



The *FINAL* electronic newsletter  
of the Seabee Historical Foundation  
(Our future newsletters will be as the *Navy Seabee Foundation*)

December 2023

# BEE NEWS



U.S. Navy Steelworker 1st Class Cayla George, from Jasper, Ala., assigned to Naval Air Station Sigonella Public Works Department, receives the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association's 2023 "Everyday Hero" Award from Seabee Heritage Foundation representative Bob Smith onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss. The Everyday Hero Award was created to recognize Sailors in the Seabee community for heroic actions, both on or off duty.

*(U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Hong)*

# 'It's about the camaraderie': Seabee vets form Myrtle Beach area chapter

By Casey Jones  
MyHorryNews

Here's a little know fact for locals. You're living on SC Island X-3.

When the Navy Seabees wrote home during World War II, their location was top-secret. No matter where they deployed, members of the Navy's Construction Battalions — CBs, hence Seabees — referred to their whereabouts as "Island X."

Ever since, the Navy Seabee Veterans of America designate their individual chapters as "islands," and now the Myrtle Beach area has an island of its own — SC Island X-3. It was chartered as a nonprofit

organization several months ago, with the ultimate aim of putting members' engineering and construction skills to work for the community.

The local island, just the third in South Carolina, was formed by Eric Treece of Myrtle Beach, a second-generation Seabee. His father, a career utility man, served in the Gulf War. Eric Treece was a heavy equipment mechanic, and retired in 2011 after serving 20 years.

So far, the group has functioned more as an alumni association than a construction outfit. Treece has organized about a dozen Seabee "swarms" — essentially meet and greets — where Seabees gather to tell war stories, and make new friends.

The first swarm he scheduled, nobody showed. "I was a little bummed," Treece recalled.

But he showed that "can do" spirit that is the Seabees' motto, and scheduled another. Word spread, and Seabee vets showed up from across the Carolinas. One guy drove five hours to attend.

"That's how passionate we are about connecting with our Seabee brothers and sisters. It's about the camaraderie," Treece said.

Now, the monthly swarms draw dozens to American Legion Post 40 in Socastee from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the



Members of Island SC X-3 of the Seabee Veterans of America pose with their flag at a recent meeting. The newly formed group hopes to put members' construction and engineering skills to work helping the community.

second Saturday of each month. Treece's wife, Veronica, is starting an Auxiliary unit, and donating a portion of sales from her mobile, patriotic boutique to the effort. And the fighting construction workers of Island X-3 are ready to roll up their sleeves, and offer their services.

Before each swarm there's a morning meeting of the core group of local Island leaders. It's where they decided to incorporate this fall, and where they're making plans to take on some projects.

Treece said Seabee units are set up like construction companies with electricians, plumbers, surveyors, welders, builders, equipment operators and heavy-equipment mechanics. They were formed in World War II to build the infrastructure that enabled U.S. Marines to advance.

The only difference between a construction battalion and a construction company is Seabees are trained to fight. So Island X-3 can handle anything from repairing a porch and replacing a roof to building an airstrip or fighting off enemy combatants.

Treece said the Island is now forming teams to tackle specific kinds of projects based on members' areas of expertise. And they're networking with area groups and agencies to determine who, what, when and where to help. They already know why.

"Service to God and country; that's the foundation we base everything on," Treece said. "With that spirit of 'can-do,' I think we're going to have a big impact in our community."

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# NMCB 133 on deployment

Rota, Spain:

Underwater Construction Team ONE, augmenting NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos completed disassembly of an overturned barge by the piers on Naval Station Rota. With the help of a crane crew from the Public Works Department, they were able to lift it out of the water to be salvaged. Pier damage repair efforts like this are just one of the many vital ways our Seabees support the Fleet and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.



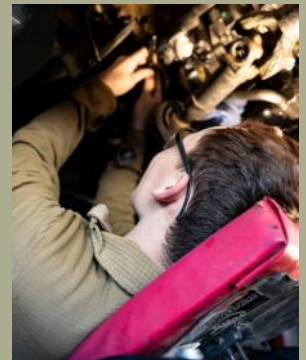
Rota, Spain:

Our Seabees at NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos are constantly working to complete various projects around the camp and Naval Station Rota. They are completing carpentry work on concrete forms, painting signs, and welding. Their versatility is vital to their support of the Fleet and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

# NMCB 133 on deployment

Rota, Spain:

Our mechanics at NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos have been working hard to keep all of our construction equipment operating at full capacity. They maintain and repair equipment like high-mobility multi-wheeled vehicles, diesel trucks, large forklifts, backhoes, and skid-steers to allow our Seabees to complete work on a variety of construction projects to support the Fleet and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.



Rota, Spain:

Quality is our responsibility! NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos takes pride in producing high quality construction no matter the task. Take a look at our Quality Control newsletter to learn a little about our best practices in day-to-day operations.

