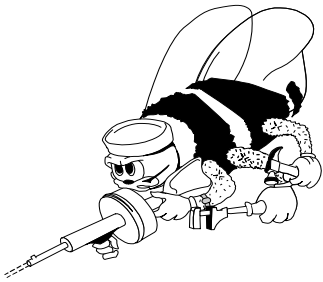


# ***MCB 2 Reunion Association***

Volume 7, Issue 8

July 1, 2009



# **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

# **NOW HEAR THIS!**

## **Make Your**

## **Reservations Now!**

**Myrtle Beach!**  
**October 1-3, 2009!**  
**Sands Resorts**

See page 12 for the hotel reservation form then send the form on page 14 to Scott Williams to reserve your place at all the functions. Time's getting short and we need you there! And remember to bring your door prize as that is always a fun time at the banquet. We have had some that have volunteered to help with various jobs, so if you can spare some time to help at the registration table or the ship's store, see Scott Williams or Sam Ragusa, but see us there! And send your registration in now!

**COME EARLY AND STAY LATE!**  
**Myrtle Beach!**

Our scheduled reunion dates are October 1-3 but the hotel has agreed to allow us to have the same rates for rooms three days prior and three days after. So come early and stay a few days late to enjoy the sights around Myrtle Beach. We will have brochures from the Convention Bureau at the registration desk so you can choose the sights you want to see.

And don't miss our wine and cheese reception in the Hospitality Room on Thursday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m. A grand time is expected in Myrtle Beach! See you there!

## 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.

\*\*\*

## *The Commander and Staff*

*Our leadership consists of:*

**Commander  
Pete Elliott**

**Staff:**

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

# Seabees

*July - October*

## *Dates to Remember*

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| July 4         | Independence Day   |
| July 26, 1944  | Seabees land on Tinian.  |
| Aug. 6, 1945   | Bombing of Hiroshima   |
| Aug. 7, 1942   | 1st Marine Division lands on Guadalcanal.  |
| Aug. 9, 1942   | Battle of Savo Island  |
| Aug. 9, 1945   | Bombing of Nagasaki  |
| Aug. 11, 1942  | USNCTC Camp Endicott, Davisville, RI commissioned. 'Original home of the Seabees'  |
| Aug. 14, 1945  | Japan accepts terms of Potsdam Declaration.  |
| Aug. 20, 1942  | OIC, 6th NCB, arrives at Guadalcanal; first CEC/Seabee Officer to enter a combat zone.   |
| Sept. 1, 1939  | Germany invades Poland. WWII begins.   |
| Sept. 1, 1942  | 6th NCB Seabee arrive at Guadalcanal, first Seabees to enter a combat zone.  |
| Sept. 2, 1945  | Formal surrender of Japan. WWII ends.  |
| Sept. 14, 1892 | Admiral Ben Moreell's Birthday. 'King Bee'   |
| Sept. 15, 1950 | MCB 2 commissioned   |
| Oct. 13, 1775  | Navy Birthday  |
| Oct. 16, 1942  | Eight men of 6th NCB killed at Guadalcanal, first Seabees to be killed in action. Seaman second Lawrence C. 'Bucky' Meyer awarded the Silver Star posthumously, first medal awarded to a Seabee. Awarded by Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. (p 169, <i>The King Bee</i> ). |

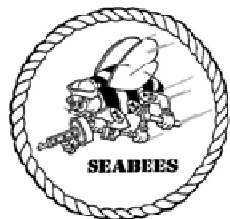


## Notes from our members:

From **Harrell Gene Edmondson**: Please accept my humble apology and late check for MCB 2 dues [thank you for the check! No apologies necessary.]. We appreciate all you do for Good Old 'Mob 2'.



MCB 2 is the greatest organization I had the pleasure to belong to since 1952. When MCB Two merged with MCB Three in 1955, I stayed with them five years, back and forth to the Philippines [really, MCB 2 did not merge with MCB 3 until MCB 2 was decommissioned in August 1956 and most of MCB 2 was transferred into MCB 3]. Some of the projects were: 1) Welding Shop at Rosemary Point Cubi, welding (hard-facing) earthmoving equipment for the EO's (I mean CD's); 2) Splicing wire rope for towing and slings for the Steel Workers; 3) Building Ammunition Bunkers at Camayan Point; 4) Dismantling the coaling docks along Bay Road. These docks were converted to fuel receiving docks; 5) Building overhead power lines to Benictigan Dam to supply electricity to the pumps that supply water to Cubi Point; 6) Laying 8" 'invasion'-type water line from Benictigan to Cubi Point; 7) Assembling thirteen 10,000 barrel (temporary) steel storage fuel tanks with gaskets, nuts & bolts. This tank farm was still in use the last time I went to the PI in 1972 when we retired; 8) Build Subic officer housing, concrete block at Haversack (name later changed to Kalaklan Heights); and 9) Build housing at Sangley Point (Cavite City), concrete block for dependents. My wife and I were married at this time, Sept. 29, 1957 (and are still married today). Three fine sons. One, Bobby, was born Oct. 13, the Navy anniversary.....

