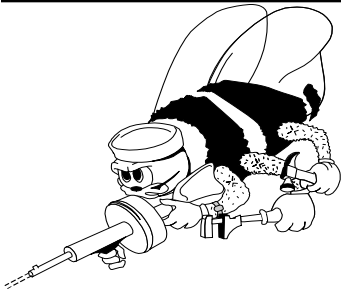


MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 6, Issue 5

December 15, 2006



SEABEES

*A Newsletter for Former US Naval
Mobile Construction Battalion 2 Personnel*

and host to CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1, CBMU 101 and CBMU 577

St. Louis On My Mind! A Great Time Planned!

Negotiations Are Ongoing

We are continuing our negotiations with the hotel we have selected regarding room rates and functions. Rates are rather high compared to our previous hotels, but are comparable to most other large cities and convention hotels. We are striving to give the best accommodations at the best rates for our members and hope to have these details worked out by the time our next newsletter is published so you can begin making reservations. We have October 20-23, 2007, as our tentative dates for the reunion, so mark that on your calendar and start planning for St. Louis! See you there!

St. Louis Has It All!

A world-class zoo, of course the Anheuser-Busch brewery, river boat casino, Daniel Boone home and village, Gateway Arch and Lewis & Clark exhibit, Riverboat cruise, classic car museum, antique mall and so much more!

Plan to come early and stay late to make this reunion a special, memorable time and visit the sights in and around St. Louis. So many places to go and things to do that you just can't get it all done in one or two days.

Your reunion will be the best ever, but you have to be there to enjoy it! See you there!

The Commander and Staff

Our leadership consists of:

**Commander
Pete Elliott**

Staff:

Joe DeFranco
David Haines
Rich Nelson
Roy Peak, Vice Commander
Malcolm Pearson
Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus
Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas.

*Protons have mass? I didn't
even know they were Catholic.*

Marriage Pact

"You're in incredible shape," the doctor said.
"How old are you again?"

"I'm 78," the man said.

"78!" remarked the doctor. "How do you stay
so healthy? You look like a 60-year-old."

"Well, my wife and I made a pact when we
got married that whenever she got mad she
would go into the kitchen and cool off and I
would go outside for a walk to settle down,"
the man explained.

"What does that have to do with it?" the doc-
tor asked.

"Well," the man said, "I've pretty much lived
an outdoor life."

SEABEES

October – February Dates to Remember

Oct. 13, 1775	US Navy birthday
Oct. 16, 1942	Eight men of the 6th NCB killed at Guadalcanal, first Seabees killed in action.
Oct. 31, 1941	First Headquarters Construc- tion Company authorized by Admiral Nimitz (forerunner of Battalions).
Nov. 8, 1942	Seabees land in North Africa with American assault forces.
Nov. 10, 1775	US Marine Corps Birthday.
Dec. 7, 1941	Pearl Harbor attacked.
Dec. 10, 1941	Guam falls.
Dec. 23, 1941	Wake Island falls.
Dec. 31, 1947	Seabee Reserve established.
Jan. 5, 1942	Bureau of Naval Personnel authorizes formation of Con- struction Battalions.
Jan. 27, 1942	Bobcat detachment sent to Bora Bora, Society Islands, first navy construction unit sent to overseas duty.
Feb. 1, 1944	Seabees land with Fourth Ma- rine Division on Kwajalein.
Feb. 19, 1945	Seabees land with 5th Marine Division, Iwo Jima.



Notes from our members:

From **Doug Thorp**: Thank you for your most prompt sending of the merchandise. It got here before I was expecting it. However, I must apologize for my tardy payment response. I opened my checkbook today to handle first-of-the-month bills and what do I see but a check I thought I had mailed days ago. I hadn't posted the response requirement on my "P.O.D." (you know what that is) [payment on demand?] bond and so promptly forgot about it. So, once again, my embarrassed and humble apology [no need.... but thanks]. Find enclosed a check to cover the cost of the T shirts, postage and whatever. Well, anyway, good luck on your move to Georgia. That's not for this boy, but one helluva lot of people love it down there. So, best to you and your family..... from **Emil Krygier**: [Emil called me to ask for a dozen ball caps and Seabee cutout pins be sent to his son overseas. They were all sent and Emil sent a check. Thanks]..... from **Robert Colquhoun**: Check enclosed for dues and two MCB 2 window decals [thanks]. Thanks for all your work on behalf of the MCB 2 Association..... from **William Knight**: My dues check has never been posted on my bank statement. It was written in February before your mail box break in. I am issuing another (enclosed). If you do receive the previous check, please destroy it and let me know [I will, but it is probably long gone]. Enclosed is my check for dues and extra for two CBMU window decals [thanks, and they are on the way]. Our regards to **Rachel** and we are looking forward to St. Louis..... from **Ron Howatson**: Thanks for all you do to keep things moving. I must owe some dues by now [enclosed a check and thanks]. I would also like two CBMU 1 decals and two books, *The Seabees at Port Hueneme* [on the way and thanks again]..... from **Bob Janson**: Enclosed is my check for two CBMU 1 decals [on the way and thanks]..... received dues from **Fred Wilmarth** [thanks]..... and I received an email from the daughter of **Ben Pedrotti (Diane**

