

# ***THE*** **MARINER**

2014 Summer Edition | Volume 57 · Issue 2

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association



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Sailors of the Year with  
MCPON Stevens and  
ADM Michelle Howard

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*Cover: Hospital Corpsman Chief (Sel) Mahtob Johnson, Fleet Forces Command, Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) Chief (Sel) Paul Marticorena, Reserve Forces, Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Chief (Sel) Matthew Meadows, Pacific Fleet, and Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Chief (Sel) Patricia Madigan, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey/Released) Digital*

The Mariner, an official publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, is devoted to the interests and mutual benefit of its members. Regular Membership is open to all enlisted personnel of the Naval Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve; others may join as Associate Members. Annual dues in the amount of \$3.75 per member is set aside to defray the cost of publishing The Mariner. Single domestic subscription price is \$15 per year. Persons eligible for Regular Membership are not required to pay subscription rates. Articles, letters, and photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor via e-mail to: [marinereditor@nera.org](mailto:marinereditor@nera.org) or NERA Headquarters, Falls Church, VA. Credit will be given for materials used. Letters may be condensed for publication. Articles and letters appearing in The Mariner do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the National Executive Council of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association or the Editor, nor are they to be interpreted as official policy of the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps, United States Coast Guard, or the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The Mariner (ISSN 0164-3029) is published quarterly by the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. Postmaster: Send address change to The Mariner, 6703 Farragut Avenue, Falls Church, VA 22042-2189. For general questions, advertising or to learn more about NERA, e-mail: [members@nera.org](mailto:members@nera.org).



**Geno Koelker**  
National President

## Ahoy Shipmates

I recently attended a graduation ceremony at the Naval Station Great Lakes Recruit Training Command (RTC). The Naval Station Great Lakes was created in 1905 by President Theodore Roosevelt. At the time, it was considered an oddity to have naval training a thousand miles away from any ocean. Also, it was a new idea to train Enlisted Sailors before they joined the Navy. Before 1881, sailors went directly to a ship and were trained on the job. Things have definitely changed over the years, however Enlisted Sailors are still trained with pride, purpose and professionalism. As President of NERA, I feel a duty to these young graduates as they start their naval career.

NERA's mission is to promote and maintain national security by ensuring a strong and well-trained Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reserve by protecting the benefits and privileges Sea Service Reservists have earned with their military service. This might seem like a lofty goal and difficult to obtain. However, NERA can get one step closer to this goal with simple tasks like answering a member's questions about TRICARE, or by closely monitoring Washington's activities. By keeping vigilant on what is happening in the world of the Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reserve, NERA aims to protect military benefits.

The young sailors I saw at graduation are probably unaware of NERA and what we do behind the scenes. NERA can help these young sailors individually and collectively. On a personal level, NERA can offer professional advice, advice on health care, connect Sailors with other peers having similar issues or just offer an experienced voice to talk through some career choices. NERA'S Executive staff truly enjoys talking with our members and are happy to lend a hand. On a national level, we are fighting in Washington to protect the issues we know are important to the Naval, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reserve. The only way NERA can continue our good work is by growing our membership base.

After watching all the parents and grandparents clamoring for gift shop items at the RTC after graduation, I realized that the parents and/or grandparents might be the way to get the younger enlisted men and women involved with NERA. The older generation probably understands more fully the importance of NERA's work and how we can help their family member both individually and collectively. At the upcoming conference in San Antonio, I would like to discuss some marketing ideas about engaging this crowd and increasing our membership numbers. I am looking forward to hearing your ideas on how to increase our membership and how to reach out to these young men and woman beginning their careers.

See you in September in San Antonio.

Smooth Sailing,  
Your President,  
Geno

**And one last note: I would like to thank the League Island Chapter for reaching out to their members and updating all their addresses and emails. This is a tremendous help to NERA's HQ and we would encourage all chapters to the do the same. Good job League Island!**





## VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Chuck Cox**  
NERA  
Vice President

### Hello Shipmates,

This year is already more than half over and NERA's National Conference in San Antonio, TX is right around the corner. It feels like we just left the Chicago conference but time flies when you are busy. I look forward to catching up with the old gang and meeting new faces. Hopefully you have registered for the conference and booked your hotel room. The Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk looks like a great place to stay and it is steps from the Riverwalk. If you get a chance, visit the Alamo, or as Texans call it: the Shrine of Texas Liberty. I am looking forward to this conference for the fun environment and the opportunity it provides to deal with two important NERA issues: folding Members at Large (MALs) into a designated chapter and recruitment.

As you know, the lifeblood of NERA is membership. The best way for NERA to obtain new members is word of mouth. Recruitment from a current NERA member seems to be the most effective marketing tool. In an effort to incentivize everyone, NERA is offering a prize to those who recruit more than two members for 2 years. I would like to brainstorm with everyone at the conference about the best way to get new members. Many of you have had great experiences as recruiters, and your input will be appreciated. The importance of new members needs to be a top priority for NERA. If you cannot attend the conference, please don't hesitate to contact me with your recruiting ideas. I will pass them along to the conference.

The second issue on the table is dealing with NERA MALs. As many of you know, NERA's Members-at-Large (MALs) are a status of individual members not affiliated to any local chapter. NERA needs to restructure this membership status so that all membership is associated to a specific chapter. I would like to thank those who have joined a chapter and would like to encourage those who have not joined to sign up. If you are a MAL and know which chapter you would like to join, please contact Jennifer Abbott at [jabbott@nera.org](mailto:jabbott@nera.org). If you have questions, please contact the NEC Executive Counselor at [nc@nera.org](mailto:nc@nera.org) to learn more about joining a chapter. NERA wants everyone to join the chapter of their choice, but we will have to assign chapters if none is chosen. We can discuss the best way to move forward at the conference.

I am looking forward to seeing you in Texas. If you have any issues or ideas that you would like discussed at NERA's Annual Conference, do not hesitate to contact me.

Chuck Cox  
National Vice President

The best way for NERA to obtain new  
members is word of mouth!  
[www.nera.org](http://www.nera.org).



**Joanne Elliott**  
National Treasurer

### Retirement Pay

Many of you who retired from the Reserves several years before reaching the age of 60 have been contacting me regarding what to do to ensure receipt of retirement pay from DFAS. If your information has been updated in DEERS, you should have a seamless

transition to retirement pay. If you have made several moves over the years since you retired from the Military, you need to visit a military facility and update your information in DEERS. If you are married, you will receive forms within 6 months of retirement, one of which will be your Survivor Benefits election form. You must fill this out even if you did it in the past and submit this with your other forms in your package. Below is more information that you may need:

### Applying for Retirement with Pay Reserve (Non-Regular) Retirements

#### 1 Notification is forwarded in Applying for Retirement with Pay

Notification is forwarded in advance to advise you how to submit an application for retired pay at age 60. If you have not received notification four months prior to your 60th birthday, please contact PERS-912 by calling 1-866-827-5672. The earliest date retired pay may commence is your 60th birthday or the day after completion of 20 years of qualifying service, whichever is later unless early retirement is authorized under NDAA 2008.

#### 2 The following forms must be completed in duplicate and returned to PERS-912 at the address listed below (original signature required on all forms).

- **DD Form 108**, Application for Retired Pay Benefits
- **NAVPERS 1800/13** Questionnaire for Applicants for Retired Pay
- **DFAS-CL Form 1059** Direct Deposit Authorization
- **IRS Form W-4** in duplicate, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate

#### 3 Complete processing of an application normally takes several months. Please include your social security number on all correspondence. If you have a change of any information, before your 60th birthday, please report the update to PERS-912 by calling 1-866-827-5672 immediately.

#### 4 Mail all forms with original signatures to:

Commander  
Navy Personnel Command (PERS-912)  
5720 Integrity Drive  
Millington, TN 38055

Do not fax or email retirement with pay requests, original signatures are required.

#### 5 Specific guidance and additional information may be found at Guidance for Submitting Application for Retired Pay Benefits.

#### 6 If you are transferring to the retired pay status from a drilling status current policy requires endorsements from.

### Space A Travel Update

You can now view Space A Travel on Facebook. In the search field, type in "Joint Base" and you will see a list of air terminals. This will give you flights for the next three days, as well as seat availability. Also check <http://www.amc.af.mil/>

[amctravel/](http://www.amc.af.mil/) for more information on signing up for Space A. If you desire to travel using the Space-A program, the AMC Passenger Terminals will need the following information: Name, Rank, Service Branch, Status, Space-A Category,



and the number of seats you require, dates of travel and of course, destination choices. Sign-up via email or at the terminal. It is easy. Just determine the AMC Passenger Terminal you desire to travel from and send them an email or walk-in with the required information (AMC Form 140). Email addresses and other contact information can

be found on this site in the “AMC Travel Contacts” document or by visiting one of our Passenger Terminal Social Media pages. Further information will be required when you “Mark Email addresses for each AMC Terminal are located in the AMC TRAVEL CONTACTS or visit their Facebook Page Present” for travel and at Check-In.