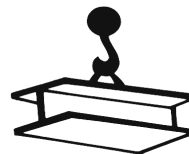


from **Tom Hoffman**: Here is my check for dues [thanks]. I guess I forgot to send it in January. I'm sending a bit extra if you would send me a roster, if you get a chance [on the way!]..... from

**John Wilborn**: [sent a check for some T shirts... thanks]..... received dues from **Marvin (Nancy) Guetling, Yung Ketels, William Alwine, Lionel Vidrine, Ray Nethercott** and **Walter**



**(Catherine) Smith** [thanks]..... received a check for a flag pole from **Pete Elliott** [thanks]..... from Mrs. **Barry Spooner**: My husband, **Barry**, passed away 9/16/06. Sorry I haven't notified you sooner..... from **Ray Hooter**: [I had written **Ray** after he had mentioned that was him on the cover of the book by **Gina Nichols, The Seabees at Port Hueneme**, asking for some comment.] My wife and I were away from home a couple of weeks ago when your letter arrived, so now is the first time I have had to answer it. The picture on the cover of the book was taken July 13, 1944. That was a few years earlier than when we were there. The picture you refer to was one I had sent you and in the letter I asked if anyone else had recognized **Esther Williams**. I am enclosing the picture I had sent earlier in this letter. Left to right, that's me, **George Dorge** and **Dick Hillyer**. It was taken while we were on R&R in Kyoto early in 1953. We hope to make it to Myrtle Beach but will not be sure for a month or so. Enclosed is a check for dues and a few bucks extra for whatever is the need [thanks]..... from **Millard (Trudie) Schneider**: I am writing for **Millard**. We just got the reunion paper and I'm sorry but we won't be able to make it this time. **Millard** is not feeling too good as he had a mini-stroke and has his good days and bad days. I just wanted to let you know we are leaving McAllen (TX) on the 24th of April headed home to Michigan. Our son is coming down on the 23rd and will drive us home. I am quite sure we won't be back down here next winter..... received reunion reservations from **Alexander Borys, Tony Deleon, Tom Lightbody, Tony Mastroianni, Larry Stevenson, Joe DeFranco, Stoney Serrett, Jack Schrader, Tom Roy, Joe Caruso, Rex Roark** and **Ralph Heitt**..... from **Marvin Dalby**: Enclosed is a check to put me on the Good Guy List [thanks]. I enjoy the Newsletter although it seems most of the guys I was with in MCB 2 and CBMU 101 are no longer with us..... from **Tony Mastroianni**:



Thank you for all the information you sent to me. I was expecting to have an enjoyable time at the

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

MCB 2 reunion, however I learned my step-son is getting married in September, which will change my plans. I have canceled my hotel room reservation and will have to do the same with the reunion [refund check sent]. You are a 'hands on' guy. I was very anxious to meet with you and the MCB 2 group. Maybe next year [I wrote **Tony** that we meet every-other year and hope our next meeting will be at Port Hueneme]..... from **Millard (Trudie) Schneider**: Sorry I'm late with **Millard's** dues. I thought for sure I had sent them in [thank you!]..... from **Bob Janson**: Well, here I am... late again. Enclosed is a check for my dues to get me back on the Good Guy List, I hope [it does, and thanks]. I'm getting to be a real pro at some things these days, especially pro...crastinating. Procrastinating is easier and easier, so they say..... from **Harold Wardenburg**: Can you send me an updated roster? Use the rest for whatever needs you have [thanks. **Harold** sent a check for the roster plus a check to register for the reunion]. See you in Myrtle Beach..... from **Les (Marge) Keller**: Sorry for being late with dues. I thought we had paid [thanks] ..... from **John (Geri) Petronka**: [sent a check for the reunion registration] Hi! We can't wait to see you! We will be in on the 29th at noon. Have a great summer. We want to help [we have a need for helpers! Thanks]..... from **John Wilborn**: [I sent a boonie hat] Thanks, **Scott**. Now, I kin look like a vet. **David** likes his T shirts..... from **Bob Gardner**: Here's my check for the reunion. I added some extra for dues and put the rest in the kitty [thanks!]. Also, I enclosed some MCB 3 decals. I don't think I sent you any. If you need more, let me know [you could bring some to the reunion for sale in the ship's store]. Looking forward to seeing you again in October. Thanks for all you do..... from **Jo (Gene) McDonagh**: I thought this would be nice for the Newsletter [**Jo** enclosed a poignant story. See page 6.] It is very touching. **Gene** needs further surgery, which is scheduled very soon. His carotid artery on one side is blocked. One thing after another [tell me about it!]. We're waiting for some sign of spring. It is too cold here [Long Island, NY]. I'll bet it is warmer where you are [yes, but not as warm as Las Vegas!]. The Newsletter is the BEST! You are amazing!