Carter): Dad would like 2 US flags, 1 white Seabee flag and 2 MCB 2 decals. Please let me know how much and Dad will send a check for the amount plus his dues [thanks]..... from **Amos Phillips**: [Amos



called and asked if I had received his money order that had been sent last February or March. I had not, so was probably part of the mail that was stolen. Amos sent a replacement.] **Scott**, this is just a little support to pay my dues for a few years. Also, send some of it to the museum and take **Rachel** out for a little lunch [thank you!]..... from **L.P. (Pop) Burleigh**: Enclosed are my dues [thanks]. Sorry about being late but so many things were happening this year medically with my wife and me, plus trying to keep up with the bills, my dues sort of slipped my mind. Thanks for the Newsletters and all the hard work you have been doing for our reunions. Job well done [thank you]..... from **Roy Peak**: Time to pay my MCB 2 dues. I am enclosing a check [thanks]. See you in St. Louis..... from **Howard Cornwell**: Can you send me the book of Port Hueneme. My check is enclosed [on the way!]..... from **Verle Williams**: Enclosed you will find more photos that you asked for so you can scan them into your computer and then return same to me. I took these on Eniwetok Island in the Marshall Islands. Also, I drew a rough sketch showing the island. One photo shows CBMU 577s first anniversary out of the states after leaving Tarawa. The post card at Oxnard, California, shows the area near the bus stop from Port Hueneme as well as nearby Ventura where many Seabees went on liberty. I was on Eniwetok when Germany and Japan surrendered. I will have more Tarawa pictures if you would like for me to send them [sure would! And thanks]..... from **Bill Knight**: We were surprised to read that you and **Rachel** are moving to Villa Rica, Georgia. That is about 120 miles from our home in Blue Ridge. **Marilyn** was born in Carrollton and was raised there until she was 9 years old and we both went to school in the Austell/Mableton area, which is about 30 miles east of Villa Rica. I don't think you are getting away from the heat by moving there, although it will be cooling a bit in late September. If there is any way I can assist your move, please let me know and I will be glad to help [thanks... you never know]. And belated congratulations on your Nevada 1600 license plate. You deserve it. I read a couple

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

of articles recently about master Chief **Grossman**. A lot of people don't realize that he was one of the first Seabees to be selected as Master Chief. He went directly from E-7 to Master Chief as there were no E-8s at the time. I served with him at K-3 in Korea and in Iwakuni, Japan. Several months after my arrival in Korea after mess cooking and guard company, I was assigned to the Heavy Shop. While in Iwakuni, when it rained, **Grossman** would give us the day off to go to town but we damn sure better be back when it quit raining. I was a CP at the time, or possibly a CN. We received a new road roller, which was odd enough to receive a new piece of equipment. As I was assembling the wheel scrapers, Chief **Grossman** came by and informed me that they were upside down. I told him, "No, Chief. I copied them right out of the operator and maintenance manual that came with the machine." He asked me if I had read the inside of the front cover. I told him no and opened up the book, which I saw was written by **Fred Grossman**. He informed me that was a mistake that had not been corrected in the book. Chief **Grossman** was the most knowledgeable equipment man I have known in the Seabees. I last saw Chief **Grossman** as a civilian in charge of Public Works in Subic Bay, PI, and had dinner with him and his wife..... received dues from **John Ginther**, **Mike Barron**, **Rik Shafer**, and **Fred Wilmarth** [2nd time] [thanks] from **Althea (Gerald) Herr**: **Jerry** and I were looking forward to being at next year's Seabee reunion but somehow I guess it just wasn't meant to be. On August 25th, we went to Atlantic City to gamble for the day. The next day, we went out to eat and went grocery shopping and he was OK. On Sunday morning, August 27th, I awoke at 6:00 a.m. and found him dead, as cold as ice! Can you please put it in the next Newsletter? Enclosed is a check for the next years' Newsletters [Thank you and we extend our heartfelt sympathy]..... from **Ben Pedrotti**: Thanks for the goodies and enclosed is a check with a little tip extra..... from **Basil Arnold**: Please send me three Seabee flags, two blue and one white [OK, but patience, please. All the Seabee inventory is still packed from our move and it will take a while to find it all. As soon as I find the flags, decals, books, etc., I will send them on but it may take a month or more. Patience]. The past few months,

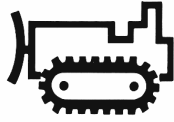


the wind has been rather hard on them. Gotta keep those 'Bees flying! I hope this check covers the cost [it does and thanks]. If there is any left over, use it for whatever needed..... from **Jim De Keyser**: I just received my issue of the MCB 2 Reunion Association Newsletter. I noticed that my name was not on the Good Guy List. I paid dues in March for two years and the May issue of the Newsletter noted that you received my dues payment. I'm sure this is just an oversight, but I really miss seeing my name as one of the Good Guys [you really are and this cheap help just dropped the ball again]. I'm glad to see the St. Louis reunion dates have been set. My wife, **Kino**, and I are planning to be there. I hope to see you there..... from **Marshall (Mike) Williams**: I got the new Newsletter. Some very good articles, good reading and I enjoy the pictures. Always do. The one about the bridge built in one day took me back to the time the night before our crew left to go building a lot of bridges, each in one day. Anyway, one of the crew was **Al York** (CD), a cousin of Sgt. **York**, and was a great friend of mine. It was Christmastime and we got a lot of candy and stuff from home. **Al** said, "**Mike**" (my nickname), "let's take some of this stuff down the hill to, I believe it was Ochon. Maybe Togou." We went down there and had a ball with the kids (no girls, ha!). Anyway, the MPs picked us up and turned us over to Chief **Jack Allen** (Chief Master at Arms). We were leaving the next morning to go on the bridge building project. Chief **Allen** wrote us up for being out past the 6:00 p.m. curfew. Commander **Lee** held mast on us the next morning and awarded us with 20 hours extra duty to be worked off when our bridge building detail was finished. We were to report to **Jack Allen** to have him set it up. Well, we got so many good comments from the Marines that the new mess hall construction for Seabee and Marine Amtrack Division Unit was held up that was to be done by Chief **Charley Gamble** (from Fitchburg, Mass.) and his crew when we finished all the bridges. When we got back to home base we went right to work building the big mess hall. **Jack Allen** never contacted us and we sure didn't contact him. I talked to Cdr. **Lee** several years ago on the phone and said we still owe him 20 hours extra duty but neither **Al York** nor I were fit to perform it. So many great experiences and stories come out of just about every Seabee deployment.



