MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 6, Issue 6 March 15, 2007



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

Change Your Change Your Calendar! Oct. 18 - 20, 2007

Major Change in Reunion Date!

The St. Louis reunion dates have been changed to Oct. 18 – 20, 2007. The original dates were proposed by the hotel and are not acceptable. October 18 is Thursday and the reunion will conclude on Saturday, October 20, with our usual excellent banquet. Sorry for the mix-up but it is correct now. Mark those dates on your calendar and see you in St. Louis! Check page 19 for hotel reservation worksheet.

Door Prize Reminder!

Don't forget to bring your door prizes! We have lots of fun giving away those wonderful gifts and you have to bring at least one for everyone in your party. We are planning some terrific Grand Prizes and drawing prizes, so bring yours to add to the fun. If you have to mail your door prize, I will provide a name and address of a member in or near St. Louis that can store it until the reunion, but don't send it to the hotel as they will charge us receiving and storage fees. All plans for the hotel are complete and we are planning some wonderful tours. See you in St. Louis!

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.

Important Notice About Our Hotel

The Embassy Suites Hotel is one of the better hotels in St. Louis and is located very conveniently to major points of interest. The hotel rates may seem a bit high for you but the rates include a FREE breakfast cooked to your order, a complimentary cocktail hour every evening, and FREE shuttle service to and from the airport. After considering these benefits of staying at a luxury hotel, the room rates are very reasonable. So, don't be put off by the room rates and come enjoy a good breakfast with your fellow Seabees and start your day right! Eggs cooked to order, pancakes, waffles, cereals, juices, coffee, plus companionship with old friends and maybe some new ones. Make your plans now to come join us in St. Louis. Use the registration planning guide on page 19 to help you before you call the hotel. Fill out the form first, then call the hotel to make your reservations. Now, put the form where you can find it to bring with you to St. Louis. See you there!

SEABEES

February – May Dates to Remember

Feb. 1, 1944	Seabees land with Fourth Marine Division on Kwajalein.	
Feb. 19, 1945	Seabees land with 5th Marine Division, Iwo Jima.	
Mar. 2, 1867	Civil Engineer Corps established.	
Mar. 5	Seabee Birthday - 65 years!	
Mar. 19, 1942	CEC officers given military authority over construction units.	
Mar. 22, 1945	Seabees ferry General Patton's armored units across Rhine River into Germany.	
April 1, 1945	Seabees land on Okinawa.	
April 8, 1942	Doolittle Tokyo raid.	
April 9, 1942	Bataan falls	
May 8, 1942	Battle of the Coral Sea.	
May 8, 1945	V-E Day; Germany surrenders	

Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession.

I have come to realize that politics bears a very close resemblance to the first!



Notes from our members:

From **Joseph Sobczak**: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks] and my new e-mail address is jolljo@peoplepc.com..... received dues from **Dave** Budworth, Hank Bentsen, Charles Rebb, Eugene Antoine, Pat Cunningham, and Larry Jessop [thanks]..... from William Ganske: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]..... from John Weires: Enclosed is a check to stay on the Good Guy List [you're on! Thanks]..... from Bob Bowdler: I'm paying up to stay on the Good Guy List [thanks]. Wilcoxen's came by from Oregon to play dominoes for a couple of days and visit the casinos. We went to a Seabee flotilla meeting in Sacramento last week. Keep up the good work..... from **Dick Tittle**: [sent a CD with the Seabee Song I am sending you this music but I need help with the Seabee Song. The only place I can find it sung is off the movie, "The Fighting Seabees." If you know where I can do better, let me know as we are going to use it at the Seabee Monument dedication March 17, 2007. [I sent a CD of the music only version. If anyone has a version being sung, let me or **Dick** know]. Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]..... from Richard Fairbanks: [sent a Christmas card] I will take this opportunity to wish you happiness in your new location [thank you]. I am enclosing a check for my dues [thanks again] and sending my regrets that I won't be able to attend the St. Louis reunion..... from Phil Wagenschnur: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks] and a little extra for putting my old age forgetfulness to the test. I will soon be 90 years old (May 1, 2007). I am a plankholder in the original NCB 1. NCB 1, NCB 2 and the Bobcats were commissioned on the same day at Camp Allen, VA. NCB 1 left for the Pacific with the Bobcats aboard the same ship, USS Vestal. We dropped them off in Bora Bora (Paradise), so they got the early start..... from **Doug** and **Shirley Emond**: [sent a Christmas card and photo of his flagpole in place with a US flag flying] Hope this note finds you well and taking a well-deserved rest after the big move. I'm glad you stayed with the warm climate. I don't visit anyone where it's cold. I get enough of that right here [close to Green Bay, WI]. Shirley and I plan to make St. Louis



