

THE **MARINER**

Volume 55, No. 1

The Official Publication of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

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THE MARINER

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Cover Art:
James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960)
I Want You for the U.S. Army
Lithograph, 1917
Cover created by Steve Sandy

The Mariner, 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 entitled to published subscription rates. Articles, letters, and JPEG photos for The Mariner should be submitted to the Managing Editor/DED via e-mail to: MarinerEditor1@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. Periodicals postage paid at Falls Church, VA and additional mailing offices. 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: vp@nera.org.

President's Message



by National President Nick Marine



Ray Robison

Hello NERA Friends and Family:

A Special Thank You to Jennifer Abbott who has spent countless hours with our Web Master. We now have the membership reports that you have requested. If you need a Chapter Roster, Expired Listing, or any type of report, please contact NERA HQ. We are here to serve you!

We have a new and exciting fund-raising program exclusively designed for NERA. This is an easy way to assist NERA with our ongoing programs. You can help us raise money by purchasing restaurant certificates or subscribing to over 600 magazines at a substantial discounted rate for our members. Each time you make a purchase NERA receives up to 40% of all sales. You can also support NERA by spreading the word to family, friends, and neighbors. The magazine link is on NERA's web page in left hand column.

Switching Gears: On February 19, to promote the financial readiness of service members, the Department of Defense (DoD) kicked off Military Saves Week with campaigns

to encourage increased savings and decreased spending in military households. Military Saves Week was part of the DoD's larger Military Saves campaign, which was introduced in 2007 in recognition of the special financial challenges faced by service members. It ran through February 26 and featured a financial fair in the Pentagon hosted by the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy. The fair brought together representatives from partner financial institutions and organizations that help service members implement plans to spend less and save more to meet current and future financial goals. The expanding network of participating Military Saves organizations is demonstrating its commitment to the financial readiness of the military community by offering many savings products. During Military Saves Week, installations around the world hosted events encouraging Service members and their families to take the Saver Pledge and take advantage of the range of tools and resources available to help them meet debt reduction and savings goals. Taking the Saver Pledge formally commits the service member to "help myself by saving money, reducing debt, and building wealth over time" and "to help my family and my country by encouraging other Americans to build wealth, not debt."

For more info, and to take the Saver Pledge, visit <http://www.militarysaves.org>.

Great news—The Navy Reserve Component is now able to track Medical Readiness. Tracking our wounded is very important and glad to see this. BRAVO ZULO!

FORCM Chris Wheeler Weekly Report—3 February 2012

Operational Support Snapshot
FY12 Presidential Budget End Strength 66,200
RC Sailors (FTS/SELRES) Onboard: 64,121
RC Sailors Operational Support: 14,392
RC Sailors Mobilized or Deployed: 3,962
RC CPOs Mobilized 663
RC Flag Officers on Active Duty: 30

RC Medical Readiness

Fully Medically Ready: 83.4% (from 82.3%)
Partially Medically Ready: 6.6% (from 7.1%)
Total: 90.0% (from 89.4%)

More later,
NERA Nick

"A good Navy is not a provocation to war. It is the surest guaranty of peace."

—President Theodore Roosevelt

"Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, small minds discuss people."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

Vice President's Message

by National Vice President Clifton Duke Hayes MNI (Ret.)

Hello NERA members:

First and foremost I am pleased that I have heard from some of you over the past few months, and I look forward to meeting you at the regional conferences. I need to hear from any Chapter that will be hosting a conference so I can coordinate my schedule. We will let everyone know about them and maybe we can generate some interest and help our numbers grow.

I am still growing into my office and quite honestly still learning what I need to do. That being said, I want to hear from more of our membership about their needs and concerns as well as input about recruiting more members.

The Oklahoma Chapter of NERA is very involved with the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. While attending various functions that involve many different veterans based organizations, I have found that it is very, very difficult to make our individual memberships grow.

I am learning about different problems that our returning veterans are experiencing. Everything from VA problems to rising TRICARE costs. Faced with these rising costs it just makes our job of recruiting membership that much harder. So, I am hoping that by talking to and meeting with our NERA membership I can gain more knowledge and ideas from our folks to help our numbers grow.