**NMCB 133 QC NEWSLETTER**

MOBILITY AFRICA, MARITIME TRAINING FACILITY, BRNO, CZECH REP. DATE: 22 DECEMBER 2021



Spacing of anchor bolts for FEB columns

**QC REQUIREMENT**      **CONTROLS**

Anchor bolts will be spaced 1600 +/- 10mm center to center +/- 10mm tolerance in feet (48" +/- 10mm) in accordance with Code of Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges (CS 15)


Control provided by three 100% calipers and QC. Initial control spacing of 1600 (+/- 10mm) center to center for edge-to-edge




Plumb of FEB columns

**QC REQUIREMENT**      **CONTROLS**

Column verticality shall be equal to or less than 1/1000 of the distance from column base to top of column. F&E Calipers used to verify verticality. F&E Lines



**E**



**BU1 FRANKLIN**

**BEST PRACTICES**

Help! Even Messes!

On this project we are especially careful with Quality Control requirements, starting ANSN: ANS-22 Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges as our forward reference to ensure quality measures are maintained. Early on we have a working brief with the whole crew to discuss what the goals and quality control requirements are for the day to ensure every single person is on the same page and knows the expectations. We cannot do that at the end of the day or discuss it we are not on the same page and it will only take us a few days to address the issues for the following day and discuss if we have any quality control concerns. The easiest task that we have transparency throughout the tasks and we consider any issues throughout our progress while ensuring we deliver a quality product and receive a safe work environment.

**Did you know???**

**DID YOU KNOW THE VERSATILITY OF PIER?**

Pre-engineered steel buildings offers great advantages, as they are more flexible, practical, and efficient alternative to conventional buildings. Some advantages include:

- Durability:** Weather-resistant, earthquake resistant.
- Value:** Low initial investment, and low maintenance costs.
- Environment-friendly:** All the materials can be recycled.
- Flexible:** Easy to expand, easy to set up and change.
- Enter:** Reduced construction time.
- Aesthetics:** Gives the engineer enough flexibility to create unique structures.

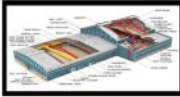
**QC measures within the manufacturing process:**

**Material Selection:** starts with checking of raw materials for compliance with specifications.

**Structural Analysis:** It involves evaluating the building's structural integrity under various loads and forces.

**Fabrication:** The specifications are sent for fabrication and manufactured using precision machinery as well as inspection of welding and dimensional tolerances.

**Reference:** FEMA. Pre-engineered buildings for FEMA. *Reference: FEMA Publication (14-1)*. <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers-sound-buildings-shelter>



**Table 1.1 Nut Rotation from snug-tight Condition for Turn-of-Nut Method Pre-tensioning**

Anchor Bolt	Anchor Bolt Size	Minimum Turn-of-Nut (TUN) Values	
		Minimum Turn-of-Nut (TUN) Values	Minimum Turn-of-Nut (TUN) Values
1/2"	1/2"	1.0	1.0
	3/8"	1.0	1.0
3/4"	3/4"	1.0	1.0
	1/2"	1.0	1.0
1"	1"	1.0	1.0
	3/4"	1.0	1.0
1 1/4"	1 1/4"	1.0	1.0
	1"	1.0	1.0
1 1/2"	1 1/2"	1.0	1.0
	1 1/4"	1.0	1.0

Guam:



NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos had the honor of hosting members of the Republic of Korea Navy at our Guam detachment. They had a meeting discussing airfield damage repair and future operations. Our Seabees also showed them various pieces of equipment we use for our construction efforts. This is one of the many ways we continue to build and strengthen our alliances and partnerships around the world.

## A Seabee's Story: Pat Hogan

"When I graduated from high school in 1972. I had no prospects of a decent job and no opportunity for college. My dad had served in the Army in the Philippines and then Occupied Germany during/after WW2. My oldest brother had served in the Navy in the early 60's. The military sounded like a great option for me.

I enlisted in the Navy via the 180-day delay program in 1972. After enlisting I was given the ASVAB test. I scored well in mechanical aptitude. My recruiter was EOC Francis White. He asked me if I liked trucks and heavy equipment, I said yes and that's how I became a Seabee. A Seabee created another Seabee.

I entered the delay program on April 28, 1972 I entered active duty on September 9, 1972. I left active duty on September 3, 1976, and I was discharged from the inactive reserve on April 28, 1978."

Pat attended boot camp at



Naval Training Center, San Diego and attended Equipment Operator A-School at Construction Battalion Center, Port Hueneme, CA.

His first duty station was at Naval Magazine, Guam, Marianas Islands during the last years of the Vietnam War. Here, he handled ammunition, mostly bombs from Hotel Wharf to Anderson Air Force Base or to the Magazine for storage. Other duties included working for public works and cutting fire trails through the jungle and being appointed to work as the special services person on the small base, he scheduled USO shows and ordered movies for the outdoor theater.

Pat then transferred to Naval Air Station/National Parachute Test Range, El Centro, California, and worked public works and

infrastructure construction, sweeping runways, streets, etc. El Centro was the winter headquarters for the Blue Angels, so the Seabees provided the transportation services for the pilots and support crew. He also drove the base church bus on Sundays.



His follow-on orders brought him to Port Hueneme and NMCB "Fighting 40," where he deployed to Naval Station, Roosevelt Roads, Ceiba, Puerto Rico. While deployed, they completed public works projects on the base including

building new enlisted barracks and demolishing old structures. EOCN Hogan drove the battalion taxi during most of the deployment, in addition to working in the gravel pit and the tire shop. He rotated back to Port Hueneme early due to the end of his enlistment. He met all the requirements for advancement to EO3, but his time was up and he was honorably discharged prior to putting it on.