but I don't know how many days we'll stay. We hope Bill & Shari [Wisnowski] will come, but apparently Shari doesn't fly and that's a hellofa drive [from Southern Cal]. I'm sending my dues [thanks] so no lapse in being a Good Guy. Man of my word that I am, Old Glory is flying at the Emonds [and looks great!]..... from Jack Coulter: [sent a Christmas card] Enclosed please find my check for dues [thanks]. Thanks for the fantastic work that you do. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year..... from Fred Simon: [Fred had ordered some flags a few weeks earlier and he finally received them and sent a check for payment. Thanks, Fred]..... from Richard Swallow: [sent a Christmas card] Merry Christmas and enclosed is my check for dues..... received Christmas cards from Gladys and Stoney Serrett. Jim and Shirley Green, Rich and Carol Nelson, Emil and Betty Krygier, David and Edith Anderson, Roy Peak, Edwin "Shorty" and Phyllis Campbell [plus dues], Tony and Maryann Deleon and Harold Wardenburg [thanks, all]..... from Wayne Heple: All is going well. I think we shared with you that Nancy and I pledged to the Museum under MCB 2 [Great! Thank you!]. Wish it could have been more. We also finished our CB book, "My Tour." It is pictures and stories of my four years in the Seabees. I had lots of support from **Rod** Howard, Wayne Kroger, Charles Godshall and Fred Immermann. It was written for our 17 grandchildren. We wanted them to know what a Seabee is and does. We have a son, Michael W. Heple, MSG (Army Engineer Corps), in Baghdad and Kuwait. He has met some of the Seabees in MCB 4. He got to fly home for Thanksgiving and for the marriage of our granddaughter (his daughter). A festive event. He has a year to go. The enclosed newspaper was a tribute to those veterans who live in our community. It will be done again next November. They found out that not too many were recognized [well, sure! The pictures were of the vets when they were 19 or 20! That's fifty or sixty years ago!] [enclosed a check for dues and thanks] Hope all is going well with you and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We will be attending the NCB 103 reunion in (Continued from page 3)

Branson, MO, then off to Paris, France, for the wedding of our #1 grandson, then back to Washington, DC..... from **Dan Pelaez**: Don't know when my dues are 'due' but



here is a check for mine [thanks]..... from Ernest W. Owens: [sent a Christmas card] We are blessed by our Lord with good health, happiness, and a little prosperity. People just cannot believe that I survived three wars, 7½ years in combat zones, and that I am 81. I received the flags and decals I requested and thank you. I am deeply grateful for all that you do for the organization. You do a fantastic job [thank you!]..... from Pete and Sylvia Williams: [sent a 2007 calendar - thanks] We were surprised but so glad to hear from you. Seems like time rushes by so fast that we lose touch with so many people we care about. I hope you find your new home to be whatever you want it to be. More quiet than Las Vegas and probably smaller with less traffic [MUCH!]. Lake Havasu is growing too fast with a lot of undesirables moving in during the winter. We still have our adult care home and stay busy most of the time. Some day we may surprise you and come see you [I hope so!]. We have a motor home we got from a couple that just moved to Georgia too. Take care of yourselves and we will try to keep in touch..... from Les Hall: I hope you and your family have a nice Christmas [thanks]..... from **Fred Wilmarth**: [Fred sent a recent picture of himself in a wheelchair and his dues. Thanks, Fred]..... from Dick **Sim**: Thanks for the quick email response. Here is a check for my dues [thanks] plus extra for a hat and roster. If I'm short, let me know. If not, any balance is for whatever [thanks. You're OK]. Thanks for a terrific job you are doing..... from **Dan** (Mary) Millett: Enclosed is a check for dues. Put the extra toward the Newsletter or wherever needed most [thanks]. We really do not know what year the dues are for [I emailed them]. We really enjoy reading each Newsletter that you send. We definitely will be seeing everyone in St. Louis for our next reunion. We can hardly wait!..... received dues from William (Twyla) Duensing, Howard Cornwell, Harry Ladley, George Terry, Mary Dick, Willie Struecker, Robert (Gail) Marshall, Ed (Sharon) Ballerstein, Rod Howard, Clem Gregurek, Lloyd Kallsen, Ken (Beatrice) Catchpole, Anthony Marcella, Don Henderson, Herbert Meade, Stan Dauer, and Robert Coley [thanks all]..... from Bob Hoare: Enclosed is a check for my dues, the Seabee pins and decals I ordered [thanks]..... from Robert 'Buck' Buckley: Enclosed is a money order for dues, two CBMU 1 decals



and some extra for postage [thanks]. Also, note an address correction (email). After begging and whining, my wife finally bought me a computer for Christmas [my, how times have changed! It used to be that begging and whining to your wife got more than a computer!] Best wishes for the New Year..... received a call from Jim Krause who found us through the Seabee Historical Foundation. **Jim** was with CBMU 1. I sent him some past issues of the Newsletter and a CBMU 1 decal with a letter encouraging him to send some dues and join us in St. Louis..... from Emil Krygier: [called me and asked for an MCB 2 ball cap] Thanks so much for the Seabee hat. I appreciate your efforts in sending it to me for my son. He also thanks you. Enclosed is my check [thanks]..... from Mike Piro: Enclosed is a check for dues and a few bucks for stamps. Holidays were great. It's still a long way off to St. Louis, so who knows? Not sure yet..... from Fred Cozad: Thanks for your continued well-done Newsletter. Enclosed is a check for dues [thanks]. If you are accepting door prizes for the next reunion, I would like to send you something [great! Yes! Send it on!]..... from Verne Blakeslee: Happy New Year! Enclosed is my check for dues and, if the balance will cover two American flags, I would like them sent to me [thanks. It does and did]..... from Tom (Nancy) Maere: I really pulled a boner this time. I realized I sent you a note about sending in **Tom**'s Seabee dues and I just came across the check that I didn't put in with the note. Too much holiday, I guess [surely it doesn't have anything to do with getting older?!? Ha!]..... from Millard (Trudie) Schneider: Gee whiz! I forgot to send money for postage [see the note above... thanks for the postage but all our ship's store plunder comes to you with postage included in the price. Too late to get your check back! :-)]. The package came today. Sorry about



that. Thanks again. The wind is so bad down here [McAllen, TX] that we have to keep replacing our flags..... from **Gary Rawlings**: Keep up the good work and Happy New Year [thanks. **Gary** enclosed a

check for dues plus]..... from Doug Thorp: Ho-Ho-Ho! Happy New Year! The mystery is solved! ¿Mystery? I received two (2) Seabees at Port Hueneme books from