## Burial at Sea

If you would like information on the procedure for Burial at Sea, contact Navy-Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs at 1-866-787-0081 and follow the voice prompts. You can also send an email to NAVMORT@navy.mil. You will need to fill out a Burial at Sea form and forward that with a copy of the death certificate, the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate, and a copy of the member’s DD214, discharge certificate or retirement order.

The Navy Mortuary Affairs will provide documentation on how to send the urn or casket, as well as a list of ports of embarkation/coordinators. The ceremony is conducted while the ship is deployed and family members are not permitted to attend the ceremony. The ship’s Commanding Officer will notify the family of the date, time, latitude and longitude, once the committal service has been completed.

## POST 9/11 GI Bill

*By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret), Deputy Executive Director*

The Post 9/11 GI Bill was signed into law in July of 2008. NERA wants to make members aware of some of these new benefits and different methodologies. The following is a highlight of key areas of the Post GI Bill:

- Veterans who served 90 days or more of active duty since September 10, 2001 are qualified for these benefits. (Excludes: termination due to defective enlistment; service used for loan repayment; Selected Reserve service used for Montgomery GI Bill or Reserve Education Assistance Program.)
- National Guard and Reserve members have the same benefits as those on active duty.
- Up to 100% tuition and fee coverage.
- Monthly housing stipends are authorized.
- Up to \$1,000 a year for books.
- Authorizes a one-time relocation allowance.
- Option to transfer benefits to a family member.
- Some license, certification tests, work study programs, and tutorial reimbursements.
- Minimum 30 days continuous active duty for service-connected disabled to qualify.
- Must be discharged or released under honorable conditions.

Payments are tiered based on the amount of time served on active duty as follows:

Post 9/11 Service	% of Max. Payment
<b>36 or more months consecutive:</b>	100%
<b>30 or more continuous days and discharged with:</b>	
a service disability.*	100%
30 cumulative months *	90%
24 cumulative months **	80%
18 cumulative months **	70%
12 cumulative months **	60%
6 cumulative months **	50%
90 or more aggregate days **	40%
*includes entry level or skills training	
**excludes entry level or skills training	

VA issues a Certificate of Eligibility based on the member’s submission of VA Form 22-1990. The Department of Defense must provide VA with eligibility information before VA can make payments.



Credit: Architect of the Capitol



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

## Summer of 2014

*By Michael P. Hughes, OSC, USNR (ret.), Deputy Executive Director*

As of this writing, there are two main legislative issues pending in Congress. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2015 and legislative initiatives dealing with the Department of Veterans

Affairs (VA). The VA legislation addresses both the access for health care scandal and the disability compensation claims backlog. Below is a highlight of the main issues.

### NDAA for FY 2015

There are three different proposed versions of the NDAA for FY 2015 from the President, House (HR 4435) and Senate (S 2410).

The President's proposed budget submission caps pay raises at 1%, cuts commissary subsidies, reduces Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH), merges TRICARE plans into one, creates Tricare for Life (TFL) fees and cuts several Navy ship and aircraft programs.

Both the Senate and House proposals reject or fail to authorize TRICARE changes and fees, commissary cuts, any new Base Realignment and Closures and many of the President's proposed ship and aircraft cuts. Both proposals reduce Selected Reserves for Navy Reserve to 57,300, Marine Corps Reserve to 39,200 and Coast Guard Reserve to 9,000. These cuts will continue the steady decline of the last few years in the Reserve end strength. Both proposals authorize new mental health assessments and sexual assault and harassment programs for both active duty and reserve members.

The House version (HR 4435) authorizes a 1.8% pay raise for FY 2016. This raise is consistent with the usual COLA based on the Economic Cost Index (ECI) that the rest of the Federal government receives, except for senior officers from O-7 to O-10, who receive no increases. It rejects BAH cuts and increased pharmacy co-pays.

NERA objects to several proposals that the Senate version (S 2410) has offered. It caps any pay increase at 1%, with no increase for senior officers from O-7 to O-10. This proposal authorizes up to a 5% cut in BAH and raises pharmacy co-pays for prescriptions filled from retail pharmacies. Of particular concern to NERA is the proposed move of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense of Reserve Affairs to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. This move would lower the importance and view of Reserve component issues and programs within DoD. This is considered a step backwards from a long, hard fight to get the Reserves a singular voice and platform through the establishment of the Assistant Secretary of Reserve Affairs.

It is unclear when a conference committee will convene to address the differences between the House and Senate versions of the NDAA for FY 2015. It is unlikely that the committee will convene before the Congressional August recess. As in recent years, DoD may use a continuing resolution for a good part of FY 2015 and not address the budget before the start of the new fiscal year on Oct. 1.

### VA Health Care Access and Claims Backlog

The VA scandal, originally started in Phoenix, involved secret waiting lists and long wait times for veterans seeking health care has been well covered nationally by the media. It led to the resignation of VA Secretary Shinseki on May 30 and fast-tracked VA legislation. The legislation created emergent funding to hire more clinicians and allowed contracts for patient services in local communities to reduce the wait times. Legislation was also fast-tracked to allow for quick disciplinary actions and removals of management and executive VA personnel responsible for covering up or falsifying wait times. Unfortunately, neither of these legislative solutions has come to fruition as of this writing. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the cost of proposed funding to increase clinical staff and contract for more services could cost up to \$54 billion. Constitutional law experts have stated that the proposals

*continued on page 10*





**Stephen Sandy**  
NERA  
Executive Director

**“Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits.”**

**Thomas  
Jefferson**

## Dear NERA Members and Friends,

*By Stephen Sandy, Executive Director*

As we head into the summer, I look forward to spending time with family and going on road trips. The older I get, the more I realize I would not be able to enjoy any of the typical summer activities without my health. After hearing about the latest Veterans Affairs (VA) scandals, I have been thinking about the healthcare of our veterans. NERA'S responsibility is to advocate for the men and women who have worn this nation's uniform as Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reservist. Current VA investigations are proving what NERA has known for a long time: the VA is a large, bureaucratic system with poor oversight and failing leadership. I am not saying that the people who work at the VA are not hard working and dedicated professionals. I have heard many stories of veterans receiving wonderful care once they see their doctors. However, getting into to see the doctors seems to be the challenge.

The current scandal in Arizona allegedly uncovered a system where officials kept two lists of care appointments: one showing timely responses to veterans' appointment requests and another "off-the-books" list showing major delays in seeing physicians. Whistle-blowers claim that as many as 40 patients died waiting to see a doctor. The leadership at this Arizona VA hospital has denied any rumors of mismanagement or shredding of evidence, but the investigation is pending. This practice seems to be occurring around the nation at different VA hospitals. What is so infuriating is that reports are showing that many VA senior executives around the country may have overseen mismanaged VA hospitals, yet were still rewarded with bonuses or positive performance reviews. Firing or

demoting poor performing VA officials have proven to be quite difficult. The House has recently passed an amendment to the Veterans Affairs Department spending bill prohibiting bonuses for any VA senior executives in fiscal 2015.

As much as I hate these scandals, I am glad the VA has received the attention of the media. It is about time a bright light is shone on the VA's dysfunctional system. This could be a pivotal moment in the VA's history to change to a modern system. If current technology allows me to take a picture of a check with my cell phone and deposit it into my checking account in seconds, why does it take 175 days to transfer a veteran's records from the Department of Defense (DoD) to the Veteran's Administration? Both the DoD and VA are at fault for not establishing a common electronic medical record or transfer protocols. Clearly, the VA is not utilizing technology or efficiency, and hopefully these scandals will promote a change for the better.

NERA's role is to advocate for the Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps Reservist and their families. Healthcare affects these families in a very important and critical manner, and NERA is dedicated to promoting the best healthcare we can offer our veterans. We will be closely monitoring this situation and we will advocate for you in Washington. NERA is concerned about the VA's procedures, and we want to hear from you about your specific stories in dealing with the VA at [neraexec@nera.org](mailto:neraexec@nera.org) or (800)-776-9020.

— Steve



**Debbie Fallon**  
NERA  
Executive Counselor

## To NERA members,

Here's hoping you are all enjoying a wonderful summer. For me, I have been hard at work coordinating membership status and chapter reporting. To date for 2014, 20% of chapters have sent in their Election of Officer results.

