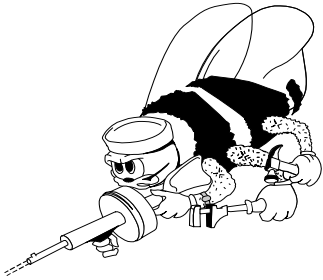


# MCB 2 Reunion Association

Volume 12, Issue 6 - Online Only

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

March 20, 2019



# 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

# Tribute Issue

## **We Lost Another of Our Decorated Seabees**

Master Chief Johnny McCully passed from this life February 3, 2019 and will be missed by all his friends and family. Johnny had been with MCB 2 in the P.I.

Johnny received the Silver Star for his actions in Vietnam during the battle at Dong Xoai while working with Seabee Team 1104 building a Special Forces camp. CM 3 Marvin Shields and SW 2 William Hoover were killed and seven Seabees were wounded during this battle. Three Army Special Forces soldiers were also killed, plus several members of other American military units and many members of South Vietnamese military units which partook in the battle were killed and wounded. Shields was the first and only United States Navy Seabee to be awarded the Medal of Honor and was also the first sailor to receive the Medal of Honor killed in Vietnam.

1

## **GOOD NEWS! Dues Have Been Reduced!**

Stoney and I have been talking on the telephone and came to the conclusion that we no longer need as much dues as when we were publishing the printed Newsletter. With this on-line version, dues have been reduced to \$10.00 per year, which should be enough to cover our expenses.

The web site took quite a bit of time, which is the primary reason this issue is a bit late, but their offer to extend our web site to five years for the

*See Dues (Continued on page 2)*

# The Commander and Staff

Our leadership consists of:

## Commander Pete Elliott

### Staff:

Paul D'Angelo

Vic Jaccino

Don McLain

Rich Nelson, Vice Commander

Malcolm Pearson

Stoney Serrett, Commander Emeritus

Scott Williams, Sec'y/Treas./Publisher

See our web page:

<http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>

# SEABEES

March - June

## 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.   |
| April 6, 1909  | Cdr. Robert E. Perry & Matthew Henson Reach the North Pole.  |
| Apr. 12, 1945  | President F.D. Roosevelt dies.   |
| May 8, 1908    | Navy Nurse Corps established.  |
| May 8, 1945    | V-E Day!   |
| June 1, 1950   | MCB 2 commissioned   |
| June 9, 1952   | MCB 2 left Port Hueneme, CA for Cubi Point, Subic Bay, P.I.  |
| June 25, 1950  | Korean War begins  |
| June 29, 1952  | MCB 2 arrives Cubi Point for first time.   |
| June 30, 1945  | Seabee manning at its peak, 258,872 officers and men.  |
| July 4         | Independence Day   |
| July 25, 1956  | Cubi Point, Subic Bay NAS Commissioned.  |
| August 9, 1956 | MCB 2 Decommissioned never to be recommissioned.   |
| Aug. 11, 1942  | USNCTC Camp Endicott, Davisville, R.I. commissioned. Original home of the Seabees.   |
| 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 Seabees arrive at Guadalcanal; first Seabees to enter a combat zone.   |
| Sept. 2, 1945  | Formal surrender of Japan. WWII ends. V-J Day!   |
| Sept. 13, 1966 | CMA 3 Marvin Shields presented with Medal of Honor, posthumously.  |
| Sept. 14, 1892 | Birthday of ADM Ben Moreell, founder of the Seabees.   |

(Continued from page 1) **Dues**

price of four years was just too hard to pass up. Bills from the bank and maintenance fees come in monthly and the reduced dues should be able to cover these. Those that have sent dues recently for the 2019 year have been adjusted to extend your dues appropriately.

Thanks to all who have generously supported the MCB 2 Reunion Association over the years and I hope to be able to continue publishing the on-line electronic Newsletter. All back issues are available on our web site <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/> and lots of pictures and history of MCB 2, CBMU 1/101, CBD 1802, and CBD 1804. I know many have been to our page as we have had 294 visitors as of March 1.

I print 15 or more of each issue of the Newsletter and send to those that do not have a computer. If you know of any Seabees that do not have a computer, either print the issue and mail (or give) it to them. Or let me know and I will mail it to them. Enjoy this issue! Hope you like it.... Scott

# *In Memoriam*

*For those that have passed from this life since our Las Vegas reunion  
September 2017 - March 2019*

Arthur R. Bredefeld

Johnny McCully

Elwin "Shorty" Campbell

Eugene McDonagh

John Chadwick

Dan Millett

Arnold Daisy

C.F. Morrison

Robert Hoare

Joseph Sitkowski

Robert "Frenchie" Jandreau

Stiles Stevens

Charles Kangas

Walter Waddell

William Knight

Bud Wheless

Hazen Kritzman

**RIP, comrades**

CM 3 Marvin G. Shields



## ***Medal of Honor***

Shield's Medal of Honor Citation reads:

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

**CONSTRUCTION MECHANIC THIRD CLASS MARVIN G. SHIELDS**  
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

### ***CITATION:***

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while serving with United States Navy Seabee Team 1104 at Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam, on 10 June 1965. Although wounded when the compound of Detachment A-342, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, came under intense fire from an estimated reinforced Viet Cong regiment employing machine gun, heavy weapons and small arms, Shields continued to re-supply his fellow Americans with needed ammunition and to return the enemy fire for a period of approximately three hours, at which time the Viet Cong launched a massive attack at close range with flame throwers, hand grenades and small-arms fire. Wounded a second time during this attack, Shields nevertheless assisted in carrying a more critically wounded man to safety, and then resumed firing at the enemy for four more hours. When the Commander asked for a volunteer to accompany him in an attempt to knock out an enemy machine gun emplacement which was endangering the lives of all personnel in the compound because of the accuracy of its fire, Shields unhesitatingly volunteered for this extremely hazardous mission. Proceeding toward their objective with a 3.5-inch rocket launcher, they succeeded in destroying the enemy machine gun emplacement, thus undoubtedly saving the lives of many of their fellow servicemen in the compound. Shields was mortally wounded by hostile fire while returning to his defensive position. His heroic initiative and great personal valor in the face of intense enemy fire sustain and enhance the finest tradition of the United States Naval Service.

***LYNDON B. JOHNSON***

Two Seabees of Team 1104, Shields and SWF2 William C. Hoover lost their lives and seven of his Seabee team were wounded in the first two days of the Battle of Dong Xoai (June 9–13). Marvin Glenn Shields was the first and only United States Navy Seabee to be awarded the Medal of Honor and was also the first sailor to receive the Medal of Honor for heroism above and beyond the call of duty in the Vietnam War.

**Senior Chief Equipment Operator Johnny R. McCully**



***Silver Star***

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS  
DURING [Vietnam War](#)

Service: [Navy](#)

Rank: [Senior Chief Equipment Operator](#)

Division: Seabee Team 1104

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

All Hands, March 1967

**CITATION:**

The President of the United States of America takes pleasure in presenting the Silver Star to Senior Chief Equipment Operator Johnny R. McCully, United States Navy, for conspicuous gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force while serving with U.S. Navy Seabee Team 1104, in action at Dong Xoai, Republic of Vietnam, on 10 June 1965. When the compound which he was helping to build came under intense mortar, machine gun, heavy weapons and small arms fire from an estimated Viet Cong reinforced regiment, Senior Chief McCully alerted U.S. personnel, went to a position on the berm and exposed himself to hostile fire for three hours while firing at the enemy. Although wounded in the arm, he continued fighting until a grenade wounded him again. While moving for cover he came to the aid of two soldiers in close arms fire with the enemy. When the group's ammunition was expended he successfully used escape and

Johnny McCully served with MCB 2 when MCB 2 was working at Subic Bay. Johnny came to our MCB 2 reunion in Myrtle Beach and gave us a recount of the events that generated the Silver Star award for him and the Medal of Honor for Marvin Shields. Johnny was selected in October 1973 by Admiral Marschall as Master Chief Petty Officer of the Seabees where he served until his retirement from active duty in 1977. In addition to the Silver Star, he was also awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Combat "V", the Purple Heart plus other personal awards during his Naval career. Johnny died on February 3, 2019 and lived in Alexandria, VA.

## New in 2019:

### VA's health care rules will be completely rewritten this year

- source Military Times

VA has been working on expanded community care rules for veterans' medical appointments since last summer, when Congress approved the VA Mission Act. Details of that work are expected to be released in early 2019, and a full set of new regulations is scheduled to be released in early spring. Among other priorities, the legislation mandated a retooling of the department's policies for veterans seeking private-sector care, a massive undertaking that supporters have hailed as giving more flexibility and freedom to veterans who face long lines at VA hospitals and clinics.

In December, VA Secretary Wilkie hailed the work as part of "a real transformational period at the department." But critics have attacked the work as the first step toward privatizing key parts of the VA mission. Democrats, including House members, have promised intense oversight into the new outside care rules, to ensure they aren't written to siphon off needed federal resources to private businesses. As written, the legislation requires VA to remain a core coordinator of veterans health care plans but also to ensure "the scheduling of medical appointments in a timely manner," "continuity of care and services," and "no lapse in health care services." That leaves a significant amount of work to be settled in the details of VA's implementation plan.

The VA's Choice program - the best known and most used of the community care programs - is restricted to veterans who live more than 40 miles from a VA facility or face a wait of more than 30 days for services. The new programs will likely jettison those rules in favor of a looser set of guidelines, including language for veterans who face "an unusual or excessive burden" getting their care at VA. Veterans groups have advocated for more flexibility for care options but also warned against abandoning the current Veterans Health Administration, a key safety net for millions of veterans across the country. A congressional hearing previewing the Mission Act implementation work was scheduled for early December but was postponed due to the death of former President George H.W. Bush. That has only added more mystery and urgency to the

### Exploring your VA benefits is simple

- source Department of Veterans Affairs

Are you interested in finding out which VA benefits you may qualify for? Start with the VA Benefits Navigator tool. By answering a series of questions related to your service, you'll learn which VA benefits you may be eligible to receive.

It takes less than 20 minutes and all information you enter is secure. VA benefits may help you buy a home; earn a degree; start a career; stay healthy; qualify for a pension; find benefits for a spouse, dependent or survivor; obtain life insurance; and more.

Visit <https://explore.va.gov/> to begin.

### Stolen Valor Will Now Get You Up to A Year in The Slammer

- source Task & Purpose

As of January 1, the UCMJ penalty for wearing unauthorized medals of valor has increased from 6 months to a maximum of one-year confinement along with forfeiture of pay and a bad-conduct discharge.

