MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR
May 2019 bring you Peace, Joy, Good Health and Prosperity
NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC.  NATIONAL OFFICERS 2018-2019

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VISIT THE NSVA WEBSITE AT: www.nsva.org
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Notice: Deadline for the March Edition of the CAN DO is February 15th 2019

Visit the NSVA website @ www.nsva.org
CHAPLAINS CORNER

Let me to introduce myself, I’m Patrick D. Lyons the new NSVA National Chaplain. I completed a 22-year and 6 month career in the U.S. Navy Seabees. Nineteen months in Vietnam with NMCB 62, from 1966 thru ’69. I’ve had many different P.W.D. station assignments around the world. Argentia, Newfoundland, Reykjavik, Iceland to name a few. I was stationed in Iceland for 3.5 years during which time I returned to school and earned my equivalency diploma from Ohio State, after which I successfully completed classes in Criminal Justice and Phycology, earning a 2 year Associate’s Degree in Criminal Justice. I was deployed twice with NMCB-3 to Puerto Rico and Okinawa. After completing those deployments I retired to Florida. Over the next 21 years I worked as a Deputy Sherriff for Seminole County, based out of the County seat in Sanford, FL. (It was a Great Job!). From 2010 – 2012 I was the National Master at Arms and now look forward to serving the NSVA as your National Chaplain. Going forward I plan to communicate through the Chaplains Corner about items and scripture I feel appropriate for our ever changing times.

Scripture: John-3-16: This is how we know what Love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us; we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.

God Bless You, Have a Great Seabee Day
BU1 Patrick D. Lyons

SEABEE MONUMENTS

During the 2018 Convention PNC David Buchanan provided the attendees with a report on the NSVA Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery Project. The report was published in the September issue of the Can Do. Not surprisingly there were a few questions as to why some of the previously dedicated Seabee Monuments/Memorials were not mentioned. A few of the NSVA Island members supplied pictures and accompanying narratives regarding their dedicated monuments on the following pages. I have also included a letter from PNC Buchanan regarding the NSVA Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery Project for everyone's information.
NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA, Inc.

Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery Project

The Monument above is representative of all the Monuments being placed in the all National Cemeteries. This program started in 2007 in Island X-4, Toledo, Ohio where I was Commander for 12 years. We needed a project to keep our Island active, but being an Island of mainly WWII Veterans, a physical project was not possible. We came up with the idea of the Monument program as all we had to do was raise the funds. Raising the funds was the easier part of the process.

We needed SEABEES to take an interest in the project and do the leg-work, ie: place the pad in many of the Cemeteries, coordinate with the Cemetery Director for the placement and Dedication of the Monuments, and pick up the Monuments at the ABF terminal closest to the National Cemetery. ABF donates transportation of all the Monuments from terminal to terminal.

To date YOUR donations have enabled us to place Monuments honoring the SEABEES in 33 of the 137 National Cemeteries, as well as 2 State Veteran’s Cemeteries and 2 State Veteran’s Parks. The home base for the program changed from Toledo, Ohio to Crystal River, Florida when I moved and the Island asked me to continue administering the project.

The NAVY SEABEE VETERANS of AMERICA embraced the program as one of their most worthy projects and continually supports the effort.

In 2016 the National Auxiliary adopted the program as one of their most worthy projects fully funding the Monument in the Sarasota National Cemetery in Sarasota, Florida, and continues to contribute to the program annually.

The program took on a new volunteer, Dave Kurre, who coordinates the logistics in the transportation of the Monument. Dave is a retired ABF driver. He and Admiral Buffington procured the donation of transportation from ABF for the program. This is a long range project and we plan to keep it going until we have reached our goal of a SEABEE MONUMENT in every NATIONAL CEMETERY.

We are continually seeking funds from Battalions, Departments, Islands, SEABEES and individuals to help us achieve our goal.
Any and all donations, regardless of size are encouraged and welcomed. When we have reached the full cost of a Monument we take the aggregated funds and determine what cemetery to place it in and what SEABEES will help with the local leg work, or if a group would like to donate the full cost of a monument, that group can select a National Cemetery for placement. That group then coordinates the pouring of the pad and the placement of the Monument with the Cemetery Director.

To make a donation make your checks payable to David J. Buchanan, as my bank does not recognize NSVA. Write SEABEE MONUMENT on the memo line and mail to 8491 N. Desertrose Ter., Crystal River, Florida, 34428.

Thank you for your continued support

Seabee Cemetery Monument purchased, installed and dedicated by Island X-1 Greenville, TN. The monument is located in the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery, Knoxville, TN.
Pictured below are members of X-19 Daytona and Flash Swarm Seabees at the Rededication of this Monument located in the Jacksonville, FL National Cemetery. The Monument was placed by Island X-11 Tampa FL through the NSVA’s Seabee Monument in every National Cemetery project. NSVA Publicity Chairman Normand Dupuis coordinated this rededication event.