(Continued from page 4)

Thank you for your patience and you can print any of this you want to. PS: we lived with a Marine Radar & Ground Control unit (MAGGOTS of MAG 33).....



from **Vincent Ryan**: Here is a check for my dues and two CBMU I decals..... from **Robert Kaempfe**: It's time to get back on the Good Guys List. Enclosed is a check for my dues. I would appreciate an up-to-date roster..... from **Ivan Majetic**: Find enclosed my check for dues plus extra for two MCB 2 decals. I would also like to comment on your move from high desert heat to Georgia steam heat. Boy! That's a switch [and we love it!] from **Jim Green**: Greetings! Hope everything is going well for you there [it is, thanks]. I had hand surgery because of some bent fingers and am just starting to write again. I had it done because I wasn't able to give people the bird any more. Please send me the book, *The Seabees at Port Hueneme*. from **Frank Gresser**: I see I'm still on the list, The Good Guy List, that is! That puts me up for another twelve months and send me one membership roster, if you please. Use the rest as needed [thanks]. Are any MCB 2 guys still around that loaded cement on that old pier to make it look good? I'll say no more. But I always believed the knees were like mine at my age now. And that's why I'm still here. The pier, hmmm? But I've been told by smart guys, 'You make no mistakes if you don't do anything.' Well, we kept busy from it to the nights packing our gear and standing at the airport most of the night waiting for orders to be sent to Korea. (Sure made for a long day mixing cement) from **Harold Freeland**: My check is enclosed for two US flags, two Seabee flags, and two MCB 2 decals [soon, Harold. Soon]..... from **George Stevens**: I see I am not on the List. To catch up, here is my check [thanks]..... from **Grant Millard**: I have appreciated the Newsletter and feel bad I haven't responded with my dues. I'm enclosing a check to soothe my conscience [thank you very much]. Do with it what you will. I now feel better. Thank you for your patience. I remain an ex-shipmate..... from **Roy Peak**: Enclosed is my check to purchase two more copies of *The Seabees at Port Hueneme* by Gina Nichols. I enjoyed the one you sent so much that I want two more. Congratulations on moving to a friendlier climate. I expect you have family nearby

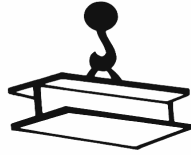
[yes, big reason to move]. My children are 200 miles, 800 miles and 1500 miles away from Kennewick and so I have trained them to expect me to stay awhile when I visit..... from **Alfred Bryant**:



Sorry I am so late with my dues. I've been down. Keep up the good work..... from **Wayne Bulgerin**: Thanks for everything, **Scott**. I served in Korea with CBD 1804 and CBMU 1, then Guam [**Wayne** enclosed a check for dues and thanks]..... from **Doug Thorp**: Per our phone conversation, please find enclosed a check for a copy of the book *The Seabees at Port Hueneme* plus dues and something for the kitty. Please excuse this cheap letter paper but I am in the middle of going through my stuff in the storeroom and can't find the proper paper [tell me about it!]. Well, congratulations on what I hope was a successful and painless move. The best to you and your wife. Hope to see you in St. Louie next..... from **Steve Yunger**: Hi, **Scott**. The extra is for the museum or whatever. My brother had moved to Augusta, Georgia. You performed the wedding for his daughter when we met in Las Vegas [I remember it well. Nice girl and her husband, too. That's why your brother moved to Augusta, to be closer to the grandchildren.]..... from **Roger Germundson**: Enclosed is my check for dues and whatever [thanks]. Many thanks for the "news."..... from **Betty (Richard) Keyes**: I wanted to let you know that my husband, **Richard**, passed away on October 8, 2006. He put up a great fight for over a year but the bladder cancer took its toll and won. He always enjoyed the Newsletter and I know you would probably like to know about his death [yes, thank you]..... from **Roy Peak**: I sent a letter requesting two more copies of *The Seabees at Port Hueneme* back in September and enclosed payment with that letter. You only sent me one copy. Please send another copy [it's that cheap help again, **Roy**. Another is on the way]..... from **Vern (Nancy) Ammentorp**: Please send us 2 US flags and 2 blue Seabee flags [on the way]. Our check is enclosed and use the extra for a beer [thanks, I need one by now]. There's no hurry as we still have two flying, but with winter coming, the wind will probably be hard on them. Thanks and thanks for the pictures of your new home. It really looks nice [thank you]..... from the Rajin' Cajun Acadian Seabee in Houston, Texas, **Ernest W. Owens**: Please find enclosed a bank money order for my dues and extra for

(Continued from page 5)

one US flag, one blue Seabee flag and one MCB 2 decal [the flags are on the way but I still have to find the decals]. I am also a Gator Bee! I was three years and eight months at Little Creek, Virginia with Amphibious Construction Battalion 2. I made a 6-month Mediterranean cruise, all the way to Bomba, Lybia, in 1962. As the USS Wood County 1173 sailed through the Strait of Gibraltar in 1961, I was awarded EO3 but it was taken away from me at the classification center in Charleston, SC, when I re-reenlisted in 1961. God bless you for all the hard work you do on our behalf [thank you]. May He bless you and yours in all that you do. My third wife, Rosalina, and I will be wed 21 years on November 16 and on the 27th I will celebrate my 81st birthday. We are blessed with good health..... from **Edna L. Ayers**: Please remove my Dad, **William T. Irvine**, from your mail list as he passed away October 20. He did not want to get on the Bad Guy List [he never was a bad guy, always a Good Guy!]...... from **Gene Staples**: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]. My computer is down and I cannot write. I want to comment on the last Seabee Newsletter and will later. They are GREAT! Thanks [thanks again] Well, folks, that's all the letters I have received for this time. Next week is Thanksgiving and I hope you don't eat too much. By the time you receive this, you will be getting ready for Christmas and Hanukkah. I hope 2007 brings everyone the best that could be yours and all the



pleasure and happiness possible. I hope to see everyone in St. Louis. It's going to be another great reunion! See you there!..... Scott



*All I ask is a chance
to prove that money
can't make me happy.*

Finally, a story about a blonde guy...

A blonde guy gets home from work early and hears strange noises coming from the bedroom. He rushes upstairs to find his wife naked on the bed, sweating and panting.