Feel free to call or email me any time. •



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ITC Diane Diaz and children attend the sixth annual Children's Christmas Party on December 17, 2011, held by NERA's Gold County Chapter, at the BT Collins Army Reserve Center. For more pictures from this event, turn to "Faces of NERA" on page sixteen.

Executive Director's Message

by Executive Director Steve Sandy



The War is Over and Uncle Sam Doesn't Need YOU Anymore!

If you are one of the many Active and Reserve Component (AC/RC) service members who have just received this news, may I offer some advice?

Take a deep breath, stay calm, and refrain from anger. "An angry man never wins a fight."

Take notes, remember the English class where they told you the basic questions to ask when writing a story; who, what, where, when, why.

Who delivered the news? Name, Rank, and Position...

What board made the decision, reason for discharge, type of discharge? Are there benefits you're entitled to and what are the consequences if you take them? Are you eligible to transition to the reserve component or return to service at some later date? Are you eligible for TRICARE. If so, for how long?

Where were you assigned at the time of discharge, did you get the news in the work space or were you called to the skipper's office? When were you told (time and date), and how long you were given before you were discharged?

And the hardest question—Why? Take every brochure and pamphlet they have to offer and make note if they offer no guidance. Request copies of all paper work involved in this action, make clear and concise notes. There is very little chance to appeal this action but without the documentation there is no chance.

Keep in mind this is a long journey and you must do it without anger. Sit in every TAP class they offer, listen and again take notes and if the information is not sufficient tell someone. There are a myriad of programs and organization to help you along the way and remember you are not alone.

Now start thinking of what you're going to do with the rest of your life. Do not limit yourself, think big! When veterans left the service after WWII they thought of college degrees and starting their own businesses.

Some became congressmen, senators and even president, and we could sure use a few veterans in those positions today!

Better yet, become a teacher so you can teach our young people what citizenship and sacrifice really mean. Don't settle for the easy or convenient. Challenge yourself. There are fifty states, and hundreds of thousands of cities, towns, and communities, just waiting for you and your family. When you get settled in, become active in the community, coach Little League, lead a Boy Scout Troop, and join the VFW, FRA, or maybe NERA. Find out who your congressman and senators are and register to vote. You are a citizen and you can make a difference.

In conclusion thank the military for the skill sets they have given you and do not let bitterness define your service to our country.

"Good Luck and God Bless"

—Master Chief Steve Sandy

Senator Webb on TRICARE:

The people serving right now are watching how we take care of retirees

During an Armed Services Committee hearing, Senator Jim Webb, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee, today said that the American people need to understand what the proposed TRICARE changes look like "from the experiences of someone who has spent a career in the military."

"All of this boils down to what a soldier or Marine or sailor or someone in the Air Force can see about what happened to the people who went before them—how they were treated after they left the uniform," said Senator Webb. "I grew up in the Marine Corps tradition and no Marine is ever left behind, and I feel just as strongly about the commitment that we have made to lifetime medical care for the people who have served.

"We know we have a problem with medical care. It is a national problem...It is not simply a DoD problem," said Senator Webb. "I do not believe that we should allow ourselves to characterize the commitment that we have made as a throw-away matter as we try to balance out other issues. How we take care of these people is one of the great litmus tests that people who are serving right now are going to be looking at."

Read more of Senator Webb's statement at: www.nera.org •

Letters

AUSN Merger and Survey Questions

Hello Master Chief:

I contacted the AUSN last week and talked to a retired Master Chief Jerry Featherstone. When questioned, he informed me that their organization totals 17,209 with a break down of 17,002 officers and 207 enlisted. What is the total TRUE active membership of NERA at this time? These numbers have not been published in the Mariner magazine for many years.

The information published in the winter 2011 Mariner magazine concerning the possible merger was vague at best. I am sure that more details were made available at the NERA convention in CA!

Is this merger or any other merger the only way that NERA can survive?

Fair Winds and Following Seas!
Bob Bentley

Good Morning Bob,

Thank you for your response.

The survey in The Mariner was to get our members' opinions on a possible merger with one organization (AUSN) who have made an offer. The NEC asked that a survey sheet be published to help guide them as to how the membership regarded such a merger. This is a survey, NOT a vote.

Members may write or email their feelings on this action either to NERA National or to individual NEC members.

