



### Taps

- RADM **Ben Montoya** 11/15
- Ed Smith** 10/12/2015
- Rod Howard** 11/10/2015
- John Williams** 2015

### Short Story by Dennis Payton

## Our Island of Paradise made the international News Big time (see short Story)

### All Seabee Reunion at Gulfport, MS

April, 28, 29, 30 & May 1<sup>st</sup>

Sponsored by NSVA in Gulfport, Mississippi

We received the reunion package in December so you have plenty of time to plan for this **East Coast reunion** that sounds like lots of fun and good fellowship. We have two people to contact for more details.

**Richard Brown at 601-938-6488 or Robert Smith 228-424-1185 or on line to [smithrp@cableone.net](mailto:smithrp@cableone.net).**

**Hotel reservations (\$68.00) are with the Ramada Gulfport Airport Conference Center. Please plan ahead. They are expecting well over 200 to attend. Get your Reunion Package NOW. Special features include a Sail Boat trip & Honey Island Swamp Tour, Banquet, Shopping tour, Luau Picnic & much more.**

### Rear Admiral Benjamin F. Montoya

**A man of vision & A man with a Mission**

May 24, 1935 -- Dec. 2015



His life time mission is impressive. Here are just a few highlights. 1958 U.S. Naval Academy, Civil Eng.; George-town University Law Center. 2001--CEO, president of **SMART SYSTEMS** Technologies Inc., a

Public Service Co. of New Mexico, Chairman, President & CEO; Pacific Gas & Electric CO. 1990 Vice President Sacramento Valley Region, etc. **Civic Activities:** National Parks Foundation, member of DOE Nuclear Energy Elec. Advisory Board.

**Honors:** Distinguished Citizen Award, Executive of the Year, several Presidential Appointments, etc. **US Navy Decorations** include Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star-Vietnam, etc. Past chairman at the CEC/CB Foundation for the development of the New Navy Seabee Museum located at Port Hueneme, CA. He attended our 2009 Reunion in Reno, Nevada.

### NAVY COMBINES BU, EA & SW RATINGS FOR SENIOR CHIEFS

The goal of the change is to strengthen the advancement opportunities, career diversity and duty assignments for sailors in these ratings. Sailors in these ratings will continue to wear their current ratings badge as their source rating badge and will use the same badge criteria as Master Chief Constructionman (SUCM). You can find more details in the **Seabee Courier January 2016 issue.**

### Remember when ...

**3/3/1931** -Star Spangled Banner was made National Anthem

**3/19/2003** Iraq War Began

**3/24/1999** Kosovo Campaign began

**3/11/1991** Persian Gulf War Cease Fire

**3/9/** National POW Recognition day

4/6 Military Spouse Day

4/15/1945 VE Day

4/30 Memorial Day

### Marque for Museum

#### NSVA-X-7

The Marque is almost ready to be moved to the Museum. **Island X7 received support from many donors, & local contractors to completely rebuild the Marque to its original condition.** If you ever went to the Ventura Theater in the 40's and 50's you walked under it. You will have a chance to do that again when installed over the small theater within the Museum. Thank you X-7.



### Change of Leadership

New Secretary

**Charles Coffin** replaces **Mel Ramige** who recently retired. Several members of our reunion assoc. are active in local Islands.

**Mike Gentz, Frank Hayes, PM Kurre, Dan Turko, Joe Reinhardt, Ed Barrington, Norm Eveleth, Vincent Hart, Erling Husby, Jerald Love, Bob Magic, Wayne Heple & Jim Daniels.**



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### Political Humor

The problem with Political jokes is they get elected — **Henry Cate,**

When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it. **C Darrow**



**Rod Howard**

8/6/30-11/10/15

Rod joined the Navy in 1948 completing the school

of Surveying at Port Hueneme. He was sent to the Aleutian Islands Alaska. In 1952 he joined 23 others forming CBD 1802 and was sent to Okinawa, Japan, then to K-3 Korea during the Korean War. Jan. of 1952 when the job was completed in Korea he was sent to Guam and the 103<sup>rd</sup>/Public Works. May of 1952 he arrived at Treasure Island for discharge. After completing College he was employed by Shell Oil Co. as a Chemical Engineer. In retirement, Patti and Rod traveled the world & also spent prime time with their loving family and friends. Rod & Patti were very active members of your Reunion Assoc. Their support will be missed. Salute'

**Treasure Island Update**

Workers involved in efforts to clean up the island for return to civilian control would uncover hundreds of radium pieces in former Navy waste pits and in the soil around military apartments built in the 1960s & '70s. (You got that story in last year's newsletter)

In 2006, Navy contractors prepared a historical survey of radiation-related activities on Treasure Island. In it, the Navy emphasized that despite isolated mishaps, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Navy's Radiological Affairs Support Office carefully monitored radioactive materials during frequent safety inspection. ETC NOW

May 29, 2015 marked the first major transfer of 270 acres from the Navy to the city of San Francisco, beginning the long-awaited development process of the "Magic Isle" under the direction of the Treasure Island Development Authority (TIDA). In addition to homes and hotels, the development plan includes basic infrastructure updates to Treasure Island's streets, landscaping, an urban agricultural park and a new area of natural habitat called "The Wilds." Land transfers will continue over the next seven years. "Google" the TI- Development Authority site for more information & pictures.



Remember ZIGGY

**Seabee Gift Catalog**

Available upon request. If you are a member of the Foundation you automatically receive the Catalog. You can call the store direct at (805) 382-2585. OR drop them a note at P. O. Box 2310 Port Hueneme, CA 93044-2310. A 24 page Catalog of items for you and your Queen Bee. Literature and CD's of your era. Lots of hats, mugs & T-shirts. New items are added during the years so get on the mailing list. Enjoy

**Do You Know?**

**1-Seabee Memorial scholarships** are available for your grandchildren or great grandchildren. Are you on that mailing list?

**2-The CEC/Seabee Historical foundations** is planning special events for our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Are you on that mailing list? Your Brick is the history of the Seabees.... You can still order your personal brick on the Walkway to Victory. Most of our crew has. If you need that application please ask. We will mail it to you ASP. Don't be a missing person. Or go on line.

**We must always have old memories and young hopes.**

Guam-Theater



Off to work-1948



**2015 Finance Report**

Thank you **Wayne Edsall & Bob Urban**, your continued support enables us to continue to provide the **Newscaster**. 13 others sent postage & we thank them too. We are solvent - all bills paid in full; \$150.00 in advanced dues on deposit, Plus \$ 921.56 for the next 2 years. We thank everyone for their support & your contributions of stories, pictures etc. It is **you** who make the Newscaster what it is. **THANK YOU**



**Burial benefits** are not automatic. Please be careful of scams and offers thru the mail that "You the Veteran" has lots of benefits. You do have some but be sure you visit your VA to find out what they are and how to get them. Ie: The Flag is not automatic. A full Military service in a National cemetery isn't either. Find out what you need to do **NOW**. Some issues may require time & certain documents. I.e.: DD214, asking is free. **ASK**

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