davisville. After a 30 day leave the men of the 29th prepared for their next deployment Samar and Leyte in the Pacific where they would continue to "Build and Fight" to the end of the war. Pool finally returned home in July of 1945 and continued to serve in the reserves for several years. The 29th one of the few units to serve in both the Atlantic and Pacific campaigns, received a unit commendation from Admiral Harold Stark for "Outstanding services in support of the Amphibious Assault on the continent of Europe".

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A Veteran's Perspective

In 1994, I made a life-altering decision. I realized that Lindenwood College was not the right path for me, and instead, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserves. After two years, I was drawn to active duty, but due to President Clinton's military drawdown, I faced my first bureaucratic hurdle. As a prior service member, I was not allowed to go on active duty with the Marines. However, a glimmer of hope surfaced in the prospect of becoming a Navy Seabee. As a Marine, the idea of joining the Navy - or becoming a 'squid' as we Marines would say - was a tough pill to swallow. Yet, to my surprise, I discovered my calling in construction while simultaneously serving my country.

Until the events of September 11th, I perceived Memorial Day as most Americans did - the unofficial start of summer, a day for barbecues, sales, and relaxation. However, after the towers fell and I completed my first tour in Iraq, my perspective drastically shifted. Operating in an environment where the enemy aimed to demolish our work, where indirect mortar fire added an unanticipated twist to the normal job site complications, was a sobering experience. Phone calls home were interrupted by explosions, and I found myself masking reality, explaining the sounds as mere truck backfires to my wife to alleviate her fears.

Two days after our first deployment to Iraq, we received the devastating news that NMCB-14, the unit who had just relieved ours, had lost seven service members. These were individuals we had joked and laughed with not long ago, exchanging casual warnings about mortar rounds. By the time I left the Seabees, I had been fortunate not to lose anyone I had spent significant time serving with. Unfortunately, that changed in 2011 when my friend BUC (SCW/FMF) Raymond Border was killed by an IED in Afghanistan. The moment I heard the news, it felt like the world had stopped, even though in reality, America kept on moving, seemingly oblivious to Ray's sacrifice and the profound loss suffered by his family.

Over the past two decades of the War on Terror, Missouri has lost 56 brave souls, the last one being Jared Schmitz, who tragically fell during the Kabul airport attack in August 2021. These losses underscore the true costs of war, borne by a small fraction of American families. No measure of gratitude can adequately honor their sacrifices, but that does not absolve us from trying. Veterans returning home often grapple with physical injuries, mental health issues like PTSD, and the struggle of transitioning back into civilian life. The VA's response to these complex issues is often a cocktail of pills - pills for pain, pills for the mind, and more pills to counteract the adverse effects of the first set.

Regrettably, many Americans, particularly those without personal connections to the military, have become detached from the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women. It is just something they see on the TV, another news story, another statistic. But we must remember that behind every number is a life, a family, and a story of sacrifice.

As we observe Memorial Day, it is crucial that we pledge more than just lip service to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We need to ask ourselves: Are we worthy of their sacrifice, or do we need to do better? So, while you are enjoying your time off work, take a moment to reflect on the gift these service members have given us.

We must challenge ourselves to strive for better, for it is a debt we owe to the courageous men and women who risked their lives to safeguard our freedoms. We owe it to Jared Schmitz, the 55 other fallen Missourians, and the countless veterans who return home, forever transformed by their experiences. This Memorial Day, let us confront the troubling question: Have we, as a nation, forgotten their sacrifice, allowing the gap between the civilian and military worlds to widen to the point where we no longer recognize their service?

In honoring those who have given so much, we must also seize this moment to strive towards becoming better Americans. It is a call to treat our fellow citizens with respect, kindness, and understanding. Remember, we are all beneficiaries of the freedoms they fought for, and we share the responsibility to uphold the principles that make our nation great. It is a day to introspect: Are we doing enough to honor these brave souls? Are we living up to the ideals they defended? If the answer is no, then we must rise to the challenge, pledge to be better Americans, neighbors, friends, and work collectively to build a nation that genuinely honors those who have given their all for our liberty. Because we are all Americans, and we all have the power to effect change.



14th NCB "Elevated Gas Station" on Guadalcanal. Just like the Ford Model A gas tank (gravity did the work) no need for a pump of any kind (manual or electric). This is "nose art" at its finest. Photo courtesy of John Ratowski

Scholarship Donations

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

Donations should be mailed directly to: Charles Coffin

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

- A donation of \$250.00 was made by Island X-9 Kingston, NY to the Davisville Museum and Memorial Park.
- A donation of \$25.00 was made by Island X-2 Columbus, OH to the SMSA in the name of Richard Stedman.
- A donation of \$25.00 was made by Island X-5 Lancaster, PA to the SMSA in the name of Donald W. Groff.
- A donation of \$25.00 was made by Island X-5 Lancaster to the SMSA in the name of Stanley G. Schaffer.
- A donation of \$25.00 was made by Island X-5 Lancaster, PA to the SMSA in the name of Jerome T. Reed.
- A donation of \$100.00 was made by Chapter 554 VVA, Mass to the SMSA in the name of Roy Renzoni.



