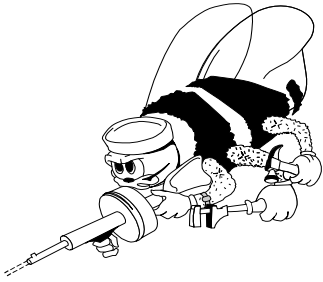


MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 10, Issue 6

Web site: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

March 15, 2015



SEABEES

A Newsletter for Former US Naval

Mobile Construction Battalion 2 Personnel

and host to CBD 1802, CBD 1804, CBMU 1, CBMU 101, CBMU 553 and CBMU 577

DOOR PRIZES!

Don't Forget Yours!

Branson, August 26-28, 2015

Door Prizes Are A Big Part of Our Reunion!

Don't forget to bring yours! White elephant or top dollar gift, be sure to bring at least one gift for each person in your party. We have had crystal punch bowl sets, crystal vases, Ping putters, ball caps, bottles of wine, homemade gifts, and so much more! The list of what to bring is only limited to your imagination. If you found something on sale at a store that you really like, get a second one and bring that as someone else probably would also.

Watch the door prize table grow as members check in. Be sure to bring yours and add to the table.... And see you there!

Send Your Reunion Registration NOW!

Since the reunion is about one or two months earlier than we usually hold them, you need to send your registration forms in now before it is too late. If you have to cancel for some reason as the date draws close, that is not a problem. The hotel just needs four days prior notice if you do have to cancel, so there is no reason not to send it all in and start making plans. We have two shows planned for the early evening so there will be

See Registration (Continued on page 2)

The Commander and Staff

Our leadership consists of:

**Commander
Pete Elliott**

Staff:

Paul D'Angelo
David Haines
Vic Jaccino
Don McLain
Rich Nelson, Vice Commander
Malcolm Pearson
John Petronka
Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus
Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas./Publisher

See our web page:

<http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

(Continued from page 1) **Registration**

plenty of time to visit with friends, but come early or stay a little bit longer and see some of the shows that we did not book. If you can get a small group to go to some shows, they will give a discount to military, so be sure to check this option.

There are many things to do in Branson: Old Downtown is a short drive, golfing, river tours, shopping, antiques Plan ahead and make an effort to see some of these extra sights.

Our Hospitality Room is a separate building close to our rooms, just a short walk. It has a small kitchen and refrigerator, so we can service ourselves with drinks and snacks. A nice cheese and wine reception is planned, so make your plans to be there to welcome each other and bring your door prize to share. This will be a great reunion and I hope to see you there.

SEABEES

*March - May
Dates to Remember*

-
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Mar. 1, 1942 | RADM Ben Moreell requested the Navy construction units be authorized to use a distinctive designation and insignia; the Seabee insignia was authorized. |
| Mar. 2, 1867 | Civil Engineer Corps established. |
| Mar. 5, 1942 | Seabee Birthday. |
| Mar. 9, 1944 | CBD 1045 departed Davisville to support D-Day landing at Normandy. |
| Mar. 15, 1942 | NCB 1 formed. Assigned to construct a base on Efate and Tongatabu, S. Pacific. |
| Mar. 19, 1942 | Secretary of the Navy authorizes CEC Officers to assume command of Seabee Units. |
| Mar. 21, 1942 | First Seabee training base, Camp Allen, commissioned at Norfolk. |
| Mar. 22, 1945 | Seabees ferry Patton's 3rd Armored units across the Rhine. |
| Mar, 27, 1943 | NCB 54 arrives in Algeria. |
| Apr. 5, 1944 | CBD 1048 departed Davisville for England. |
| Apr. 6, 1909 | CDR Robert Perry, CEC, reaches the North Pole. |
| Apr. 9, 1942 | Bataan falls to Japanese. |
| Apr. 18, 1942 | Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. |
| Apr. 26, 1944 | NCB 28 arrived in Scotland. |
| May 8, 1945 | VE Day. Germany surrenders. |
| April 1, 1945 | Seabees begin buildup on Okinawa for invasion of Japan. |

Fill this form out and have it ready when you call the hotel for your reservations.

Bring this completed form with you to the reunion with your Confirmation Number.

RAMADA - BRANSON ON THE STRIP

1700 West Highway 76

Branson, MO 65616

HOTEL RESERVATION WORKSHEET

CALL 1-417-334-1000 or 1-800-641-4106

& Identify Yourself: MCB 2 Reunion

Group ID: MCB 2 Reunion Association

Reunion Dates: Wednesday - Friday, August 26-28, 2015

Rate: \$65 per night - including tax Single or Double Occupancy

Includes breakfast coupon per person for each day of stay

Breakfast is served from 6:30 am - 10:00 am at American Bandstand Grill

Parking: **FREE**

Check-in Time: 3:00 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

Cardholder's Name: _____

Special needs (subject to availability): Smoking/non-smoking; Handicap. Notify at time reservations are made.

Deposits: 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 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 July 25, 2015.

Cancellations: Individual room reservations may be cancelled up to 96 hours prior to arrival with no penalty.

REUNION REGISTRATION - Branson, MO

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 July 25, 2015. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis.

Keep this original for your records.