A vote for this merger does not guarantee our survival, nor a vote against signify our demise. Only the recruitment of new members, and our mentoring them to seek chapter and national office, can do that.

As for the brevity of the survey I have never believed we enlisted needed to be spoon fed information in order to understand it, I relied on our membership's ability to gather information, converse with shipmates, and then use their common sense to complete this survey.

By the way Bob you didn't answer the survey.

Steve

Tips & Clips

March 1, 2012

Hi Joanne,

I have been meaning to thank you for all the information you publish in your "Tips & Clips."

I have used them as reference when I got questions from some of my members.

I save all my Mariners.

One of the big reasons I do that is because of your "Tips & Clips."

R/

Norma Von Dohren

HMC Leslie Hurd with Santa, at the sixth annual Children's Christmas Party on December 17, 2011, held by NERA's Gold County Chapter, at the BT Collins Army Reserve Center. For more pictures from this event, turn to "Faces of NERA" on page sixteen.



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U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Ed Early/Released.



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NERA 2011

Membership Recruiting Award

Chuck Sherrick, YNC (ret), of the Garden State Chapter, once again has won the membership recruiting award. Chief Sherrick has dominated our recruitment efforts for many years, winning this annual award 11 times, including the last 8 years in a row. He typically out-recruits everyone else by wide margins. This past year he recruited over 50 members for NERA while the runner-up to him recruited 5 members.

Chuck is currently the Treasurer for the Garden State Chapter and has previously held Chapter positions

as President for 4 years, and Vice President for 3 years. During his tenure as Chapter President the Garden State Chapter received the Outstanding Chapter award in both 2004 and 2005. He was NERA National President in 1999-2000 and received NERA's highest honor, the 1776 Award in 2003. He is also a Life Member and Life Benefactor of NERA.

Thanks Chuck for all you do for NERA. Keep up the outstanding recruiting efforts. ●





Coastie Corner

Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach Reserve Sector Boarding Team Making a Difference On Their Civilian Days Off

The Coast Guard Reserve Sector Boarding Team (RSBT) of Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach and the Los Angeles Port Police conduct regular boardings of small, recreational vessels in the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach during their drill weekends. By providing day-to-day support of Coast Guard missions in the port, the RSBT develops competencies and sharpens skills for use in future contingency operations – either locally or wherever the need arises.

The boarding team utilizes both active duty and reserve Coast Guardsmen, including LT Carter Fenstemacher, Chief James Lanigan, BM1 Richard Magana, MK2 Richard Quichocho, and ME3 Justin Olson as well as partnering with members of the Los Angeles Port Police. And, this mix of full and part time professionals is making a difference.

During a routine boarding earlier this year, the inter-agen-

cy team encountered four Mexican nationals who were in the United States illegally. The team terminated their voyage and detained the individuals. The detainees were transported to the Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach boat basin and transferred into the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. A Coast Guard Station Los Angeles-Long Beach boat crew towed the vessel to Cabrillo Marina, where it was released to the family members of the detainees.

This is but one example of how consistent training and the hard work of maintaining certifications pay off when the time comes to execute real world operations. The opportunity to conduct joint operations with local law enforcement partners is extraordinary. Additionally, the opportunity to work in concert with other local Coast Guard units helps to maintain our ongoing and seamless working relationship.

Bravo Zulu RSBT! •

Submitted by: LCDR Greg Duncan, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach; Response Dept. SRO



Legislative Updates

by Deputy Executive Director Michael Hughes OSC, USNR (Ret.)

Servicemen's Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

Overview

The SCRA provides legal protection for service members and their families who are ordered to active duty. The Act also provides protection for difficulties meeting some financial and legal obligations due to their active duty service.

This is not a comprehensive assessment of all the provisions of the SCRA, but only a review of some of the key provisions. The complete Act can be found in 50 USC 501.

This Act only applies to transactions, loans, leases and contracts entered into prior to entering active duty.

Following are some of the key areas that are covered:

Credit Card and Mortgage Debt

- Interest capped at 6% per year while on active duty status.
- The financial institution must be notified in writing of the activation and provided with a copy of the orders.
- Effective for up to 90 days after release from active duty.
- No pay back of interest charges above the 6% that normally would have been charged.