you when I only ordered one. However, in your Newsletter of 15 December 2006, I read the letter from Roy Peak regarding him having ordered two books but only receiving one. Ergo - Mystery solved! So, I have since given the second volume away so can't return it. Therefore, please accept the enclosed check to pay for the second book. Thanks. [wow! Don't know if it is that cheap help again or that stuff that got to Nancy Maere and Trudy **Schneider** or me just pushing these books and found a way to sell more!] Hope all is well with you. I should be returning to La Paz by 1 February. It's snowy and cold here [Everett, WA]..... from Sherwin Larsen: Enclosed is my check for dues [thanks]. My time served in Subic with MCB 2 was from 1954 thru 1956..... from Roger Mohs: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thank you] and thanks for keeping up the Newsletter. I enjoy it very much..... from Jack Wilson: Well, another year has come and gone. We had a great Christmas and New Year. Hope to see you in St. Louis this Fall. We had a great time in Las Vegas and the best food I had was at Palace Station the night of the banquet. Here's a check for my dues and some extra [thanks] and have a Happy New Year..... from Jim Krause: Enclosed find a check for my dues [thanks. Jim is a new member who recently found us and I sent him some past issues of the Newsletter. Guess he liked what he saw]. Is there a chance that you could hook me up with my old MCB 10 unit? Hope to hear from you soon..... from David & Edith Anderson: Thank you for the very interesting Newsletters. Both Edith and I read them in their entirety. Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]. Keep me on the Good Guy List. Edith hates to read the Newsletter and see my name missing. How did you and your fellow neighbors survive this rain/ice/snow storm? From the television, it looks like the Georgia area



was not hit as hard as the Midwest. [no, it wasn't. It did get a bit nippy but not bad at all compared to the Midwest or even Las Vegas. I don't think it even got down to freezing here.] Sunday, January 14, we had lots of rain here in Michigan, then freezing rain making ice on the grassy areas, then a dusting of snow, then lots more freezing rain leaving ice on the roads and tree limbs. Monday afternoon, this type



of weather stopped. However, Tuesday morning we woke up to lots more additional ice on the tree limbs and all over God's formerly green earth. The sky was a beautiful blue with white clouds and the sun was shining! All day long we had the most beautiful 'diamonds' sparkling from every tree branch, every sprig of anything growing, and the electric and telephone wires. It has been a beautiful scene, but cold at 20°. I do not remember such beauty like this with so many 'diamonds' in my yard! Of course, weather like this can also bring disaster on the roads with auto accidents and damage to houses and buildings with falling trees, wires, and ice. Edith and I have not had any such damage to our property from this storm. One advantage of retirement, we are able to stay inside and enjoy the beauty from our comfortably warm home. We are looking forward to attending the reunion in St. Louis in October. There are many of us who mistreated our bodies when we were thirty to fifty years old [try 19 to 24!] who have developed Spinal Stenosis and suffer with serious back pain. Well, since July 2006, I am one of them. I have been going to a pain clinic taking treatments for the pain. If these treatments work, I will be able to travel and we will be there. Edith has relatives in and near St. Louis and we think it is a great town, so we will be making this trip serve double duty. Oh! Edith just told me we are enclosing another check to be used as you see fit [thank you!]. Best wishes..... from Richard Todd: I'm doing quite well now, but will know more after my CAT scan around the first week of February. I hope I don't have to take more chemo. Here's a check for my dues to keep me on the Good Guy List [thanks]. I still hope to make the reunion in October. I had a nice visit from Jack Schrader, Tom Roy, and Ken Colburn last October. We had a good gettogether. Hope to have another one..... from Allan Alberg: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]. Is there anyone who remembers the detachment CBD 1804 that was at K-13? We left on an LST for Inchon and K-6..... from Jim Firebaugh: Enclosed find a check for dues and a roster [thanks]. If this isn't enough, please advise [just fine, Jim, and thanks]. Also, I am curious about the caps. Are they generic

(Continued from page 5)

Seabee caps as available from the museum? Thank you for all the back issues you sent [I sent a stack and **Jim** liked what he saw and joined us]. I enjoyed them all.....



from George Dorge: Here is a check for dues [thanks]. Hope you are settled in Georgia [we are!]. We are fine here and planning for the reunion in October. Hope to see you there..... from Chuck Kangas: Enclosed is a check for my dues [thanks]. Last year's dues were acknowledged but I was left off the Good Guy List. Hope this gets me back on [I may have left your name off the list but you are a Good Guy! What can I say? - it's this cheap help-] In my last message I mentioned the Las Vegas reunion and how Carol and I enjoyed visiting with my buddies Don McLain, Ambrose Johnson, and Larry Stevenson. Unfortunately, Larry's name was omitted [bummer!]. Sorry about that, Larry! [somebody is going to have to tune up this cheap help we have]. We're looking forward to St. Louis..... from Jim Stephens: Dues time again. Time flies when you are having fun. I need a new roster also [on the Question: Does Richard Christian of Bloomington, IL, have an email address? [not that I am aware of. Try 309-663-1264] If so, I would appreciate knowing his..... from **Ken Chew**: Happy New Year! It's another year and time to pay my dues for the new year and keep my name on the Good Guy List [thanks]. I enjoy reading the MCB 2 Newsletter and keep up the good work..... from Rav Nethercott: Here's a check to keep me on the Good Guy List [thanks! You're on!]..... That's all the letters for now, folks. Check if you are listed with the Good Guys and, if not, send a check for dues to get back on the Good Guy List. See you in St. Louis! Scott

I was always taught to respect my elders but it keeps getting harder to find one.