Pat drove truck and many other jobs after returning to civilian life and ultimately settled on work in the restaurant business where he retired as a restaurant manager and head cook.

In appreciation for his time in service and understanding the sacrifices our service members endure in the defense of our country, Pat has been volunteering the last 2-1/2 years with the American Legion Post 76 in Arlington, Washington to put care packages together for service members serving overseas. This has been a bonding moment he has shared with his 5-year old granddaughter, Bailey, who decorates and packs the boxes. Her favorite part is getting pictures back from our troops holding up boxes that she decorated. Packing day is definitely her favorite day of the month, where they pack an average of 30 boxes a month, and

*(Continued on page 6)*



(Continued from page 5)

sometimes up to 60 boxes. As of their last packing day, they have shipped 1,023 boxes for troops. All items in the boxes and costs for shipping are made possible through public donations.

Now in retirement, Pat enjoys working on and showing his 1964 Plymouth Barracuda hot rod. His main hobby is metal detecting all over the Pacific Northwest and he was recently elected president of the Pilchuck Treasure Hunters Club in Everett, WA. Pat's mom taught him how to cook when he was about 9 years old, and that love of cooking brought him to his chosen profession and much enjoyment into retirement.

Now he and his granddaughter cook together all the time and they especially love to bake goodies.

When Pat looks back on his life, he reflects, "My military service was a defining point in my life and much more important than I ever realized at the time. I am especially proud to be a Seabee, a part of Seabee history, and especially proud to be associated with my Seabee brothers and sisters, and Seabee families past and present."



## SW1 George receives Everyday Hero Award

The citation reads:

THE SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION PRESENTS THE EVERY DAY HERO AWARD FOR 2023 TO SW1(SCW/EXW/SW/AW) GEORGE FOR SERVICE SET FOR IN THE FOLLOWING CITATION:

FOR EXHIBITING OUTSTANDING MORAL COURAGE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONS AND LEGACY OF THE SEABEES WHILE SERVING PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SIGONELLA, ITALY. ON 11 FEBRUARY 2023, PETTY OFFICER GEORGE DEMONSTRATED EXCEPTIONAL GALLANTRY WHEN SHE INSTANTLY SPRANG TO ACTION AFTER RECEIVING A CALL FROM AN UNKNOWN NUMBER ABOUT A POSSIBLE SUICIDE ATTEMPT IN THE BARRACKS. SHE IMMEDIATELY CALLED EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DIRECTED SAILORS CLOSEST TO THE SERVICE MEMBER'S ROOM TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE SUPPORT, ULTIMATELY SAVING THE SAILOR'S LIFE. HER UNRELENTING PERSEVERANCE, AND STEADFAST DEVOTION TO DUTY REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON HER AND CONTRIBUTED SIGNIFICANTLY TO PERPETUATING THE SEABEE LEGACY.

Photos (top); U.S. Navy Steelworker 1st Class Cayla George, from Jasper, Ala., receives the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association's 2023 "Everyday Hero" Award from Senior Chief Constructionman Marc Comaduran onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport, Miss.

(bottom): SW1 Cayla George cuts the cake after receiving the Every Day Hero Award. The Everyday Hero Award was created to recognize Sailors in the Seabee community for heroic actions, both on or off duty. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class James Hong).



FROM SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION	TO INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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01 DECEMBER 2008: LANDING CRAFT AIR CUSHION (LCAC) 21, ASSIGNED TO THE AMPHIBIOUS DOCK LANDING SHIP USS HARPERS FERRY (LSD 49), APPROACHES A U.S. BOMBING RANGE OFF THE COAST OF OKINAWA, JAPAN TO DELIVER SEABEES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT FROM NMCB 133. THE SEABEES WERE CONSTRUCTING A MOCK LANDING STRIP FOR U.S. PILOTS TO USE FOR BOMBING PRACTICE AND AN ACCESS ROAD FOR AN AIR FORCE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DISPOSAL TEAM. NMCB-133 WAS ON A SEVEN-MONTH DEPLOYMENT TO OKINAWA.

02 AND 05 DECEMBER 1946: THE USS YANCEY AND USS MERRICK, RESPECTIVELY, DEPARTED PORT HUENEME, CALIFORNIA TO TAKE PART IN ADMIRAL RICHARD E. BYRD'S ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION, OPERATION HIGHJUMP. ABOARD THESE SHIPS WERE 166 SEABEE MEMBERS OF THE EXPEDITION. THE MISSION OF OPERATION HIGHJUMP WAS TO MAP THE FROZEN CONTINENT, TRAIN PERSONNEL, AND TEST GEAR UNDER COLD WEATHER CONDITIONS. SEABEE TASKS AT LITTLE AMERICAN FOUR INCLUDED UNLOADING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES, SETTING UP A TEMPORARY NAVAL BASE, AND BUILDING HOUSING, A MESS HALL AND STORAGE FACILITIES. IN ADDITION, THEY BUILT A TEMPORARY AIRSTRIP, AN EMERGENCY BASE FURTHER INLAND, AND A COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM. THESE MEN WERE THE FIRST SEABEES TO SERVE IN ANTARCTICA.