Mortgage Foreclosure Protection

- Provides protection from foreclosure for those ordered to 180 days or more of active duty.
- Protection is effective for up to 9 months after release from active duty until Dec. 31, 2012. NOTE: NERA and the other members of The Military Coalition are actively supporting legislation to permanently extend this to 1 year after release from active duty.
- Mortgage holders are required to search the DoD supplied data base of all active duty service members to determine eligibility. Letters of notification and copies of orders are not required from the member for this protection.

Civil Court Actions

- Provides for stays of up to 180 days for civil court ac-

tions such as bankruptcy, foreclosures and divorce.

- Does not apply for criminal actions.

Cell Phone Contracts

- Allows termination of cell phone contracts for those deployed outside the U.S. for more than 90 days.
- Must notify the contractor in writing with a copy of orders included.
- Prohibits charges for "termination fees" and/or "re-activation fees".

Rental Eviction Protection

- Protects against eviction from rental housing.
- Must notify the landlord or lease holder in writing with a copy of orders included.
- Protection is for set maximum dollar values of rent for housing that are published in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Defense is adjusted annually for inflation. The current maximum is \$2720.95.

Taxes

- Prevents states from calculating the service member's earned income in determining a spouse's tax rate when they do not maintain their permanent legal residence in that state.

If you have questions or issues related to the SCRA you should contact your unit Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer or designated legal affairs officer. You should also make your spouse and/or responsible family member(s) aware of these protections. •



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Tips & Clips

by Past National President Joanne Elliott



Ray Robson

2012 National Conference

Our next conference will be held September 19-22, 2012 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Look for more detailed information in the next issue and online. Preliminarily, the conference site is the Crowne Plaza Hotel located near the Parx Casino on Street Road in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. The hotel is about 30 minutes from

downtown Philadelphia and the airport. Instead of having a dinner on Saturday night, we are planning a dinner cruise on the Spirit of Philadelphia on Thursday night (9/20). It will be a 3 hour cruise with dinner, dancing and entertainment. If you have never been to Philadelphia, now is your chance to see this wonderful and historic city. In the future, we will include a list of things to do and see.

Shift Colors

The fall 2011 issue of Shift Colors was the last issue that you will be able to receive in print. The magazine can now only be accessed online at www.shiftcolors.navy.mil. You can also access information on facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Retirees/134031983278683>, or by searching the web for Navy and Marine Corps Retirees.

ID Cards

To avoid long wait times to obtain ID cards, go to <http://appointments.cac.navy.mil> to make an appointment via online. You will also find a list of required documentation needed as well as local office phone numbers. To find the Support/PayPers Support nearest location and information on benefits and eligibility go to <http://www.npc.navy.mil/Command/IDCards/>.

Replacement DD 214/Service Record

If you retired prior to 1/1/1995, go to www.archives.gov/veterans to request a DD214. If you retired after 1/1/1995, send NAVPERS 1070/882 to:

Navy Personnel Command
Pers-312E
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055-3120.

You can also fax your request to 901-874-2664. Go to www.npc.navy.mil. In the search box at the top right hand corner type in NAVPERS 1070/882. This will bring you to another screen. Click on the first form and it will download to your screen a fillable form which you can fill out and print.

Burial at Sea Information

Call 866-787-0081 or go online to www.npc.navy.mil. When you go to the website, search for the Burial Request form and print it out. You will also need:

- (1) a photocopy of the death certificate
- (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
- (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

2013 Defense Budget

Last year Congress passed a law that would limit future TRICARE fee hikes for retirees to no more than the COLA increase in retirement pay. However, military officials (at this writing) now want to tie the increase to the rate of medical inflation, which now runs 7% or higher. Given the fact that the military retirees have only received 3.6% once over the last few years, there is much cause for alarm. They are also looking into charging retirees over age 65 an enrollment fee for Tricare for Life. Of course, the Pentagon claims that these fees will remain below levels in most of the private sectors. Let's see if our retirees whose annual retirement is between \$10,000 to \$20,000 (roughly all the enlisted reservists and most of the E-6 and below) will agree with this view. See Navy Times article: <http://www.armytimes.com/news/2012/02/military-tricare-costs-would-jump-in-budget-plan-022312w/>. To view proposed changes chart: <http://militarytimes.com/projects/benefits/tricare-fee-increases/>.

