



Seabee Veterans of America Island X-24

FROM THE COMMANDER

How quickly this year has gone by. It is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is upon us, and Christmas is just around the corner. This is my favorite season of the year as the seemingly unbearable heat of the summer dissipates and gives way to the cool crisp mornings and pleasant afternoons.

A couple weeks ago, Deb and I had the awesome opportunity to spend a few days traveling through some of the most beautiful land our county has to offer, and the views were even more beautiful as God's handiwork was on display in the changing of the colors of the leaves. This only reminds me more of how much for which we have to be thankful, and I am thankful for this great land in which we live.

Veteran's day will have come and gone by the time you receive this, but I want to thank you for your service to our country and I want to thank your families for their having supported you. A sometime difficult job would be even more difficult without the support of our families and loved ones. The freedoms we fought for and defended are under attack today. Many of the things we have taken for granted are disappearing, but as for now, we still have the right to vote and I encourage you to do so with our freedoms in mind.

As usual I am excited about the next reunion coming up in April/May. 30 April – 5 May to be exact and we will be back in Pigeon Forge at The Ramsey. Make your reservations now to be sure you get the great rates! 1-(800)555-2650. Jeff Anders has put together a great day trip which is sure to be a good time of fellowship and entertainment, and Ron Gruzesky has put together a zip-lining adventure for the young at heart (and body). These are in addition to the other great activities that will be available. We decided against a picnic this year since it made for too busy of a day, but we will still have the ice breaker/ meet and greet on Friday night to get to know the new folks. The registration packages should be out soon and I encourage you to register early, or at least before the deadline. Hotel reservations (Navy Seabee 2024) must be made by 4/1/2024. We are looking forward to another great turnout and hoping to gain several more new members. I can't wait to see you there!

Tim Jufer – Island X-24 Commander

TAPS:

Nancy Jean Moore Newsome

July 28, 1936 - November 9, 2023

On Thursday morning, November 9, 2023, Nancy Jean Moore Newsome, 87, passed away peacefully into Heaven while at her home.

Nancy was born, the only child to the late Gray and Flossie Moore in Forsyth County.

Nancy was a faithful member of Antioch United Methodist Church. She enjoyed cooking for her family, spending summers at White Lake, and her cats, Gray bo, and Freckles. She attended Rural Hall and Old Richmond Schools, where she met the love of her life, Louis Hamilton Newsome, who loved her so much that when he graduated, he took a job as her school bus driver for her final year of school, to be near her. They married June 18, 1955, and together they built a life of love.

Left to cherish her memories are her son, Dexter Newsome; daughter, Joyce Shaw (James); four granddaughters: LaDonna Brown, Jessica Asbury (Jamie), Monica Bartle (Shannon), Carly Maurer (Mike); and her "greats": Lillie, Lyndsay, Cheslee, Jenna, Jada, Rayann, Emmalee, Brantlee, Leevi, Seraphina, Madison, Jon Michael, Hunter, and Paislee.

She was an amazing Nanny to her family, friends, and everyone she met.

Services to celebrate her amazing life were held Sunday, November 12, 2023, at Antioch United Methodist Church with Pastor Pat Dixon officiating. Interment will follow at the church cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Antioch United Methodist Church 9220 Antioch Church Rd. Rural Hall, NC 27045.

CHAPLIANS CORNOR

HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holiday season often brings families together. Many gather in their homes to share laughs, open presents, eat hearty meals and continue other traditions. For military families, however, this isn't always guaranteed, as many service members don't get to go home for the holidays – one of the many sacrifices we have made to protect our homeland.

Seabee families know what it's like to be separated from us at one point or another during our military career. Our deployments sent us to different corners of the world and lasted anywhere from a few months to more than a year. While any deployment can be hard on our families, when a deployment overlaps with the holiday season, the pang of this separation can be even tougher.

When we deployed, communication with family members decreased drastically. Sometimes, it's completely nonexistent. This is never easy, but it's especially difficult around the holidays when togetherness is tantamount. I for one will NEVER forget spending Christmas far away in not so beautiful Al Jubal, Saudia Arabia (1990), where I saw several grown men brake down and cry, because of where we were spending the "holidays", and with whom. Yes there was fear for what we were soon to face in just a few days, the start of the air war against Saddam Husseins forces in Kuwait, then on into Iraq. Being away for Christmas brought a very deep sadness in most of us, and certainly to me. We went on and got through that season and with the Lord's blessing, our ENTIRE Battalion returned safely home, but we were all forever changed. Most of us I am sure feel a special connection with the men we served with. To me the names (Sheidell, Anders, Shattoe, Bardill, Cripps, Martell, Powell, Franks, Ownsby, Sellers and several others, bring smiles to my face when they come to my mind, and they often do. Perhaps, we all have certain men that we have served with that trigger similar memories of comradeship during very perilous and stressful times. I hope that if you feel like I do, that you have attempted to reach out to your special group of Shipmates, at some point after your deployment. Trust me, it does make a difference to them that you did or continue to keep that flame going. I know that it is good for the Soul. I know "first hand" that it can be to both parties.