On-Line World Wide Web Military Reunion Listings

John H. Moore, Reunion Site Manager

The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA) is providing the Military Reunion Listings as a FREE service to the veteran community. I search the internet looking for reunions and then send requests for the information to the listed Point of Contact (POC). I sent 2,108 reunion organizations e-mails requesting information on their 2006 reunions, and unfortunately 25% failed to respond. We had 1,398 listings on the calendar year 2006 listing. With the next listing update, we will have over 500 reunion listings for calendar years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

Please take a look at our web site, www.trea.org, scroll down the left side and click on Reunions/Buddies and this will bring up the reunion page. As reunions are completed, they are transferred to the Completed Listing at the end of the month. They will remain there as a reference point for someone looking for a unit contact. My intention is that each calendar year reunions will be individually listed.

Our Fallen Comrades

James Benson late 1990's
Harold Don Leasure 12/21/06
O.G. Robins late 1980's
Myron A. Strausheim 10/17/05
Verle Williams 10/10/06

May they live on in our memories.

MAKE A NOTE!

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Alexander H. Bishop 4312 121st Place SE Everett, WA 98208-9146 CBMU 1/101

Robert V. "Buck" Buckley 17251 Hawthorne Ave. Anderson, CA 96007-9516 916-365-3845 coloradored@snowcrest.net CBMU 1/101/101 Det. Able

Jimmie E. Dillman 6012 Magnolia Beach Rd., Unit 209 Panama City, FL 32408-7067 MCB 2

Roy Emmons 37070 E 151st St. S. Coweta, OK 74429-8500 MCB 2

Frank L. Hayes 11110 80th Avenue Court SW Lakewood, WA 98498-5647 MCB 2

Dale H. Lundstrom 1824 Estella Drive Neosho, MO 64850-2866 (417) 451-4618 CBMU 1/101

John L. Ruby 6519 Van Maren Lane Citrus Heights, CA 95621-4918 MCB 2

Virgil L. Sprague 35 NE 710 St. Old Town, FL 32680-3352 CBMU 101

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There could be worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. It could be a right number.



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.

INTERESTING ODDBALL WW II FACTS

You'll love this from Col. D.G. Swinford, USMC, Ret., and history buff. You would really have to dig to get this kind of ringside seat to history:

- 1. The first German serviceman killed in WW2 was killed by the Japanese (China, 1937), the first American serviceman killed was killed by the Russians (Finland 1940), the highest ranking American killed was Lt. Gen. Lesley McNair, killed by the US Army Air Corps. . . . So much for allies.
- 2. The youngest US serviceman was 12-year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded and given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. (His benefits were later restored by act of Congress.)
- 3. At the time of Pearl Harbor the top US Navy command was Called CINCUS (pronounced "sink us"), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named "Amerika." All three were soon changed for PR purposes.
- 4. More US servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps. While completing the required 30 missions your chance of being killed was 71%.
- 5. Generally speaking, there was no such thing as an average fighter pilot. You were either an ace or a target. For instance Japanese ace Hiroyoshi Nishizawa shot down over 80 planes. He died while a passenger on a cargo plane.
- 6. It was a common practice on fighter planes to load every 5th round with a tracer round to aid in aiming. This was a mistake. Tracers had different ballistics, so (at long range) if your tracers were hitting the target 80% of your rounds were missing. Worse yet, tracers instantly told your enemy he was under fire and from which direction. Worst of all was the practice of loading a string of tracers at the end of the belt to tell you that you were out of ammo. This was definitely not something you wanted to tell the enemy. Units that stopped using tracers saw their success rate nearly double and their loss rate go down.

YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THIS ONE....

- 7. When allied armies reached the Rhine, the first thing men did was pee in it. This was pretty universal from the lowest private to Winston Churchill (who made a big show of it) and Gen. Patton (who had himself photographed in the act), and found the photo of Churchill (a hand-tinted black and white).
- 8. German Me-264 bombers were capable of bombing New York City but it wasn't worth the effort.
- 9. German submarine U-120 was sunk by a malfunctioning toilet.
- 10. Among the first "Germans" captured at Normandy were several Koreans. They had been forced to fight for the Japanese Army until they were captured by the Russians and forced to fight for the Russian Army until they were captured by the Germans and forced to fight for the German Army until they were captured by the US Army.

AND I SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST....

11. Following a massive naval bombardment, 35,000 US and Canadian troops stormed ashore at Kiska in the Aleutian Islands. 21 troops were killed in the firefight. It would have been worse if there had been any Japanese on the island.

Richard Coulson's up-coming trip to Hawaii

[Note from Scott: Mary and Sam Ragusa visited with Richard Coulson while they were at the viewing prior to the funeral for Harold Don Leasure. Rich mentioned to Sam & Mary that he was going to be part of the crew to sail a new sailboat from Long Beach to Hawaii that was being built. I asked Rich if he would mind if I included his account of the experience in our future Newsletters and the following is his reply.]

In answer to your question.......Yes, I would be pleased to send you stories with pictures about the crossing which will probably take two to three weeks, depending on the weather. I also will be submitting articles to one of the sailing magazines via satellite. Isn't modern technology wonderful?

The boat.... a 36' Gemini Catamaran is being built in Maryland and should be ready for delivery to Long Beach, California, via low-bed truck the first part of April where we will unload her and set her in the water. At this time we will be tuning her and conducting sea trials.

Going back a few years...... In the early 70s we bought a 50' Catamaran in Hawaii and, for eight years, my family and I lived on her and did some extensive sailing around the Islands. Eight of my children

literally grew up on her. But that is another whole story.

Later, three of my children decided to move to Hawaii and two of my sons formed their own construction company there. One of my daughters, who put in twenty- two years working for the Navy as a civilian in the Navy Yard in Washington, asked for and received a transfer to Pearl Harbor where she is now heading up the Anti-Terrorist Operation for the Hawaiian Islands.