05 DECEMBER 1967: AT A CONVOY PASSING SITE NMCB 3'S PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED WHEN FOUR MINES EXPLODED SIMULTANEOUSLY, BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN COMMAND DETONATED DUD BOMBS. SEVERAL SEABEES WERE KNOCKED DOWN BY THE BLAST AND ONE CARRIED 40 FEET THROUGH THE AIR. UNBELIEVABLY, NO CASUALTIES WERE SUSTAINED.

05 DECEMBER 1967: RADM JAMES V. BARTLETT, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE, DEDICATED CAMP WILKINSON IN MEMORY OF CM1 J.W. WILKINSON, KILLED DURING A MORTAR ATTACK ON THE PHU BAI/GIA LE BASES. CAMP WILKINSON WAS THE SEABEE CAMP AT THE GIA LE COMBAT BASE NEAR PHU BAI, VIETNAM.

07 DECEMBER 2010: TROOPS ASSIGNED TO NMCB 18 ASSEMBLED TO DEDICATE A NEW FLAG MAST. THE DEDICATION, ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR, WAS IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE SAILORS AND SEABEES WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING WORLD WAR II.

08 DECEMBER 1969: HEADQUARTERS OF THE 30TH NCR MOVED FROM VIETNAM TO OKINAWA. THIS MOVE WAS THE RESULT OF THE REDUCTION OF THE NAVAL CONSTRUCTION FORCE IN VIETNAM WHICH WAS THE RESULT OF DE-ESCALATION OF U.S. ACTIVITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

09 DECEMBER 2011: IN A CROWD OF DIGNITARIES AND ELDERS, THE MUSA QAL'EH CROSSING BUILT BY NMCB 4 WAS BLESSED AND DECLARED OPEN TO THE PUBLIC IN A CEREMONY HELD ATOP THE ROADWAY. THIS LOW WATER CROSSING LINKS MUSA QAL'EH RESIDENTS WITH THE GERESHK ROAD AND HELMAND PROVINCE'S CAPITAL, LASHKAR GAH, TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND GOVERNANCE.

10 DECEMBER 1969: NAVFAC REQUESTED ASSIGNMENT OF ONE DIVING OFFICER TO THE STAFF OF THE COMMANDER 21ST NCR AND ONE DIVING OFFICER TO 31ST NCR TO COORDINATE AND MANAGE A NUCLEUS OF ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC AREA UNDERWATER CONSTRUCTION TEAMS.

13 DECEMBER 1963: OPENING CEREMONIES WERE HELD FOR A 6,000-FOOT MILITARY AIRFIELD LOCATED AT NAKHON PHANOM IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. THE AIRFIELD WAS NEAR THE MEKONG RIVER WHICH DIVIDES THAILAND AND LAOS. THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS AIRFIELD WAS THE FIRST MAJOR PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY THE SEABEES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE MEN OF NMCB 3 BEGAN THE PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDED THE CLEARING OF 235 ACRES OF HEAVY MONSOON FOREST, IN AUGUST 1962.

13 DECEMBER 1966: FOUR PERSONNEL OF NMCB 8 WERE WOUNDED IN AN ENEMY MINING AND BOOBY TRAP INCIDENT APPROXIMATELY 10 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI ON ROUTE NO. 1. TWO MEN WERE WOUNDED WHEN THE FIVE TON WRECKER IN WHICH THEY WERE RIDING WAS BLOWN UP BY A COMMAND DETONATED MINE. TWO OTHER NMCB 8 PERSONNEL WERE WOUNDED AT THE SCENE WHEN A VIETNAMESE DETONATED A BOOBY TRAP BELIEVED TO BE A FRAGMENTATION GRENADE. ALL FOUR CASUALTIES WERE AIR EVACUATED TO THE FIRST MEDICAL BATTALION HOSPITAL IN CHU LAI AND WERE IN GOOD CONDITION.

13 DECEMBER 2012: BUILDER 3RD CLASS DANIEL BLOUNT AND EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 3RD CLASS STEVEN THELUSMA FROM NMCB 133, TASK FORCE ANCHOR, RECEIVED PURPLE HEARTS FOR WOUNDS SUSTAINED DURING A MISSION IN HELMAND PROVINCE, FROM

DAY 31	MONTH DECEMBER	YEAR 2023	TIME SIGNED 2359 L	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER <i>J. M. Seabee</i>
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TIME FILED	COMM CEN NO.	HOW SENT	DATE-TIME GROUP

***This Month in Seabee History:***

***Disclaimer:*** The history of the Seabees accomplishments each month is far more vast than this space. This list is a representative sample of all eras.

FROM SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION	TO INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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BRIG. GEN. DAVID L. WEEKS, COMMANDER, 411TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, JOINT TASK FORCE EMPIRE.

13 DECEMBER 2007: NMCB 1 COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION REPAIRS TO THE AL TAQADDUM AIRFIELD IN IRAQ ONE MONTH AHEAD OF SCHEDULE. IN EARLY JANUARY, THE 30TH NAVAL CONSTRUCTION REGIMENT (NCR) (FORWARD), ALONG WITH MEMBERS FROM NMCB 1, 2ND MARINE LOGISTICS GROUP (FORWARD), 2ND MARINE AIRCRAFT WING (FORWARD) AND MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 272, COMMEMORATED THE OFFICIAL COMPLETION OF THE REPAIRS. THE AIRFIELD REPAIRS BEGAN JAN. 2, 2006, AND SPANNED THE DEPLOYMENT OF FOUR NCRS AND FIVE NMCBS.