"What's up?" he says.

"I'm having a heart attack," cries the woman.

He rushes downstairs to grab the phone but, just as he's dialing, his 4-year-old son comes up and says, "Daddy! Daddy! Uncle Ted's hiding in your closet and he's got no clothes on!"

The guy slams the phone down and storms upstairs into the bedroom, past his screaming wife, and rips open the closet door. Sure enough, there is his brother, totally naked, cowering on the closet floor.

"You rotten SOB," says the husband. "My wife's having a heart attack and you're running around naked scaring the kids!"

Our Fallen Comrades

Gerald R. Herr	8/27/06
William T. Irvine	10/20/06
Richard G. Keyes	10/8/06
Fred E. Saathoff	9/22/06

May they live on in our memories.

MAKE A NOTE! ADDRESS CORRECTION

Richard L. Christian
14 Heartland Dr., Apt. 316
Bloomington, IL 61704-7738
MCB 2

Edwin Ediger
2810 Milford Ave.
Garland, TX 75044-2142
MCB 2

Warren J. Flading
120 Lee St.
Depew, NY 14043-1042
CBMU 1/101

Devon C. Jensen
4046 S. 750 W
Riverdale, UT 84405-2651
MCB 2

Ronald G. Landrum
426 River Bluff Dr. W
Manchester, TN 37355-2874
okieron@charter.net
CBMU 101

Sherwin W. Larsen
PO Box 152
Richmond, UT 84333-0152
MCB 2

Charles J. Rebb
2130 Kaneka St., Unit 406
Lihue, HI 96766-8008
MCB 2

Robert L. Schambron
11021 Pansy Place NW
Silverdale, WA 98383-7700
CBMU 1/101

Lewis Shugar
251 S. Olds Blvd., Apt 23
Fairless Hills, PA 19030-3428
MCB 2

Kenneth O. Stoutland
1188 Belvidere Corner Rd.
Mount Bethel, PA 18343-6130
CBMU 1/101

MAKE A NOTE! ADDRESS CORRECTION (continued)

Myron A. Strausheim
2721 Mattie Harris Rd.
Centerville, IN 47330-9740
MCB 2

Paul J. Trotter
PO Box 990
Rogue River, OR 97537-0990
MCB 2

Scott Williams
725 Summer Ridge Drive
Villa Rica, GA 30180-4299
770-456-4246
williash@aol.com
MCB 2

Who to contact about your dues

Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas.
MCB 2 Reunion Association
725 Summer Ridge Dr.
Villa Rica, GA 30180
(770-456-4246)

e-mail: williash@aol.com

make checks payable to:
Scott Williams/MCB 2

Dues are \$20/year
January - December

This is what keeps us going
and enables us to send this Newsletter.

Veteran Benefit Lifts Burdens

Obscure federal policy can help families cover costs of long-term care

More and more seniors are discovering a little-known veterans benefit that helps pay for long-term care

“They’re going crazy over it,” said Harold Haynes, a Dallas County service officer who helps veterans and spouses apply for the assistance. “My workload has doubled in the last year.”

The benefit is gaining notice because it eases a big financial burden for disabled older adults.

Seniors who can no longer fend for themselves are moving into assisted-living communities or hiring in-home caregivers, but they often must bear the cost themselves. Neither Medicare nor Medicaid typically covers it.

“Unless you’ve had the foresight to buy long-term care insurance, the expense can wipe out your retirement savings in a relatively short time,” said Bill Clark, president of Clark Financial Group Inc. in Frisco.

A private room at an assisted-living community averages \$2,968 a month. 17.6% more than two years ago, according to MetLife Mature Market Institute. In-home care averages \$17 per hour.

Called the “aid and attendance” pension benefit, it pays up to \$1,470 a month to a qualifying veteran, \$945 a month to a surviving spouse, or \$1,743 a month to a couple to defray the expense of long-term care.

“When I tell seniors and their families about this, their jaws usually drop and they shout, ‘Hot dang!’” said Molly Shomer, a geriatric-care manager in Dallas and author of *Insider’s Guide to Assisted Living*.

To qualify, veterans must have served in wartime, show a financial need and prove they can’t live by themselves. Even if a veteran has died, a surviving spouse who hasn’t remarried can still apply for the benefit.

Getting attention

The aid-and attendance benefit dates back decades, but advocates for older adults have taken note of it and begun to promote it only in the last couple of years to help seniors cope with high long-term

care costs.

Betty Gellert of Dallas learned about the veterans benefit early this year when she was looking for an assisted-living community for her 83-year-old mother, Brydeen Goldsmith, who suffers from Alzheimer’s disease.

The Monticello West retirement community in Dallas suggested that her mother apply, and it helped the family gather the necessary documents and complete the forms. Ms. Gellert’s late father served in World War II.

Mrs. Goldsmith now collects a \$915 monthly benefit, which covers a quarter of her assisted-living costs.

“It’s been a godsend,” Ms. Gellert said. “We’re passing the word to others with parents who are veterans.”

For Frances Louanna Wade, who was in the Women’s Army Corps during WW II, the \$1,470 pension benefit allowed her to remain at the Dallas assisted-living community until she died last spring at age 88.

“Thanks to the pension, we were able to stretch our resources, and we didn’t have to think about moving her into a Medicare bed at a nursing home,” said her daughter, Alanna Karel of Dallas.

Monticello West marketing director Gail Perry said she routinely asks prospective residents whether they’re wartime veterans or spouse, so she can identify who might qualify for the federal entitlement.

“They fought for this country,” she said. “They have a right to this money.”

At-home care

Frail seniors who require help with such basic activities as bathing, dressing, preparing meals and taking their medication are also using the veterans benefit to hire caregivers to come to their homes.

“We’re publicizing the benefit,” said Jo Lambert, who owns three Comfort Keepers in-home care franchises in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. “Many seniors who are eligible for the help still don’t know about it.”

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Ms. Lambert said that less than 5% of her clients collect the benefit, but that she expects many more to apply when boomers who served during the Vietnam War begin requiring long-term care.