This includes wearing an unauthorized Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart, or valor device. The maximum penalty for wearing any other unauthorized medal remains six months. For additional UCMJ changes see:

[https://taskandpurpose.com/military-crimes-ucmj-changes-2019?](https://taskandpurpose.com/military-crimes-ucmj-changes-2019?fbclid=IwAR38LHuSV97jf_KpZIUuTm2Vu_KypHk2_zXU8PiyQHa0n9_1RgSmuu-FfL8)

[fbclid=IwAR38LHuSV97jf\\_KpZIUuTm2Vu\\_KypHk2\\_zXU8PiyQHa0n9\\_1RgSmuu-FfL8](https://taskandpurpose.com/military-crimes-ucmj-changes-2019?fbclid=IwAR38LHuSV97jf_KpZIUuTm2Vu_KypHk2_zXU8PiyQHa0n9_1RgSmuu-FfL8)

(This may be appropriate for active duty military but unenforceable for non-military. –Scott)

- Ratio of an igloo's circumference to its diameter:  
Eskimo Pi
- 2000 pounds of Chinese soup:  
Won ton
- 1 millionth of a mouthwash:  
1 microscope



# CBO Suggests Raising Tricare Fees, Cutting Veteran Benefits to Slash Deficit

— source Military.com

With the federal deficit expected to top \$1 trillion this year, the Congressional Budget Office in December published a list of options for reducing the imbalance over the next 10 years, including three suggestions on Tricare six that address veteran benefits. The CBO laid out 121 opportunities for curtailing spending and raising revenue. These include raising Tricare enrollment fees for military retirees, instituting enrollment fees for Tricare for Life (TFL) and reducing veteran benefits. The publication marks the fourth time in five years that the CBO has suggested raising Tricare enrollment fees for working-age retirees and introducing minimum out-of-pocket expenses for those using TFL. The CBO suggested that increasing Tricare enrollment fees for working-age retirees - those under age 65 - could help slash the deficit by \$12.6 billion. To obtain this, it said, DoD should more than double annual enrollment fees for individuals and families enrolled in Tricare Prime and institute annual fees of \$485 for an individual and \$970 for a family for Tricare Select. Most working-age retirees currently pay no enrollment fees for Tricare Select. The CBO also suggested instituting enrollment fees for TFL, the program that serves as supplemental coverage for military retirees on Medicare. Analysts estimated that DoD could save \$12 billion between 2021 and 2028 if it adopted annual enrollment fees of \$485 for an individual or \$970 for a family for Tricare for Life, in addition to the Medicare premiums most military retirees 65 and older pay. According to CBO analysts, these options would reduce the financial burden of Tricare for Life to the DoD in two ways: It would cut the government's share by the amount of fees collected and indirectly would save money by causing some patients to forgo TFL altogether, either by buying a private Medicare supplement or simply going without one. Another option would be to introduce minimum out-of-pocket requirements for those using TFL. In this proposal, TFL would not cover any of the \$750 of cost-sharing payments under Medicare and would cover just 50% of the next nearly \$7,000. Retired Navy Capt. Kathryn Beasley, director of government relations for health issues at the Military Officers Association of America, said her organization

is concerned that the CBO continues to include health care rate hikes for military retirees in its list of options, which it publishes every few years or so. The CBO also ignored the fact that rate increases went into effect last year, she added. "CBO does this every year. Our biggest concern is that some of these options would make their way into the president's budget," Beasley said. "With all the changes to the military health care system in the past year, we think we simply need to stabilize Tricare. It's been a lot to absorb." According to the CBO, VA also presents several opportunities for cost-savings measures, including: - Narrowing eligibility for disability compensation for seven diseases GAO has said are not caused or aggravated by military service, including arteriosclerotic heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Crohn's disease, hemorrhoids, multiple sclerosis, osteoarthritis, and uterine fibroids. This option would save \$33 billion over 10 years. - Ending VA's individual unemployability payments to disabled veterans when they turn 67, the retirement age for receiving full Social Security benefits, which would save an estimated \$48 billion. - Reducing disability benefits to veterans older than 67 who are receiving Social Security payments. This could save the government \$11 billion. - Eliminating disability compensation for 1.3 million veterans with disability rates below 30%, saving \$38 billion over an eight-year period. The VA option with some of the largest savings potential, according to CBO, would be to end enrollment for the two million veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8 - those who do not have service-connected disabilities and have income above the VA national threshold and below a geographically adjusted threshold (Group 7) or above both thresholds (Group 8). This could save the government up to \$57 billion, CBO analysts said. Finally, the CBO said the federal government could raise revenue by including VA disability payments as taxable income. According to the CBO, if all disability payments were to be taxed, federal revenues during the time frame would increase by \$93 billion. If just veterans rated 20% or less paid taxes on their disability compensation, federal revenues would increase by \$4 billion, it said. CBO analysts say their options only "reflect a range of possibilities" and are not recommendations or a ranking of priorities. "The inclusion or exclusion of any particular option does not imply that CBO endorses it or opposes it," they wrote.