14 DECEMBER 1945: THE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION CENTER, PORT HUENEME, CA CONSISTING OF THE U.S. NAVAL ADVANCE BASE DEPOT AND THE U.S. NAVAL TRAINING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER, WAS ESTABLISHED AS THE CENTER FOR SEABEE ACTIVITY IN THE POSTWAR NAVY.

14 DECEMBER 1967: DETAIL FOXTROT OF NMCB 5 CAME UNDER ENEMY FIRE WHILE DEPLOYED AT SITE A-3. THE RESULTANT ENEMY ACTION RESULTED IN ONE KIA, ROGER E. HUESTIS, BUHCN, AND ONE WIA, WILIAM D. THOMPSON, BUR2, WHO LATER DIED AS A RESULT OF WOUNDS RECEIVED IN THIS ACTION. THOMPSON DIED ON 15 DECEMBER 1967.

15 DECEMBER 1942: WHEN THE SEABEES WERE FIRST ESTABLISHED, THE UNITED STATES NAVY RECRUITED SKILLED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS AND TAUGHT THEM HOW TO USE ADVANCED BASE EQUIPMENT AND HOW TO FIGHT. BECAUSE THEY WERE SKILLED IN THEIR TRADES, THE MEN WERE OFFERED PETTY OFFICER RATES BASED ON THEIR EXPERIENCE AND THEIR AGE. HOWEVER, ON DECEMBER 15, 1942, DIRECT VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENT IN THE SEABEES WAS ENDED IN COMPLIANCE WITH A PRESIDENTIAL ORDER REQUIRING ALL THE MILITARY SERVICES TO OBTAIN THEIR MANPOWER THROUGH SELECTIVE SERVICE. BY THAT TIME, ABOUT 60 BATTALIONS HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED.

15 DECEMBER 1944: ONE OF THE SEABEE HEROES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR WAS MM3C MALCOLM PEPPO. PETTY OFFICER PEPPO WAS UNLOADING STORES FROM AN LST DURING THE ASSAULT ON MINDANAO, PHILIPPINE ISLANDS WHEN THE SHIP WAS ATTACKED BY A JAPANESE KAMIKAZE PLANE. BECAUSE THE SHIP WAS BEING UNLOADED, ITS BOW DOORS WERE OPEN AND ITS RAMP WAS DOWN. IT WAS HELPLESS TO MANEUVER. WHEN THE GUN CREW LOOKED UP AND SAW THE SUICIDE PLANE, HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE BEACHED VESSEL, THE MEN INSTINCTIVELY JUMPED DOWN FROM THEIR POSITIONS AND SCATTERED. HOWEVER, SEABEE PEPPO OF THE 113TH NCB JUMPED INTO THE VACATED GUN EMPLACEMENT AND STARTED FIRING AT THE ONCOMING PLANE. HE CONTINUED TO FIRE UNTIL THE PLANE CRASHED. FOR HIS COURAGEOUS ACTIONS, SEABEE PEPPO WAS AWARDED THE SILVER STAR.

15 DECEMBER 1969: CBU 401 WAS ESTABLISHED AT THE PUBLIC WORKS CENTER, GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS. IT WAS A PILOT UNIT IN THE SEABEES ASHORE PROGRAM AND WAS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL UNITED STATES NAVY ACTIVITIES AT GREAT LAKES IN THEIR SELF-HELP EFFORTS. DEPENDING ON THE SIZE AND COMPLEXITY OF PROJECTS ASSIGNED, IT PROVIDED SKILLED SUPERVISIONS OF NON-SEABEE RATINGS, SEABEE EQUIPMENT, AND ITS OWN MANPOWER TO ENHANCE LIVING SPACES AND EXPAND AND IMPROVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

16 DECEMBER 1970: CAMP KINSER WAS OFFICIALLY REDEDICATED AS CAMP MARVIN G. SHIELDS IN HONOR OF SEABEE MEDAL OF HONOR WINNER CM3 MARVIN G. SHIELDS. RADM S.R. SMITH PRESIDED OVER THE CEREMONY. HONORED GUESTS INCLUDED MRS. VIRGINIA CASTELLERY, PETTY OFFICER SHIELDS' MOTHER AND BGEN R.H. BARROW, USMC, COMMANDING GENERAL USMC BASE, CAMP SMEDLEY D. BUTLER.

16 DECEMBER 2011: THE MEMBERS OF NMCB 4 POSED FOR A PHOTO TOGETHER WHILE STATIONED AT BAGRAM AIR FIELD, AFGHANISTAN. THE NMCB 4 TEAM WAS THE FIRST ALL FEMALE NAVY SEABEE CONSTRUCTION TEAM, AND THE SAILORS WERE DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF COMBINED JOINT SPECIAL OPERATIONS TASK FORCE-AFGHANISTAN.

