

FEBRUARY 2024

EXTRA

BEE NEWS



A PUBLICATION OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION



60 years ago

6 February 1964: The United States authorized the construction of a \$10 million seawater desalination and power plant at Guantanamo. Within hours, Seabees commenced site preparation. The plant went up in record time, and by late July was producing freshwater. Full operation was achieved in January 1965. In reprisal for the arrest of Cuban fishermen who entered Florida coastal waters, the Cuban government cut off the water supply to the United States Naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. This action severed the base's last link with Cuba on the other side of the boundary fence. On the same day, the United States authorized the construction of a \$10 million seawater desalination and power plant at Guantanamo. Within hours, Seabees commenced site preparation. The plant went up in record time, and by late July was producing freshwater. Full operation was achieved in January 1965. Three flush-type evaporator units were producing a total of 2,250,000 gallons of water a day. Additionally, turbine generators produced a total of 15,000 kilowatts a day.

BEE NEWS EXTRA



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NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos conducted a crane lift on the pier in Rota, Spain, disassembling the superstructure of a damaged painting barge. This disassembly is a continuation of the work that Seabee divers from Underwater Construction Team ONE performed to recover the barge when it overturned next to the piers at Naval Station Rota. Supporting the fleet and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command through pier damage repair efforts like this is one of the many ways our Seabees help strengthen our alliances and partnerships around the world.

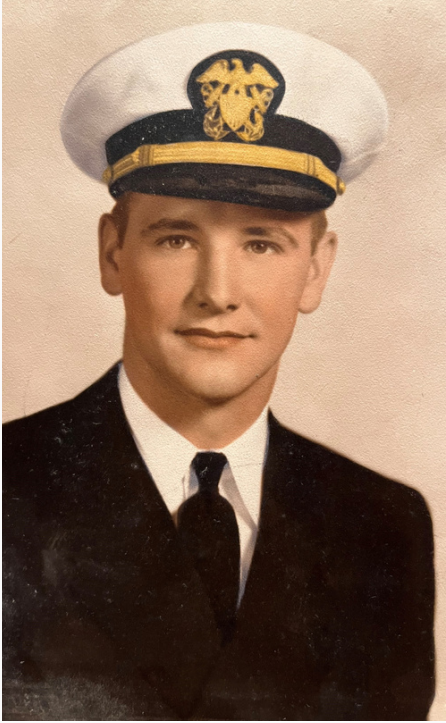


NMCB 133's Runnin' Roos deployed to Guam, have been mixing and placing concrete to repair sidewalks on Camp Covington that were damaged during a typhoon. This type of maintenance is one of the many ways our Seabees can train and maintain readiness to support the Fleet and Navy Expeditionary Combat Command.

For more news, check out www.seabee.org & follow @navyseabeefoundation on social media!



WWII Seabee Turns 100 Years Old



In 1942, Maurice "Bud" Prottengeier, an 18-year-old college student, decided to enlist in the Navy along with his friends before they were drafted into World War II. Although that was 82 years ago, the Flint native has no problem recalling the details. "At the time, I was in my second year of junior college at Northport College in Chicago," Prottengier says. "We all knew that we were probably going to have to go somewhere. We went down and joined the Navy that day."

On Jan. 13, 2024, Pottinger celebrated his 100th birthday — one of only about 5,000 surviving WWII veterans in Michigan.



Bud volunteered at Bendle schools for 25 years

Prottengeier, a widower and father of three, is living proof that age is just a number. He still swims and does yoga, volunteers at a school in the Flint area and can recite the names of his fellow sailors and tell you how much he made in the Navy more than eight decades ago. Prottengeier was born in Flint on Jan. 13, 1924, and attended Mt. Morris High School. His father, Ted, served in World War I as an electrician's mate in the US Navy.