Make a copy of this completed form and mail that copy to Scott.

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

 OFFICE USE ONLY
 Check Number Received
 Inputted Nametag

CUT-OFF DATE IS JULY 25, 2015

	PRICE PER	X	NO. OF PEOPLE	=	\$ AMOUNT
Wednesday, 8/26 - Dixie Stampede	\$50	X	_____	=	_____
Thursday evening - 8/27 - Dinner & Legends in Concert	\$50	X	_____	=	_____
Friday, 8/12 - Banquet	\$35	X	_____	=	_____
Registration Fee per person (required)	\$10	X	_____	=	_____
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE TO MCB 2 Reunion Association				=	_____

Please do not staple or tape payment

Please print your name for name tag _____ Unit _____
(MCB 2, CBMU 1/101, MCB 3 etc.)

Spouse/Guest name _____

Guest(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 _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Are you flying? _____ Driving? _____ RV? _____

Full refunds will be sent for the above mentioned activities if cancellation is received by August 22 (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.
Schedule of Events
RAMADA - BRANSON ON THE STRIP
August 26 - 28, 2015

Monday, August 24

Early arrival - Setup and Familiarization
Prepare Registration Packages

Tuesday, August 25

8:00 a.m. - Setup and Familiarization
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Early Bird Registration
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Wine & cheese reception - Hospitality Room
10:30 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed

Wednesday, August 26

8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Planning Committee meeting
3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Dixie Stampede dinner, show and pre-show
10:30 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed

Thursday, August 27

8:00 a.m. - Hospitality Room open
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Reunion Registration open
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Legends in Concert dinner & show
10:30 p.m. - Hospitality Room closed

Friday, August 28

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

Saturday, August 29

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

Football Game for Vets

Here's a 'today' story that occurred recently ~ The idea started before Christmas 2010 when Bennett and Vivian Levin were overwhelmed by sadness while listening to radio reports of injured American troops. "We have to let them know we care," Vivian told Bennett. So they organized a trip to bring soldiers from Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital to the annual Army-Navy football game in Philly, on Dec. 3, 2011. The cool part is, they created their own train line to do it. Yes, there are people in this country who actually own real trains.

Bennett Levin - native Philly guy, self-made millionaire and irascible former L&I commish - is one of them. He owns three luxury rail cars. Think mahogany paneling, plush seating and white-linen dining areas. He also has two locomotives, which he stores at his Juniata Park train yard.

One car, the elegant Pennsylvania, carried John F. Kennedy to the Army-Navy game in 1961 and '62. Later, it carried his brother Bobby's body to D.C. for burial. "That's a lot of history for one car," says Bennett. He and Vivian wanted to revive a tradition that endured from 1936 to 1975, during which trains carried Army-Navy spectators around the country directly to the stadium where the annual game is played. The Levin's could think of no better passengers to reinstate the ceremonial ride than the wounded men and women recovering at Walter Reed in D.C. and Bethesda, in Maryland. "We wanted to give them a first-class experience," says Bennett. "Gourmet meals on board, private transportation from the train to the stadium, perfect seats - real hero treatment."

Through the Army War College Foundation, of which he is a trustee, Bennett met with Walter Reed's commanding general, who loved the idea. But Bennett had some ground rules first, all designed to keep the focus on the troops alone:

- No press on the trip, lest the soldiers' day of pampering devolve into a media circus.
- No politicians either, because, says Bennett, "I didn't want some idiot making this trip into a campaign photo op."
- And no Pentagon suits on board, otherwise the soldiers would be too busy saluting superiors to relax.

The general agreed to the conditions, and Bennett realized he had a problem on his hands. "I had to actually make this thing happen," he laughs.

Over the next months, he recruited owners of 15 other sumptuous rail cars from around the country - these people tend to know each other - into lending their vehicles for the day. The name of their temporary train? The Liberty Limited.

Amtrak volunteered to transport the cars to D.C. - where they'd be coupled together for the round-trip ride to Philly - then back to their owners later.

Conrail offered to service the Liberty while it was in Philly. And SEPTA drivers would bus the disabled soldiers 200 yards from the train track to the football stadium for the game.

A benefactor from the War College ponied up 100 seats to the game - on the 50-yard line - and lunch in a hospitality suite.

And corporate donors filled goodie bags, for free and without asking for publicity, for attendees:

- From Woolrich, stadium blankets.
- From Wal-Mart, digital cameras.
- From Nikon, field glasses.
- From GEAR, down jackets.

There was booty not just for the soldiers, but for their guests, too, since each was allowed to bring a friend or family member.

The Marines declined the offer. "They voted not to take guests with them so they could take more Marines," says Levin, choking up at the memory.

Bennett's an emotional guy, so he was worried about how he'd react to meeting the 88 troops and guests at D.C.'s Union Station, where the trip originated. Some GIs were missing limbs. Others were wheelchair-bound or accompanied by medical personnel for the day. "They made it easy to be with them," he says. "They were all smiles on the ride to Philly. Not an ounce of self-pity from any of them. They're so full of life and determination."

At the stadium, the troops reveled in the game, recalls Bennett. Not even Army's loss to Navy could deflate the group's rollicking mood.