L-R kneeling Normand Dupuis and James Zywot

Pictured below is a Seabee cemetery Monument purchased, installed 2006 and dedicated in 2007 by Island X-10 Albany, NY. The Monument is located in the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery, Schuylerville, NY.
Hello SVAA members. My name is Betty Nelson and I am the 2017-2019 National SVAA President. I was elected at the September 2017 National Convention in Tampa, Florida. I am excited to start off this term with a supportive board. Your 2017-2019 National Officers are as follows:

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

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ISLAND HOPPING

During WWII while on the offensive the Allied Forces did not stop to clear every Island and atoll of enemy forces in the Pacific. They strategically jumped from Island to Island, thus the term Island Hopping became a well-known phrase. Using that analogy we have placed various activities and events under the Island Hopping header that various Islands have sent to us. We hope you find this interesting enough to participate with happenings/events in & about your Island.

The picture collage above was submitted by Don Rowley X-19 Daytona Beach, FL. It contains pictures from the Deland Fl. Veterans Day Parade. Seabee Charley Shockey show off his original uniform from 1942, seated next to him is Don Polan along with Mike Sikora. Seated together are Marilyn and Bill Cardoza, leading the group with the American Flag is future veteran Brent Leyva. His younger sister Frances and brother Ricardo are carrying the X-19 banner. The X-19 monthly meeting followed this Great Parade at Perkins Restaurant in Deland.
Pictured below is a Gazebo dedicated to “Uncle Sam” (Samuel Wilson). This gazebo was constructed in 2010 with donated materials by Island X-10 Albany, NY. The gazebo overlooks the city of Troy, NY. Submitted by R. Porter X-10 Secretary.
Left to Right

Dept. of New York Treasurer, John Cubit (L) and Dept. Commander, Jack Tangen (R) present Island X-12 member Rick Stacy (C) an oversized check for winning the Annual Department of New York 50/50 Fund Raiser Drawing, at the Island X-12 Christmas Party
Pictured above is a fine looking group of Seabees. We’d like to know more about them, but this is all the information sent to the Can Do. Again the Can Do will support any and all Seabees. We prefer NSVA members but in keeping with the Brotherhood, “Once a SEABEE Always a SEABEE” all are welcome.

On Wednesday, October 3rd members of Island X-1 Greenville TN and soon to be chartered Island X-2 of Maryville, TN (pictured below) met at the Walters State Community College campus for preparation of the installation of the foundation for the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall Memorial. The Memorial arrived in Morristown on October 10 escorted by Military Veterans and Police. Members of X-1 and the Vietnam Veterans Association then completed the installation of the Moving Wall Memorial.
On October 11th opening ceremonies were held. Throughout the 4 day at noon the names of the 1,295 Tennessee casualties was read. Daily at dusk the Morristown Police Department played Taps. Closing ceremony took place on Sunday October 14th. Taps and a 21-gun salute was held by the Morristown Police Department. Approximately 5,000 attendees visited the Memorial over the 4 day period. Submitted by Dave Howard X-1 Secretary.
Several Seabee Vietnam veterans have sent in submissions in to the Can Do for posting. This edition will post a variety of these submissions.

**My Shame of the Vietnam War**

Not a day goes by that I don't think of my service time in Vietnam in one form or another. I suffer a *moral injury* caused by the effects of *shame*. Shame is defined as a person, action, or situation that brings a *loss of respect or honor*. This was caused initially by antiwar protestors when I came home from the battle zone. I was nearly spit on, jeered, and called a baby killer by the protesters. My friends and family thought I was a pot smoker or drug addict too because that's what they heard all the soldiers were doing over there.
Being let down by my own country is the biggest contributor to my feeling shamed. It was an immoral war fought by 19-year-old kids like me fresh out of high school. Even though many were drafted, some of us joined like our fathers before us to serve our country honorably. They came home heroes. They won the war on both fronts. We came home disgraced. We couldn’t even travel in uniform for fear of being injured by provoking or inciting a protest. Dishonor.

We did not win the war. There was no justice or morality when we abandoned the people of Vietnam. We Americans killed innocent people as evidenced in the My Lai massacre. Anti-war-activists like Jane Fonda and Martin Sheen, the spraying of Agent Orange, and the picture of the naked little girl that had just been burned with napalm still haunt me and cause me shame.