[thank you] Keep well and God bless..... from **John Stock**: Here is my check for dues plus a little extra for whatever. **Mary** and I

won't be making the Myrtle Beach trip. A few months ago I took a job on a temporary basis to help out a friend and I like it so well I'm staying on as a regular. After 13 years of retirement, I'm back to work. At least 'til I decide to retire..... from **Roy Peak**: I am sorry to say that I will not attend our reunion at Myrtle Beach this year. Your arrangements and advice are great. I am sending a new mail address for you to use..... from **Stiles Stevens**: Thank you for sending me the several issues of the MCB 2 et al doings. I have enjoyed reading the comments of my fellow Bee's, especially those who were at K-3 (Pohang-Dong), Atsugi NAS and Iwakuni NAS. My return from Atlanta to St. Croix has to be pushed back to 26 September, therefore I cannot be at the Myrtle Beach reunion in early October. Nonetheless, I am enclosing a check for dues [thank you!]. I would also like to receive a roster of the "Good Guys" sorted by names [on the way]. On behalf of all the former members of CBMU 101, I pray that you can, and will, keep up the good work you are doing for all the Bees [thank you!]..... received a check from **Jim Wommack** for some ball caps [thanks]..... from **Ray Hooter**: Enclosed is a check for five American flags. If it's not enough, let me know. If it is an overage, use the extra for whatever is needed [thanks, and the extra is in the kitty]..... from **Paul Muma**: Here is a check for my dues and use the rest for postage [thank you!]. I had a knee replacement and then found out I am allergic to the metal in my new knee, so I am in pain until I can get it replaced.....

That's all the mail I have received, folks. I hope you are making plans to be with us in Myrtle Beach. A great time is planned, so make your arrangements now if you haven't already! See you there! **Scott**



The problem with getting old is that you are not going to outgrow it.



## 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 753 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, if you would like a directory sorted by ZIP numbers, let me know. You can see who lives close to you or use it when you travel. And keep sending those cards and letters – especially the ones with checks!

Scott Williams

## Deep Thoughts....

- \* Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.
- \* Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.
- \* A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
- \* How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
- \* Business conventions are important because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.
- \* Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?

For those that have a computer and Internet access.  
Suggested by Bobby McMillan, CBMU 101

## Return to Makin Island

Very touching

In the early days of WW II, the Marine raiders attacked Makin Island and left behind 19 dead Marines. They asked the islanders to make sure that they received a proper burial. In 1999, the remains were discovered. This is a touching tribute. Semper Fidelis. Note the different nationalities of the soldiers at the end.

God Bless America.  
**Semper Fidelis**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6f\\_FvZpm3g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6f_FvZpm3g)



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

L. P. 'Pop' Burleigh  
2054 I-49 North Service Rd  
Opelousas, LA 70570-6839  
337-662-3626 - home  
337-945-6921 - cell  
MCB 2

Thomas O. Lightbody  
283 Ashton Lake Dr., #32  
Battle Creek, MI 49015-4690  
269-964-2400  
MCB 3

Stiles F. Stevens  
P.O. Box 365  
Christiansted, VI 00821-0365  
340-773-7742  
CBMU 1/101

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

## *Our Fallen Comrades*

Emil E. Krygier (MCB 2) 6/22/09  
Harlan D. Puck (CBMU 577) 8/21/08  
Barry E. Spooner (MCB 2) 9/16/06

*May they live on in our memories.*

From Jo McDonagh

## This is so true!

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life.

They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were willing to die for one another. As long as I have my memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades. Ahhh... Such good men."

Author Unknown

## This is why we love old people:

A farmer stopped by the local mechanic shop to have his truck fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home.

On the way home he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem - how to carry all of his entire purchases home.

While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, "Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?"

The farmer said, "Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there but I can't carry this lot."

The old lady suggested, "Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket, carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm and carry the goose in your other hand?"

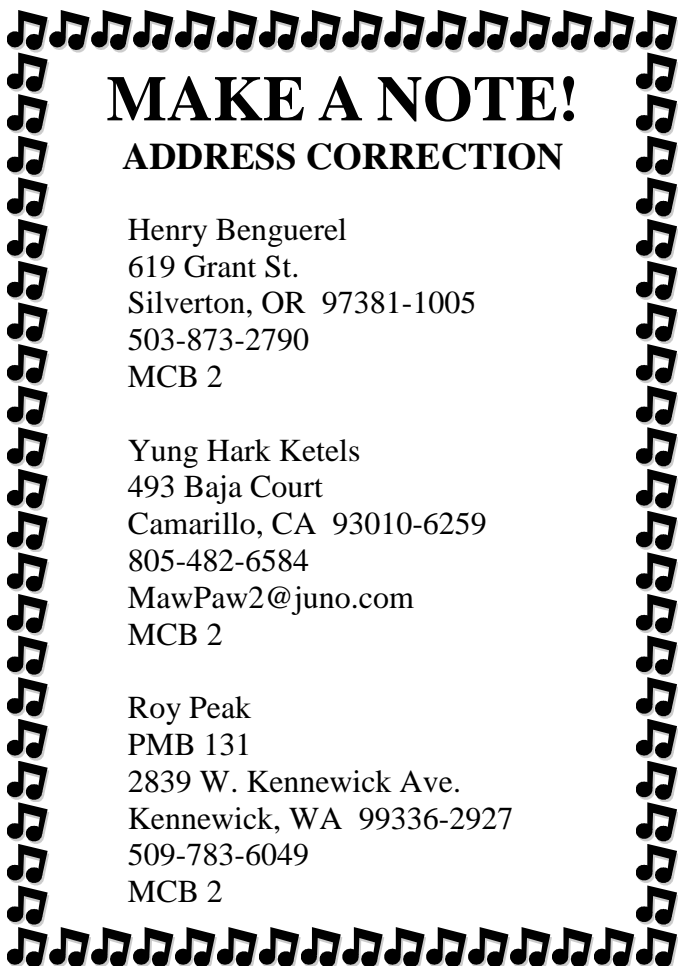
"Why thank you very much", he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home.

On the way he says "Let's take my short cut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time."