In July 2006, for my 75th Birthday, we went to Hawaii to visit them and five of my Grandchildren. While I was there, as we usually do whenever we go to Hawaii, we spent many hours reminiscing about the time we spent on Glass Slipper II, our 50' Catamaran. When we returned back home to Lake Elsinore, California, our children decided to have their own Catamaran built and asked if I would sail it to Hawaii with two of my sons and a cousin. How could I say no? I'm about as excited as anyone can get. During the "Commissioning" in Long Beach, our daughter who lives in Hawaii, along with son Mike's wife and maybe some of their children, will be flying out here to make the sea trials to Catalina and see us off before flying back to Hawaii and awaiting our arrival.

Thanks for asking.

Richard

Phone Message

I dialed a number and got the following recording:

"I am not available right now, but thank you for caring enough to call. I am making some changes in my life. Please leave a message after the beep. If I do not return your call, you are one of the changes."

Allan Alberg, Vern Ammentorp, David Anderson, Eugene Antoine, Basil Arnold, Richard Baker, Jack Balding, Ed Ballerstein, Benjamin Balog, Mike Barron, Glen Bates, Henry Benguerel, Hank Bentsen, Frank Betonte, Vernon Blakeslee, John Bloem, James Bolton, Alexander (Cat) Borys, Robert Bowdler, Al Bryant, Silas Bucher, Robert Buckley, David Budworth, Wayne Bulgerin, L.P. 'Pop' Burleigh, Ralph Burnley, William Burns, Elwin "Shorty" Campbell, Pat Carey, Bennie Carlson, Mike Castlevecchi, Ken Catchpole, Frank Chambers, George Chang, Ken Chew, Robert Coley, Bob Colquhoun, Roy Cone, Howard Cornwell, Richard Coulson, Jack Coulter, Fred Cozad, Pat Cunningham, Stan Dauer, Joe DeFranco, Jim De-Keyser, Ted DeVit, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), George Dorge, Tom Dowd, William Duensing, Don Eminhizer, Doug Emond, Ralph Evans, Richard Fairbanks, Dick Farbo, Jim Firebaugh, Forrest Foland, Jack Foster, Bill Frazier, Harold Freeland, Lane Freitag, Al Fritz, William Ganske, Claude Garcenot, Roger Germundson, John Ginther, Ron Glasser, Russ Granby, John Grasz, Clem Gregurek, Frank Gresser, Gerald Grubb, Gordon Gwathney, Charles (Pauline) Hagemann, Luther Hall, Roger Hamilton, Arlin Hardwick, Roy Harris, Art Hees, Ralph Heitt, Charlie 'Don' Henderson, Wayne Heple, Bob Hoare, Sam Holsomback, Ray Hooter, Rod Howard, Hugh Ireland, Vic Jaccino, Frank Jacus, Lawrence Jessop, Ambros Johnson, Charles Johnson, Don Jones, Robert Kaempfe, Lloyd Kallsen, Chuck Kangas, Duane Keech, William Knight, John Kolasz, James Krause, Emil Krygier, Harry Ladley, Ervin Lampe, Sherwin Larsen, Harold Lind, Herbert Liverman, Dale Lundstrom, Tom Maere, Ivan Majetic, Anthony Marcella, Bob Markey, Bob Marshall, Norris McDaniel, Don McLain, Herbert Meade, Grant Millard, Daniel Millett, Chuck Minert, Frank Mingo, Roger Mohs, C. Finley Morrison, Richard Muns, Richard Nelson, Ray Nethercott, Paul Neusetzer, Joseph O'Brien, Ernest Owens, Roy Peak, Mal Pearson, 10

John Petronka, Amos Phillips, Mike Piro, Cecil Price, David Pyle, Sam Ragusa, Gary Rawlings, Charles Rebb, Rex Roark, Richard Rose, Thomas Roy, C. Edner Rudolph, Vinny Ryan, Harold Saucier, Millard Schneider, Jack Schrader, Rik Shafer, William Sigmund, Dick Sim, Fred Simon, Joe Sitkowski, Richard Skillicorn, Joe Sobczak, 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, James Taylor, George Terry, Doug Thorp, Richard Tittle, Richard Todd, Charles Trimarchi, Jerry Vasquez, Larry Vibber, Walter Waddell, Phil Wagenschnur. Dick Walters, Harold Wardenburg, John Weires, Duane Weltlich, Cecil Westwood, Bud Wheless, Rodney White, William Wilcoxen, R. G. 'Pete' Williams, Marshall Williams, Scott Williams, Fred Wilmarth, Jack Wilson, Jesse Wilson, Bill Wisnowski, and Stephen Yunger.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2007, 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 February 23, 2007. There are currently 193 paid up members from a mailing list of 531. If dues have never been sent, they do not receive the Newsletter. There are 756 names on the full member roster. (SW)

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 irony of life is that, by the time you're old enough to know your way around, you're not going anywhere.

Meat prices

A cannibal in South Africa walks into a meat shop to check out the items on sale. The first tray he looks at is priced at \$5.95 a pound. The salesman says, "That was a young Air Force pilot, couldn't have been more than 26 or 27 years old"

The next tray is \$9.75 a pound, the salesman says, "This was a young Coast Guard fellow who washed up on the beach -- probably not a day over 19 years old - young and VERY tender."

The third tray says "U.S. Navy Seabee" and is priced at \$19.70 a pound. "Why so much for the Seabee?" asks the cannibal.

"You have to ask the boss," is the reply.

The boss comes out and the cannibal says, "I understand the \$5.95 for the aviator and even \$9.75 for that tender Coast Guard guy, but why is the Seabee \$19.70?"