### A Special Thanks to the Chapters Who Have Reported So Far

- Central Pennsylvania
- Delaware Valley
- Garden State
- Gold Country
- Greater New York
- Joe Wasson
- Leo J. Milobar, Jr. Memorial
- Mid Carolina
- New England States
- Sea Services Of Knoxville
- USS Constitution
- Windy City

Remember, your participation is an important part of painting a complete picture of our organization and helps in our efforts to strengthen NERA. The National Executive Council (NEC) relies on up-to-date and accurate data provided by chapters to help us analyze and promote our cause.

Many chapters are active and vital, but I have learned that there are a few chapters that have become inactive. For example, I am sorry to report that the Greater Pittsburgh, BMCM Edmund Couto and Quonset Point Chapters have become inactive over the past several years. NERA was disappointed to hear this, but I wanted to thank all the former chapter presidents and involved, dedicated members who responded to my request. Your reporting is important to tracking chapter business and viability.

If you have not submitted your NERA Chapter Officer Report, please do so by completing the form on line at: <http://www.nera.org/officer-report> or print the form, complete it and fax it to my attention at (978) 521-4083. If you need a blank form mailed to you, please give me a call at (603) 858-4144.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
*Deborah Fallon*  
Deborah "Debbie" Fallon, YNC (ret)  
National Executive Counselor

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### LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, continued from page 8

for disciplining management and executive personnel are possibly unconstitutional. It appears the fast-tracked VA legislation is stalled and the VA issues are once again on the back burner.

NERA has long supported increased funding for VA health care to hire more clinical personnel and add more clinic space. The VA needs help in addressing the ever increasing clinic workload and patients. One without the other is a prescription for failure. We are also skeptical that contracting in the community will resolve the long wait times. Private sector wait times are also long and increasing, especially for specialty consults for non-emergent care.

The Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) has been claiming a significant reduction in their claims backlog over the last 2 years. However, recent Congressional testimony and VA Inspector General Reports are questioning the validity of VBA's data on the claims backlog. There is a wide disparity in the adjudication times and awards between VBA regional offices. Some offices have been more efficient and/or lenient than others in awarding compensation. There should not be significant differences in adjudication times or compensation for the same services. The VA should have uniform times connected to fully prepared claims. Clearly the VA needs to improve in these areas and any backlog is unacceptable.





## Members at Large Join Chapters

NERA's Members-at-Large (MAL) are a status of individual members not affiliated to any local chapter. In an effort to reach compliance with NERA bylaws, MALs membership needs to be affiliated with a local chapter. NERA is very open to allowing members to join any chapter which best suits their needs. Note if none is picked, eventually all members will be assigned to a chapter.

If you are a MAL and know which chapter you would like to join, please contact Jennifer Abbott at [jabbott@nera.org](mailto:jabbott@nera.org). If you have questions, please contact the NEC Executive Counselor, Debbie Fallon at [nc@nera.org](mailto:nc@nera.org) to learn more about joining a chapter. Thank you for your patience as NERA makes this transition.

### Alabama

Magic City (Birmingham area)  
John D. Wood (Mobile area)

### Arizona

Grand Canyon State (Phoenix area)

### California

Golden Empire (Bakersfield area)  
Gold Country (Sacramento area)  
San Francisco  
Chumash (Southern CA)

### Colorado

Mile High (Denver area)

### Florida

Orlando "76"  
Pride of Dixie (Jacksonville area)  
Bay Area Buccaneers (Tampa area)  
South Florida  
Blue Angels (Pensacola area)

### Georgia

Greater Atlanta  
Georgia State M.A.L.

### Illinois

Kelly Gilio (Peoria area)  
Windy City (Chicago area)

### Indiana

Circle City (Indianapolis area)

### Iowa

Tall Corn (Des Moines area)  
Hawkeye (Waterloo area)  
Chaplain Aloysius Schmitt (Dubuque)

### Kansas

USS Wichita (Wichita area)

### Kentucky

Derby City (Louisville area)  
David E. Floyd

### Louisiana

Crescent City (New Orleans area)  
Baton Rouge

### Maryland

Ft. McHenry (Baltimore area)  
Adelphi (Silver Spring area)

### Massachusetts

New England States (Weymouth area)

### Michigan

Gerald R. Ford (Grand Rapids area)  
AR-5 Vulcan (Dearborn area)  
Grand River Valley (Lansing area)  
Fort Custer (Fort Custer State Park area)

### Minnesota

Minnesota (Minneapolis area)  
St. Cloud

### Missouri

Heart Of America (Kansas City area)  
Gateway (St. Louis)  
CAPT Richard A. Stratton (Springfield area)  
Southeast Missouri (Cape Girardeau area)

### Nebraska

Leo J. Milobar (Omaha area)  
Nevada  
Las Vegas

### New Hampshire

USS Constitution

### New Jersey

Garden State

### New Mexico

Atomic (Albuquerque area)

### New York

Greater New York (NYC area)  
USS Briarcliff (Staten Island area)  
Floyd Bennett (Long Island area)  
Niagara Frontier  
Salt City (Syracuse area)  
James F. McAuliffe (Binghamton area)  
Herbert F. Blackman (Ithaca area)  
Capital District (Albany area)

### North Carolina

Piedmont Triangle (Greensboro area)  
Central Carolinas (Charlotte area)  
Raleigh Triangle  
Charles Hipps (Asheville area)

### Ohio

Dayton Ohio  
Akron-Canton

### Oklahoma

Oklahoma Sooner (Oklahoma City area)

### Oregon

Greater Portland

### Pennsylvania

Delaware Valley (Levittown area)  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Joseph O'Connell (Scranton area)  
Keystone (Harrisburg area)  
Central Pennsylvania (Altoona area)  
Greater LeHigh Valley (Allentown area)  
Pagoda Chapter Of Reading  
League Island (Southern Philadelphia area)  
Oliver Hazard Perry (Erie area)  
Susquehanna (Williamsport area)

### Rhode Island

Edmund Couto (Portsmouth area)  
Quonset Point (Providence area)

### South Carolina

Greater Greenville  
USS Yorktown (Charleston area)  
Mid Carolina (Columbia area)

### South Dakota

Minn-ia-kota (Sioux Falls area)

### Tennessee

West Tenn Volunteers (Memphis area)  
Sea Services of Knoxville

### Texas

Tex-LA (Houston area)  
Alamo (San Antonio)  
Lone Star (Dallas/Fort Worth area)  
Corpus Christi

### Utah

### Vermont

### Virginia

Joe Wasson (Arlington-NOVA area)  
Greater Richmond  
Hampton Roads (Norfolk area)  
Robert E. Lee (Harrisonburg area)  
Star City (Roanoke area)

### Washington

Tacoma  
Inland Northwest (Spokane area)

### West Virginia

West Virginia State M.A.L.

### Wisconsin

Packerland Branch (Green Bay area)  
Central Wisc River Valley (Stevens Point area)  
Seabees Of NMCB-25 (Milwaukee area)



# Help Secure the Future of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

## Suggested Language for Making a Bequest to the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA)

You may include a bequest to support NERA when preparing your will or by adding a codicil to your present will. Bequests may be of cash, securities, real estate or other property. Bequests of all sizes are welcome, whether they are outright, contingent or residual.

If you are considering designating how your bequest will be used by NERA or establishing an endowed fund through your estate plans, please contact (or have your professional advisor contact) Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA, at 800-776-9020 or [neraexec@nera.org](mailto:neraexec@nera.org).



*Please note: This information is not intended to be legal or tax advice. We recommend that you consult with a qualified estate planning attorney when drafting your will.*

Your request should be directed to The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association. The following language may be useful to your attorney:

### Specific Bequest

"I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used for the general support of NERA."

### Residual Bequest

"I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residue of my estate to be used for the general support of NERA."

### Contingent Bequest

"In the event that \_\_\_\_\_ predeceases me, I give The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association, Falls Church, Virginia, 22042, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or, alternatively, \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the residue of my estate) to be used for the general support of NERA."

**Please contact (or have your professional advisor contact)  
Stephen R. Sandy, Executive Director of NERA,  
at 800-776-9020 or [neraexec@nera.org](mailto:neraexec@nera.org).**





# Benefits of Being a NERA Member

As many of you know, being a member of NERA allows you to be part of an exclusive group of enlisted Sea Service Reservists. But did you know NERA teamed up with USAA, which has been recently recognized by *FORTUNE* magazine as one of their 2014 World's Most Admired Companies®?

USAA, as the exclusive provider of financial services for NERA, offers the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association USAA Rewards™ Credit Cards to NERA members. Tell your friends!