The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, "I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?"

The farmer said, "Holy smokes, lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?"

The old lady replied, "Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens."



## MAKE A NOTE!

### ADDRESS CORRECTION

Henry Benguerel  
619 Grant St.  
Silverton, OR 97381-1005  
503-873-2790  
MCB 2

Yung Hark Ketels  
493 Baja Court  
Camarillo, CA 93010-6259  
805-482-6584  
MawPaw2@juno.com  
MCB 2

Roy Peak  
PMB 131  
2839 W. Kennewick Ave.  
Kennewick, WA 99336-2927  
509-783-6049  
MCB 2

# *The Good Guy List*

## **For 2009**

Vance Adams, Harold Agles, Allan Alberg, Bill Alwine, Vern Ammentorp, David Anderson, Gene Antoine, Basil Arnold, Pat Badgett, Richard Baker, Ed Ballerstein, Mike Barron, Henry Benguerel, Hank Bentsen, Frank Betonte, Ralph Binney, Vernon Blakeslee, John Bloem, William Body, Ralph Bokern, Ken Booth, Alexander (Cat) Borys, Bob Bowdler, Don Bradley, Philip Brunelle, David Budworth, Wayne Bulgerin, L.P. 'Pop' Burleigh, Ralph Burnley, Bill Burns, Pat Carey, Shorty Campbell, Bennie Carlson, Ken Catchpole, Frank Chambers, George Chang, Chuck Chapman, Ken Chew, Walter Cloonan, Bob Colquhoun, Roy Cone, Bob Conroe, Howard Cornwell, Richard Coulson, Fred Cozad, Warren Culberson, Pat Cunningham, Arnold Daisy, Marvin Dalby, Paul D'Angelo, Stan Dauer, Ed Dechant, Joe DeFranco, Jim De Keyser, Tony deLeon, Don Dellit, Ted DeVit, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Robert Doezie, George Dorge, Tom Dowd, Howard Doyle, Marshall Dunne, Harrell Edmondson, Pete Elliott, Doug Emond, Ralph Evans, Norm Eveleth, Richard Fairbanks, Richard Farbo, Galen Farnsworth, Frank Fibich, Jim Firebaugh, Warren Flading, Forrest Foland, Jack Foster, Bill Frazier, Harold Freeland, Claude Garcenot, Robert Gardner, Kenn Gaskell, Roger Germundson, Ron Glasser, Robert Graf, Russ Granby, Jim Green, Clem Gregurek, Frank Gresser, Roy Grisham, Don Grobbel, Gerald Grubb, Marvin Guetling, George Gustin, Gordon Gwathney, Pauline (for Charlie) Hagemann, Walt Hagen, David Haines, Les Hall, Alex Hamilton, Roger Hamilton, Leonard Hardoin, Arlin Hardwick, Roy Harris, Bob Hart, Ralph Heitt, Bert Helms, Don Henderson, Duane Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Althea (Jerry) Herr, Bob Hoare, Tom Hoffman, Don Hofstetter, Ben Hollar, Milford 'Holly' Hollingsworth, Sam Holsomback, Ray Hooter, Art Hoskinds, Rod Howard, Ron Howatson, Charles Ingalls, Vic Jaccino, Frank Jacus, Robert Jandreau, Bob Janson, Larry Jessop, Ambros Johnson, Charles Johnson, Don Jones, John Jurkash, Robert

Kaempfe, Lloyd Kallsen, Charles Kangas, Mike Kazarian, Les Keller, Yung Ketels, Denise King (for her Dad, Don Truskey), William Knight, John Kolasz, James Krause, Emil Krygier, Ervin Lampe, Sherwin Larsen, Harold Lind, Herbert Liverman, Gordon Love, Dale Lundstrom, Tom Maere, Ivan Majetic, Anthony Marcella, Philip Matalucci, Jack Mayo, Charles McCabe, Don McDaniel, Norris McDaniel, Riley McDaniel, Gene McDonagh, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, Grant Millard, Dan Millett, Dan Mills, Chuck Minert, Gary Mitchell, Roger Mohs, Pat Morris, Hance Morton, Paul Muma, Richard Muns, Eugene (Wes) Nelson, Richard Nelson, Ray Nethercott, Opal (for Paul) Neusetzer, Don Nitsche, John Noetzel, Joseph O'Brien, Ernest Owens, Billy Partridge, Don Pastell, Roy Peak, Mal Pearson, Ben Pedrotti, John Petronka, Ralph Presson, Cecil Price, David Pyle, Sam Ragusa, Robert Rasmussen, Gary Rawlings, John Recklitis, Rex Roark, Gene Robinson, Dale Rogers, Thomas Roy, John Ruby, C. Edner Rudolph, Vinny Ryan, Harold Saucier, Paul Schell, Millard Schneider, Jack Schrader, Don Seethaler, Gerald Seger, Stoney Serrett, Bill Sharp, Dick Sim, Fred Simon, Jack Sims, Art Siple, Glenn Sisco, Joe Sitkowski, Richard Skillicorn, Walter Smith, Joe Sobczak, Ray Sorrentino, Gene Staples, Tom Stapleton, Clyde Stenholm, Norman Stentz, Lee Stevens, Larry Stevenson, George Stewart, John Stock, Willis Struecker, Dan Svendsen, Richard Swallow, Victor Swanson, William Taylor, Doug Thorp, Richard Todd, Charles Trimarchi, Wayne Turley, Jerry Vasquez, Larry Vibber, Lionel Vidrine, Walter Waddell, Richard Walters, John Waltrip, Harold Wardenburg, John Weires, Karl Weisenbacher, Bud Wheless, Rodney White, John Wilborn, William Wilcoxen, Jerry Wilkening, Marshall Williams, R. G. 'Pete' Williams, Scott Williams, Fred Wilmarth, Jack Wilson, Preston Wilson, Jim Wommack, Bill Wisnowski, Dwight Yetter, and Stephen Yunger.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2009, 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 June 14, 2009. There are currently 268 paid up members from a mailing list of 463. If dues have never been sent, they do not receive the Newsletter. There are 742 names on the full member roster (23 pages). (SW)