Afterward, it was back to the train and yet another gourmet meal - heroes get hungry, says Levin - before returning to Walter Reed and Bethesda. "The day was spectacular," says Levin. "It was all about

(Continued from page 6)

these kids. It was awesome to be part of it."

The most poignant moment for the Levin's was when 11 Marines hugged them goodbye, then sang them the Marine Hymn on the platform at Union Station.

"One of the guys was blind, but he said, 'I can't see you, but man, you must be beautiful!' " says Bennett. "I got a lump so big in my throat, I couldn't even answer him."

It's been three weeks, but the Levin's and their guests are still feeling the day's love. "My Christmas came early," says Levin, who is Jewish and who loves the Christmas season. "I can't describe the feeling in the air." Maybe it is hope.

As one guest wrote in a thank-you note to Bennett and Vivian, "The fond memories generated last Saturday will sustain us all - whatever the future may bring."

God bless the Levin's. And bless the troops, every one.



Above and below: The Liberty Limited 2010 passing through Bowie MD en route to the 2010 Army-Navy game.



Above: The Liberty Limited 2010 is parked in Greenwich Yard adjacent to Lincoln Financial Field, site of the 111th annual Army-Navy football game.

Right: Security for The Liberty Limited 2010 was extensive. Some of the law enforcement officers from different departments, who provided security onboard the train and during the stay in Philadelphia, pose in front of the "Liberty Limited" train at Greenwich Yard in Philadelphia.

Source: http://www.dominionrailvoyages.com/page_photos_2010_3.html

The "Liberty Limited 2010" consisted of nineteen private cars in the special train from Washington Union Station to the 111th annual Army-Navy football game in Philadelphia and return, December 3, 2011.

A SHORT HISTORY OF CUBI POINT

(Copy of Q-bee Pointer, Vol. III No. 5, March 5, 1955)
(Sent to me from Bill Morin)

Within the Thirtieth Naval Construction Regiment, Mobile Construction Battalions 2, 3, 5, 9, and 11 have, since September 1951, been engaged in the largest construction project ever undertaken by the Seabees. A milestone was reached on 15 May 1954 when Captain Madison Nichols, at that time Commanding Officer of the Regiment, tamped the last square foot into place, and the main 8,000-foot runway at Cubi Point was completed. To the men who witnessed this act it was a goal reached after a two-and-a-half year fight with the elements.

The Korean War emphasized the need for a Naval Air Station close to the Southeast Asia trouble spots. Congress agreed with the need to the tune of an initial seven million dollars and a prospective sixty million. Cubi Point, which just out into Subic Bay about fifty miles north of Manila, was selected as the most strategic and typhoon-sheltered location for the required combination of seaplane, land plane, and carrier operations. To the Navy Admirals, it was a natural choice and, it is submitted, the subsequent course of history has affirmed their selection.

The story starts in the summer of 1951 when Construction Battalion Detachment 1802, under LT. Randall, made an initial survey. In September 1951, Commander James Douglas, CEC, USN, stepped ashore at Cubi Point as Commanding Officer of the Philippine Construction Regiment (later redesignated Thirtieth Naval Construction Regiment) to carry out that first order to move a mountain and build an airstrip. Less than a month later he was joined by Commander E.I. Mosher and the men of Mobile Construction Battalion THREE. These were the pioneers. During the ensuing year, due for arrival at Cubi Point from Port Hueneme, were Mobile Construction Battalions 2, 5, and 9, Detachment Able, Construction Battalion Detachments 1802 and 1803. Together, these units were to initiate one of the largest earthmoving projects in the world.

The first order of business involved the movement of an entire native fishing village and nearby cemetery to another area of the Naval Reservation five miles distant. Soon after, the men of MCB-3 began to clear roads, build a 600-man camp on top of a hill overlooking the proposed airstrip and carve

out a reservoir and dam to assure a water supply for men and machines.

Within a month after MCB-3 disembarked, Commander H.W. Whitney, CEC, USNR, and the men of MCB-5 arrived. Thereafter, the Seabees of both battalions worked side by side constructing the airstrip, although MCB-3 had been assigned the overall supervision of airstrip construction. Meanwhile, completion of the tent camp allowed all of the men to move ashore from an API (floating barracks) where they had been temporarily berthed. This move was soon followed by assembly of a rock crusher and the beginning of quarry operations at Mancha Blanca Bluff by MCB-5. In the months to follow, the rock crusher and quarry were to produce thousands of yards of crushed stone and riprap, basic materials for the construction program.

Through the sunny months of 1952, work went on at top speed to enlarge camp facilities and see to the disposition of the thousands of cubic yards of coral spewed forth by the dredge Norfolk for base course, hydraulic fill and miscellaneous projects. By 10 May 1952, enough of the strip had been constructed and graded to enable the first small airplane to land on the subgrade.

In the heavy heat of June 1952, MCB-2 arrived from Port Hueneme to pitch in. This battalion immediately took over the Mt. Maritan project, a job requiring removal of about 85 feet totaling 212,000 cubic yards of rock from the top of the mountain which was an obstruction in the glide path approach to the airstrip. Next on the list of assignments for the newcomers were the dry fill of a swamp and the erection of a temporary petroleum tank farm on the fill including the necessary pipelines, pumps, filter and pier. Construction of the pier itself was undertaken by MCB-5. This pier and other piers, sheetpile wharfs, bridges and riprap work earned MCB-5 the title of "Waterfront Gang" of Cubi Point. As of today, the temporary petroleum tank farm has been completed and turned over to the Naval Station, Subic Bay for operation.