When I came home, nobody wanted to hear about Vietnam or talk about my experiences there. I was 20 years old then. I had a wife and a child I had left behind when I went on active duty and I had to support them. I had to hit the ground running and get a job and a car. I tried to become invisible and disappear into society. I lost myself into my work and suppressed the feelings and tried to blend into society again. I became a closet vet for the next 45 years. I have only been involved with veteran’s groups for the past 5-6 years now along with my son, a 21-year veteran senior chief of the Navy.

Today we have a sense of pride for all our military personnel that served in the Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. They deserve to be honored. They have made it possible for us Vietnam veterans to finally get the recognition and benefits we were cheated out of. I hope and pray the service men and women of those wars will not suffer from a moral injury caused by the shame of those wars too.

I am a veteran of the Vietnam War and a survivor of the ’68 Tet Offensive
My name is Daniel Burd. I was born in 1948 and am 70 years old. I enlisted in the Navy Reserves in Rockford, Illinois in the summer of 1965 at the age of 17 under the “delayed entry” petty officer procurement program.

I was a Seabee in Mobile Construction Battalion Four (MCB-4) in 1967/1968 and my rate was UTP-2 “Utilitiesman, Plumber, 2nd Class” (pay grade E-5) The word "Seabee" comes from initials "CB", which in turn comes from the term "Construction Battalion."

As Seabees, we built and fought in direct support of the Marine Corps and the Army. Naval Construction Force strength reached its peak shortly after the beginning of the 1968 Tet Offensive. During that and the following year, there were more than 11,000 Seabees serving in the country of South Vietnam at one time from an overall force of over 26,000.

While in country, MCB-4 built a new Seabee base camp, Camp Haines. It was located along the main north - south road (Highway 1) in the northern war zone (I Corps) of Vietnam. This was north of the ancient capital of Hue and south of the city of Quang Tri and the DMZ.

While building our own base, the Seabees at Camp Haines rebuilt the Army’s firebase Camp Evans, home of the 1st Cavalry Division after a horrendous attack which blew up their ammo dump and runway. We erected nearly 1,000 wooden buildings to bring the Cavalry soldiers up out of the mud, resurfaced and matted a 2,900-foot aircraft runway, and constructed 23 miles of eight-inch JP-4 oil supply line. We built 1000-man mess halls, berthing huts, offices, boiler houses, and showers.

MCB-4 detachments supplied fresh water to countless numbers of Vietnamese through Seabee-dug wells, provided medical treatment to thousands of villagers, and opened new opportunities and hope for generations to come through Seabee-built schools, hospitals, utilities systems, roads and other community facilities.

We Seabees also worked with and taught construction skills to the Vietnamese people, helping them to help themselves and proving that the Seabees really were "builders for peace." MCB-4 returned to the United States after having one of the busiest deployments of any battalion in Vietnam. In all, MCB-4 deployed four times during the war.
According to the March 1998 edition of Army Magazine, Camp Evans and Camp Haines is now farmland and not a trace of it remains … except in my memory.

The Seabee Base Camp and Vietnam Campaign Participation spread sheet below where provided by Louis Rossi, member NSVA Island X-19 Syracuse NY.
Due to the reduction in size necessary to fit in the Can Do format and transfer process the above spreadsheets are barely readable. Clearer copies can be obtained by contacting the Vietnam Seabees Inc. at PO Box 5177, Midlothian, VA. 23112-0020 (sorry for the inconvenience)

The Can Do Advertising Initiative

As we all know and recognize the Can Do publication has been reduced from 4 quarterly printed hard copies to 2 with the remaining two editions in electronic format posted on the NSVA Website due to financial constraints. At the National Convention this year (2018) it was decided that a initiative to pursue offering space in the Can Do for advertisements from outside entities to offset the additional costs of printing 4 hard copies annually. The following letter by National Commander Jim Furey will help kick off this initiate and hopefully induce both outside companies/individuals/NSVA Departments and Islands to participate. The NSVA would love to send out 4 hardcopies to its members per year, perhaps advertising donations will help us achieve this goal.
Dear Friend of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Inc. (NSVA):

The person presenting this letter to you is authorized to represent the NSVA to request donations for the organization.

The NSVA is a national not-for-profit 501c4 organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois since 1954. Our members recognize that service to God and Country is the foundation on which our Great Nation was founded, we dedicate ourselves to that service, and further pledge our lives and actions to preserve the fundamental ideals of American Government, which we believe are Justice, Freedom and Equality for all.

We continue to serve our country by fostering camaraderie among members to stimulate and inspire interests in all fraternal, patriotic, historical and educational activities of the Navy Seabees. We perform charitable works to assist veterans, their widows, widowers and orphans in their time of distress. We promote and instill interest in, and respect for the professions, trades, crafts, and occupations of our members in times of war and peace.