## SEABEE HISTORY

Did you know that in WW II.....

258,872 officers and enlisted served in the Seabees.

They were organized into:

- 12 brigades
- 54 regiments
- 151 regular battalions
- 39 special battalions
- 164 detachments
- 136 maintenance units
- And 5 pontoon assembly detachments.

They constructed:

- 111 major airstrips
- 441 piers
- 700 acres of warehouses
- Hospitals for 70,000 patients
- Storage for 100 million gallons of gasoline
- And housing for 1,500,000 men and women.

## NO TRUER WORDS HAVE BEEN SPOKEN

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

George Washington (1732-1799)

## A FEW MORE TIDBITS OF SEABEE HISTORY

- *The Fighting Seabees* (1944), starring John Wayne, is a fictionalized portrayal of the beginning of the Seabees.
- Seabees feature prominently in the musical *South Pacific*.
- Ward Cleaver, the fictional father from *Leave It To Beaver*, was a Seabee.
- Al Borland, the fictional sidekick of Tim Taylor on *Home Improvement* was a Seabee and stationed in Nevada. Borland was portrayed by actor Richard Karn. Coincidentally, Karn's father, Gene, was a Seabee in real life and served in World War II.
- Literal 'seabees' (similar to the bee depicted on the badge) appear in the computer game *Grim Fandango*.
- Tom Cruise, portraying "Maverick" in the 1986 movie *Top Gun*, had a Seabee patch on the left front breast area of his flight jacket.
- Seabee is the school mascot of Simonds High School in Saint John, New Brunswick and is depicted in the school colors of green and gold.
- Ben Walton in the popular TV series, *The Walton's*, joined the Seabees in the 8th season.

## VA INFO

### Important VA Contact Numbers

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Health Benefits Service Center ..... | 877-222-8387 |
| VA Benefits .....                    | 800-827-1000 |
| Life Insurance .....                 | 800-669-8487 |
| Headstones/Markers .....             | 800-697-8387 |
| VA Healthcare System .....           | 866-482-7488 |
| For other VA info online .....       | va.gov       |



# The Sub That Sank A Train!

In 1973, an Italian submarine named *Enrique Tazzoli* was sold for a paltry \$100,000 as scrap metal. The submarine, given to the Italian Navy in 1953 was actually an incredible veteran of World War II service with a heritage that never should have passed so unnoticed into the graveyards of the metal recyclers. The *U.S.S. Barb* was a pioneer, paving the way for the first submarine-launched missiles and flying a battle flag unlike that of any other ship.

In addition to the Medal of Honor ribbon at the top of the flag identifying the heroism of its captain, Commander Eugene "Lucky" Fluckey, the bottom border of the flag bore the image of a Japanese locomotive. The *U.S.S. Barb* was indeed, the submarine that "SANK A TRAIN."

## July 1945 (Guam)

Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz looked across the desk at Admiral Lockwood as he finished the personal briefing on U.S. warships in the vicinity of the northern coastal areas of Hokkaido, Japan. "Well, Chester, there's only the *Barb* there, and probably no word until the patrol is finished. You remember Gene Fluckey?"

"Of course. I recommended him for the Medal of Honor," Admiral Nimitz replied. "You surely pulled him from command after he received it?"

## July 18, 1945 (Patience Bay, off the coast of Karafuto, Japan)

It was after 4 A.M. and Commander Fluckey rubbed his eyes as he peered over the map spread before him. It was the twelfth war patrol of the *Barb*, the fifth under Commander Fluckey. He should have turned command over to another skipper after four patrols, but had managed to strike a deal with Admiral Lockwood to make one more trip with the men he cared for like a father, should his fourth patrol be successful. Of course, no one suspected when he had struck that deal prior to his fourth and what should have been his final war patrol on the *Barb*, that Commander Fluckey's success would be so great he would be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Commander Fluckey smiled as he remembered that patrol. "Lucky" Fluckey they called him. On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the *Barb* had emerged victorious from a running two-hour night battle after sinking a large enemy ammunition ship. Two weeks later in Mamkwan Harbor, he found the "mother-lode." In only 5 fathoms (30 feet) of water, his crew had unleashed the sub's forward torpedoes, then turned and fired four from the stern. As he pushed the *Barb* to the full limit of its speed through the dangerous waters in a daring withdrawal to the open sea, he recorded eight direct hits on six enemy ships. Then, on the return home, he added yet another Japanese freighter to the tally for the *Barb's* eleventh patrol, a score that exceeded even the number of that patrol.