When the project was a year old, the airstrip was a red scar across the three fingers of land where once green jungle stood undisturbed. At this point, the population jumped another 600 as MCB-9 and the second construction, or dry season, arrived simultaneously. After building their own tent area, these newcomers were assigned projects which included the permanent water supply system for the Naval Station, Subic Bay and the construction of the first three permanent Cubi Point buildings, two enlisted men's bar-

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(Continued from page 8)

racks and a subsistence building. The barrack project is well along now, with both reinforced concrete shells completed and interior finishing well underway. In addition, The men of MCB-9 completed erection of a concrete block plant and a portion of the project thereof was utilized by an MCB-9 and MCB-2 detachment to build dependent housing at the Naval Station, Sangley Point, 80 miles away.

MCB-3 completed the erection of an asphaltic concrete mixing plant in January 1953. Within the next month, the paving of the airstrip began with the hot mix from this plant. Aggregate and fines used in the making of the asphalt were from the MCB-5 project at West Quarry, a source of the best quality sand and aggregate located at a point westerly across Subic Bay from Cubi Point. A separate camp was erected at West Quarry and frequent mail, supply, and liberty boats utilized to keep that camp in touch with Cubi Point, the Naval Station, Subic Bay and the liberty town of Olongapo.

On April 22, 1953, Admiral Radford landed on the strip and thus earned the distinction of being a passenger in the first airplane to land on the paved airstrip and the largest to land to that date, an R4D. His expression as he looked down the wide, straight swath and his avid photographing of the project revealed how impressed he was with the work that the Seabees had accomplished.

But still another phase of the Cubi Point project was started by MCB-2 during the first part of 1953, the erection of the Ammunition Area at Camayan Point. Another group of Seabees, Detachment ABLE, MCB-2 came to Cubi Point from Midway in January 1953 to supplement the personnel of MCB-2 and this group was assigned supervisory responsibility. CBD 1802, MCB-2, and Detachment ABLE and the 10th Naval Construction Brigade Detachment ABLE all contributed to the surveys of these ten-square miles of rough terrain, heavily overgrown with jungle. Meanwhile, a group of MCB-5's waterfront gang moved out to the Camayan Point tent camp and began construction of the Ammunition Pier.

During the rainy season of 1953, Captain Madison Nichols, CEC, USN, took over as Regimental Commander, and MCB's 2, 3, 5 and 11 arrived at Cubi Point while MCB-9 went back to the states. During the ensuing construction season, MCB-2 roughed in a super highway through the jungle from Cubi Point to Camayan Point, completed about one-fifth of the water line for the Naval Station water

supply, and started construction of the permanent Cubi Point water reservoirs.

MCB-11 continued work on the permanent barracks and subsistence building, started work on a steam plant and two Public Works buildings. MCB-3, the largest battalion aboard, carried on with the largest project, airstrip construction. Briefly, this includes grading, paving and drainage of runways, taxiways, and plane parking areas and the overhaul of all heavy construction equipment.

MCB-5 started work on another important project, the carrier wharf. Still the waterfront gang, this battalion also engaged in the construction of the Camayan Point Ammunition Pier, riprap placement around the airstrip proper and construction of the seaplane ramp.

Capt. Neil E. Kingsley, CEC, USN, assumed command of the Regiment in September 1954, relieving Captain Stanley P. Zola, CEC, USN, who had succeeded Captain Nichols the previous June and is now Staff Civil Engineer with COMNAVPHIL, Officer in Charge of Construction, NOy Contracts, Philippines, and Assistant Officer in Charge of the Tenth Naval Construction Brigade. Plans having been laid for the fourth construction season, MCB-2 returned in October, relieving MCB-5. Shortly thereafter, MCB-3 relieved MCB-11. MCB-2 took over 5's work on the carrier wharf and reported it useably complete in January.

MCB-3 continues as the earthmoving battalion, having to date brought the south taxiway up to final subgrade and currently working on the land plane parking area.

MCB-5 and MCB-9, the latter having had a year's tour in Adak, Alaska, returned simultaneously in January, and the fourth construction season at Cubi Point began in earnest. MCB-5 continued work on the sheetpile bulkhead and is slated to commence operation on the seaplane ramp. MCB-9 has been completing the permanent barracks and subsistence building, as well as building magazines at Camayan Point.

To summarize, Cubi Point has undergone a substantial change since the first men stepped ashore into the jungle some three and a half years ago. An airstrip, a carrier wharf, ammunition pier, magazines and many of the permanent buildings for the naval air station have been constructed. By July 1, 1956 the Cubi Point Naval Air Station is expected to be useably complete and the Seabees will once again have demonstrated their "Can Do" spirit. Cubi Point is a bold experiment in training and in construction. There have been many problems and many headaches but

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

there has also been achievements to which the Seabees can point with pride, and which are being officially displayed on 5 March, the Seabees' 13th birthday anniversary. In this story, much has been omitted. Space is too limited to mention all the projects which had to be undertaken in the construction of a Naval Air Station. Little mention has been made of the time and the effort which has been spent in planning the Seabee camp and the construction of the roads, both temporary and permanent. Much remains to be done but most of the approximately 23 million cubic yards of earth and hydraulic fill have been moved, and construction has become more localized to individual areas.