The boss replies, "Did you ever try to clean one of those things?"

I sent the previous joke around the Internet some time back and the following is a memory sent by Pat Morris:

In early '53 we had a change of command at K3 in Korea. We were out on the grinder and called to attention by the outgoing commander for inspection by the new incoming commander. A more pathetic looking group of men would have been hard to find. The mechanics reeked of diesel fuel and looked like they had worn the same clothes they were issued when they arrived. The electri-

cians, utilitymen and builders looked a little better but not by much. Our "uniforms" were whatever supply could scrounge off the Marines with a mixture of genuine Seabee greens. We expected to be individually inspected by the incoming commander the same as was the practice of the old commander. (The old commander had inspected us individually and with piercing eves. I could never understand how he could look at us without laughing.) To our surprise the new commander walked a big circle around the whole group being careful not to penetrate the odor barrier, then told us how pleased he was to be our new commander and dismissed us. From that day on we knew this guy was no dummy! I don't recall that we ever had another "inspection" by him.

Idle thoughts of a retiree's mind...

- ...I had amnesia once -- or twice.
- ...If the world was a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.
- ...What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?
- ...They told me I was gullible... and I believed them.
- ...One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.
- ...My weight is perfect for my height -- which varies.
- ...I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.
- ...How can there be self-help "groups"?
- ...I went to San Francisco I found someone's heart. Now what?
- ...Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

The New Korean War Ace, Guy P. Bordelon, Jr.

Photos and stories on these two pages, 12 & 13, courtesy of Conrad Lawlor

> This photo is of the new ace with an article I just discovered in my scrap book. I had photographed Guy P. Bordelon, Jr. posing next to the Annie Mo after he just made his 5th kill to become an ACE. He was at the Marine Air Base when I was with CBMU 1 / CBMU 101 where I was stationed. When word came that he did his fifth, I dashed for my camera and shot this picture of him. Note there



Night-fighters rule Korean skies after dark

Naval Aviation News, July/August, 2003 by Guy P. Bordelon, Jr.

The U.S. Navy's only ace in Korea recounts his night-fighter experience during the conflict.

During the early part of the Korean War, I served on the staff of Commander Cruiser Division 3 based on Helena (CA 75). This was good "blackshoe" indoctrination but was very frustrating for a trained and motivated Navy fighter pilot. What I really wanted was to be in the air, carrying the war to the "Reds" and, believe me, the cockpit of a naval fighter is the best place from which to realize that ambition.

It was therefore with great pleasure that in 1951 I received orders to Composite Squadron (VC) 3. The unit of 175 pilots was charged with crewing, training, equipping and supporting night-fighter teams for each Essex-class carrier of the Seventh Fleet engaged in Korean combat. Normal complements for such teams

are only 4 stars on the Corsair. It took 5 to make ACE! As the article stated, he did not arrive at our base until June 1953, so he missed the winters in Korea. That fall in 1953, after Josef Stalin died, the cease-fire was declared.

were 5 F4U-5N Corsair propeller-driven, night combat-equipped aircraft; 5 specially trained pilots; about 38 maintenance, ordnance and electronics personnel; and the necessary supplies and spare parts.

Princeton (CV 37) was making her second nine-month deployment of the war. She was known as a "happy ship," meaning that she had a reputation of outstanding concern for the comfort and support of her embarked air group. She didn't let us down.

As night-fighters, we were a special unit on board and thus had special support problems. Our F4U-5Ns were considerably heavier and more complex than the F4U-4s flown by our support squadron, Fighter Squadron 152. Even the tailhook was different and required unique

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

pans. Early in the deployment three of our five aircraft were "down" until the ship's ingenious supply officer personally manufactured reliable replacements out of the ship's boilerplate!

In October 1952 our job was interdiction of enemy road and rail links re-supplying their ground troops. Search and destroy was the name of the mission as we flew at low altitudes in a nightly effort to eliminate anything that moved. It was dangerous because we were forced to fly up steep mountain passes at ground-scraping altitude to reach the targets on twisting and turning mountain roads and rail lines. The enemy did everything possible to stop our attacks by positioning thousands of antiaircraft guns along every route and equipping each truck convoy with machine guns and cannons. Our tactic to prevent detection was to start the attacks at around 7,000 feet and make power-off dives for silent approach. When in range we opened fire with 20mm cannon, targeting the lead trucks to stop convoy movement, then making a second attack against the rear trucks to prevent escape. It was effective.

To prohibit our use of flares for target illumination, the enemy forces set many smoke fires on clear nights, and the resultant haze combined with the flares created a milk-bowl effect that gave the attacking pilots instant vertigo. The smoke was a common defense tactic used to protect rail tunnel entrances and coastal rail lines. Training in the proper use of the eyes at night was very important to our missions. "Pull away from bright explosions" became our dictum. Night blindness is difficult to get rid of in a hurry and can be deadly.

Among other measures adopted by the enemy to protect their rolling stock was the use of fires inside railroad tunnels to make us think that trains were hiding there. The idea was that we would use up our bombs while attempting to create earth slides, thus closing the tunnels. The answer was not to bomb tunnel entrances unless we had actually sighted trains entering them. It took a while to learn that lesson, however.

To protect their trucks, the Reds converted whole villages into drive-through "garages." When we were in the area the enemy ran the trucks into the villages, then raised walls so the vehicles were out of sight. Daylight photography revealed rutted tracks leading into the concealing "hooches" and we ended their little game.