What could possibly be left for the Commander to accomplish who, just three months earlier had been in Washington, DC to receive the Medal of Honor?

He smiled to himself as he looked again at the map showing the rail line that ran along the enemy coastline. This final patrol had been promised as the *Barb's* "graduation patrol" and he and his crew had cooked up an unusual finale. Since the 8th of June, they had harassed the enemy, destroying the enemy supplies and coastal fortifications with the first submarine-launched rocket attacks. Now his crew was buzzing excitedly about bagging a train.

The rail line itself wouldn't be a problem. A shore patrol could go ashore under cover of darkness to plant the explosives. But this early morning, Lucky Fluckey and his officers were puzzling over how they could blow not only the rails, but also one of the frequent trains that shuttled supplies to equip the Japanese war machine.

Such a daring feat could handicap the enemy's war effort for several days, a week, perhaps even longer. It was a crazy idea, just the kind of operation "Lucky" Fluckey had become famous...or infamous...for. But no matter how crazy the idea might have sounded, the *Barb's* skipper would not risk the lives of his men. Thus the problem... how to detonate the charge at the moment the train passed, without endangering the life of a shore party. PROBLEM? Not on Commander Fluckey's ship. His philosophy had always been "We don't have problems, only solutions."

(Continued from page 9)

### **11:27 AM "Battle Stations!"**

No more time to seek solutions or to ponder blowing up a train. The approach of a Japanese freighter with a frigate escort demands traditional submarine warfare. By noon the frigate is laying on the ocean floor in pieces and the *Barb* is in danger of becoming the hunted.

### **6:07 PM Solutions!**

If you don't look for them, you'll never find them. And even then, sometimes they arrive in the most unusual fashion.

Cruising slowly beneath the surface to evade the enemy plane now circling overhead, the monotony is broken with an exciting new idea. Instead of having a crewman on shore to trigger explosives to blow both rail and a passing train, why not let the train BLOW ITSELF up. Billy Hatfield was excitedly explaining how he had cracked nuts on the railroad tracks as a kid, placing the nuts between two ties so the sagging of the rail under the weight of a train would break them open. "Just like cracking walnuts," he explained. "To complete the circuit (detonating the 55-pound charge) we hook in a microswitch ...between two ties. We don't set it off, the TRAIN does." Not only did Hatfield have the plan, he wanted to be part of the volunteer shore party. The solution found, there was no shortage of volunteers. All that was needed was the proper weather...a little cloud cover to darken the moon for the mission ashore.

Lucky Fluckey established his own criteria for the volunteer party:...No married men would be included, except for Hatfield. The party would include members from each department, the opportunity would be split between regular Navy and Navy Reserve sailors, and at least half of the men had to have been Boy Scouts, experienced in how to handle themselves in medical emergencies and in the woods. FINALLY, "Lucky" Fluckey would lead the saboteurs himself.

When the names of the 8 selected sailors was announced it was greeted with a mixture of excitement and disappointment. Among the disappointed was Commander Fluckey who surrendered his opportunity at the insistence of his officers that "as

commander he belonged with the *Barb*," coupled with the threat from one that "I swear I'll send a message to ComSubPac if you attempt this (joining the shore party himself)." Even a Japanese POW being held on the *Barb* wanted to go, promising not to try to escape. In the meantime, there would be no more harassment of Japanese shipping or shore operations by the *Barb* until the train mission had been accomplished.

The crew would "lay low," prepare their equipment, train, and wait for the weather.

**July 22, 1945** (Patience Bay, off the coast of Karafuto, Japan)

Patience Bay was wearing thin the patience of Commander Fluckey and his innovative crew. Everything was ready. In the four days the saboteurs had anxiously watched the skies for cloud cover, the inventive crew of the *Barb* had built their microswitch. When the need was posed for a pick and shovel to bury the explosive charge and batteries, the *Barb*'s engineers had cut up steel plates in the lower flats of an engine room, then bent and welded them to create the needed tools. The only things beyond their control were the weather....and time. Only five days remained in the *Barb*'s patrol.

Anxiously watching the skies, Commander Fluckey noticed plumes of cirrus clouds then white stratus clouds capping the mountain peaks ashore. A cloud cover was building to hide the three-quarters moon. This would be the night.

### **MIDNIGHT, July 23, 1945**

The *Barb* had crept within 950 yards of the shoreline. If it was somehow seen from the shore it would probably be mistaken for a schooner or Japanese patrol boat. No one would suspect an American submarine so close to shore or in such shallow water. Slowly, the small boats were lowered to the water and the 8 saboteurs began paddling toward the enemy beach. Twenty-five minutes later they pulled the boats ashore and walked on the surface of the Japanese homeland. Having lost their points of navigation, the saboteurs landed near the backyard of a house. Fortunately the residents had no dogs, though the sight of human AND dog's tracks in the sand along the beach alerted the brave sailors to the

(Continued from page 10)

potential for unexpected danger. Stumbling through noisy waist-high grasses, crossing a highway and then stumbling into a 4-foot drainage ditch, the saboteurs made their way to the railroad tracks. Three men were posted as guards and Markuson was assigned to examine a nearby water tower. The *Barb's* auxiliary man climbed the ladder then stopped in shock as he realized it was an enemy lookout tower....an OCCUPIED tower. Fortunately, the Japanese sentry was peacefully sleeping and Markuson was able to quietly withdraw and warn his raiding party. The news from Markuson caused the men digging the placement for the explosive charge to continue their work more slowly and quietly.