In September of 1940, the United States instituted the Selective Training and Service Act, which required all men ages 18 to 45 to register for the draft. In 1942, Prottengeier says they started drafting 18-year-olds. Knowing his time would likely come soon, he and his friends decided to enlist. Prottengeier would serve in the U.S. Naval Construction Battalion, better known as the Seabees.

"We all knew that we were probably going to have to go somewhere. We went down and joined the Navy that day."

- MAURICE "BUD" PROTTENGEIER



Because Prottengeier was in college, he was eligible to join the Navy College Training Program (V-12), where participants were placed on active duty as apprentice seamen. Candidates were not subject to the draft if they retained their enlisted ranking and kept up with their schoolwork. "They sent me to Northwestern University in Chicago, and I was an apprentice seaman making 21 bucks a month," Prottengeier says. "They waived bootcamp for us, but if we flunked out of school that's where they would've sent us." After 16 months at Northwestern, Prottengeier had earned enough credits for a degree in civil engineering. He was then called for Midshipmen School in Camp Endicott, Rhode Island for the Civil Engineer Corps.

Though it was more than 80 years ago, Prottengeier still vividly recalls the names of his friends and instructors while at Camp Endicott. "Yeah, Ensign DeSenzel, Ensign Fell and Ensign Konowski," he says. "I guess I have a good memory. This guy named Dick Fell became a really good buddy of mine, he went to high school at Detroit Southwestern." After he completed training, Prottengeier was selected to be a platoon officer for the next class of midshipmen. In summer of 1945, he received orders to be sent to the Pacific.

"It was about August of 1945, just before we dropped the bomb," said Prottengeier. "They had prepared my midshipman class of 400 officers to do whatever we were supposed to do. Seabees followed the invasion force. I lucked out, I never had to face bullets."

"We first went to Oakland, California, to pick up transportation to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii," Prottengeier continued. "Then to Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands, to Guam, then to Okinawa, Japan." Prottengeier was stationed at Nakagusuku Bay in Okinawa, nicknamed "Buckner Bay" in memory of Lt. Gen. Simon Buckner Jr., commander of the U.S. land forces who was killed in June of 1945. Prottengeier spent 11 months in Okinawa as an ensign with a construction and maintenance battalion. The unit built and maintained barracks and facilities such as power plants and water treatment plants.

In June 1946, Prottengeier took a ship from Okinawa to San Francisco, before being sent to Chicago to be discharged. He then returned home to Flint to work in construction. Six months later, he met his wife Marian at a holiday party. "I knew her brother," he says. "We graduated from the same high school. I was at a party, and I saw this beautiful girl. I asked my buddy who she was, and he said it was Wesley Cowell's sister." The couple was married for 73 years and had three children and two grandchildren before Marian passed in 2020 at 93 years old.

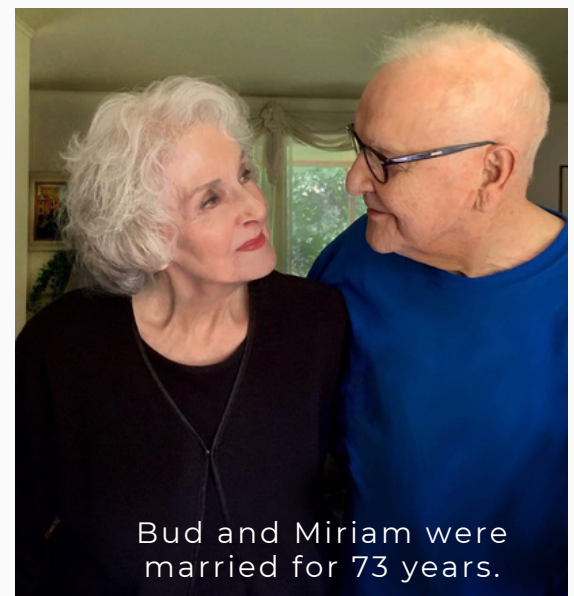
Today, Prottengeier lives in Burton, just east of Flint, and stays active by volunteering at Bendle Schools in Burton, swimming and doing yoga three times a week at U of M Flint and walking a mile around his neighborhood when the weather permits. Prottengeier's family held a private celebration for his 100th birthday but encourages those who know him to reach out to him via Facebook, give him a call or send him a card to wish him a happy birthday.