31 DECEMBER 2023: AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF RESEARCH, DISCUSSION AND NEGOTIATIONS, THE SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION (SMSA) AND THE CEC/SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION (SHF) MERGE THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS AND BECOME THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION (NSF). SHF IS OFFICIALLY DISESTABLISHED ON 31 DECEMBER, AND ON JANUARY 1ST, 2024 BECOMES PART OF THE RENAMED NSF. THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION IS DEDICATED TO PRESERVING THE SEABEE LEGACY, PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FROM HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS TO AWARDDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO SEABEE FAMILIES.

DAY 31	MONTH DECEMBER	YEAR 2023	TIME SIGNED 2359 L	SIGNATURE AND RANK OF RELEASER <i>J. M. Seabee</i>
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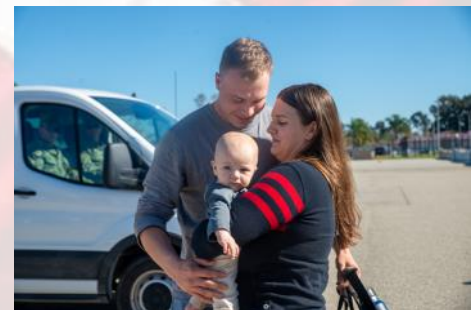
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# NMCCB 3 returns home



# Navy Seabee Jessica Smith's Artwork Recalls U.S. Navy History

Story by U.S. Army Specialist  
Tianna Johnson, photos by  
Petty Officer 2nd Class  
Dominique Allison

murals depict vintage WWII posters, including recruiting ads for the Seabees, Rosie the Riveter and scenes of ships in port.

Chief Logistics Specialist Kurt Zabel-Grell approached Smith about painting the Navy quarterdeck after he saw her artwork on her phone.

"I knew she was going to do an amazing job with this project," said Zabel-Grell, who pushed her ideas up to the installation commander for approval.

Smith describes her artistic process as peaceful; painting allows her to go into her own world at the end of a long day.

"I'm happy the Navy lets me utilize my passion, even on a deployment," Smith said.

When she's not painting, Smith uses her spare time at CLDJ to finish her master's degree in early childhood education with the help of Navy tuition assistance. She wants to be an art teacher.

"If I can continue to paint and work with kids for the rest of

my life, I'd be a happy camper," said Smith.

Camp Lemonnier is an operational installation that enables U.S., allied and partner nation forces to be where they are needed to ensure security and protect U.S. interests. The installation provides world-class support for service members, transient U.S. assets and 38 local tenant commands, including CJTF-HOA.

Camp Lemonnier's quarterdeck is getting a makeover, thanks to U.S. Navy Builder 2nd Class Jessica Smith, a performance assessment representative for CLDJ's Public Works Department.

For three months, Smith has spent her free time painting a set of murals on the front of the quarterdeck counter. The



## ACB-1 during Pacific Partnership 2024-1: Engineering Commemoration

Russell Comeau, the U.S. Charge d'Affaires for the Solomon Islands, U.S. Navy Sailors and local contractors pose for a photo commemorating the completion of a construction project at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1, Dec. 1, 2023. Pacific Partnership, now in its 19th iteration, is the largest multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster relief preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific and works to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities, increase security stability in the region, and foster new and enduring friendships. (U.S. Navy



## ACB-1 during Pacific Partnership 2024-1: Engineering Commemoration

*U.S. Navy Steelworker 2nd Class Thomas Regan, from Anza, California, presents a plaque commemorating the completion of a construction project to a representative of National Referral Hospital at the hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1*

## ACB-1 during Pacific Partnership 2024-1: Driveway and Drainage Ditch Construction



*Chief Equipment Operator Christian Ransomer, from Dayton, Ohio, left, trains Construction Mechanic Constructionman Apprentice Austin Loller, from Fort Smith, Arkansas, on an excavator at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, during Pacific Partnership 2024-1. Photo by Cpl. Thomas Crivello.*



*Utilitiesman 2nd Class Anthony Hellis, from Clayton, North Carolina, left, and Builder 2nd Class Bryce Garcia, from Camp Verde, Arizona, place string lines for concrete at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. Photo by Cpl. Nathaniel C. Mansfield.*



*Builder 2nd Class Bryce Garcia sets up a concrete form at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, as part of Pacific Partnership 2024-1. Photo by Cpl. Nathaniel C. Mansfield.*



*Equipment Operator 3rd Class Yue Zhao, from Los Angeles, Chief Equipment Operator Christian Ransomer, and Construction Mechanic Constructionman Apprentice Austin Loller dig a trench with an excavator at the National Referral Hospital in Honiara, Solomon Islands, during Pacific Partnership 2024-1. Photo by Cpl. Thomas Crivello.*

## Seabees! You are why we do what we do...

The Seabee Historical Foundation (SHF) seeks to preserve, promote, and perpetuate the legacy of the Seabees and the Civil Engineer Corps in the famed Seabee "CAN DO" Spirit.

Our efforts fall under four programmatic pillars:

- \* *Honor and Serve Seabees and Seabee Veterans*
- \* *Engage a Wider Audience*
- \* *Inspire America's Youth*
- \* *Educate the Public about Seabee Contributions*

Our work falls within five key areas to support these pillars:

- \* *Honor, Connect, Unite, Inspire and Support Seabees.*

In supporting Seabees, our "Non-Profit in the Spotlight" page highlights additional resources available for Bees in need.