Cubi Point Naval Air Facility is far from complete at this writing, but the bronze young men in Seabee greens can justly be proud of the job they are doing.

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(Note from Scott - The Subic Bay Naval Air Station was commissioned on July 1, 1956 while MCB-2 was en route to Port Hueneme.

MCB-2 was commissioned at Port Hueneme, CA effective June 1, 1950, 24 days prior to the start of the Korean War. In October 1950, MCB-2 was sent to Atsugi, Japan to rebuild a former Japanese naval air station for the use of the United States Navy in its Far Eastern Operations. MCB-2 returned to Port Hueneme approximately February 1, 1952 after sixteen months at Atsugi. MCB-2 left Port Hueneme for Cubi Point June 1952.

After returning to Port Hueneme in July 1956 from Cubi Point, MCB-2 was decommissioned August 9, 1956. 538 men of MCB-2 were transferred to MCB-3 August 10, 1956 and no personnel remained on board. These men returned to Cubi Point in September 1956 with MCB-3 to complete jobs needing completion. MCB-2 has never been re-commissioned.)

## **Tribute to the SEABEES from Bob Hope (WWII)**

On a recent nation-wide radio broadcast originating in Camp Peary, one of the finest tributes yet paid to the SEABEES was made by Bob Hope.

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Bob Hope's closing remarks on his radio show are reprinted below:

“If you want to know what SEABEE means, skip the dictionary and go to Guadalcanal and North Africa... to Attu Island and the Godforsaken sandpile of the Pacific... for that's where you'll find the SEABEES.... Iron men of the Navy. Their motto is, “We Build, We Fight”.... and they can do both at the same time. Before Pearl Harbor, these men were spanning the Golden Gate....tossing hot rivets fifty stories above the streets of New York.... blasting tunnels through the Rocky Mountains....laying highways from coast to coast. Drilling oil wells and doing the biggest and toughest jobs in the land. But war brought an even tougher job, so they put away the lunch pail and hit the beach at Guadalcanal and smoothed Henderson Field while the bombs were falling....and they went ashore in the first boats at Casablanca and Attu....and plenty of other places you have never read about. They work with bulldozers and picks and shovels and bare hands.... They'll work in hell or high water and they'll swear and sweat their way through any kind of trouble. They'll fix anything from a floating dry-dock to a wristwatch...but they are at home on the sending end of a bayonet too.... They speak their own language and it's rough... They can hit a goblin at ten feet or a Jap at three hundred yards... Yes sir... tonight we're tipping the nation's hat to every one of these guys who claim they can tell it to the Marines.”

~~~~~

We wish to thank Bob Hope for this wonderful tribute to the Fighting Builders. We know that his sentiments as expressed are sincere. We also wish to thank Bob Hope for the insight into our fighting and building abilities as so aptly stated earlier in the broadcast when he said, “These fellows are doing a great job; they're always first on shore. In fact, by the time the Marines have landed and have the situation well in hand, the SEABEES have already built a bridge across it.”

Signed/ M.Y. Neely, LCdr, CEC, USNR,  
Officer in Charge  
NCB 92

**Don't judge folks by their  
relatives.**



## Notes from our members:

**Pat (Ralph) Presson:** Here's a check for our dues. Am I late? [Nah! Right on time, and thanks.] We never get rain here [Huntington Beach] but got it for three days. Nice and sunny again. Great weather! Hope this finds you well [it does! Life is good.].....

from **Darla (Dave) Budworth:** [Darla had sent an email requesting an MCB 2 coffee mug and enclosed a check plus postage. Thanks.].....

from **Gladys Wommack:** Thanks for all your help in getting the word out about a strong dilemma.... [Nov. 29, enclosed a note to family and friends:] It is with great sorrow that I am forced to write this, but I was diagnosed with stage 4 incurable breast cancer. For someone who has a mammogram every 6 months, it was a jilting shock. With this, I urge each and every one of the ladies to get one immediately. I have entered Hospice with Royal Plaza Retirement Center in Lewiston, Idaho. I have a gorgeous room and the food is good as well as a beautiful view out my very own window. Love to all. [Sadly, Gladys passed away January 3, 2015.].....

Received a check for dues from **Arnold Daisy, Norm Eveleth, Charles Kangas, Charles Minert, John Jurkash, Howard Cornwell, Charles (Helen) McCabe, Thomas Dowd, Warren Culberson, Kenneth Catchpole, Robert Marshall, Stiles Stevens** [reunion registration], **C. Edner Rudolph, Billy Partridge, Ralph Bokern and Charles Loeffler** [thanks].....

from **Dick Sim:** [had sent an email requesting an MCB 2 mug] Thanks, **Scott.** [enclosed a check].....

from **Doug & Shirley Emond:** [sent a Christmas card] Hope this card finds you both well. Things around here are about the same as last year... cold and snowy [Mishicot, WI]. A guy has to be a little nuts to stay here [Ha! You said it!]. The reunion has been put on hold for now. **Shirley** had major back surgery and isn't rebounding as quick as we thought she would. Hopefully, as time goes by, she will. [Hey, **Doug**... ease up on her chopping the firewood



and shoveling snow!] **Shirley** and I are both done Christmas shopping and are waiting for the holidays to arrive. Here's a check for dues and a little extra for whatever [thanks, **Doug**]. Enjoy the holidays.....



from **Dave Budworth:** [enclosed a check for dues and requested an up-to-date roster. Thanks, and the roster is on the way].....

received Christmas cards from **Malcolm Pearson, Paul Miles, Raymond 'Pete' and Sylvia Williams, Don & Joyce Marino and Tony & Mary Ann.** Thank you all.....

from **Wayne & Nancy Heple:** [sent the NCB 103 Newsletter and a check for dues... thank you.].....

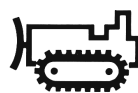
from **Don McLain:** Hope things are well with you. Sorry about being late with my dues. I must really be getting older and my memory is about shot. [no, you are OK on your dues, and thanks. **Don** is the first to make reservations for the Branson reunion!].....

from **Ralph Burnley:** I received the latest issue of the Newsletter (Vol. 10, Issue 5) and noticed I am not on the Good Guy List, so am enclosing a check for dues and extra for whatever is needed [thank you!]. I also found I do not have the prior issue (Issue 4). If you could email me a copy of that, I would appreciate it. Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.....

from **Dick Sim:** [**Dick** liked the MCB 2 coffee mug so well he ordered one for his son. Thanks!].....

from **Rex & Sue Roark:** Here is a check for my dues [thanks]. Seems I can't remember to get them in on time [you are fine on the timeliness, **Rex.**] We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Branson. We have not seen anyone in four years. I'll get my reservations in soon. Enjoyed the Newsletter, it was very good. Thanks for all the hard work you do. I guess that is a result of the big bucks you are paid [yep! That's it!] Merry Christmas to you and **Rachel.** Can't wait to see you.....

from **Mal Jaeger:** Although we have never met, I feel like you are my oldest, best friend [thank you!] I would like to make a reunion before I'm too old, sick or senile. **Joan** is in very bad shape. We have been married since 1949. She is paralyzed on her left side from polio since childhood and now she has Alzheimer's also. We have no children or close relatives close by to help and I am having a hard time keeping her at home. I think my Bavarian hat money has run out. I am sending a check for dues and a new membership roster, please. I notice you are trying to find **Lew Shugar.** He used to hang out with my liberty gang. We called him Sato san (sugar man). Hope you can find him.



(Continued from page 11)