**When you choose a USAA Rewards military affiliate American Express® Card or MasterCard®, you help NERA.**

- With this card, you can help NERA continue supporting the enlisted sea service reservists and their families.
- USAA Bank will make a contribution to NERA when you open an account, make eligible purchases and keep an active account.
- Carry one or both the American Express® Card and MasterCard®. Even if you pay the balance in full each month, you still receive all the rewards and benefits.

Yes! There's no need to carry a balance for you and NERA to benefit!

**There are two types of cards to choose from or carry both (and pay your NERA dues with them)!**



### USAA Rewards American Express Card:

**Earn 2X on gas and grocery purchases** while earning 1 point per dollar on your other purchases. Getting **2X** is not an introductory offer. Enjoy concierge service and other exclusive benefits.

The card image is an original photo taken by past president Nick Marine, solely available to NERA USAA cardholders. **Apply for yours today!** [usaa.com/nera](http://usaa.com/nera)



### USAA Rewards World MasterCard:

**Earn 1 point per dollar on everyday purchases.** Take advantage of worldwide acceptance and other exclusive benefits.

There are 6 card images to choose from including the original photo by Nick Marine (above). **Don't wait, apply today!** [usaa.com/nera](http://usaa.com/nera)

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Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. Purchase of a bank product does not establish eligibility for or membership in USAA property and casualty insurance companies.



# Change of Watch: Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen Retires

By Yvette Purtill



Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen congratulates new Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief, Master Chief Petty Officer Eric L. Johnson, during a change of watch ceremony in Washington, D.C., May 9, 2014. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.

On May 9, 2014, a beautiful day in Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River, U.S. Coast Guard, Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen retired with more than 37 years of distinguished service to our nation. Master Chief Petty Officer Eric L. Johnson relieved Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen as the Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Bob Papp presided over the ceremony, honoring Allen's dedication to the U.S. Coast Guard. Allen was presented with a shadow box commemorating his rise through the enlisted ranks, his duty assignments and the awards he has earned over the course of his career.

At the time of his selection as the fifth Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief, Master Chief Allen served as Sector Jacksonville Reserve Command Master Chief in Jacksonville, FL. His previous assignments include Coast Guard Leadership and Professional Development and Coast Guard Reserve Affairs, Washington, DC; Coast Guard Station St. Inigoes, MD; Coast Guard Station Washington, DC; and Coast Guard Station Alexandria, VA. In addition, Master Chief Allen has been recalled to

active duty in response to Coast Guard operations that have ranged in size and scope from the Mariel Boat Lift to the Air Florida Flight 90 crash to the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

A native of Takoma Park, MD, Master Chief Allen holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English with a minor in Public Relations from Frostburg State University. He has also completed his coursework toward a Master of Arts degree in Modern Humanities at Frostburg State University. Master Chief Allen is a graduate of the Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy (Reserve Class VII); is the second Coast Guard Reservist ever to graduate from the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy (Class 102 Gold); and is a graduate of the Coast Guard Senior Enlisted Command



The U.S. Coast Guard Silent Drill team pays tribute to Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen with a "close shave" during his relief ceremony as the 5th Coast Guard Reserve Force Master Chief. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley.



U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley





Master Chief Allen receives the Meritorious Service Award..

MC Johnson relieves MC Allen



Master Chief Mark Allen and Family



**LEFT** CGRF-MC Mark H. Allen

**BELOW** CGRF-MC Mark H. Allen (ret.) and incoming CGRF-MC Eric L. Johnson



Colleen Allen receives Certificate of Appreciation from ADM Papp. Master Chief Course. Master Chief Allen's personal awards include the Coast Guard Commendation Medal; Coast Guard Achievement Medal with Operational Distinguishing Device; five Coast Guard Commandant's Letter of Commendation; six Coast Guard Reserve Good Conduct Medals; two Humanitarian Service Medals; three Armed Forces Reserve Medals with Mobilization

Device; Coast Guard Rifleman; and Coast Guard Expert Pistol Medal.

"We Coast Guardsmen find before us unique opportunities to take care of our families, achieve our missions, and leave things better for those who follow. To do so, we must overcome obstacles. We must engage, collaborate, and focus," said Allen. "As Colleen and I stand relieved by Master Chief Eric Johnson and his wife Valerie, we reflect on how grateful we are: grateful for our shipmates' support and perseverance, and grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside countless dedicated Coasties and their families for the past 37 years. While our status has changed, rest assured our interest in and support of their efforts will not wane."

Master Chief Petty Officer Mark H. Allen has been a great friend to NERA and we wish him and his family the very best for the next phase of their lives. Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate.





**M**aintenance Support Clerk Carla Vice possesses a lot of the brave, fiery spirit needed in the military. However, that same spirit got her into trouble at basic training in Orlando, Fla. There was something called “Intensive Training,” where soldiers that had acted out had to work out in a specific outfit so everyone would know that they were in trouble. “I had the record. I had to go through intensive training 10 times,” Carla said, “I got into a lot of trouble for various things as failing a locker inspection or messing up as a crossing guard and a little mouthing off.”

During her eight weeks of basic training, Carla learned a lot of skills that carried through with her to battle and the rest of her everyday life. “Boot camp changes you,” she said. “The physical part was nothing for me. It’s the mental stuff. They break you down to build you up,” Carla said. She added that she learned discipline, self-sufficiency and organization in her short time in boot camp.

Although Carla didn’t go into active duty right after basic, she went to training annually in different locations in the United States, including Hawaii, and overseas to Italy. But then, her orders for a longer deployment came in, and she had to complete combat training before she left for Kuwait City, Kuwait leaving on March 4, 2004.

### Though she retired in 2006, Carla learned skills and had experiences that would last a lifetime.

In Kuwait, Carla was stationed at Camp Wolverine. “It was hot, like 130-140 degrees on the tarmac with our desert camo’s on,” she said. She was in Kuwait performing duties for Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom, but it was a relatively calm time. She served as a storekeeper first class and handled cargo, acquiring various heavy equipment licenses to operate them. She also worked with the RAMP crew loading and unloading millions of pounds of netted 300-pound Air Force pallets of medical supplies and mail off of several types of aircraft. She also interacted with some of the Navy and civilian passengers. “I got to meet Ted Nugent and Toby Keith while unloading their gear off a C130 in Kuwait City to start their concert tour.”

One of the lowest points in her military career was in April 2004, which was the worst time of the war, with



Carla Vice worked with the RAMP crew loading and unloading millions of pounds of netted 300-pound Air Force pallets of medical supplies and mail off of several types of aircraft.

so many soldiers dying. Carla and other military personnel were tasked with unloading and reloading remains of soldiers killed in battle to be shipped back to the U.S. “It was painful, and there were a lot,” she said. “But we were all very respectful and made sure they were covered in flags while flying back to the main hub for the U.S., which was Dover, Delaware.” After a short three months in Kuwait, she was transferred to Balad, Iraq. Carla’s time

in Iraq was completely different from Kuwait. Staring death in the face nearly every day was simply part of her duty at Camp Anaconda. Bombings and mortars were part of the everyday routine. Often Carla would run from the plane to the nearest shelter or safe facility, put on her Kevlar and “sit and pray” with her fellow troops for the bombings to pass without any fatalities or injuries. The bombings soon lost their fear factor. “You just get used to it,” she said.

Any taste of normalcy on the base was lost fairly quickly. There was a small, shabby movie theater on the base, and sometimes the movies would stop working because of a bombing. “You don’t really know how it affects you until later though,” Carla said. “I didn’t even notice until I got around fireworks. I had always been a jumpy person, but I was a lot worse when I got back.”

Despite all of this, the single mother said she felt that her daughter, who was 8 at the time, and her mother had more to worry about than she did. "My mother had the hardest part taking care of the stuff back home. I had three square meals, shelter, job, a recreation tent and computer time while my mother dealt with heartache," Carla said. Carla refused to allow the fear or heartache get to her family. "When I left, I told my mom to party like a rock star if something happened to me. I told her not to grieve, and I meant it. I kept telling her that this was what I was supposed to do," Carla shared. "It hurt to leave my daughter. But I wasn't scared." Carla instructed her mother and daughter specifically to not watch CNN News while she was gone. "The news gets it wrong a lot of the time. It's really exaggerated," she said. Carla also talked about how she didn't want her daughter to know what was going on while she was at Camp Anaconda.

Carla's homecoming was a hugely moving experience, especially the moment when she saw her daughter. "I can tell you when I came home, both of us seeing each other, we just both hugged and bawled," she said. Deployment was just a small part of Carla's Navy career. She was a physical training coordinator and command fitness coordinator for the Naval and Marine Corp reserve center for 18 years out of her 21-year career. She served in units in London, Omaha and Milwaukee. Though she retired in 2006, Carla learned skills and had experiences that would last a lifetime. "I had lots of fun, and I met some great friends," she said.