## VA Official: No 'Secret Plan' to Privatize Health Care Under Mission Act

– source [Military.com](#)

Dr. Richard Stone, the head of the Veterans Health Administration said in January that there is no "secret plan" to privatize VA health care under the Mission Act, which expands community-care. Talk of privatization "creates fear and trepidation among our 341,000 brothers and sisters that call themselves employees of the VHA," he said. "Let me assure you that if you're an employee of the VA, there's no plan to privatize. Your job is safe; stay with us." The question of privatization loomed over the Mission Act before and after it was passed last year with the intent of consolidating and streamlining the problem-plagued Choice program. Despite continuing problems with access, Stone, a former deputy surgeon general of the Army and recipient of the Combat Action Badge, said veterans themselves have shown that they prefer VA to private, or community care. "We can offer access to health care at unprecedented rates" at the VHA, the nation's largest health care system, he said. In calendar year 2018, "we did more than 58 million appointments with veterans. That's 3.7 million more than four years ago," Stone said. In addition, VHA has cut wait times for urgent appointments from 19 days in 2014 to two days last year. VA Secretary Wilkie, pointing to recent studies by the Partnership for Public Service and Dartmouth showing that the VA is "one of the best places to work" in government, and also stating that the VHA provides health care that is as good or better than the private sector, listed his priorities going forward as curbing veteran suicides, implementing the Mission Act, and putting in place new electronic health records to make VA and DoD systems interoperable. He said VA had recently awarded contracts that could be worth \$55 billion through for implementing the Mission Act for VA Regions 1, 2 and 3, covering 36 states, plus Washington, D.C.; Puerto Rico; and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The contracts went to Optum Public Sector Solutions Inc., the government-services branch of Optum, the health services arm of United-Health Group.

- **Weight an evangelist carries with God:  
1 billigram**

## Veterans in the New Congress

• source [Military Times](#)

There are a total of 95 veterans in the 116th Congress.

30 are Democrats, 65 are Republicans.

18 are in the Senate, 77 in the House.

47 served in the military after 2000.

21 served in the military in the 1960s or earlier.

9 are first-time lawmakers.

6 are women.

50 served in the Army, Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

17 served in the Marine Corps or Marine Corps Reserve.

13 served in the Navy or Naval Reserve.

16 served in the Air Force, Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard.

1 served in the Coast Guard.

## Spot a Stroke F.A.S.T.

• source [memorialmedical.com](#)

Spotting a stroke is the first step toward stopping it. If you identify problems while giving this simple test, call 911 and seek medical help immediately. The time you save could save your life or the life of someone you love. If you suspect stroke, remember the **Face, Arm and Speech Test** and act **F.A.S.T.** Learn to recognize a stroke because time lost is brain lost.

- **FACE** - First, check for facial weakness. An uneven smile or weakness on one side could mean trouble.
- **ARMS** - Next, check for arm weakness. Inability to raise both arms evenly could be another sign.
- **SPEECH** - Finally, check for impaired speech. Slurred speech or difficulty repeating simple phrases could mean a stroke.

**More ways to spot a stroke:**

- Sudden weakness or numbness of face, arm or leg, especially on one side.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

**Remember, every minute counts.**

**Do not wait. Call 911.**



## This new law gives vet small business owners surplus federal equipment — for free

• source Military Times

Following written by Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill.

Scattered in warehouses throughout the country are the kinds of federal resources that can help make small businesses thrive - laptops and office furniture, construction equipment and farm tools that have been gathering dust, unused and unseen, year after year. Meanwhile, thousands of American service members are returning home from war, taking off their uniform then taking a chance: trying to scrounge up enough resources to start their own small businesses, all too often struggling to stay in the black if and when they get off the ground. Even in an era of such political gridlock, it just made no sense for these two problems to co-exist. As of a few weeks ago, they no longer do.

After both branches of Congress overwhelmingly voted for its passage in December, my Veterans Small Business Enhancement Act became law, allowing veteran small business owners to acquire those pieces of equipment and personal property that the federal government no longer has any use for, effectively free of charge. Now that farmer in southern Illinois might not have to stay up at night, worried about how he'll possibly be able to pay for that generator. Now that veteran who returned from war and went back to school can get the computer, she needs to open the doors to her very own practice. And now American taxpayers will no longer have to foot the bill to store all those resources that belong in office buildings and cornfields. A win-win, by anyone's estimation.

There's a reason veterans are twice as likely to

start or lead their own companies as civilians, with roughly 10% of small businesses across the country run by those who've served, including 80,700 in Illinois alone. It's because no matter where they were deployed, no matter which branch they call their own, those who've worn the uniform have a kind of courage instilled in them that's impossible to root out - the type of resilience and determination that can turn a longshot idea into a smooth-running, profit-making business. Yet thanks to a number of factors, the number of veterans leading their own companies is plummeting as compared to generations past. While a staggering 49.7% of World War II veterans went on to run or own businesses, followed by 40% of Korean War veterans, just 4.5% of those who served after Sept. 11, 2001, had launched their own businesses as of late 2016.

We know veterans are far more likely to hire other veterans, especially those who are struggling with the wounds of war, both visible and otherwise. So fewer vets at the helm of companies means fewer vets throughout the ranks, too. Fewer learning the ropes of an industry. Fewer climbing the ladder to the top. Fewer who, someday, might start a business of their own.