Federal Voting Assistance Program

For those of you who will be OCONUS or away from your home on election day, go to <http://www.fvap.gov/> to obtain information on how to register. •

2012 NAVAL ENLISTED RESERVE ASSOCIATION USAA/NERA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) offers a College Scholarship Program for NERA members and members of their family.

GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICATIONS DUE 4 JUNE 2012

NERA scholarship program recognizes the service to the United States and sacrifices by Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Reserve component members, retirees and their families. This program is sponsored through substantial grant funding from USAA Insurance (www.usaa.com) and additional donations from NERA and its members. NERA reserves the right to modify or discontinue the scholarship program at any future date should funding not be available. **The application and supplemental instructions are available online at www.nera.org.**

SCHOLARSHIP AMOUNTS

- Two \$3,000 scholarships for Regular NERA Members.
- Four \$2,500 scholarships for any Regular or Associate NERA member or any spouse, son, daughter or grandchild of a regular NERA member. Children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the scholarship the applicant must be either a NERA member, regular or associate. NERA members may also sponsor a qualified applicant: a spouse, son, daughter or grandchild. Sponsored children and grandchildren must be unmarried and under age 23 on 4 June 2012.

In order to qualify for the scholarship the applicant or sponsor must be a member in good standing by the scholarship deadline, 4 June 2012. Members must have their dues paid up to date and new memberships must be paid in full by the scholarship deadline, 4 June 2012. If you have any questions regarding your eligibility please contact NERA at 800 776-9020 or by email at members@nera.org.

Eligible students – must attend undergraduate level studies at a college, university or junior/community college that confers a bachelor's or associate's degree, on a full or part-time status as established by the school accepting the scholarship funds. Academic programs involving a second undergraduate or graduate school degree are not eligible

SCHOLARSHIP USE REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship applicants may be either graduating high school seniors or students already attending a college, university or junior/community college. Applicants must be enrolled or planning to enroll, full-time or part-time in the fall semester immediately following award of the scholarship. Enrollment may be in any undergraduate program leading to a bachelor's degree or associate's degree at an accredited college or university.

The NERA Scholarship can be awarded in addition to any other partial scholarship, including a ROTC Scholarship. Those applicants already in possession of an appointment to a U.S. service academy or receiving a "full scholarship" to any accredited college or university are not eligible. A "full scholarship" is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees, and university supplied dormitory room and board.

ESSAY REQUIREMENT: One 500 word essay chosen from one of the two topics listed below.

FIRST ESSAY CHOICE: Personal Goals and Objectives

In 500 words state your career goals and objectives for your education. Direct your comments to how you think your college education will benefit you or others in keeping with your career goals and objectives.

SECOND ESSAY CHOICE: "Why Are Reservists Important to America?"

In 500 words, answer above question.

The application and supplemental instructions are available online at www.nera.org.

Faces of NERA

Children's Christmas Party

NERA's Gold County Chapter held their sixth annual Children's Christmas Party on December 17, 2011 at the BT Collins Army Reserve Center.

Mr. Mike Helm, Senior Vice President of Sutter Total Health Productivity Management made a sizeable donation to cover the cost of food, cakes and fruit juice to feed approximately 200 people who attended. Additionally, 1st SGT Alex Narvaez and CWO3 Brian Brooksby, with the USMC Staff, Motor Transport Maintenance Company were instrumental in arranging with the Army Reserve Center to host the Party. Julie Baumgartner of Military One Source also assisted.

Special thanks also go out to the Army Reserve Active Duty Staff (MAJ Tonri Brown, MSG Cesar Tinajero and SFC Jeffrey Bailey), as well as Lynn Johnson (Mrs. Santa), and Howard George, the photographer for the Gold County Chapter, Dan Nicholson, Tracy Messinro, and Mike Helm. •

Photos continued on pages 17 and 20.



Above, Santa and Reindeer Norma



2012 National Conference

Philadelphia, PA—September 19-23

Here is a list of sights to see in Philadelphia, as well as in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. We will keep you updated as we get closer to the Conference.

Franklin Institute – www2.fi.edu (this site will also give you information on the Fels Planetarium).