Bud walks a mile around his neighborhood when weather permits.



Bud in Shanghai



Bud and Miriam were married for 73 years.

NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION 2024 GOLF TOURNAMENTS



GULF COAST SEABEE GOLF INVITATIONAL

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1, 2024

The Club at Diamondhead
7600 Country Club Circle, Diamondhead MS 39525



WASHINGTON, DC SEABEE GOLF INVITATIONAL

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

Springfield Golf and Country Club
8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield VA 22152



SAN DIEGO SEABEE GOLF INVITATIONAL

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024

Fairbanks Ranch Country Club
15150 San Dieguito Rd, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067



VA BEACH SEABEE GOLF INVITATIONAL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Virginia Beach National Golf Club
2500 Tournament Drive, Virginia Beach VA 23456



www.seabeegolf.org



NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

HONOR THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.
WWW.SEABEE.ORG

Augusta Naval Seabee Veteran Served Two Tours to Vietnam

BY: JASON LAMB, KSN.COM,
WICHITA, KS

Ray Brown grew up in tiny Brainerd, Kansas, and later, he lived in Potwin for over 45 years. In between, he joined the Navy at the age of 19 and served as a Seabee during two tours to Vietnam in the late 1960s.

North of the Augusta water tower, in a quiet neighborhood, Ray Brown flips through an old photo album. He talks about how he was drafted by the Army and prepared to go to Vietnam. "I figured I was in the Army for sure and ended up with the Seabees and went there twice anyhow," said Brown.

Brown requested a switch to the U.S. Navy, where he was assigned to be a Naval Seabee. "It was the best fit for me. I'm not sorry about that at all. In fact, if I had to do over again, I would enlist in the Seabees," he said.

Following boot camp, Brown trained for several months in the States before leaving for Vietnam in '67.



"It was the best fit for me. I'm not sorry about that at all. In fact, if I had to do over again, I would enlist in the Seabees,"

- RAY BROWN





His battalion was sent to a Seabee base at Red Beach Da Nang, where he worked in an electrical shop. "We worked on rewinding motors, doing wiring, and power like generators and welders," Brown said. "We had a rocket attack, but luckily, none of them hit in our camp. They hit right outside."

Brown's first tour lasted eight months. He was sent back for a second tour, this time as part of an advance party battalion in Chu Lai. "I was assigned to A Company in charge of their generators, welders, anything electrical in A Company," Brown continued. "And then I was there for a while, and then I got sent up to Dang Ha, which is right on the DMZ. At that time, we were the northernmost unit in Vietnam. We were running a rock crusher up there, and I was in charge of generators. Plus, we did our own security there too. I guess that's where I got probably got Agent Orange. When they went in there, they sprayed and killed everything, and we had built our camp in there," he explained. The Agent Orange caused Brown a lifetime of ailments. He still lives with the effects today.

After nine months in Chu Lai and Dang-Ha, Brown's battalion was sent back home in 1969. Brown, who now lives in Augusta, says he has mostly good memories of his days in the service. "Yeah, I think about it. I think of my buddies and my friends I had. I still keep in contact with a couple of them," he said.

He's also very proud to be a Seabee. "I'd recommend the Seabees to just about anybody. I mean, they've got so many trades they can teach you," Brown said. Brown wears a worn-out Seabees ring. He's had it for over 50 years. "It was an honor. An honor to serve in the Seabees. It was kind of a unique group."

Brown's father also served in the Navy. In addition, six uncles on his mother's side all served at the same time! Four were in the Navy, and the other two in the Army.

He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 55 years.