The number of Vietnam-era veterans 65 and older is projected to increase sixfold, to 5.2 million over the next decade, according to the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

Mr. Clark, the retirement planner, said seniors have three good reasons to sign up for the veterans pension benefit.

First, they don't have to exhaust their assets, as they must do before getting help from Medicaid with nursing home costs, he said. A veteran may have up to \$80,000, and a home, car and personal possessions aren't counted.

Next, veterans can transfer assets, typically to their children, to reduce their net worth and qualify for the pension benefit, Mr. Clark said. Anyone applying for Medicaid faces strict limits on asset transfers.

Finally, applicants usually can prove a financial need by showing their expenses exceed their income. That's a modest standard for people facing tens of thousands of dollars in long-term care costs each year, he said.

Applying

The biggest drawback to the benefit, according to seniors and their families, is the application process.

"The government requires many documents, including military discharge papers and a physician's written evaluation, and you've got to do everything exactly as requested," said Michael Abcarian of Dallas.

Mr. Abcarian recently applied for help for his 81-year old mother, Raisa Abcarian. His late father was a World War II veteran.

"I was lucky that my father was a meticulous record keeper," he said. "Otherwise, it could have gotten complicated."

Applications generally take four to six months for the Department of Veterans Affairs to process, assuming a senior has submitted all the required forms and answered all the questions.

John Cook, a Collin County veterans service officer, said some seniors are denied the aid-and-attendance assistance because they haven't shown they need help with activities such as bathing, dress-

ing and fixing meals.

"The physician's evaluation must confirm they can't live by themselves," he said.

Once a pension benefit is approved, though, it's retroactive to when the senior applied.

Many veterans and spouses turn to their county's veterans service office or a veterans service organization such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars for help with the paperwork.

Dallas-based Telesis Co., which owns and operates eight senior-living properties in North Texas, hires a consulting firm to explain the benefit to residents and guide them through the process.

"We try to make things easier for our families," special projects coordinator Kathy Peterson said.

Missing out

Still, the pension benefit for non-service-related disabilities remains underused, long-term care experts say.

"We joke that it's a deep, dark military secret," Ms. Shomer said.

As many as 2 million people may be missing out on the benefit, according to a 2004 study prepared for Veterans Affairs. Only one in four eligible veterans, and one in seven surviving spouses, are collecting a check, it said.

"When people hear about veterans benefits, they usually think of veterans hospitals treating service-related injuries," Ms. Shomer said. "Many don't realize the benefits extend far beyond that."

The geriatric-care manager expects that misconception to fade, as more families learn about the pension benefit from caregivers.

"When the word spreads, the VA will be swamped," she said.

RESOURCES

Anyone needing help applying for veterans benefits may contact:

- County veterans service office
- Department of Veterans Affairs
1-800-827-1000 or www.va.gov
- State Veterans Commission
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
1-800-839-1899 or www.vfw.org

Veterans or next-of-kin may access military discharge documents at vetrecs.archives.gov

The Good Guy List

Allan Alberg, Clark Alexander, William Alwine, Vern Ammentorp, David Anderson, Eugene Antoine, Basil Arnold, Pat Badgett, Lewie Baker, Richard Baker, Jack Balding, Ed Ballerstein, Benjamin Balog, Mike Barron, Don Barry, Glen Bates, Ray Beaulieu, Henry Benguerel, Hank Bentsen, Frank Betonte, Ralph Binney, Vernon Blakeslee, John Bloem, Ralph Bokern, James Bolton, Alexander (Cat) Borys, Robert Bowdler, Donald Bradley, David Bridges, Philip Brunelle, Al Bryant, Silas Bucher, David Budworth, Wayne Bulgerin, Lloyd Burgess, Al Burkhart, L.P. 'Pop' Burleigh, Ralph Burnley, William Burns, Pat Carey, Mike Castlevecchi, Elwin 'Shorty' Campbell, Bennie Carlson, Ken Catchpole, Frank Chambers, George Chang, C.L. 'Chuck' Chapman, Ken Chew, Walter Cloonan, Robert Coley, Bob Colquhoun, Roy Cone, Robert Conroe, Howard Cornwell, Richard Coulson, Willard Cousins, Fred Cozad, Warren Culberson, Arnold Daisy, Paul D'Angelo, Stan Dauer, Ed Dechant, Joe DeFranco, Jim De Keyser, Ted DeVit, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Melvin Dixon, Robert Doezie, George Dorge, Tom Dowd, Howard Doyle, Gene Edmondson, Pete Elliott, Doug Emond, Ralph Evans, Norm Eveleth, Richard Fairbanks, Dick Farbo, Galen Farnsworth, Frank Fibich, Forrest Foland, Jack Foster, Leonard Fowler, Bill Frazier, Harold Freeland, Lane Freitag, Al Fritz, William Ganske, Claude Garcenot, Ken Gaskell, Roger Germundson, John Ginther, Ron Glasser, Robert Graf, Russ Granby, John Grasz, Jim Green, Clem Gregurek, Frank Gresser, Roy Grisham, Don Grobbel, Gerald Grubb, Marvin Guetling, George Gustin, Gordon Gwathney, Charles Hagemann, David Haines, Les Hall, Luther Hall, Alexander Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Leonard Hardoin, Arlin Hardwick, Roy Harris, Robert Hart, Art Hees, Ralph Heitt, Bert Helms, Don Henderson, Duane Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Gerald Herr, Juanita Hershberger, Bob Hoare, Don Hofstetter, Sam Holsomback, Ray Hooter, Arthur Hoskinds, Rod Howard, Ron Howatson, Charles Ingalls, Hugh Ireland, William