In June 1953, the Fifth Air Force requested our services to destroy slow and low-flying WW II aircraft that the Reds were using to harass our forces and to bomb supplies. After briefing, we were assigned to a Marine air base south of Seoul. We flew several area familiarization hops, then settled in to begin our mission. Our quarters were screened huts that somehow managed to attract hundreds of biting black flies. The only way we could sleep was to pull heavy wool blankets over our heads and literally "sweat it out." I slept like a baby!

We quickly saw action. As enemy aircraft intruded into our area, I was launched and vectored on the tail of an unknown aircraft. Closing to point-blank range, I identified the bogey as a Yakovlev 18 with a rear seat gunner who sprayed the area to my left and below me with machine gun fire. I fired my four 20mm cannon and literally blew the Yak out of the sky! Reporting the kill to ground control, I was told that another bogey had popped. up. I was vectored into contact with a second Yak-18 and after reporting "Enemy" was cleared to fire. Pulling in tight I opened up with my 20mm cannon. I saw the incendiaries begin to burn the aircraft and then an explosion. The aircraft seemed to break into several large pieces, burning furiously. My controller reported the sky "clear" and directed me to return to the field. I did so gladly, feeling very fatigued, yet elated. My reception on the ground was tumultuous! All I wanted was sleep.

Thanks to Mary Ragusa for this:

Excise Tax

FYI. A Special One-Time Tax Credit on Your 2006 Tax Return

http://money.CNN.Com/2006/05/25/news/telep honetax_refund/index.htm

When it comes time to prepare and file your 2006 tax return, make sure you don't overlook the "federal excise tax refund credit." You claim the credit on line 71 of your form 1040. A similar line will be available if you file the short form 1040A. If you have family or friends who no longer file a tax return AND they have their own land phone in their home and have been paying a phone bill for years, make sure they know about this form 1040EZ-T.

What is this all about? Well, the federal excise tax has been charge to you on your phone bill for years. It is an old tax that was assessed on your toll calls based on how far the call was being made and how much time you talked on that call. When phone companies began to offer flat fee phone service, challenges to the excise tax ended up in federal courts in several districts of the country. The challenges pointed out that flat fee/rate phone service had nothing to do with the distance and the length of the phone call. Therefore, the excise tax should/could not be assessed.

The IRS has now conceded this argument. Phone companies have been given notice to stop assessing the federal excise tax as of Aug 30, 2006. You will most likely see the tax on your September cutoff statement, but it should NOT be on your October bill.

But the challengers of the old law also demanded restitution. So the IRS has announced that a one time credit will be available when you and I file our 2006 tax return as I explained above. However, the IRS also established limits

on how BIG a credit you can get.

Here's how it works.

If you file your return as a single person with just you as a dependent, you get to claim a \$30 credit on line 71 of your 1040.

If you file with a child or a parent as your dependent, you claim \$40.

If you file your return as a married couple with no children, you claim \$40.

If you file as married with children, you claim \$50 if one child, \$60 if two children.

In all cases, the most you get to claim is \$60 - UNLESS you have all your phone bills starting AFTER Feb 28, 2003 through July 31, 2006 (do not use any bills starting Aug 1, 2006), then you can add up the ACTUAL TAX AS IT APPEARS ON YOUR BILLS AND CLAIM THAT FOR A CREDIT.

Now if you have your actual phone bills and come up with an ACTUAL TAX AMOUNT, you cannot use line 71 on your tax return. You have to complete a special form number 8913 and attach it to your tax return.

Individuals using the special from 1040EZ-T will have to attach this form 8913 also.

One final point - this credit is a refundable credit. That means you get this money, no matter how your tax return works out. If you would end up owing the IRS a balance, the refund will reduce that balance you owe. If you end up getting a refund, the credit will be added and you get a bigger refund by that \$30 to \$60, depending on how many dependents are on your return.

Feel free to pass this on or make copies for family and friends who don't have computers.

SUBIC ABORIGINE "Anything he wants" By William A. Tracy

Our surveying party was returning from an abandoned banana plantation on a south shore peninsula of Subic Bay. We had finished the survey a couple hours early so we were walking the dusty roads back to Cubi Point where our tents were waiting. We walked rather than wait for a truck for transport. It was a hilly walk, up one hill and down another. Everyone was complaining about the intense heat and the insufferable humidity. The guy from New Jersey said it was "muggy." I wondered what he meant as we never used that term in California. Our canteens were empty but that was OK because we were only 3 miles from camp and 'home' where the big tank on the hilltop had an ample supply of fresh, chlorinated water.

As we shuffled along in the dust and heat, carrying surveying levels, transits, tripods, and the other gear, we suddenly became aware of an aborigine standing by the dirt road. The bulldozers had carved this road out of very dense jungle by pushing the trees, roots, and red clay and all over the side. This left the other side in the form of a ten-foot cliff. It was always great entertainment to see Giant Iguana lizards scrambling up those cliffs with their style of four-wheel drive, four sets of claws grinding away at the cliff as they panicked and raced for cover. But there were no lizards on this occasion.

The bulldozers had cut a place where the road was more than one lane wide. This was for allowing trucks to pass one another whenever they met. But on this day there was a bulldozer parked in the wide place. And there were also three or four Seabees standing near the 'dozer.' And standing among the Seabees was this Philippine Aborigine, a fierce warrior of the rain forest.

There he stood, 4 feet tall, this superb example of the male species, admired and feared. He might have been the chief in his tribe. Except for the homemade cloth 'jock strap', this man of the wild was entirely naked. It was hard to tell his age but he might have been 50 years old. The bronze colored warrior was all muscle and sinew, not an ounce of fat. Every time he moved you could see the rippling muscles and in his right hand he held the wire handle to a 5-gallon tin that civilization had provided him. Aside from the tin, everything else he had was of his own manufacture including a knife hanging at his side.