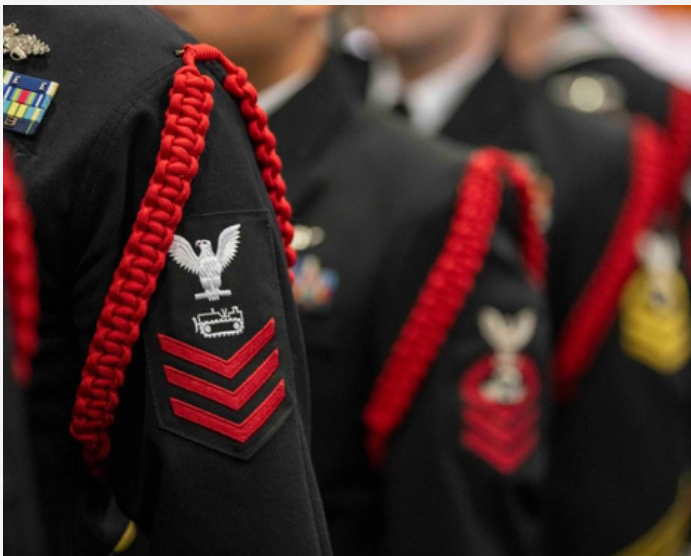


CSFE Attends Boot Camp Graduation

JANUARY 11, 2024

U.S. NAVY RECRUIT TRAINING COMMAND
GREAT LAKES, IL

Seabees and Sailors from the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering pose for a photo after U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command's Pass in Review in Great Lakes, Illinois, Jan. 11, 2024. Boot camp is approximately 10 weeks and all enlistees into the U.S. Navy begin their careers at the command. More than 40,000 recruits train annually at the Navy's only boot camp. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Christopher O'Grady)