Suddenly, from less than 80 yards away, an express train was bearing down on them. The appearance was a surprise. It hadn't occurred to the crew during the planning for the mission that there might be a night train. When at last it passed, the brave but nervous sailors extracted themselves from the brush into which they had leapt to continue their task. Twenty minutes later, the holes had been dug and the explosives and batteries hidden beneath fresh soil. During planning for the mission, the saboteurs had been told that with the explosives in place, all would retreat a safe distance while Hatfield made the final connection. If the sailor who had once cracked walnuts on the railroad tracks slipped during this final, dangerous procedure, his would be the only life lost. On this night it was the only order the saboteurs refused to obey, all of them peering anxiously over Hatfield's shoulder to make sure he did it right. The men had come too far to be disappointed by a switch failure.

#### 1:32 A.M.

Watching from the deck of the *Barb*, Commander Fluckey allowed himself a sigh of relief as he noticed the flashlight signal from the beach announcing the departure of the shore party. He had skillfully, and daringly, guided the *Barb* within 600 yards of the enemy beach. There was less than 6 feet of water beneath the sub's keel, but Fluckey wanted to be close in case trouble arose and a daring rescue of his saboteurs became necessary.

#### 1:45 A.M.

The two boats carrying his saboteurs were only half-way back to the *Barb* when the sub's machinegunner yelled, "CAPTAIN! Another train coming up the tracks!" The Commander grabbed a megaphone and yelled through the night, "Paddle like the devil!," knowing full well that they wouldn't reach the *Barb* before the train hit the microswitch.

#### 1:47 A.M.

Brilliant light and the roar of the explosion shattered the darkness. The boilers of the locomotive blew, shattered pieces of the engine blowing 200 feet into the air. Behind it, the cars began to accordion into each other, bursting into flame and adding to the magnificent fireworks display.

Five minutes later, the saboteurs were lifted to the deck by their exuberant comrades as the *Barb* turned to slip back to safer waters. Moving at only two knots, it would be a while before the *Barb* was in waters deep enough to allow it to submerge. It was a moment to savor. The culmination of teamwork, ingenuity and daring by the Commander and all his crew. "Lucky" Fluckey's voice came over the intercom, "All hands below deck not absolutely needed to maneuver the ship have permission to come topside." He didn't have to repeat the invitation. Hatches sprang open as the proud sailors of the *Barb* gathered on her decks to proudly watch the distant fireworks display.

The *Barb* had "sunk" a Japanese TRAIN!

### Idle Thoughts...

- Why does a slight tax increase cost you two hundred dollars and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?
- How is it, one careless match can start a forest fire but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Fill this form out and have it ready when you call the hotel for your reservations.  
Keep this completed form and bring it to the reunion with the Confirmation Number.

# Sands Resorts

201 74th Avenue North, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

## HOTEL RESERVATION WORKSHEET

**CALL 1-800-599-9872 & Identify Yourself: MCB 2 Seabees**

**Group Name: MCB 2 Reunion Association**

**Dates: Wednesday - Saturday, September 30 - October 3, 2009**

**Rate: \$79 plus 19.5% tax Single or Double Occupancy**

**One Bedroom Jr. Suite available: \$89 plus 19.5% tax**

Parking: **FREE**

Check-in Time: 4:00 p.m.

Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon

**Confirmation Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

Guest & Companion's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date

Departure Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number for Guarantee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Type of Card & Expiration Date