### Non-Profits in the Spotlight



*"I'm going back over there. I know I won't make it back this time, but it really doesn't matter because no one would even care."*

Those were the heartbreaking words an Iraq war soldier told our founder Carolyn Blashek back in 2003. He had lost everything and had lost sight of the amount of love and appreciation all around him. Carolyn was stunned, and she immediately wanted him and everyone who serves our country to know that the American people care. But what kind of gesture would reach deployed troops and impact them in a meaningful way? The idea came to her when she was reminded of the Care Packages she sent to her children when they were away. She wanted her kids to know that she was always thinking about them and was excited for their return home. That was the moment Operation Gratitude was born. Carolyn realized that Care Packages are also a perfect way to show our troops that their sacrifices are appreciated here at home. The first 650 Operation Gratitude Care Packages were created in her living room, and since that time, with the help of tens of thousands of volunteers nationwide, the organization has sent almost 4 Million care packages.

That's when operation gratitude was born.

#### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to say Thank You to our Military and First Responder communities, and to honor their service by creating opportunities for all Americans to express gratitude.

While this grassroots movement started in Blashek's living room, it now encompasses Americans all over the country donating items and writing letters to express their gratitude for all who serve.

Operation Gratitude has multiple programs that allow grateful Americans everywhere to express their appreciation in a meaningful way and connect with those who serve.

**Deployed Troops:** We serve Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen, who are deployed overseas, and mobilized National Guardsmen domestically.

**First Responders:** We recognize and appreciate the service and sacrifice of millions of first responders serving our communities here at home. We are on a mission to provide grateful Americans with the opportunity to say "Thank You" to the men and women who serve as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMTs.

**Military Children:** Operation Gratitude volunteers are often invited to hand-deliver these special bears at events, where they have the opportunity to show that a grateful nation stands with Military families during difficult times.

**Recruit Graduates:** Together with devoted community volunteers, we hand deliver Operation Gratitude Care Pouches to congratulate our nation's newest service members at boot camp graduations across the country.

**Veterans:** Because it is never too late to say "Thank You," we coordinate with Veterans Affairs hospitals, Veteran and nursing homes, Veterans Service Organizations and other best-in-class nonprofits to provide Care Packages to those who have served in previous eras.

**Wounded Heroes and Caregivers:** Together with our partners, we continue to serve this community through care package deliveries as well as community-building events.

Operation Gratitude is a tax-exempt public charity. All contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

For more information on receiving or providing support, please visit: <https://www.operationgratitude.com/>

# Seabees of Ephrata, PA VFW meet 100-year old WWII Veteran William A. Caparella who fought during the Battle of Okinawa

Members of the Ephrata VFW in Ephrata, Pennsylvania showed up in force for laying wreaths on Friday, December 15th, and then had a special benefit when they went out to eat when they met a 100-year young Seabee. Information from a YouTube video, Veteran William A. Caparella enlisted in the Navy shortly after the beginning of WWII. Because of his experience in construction, he was recruited for the Naval Construction Battalion, better known as Seabees. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, Ulithi Atoll, and Okinawa. He survived a kamikaze attack while on ship during the Okinawa campaign. To watch the video, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zpNwfiXRjnU> (Title: WWII Veteran, William A. Caparella, Navy Seabees)



**Scholarship Application opens Jan 2!**  
[seabee.org](http://seabee.org)

Exciting news! The Seabee Memorial Scholarship application for 2024/25 school year will be available online January 2nd! Spread the word and share the opportunity with children and grandchildren of those who served in the Seabees, Navy Civil Engineer Corps and Naval Construction Forces. Education is empowerment! Apply online at [www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org)

**Seabees Helping Seabees**

**CAN DO**

**Career Connection**

CEC/SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Are you looking for employees who are: Hard Working, Dedicated, Reliable, and Innovative? On the SHF website you can post open job listings and search resumes of qualified Seabees with "Can Do" attitudes and the skills to match. Consider adding a Seabee to your team today!

Are you a Seabee transitioning to the private sector, or a Seabee veteran looking for a new opportunity? On the SHF website you will find employers who are looking to add members to their team those who exemplify the Seabee "Can Do" ethos. Registration is FREE for employers and job seekers!

We are looking for feedback on the "Can Do" Career Connection as a resource for Seabees. Has it helped you land a job or hire a Seabee? What was good about your experience with this site? What can be improved on this site to make it more user friendly? Contact us at (228) 575-3858 or email [info@seabeehf.org](mailto:info@seabeehf.org) and let us know how we have supported you or how we can support you better. Thank you to the companies who have registered and are posting jobs with the Can Do Career Connection.

[www.seabeehf.org/careers](http://www.seabeehf.org/careers)

Patron (\$10,000)



Leader (\$5,000)



*The Seabee Historical Foundation thanks our Corporate Partners*

*Are you a business looking to connect with our CEC/Seabee Community? Become a part of the Team! Scan the QR Code above with your smart phone for details.*

Partner (\$2,500)



Supporter (\$1,000)



Cellon & Associates

Associate (\$500)



*Honor, Connect, Unite, Inspire, Support*



2023

2024



**For Immediate Release**

**Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation  
become Navy Seabee Foundation**

On December 2nd, 2023, the boards of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation signed an agreement to merge the two organizations and become the Navy Seabee Foundation. The agreement will take effect on December 31st, 2023. This was the culmination of nearly two years of research, discussion and negotiations.