*Editor's Note:* Carla Vice is a member of NERA with the Omaha Nebraska Chapter. The article was first published by her employer, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) who are recognizing women in the military.

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(Please see page 26 for detailed instructions.)



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# Captain Marshall Hanson, USN, (ret)

September 11, 1950 – July 10, 2014

We at NERA join with the Reserve Officers Association (ROA) and The Military Coalition in mourning the loss of Captain Marshall Hanson, USN, (ret). Marshall left us on July 10, 2014. Posted below is the email sent out by the Reserve Officers Association:

“With sadness, the leadership and staff of the Reserve Officers Association announce the sudden and untimely death at home of the association’s Director of Legislation and Military Policy, Captain Marshall Hanson, United States Navy (Retired.) He was 63. He is survived by his wife, Deborah and their two daughters, Loren Louise and Sydney Emilia.

For 11 years, Captain Hanson was the strong and effective voice of the Reservist on Capitol Hill. In testimony before the Senate and the House, in his interpersonal relationships with lawmakers and staff, and through his clear statements in written communications, he was a powerful advocate for the Reservist and their families, in training, on the battlefield, in their workplaces and at home.

His committee leadership in the fields of health care policy and matters affecting the Reserve components of the nation’s defense strengthened the collective voice of The Military Coalition of national military and veteran service organizations.

Captain Hanson was born in Darby, Pennsylvania and raised in Glen Rock, New Jersey and Seattle, Washington. A 1972 Graduate of the University of Washington, he was commissioned through NROTC. He earned an MBA from the University of Washington in 1978, and is a 1990 graduate with distinction of the Naval War College.

Following commissioning in 1972, Captain Marshall Hanson served three years on active duty and 27 years in the Naval Reserve retiring in August, 2002. In his 30 years of Naval service, he held seven commands. His

seagoing assignments include active duty on USS Niagara Falls (AFS-3) as an underway Officer of the Deck (I) and Damage Control Assistant. He spent additional training periods aboard USS Kansas City (AOR-3), USS Blue Ridge (LLC-19), JMDs Isoyuki (DD-127), and various Canadian Naval Reserve Ships; and he has been the Chief of Staff for a Convoy Commodore, and staff-watch commander at Esquimalt Naval Base in Canada.

Upon retirement CAPT Hanson was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. His decorations include the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal for community activities in the greater Puget Sound Area, two awards of

the Overseas Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

CAPT Hanson’s life out of uniform didn’t keep him from serving. Prior to joining the ROA staff Marshall served in several capacities on the staffs of the National Association for Uniformed Services (NAUS) and The Association of the United States Navy (AUSN).

An ROA member since 1989 and a life member since 1996, Captain Hanson first joined ROA’s national staff in 2003. Marshall’s dedication to our men and women in uniform quickly gave rise to an expansion of his work, becoming ROA’s director of Legislative and Military Policy in 2005.

As a colleague, Marshall will be remembered for far more than his tireless work on behalf of America’s Reservists; his thoughtful demeanor and honor-bound approach to life endeared him to all of us who had the pleasure of working with him. He was a consummate contributor and supporter of all things ROA. A leader at every organizational level, Captain Hanson was nationally revered for his candor, insight and passion for the members of our organization. He will be missed by all.”

**As a colleague, Marshall will be remembered for far more than his tireless work on behalf of America’s Reservists; his thoughtful demeanor and honor-bound approach to life endeared him to all of us who had the pleasure of working with him.**





# NERA Spotlights:

## Coastie SN Kayla Faas

By Yvette Purtill

NERA teamed up with USAA to honor a deserving service member with two free tickets to the San Diego Padres home game vs. the Miami Marlins at Petco Park on May 11 (Mother's Day). The ticket package included two field reserved tickets, a parking pass, on-field breakfast and a player meet-and-greet opportunity for photos and autographs. NERA asked for nominees and we received the following email from MCPO Dave Groh, Command Master Chief, Coast Guard Sector San Diego:

"I'd like to put in one of our non-rates at Coast Guard Sector San Diego in for this unique opportunity. Her name is SN Kayla Faas and she is married to Jacoby Faas and has a 3 year old daughter named Jocelyn.

SN Faas works for Coast Guard Sector's Engineering Division and performs well above the E-3 level. She developed a tracking program to track the disposal of excess paint, which prevented members from inadvertently discarding excess paint and submitted numerous procurement requests to ensure proper inventory levels were maintained for barracks items. She has recently been attached to the Prevention department at Sector, conducting routine safety inspections in the maritime community.

She is very involved in the San Diego community and volunteered for the Partnership in Education by reading to students at a local elementary school. She also volunteered her time at the Wounded Warriors Trials and worked at a Coast Guard recruiting booth at the annual Padre Fan Fest, providing input to the public by answering questions. She successfully juggles her military career with the challenges of being



the mother of a 3 year old and this would be a great Mother's Day event for her to attend.

"Thank you again for your consideration of this very deserving shipmate."



Kayla Faas and her daughter Jocelyn



Kayla's Husband Jacoby Faas and Padre's Player Tyson Ross

NERA was pleased to honor such a deserving candidate and wanted to spotlight her story in the Mariner. We asked Kayla about her decision to join the Coast Guard and some difficulties she has faced. Please read below to hear Kayla's story.

"I grew up in a small town in Oregon where there was not a lot of career opportunities. After my high school graduation, I was convinced going to college was the only road to success. Four years later, I graduated with a BS in Chemistry. This got me started in the food manufacturing business as a quality assurance technician. This was not exactly what I wanted to do with my Chemistry degree, but it was a job that I was qualified for. After a few years, I worked myself up the ranks from lead tech to supervisor to manager. This career worked out for me, I learned a lot about the trade and was getting paid pretty well. After two years of being a QA manager, I started to question whether I wanted to be doing this for the next 20 years. That was a simple: no.

I'm asked all the time why I would leave such a great paying job to join the Coast Guard. This was the hardest decision I've ever made in my life and the greatest

*continued on page 25*



### 2014–2015 USAA/NERA Scholarship Announcement

NERA President Geno Koelker has announced the 2014–2015 USAA/NERA Scholarship recipients. The USAA/NERA Scholarship Program recognizes the service and sacrifices made by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. These scholarships have been created to honor their excellence. We want to thank the Scholarship Committee for their devoted efforts in finding these distinguished recipients. Also, thank you to USAA and NERA members for making these scholarships possible.



### \$3,000 NERA Scholarship Recipients

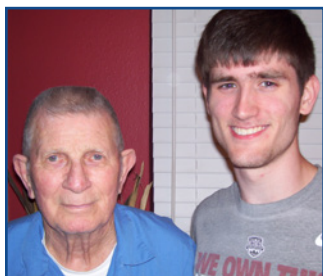
**HT3 Peter Mense** has spent nine years in the reserves and four years on active duty on board the USS Velta Gulf, CG-72. He is presently attached to the Surgemain Unit stationed at Navy Operational Support Center serving as the Training PO. Mense attends the University of Cincinnati working for his Bachelor's degree in the Fire Science Program and dreams of obtaining a commission in the Navy once he has completed his education.



**Diana Shoemaker** is a junior at Saint Leo University in Florida. She is pursuing a degree in criminal justice with a specialization in criminalistics. With her degree in hand, Shoemaker plans to join the Navy and enter Navy's Officer Candidate School. Once in the Navy, she hopes to go into the intelligence field or become a part of the Naval Crime Investigative Service. Diana has earned straight "A's" in the first three years of her college career and is a member of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. She was a member of the Naval Sea Cadets for eight years and served in many volunteer leadership positions.

Diana Shoemaker with her mother Kathy Shoemaker — From the USS Constitution Chapter

### \$2,500 NERA Family Member Scholarship Recipients



**Benjamin Burleson** is maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA while pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of South Alabama. Because of his Chemical Engineering studies, Ben realizes that no matter what you do, you are coming into contact with chemicals. In addition to his strong academics, Ben has been active in volunteer projects such as the American Cancer Society's Walk for a Cure, the Hog Wild Chili Cook Off for Cerebral Palsy and the 26th Annual Alabama Coastal Clean Up.

Benjamin Burleson with his grandfather SKCM William Evers, USNR-Retired —  
From the John D Wood Chapter



**Danielle Domini** is pursuing a career in dentistry. Danielle is currently working alongside dentists in her undergraduate studies at Wheaton College in Illinois. She is specifically interested in becoming an orthodontist. Danielle visited children in orphanages and wants to help these underprivileged children once she becomes an orthodontist. During her high school years, she was very active in volunteering at hospitals, nursery schools and churches in her community.