My hope is that this bill will help change all that, beginning to reverse the trend of entrepreneurship among recent veterans and, in doing so, getting more of our heroes get hired and trained today so they can succeed tomorrow. These women and men risked their lives for the rest of us overseas. It was way past time for us to pass legislation that looks out for them when they step back onto U.S. soil.

So, to all those veterans who own or are looking to start small businesses, this bill is for you. And all you have to do to begin laying claim to those unused items and their untapped potential, go to [gsa.gov](http://gsa.gov) contact your local State Agency for Surplus Property (SASP).

### LINES TO MAKE YOU SMILE....

- 1.. Some people are alive only because it's illegal to kill them.
- 2.. I used to have a handle on life, but it broke.
- 3.. Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder.
- 4.. Earth is the insane asylum for the universe.
- 5.. I'm not a complete idiot -- Some parts are just missing.
- 6.. NyQuil, the stuffy, sneezy, why-the-heck-is-the-room- spinning medicine.
- 7.. God must love stupid people; He made so many.
- 8.. The gene pool could use a little chlorine.

- 9.. Consciousness: That annoying time between naps.
- 10.. Wrinkled was not one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
- 11.. Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere!
- 12.. They call it PMS because Mad Cow Disease was already taken.
- 13.. He who dies with the most toys is nonetheless DEAD.
- 14.. A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up three thousand times the memory.
- 15.. Ham and eggs, A day's work for a chicken, a lifetime commitment for a pig.

# A few examples about what Americans know and don't know

– various sources - all confirmed

- 7% of adults believe chocolate milk comes from brown cows, according to a nationally representative online survey commissioned by the Innovation Center of U.S. Dairy.

- A Department of Agriculture study, commissioned in the early 90s, found nearly 1 in 5 adults did not know that hamburgers are made from beef.

- When a team of researchers interviewed fourth-, fifth- and sixth-graders at an urban California school, more than half didn't know pickles were cucumbers, or that onions and lettuce were plants, and 3 in 10 didn't know cheese is made from milk.

- 55% believe Christianity was written into the Constitution and that the founding fathers wanted One Nation Under Jesus. This includes 75% of Republicans and Evangelicals.

- Although a “relatively” high 40% of people were able to name all three of the branches of government - executive, legislative and judicial - a far lower percentage knew the length of a Senator's term. Just 25% responded that a Senator's term stretches for six years. Even less, 20%, knew how many Senators there were.

- Americans are known to pick recent heads of state as among the best president in history, which is why Clinton and Reagan regularly rank higher than Lincoln, FDR and Washington. However, Hoover used to routinely top polls of the worst, but today, just 43% of Americans knew who he was, according to statistics from the University of Pennsylvania.

- When asked what year 9/11 took place, 30% were unable to answer the question correctly, even as few as five years after the attack. This was according to a Washington Post poll conducted in 2006.

- It's not shocking that 80% believe there is life out there somewhere, because it's hard to look at a vast universe and think we're completely alone. But another 1 in 5 allege that an alien life form

has abducted a friend or family member, which based on population estimates of around 300 million means that a hell of a lot of people have been probed.

- When looking at a map of the world, young Americans had a difficult time correctly identifying Iraq (1 in 7) and Afghanistan (17%). This isn't that surprising, but only a slim majority (51%) knew where New York was. According to Forbes and National Geographic, an alarming 29% couldn't point to the Pacific Ocean.

- 25% were unable to identify the country from which America gained its independence. Although 19% stated that they were unsure, Gallup findings indicated others stated answers varying from France to China. Older folks scored much better than young people on this question; a third of those 18-29 were unable to come up with the correct answer.

- Despite being a constant fixture in school curricula, another 30% didn't know what the Holocaust was. Despite being some of the worst devastation in human history, they were unable to identify the country responsible.

- Even though we are a predominantly Christian country, only half of Americans knew that Judaism came before Christianity, because the words “Old Testament” are apparently very confusing in that regard.

- A surprisingly high percentage, 20%, believe the Sun revolves around the Earth, instead of the opposite. This is despite the fact that centuries of science have consistently proved otherwise.

- In 2011, Newsweek found 29% of Americans were unable to correctly identify the current Vice President, then Joe Biden, when asked to take a simple citizenship test. Although a relatively low 6% didn't know when Independence Day was, a much, much higher percentage (73%) had no idea why we fought the Cold War.

- 2006 AP polls showed a majority of Americans were unable to name more than one of the protections guaranteed in the first Amendment of the Constitution – religion, speech, press, peaceful assembly and redress of grievances. Just 1 in 1000 could name all of the five freedoms. However, 22% were able to come up with the names of every member of the Simpson family.

# The new Social Security scam

- source US Federal Trade Commission

In December, the FTC reported a growing scam with people pretending to be from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and trying to get your Social Security number or your money. That scam is growing exponentially. To compare: in 2017, the FTC heard from 3,200 people about SSA imposter scams; those people reported losing nearly \$210,000. In 2018 more than 35,000 people reported the scam, and said they lost \$10 million.

The scammers say your Social Security number (SSN) has been suspended because of suspicious activity, or because it's been involved in a crime. Sometimes, the scammer wants you to confirm your SSN to reactivate it. Sometimes, he'll say your bank account is about to be seized – but he'll tell you what to do to keep it safe. (Often, that involves putting your money on gift cards and giving him the codes – which, of course, means that your money is gone.)

Oh, and your caller ID often shows the real SSA phone number (1-800-772-1213) when these scammers call – but they're faking that number. It's not the real SSA calling.