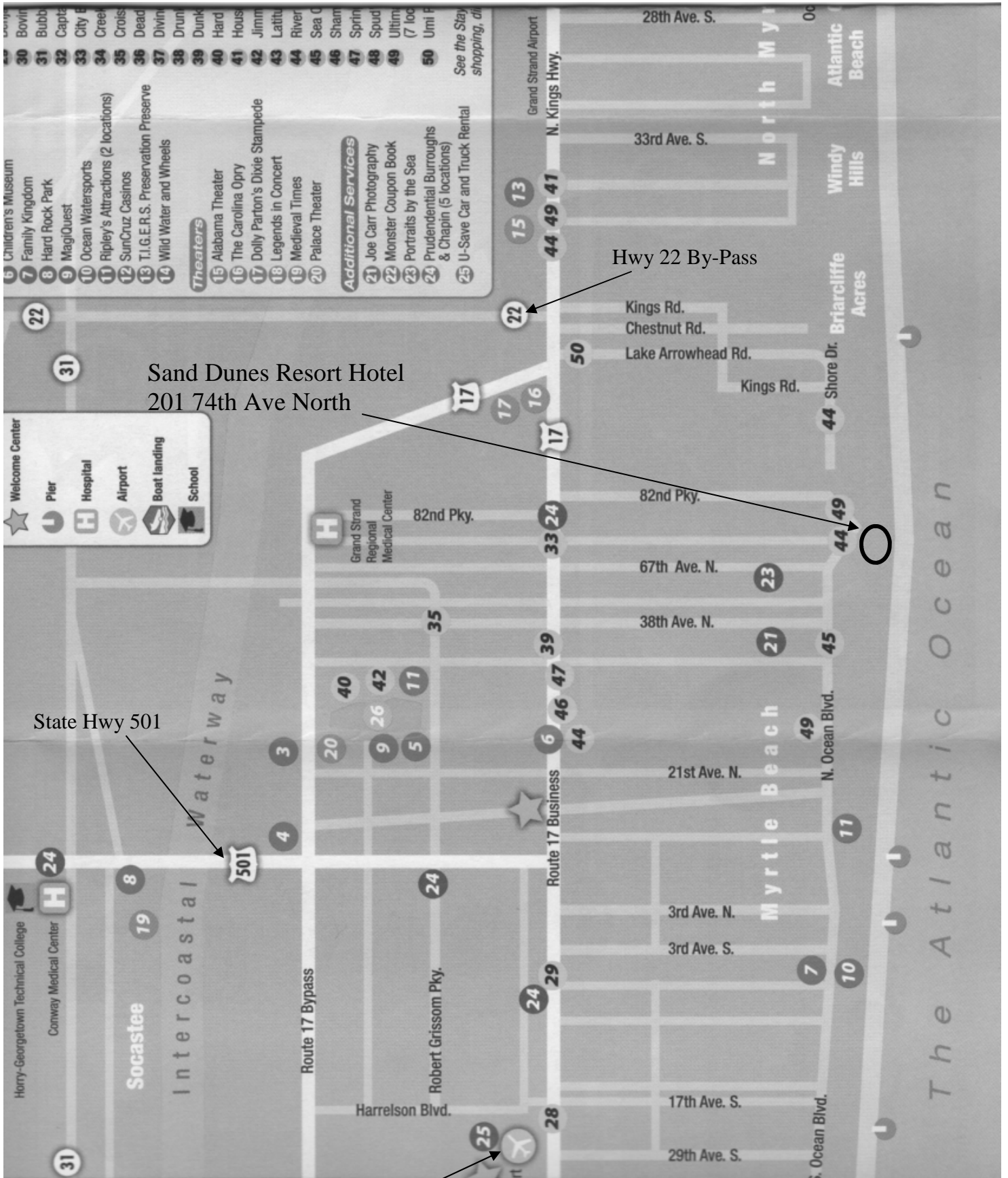
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Cardholder's Name:

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

**Deposits:** There is a minimum one night's deposit plus 19.5% (current rate) room tax charge. 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 5 days from the date the reservation was made.

**Reservation Cut-Off Date:** All reservations must be received by the hotel no later than August 30, 2009.

**Cancellations:** Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to ninety-six (96) hours (4 days) prior to arrival with no penalty.



Sand Dunes Resort Hotel  
201 74th Ave North

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State Hwy 501

Myrtle Beach Airport

A handy map for you to use to locate our hotel if you are driving in.  
13 If you are flying, the hotel will pick you up.

## REUNION REGISTRATION - MYRTLE BEACH

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION in the form of a check or money order. No credit cards or phone reservations accepted. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before September 1, 2009. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

**We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.**

MAIL TO:

Scott Williams  
 MCB 2 Reunion Association  
 725 Summer Ridge Drive  
 Villa Rica, GA 30180

\*\*\*\*\*

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check Number  
 Inputted

Received  
 Nametag

\*\*\*\*\*

**CUT-OFF DATE IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

|  | PRICE<br>PER | X | NO. OF<br>PEOPLE | = | \$ AMOUNT |
|--|--------------|---|------------------|---|-----------|
| Friday Golf Outing   | \$85         | X | _____            | = | _____     |
| Friday Dinner & Show (Seafood buffet & Opry)                   | \$65         | X | _____            | = | _____     |
| Saturday night Banquet Buffet Dinner                           | \$40         | X | _____            | = | _____     |
| Registration Fee per person (required)                         | \$5          | X | _____            | = | _____     |
| <b>TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION, INC.</b> |              |   |                  |   | = _____   |
| <i>Please do not staple or tape payment</i>                    |              |   |                  |   |           |

PLEASE PRINT NAME FOR NAME TAG \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_  
(MCB 2, CBMU 1/101, etc.)

SPOUSE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU FLYING? \_\_\_\_\_ DRIVING? \_\_\_\_\_ RV? \_\_\_\_\_

Full refunds will be sent for the above mentioned activities if cancellation is received by September 1 (less a \$5 processing fee). However, after that date, refund amount will depend on vendor policies.

**CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9am - 5pm Eastern time (excluding holidays).  
 CALL (770) 456-4246 to obtain your cancellation code.**

# MCB 2 REUNION ASSOCIATION, Inc.

## Biannual Reunion

### Schedule of Events

# SANDS RESORTS HOTEL

201 74th Ave. North

## MYRTLE BEACH, SC

October 1-3, 2009

### *Wednesday, September 30*

8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Early Bird Registration  
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Planning Committee meeting  
10:30 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed

### *Thursday, October 1*

8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Reunion Registration open  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Wine & cheese reception - Hospitality Room  
10:30 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed

### *Friday, October 2*

7:00 a.m. - Golf Outing - bus ride to course  
8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Reunion Registration open  
6:00 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed  
6:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Dinner & Show at Carolina Opry

### *Saturday, October 3*

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. - Banquet  
9:00 p.m. - Door Prize drawings

### *Sunday, October 4*

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

# MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

c/o Scott H. Williams  
725 Summer Ridge Dr.  
Villa Rica, GA 30180

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