Danielle Domini with her father CPO Frederick Domini — From the Greater New York Chapter



**Emma Porto** plans to become a pediatric nurse. Emma experienced much medical attention in her younger years and she believes it is her calling to become a medical professional. She has spent her summers serving as camp counselors, an intern in a pediatric offices, and a kindergarten classroom aid. She has maintained a 3.6 GPA during high school and will attend Drexel University in the fall.

Emma Elizabeth Porto with her grandfather HTC Richard Perry — From the Edmund Couto Chapter



**Sam Wisotzki**, because of the advanced classes he took in his junior and senior years at Coronado High School near San Diego, has a GPA of 4.80. Sam has kept active on the water polo and swim teams. He was a member of the National Honor Society and the Academic League. He will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall working for a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Sam Wisotzki with his father CAPT Steve Wisotzki — From the Chumash Chapter

## Congratulations to all USAA/NERA scholarship winners!

*The 2014-2015 Scholarship Committee: Scholarship Chairman: CTRC Ward Wollesen, MCPO Forrest Croom, YNCS Ralph Hensley, PN1 Judith Minkin, YNCS Dwayne Mitchell, LIC David Nelson*

# Join NERA and Advance Your Career



## Join or renew online at [nera.org](http://nera.org)





## NAVY RESERVE SAILOR of the YEAR FINALISTS and WINNER



Force Master Chief Mitchell and  
MCPON Stevens



Retired Force Master Chief Ronney Wright  
presents IT1 Zuniga with USAA Coin



VADM John Totushek, USN(Ret.) and  
MCPON Stevens



DCCM Stephen Sandy, USN(Ret.), Executive Director of NERA  
addresses the 2013 Reserve Sailors of the Year Finalists



YN1(IDW/SW) Cecilia Mitchell,  
HM1 Beatriz R. Schulmeister,  
IT1 Francisco Zuniga, AWS1(NAC/  
AW) Paul Marticorena, and  
SO1(SEAL) Lawrence W. Beckhaus,



The Chief of the Navy Reserve (CNR), Vice Adm. Robin R. Braun announced her selection for Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year (RSOY) during a ceremony in Washington, D.C., April 10 (photos opposite page). NERA would like to congratulate all the nominees, and especially Aviation Warfare Systems Operator



## IT1 Francisco Zuniga

Information Systems Technician Petty Officer First Class Francisco Zuniga was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. He attended basic training at Great Lakes in January 1995, and Data Processing Technician "A" School at NTC San Diego, Ca.

His first duty assignment was onboard the USNS NIAGARA FALLS (T-AFS-3), in Apra Harbor, Guam, where he was promoted to Third Class Petty Officer.

In March of 1999, Petty Officer Zuniga was transferred to Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, where he was tasked to manage Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Information Systems assets at all outlying Branch Clinics, throughout the vast 125,000 acre base. He also was cross assigned to Fleet Hospital Operations and Training Command Camp Pendleton, California, and was advanced to Second Class Petty Officer.

In 2002, Petty Officer Zuniga was assigned to U.S. Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station, Guam, serving as Assistant Administrative Department Head, Defense

1st Class Paul Marticorena of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 3, Naval Air Station North Island, Calif., as this year's selectee. Marticorena received a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during the ceremony and will be meritoriously advanced to chief petty officer later this year. Congratulations to all.

Property Accountability System (DPAS) Coordinator, Urinalysis Program Coordinator, and Command Training Officer. While onboard, he was also advanced to First Class Petty Officer.

Petty Officer Zuniga enlisted in the Navy Reserve in December of 2009, and affiliated with the Naval Operational Support Command, Guam, where he served as the Assistant Leading Petty Officer of the Defense Coordinating Element, prior to mobilizing.

Petty Officer Zuniga is currently mobilized to Navy Mobilization Processing Site Norfolk, where he is serving as the Redeployment Assistant Department Head, Leading Petty Officer and Command Information Systems Manager.

His personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (three awards), Navy Reserve Good Conduct Medal, and various unit and service awards.



## HM1 Beatriz R. Schulmeister

Hospital Corpsman First Class Beatriz Regina Schulmeister was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 2002, and attended Recruit Training Command in October 2002, where she received the Rear Admiral Keith Leadership Award. In 2003 she attended Field

Medical Service School in Camp Lejeune, NC, and earned her 8404 NEC. In 2004, Petty Officer Schulmeister volunteered to deploy to Port of Ash Shuayba, Kuwait, with Naval Coastal Warfare Group ONE.

Upon her return, she was assigned to Naval Hospital Bremerton, Detachment N, where she served as the Unit Leading Petty Officer and Health Promotion Coordinator. She deployed with Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit 13 to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. As the Evacuation Leading Petty Officer, she led nine personnel in the coordination of medical evacuation of 3,395 wounded warriors to over 70 global receiving facilities. Petty Officer Schulmeister has been a Wyoming State Trooper for eight years, and is stationed in Elk Mountain. She graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in 1997, and is a Custody





## NAVY RESERVE SAILOR of the YEAR FINALISTS, continued

and Control Inspector. Her personal awards include: Army Commendation and Achievement Medals, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Coast Guard



### SO1 (SEAL) Lawrence W. Beckhaus

SO1 Lawrence W. Beckhaus was born and raised in California. He graduated from Lopez High School in May 1995 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy attending Recruit Training in Great Lakes, IL in December 1995. He attended Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL

School in Coronado, CA, graduating with BUD/S Class 209. His first duty assignment was SEAL Team ONE in Coronado, CA. In February 1998, he was assigned to SEAL Team THREE, completing a deployment in the CENTCOM AOR. In 2000, he was assigned to NWG-1 Training Detachment, where he performed as the Lead Medic, supporting Pre-Deployment Training for all West Coast Naval Special Warfare Platoons and worked in the NSWG-1 Medical Clinic, ensuring deployers were medically ready. While at NSWG-1 Training Detachment, he competed in the International Military Sports Council as a Naval Pentathlete, where he set a

Meritorious Team Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (three awards) and various service and unit awards.

course record in the obstacle course and came in 5th place overall in Copenhagen, Denmark. In September 2009, he was assigned to SEAL Team SEVENTEEN, and his reserve assignments have included, DELTA PLATOON, N6 Department Head (Mobilized), deployed to PACOM AOR; SEAL DET N7 ALCPO, responsible for the training and readiness of 85 Reserve SEAL Operators; ALPHA PLT LCPO (Mobilized), responsible for the training and readiness of six SEAL Operators and three Technical Enablers. SO1 Beckhaus is a Project Manager for Center for Security Forces in San Diego, CA, managing 18 instructors throughout six military high risk AT/FP courses with a throughput of over 1000 students each year. He also has a Master's of Science in Engineering Management. His personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards), Enlisted Special Warfare Insignia, and Enlisted Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.



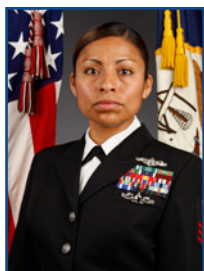
### AWS1(AW) Paul Marticorena

Aviation Warfare Systems Operator First Class Marticorena was born on 5 December 1978 in Van Nuys, CA. He graduated from Royal HS in 1996 and joined the US Navy in February 1997 as a Seaman Recruit and reported to Great Lakes for Basic

Training. He then transferred to Pensacola, FL, where he completed Aircrew Candidate School, Rescue Swimmer School and Aviation Machinist Mate "A" School. Advancing to PO3, he was then transferred to San Diego, CA where he attended Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) School and the H-46D Fleet Replacement Aircrew Course. In May 1998, following completion of training, he was transferred to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FIVE (HC-5) in Guam. He quickly qualified as an H-46D Plane Captain, H-46D 2nd Crewman, Rescue Swimmer and Landing Signalman Enlisted. In April 1999, he was deployed for eight months aboard the USNS SPICA (TAFS-9) to the Arabian Gulf, providing the Carrier Battle Group with logistic helicopter support.

In November 2000, he deployed for six months aboard the USS ESSEX (LHD-2) providing search and rescue and logistic support for the Amphibious Ready Group. While deployed, he was advanced to PO2, qualified as a Quality Assurance Representative and qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. In May 2002, he transferred back to San Diego, CA where he attended Basic Instructor School and MH-60S Replacement School. He then checked into Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE (HC-3). While stationed at HC-3, he was advanced to PO1 and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix. In May 2006 he joined the Navy Reserve, continuing his duty with Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron THREE (HSC-3). While assigned, he was selected as NOSC North Island, Navy Region Southwest, Maritime Support Wing and Commander Naval Air Forces Reserve Sailor of the Year. His personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4 awards) and various unit and service awards.