## Here's what to know:

- Your Social Security number is not about to be suspended. You don't have to verify your number to anyone who calls out of the blue. And your bank accounts are not about to be seized.

- SSA will never call to threaten your benefits or tell you to wire money, send cash, or put money on gift cards. Anyone who tells you to do those things is a scammer. Every time.

- The real SSA number is 1-800-772-1213, but scammers are putting that number in the caller ID. If you're worried about what the caller says, hang up and call 1-800-772- 1213 to speak to the real SSA. Even if the wait time is long, confirm with the real SSA before responding to one of these calls.

- Never give any part of your Social Security number to anyone who contacts you. Or your bank account or credit card number.

- If you get one of these calls, tell the FTC at [ftc.gov/complaint](https://www.ftc.gov/complaint) .

# Apple will let military veterans access their health records on the iPhone

- source [theverge.com](https://www.theverge.com)

Apple has announced that military veterans treated by VA will soon be able to access their medical records on the iPhone Health Records app. It's the latest major collaboration between Apple and a health care system, and a sign of the company's growing interest in the world of electronic health records.

Electronic health records are a famously contentious sector of the health care system. For many patients, the tangled evolution of e-health technology has led to a fragmented paper trail filled with gaps, which makes it hard to bring their own health information from one network to another and can slow down their treatment. The new collaboration would allow the 9 million veterans served by the VA, which is the largest medical system in the country, to see their aggregated medical records - including conditions, vaccinations, lab tests, medical procedures, and diagnoses - in one place.

The long-rumored VA collaboration continues Apple's efforts to partner with as many institutions as possible. A year ago, Apple announced that users would be able to access records from over 100 hospitals in 39 health care systems through its app. According to a November Wall Street Journal report, the eventual goal might be for patients to share their data with other health apps that can provide services like prescription refills and then give Apple a cut of the profit.

Apple isn't the only company interested in health records. Amazon recently announced that it will start selling software that can read medical records and make suggestions for improving treatment or saving money. And Google applied for a patent for a system that uses artificial intelligence trained on electronic health records to build models that could warn doctors of dangerous medical events.

## A Pun For You.....

"Doc, I can't stop singing The Green, Green Grass of Home."

"That sounds like Tom Jones Syndrome."

"Is it common?"

"Well, It's Not Unusual."

# BREAKING: SPACE FORCE IS RECRUITING SPACE SHUTTLE DOOR GUNNERS!

By Erik Larsen | Feb 07, 2019

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA — A leaked memo from the U.S. Department of Defense revealed that the much-anticipated [U.S. Space Force](#) has officially started to fill their ranks. According to the memo, the recruiting effort for the controversial new military branch has been focused on attracting former enlisted military veterans for the highly anticipated space shuttle door gunner positions.

## Space Force—The Theme Song: [https://youtu.be/\\_AUXpnB065o](https://youtu.be/_AUXpnB065o)

Military occupational specialty (MOS) 1776X — Space Shuttle Door Gunner doesn't appear to come with an enlistment bonus, but according to a very non-scientific poll of current and former servicemembers, they generally "don't give a f\*\*\*." This is probably because the job is expected to be significantly more awesome than anything previously available in the military, but definitely not because enlisted servicemembers have reckless financial habits and would just blow the money on strippers and used Ford Mustangs anyway.

One senior defense official — who definitely does not have ties to the aerospace industry — was quick to defend the need for Space Force in general and space shuttle door gunners in particular.

"Look, our crooked congress won't fund a wall around the world, so we can't delay on the Space Force initiative. We got space ISIS and space communists roaming around the galaxy as we speak. They could strike at any moment. We need these space shuttle door gunners now more than ever!"

The official, who agreed to speak off the record because that's what DoD officials do, explained what he's looking for in future space shuttle door gunners: "I want the [saltiest](#), most disgruntled, non-adjusted, dip-spitting vets out there to raise their right hands

one more time, strap on their space boots, and go kill space commies for God and country!"

He clarified that under no circumstance does he want females to apply for the position, because "it's spaceMAN, not spaceWOMAN!"

The military recruiters who have been assigned to this new effort have been pulled from the best of the best of all four legacy military branches (according to everyone we asked, Coast Guard doesn't count). Their mission is simple: scrub the database for prior-service veterans and tell them whatever they want to hear, so long as they sign up again.

"You'd think they woulda learned their lesson the first time," said Army recruiting Staff Sgt. Greg Kowalski, while eating an entire Six-Pack and A Pound from Taco Johns. "But here we are again, telling them it's gonna be nothing but guts and glory, and I guarantee as soon as they make it out to the space fleet they're gonna be doin' nothin' but cleaning the space barracks and getting sent out to paint space rocks."

Some of the initial volunteers are looking forward to the opportunities inherent in joining Space Force.

"I've shammed at Fort Benning, Fort Bragg, Iraq, and [Afghanistan](#)," said 27-year-old former cavalry scout Spc. Chad Simmons — one of the first "spacemen" to enlist as a space shuttle door gunner.

"And now I'm gonna be one of the first E-4s to sham in space. This is a new frontier in the art of military shamming — if I don't take advantage, I'll be letting down the elite ranks of the E-4 Mafia all over the world."

The interview was cut short because Simmons had a "dental appointment I really can't miss."