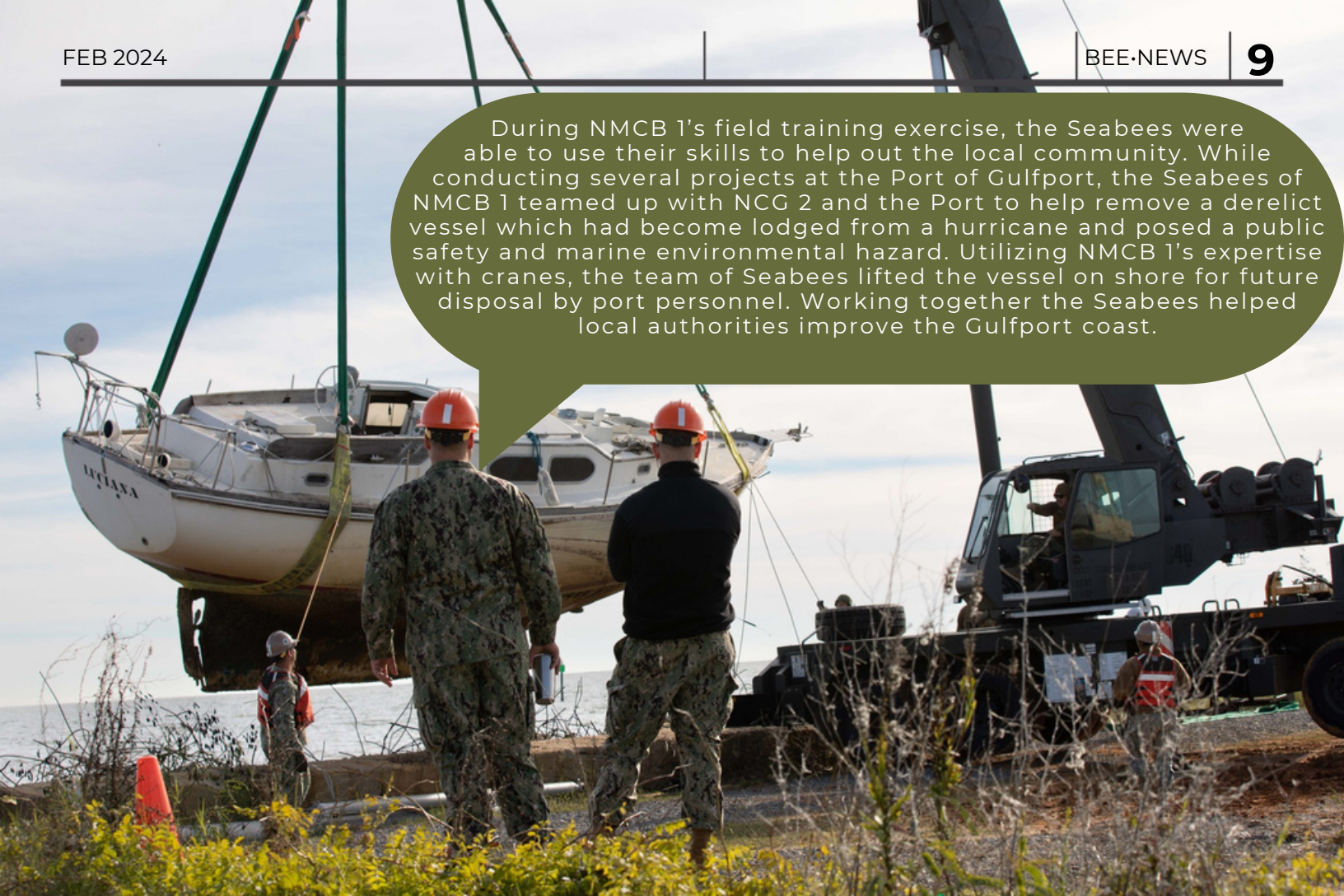


Recruit Division Commanders stand at attention during U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command's Pass in Review. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Christopher O'Grady)

Recruits perform rifle drills during U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command's Pass in Review. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Christopher O'Grady)



During NMCB 1's field training exercise, the Seabees were able to use their skills to help out the local community. While conducting several projects at the Port of Gulfport, the Seabees of NMCB 1 teamed up with NCG 2 and the Port to help remove a derelict vessel which had become lodged from a hurricane and posed a public safety and marine environmental hazard. Utilizing NMCB 1's expertise with cranes, the team of Seabees lifted the vessel on shore for future disposal by port personnel. Working together the Seabees helped local authorities improve the Gulfport coast.





Seabees shoot... they SCORE!!!



NMCB5
 Seabees participated in an M4 qualification course to test and develop their marksmanship skills. Check out these photos from their range day!



ACB 1

Pacific Partnership '24. Seabees from Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE (ACB 1) constructed a Chicken Coop during our time in Palau using pre-existing infrastructure. This coop will be used as a community coop in Palau to reduce dependency on imported food.



Hard Working Seabees!



No Easy Feat! While on deployment to Diego Garcia, CTG 75.2 successfully executed the complete lifting of a warping tug and combination module from the USNS Williams. This operation was supported by Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE (ACB 1) contributing to Navy interoperability and proved crucial for ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific. Hooyah 75.2!

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FROM	NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION		TO	INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS	

01 February 1944: Seabees of Naval Construction Battalion 121 joined the Fourth Marine Division and landed on Roi and Namur, the northernmost islands of the Kwajalein atoll, while Army forces landed on its southern islands. A savage bombing and shelling all but destroyed both the enemy base and the defending force at Roi and Namur. Trees were uprooted and buildings destroyed. Clearing the debris and the dead was the first order of business, and the Seabees set to work. Members of Naval Construction Battalion 109 arrived a few days after the initial landings. The battalions ripped up and resurfaced Roi's triangle of three airstrips. Less than two weeks after the assault, a fighter squadron arrived to operate out of the base. On adjoining Namur, the Seabees built fuel tanks for an aviation supply depot and a pier.