But remember most of all the reason for this season. Yes family, our homes, a warm fire, good health, sure a present or two, time off from work, lights, Christmas Carrols, Candles, fond memories of family and friends, etc. are all wonderful of course. More importantly however it is a time to MORE reflect and to give praise and honor and glory to the LORD, Jesus Christ and what HE came to accomplish and WHY HE was born. We believe as Christian's, Jesus had come to earth as the miraculous baby, having been born of a virgin, in order to fulfill all of the many prophetic messages found in our most HOLY BIBLE, concerning how the Messiah was to be born.

Jesus came to redeem us and reconcile us back to God. We were lost in our sins, slaves to our old, sinful nature. We needed redemption. He was to come forth having been formed in Mary's womb, by GODS Plan to ensure that Jesus would not be contaminated with a sin nature. HE entered Earth as the planted seed, being fully human, and fully God. (The Christmas story can be found in Mathew 1:18- 2:23 and Luke 1:26-2:40.)

So with all this being said, I ask my Seabee Family to slow down and to begin this new season with reflecting on these passages of Scripture and keep the focus on Christ first and everything else after that. Someone once said "Jesus is the reason for the Season". My prayer is that we will not lose sight of this fact and allow Christmas Shopping, or decorating, or Santa or our kids or grandkids or the hustle and the bustle take precedence.

May God bless you and your family, especially during this holiday season, and may God Bless America.

**David Yassemedis
Island X24 2023 Chaplain
USNR Retired / 2007
sidemessayd1@gmail.com**

865-228-3172

From the Secretary

Neal Beard

It hardly seems like it's already been six months since our last Island X-24 Reunion and that Thanksgiving and Christmas will soon be upon us. I want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving in a few weeks and a joyous Christmas that will be here in less than two months.

It will also be a few days short of six months before our next Island X-24 reunion in Pigeon Forge. Island Commander Tim Jufer and Vice Commander Jeff Anders have both been working hard to make plans and ensure everything runs smoothly this coming year; we owe them both a huge debt of gratitude. Also, a big thank you goes out to Ron Gruzesky, who has volunteered to lead a hiking experience in the Smokies, and Rodney Meade, who will host another Sporting Clays gun shoot near Pigeon Forge this coming year. Both events will fill up quickly, so if you think you might be interested in either outing, then let us know by marking that event in your reunion package and then submitting it to us as soon as you can after receiving it.

We will also offer a local tour bus adventure and a group outing to one of Pigeon Forge's local attractions, as we have done in previous years. I'm pretty sure we will have another Friday night *Meet-and-Greet* like last year; if we do, Tim Jufer will let us know soon. I enjoyed mixing and mingling with everyone at the *Meet-and-Greet* more than anything we did at last year's reunion.

In addition, we were blessed to have a great turnout at our Island Picnic honoring NMCB-24 Seabees who deployed in 2005 and 2009; many of them stayed over to attend our Saturday night dining out. Wasn't it great to see all those brothers and sisters that we hadn't seen in a long time, as well as their families?

The picnic was a boon for Island recruitment; we realized several new Life Memberships and annual renewals following the reunion. The increase in membership will make a huge difference in the Island's ability to continue to serve our NMCB-24 families for years to come, and we have Island Commander Tim Jufer to thank for all that; the idea and most of the work fell on his shoulders.

The picnic accomplished all we had hoped for, as did the *Meet-and-Greet* event the evening before. This coming year, we will not do another picnic but instead expect better participation in the planned events and see a larger turnout at our Saturday night banquet. All in all, I think last year's gathering was the best Island Reunion we have had in a long, long time, and that's because of the contributions of all of our members.

Please try to attend this coming year; It's not an Island reunion without YOU.

From David Smith Family

Holiday Greetings to Island X-24 NSVA Members and Families. During this time, the Smith Family is looking forward to celebrating Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years as we enjoy these festive times with our family and friends. Unfortunately, our country is experiencing a time of turbulence with civil disorder and political unrest where other countries are experiencing troubled times of war. Hopefully, the holiday season will bring peace and tranquility to our nation. The Smith Family is proud that our country has a strong military to provide protection for our citizens. Our founding fathers who developed the Declaration of Independence and Constitution of the United States foresaw a need to secure our many freedoms such as free speech, choice of religion, elections to select our leaders, judicial system, free movement in country, rights as citizens, and choice of education, just to mention a few. Remember Freedom is not free. Therefore, over the past, to maintain the status of freedom, keep in mind that many of our Military Service members have made the ultimate sacrifice of their eternal lives for our Country to maintain freedom around the globe. As we approach the Holiday Season our hearts go out to say several prayers for our Military Service members and for our fellow Americans citizens. Again, the Smith Family wishes all a safe and joyful Holiday Session.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA
24th BATTALION AT LARGE (ISLAND X-24) NSVA**

FY 2023 (JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024)

I hereby apply for membership in the Seabee Veterans of America, 24th Battalion At Large.