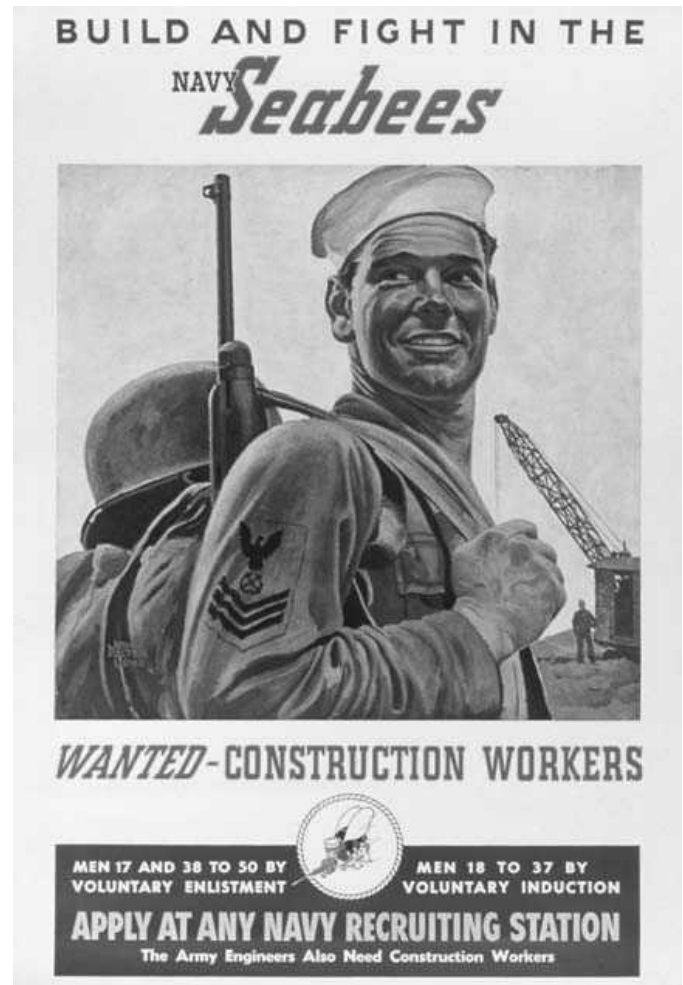
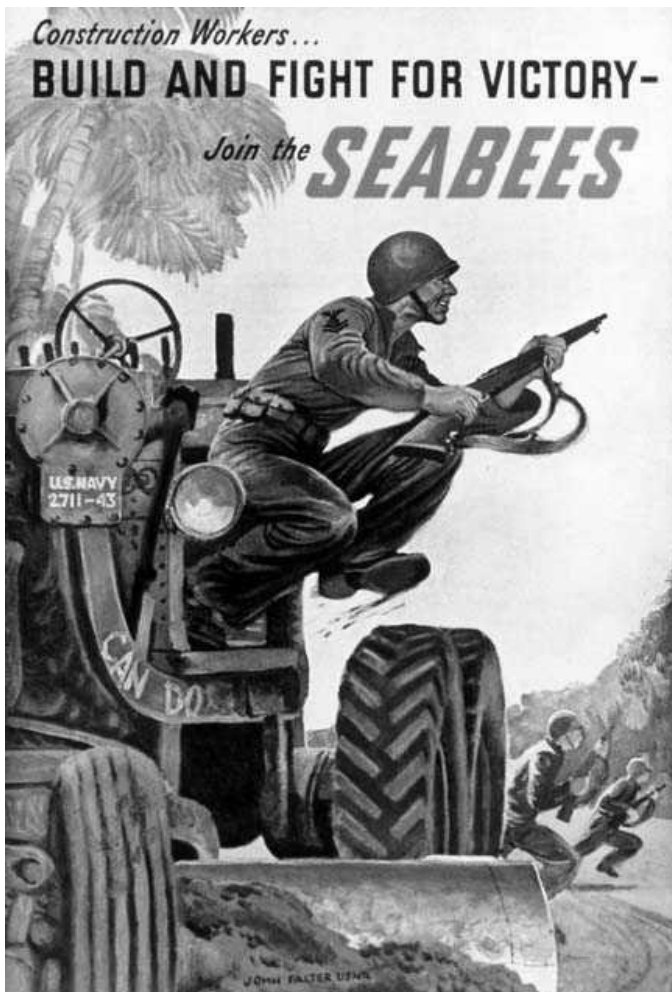
Irvine, Vic Jaccino, Robert 'Frenchie' Jandreau, Robert Janson, Lawrence Jessop, Ambros Johnson, Charles Johnson, Don Jones, Randy Judd, John Jurkash, Robert Kaempfe, Lloyd Kallsen, Greg (Isabel) Karekin, Edward 'Mike' Kazarian, Duane Keech, Richard Keyes, Denise King, William Knight, John Kolasz, Emil Krygier, Harry Ladley, Ben Lally, Ervin Lampe, Ron Landrum, Conrad Lawlor, Harold Leasure, Harold Lind, Herbert Liverman, Robert Long, Stan 'Pete' Lore, Gordon Love, Ken Ludwig, Dale Lundstrom, Ivan Majetic, Anthony Marcella, Bob Markey, Bob Marshall, Philip Matalucci, William (Jack) Mayo, Charles McCabe, Don McDaniel, Norris McDaniel, Riley McDaniel, Gene McDonagh, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, Herbert Meade, Bob Michael, Neil Middleton, Grant Millard, Daniel Millett, Dan Mills, Chuck Minert, Frank Mingo, Gary Mitchell, Roger Mohs, Pat Morris, C. Finley Morrison, Hance Morton, Paul Muma, Richard Muns, Eugene Nelson, Richard Nelson, Ray Nethercott, Paul Neusetzer, Don Nitsche, John Noetzel, Joseph O'Brien, Mel Olson, Ernest Owens, Dwight Padgett, Billy Partridge, Roy Peak, Mal Pearson, Ben Pedrotti, Daniel Pelaez, John Petronka, Amos Phillips, Mike Piro, Earl Presson, Cecil Price, Harlen Puck, Sam Ragusa, Gary Rawlings, Rex Roark, Gene Robinson, Dale Rogers, Richard Rose, George Rosenvold, Thomas Roy, Al Rubinich, John Ruby, C. Edner Rudolph, Vinny Ryan, Harold Saucier, Paul Schell, Darl Schmidt, Millard Schneider, Jack Schrader, Don Seethaler, Gerald Seger, Stoney Serrett, Rik Shafer, Bill Sharp, Don Shoff, William Sigmund, Dick Sim, Fred Simon, Arthur Siple, Joe Sitkowski, Richard Skillicorn, Ray Sonnen, Ray Sorrentino, Ted Speros, Gene Staples, Tom Stapleton, Clyde Stenholm, Jim Stephens, Larry Stevenson, George Stewart, John Stock, Willis Struecker, Dan Svendsen, Richard Swallow, Victor Swanson, James Taylor, William 'Pete' Taylor, Danny Terry, Doug Thorp, Richard Todd, Charles Trimarchi, Donald (Denise King) Truskey, Jerry Vasquez, Larry Vibber, Lionel Vidrine, John Vidusic, Walter Waddell, Dick Walters, Harold Wardenburg, John Weires, Karl Weisenbacher, Duane Weltlich, Cecil Westwood, Bud Wheless, Rodney White, John Wilborn, William Wilcoxon, Jerry Wilkening, Marshall Williams, R.G. 'Pete' Williams, Scott Williams, Verle Williams, Clarence 'Lefty' Williamson, Fred Wilmarth, Jack Wilson, Jesse Wilson, Preston Wilson, Bill Wisnowski, Jim