The purpose of the Navy Seabee Foundation is the preservation and protection of the history and heritage of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps; the awarding of scholarships to deserving family members of Seabees, CEC Officers, and all who served with the Naval Construction force; supporting the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, monuments, memorials, and other heritage sites dedicated to the U.S. Navy Seabees; and supporting current and former members of the Seabee/CEC Community and their families.

The board of directors of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the board of trustees of the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation will merge to lead the Navy Seabee Foundation. RADM Kevin Slates, CEC, USN, Ret and RDML Lou Cariello, CEC, USN, Ret. will serve as chair and vice chair respectively and the new position of Vice Chair, Senior Enlisted Leader will be filled by CMDCM Doug Heiner, USN, Ret. Dan Miller, currently Executive Director of both organizations will continue as Executive Director. The Navy Seabee Foundation will be headquartered in Springfield, Virginia and have an office at the Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport Mississippi.

From Kevin Slates, "I am thrilled about the combination of the Seabee Historical Foundation and the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association into a single Seabee nonprofit, and the opportunities it will bring to allow us to better support Seabees and their families. It's long overdue and a huge milestone for all Seabees (past, present, and future)."

From Lou Cariello, "This is a watershed moment in the history of non-profit organizations serving Navy Seabees. The merger of the Seabee Historical Foundation with the former Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (now Navy Seabee Foundation) represents a golden opportunity to further unify all former and current Seabees and enhance the pride that we have, and future generations will have, for our wonderful Seabee community."

From Doug Heiner "This merger is very exciting because we are streamlining our operations to expand our capabilities and strengthen our commitment to serving Seabees and their families now and into the future."

From Dan Miller, "I look forward to continuing the events and activities around the country that bring Seabees and Seabee supporters together. I'm so excited to see what the future holds for the Navy Seabee Foundation."

For additional information contact Dan Miller at danmiller@seabee.org or 859-327-1830.

To stay current with Navy Seabee Foundation news and events, visit [www.seabee.org](http://www.seabee.org).

*"If you never did, you should. These things are fun and fun is good." -Dr. Seuss*

**NSVA Island X-1 Gulfport All Seabee Reunion**

May 2-5, 2024  
 Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront  
 Pam Taylor, 228-223-1762  
 seabepam@hotmail.com  
 Bob Smith, 228-424-1185  
 smithrp1904@gmail.com

**UCT 50th Anniversary Reunion**

May 17-19, 2024  
 Port Hueneme, CA  
 CBCM(MDV) Adam Winters,  
 805-982-2430,  
 adam.s.winters.mil@us.navy.mil

**MCB12 Reunion**

May 21-25, 2024  
 Bath, ME  
 Bob Williams, 207-844-8142  
 mcb12vietnam@gmail.com

**CBMU 302 Reunion**

October 10-12, 2024  
 Thousand Hills Resort Hotel  
 Branson, MO  
 Peggie Vandenberg, 509-520-5396  
 peggiev@pocketinet.com

**NMCB 4 Reunion**

November 07-10, 2024  
 Golden Nugget Casino/Resort  
 Las Vegas, NV  
 Jim Wilson, 248-369-5129  
 jimlegendary@gmail.com

*"With Compassion For Others,  
 We Build, We Fight  
 For Peace With Freedom"*



**Contact us (new):**

P.O. Box 391  
 Springfield, VA 22150  
 Phone: 703-690-7672, Main  
 228-575-3858, Gulfport Heritage  
 Center  
 Email: info@seabee.org

Visit us on the web at:  
<https://www.seabee.org>

On Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/  
 NavySeabeeFoundation](http://www.facebook.com/NavySeabeeFoundation)

In person at:  
 Heritage Center adjacent to the  
 Base theater/training center  
 NCBC Gulfport, MS

**2024 Golf Tournaments**

- Wed, May 01 Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Invitational
- Mon, June 10 Washington DC Seabee Golf Invitational
- Mon, August 19 8th Annual San Diego Seabee Golf Invitational
- Thursday, October 10 10th Annual Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Invitational

*For event and registration information, please visit: [www.seabee.org/event](http://www.seabee.org/event)*

**2024 Seabee Balls**

Date	Ball	Venue	POC	Contact Info
3/2	Hampton Rhoads, VA	The Westin Virginia Beach		
	Jacksonville, FL	The River Club	LCDR Jamie Wallace	
	Blairsville, GA	The Ridges Resort, Hiawassee, GA	Keith Hunter	wkhunter@yahoo.com
	Washington, DC	Crystal Gateway Marriott		<a href="https://www.ncrseabeeball.org/">https://www.ncrseabeeball.org/</a>
	Midwest	Hilton Bloomington, Bloomington, MN		midwestseabeeball@gmail.com
3/8	Guam	Hyatt Guam	Dave Fickey	sbcguam1@gmail.com
	Pacific Northwest	Kiana Lodge, Poulsbo, WA	LT Meridith Renz	pnwseabeeball@gmail.com
3/9	Port Hueneme, CA	Commemorative Air Force, SoCal Wing, Camarillo		
	Gulfport, MS	IP Casino, Biloxi, MS		
3/15	San Diego, CA	Marriott Marquis, San Diego		