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
Lloyd Hackman	6994	X-5	Surprise	AZ
Tammy Holloway	6995	X-3	Blairsville	GA
Reanold Harris	6996	X-26	Camargo	IL
Louis Morse	6997	NIAL	Conway	SC
Ronald Baldwin	6998	24 th Batt	Chinquapin	NC
Robert Bennet	6999	24 th Batt	Asheboro	NC
Stefan Neuhaus	7000	X-9	Kingston	NY
Louis Roy	7001	X-19	Daytona Beach	FL
John Faro	7002	X-2	Lakeland	FL
William Brown	7003	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Robert Slebodick	7004	X-6	Johnstown	PA
Julio Frisancho	7005	X-1	Gulfport	MS
Linda Kixie	7006	X-24 Battl		
Rodney McKenney	7007	X-5	Akron	OH
Bruce Reed	7008	X-3	Fallon	NV
Stephan Manskie	7009	X-3	Fallon	NV
Clyde Folz	7010	X-3	Fallon	NV
David Lee	7011	X-4	Manitowoc	WI
Wane Walcott	7012	NIAL	Temecula	CA
John Steger	7013	X-5	Akron	OH
William Slattery	7014	X-9	Jacksonville	FL

Josh Smith	7015	X-9	Jacksonville	FL
Robert Finney	7016	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Jesse Escamilla	7017	X-1	San Antonio	TX
Gary Mortensen	7018	X-2	Twin Cities	MN
Roy Kengsley	7019	X-2	Twin Cities	MN
Chad Swensen	7020	24 th Batt	Cooksville	TN
Thomas Yant	7021	NIAL	Stillwater	OK
Jose Del Rosario	7022	24 th Batt	Lebanon	TN
Allen Wilson	7023	24 th Batt	Trenton	GA
George Mayo	7024	24 th Batt	Portsmouth	OH
Matt Reynolds	7025	24 th Batt	Laurens	SC
Jack Thompson	7026	24 th Batt	Ooltewah	TN
Virgil Packard	7027	24 th Batt	Chattanooga	TN
Bobby Bills	7028	24 th Batt	St. Marys	WV

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



FINAL SALUTE

COMPILED BY THE NATIONAL SECRETARY, AS REPORTED BY THEIR ISLANDS AND UNITS NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.



CONSTRUIMUS, BATUIMUS - WE BUILD, WE FIGHT

First Name	Last Name	Island	Life Number	City	State
Richard L.	Brown Jr	X-1	5476	Gulfport	MS
Maurice A.	Aasland	X-5	5058	Whidbey Island	WA
Andrews	Joseph	X-1	4631	Davisville	RI
Herbert J.	Denny Jr	24 th Batt	5088	At Large	
David, L.	Bell	X-1	1254	Davisville	RI
David L.	Dague	X-8	5611	Lee County	FL
Edwin C.	Bezanson	X-1	4771	Davisville	RI
James A	Totin	X-19	6419	Alsip	IL
Robert J.	Considine	X-1	6170	Davisville	RI
Joseph C.	D'Abrosca	X-1	4067	Davisville	RI

Gary J.	Maddox	X-5	6294	Cape Girardeau	MO
Nicholas R.	Dalindroca	X-1	6545	Davisville	RI
Richard E.	Edgerton	X-1	6368	Davisville	RI
William O.	Grimshaw	X-1	2758	Davisville	RI
Paul F.	Cunningham	X-7	6476	Port Hueneme	CA
Rene A.	Herbert	X-1	4113	Davisville	RI
Donald L.	Kuepker	X-1	3744	Davisville	RI
David R.	Leasure	X-1	4433	Davisville	RI
Ronald M.	LeVan	X-5	2889	Buffalo	NY
Normand R.	Langlais	X-1	3787	Davisville	RI
Joseph H.	Petit	X-1	4507	Davisville	RI
Donald G.	Reingardt	X-1	3344	Davisville	RI
Edward A.	Dinges	X-6	5522	Spokane	WA
Arthur L.	Skaggs	X-1	2233	Davisville	RI
John	Silliphant	X-1	3990	Davisville	RI
Chester E.	Thomas, Jr	X-1	4226	Davisville	RI
Kenneth L.	Waldron	X-1	4707	Davisville	RI
Alexander R.	Zanecchia	X-1	2710	Davisville	RI
Stanley J.	Galloway	X-2	5196	Pueblo	CO
Robert M.	Horigan	X-1	3355	Davisville	RI
Richard K.	Duckworth, Jr	X-1	3324	Davisville	RI
Martin S.	Tarlaian	X-6	6287	Wilmington	MA
Charlie	Futrell	X-5	Annual	Cape Fear	NC
Donald E.	Andrews	X-1	Annual	Davisville	RI
Daniel B.	Buckley	X-1	Annual	Davisville	RI
Joseph N.	Cormier	X-1	Annual	Davisville	RI
William B.	Weston	X-1	Annual	Davisville	RI
Dale E.	Smelser	X-1	Annual	Greenville	TN
Joseph E.	Bashour	X-1	Annual	Davisville	RI
Mike	Gaffney	X-1	Annual	San Antonio	TX
Dean M.	Connett	X-1	Annual	Kearny	NE
James	Tobin	X-9	Annual	Cleveland	OH