(Continued from page 10)

Wommack, and Stephen Yunger.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2006, some much longer. If you don't find your name on this list, then maybe you have forgotten to send in your dues recently. All dues are paid through the calendar year, January 1 through December 31 (no dues card sent out). This list is as of November 17, 2006. There are currently 293 paid up members from a mailing list of 530. If dues have never been sent, they do not receive the Newsletter. There are 763 names on the full member roster. (SW)

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.



Why my wife and I split up...

She told me we couldn't afford beer anymore and I'd have to quit. Then I caught her spending \$65 on make-up. I asked how come I had to give up stuff and she didn't. She said she needed the make-up to look pretty for me. I told her that was what the beer was for.

I don't think she's coming back.

Need a Membership Roster?

If you have a need for an up-to-date membership roster, drop me a line with a couple of bucks and I'll send you one. We currently have 777 names and addresses of former CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1/101, CBMU 577, and MCB 2 personnel, so this is a pretty thick directory (23 pages). Glad to have all aboard! And keep sending those cards and letters — especially the ones with checks!

Scott Williams

The Story Of The Patten Brothers



The brothers are left to right (youngest to oldest); Bruce, Ray, Ted, Allen, Bick, Marvin and Gilbert.

December 7th, 1941 Was a Day of Infamy for Six Patten Brothers

As the nation approaches the 65th anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th, veterans should be proud to know that six Patten brothers were there that fateful day on the battleship USS *Nevada*.

The Patten brothers from rural Iowa began joining the Navy in 1934. During peacetime, they were allowed to serve on the same ship. By January 1941, seven brothers, Gilbert, Marvin, Bick, Allen, Ted, Ray and Bruce, were serving in the engine room of the *Nevada*. In September, their father, Floyd, joined the Navy and the Pattens were recognized as the Navy's largest family. In October, Ted's enlistment was up and he returned to civilian life working in Long Beach, California.

On the weekend of December 7th, the *Nevada* was coming into port, but was directed to wait until the aircraft carrier *Lexington* cleared the entrance to Pearl Harbor as she left port. When the *Nevada* reached its docking place on Battleship Row, the *Arizona* was moored where the *Nevada* normally docked. For that weekend and eternity, they traded places.

The disaster that caused the death of 1,177 sailors and Marines on the *Arizona* has deservedly been well documented. The story of the six Patten brothers on that day also merits remembrance.

Gilbert was standing in line to purchase toiletries from the ship's store waiting for it to open at 08:00. He counted the sailors ahead of him and decided to come back later. He was never known to have a great deal of patience! Allen had finished night duty and was eating breakfast. Marvin was in a skiff going ashore for duty. Bick, Ray and Bruce were below deck.

Allen's recollection of that morning was later published in their hometown newspaper, the *Lake City Graphic*. "I got up and showered about 7 a.m. and at about 7:45 a.m. I sat down to breakfast. I remember it was a 'dog' sandwich and beans. Then some of the other B Division sailors and I sat around drinking tea and coffee and discussing the Rose Bowl and who would win the football game Duke or Oregon. Then something strange started happening and we couldn't figure out what was going on. It was just past 8 a.m., we were three decks down and the *Nevada* started shaking like a three or four scale earthquake. The porthole was open and I heard a rat-a-tat-tat sound like a machine gun. We were all very confused; it had been such a nice serene morning. We thought it odd that someone might be practicing with their guns. Then the B Division mess cook, Henry, he was just a kid, 18 years old yelled down to us. 'Hey, you guys, we're being attacked.'"

Years later, Bruce recalled the beginning of the eventful day to a Battle Ground, Washington newspaper, the *Reflector*. He was a Boiler Tender; three decks down on the *Nevada*, when general quarters sounded before 8 a.m. "All hands man your battle stations!" ordered a voice on a loudspeaker. "On the way to my battle station, I found one of my brothers arguing with a Chief Petty Officer," said Patten. His brother was insisting to the Chief that Japanese planes were overhead. The Chief was yelling that he was tired of all the rumors about an attack. "Then the first bomb hit and ended the argument," Bruce said.

The first wave of Japanese planes attacked at 0753. They bombed and torpedoed the *Arizona* anchored near the

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Nevada. A bomb struck near Marvin's boat that was leaving for the shore. Bodies flew in every direction. A bomb exploded where Gilbert had been standing at the ship's store. All those who were still in line were killed.

At the stern of Battleship Row, the *Nevada's* gun crews were marginally faster than other ships in getting into action and had beaten off all but one of the low-flying Japanese Kate torpedo bombers. Nonetheless, the last Kate sent a single torpedo into her bow opening up a 40- by 30-foot gash.