Please help us continue our mission of commemoration and helping others by donating today. All donations collected will be used to keep the Seabee heritage alive and for the general purposes of the organization including sustaining the quarterly CAN DO Magazine, Seabee Monument Program, Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and Seabee Historical Foundation. All contributions are tax deductible and you will be provided with a receipt.

To have your advertisement displayed in our quarterly CAN DO publication, please choose annual applicable option(s):

- Full Page $500.00 (All four editions of the CAN DO plus 4 of each printed copy)
- Half Page $250.00 (All four editions of the CAN DO plus 2 of each printed copy)
- Quarter Page $125.00 (All four editions of the CAN DO plus 2 of each printed copy)

Our CAN DO publication is available in print form twice a year, digitally twice a year and has nearly 5,000 recipients.

Please make checks payable to Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Inc. and give to authorized representative or mail to address noted above.

For additional information please visit our website: www.NSVA.org

Thank you for your support of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America, Inc.!

Yours in Service,

James J. Furey
National Commander
Merry Christmas Wishes from Seabee John Ratomski

Island X-19 Syracuse New York participants at their Christmas Dinner Party 2019. One Happy Group!!!
ATTENTION IMPORTANT NATIONAL CONVENTION INFORMATION

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

The Site for the 2019 National Convention will be in the state of Minnesota within the first 2 weeks of August, 2019.

The sites for the 2020 & 2021 Nation Conventions will be held in the states of Colorado and Washington, respectively.

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

Visit www.nsva.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AND REUNION INFORMATION

NOTE: Additional information and details on these events can be attained by visiting www.nsva.org

2019 NMCB 4 REUNION in Branson MO.
The Welk Resorts Hotel, 1984 State Hwy. 165
Scheduled for April 25th thru 28th, 2019
For additional info. Visit www.nmcb4reunion.com

NSVA ISLAND X-1, Greenville TN. 5th Annual All Seabee Reunion
Scheduled for August 10th, 2019
Contact Ray McPeek @ 865-776-1051 for additional details

ALL SEABEE REUNION, Gulfport MS. 25-28 April 2019
Contact Jon Scott @ 228-669-6858 or Robert Smith@ 228-424-1185 or navyseabee.reunionmanager.com

NM CB-62 Reunion in conjunction with the ALL SEABEE REUNION (above)
Contact Norm Hahn @ 715-379-8482 (between 9am & 1pm CST) for details
normhahnjr@yahoo.com or http://www.nmcb62alumni.org

SEABEE BALL hosted by Island X-4 Dickerson City, PA. March 2nd, 2019
Contact Joe Pehanick @ 507-878-9788 or seabeeislandIV@gmail.com
UPCOMING EVENTS and REUNION Information cont.

SEABEE VETERANS 2019 Midwest Reunion and Convention, May 31st thru June 2nd, 2019
(The weekend after Memorial Day)
Contact Paul Patterson @ 330-685-6527 for information & details

NMCB-74 2nd Annual Reunion, June 15th, 2019
For information: www.seabee74.org or Facebook at NMCB 74 Desert Storm Veterans

MCB-11 Reunion, October 3rd thru 6th, 2019, Seattle WA.
Contact Larry Hagler @ 512-796-2834 for details

THE WALL THAT HEALS IS COMING TO Rock Hill, SC. October 24th – 27th, 2019
Contact Milton DeLair @ 803-322-0111 or m_delair@yahoo.com

SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION and THE SEABEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY DONATIONS

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

A donation for $100.00 in the name of Patricia Young to the SMSA Marvin Shields Scholarship Fund by Island X-12, Rochester, NY.

A donation for $100.00 in the name of Patricia Young to the SMSA Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-12, Rochester, NY.

A donation for $25.00 in the name of Paul E. Robb to the SMSA Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-5, Lancaster, PA.

A donation for $25.00 in the name of Richard Santella to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association by Island X-23 Crystal River, FL.

A donation for $200.00 to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association by Island X-16, South Hillsborough, FL.

A donation for $25.00 in the name of Edwin Bezanson to the SMSA Fallen Seabee Scholarship Fund by Island X-1 Davisville, RI.

A donation for $25.00 in the name of Gregg Williams to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association by Robert Cary.
Welcome Aboard to our Newest Life Members!
John Cubit, Life Membership Chairman, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
It is with pleasure that we welcome the following Seabees as Life Members of our Organization:

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ATTENTION ALL NEW and EXISTING LIFE MEMBERS

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

My contact information is:

John Cubit, NSVA Life Membership Chairperson
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Rochester, New York 14613-1611
Phone: 585-647-9294
Email: eqcmcubit@gmail.com
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<th>LM#</th>
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**Deceased Brother Seabees, Not NSVA Members**