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 member passing as soon as possible. Be sure to include the members Life Member number (if applicable) and their Island/Unit affiliation. To view more deceased Seabee names, go to the Seabee Historical Foundation website at www.seabeehf.org

Navy Seabee Veterans of America Ship Store Order Form

Make Checks Payable to NSVA

Mail Form to: NSVA Ship Store Atten: Betty/Ernie Nelson

5142 Endeavour Ave. Dover, FL. 33527 (Questions Call: 813-376-3947)

Shipping Information

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Shipping cost :\$1 per patch				
	Quantity	Cost	Shipping	Total
SVA Shirt Patch (3.75"x3.5") \$7.00				
SVA Garrison Cap Patch (2.25"x2.25") \$7.00				
American Flag Patch (3.5"x2.25") \$7.00				
POW/MIA Patch (3"x4") \$7.00				
75 th Convention Patch \$5.00				
Life Member Patch \$5.00				
75 th Anniversary Lapel Pin (1" Diameter) resembles 75 th on coin \$5.00/pin			+\$2 ship/pin	
Uniform Button Covers \$6/SET of 4 +\$2 ship				
\$2.00Shipping /coin >10 Coins \$11.00	Quantity	Coin Cost	Shipping Cost	Total
SVA National Coin \$15.00				
75 th Anniversary Coin \$10				
WindowDecal4/\$10 \$1ship				
Shipping BoloCombo\$5.00 Cord Shipping \$2/cord	Quantity	Bolo/Cord Cost	Shipping Cost	Total
Bolo+Cord \$20.00 Bolo Slide only \$15.00				
Bolo Cord only \$10				
Coin Combo special \$20 = 1 National + 1 75th save \$5				
GRAND TOTAL				
CALL 813-376-3947 FOR LG ORDERS TO POSSIBILITY REDUCE SHIPPING COST				



May 2023



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Name _____
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Cap orders will be sent in Quarterly and at convention

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\$75 per Garrison cap

Size _____

Vinyl Cap Bag add \$5.00

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Cap \$75.00

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Call for large orders and special postage rates

Circle color corresponding to position

Fill in the blanks

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X- _____ S.V.A.

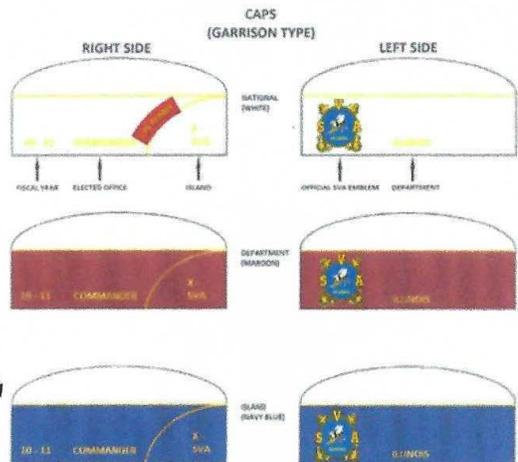
Dates _____

Position _____

Life Member if applicable _____

Left Side

State _____



May 2023



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Email _____ Phone ____ - ____ - _____

The Official NSVA uniform is described Under "Constitution" on page 23 Rituals and Procedures on the NSVA.org website.

Each Uniform shirt includes the SVA patch, USA Flag patch, POW patch, Life Member patch if applicable, and 4 gold button covers. Collars will be embroidered with your Island on the left collar and SVA on the Right collar. If you are a "Member At Large" SVA will be on both collars.

Shirt cost is **\$85.00** *Patches, embroidery, button covers and Shipping included*

Circle color: BLUE WHITE

Size circle S M LG XL 2XL 3XL 4XL 5XL

Island X-_____

Life member patch? Circle **Yes** or **No**

Official Bolo \$20 extra White Burgundy Blue

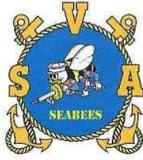
Circle color and length of cord 36" or 42"



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May 2023



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Email _____ Phone ____ - ____ - _____

Customer Signature _____

This is a custom order, not subject to change, refund or cancellation.

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL	Flag	POW	Life	Sub-total:
Men's Navy Blue Polo Shirt S-XL Shirt w/ Official SVA Patch, and Embroidered name \$ 48.00 American Flag Additional \$ 8.50 POW/MIA Patch Additional \$ 8.50 Life Member Patch Additional \$ 8.50					Plus \$2	Plus \$4	Plus \$6	Plus \$6	\$8.50	\$8.50	\$8.50	
Woman's Navy Blue Polo Shirt Woman's cut polo style no pocket (V neck) S-XL Shirt SVAA patch and Embroidered name \$48.00 American Flag Additional \$8.50 POW/MIA Patch Additional \$8.50					Plus \$2	Plus \$4	Plus \$6		\$8.50	\$8.50	NA	
Shipping per shirt \$10.00 *												
Total												

* If you are buying more than one shirt please contact the manager for a possible savings on shipping. 813-376-3947



May 2023