I solemnly pledge to promote the welfare of its members, to perpetuate allegiance to America, to promote the American flag, and America's free institutions.

Name _____ Nickname _____

Address _____ Spouse's Name _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Occupation _____

(circle one) *New Member* *Renewing Member* *Life Member*

Phone Number (____) _____ Cell (____) _____ Work (____) _____

FAX (____) _____ E. Mail _____

Member's Birth Date _____ Spouse's Birth Date _____ Wedding Anniversary Date _____

(Month/day/Yr. is Desired. However, Year is optional) -

Units served with in Battalion 24 and/or Other Military Units served with:

Discharge Date _____ Type _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Make Check Payable to: 24th Battalion At Large, NSVA

Annual Dues: \$20.00

(From July 1 to June 30th each year)

Life Membership

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Age 18 - 30</i> | <i>\$250.00</i> |
| <i>Age 31 - 40</i> | <i>\$225.00</i> |
| <i>Age 41 - 50</i> | <i>\$200.00</i> |
| <i>Age 51 - 60</i> | <i>\$175.00</i> |
| <i>Age 61 - 70</i> | <i>\$150.00</i> |
| <i>Age 71 and Up</i> | <i>\$125.00</i> |

Forward application

and check to: MARVIN JONES, TREASURER Phone: Home: 828-667-3075
24th Battalion At Large Cell: 828-335-2829
17 Wedgefield Drive
Asheville, NC 28806 e-mail: mjjjtess@att.net

NAVY SEABEE VETERANS OF AMERICA
24th BATTALION AT LARGE
ADDRESS AND PHONE LIST OF OFFICERS & OTHER POSITIONS FY 2023

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| COMMANDER: | TIM JUFER 240 CHRISMAN OAKS TRAIL NICHOLASVILLE, KY 40356 | HOME PHONE: NONE CELL PHONE: (859) 533-9829 E-MAIL: timothyjufer@gmail.com |
| 1st VICE COMMANDER: | JEFF ANDERS 178 SHERRILL LANE CANTON, NC 28716 | HOME PHONE: (828) 367-0326 CELL PHONE: (828) 775-6090 E-MAIL: jczservant@charter.net |
| 2 nd VICE COMMANDER: | BRENT HATCHER 3003 RACCOON BRIDGE ROAD DOUGLAS, GA 31535 | HOME PHONE: NONE CELL PHONE: 912-850-0799 EMAIL: RetiredCUCM@yahoo.com |
| SECRETARY: | NEAL BEARD 296 RABBIT TRAIL ROAD LEOMA, TN 38468 | CELL PHONE: (931) 629-0034 E-MAIL: eqcmbear@gmail.com |
| TREASURER: | "MARVIN" CHARLES A. JONES 17 WEDGEFIELD DRIVE ASHEVILLE, NC 28806 | HOME PHONE: (828) 667-3075 CELL PHONE: (828) 335-2829 E-MAIL: mjjjtess@att.net |
| CHAPLAIN | DAVID YASSEMEDIS 915 W Outer Drive OAK RIDGE, TN 37330 | HOME PHONE: NONE CELL PHONE: (865) 228 3172 EMAIL: sidemessayd1@gmail.com |
| HISTORIAN: | WILLIAM "BILL" OLIVER 2120 CECILLE DR. S.W. HUNTSVILLE, AL 35803-2130 | HOME PHONE: (256) 881-4965 CELL PHONE: (256) 656-1928 E-MAIL: Wholiver48@gmail.com |
| ASSIST. HISTORIAN: | OPEN | |
| NEWSLETTER EDITOR: | GEORGE DANNY COLE 33130 SEA OAKES DRIVE, SW SUPPLY, NC 28465 | HOME PHONE: (910) 842-4618 CELL PHONE: (336) 478-5892 E-MAIL: ynlret@aol.com |
| MEMBERSHIP: | LINDA RIXIE 4053 UPPER VALLEY COVE OLIVE BRANCH, MS 38654 | HOME PHONE: NONE CELL PHONE: (901) 652-3377 EMAIL ADDRESS: lre@comcast.net |

OTHER EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE:

PAST PRESIDENTS: JIM FARLEY, JIM ARNOLD, MARVIN (CHARLES A.) JONES, DANNY MCDOWELL, JACK MITCHELL, RAYMOND K. ALEXANDER, AND NEAL BREAD **PAST SECRETARY:** DAVID B. SMITH