RiverLink Ferry – <http://riverlinkferry.org> (this leaves from Penns Landing and arrives in Camden, near the USS New Jersey)

Philadelphia Museum of Art – www.philamuseum.org

Betsy Ross House – historicphiladelphia.org/betsy-ross-house

Carpenters' Hall – www.USHistory.org/CarpentersHall/

Liberty Bell – www.nps.gov/inde/liberty-bell-center.htm

Forrest Theatre – www.forrest-theatre.com

Walnut Street Theatre – www.walnutstreettheatre.org

Other sights to see in Philadelphia are the shops and restaurants on South Street and the 9th Street Italian Market, which hosts wonderful food markets, Italian markets, and restaurants.

In Bucks County, within an hour's driving distance you can visit the Mercer Museum in Historic Doylestown – www.mercermuseum.org

Visitors can also drive to New Hope, Peddlers Village and Washington Crossing Park. For wine lovers, visit www.crossingvineyards.com

The Crowne Plaza has a shuttle to the Parx Casino where you can enjoy dancing, gaming and horse racing.

On Thursday, September 20, we have reserved tables on the Spirit of Philadelphia for a dinner cruise. There will also be entertainment and music for dancing. For more information on the ship go to www.spiritofphiladelphia.com. •

Faces of NERA, continued



At left, Stacie Brooksby with her husband CWO3 Brooksby and Julie Baumgartner (Military One Source)



At right,
EM1 Ramon
Nazareno



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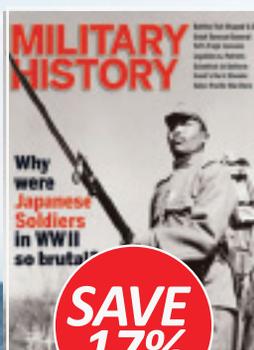
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HM3 Scott Ott, one of Gold Country's regular volunteers

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I have made provision for the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) in my estate plan, as follows:

- A. Bequest in my will \$ _____
- B. Life insurance policy \$ _____
- C. Trust naming the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) as the final beneficiary (please specify type of trust, the date(s) of birth of primary income beneficiaries, and any conditions).

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D. Charitable Gift Annuity \$ _____

E. Other (please describe) \$ _____

In the event of unforeseen circumstances which might require change(s) in the above, I agree to notify the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA) of such change(s).

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

TAPS

*We mourn the loss of our NERA members and compatriots.
We suffer for their loved ones, who grieve the loss of vital
love, companionship, and guidance. Their place will always
remain vacant among this patriotic assembly. Amen.*

Member

Chapter

AT1 Robert L. Byrne	Garden State
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BU1 David Eugene	Grand River Valley
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CUCM Gerald (Jerry) M. Swift	Leo J Milobar
SKC(SW) Delmer Wallen	Sea Services of Knoxville
AOC Robert T. Zapart	Floyd Bennett

CUCM Gerald M. "Jerry" Swift

NERA lost a stalwart member and supporter on December 21, 2011 when CUCM Gerald M. "Jerry" Swift passed away at the age of 81.

Jerry started his Naval Reserve career in 1947 in Omaha, NE as a Seaman Apprentice and retired in 1986 as a Master Chief and Command Master Chief of RNMCB 15 in Omaha.

CUCM Swift joined NERA in 1969 and became a life member in 1980 and more recently became a Life Benefactor. He remained an active and vital member of NERA until his death. He was also a founding member and active in the

Big Red Sub Club in Omaha, a support organization for the submarine USS Nebraska.

Jerry received NERA's highest honor as the 1776 Award recipient in 2004. He was very active in the Leo J. Milobar Chapter serving as their President for three years, Vice President for two years, and Secretary for three years. He was Editor of their newsletter from 1992 until early 2011 when health issues caused him to cease those duties.

Our sincere condolences and prayers go to his wife of 59 years Joan, his son Steve, his daughter Sheri Ann and his two granddaughters and five great grandchildren. •

"A ship in port is safe; but that is not what ships are built for. Sail out to sea and do new things."

—Rear Admiral Grace Hopper

"A ship is referred to as she because it costs so much to keep one in paint and powder"

—Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz

Naval Enlisted Reserve Association

LIFE BENEFACTORS

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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