Over his shoulder he wore a powerful bow and there was a quiver of the wickedest arrows you could imagine. At his hip he carried a vicious 8-inch knife, but his most powerful weapon was his gnarled face that exuded character, confidence, and determination. He could not speak English but there was a petty officer that figured out what he wanted.

Unarmed, and taken by surprise, we knew we were vulnerable to any attack should the aborigine turn hostile. He was fully armed while we had only our surveying instruments. Of course, if we all jumped on him at once, we could probably take him. While this was going through my mind, I began looking around. I peered into the thick jungle on the rise above us and realized there were probably forty or fifty other aborigines, bows drawn, concealed behind the canopy of bamboo and vines. Why else would this wild man appear so cool and confident?

I think some of us enlisted men were about to do something when a young officer suddenly appeared on the scene. I never knew where he came from, but he was a Godsend. Dressed in a tan uniform with an officers cap, he had not been at tropical Subic Bay long enough to adopt an officers 'baseball' cap. That would take a couple more weeks.

"What does he want?" the officer inquired, addressing his question to everyone present. "He wants diesel fuel, sir," snapped the petty officer. The officer knew the rules about giving Naval supplies to civilians; it was a Court Martial offense. He looked at the fierce little man and his determined demeanor. Then he scanned the edges of the nearby rain forest. Tactically, we were already defeated if there were any of the wild man's tribe up there with their bows at the ready. It was a tense moment as the CEC officer assessed our predicament and pondered what he, as a Naval Officer, should do or say. Then, finally, he gave the order.

General McArthur in 1942 spoke those famous words, "I shall return." And Admiral David G. Farragut in 1864 said, "Damn the torpedoes - Full Speed Ahead!"

But on this momentous day in 1952, the young officer gave the historic order that has resonated in my brain for 52 years. He said, "Give him anything he wants!"



Seabees in action. Probably taken at NCTC, Port Hueneme ca. 1952



Here is a photo few have seen. It was taken at Camp Pendleton during the filming of THE FIGHTING SEABEES, staring John Wayne. I cannot identify the others in the photo except John Wayne and next to him on his right side and a bit behind, is my father, Lt. Commander Joe Lawlor, the officer in charge of the detail of Seabees involved in making the movie make in 1942.

[Cdr. Needham and Cdr. Combs in front to Cdr. Lawlor's right. (see photo on page 17)]



Memories of Mom & Dad from Conrad Lawlor:
Dennis O'Keefe,
Mom (Loretta Lawlor), Susan Hayward,
Dad (Lt. Cdr. Lawlor)
off to dinner during
filming of the movie
The Fighting Seabees
(1943).



Another photo from Conrad Lawlor: Dennis O'Keefe, John Wayne, Cdr. Combs, Cdr. Needham on the set for the filming of *The Fighting Seabees*.

MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

Biannual Reunion Schedule of Events

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL - AIRPORT ST. LOUIS, MO

October 17-20, 2007

Wednesday, October 17

			rreunesuny, october 17		
8:00 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	- - -	5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open Early Bird Registration Planning Committee meeting Hospitality Room closed		
			Thursday, October 18		
8:00 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 10:30 p.m.	- - -	5:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open Bus tour (we are working on this at press time) Reunion Registration open Hospitality Room closed		
			Friday, October 19		
8:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 10:30 p.m.	-	5:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	Hospitality Room open Reunion Registration open Dinner cruise (we are working on this at press time) Hospitality Room closed		
			Saturday, October 20		
8:00 a.m.	_		Hospitality Room open		
8:00 a.m.	-	8:30 a.m.	Reunion Registration open		
9:00 a.m.	-	10:30 a.m.	Business Meeting		
10:30 a.m.	-	11:30 a.m.	Memorial Service		
12:00 a.m.	-	4:00 p.m.	Late Reunion Registration open		
4:00 p.m.	-	Hospitality Room closed			
6:00 p.m.	-	11:00 p.m.	Cash Bar in Banquet Room		
7:00 p.m. 9:00 p.m.	- -		Banquet Door Prize drawings		

Sunday, October 21

8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open Farewells and departures

Embassy Suites Hotel - St. Louis Airport

11237 Lone Eagle Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044-2739

HOTEL RESERVATION WORKSHEET

CALL 1-800-362-2779 & Identify Yourself: MCB 2 Seabees

Group Name: MCB 2 Reunion Association

Dates: Wednesday - Saturday, October 17 - 20, 2007

Rate: \$103 plus 14.9% tax Single or Double Occupancy

Bed type requested: (Circle one) King Double

(Parking: FREI Check-in Time: Check-out Time:	4:00 p.m.	Confirmation Number:
Guest & Con	npanion's Name:		
Your Addres	s:		
City, State, Z	ZIP:		
Phone:			
	Arrival Date	2	Departure Date
<u>.</u>	Credit Card Numb	er for Guarantee	Type of Card & Expiration Date
	Cardholder's Nam	<u>e:</u>	

Special needs (subject to availability): Smoking/non-smoking; Handicap.

Deposits: Please allow one night's deposit plus 14.9% (current rate) room tax.

Deposits must be received prior to the reservation cut-off date.

A credit card or a deposit in the amount of one night's room plus tax charge must

be received no later than 14 days from the date the reservation was made.

Reservation Cut-Off Date: All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than

September 16, 2007.

Cancellations: Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to forty-eight (48) hours

prior to arrival with no penalty.

Early Departure Fee: Guests wishing to avoid an early checkout fee of \$50 should advise the hotel at or

before check-in of any change in planned length of stay.

MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

c/o Scott H. Williams 725 Summer Ridge Dr. Villa Rica, GA 30180 NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID

LAS VEGAS, NV PERMIT NO. 28





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Return Service Requested