## YN1(IDW/SW) Cecilia Mitchell

YN1 Mitchell was born on 25 January 1983 in Oaxaca, Mexico. At the age of 5, her parents moved to Santa Maria, CA where she graduated from Santa Maria High School in June 2001. In October 2003, upon graduation from The School of Information Technology as class valedictorian, she enlisted in the US Navy and immediately reported to Great Lakes for Basic Training. She arrived at her first duty station, Fleet Logistics Support Squadron THREE ZERO (VRC-30), as an undesignated Airman, assigned as the Administrative Specialist, for the ADMIN Department and advanced to PO3. In November 2006, she transferred to Naval Medical Center San Diego (NMCSD), where she was hand-selected by the Command Master Chief to be the Administrative Assistant for the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP) in Point Loma, CA. She volunteered to deploy as an Individual Augmentee (IA) to Baghdad, Iraq, for a one year tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In

June 2009, she joined the Navy Reserve and transitioned to become a Yeoman. She is currently assigned to Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (SPAWAR) Unit 119. She has also proactively searched for a billet and volunteered for deployment onboard USNS MERCY (T-AH 19), in support of Pacific Partnership 2012, and Southeast Asia in support of Humanitarian Missions. While onboard the USNS MERCY, she earned her Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualification. In February 2013 she was mobilized to Active Duty in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. She earned her Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist qualification while deployed to Afghanistan. She resides in Escondido, CA, and is employed by the Department of Defense. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources Management. Her personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (two awards) and various unit and service awards.

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### COASTIE CORNER, continued from page 19

challenge I've had to face. Why did I do it? There are several reasons but the most significant would be that the Coast Guard provides a rewarding job and I'm proud of being a part of something greater than myself. I have only recently graduated boot camp and have yet to start my career as a petty officer for the Coast Guard. As of now, I am currently waiting to go to school to become a Marine Science Technician. I will play an essential role of enforcing regulations for the security of our ports and safety of the marine environment. While I am waiting, I get the

opportunity to work with the MST's, go on inspections and generally learn the trade. Outside of the Coast Guard, I am married with a 3 year old daughter. I also love to be involved with the community. Back home, I was a volunteer at the County Sheriff's Department and a volunteer worker for Douglas County UCAN food."

NERA would like to honor Kayla and all members of the Coast Guard. Thank you for your service in defending our maritime borders and environment.



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## SAILORS OF THE YEAR

**B**elow are pictures of the 2013 Sailors of the Year (SOY) Award. NERA would like to congratulate Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Mahtob Johnson, U.S. Fleet Forces Sea Sailor of the Year; Naval Aircrewman Mechanical 1st Class Matthew Meadows, U.S. Pacific Fleet Sea Sailor of the Year; Aviation Machinist Mate 1st Class Paul Marticorena, Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year; and Cryptologic Technician (Collections) 1st Class Patricia

Madigan, Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year. Each year, every Navy ship, station and command around the world chooses its Sailor of the Year based on leadership, professionalism dedication, and superior performance. The Sailor of the Year program was established in 1972 to recognize a Sailor who best represented the ever-growing group of dedicated professional Sailors at each command and ultimately the Navy. Congratulations to all.



Sailors of the Year with MCPON Stevens and ADM Michelle Howard cutting the cake. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey.



Sailors of the Year are meritoriously advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer during the 2013 Navy Sailor of the Year pinning ceremony. Hospital Corpsman Chief (Sel) Mahtob Johnson, Fleet Forces Command, Naval Aircrewman (Helicopter) Chief (Sel) Paul Marticorena, Reserve Forces, Naval Aircrewman (Mechanical) Chief (Sel) Matthew Meadows, Pacific Fleet, and Cryptologic Technician (Collection) Chief (Sel) Patricia Madigan, Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Shore, are all selected as the Sailor of the Year for their respective region and were advanced to the rank of Chief Petty Officer.



**LEFT** RSOY Chief (Sel) Paul Marticorena receives his anchors from his wife, Wendy. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey.

**LEFT** RSOY Chief (Sel) Paul Marticorena, Reserve Forces with ADM Michelle Howard. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Martin L. Carey.



Chief (Sel) Paul Marticorena, Reserve Forces with CNO Jonathan Greenert



### **Navy Reserve Sailor of the Year, AWS1(NAC/AW)Paul F. Marticorena, USN**

Petty Officer Marticorena was born in Van Nuys, CA. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1997. After Recruit Training in Great Lakes, he reported to Pensacola, FL where he completed Aircrew Candidate School, Rescue Swimmer School and Aviation Machinist Mate "A" School. He transferred to San Diego, CA as a Third Class, where he attended Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape (SERE) School and the H-46D Fleet Replacement Aircrew Course. In May 1998, he transferred to Helicopter Combat Support Squadron FIVE (HC-5) in Guam, where he qualified as an H-46D 2nd Crewman, Rescue Swimmer, and Landing Signalman Enlisted. In April, 1999, he was deployed for 8 months aboard the USNS Spica (T-AFS-9) to the Arabian Gulf, providing the Carrier Battle Group with logistic helicopter support. In November 2000, he was deployed aboard the USS Essex (LHD-2), providing search and rescue and logistic support for the Amphibious Ready Group. While deployed,

he was advanced to Second Class Petty Officer, qualifying as a Quality Assurance Representative, and qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist. In May 2002, he transferred back to San Diego, CA, where he attended Basic Instructor School. He then checked into Helicopter Combat Support Squadron THREE (HC-3). While stationed at HC-3, he was advanced to First Class Petty Officer and completed his Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of Phoenix. In May, 2006, he joined the Navy Reserve, continuing his duty with Helicopter Sea Combat Support Squadron THREE (HSC-3). His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), Good Conduct Medal (4), Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal, and numerous unit commendations, campaign medals and service awards. He is married to Wendy Marticorena and they have two children, Zachary and Amy.

### **U.S Fleet Forces Sailor of the Year, HM1(SW/EXW) Mahtob M. Johnson, USN**

Petty Officer Johnson was born in Washington, D.C. Upon graduation from Hartford Technical High School in May 2000, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After Recruit Training in Great Lakes, IL, she reported to Hospital Corps "A" School and subsequently assigned to Naval Hospital Beaufort, SC in April 2001. In May 2003, she reported to the USS Saipan (LHA2) as a general duty Corpsman. She obtained her designation as a Surface Warrior and was advanced to Second Class through the Command Advancement Program. In May 2006 she reported to Naval Medical Center Portsmouth (NMCP) and served as the Operative Support Leading Petty Officer, and was advanced to First Class Petty Officer. While assigned to NMCP, she dedicated herself to the completion of an Associate of Arts Degree in Health Care Administration and Management; she graduated from the University of Phoenix in March 2009. Upon completion of her tour at NMCP, Johnson reported to Surface Warfare Medical Institute for Surface Force Independent Duty School. She was named the Honor Graduate of her class, graduating with honors and distinction. Upon

completion of Independent Duty Corpsman School, she reported to Field Medical Training in Camp Lejeune, NC en route to Naval Special Warfare Logistical Support Unit 2 (NSW LOGSU-2) in Little Creek, VA. While only onboard NSW LOGSU-2 for a short period of time, she was assigned as the Leading Petty Officer and earned her Enlisted Expeditionary Warfare qualification. Johnson then took her fill orders to USS Arleigh Burke (DDG-5) as the Senior Medical Department Representative, where she also served as the Leading Petty Officer for the Navigation and Administration Department. Petty Officer Johnson's personal decorations and military awards include the Navy Commendation Medal (2), Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5), Good Conduct Medal (4), National Defense Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (2), and various unit and service awards. Petty Officer Johnson is married to Christopher T. Johnson and is currently stationed in Norfolk, VA. They have one child, Kylie.





### Chief of Naval Operations Shore Sailor of the Year, CTR1(DW/SW) Patricia H. Madigan, USN.

Petty Officer Madigan was born on April 6, 1978 in Elmira, NY. Upon graduation from high school, she reported to Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes for Basic Training. She then reported to NTTC Corry Station for CTR "A" School. Madigan's first tour of duty was at NSGA Menwith Hill, in Harrogate, England. Follow-on tours included NSGA Kunia, USS Normandy (CG60), USS Porter (DDG 78), and Center for Information Dominance Learning Site, San Diego, CA. In July 2011, she reported to NIOC Hawaii and immediately accepted individual augmentation orders to Afghanistan, where she spent 11 months as the Officer in Charge of a tactical support operations unit. Upon returning to NIOC Hawaii in November 2012, she assumed the duties as NCOIC to a joint service operational branch as well as Department

Leading Petty Officer. Her academic achievements include an Associate of Arts Degree in Humanities from Coastline Community College, and both an Associate of Science Degree in Management and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Diplomacy and Military Studies from Hawaii Pacific University. Petty Officer Madigan's personal decorations and military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3). She is a Master Training Specialist and dual-warfare-qualified with Enlisted Information Dominance Warfare Specialist and Enlisted Warfare Specialist designators.