He was later seen sleeping in his car, just off post.

*Editor's note: Just in case you haven't figured it out, this is a satire article and is in no way meant to be an accurate depiction of actual events.*

## From The Archives: The "Dirty Forty"

In August 1942, forty Seabees arrived at Kissy Flats, near Freetown, Africa. They called themselves the "Dirty Forty". Along with CBD 1001 and 1002 and an Advance Base Unit, they formed the 65th NCB on March 31, 1943, the first Seabee battalion to serve on the other side of the Atlantic.

The Dirty Forty had been rushed in to build docks and repair rusting machinery to get the job going. New equipment was "on the way" but they had no illusions as to when and if it would arrive.

Give a Seabee a pair of pliers and a roll of baling wire and there is almost nothing he can't do with it. The Dirty Forty repaired steam shovels and started tearing up the face of Africa. They put the natives to work hewing gumwood piles that were 50-80 feet long. The harbor bottom was of hard volcanic lava requiring the piles to be iron-capped before they could be driven.

The old pile driver at Freetown was steam powered and designed to work from shore. The Dirty forty converted it to compressed air power and mounted it on a barge. When one of the motors expired, the Seabees took a truck engine, rigged it up with a chain drive taken from a steam roller, and had the pile driver driving like hell in the middle of the harbor.

The British were amazed. Forty Americans had turned Freetown upside down. They had all the ancient machinery coughing away, natives were run-

ning around with undreamed of energy, and a few of the natives were operating machines.

The Dirty Forty and other detachments which arrived to make up the 65th battalion worked around the clock, seven days a week. For recreation, the men fished and explored with the natives.

The men found native undertakers a constant source of amusement. Competition among them is as fierce as among their American counterparts. One ingenious fellow enjoyed a temporary business boom when he installed a bar in his "parlor" but a competitor retaliated by offering free American cigarettes with each of his funerals. Cigarettes prove powerful incentives to native effort, and the makers of Kool's may have this advertising tip free from the Seabees. One day a member of the Dirty Forty handed a native a Kool, the cigarette with menthol in it. The native took a puff, rolled his eyes as though he had been bewitched, then grinned: "Good! Good! make you feel good!" That night the tom toms were beating, telling the news of the new cigarette and the next day 500 natives were clamoring for work and the new cigarette. Many pilings were hewed that week for Kool's.

A Third Class Shipfitter joined a native tribe. Instead of a tattoo on his chest, he wears an acid brand put there by a native girl, All the men were offered wives for ten dollars, but one of the men was offered a special bargain. One old chief tried to sell a daughter for eight dollars. When refused, he offered his son's wife, and when she was turned down, he tried like hell to sell his own wife!

Submitted by Pete Magoon

## Mordecai Endicott

Mordecai Endicott was the first CEC officer and the first head of the Bureau of Yards and Docks.

He was born in 1844 in New Jersey and went to Rennselear Polytechnic Institute (RPI). He was involved in railroads and mining.

In 1872 he joined the civil service and worked at all Navy yards. He was commissioned in 1874 as a CEC officer.

He designed drydocks, managed 110 construction contracts and established the Puget Sound Navy Yard.

He became chief of BUDOCKS in 1898 and made

rear admiral in 1916. The CEC went from 13 to 40 officers under his watch. He also came up with the CEC symbol.

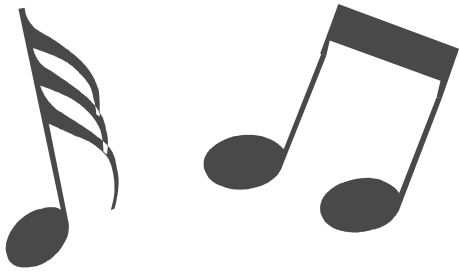
He built up a relationship with RPI so officers could go from the Naval Academy to RPI. He was on the Panama Canal Commission and was president of the Society of American Military Engineers.

He resigned from the Navy in 1907 but was called back twice. He came back on active duty in 1917 for 3 years.

He died March 5, 1926 and is buried at Arlington.

The museum has his drawing tube, sword, shoulder boards, early WWII Seabee banner and a collection of letters.

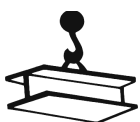
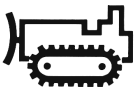




## Notes from our members:



From **Bobby McMillan**: I don't keep records since the bank does such a good job of that, but I don't know when my dues are due. I see I am still on the Good Guy List and I want to stay there. [You are good through next year, **Bobby**, 12/31/20. See the article on page 1 about dues.]..... I from Christmas cards with notes from **Doug Emond, Pete and Sylvia Williams and Paul Miles**. [Thanks for the wishes, all]..... from **Tom Dowd**: I sent my 2019 dues via BillPay. The web site is great. I think you should migrate away from the mailed copies 100% [we have, **Tom**. I print out a few and mail them to those I know do not have a computer... **Pete Elliott, Stoney** and a few others. **Tom** sent his note on an old picture post card of a destroyer cutting through waves. Great picture!] Best wishes for 2019 ..... from **Ike Eminhizer**: I hope this will get me on the Good Guy List and help defray the cost of shipping the CBMU cruise book [thank you! It does.] You have no idea how much I appreciate you taking the time and making the effort to ship it. It will be returned to you, I promise, but I don't know exactly when. Thank you my friend for all you do and a BIG THANK YOU to **Rachel** for putting up with you. :-). ..... from **Sylvia Williams**: Thanks for your patience [enclosed a check for dues and thanks much. See the note on page 1]..... from **John Stock**: I told you some time back that I would get my dues in the mail ASAP. It seems I've let it slip a few weeks (senior moment/moments), but here it is [thank you!]. I'm sending a little more that you