With a large hole blown in the *Nevada's* side, Lieutenant Ruff, the officer in charge, ordered the *Nevada* to prepare to get underway. Due to its proximity to the *Arizona*, he feared the explosions and fires would spread to the *Nevada*.

Again, Allen recalled. "Part of the crew was on liberty, and only one of the ship's six boilers was lit and on line. Thick ropes held the ship tightly in place. An axe cut through the hemp mooring lines, and by 8:18 a.m., we had all six boilers off in ten minutes – record time. The *Nevada* was underway in 18 minutes, steaming through billowing smoke, which was pouring from the *Arizona*."

Lieutenant Ruff directed the *Nevada* to proceed and she steamed toward the open sea to escape further attacks by Japanese planes. The sailors on the other ships cheered as they witnessed the *Nevada* pull out of its berth in Battleship Row. It was a morale boost for them to observe one of their ships underway.

Allen continued. "Our skipper was making a run for the channel at 18 knots, but when the Japs spotted us we really took a pounding. The first of three 500-pound aerial bombs struck the *Nevada* mid-ship. It sounded like a big stick of dynamite going off with a thundering noise, and then a torpedo struck the portside and the *Nevada* came out of the water two feet just like somebody lifted it up."

Lieutenant Ruff soon realized the *Nevada's* foray to escape would fail due to her additional damage. He ordered the ship to run aground before she sank. Except for his quick decision and action, crewmen below deck, including the Patten brothers, would have suffered the same fate as the sailors trapped below deck on the *Arizona* when she sank. Lieutenant Ruff saved their lives and the lives of all the crewmembers below deck.

Later, Allen recalled the scene. "I went topside for the first time an hour after the Japanese attack began and I couldn't believe my eyes. We had been tied up next to the USS *Arizona* and as I looked across Pearl Harbor to Battleship Row, the sight was incredible. Ford Island was engulfed in fire and smoke. I saw a nightmare. The *Arizona* had sunk, the *California* was ablaze and sinking, the *Pennsylvania* was in dry dock and burning, the *Oklahoma* and *Utah* were capsized. The Japs had left and the fleet was in ruins."

The Patten brothers' sister Martha Sporleder and her husband lived on an Iowa farm. They had a battery-powered radio and that afternoon, they were gathered in the kitchen. The fall harvest was completed and the family was listening to WHO when the Des Moines radio station announced the attack on Pearl Harbor. They did not have a telephone.

In Long Beach, Ted Patten entered a café with his lunch bucket and sat next to his fellow workers. There, he first heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor. He immediately left for the nearest Navy station to seek news about his brothers. He also reenlisted in the Navy.

Since the 8th of December, Martha's husband, Ernest, trekked daily to the Western Union office at the railroad station seeking a message on her brothers. On December 10th, a telegraph from Ted simply announced, "All okay."

In June 1942, the eighth Patten brother, Wayne, joined the Navy and they continued to serve their country during World War II. They served aboard ships that were involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea, Battle of Leyte Gulf and Battle of the Philippine Sea (the "Marianas Turkey Shoot"). The eight brothers and their father's Navy careers totaled 124 years of service to their country. Today, the two youngest brothers, Bruce and Wayne, survive.

Bruce shares a special status with few remaining World War II sailors. He was aboard the *Nevada* during the attack on December 7th, 1941, and was aboard the destroyer USS *Wren* within 300 yards of the battleship *Missouri* when the Japanese surrendered on September 2nd, 1945.

This article was authored and contributed by Clarence Floyd (VJ) Patten, III (Col., U.S.M.C., retired) and Dale E. Sporleder, nephews and grandsons of the Patten brothers and their father. VJ and Dale have also published a book, *124 Years Before The Navy Mast - The Patten Family*, which details the Patten brothers' Naval experiences during World War II. The book is \$21.95 plus \$2.50 postage and may be ordered over the Internet at www.lulu.com/content/438110 or www.Lulu.com or from Huntington Publications, 5089 Huntington Drive, Carmel, IN 46033. A card with both authors' autograph is available if you mention you saw this article in the MCB 2 *SEABEES* Newsletter. Dale may be contacted at Patten124@aol.com or 317-508-7761. Other information on the Patten family is available at www.rootsweb.com/~iaohms/military/patten_brothers.html and www.pattenpending.com.



Photo # 80-G-701293 FAdm. Nimitz signs Japanese surrender instrument
Surrender of Japan, Tokyo Bay, 2 September 1945

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, USN, signs the Instrument of Surrender as United States Representative, on board USS *Missouri* (BB-63), 2 September 1945.

Standing directly behind him are (left-to-right):

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur;
 Admiral William F. Halsey, USN, and
 Rear Admiral Forrest Sherman, USN.

In front row, background, are (left to right):

Rear Admiral Frederick C. Sherman, USN;
 Vice Admiral Charles A. Lockwood, USN;
 Vice Admiral John S. McCain, USN;
 Vice Admiral John H. Towers, USN;
 Admiral Richmond K. Turner, USN;
 Rear Admiral Robert B. Carney, USN;

General Walter C. Krueger, U.S. Army;
 General Robert L. Eichelberger, U.S. Army and
 General Carl A. Spaatz, USAAF.
 Others identified behind the front row include (in
 no order):

Brigadier General Joseph H. Fellows, USMC;
 Captain Tom B. Hill, USN;
 Commodore J.C. Cronin, USN;
 Rear Admiral Ingram C. Sowell, USN;
 Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd, USN;
 Rear Admiral Howard F. Kingman, USN;
 Rear Admiral Lloyd J. Wiltsie, USN;
 Rear Admiral J. Cary Jones, USN;
 Captain John S. Thach, USN and
 Commodore Joel T. Boone, USN(MC).



Subic Bay Naval Air Station — ca. 1970s



Mel Lattain, Subic Bay, 1953



Building the runway at Subic Bay, ca 1954

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