### Pacific Fleet Sailor of the Year, AWF1 (NAC/AW) Matthew P. Meadows, USN

Petty Officer Meadows was born in Marrero, LA. He enlisted in the Navy in September 2000; completed Recruit Training in Great Lakes, and then reported to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL to complete Naval Aircrewman Candidate School and Aviation Structural Mechanic Class "A" School. In April 2001, he transferred to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron SEVEN (VQ-7), Tinker AFB OK for initial Reel Operator Training. He then reported to Fleet Air Reconnaissance Squadron FOUR (VQ-4) in September 2001, where he qualified as a Naval Aircrewman nine months ahead of schedule, earned his Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist pin, and qualified as Collateral Duty Inspector. During this tour, Meadows served as the Positional Lead NATOPS Instructor and Work Center Supervisor for three work centers. This level of drive resulted in his selection as the 2002 VQ-4 and SCW-1 Junior Sailor of the Year. In August 2005, he transferred to Instructor Duty at The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training Detachment, Tinker AFB. While assigned, he earned his Master Training Specialist Certificate (MTS) and was personally recognized for numerous accomplishments, including the development of a hands-on aircraft system trainer. In May 2007, he was promoted to First Class Petty Officer and was immediately positioned as

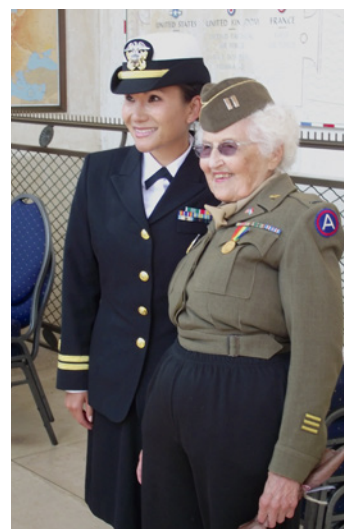
the Instructional Standards Department (ISD) Leading Petty Officer responsible for the development and management of 15 E-6B aircraft maintenance courses. While serving as IDS LPO and MTS coordinator, Meadows comprehensively amended three maintenance courses and assisted in the integration of the MTS mentorship program. In January 2009, he transferred to VQ-4 and was assigned as the LPO of five work centers during his tenure. He collectively led over 200 sailors in countless evolutions ranging from aircraft maintenance to Crypto destruction. Serving as the LPO and only one of three qualified Safe for flight First Class Petty Officer, he was selected as VQ-4 and SCW-12012 Aircrewman of the Year and 2013 Senior Sailor of the Year. In November 2013, he reported to the VQ-7 Roughnecks and currently serves as the Unit NATOPS Evaluator. His personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (5), Military Outstanding Voluntary Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (4), and various unit and service awards. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma. Currently he exceeds over 4,000 total flight hours. He is married to Melanie Munds from Moore, OK and they have two children, Cory and Carlie.



# Normandy Revisited

By HM2 Shelly-Moody, Erin

June 07, 2014: Ten members of Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit 15, stationed in Germany, gathered Friday above Omaha Beach, Normandy. It was the 70th anniversary of D-Day and they honored the 160,000 allied service members who landed there, including the many fallen. Speeches were given by the American and French presidents reflecting on the sacrifices of “a generation who defied every danger.” President Obama made a point of expressing the nation’s unending gratitude to the European people for the care of the more than 60,000 Americans that remain buried in cemeteries across the continent. Among the attendees that day were many of the remaining WW2 veterans. Their humility in the face of all they had done and faced was truly humbling. Petty Officer Gelen Georgiou had the opportunity to meet with and thank some of the veterans from the VFW in North Carolina, where children had raised money to fund their attendance at the event.



Chief Thomas Mclean met with Army Captain May Alm, 98. May was a nurse in the 104th Evacuation Hospital, attached to the 3rd Armored Division for most of the war. She arrived on Omaha Beach 35 days after the first wave came ashore.



For four members of the Navy Expeditionary Medical Unit, June 6th was a day to, not only honor the past but, commit to the future. HMCS Paul Gilgallon, HMC Thomas Mclean, HM1 Denise White and HM2 Josh Nihiser arrived that day ready to re-enlist in the United States Navy. What they did not know was that the Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Jonathan Greenert would be in attendance that day and graciously agree to “co-officiate” their re-enlistment. Formed up on the edge of the hill overlooking Omaha Beach, these four Sailors recited their oaths and began the next chapter in their Navy careers. It was an inspirational day that will stay with all those who witnessed it.



HM1 Gelen Georgiou talks with Petty Officer Chapel who was among the first waves to land on D-day. He was part of a 12 man crew of an LCT (Landing Craft - Tank) carrying four tanks ashore that day.



## We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.

We suffer with their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital love, companionship and guidance. Their place will always remain vacant among this patriotic assembly.

EM1 Max L. Baker  
CAPT Allen S. Braverman  
CEC Walter M. Brinker  
BMCM Earle W. Brotzman  
Mr. Anthony C. Caschera  
OS2 Vincent M. Caruso  
YNCS Mary U. Duffy  
FN Arthur L. Figels  
HTCM(SW) Herbert L. Fishpaw  
CEC Armand G. Groulx  
BMC John P. Hackney  
CAPT Marshall Hanson

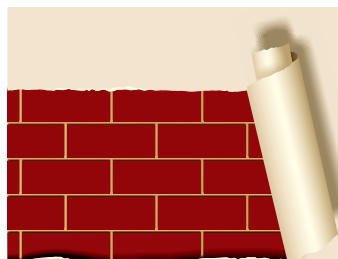
MRCS Henry Haske

Susquehanna  
League Island  
Greater Lehigh Valley  
Greater Lehigh Valley  
Susquehanna  
Floyd Bennett  
Quonset Point  
Susquehanna

Ft. McHenry  
USS Constitution  
League Island  
ROA Government  
Affairs  
Greater Lehigh Valley

YNC Frances Geraldine  
"Gerry" Higgins  
Mr. Charles F. Horn  
Mr. George Hurne  
HT1 Joseph F. Kiessling  
BUC Thomas J. Loftus  
BMC Kenneth L. Lowmiller  
BMC Joseph L. Messa  
EMC Riley E. Morton III  
EM1 Michael J. Murphy  
EQCM William N. Napert  
YNC Dale E. Norstrom  
Mrs. Bonnie I. Price  
CDR Larry Wasikowski  
DC1(SW) Thomas F. Zane

Minnesota  
Susquehanna  
Susquehanna  
Susquehanna  
Gold Country  
Susquehanna  
League Island  
Greater Atlanta  
USS Briarcliff  
Edmund Couto  
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Susquehanna  
Leo J. Milobar  
Susquehanna



## NERA Memorial Walk

Pave the way for NERA's future by naming a brick today!

Become a part of history by purchasing a brick on the NERA Memorial Walk. NERA has a long history of protecting the rights and benefits of the enlisted reserves. You can help continue this tradition by purchasing a brick. Your brick can memorialize a shipmate, family member, yourself, or a significant time in your military history.

Each 4" x 8" brick costs \$100 and will be custom engraved to your specification and placed in the Memorial Walk in front of NERA headquarters.



### NERA Memorial Walk General Information

**Phase 1:** Will feature the bricks surrounding a lighted flagpole.

**Phase 2:** Construction of a brick walkway leading up to NERA HQ.

Donations to the NERA Memorial Walk are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

*NERA reserves the right to review all copy submitted.*

Questions can be directed to Jennifer Abbott, [jabbott@nera.org](mailto:jabbott@nera.org) or (703) 534-1329.





## “A Tribute to HMCM Manny Ratner”

A distinguished group of NERA lifetime members whose outstanding dedication and support continues to fortify the legacy of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association thus inspiring future generations to absolute greatness.

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MCPO-CGRF Mark H. Allen  
PNC William A. Anderson  
EMC Larry M. Arnold  
IS1 Judith A. Ayers  
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LSC Michael F. Bartsch  
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CUCM David D. Boman  
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SK1 William B. Brown  
SKCM Julius ‘Gene’ E. Brown  
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FTGC(SW) James W. Cain  
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CWO2 Wayne R. Wicks  
YNCM Roger A. Wiley  
ASC Howard J. Williams  
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