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Good health and good luck..... received a Christmas card and a check for dues from **Stoney Serrett**: I hope that this card will find you both well and enjoying the holidays. Not sure yet if I will be able to make Branson. My son **Darrell** has told me he would bring me if I am able [I hope you do make it, **Stoney**. You are the rock of MCB 2!],..... received a Christmas card and a check for dues from **David Manley**: Hope all is well with you and yours! I enjoy the Newsletter and we all appreciate your good work! CAN DO!!..... from **Bob Hoare** (CBD 1804): From the Great Green North [Canada], I can't believe it's that time for dues. Well, "Life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer to the end, the faster it goes." I've been down under visiting the Aussies and New Zealanders and 'remembering how it was'. I'm going to Dublin for St. Paddy's day. I'm still too young to attend the reunions..... from **Sam Holsomback**: Merry Christmas! Catch me up and what I owe for my cap [thanks, **Sam**]. Looks like a good year coming up. Hope all is well with you and yours..... from **Allan Alberg**: Greetings from Minnesota. Here are my dues [thanks!]. Hope to make the reunion in Branson..... from **John Wilcox**: Enclosed is my check for dues and extra for whatever [thank you, **John**] **John** is a new member that is with the NCB 103 group with **Wayne Heple**. **Phyllis** and I would like to vote for the buffet dinner in Branson. Hope all goes well and will see you in August..... from **Jo (Gene) McDonagh**: Enclosed is my check for dues plus some extra for whatever where needed [thanks]. God bless you for the wonderful work you are doing [thank you]..... **Charles Chapman**: I've enclosed a check for my dues. Usually, that would cover a number of years, however if you need some extra for other expenses, take it out of this and I will make up for what you need later [thank you. It is much needed and appreciated.]..... from **Bill Morin**: I took the enclosed article from the *Cubi Pointer* paper. It is 55 years old and tells of what we did and how much was done in such a short time. I hope you can use it [I can and will, **Bill**. See pages 8-10. Really appreciate you sending it.].....from **Roy Harris**: I saw my name missing from the Good Guy List. In my mind, I had paid for two years but I was mistaken. Enclosed is my check for dues [thank you]..... from **Mal Pearson**: I hope you and **Rachel** had a good Christmas.



All went well on my end. Spent the day with my son and tribe. There were 14 for dinner, not counting the animals!



**Margaret** and I are looking forward to the reunion in August. We are heading up north after the reunion and do a little visiting before heading back to New England. I see I'm all set with my dues and enclosed is my reunion registration. Just put the extra wherever it is needed [thanks]. Oh, I almost forgot - we're having a lousy winter. NO snow and NO ice on the lakes! Can't fish! [Well, you have had so much snow by mid-February that there is no place to put what the city has cleaned off the roads! Either none or too much! Ha!],..... from **Frank Castelvechi**: Here is a little something in memory of my brother **Mike**. He has been gone eight years now, How time flies. My wife passed away December 9, 2014 and I miss her so much. [Thank you **Frank**. Please think about coming to Branson and be with some old friends. We will have a good time and you would enjoy being with us.]..... from **Bob Bowdler**: A late Happy New Year, but I'm the bearer of sad news for members of MCB 2. Enclosed is an obituary notice for **Wayne Rewey**. He pulled two yours at Subic Bay as a CD. He was one of three Seabees in our development of 2500 people. We knew each other for years and tipped many a brew together in our local club house. He was a friend to all..... from **Richard (Jackie) Walters**: Enclosed is a check for **Dick's** dues and use the extra for whatever [thanks]..... from **Mary Henrichson**: Happy New Year! Enclosing a check for **Duane's** dues plus some extra [thank you!]. Hope to see you in Branson..... from **Bill Wilcoxon**: Here's a check for my dues, late again, but I'm getting better. Maybe this year I'll be on time [thanks, **Bill**, but you are on time.] Hope to see you in Branson. I still have not gotten any word on **Harold Wardenburg** [nor I]..... from **John Stock**: Here is a check for dues plus a little extra for whatever you can use it for [thank you]. Hope to make it to Branson but we don't travel as well as we used to, so we'll have to see when the time comes..... email from **Darla Budworth**: I thought I would let you know that **Dave** is having knee replacement surgery tomorrow morning, January 28, his birthday. He will be coming home from the hospital on Saturday the 31st if everything goes OK. Last year it was hip replacement, now knee replacement! I know he is anxious to have a new knee without pain all the time..... from **John Bloem**: I must have fallen behind on my



(Continued from page 12)

dues because I'm not on the Good Guy List. If this doesn't catch me up, let me know how long I am covered. Hoping I can make it to Branson..... from **Jim Cain**: [enclosed a check for dues and thanks] Thank you for the great job you are doing. You are holding the organization together like no one else could..... from **Bert Helms**: Forgot again [Bert enclosed a check and thanks]..... from **Jack Schrader**: It was nice getting to talk to you the other day. The message wasn't too nice but that is part of life [told me of the passing of **Tom Roy**]. Really hate to lose my best friend but he is better off. We really had a good relationship, sixty-plus years and never a disagreement. Glad you are getting some sign-ups for the reunion. We'll have a great time seeing our friends. I hope all went well for you and **Rachel** and hope you have a great year. Enclosed is a check for my dues plus some extra [thanks]. I also want to thank you for sending the Newsletter to **Tom**..... received reunion reservations for **Bob & Elaine Hart** [thanks!]..... That looks like that's all the mail I have received. I'm needing your reservation for the reunion. I just received word that **Paul Schell** will not be coming this time as he just learned that his granddaughter is expecting to make him a great grandfather around that time and he doesn't want to miss that. So, if you have a reason like that, I can understand. But, if you are just wondering if you want to come to Branson or not, come on! We need your support.. This is your association and you make it what it is, so come on and be with your friends! See you there! Scott



## NOTES FOR YOUR BRANSON TRIP

With questions from Stiles Sevens, Stuart Hood and many others about how to get to Branson, etc., here are some pointers:

**Flying to Branson** from anywhere in the United States has gotten a lot easier with several nearby airports offering expanded commercial service. The newest is the **Branson Airport** (airport code: BKG), which opened in 2009 and provides low-cost flights to Branson on several airlines, and is 10 miles south of Branson.

### GRAY LINE AIRPORT SHUTTLE

1+ (800) 237-4466