suggested but know that you will put it to good use. All is well at this end. Sorry we're not going to have any more reunions but fully understand. Traveling is not as enticing as it was years ago. Take care and have a good year..... From **Stoney**: I am enclosing a copy of Capt. **Hilderbrand's** retirement notice. I talked to **Rex Roark** a couple of nights ago and he told me he would be sending you some info on **Johnny McCully** in case you may want to write a story on him..... from **Scott**... here is the announcement re: **Bill Hilderbrand** from RADM, CEC, USN (ret) **Richard Cellon**: While no mission is successfully completed by one sailor, today we would like to take this opportunity to recognize one man who, for the last 54 years, has dedicated himself in an extraordinary way to building, preserving and perpetuating our Seabee legacy. In March 2019, CAPT **Bill Hilderbrand**, CEC, USN (ret.) will retire as President of the Seabee Historical Foundation. **Bill** retired from the Navy in 1992 after 28 years of active duty service, which included two deployments to Vietnam with NMCB 128, a year on Diego Garcia, and a long list of assignments both here and abroad. A Seabee at soul, **Bill** then took the helm of the Foundation and has led our organization with unsurpassed dedication for the last 26 years. Under **Bill's** leadership, and with the support of many in our community, the Foundation has made exceptional stride in fulfilling our mission.

Our thanks for all you have done in your service to community and country, and for your support of the Foundation. /signed **Richard Cellon**.

We of MCB 2 and CBMU 1/101 salute Capt. **Bill Hilderbrand** for his service and wish him well in his well-deserved retirement. - Scott Williams

That's it, guys.... And gals. It's off to the web site for all to see.... Please pass along our web page address <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/> to your friends and neighbors. There is a lot of information there of the Korean War and of the Seabees that supported the Air Wing there and quite a few pictures of Korea and the Subic Bay construction. As I receive more pictures of Korea and Subic, I will add them to the web site pictures..... so send pictures you would like to see published. Send them to me, I will scan them and send them right back. If there is anything you would like to see on the web page, let me know and I will do my best. Please, any pictures you send, include names and location. Otherwise, they are not identifiable. Hope ya'll have a great 2019! Scott



# The Good Guy List

---

## For 2019

Dave Budworth, John Bloem, Pat Carey, Frank (in memory of his brother Mike) Castelvechi, Roy Cone, Ballard Credeur, Mary Dick (for all the Good Guys), Tom Dowd, Don 'Ike' Eminhizer, Al Erb, Richard Farbo, Frank Fibich, Richard Forster, Jack Foster, Yvonne Fowler (in memory of Bob Fowler) Meredith, Claude Garcenot, Robert Graf, John Grasz, Jim Green, Gordon Gwathney, Pauline (in memory of Charlie) Hagemann, Roger Hamilton, Ruth (in memory of Alex) Hamilton, Bert Helms, Mary (in memory of Duane) Henrichson, Wayne Heple, Althea (in memory of Jerry) Herr, Juanita (in memory of Leonard [Hersh]) Hershberger, Sam Holsomback, Erling Husby, Vic Jaccino, Joe (Frenchie) Jandreau, Sharon (in memory of Larry) Jessop, Sharon (in memory of Ambrose) Johnson, Carol (in memory of my loving husband of 62 years Charles) Kangas, Duane Keech, Denise King (in memory of her Dad, Don Truskey), Marilyn Knight (in memory of Bill), John Kolasz, Betty (in memory of Emil) Krygier, H.A. 'Herb' Liverman, Ivan Majetic, Bob Markey, Don McLain, Bobby McMillan, John Petronka, Earl Presson, Gary Rawlings, Rex Roark, C. Edner Rudolph, Jack Schrader, Stoney Serrett, Dick Skillicorn, Alice (in memory of Ray) Sonnen, Ray Sorrentino, Marian (in memory of Clyde) Stenholm, Stiles Stevens, Lucy (in memory of Lee) Stevens, John Stock, Willie Struecker, Judy (in memory of Richard) Todd, Rodney White, John Wilborn, Scott Williams, R.G. 'Pete' Williams, and Bill Wisnowski.

Everyone listed here have their dues paid at least through 2019, 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 December 11, 2018. There are currently 45 paid up members through 2019. The Newsletter is sent primarily by email. If you or a son or daughter have an email address and you wish to receive the Newsletter by email, please

send an email to Scott at [williash@aol.com](mailto:williash@aol.com). Online, you will get the Newsletter with color pictures if they are in the original, which is cost-prohibitive to print in the Post Office-mailed version

Everyone can read the Newsletter on-line on our Web page: <http://mcb2seabeereunion.com/>  
Please pass this web page along. Scott

## 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

## 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 \$10/year

January - December

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

\*\*\*

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

**MCB 2 Reunion Association, Inc.**

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

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LAS VEGAS, NV  
PERMIT NO. 6055

*Return Service Requested*

We're the **SEABEES** of the Navy