After you land, board the Gray Line hotel shuttle that services all hotels in Branson. The shuttle is available for large and small groups or individuals needing transportation to the Branson area. The shuttle is available for 30 minutes after each flight unless advance reservations have been made. Rates are \$14.00 per person with a two-person minimum.

### TAXIS

1+ (417) 332-CABS (2227)

Branson Yellow Cab, Checker Cab and City Cab offer convenient transportation service to Branson and surrounding areas. Rates are \$25 for 1-2 people from the airport into Branson.

### FROM SPRINGFIELD

Additionally, low-cost fares are available on several airlines flying into the new Springfield-Branson National Airport (airport code: SGF) terminal, just 50 miles north of Branson. One way taxi rate is about \$110.00

### RAMADA ON-THE-STRIP

Our hotel is convenient to the shows we will attend as a group and the hotel will provide shuttle service to and from these shows. Additionally, the hotel provides a free buffet breakfast that is located in the Legends in Concert building adjacent to the Ramada property and a free shuttle is provided to get to and from this.

The Hospitality Room is a large, separate building that is large enough for our ship's store and door prize tables, plus room for eight or ten round tables. A good location and an excellent rate!



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

John (Phyllis) Wilcox  
1904 Shea Blvd.  
Massapequa, NY 11758  
516-965-2198  
NCB 103

## When you're from the farm, your perception is a little bit different.

A farmer drove to a neighbor's farmhouse and knocked at the door.

A boy, about 9, opened the door.

"Is your dad or mom home?" said the farmer.

"No, they went to town."

"How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?"

"No, he went with Mom and Dad."

The farmer stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other, mumbling to himself, when the young boy says, "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one, or I can give Dad a message."

"Well," said the farmer uncomfortably, "No, I really want to talk to your Dad about your brother Howard getting my daughter Suzy pregnant".

The boy thought for a moment...then says, "You'll have to talk to my Dad about that. I know he charges \$500 for the bulls and \$150 for the pigs, but I have no idea how much he charges for Howard."

The difference between  
genius and stupid - there  
is a limit to genius.

## *Our Fallen Comrades*

Thomas F. Hoffman MCB 2 1/7/15

Charles 'Mick' Kelly MCB 2 7/2014

Thomas R. Maere MCB 2 7/3/2014

Wayne J. Rewey MCB 2 12/25/2014

Thomas W. Roy MCB 2 2/2/2015

*May they live on in our memories*

## 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](mailto:williash@aol.com)

make checks payable to:  
Scott Williams/MCB 2 (or CBMU 1, etc.)

## Dues are \$25/year

(more, if you can)

January - December

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

\*\*\*

Web page: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

## Lost Members

I have lost track of so many members! Some of their Newsletters have been returned as "NFA" or No Forwarding Address. If anyone has information on the following, please let me know:

Jack Balding - CBD 1804

Dan Beran - CBMU 1/101

Roy Cone - MCB 2

Allen C.S. Kim - MCB 2

Herbert Meade - MCB 2

Rik Shafer - MCB 2

Harold Wardenburg - CBMU 1/101

There are others that I have a mailing address for but no email address. If you have an email address and are not receiving this Newsletter online, please send me your email address.

Thanks,  
Scott Williams  
[williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com)

# The Good Guy List

**For 2015**

Allan Alberg, Basil Arnold, Pat Badgett, Frank Betonte, Ralph Binney, John Bloem, Ralph Bokern, Alexander (Cat) Borys, Bob Bowdler, Dave Budworth, Wayne Bulgerin, Ralph Burnley, Jim Cain, Elwin 'Shorty' Campbell, Pat Carey, Frank (in memory of Mike) Castelvechi, Ken Catchpole, Charley Chapman, Bob Colquhoun, Howard Cornwell, Ballard Credeur, Warren Culberson, Arnold Daisy, Joe DeFranco, Jim DeKeyser, Tony DeLeon, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Tom Dowd, Howard Doyle, Don "Ike" Eminhizer, Doug Emond, Norman Eveleth, Richard Farbo, Jack Foster, Claude Garcenot, Robert Gardner, Bob Graf, Gordon Gwathney, Pauline (for Charlie) Hagemann, David Haines, Roger Hamilton, Ruth (for Alex) Hamilton, Roy Harris, Bob Hart, Bert Helms, Mary (for Duane) Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Althea (for Gerald) Herr, Bob Hoare, Sam Holsomback, Charles Ingalls, Vic Jaccino, Mal Jaeger, Sharon (for Larry) Jessop, John Jurkash, Charles Kangas, Duane Keech, Denise King (for her Dad, Don Truskey), Bill Knight, Betty (for Emil) Krygier, Ben Lally, Thomas Lightbody, Herb Liverman, Charles Loeffler, Dale Lundstrom, David Manley, Tony Marcella, James L. Marshall, Bob Marshall, Charles McCabe, Gene McDonagh, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, Yvonne Fowler (for Bob Fowler) Meredith, Chuck Minert, Gary 'Mitch' Mitchell, Bill Morin, Pat Morris, Paul Muma, Rich Nelson, Opal (for Paul) Neusetzer, Billy Partridge, Mal Pearson, John Petronka, Ralph Presson, Gary Rawlings, Gerry Rice, Rex Roark, Dale Rogers, Tom Roy, C. Edner Rudolph, Vince Ryan, Paul Schell, Merle Schnepf, Jack Schrader, Stoney Serrett, Bill Sharp, Glenn Sisco, Joe Sitkowski, Gene Staples, Marian (for Clyde) Stenholm, Lucy (for Lee) Stevens, Stiles Stevens, Larry Stevenson, John Stock, Willis Struecker, James Taylor, Judy (for Richard) Todd, Dick Walters, Rodney White, John Wilborn, John Wilcox, Bill Wilcoxon, Scott Williams, and Gladys (for Jim) Wom-

mack.

Everyone listed here has their dues paid at least through 2015, 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 March 5, 2015. There are currently 107 paid up members through 2015 from a mailing list of 214 and over 250 by email. If dues have not been sent for at least five years, they do not receive the Newsletter by mail. There are 704 names on the full member roster (21 pages).

The Newsletter is sent primarily by email. If you have an email address and are not receiving the Newsletter by email, please send an email to Scott at [williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com) (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 713 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 (22 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

## MAKE A NOTE! ADDRESS CORRECTION

Ed W. Carlson  
1825 Windsor Rd.  
Loves Park, IL 6111-4273

# MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.

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

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