01 February 1955: United States Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (Special) was formed as part of the Construction Battalion U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Its mission was to build and support scientific bases in the Antarctic as part of Task Force Forty-three during Operation Deep Freeze I. Before the unit left the United States there were 166 men and 15 officers assigned to it. The commanding officer of the battalion was CDR Herbert W. Whitney, CEC, USNR.

01 February 1966: NMCB 40 was re-commissioned at Davisville, Rhode Island. Under the command of CDR Benjamin L. Saravia, CEC, USN, NMCB 40 was the first battalion reestablished in order to augment the Naval Construction Force for the Vietnam War.

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02 February 1943: 73rd NCB commissioned at Camp Peary, Magruder, VA. African-American 80th NCB commissioned at NCTC Camp Allen, Norfolk, VA. 83rd NCB commissioned in Norfolk, VA (exact camp unknown).

06 February 1967: UTP2 James O. Miller was mortally wounded at the NMCB 8 detachment site at Tam Ky when an 82mm mortar round exploded about five feet outside his berthing hut. Miller died several hours later after being evacuated to a hospital in Chu Lai.

07 February 1974: NMCB 71 turned over the new Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station to Commander, Naval Support Force Antarctica. This ended the involvement of Seabees at construction and facility maintenance at the South Pole. Thereafter the National Science Foundation contracted out all construction and maintenance work at the South Pole.

09 February 1943: The Acorn Assembly and Training Detachment was established at Port Hueneme, California. The chief functions of the unit were the organization, outfitting, and staging of Acorns. An Acorn was a "tailored" unit designed to carry out the rapid construction and subsequent operation of a landplane and seaplane advance base. Each Acorn had a construction battalion attached to it, as well as trained personnel to operate the control tower, field lighting, areological unit, transportation, medical, berthing, and messing facilities. A Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit also accompanied each Acorn to maintain the base after the initial construction was completed and the construction battalion had been withdrawn. During the Second World War there were Acorns sent to such places at Guadalcanal, Espiritu Santo, Green Island, Rendova, Treasury Island, and Majuro.

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FROM	NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION	TO	INFO TO: ALL SEABEES, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS
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13 February 1945: Fleet Admiral Ernest J. King, Commander in Chief of the United States Fleet and Chief of Naval Operations, approved the retention of construction battalions as a permanent and integral part of the postwar Navy. When originally established in the Second World War, the Seabee organization was meant to be only a wartime expedient.

16 February 1942: The start of the Second World War sent naval survey teams up and down the Pacific coast looking for new locations for naval facilities. One team was looking for a site to build a Naval base to support Naval construction activities at advanced bases in the Pacific Ocean. The team came to Port Hueneme, California, recognized it as an ideal port and the only Pacific deep water port between Los Angeles and San Francisco. Word of the discovery was sent to Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, who was busily putting together the new construction battalions. Port Hueneme therefore was tentatively selected as the site for the advanced base depot on the Pacific coast. On February 16, 1942, Admiral Moreell sent his recommendations to the Chief of Naval Operations and it was speedily approved.

17 February 1942: The first Seabee unit organized to build advanced base facilities overseas arrived at Bora Bora in the Society Islands to construct a fuel depot. These Seabees were called "the Bobcats" because the code name for Bora Bora was "Bobcat."

19 February 1945: The D-Day assault on Iwo Jima was made by the 5th Amphibious Corps, which included all of Naval Construction Battalion 133 and elements of Naval Construction Battalion 31. The 133rd Battalion operated on the Iwo Jima beaches during the initial stages of the assault, acting as a shore party for the U.S. Marines. While operating under heavy Japanese fire, the 133rd Battalion had the dubious honor of suffering more men killed or wounded in action than any other Seabee battalion in any previous or subsequent battle.

19 February 1966: The Navy began testing of the nuclear powered saltwater distillation plant at McMurdo Sound. The plant was installed and serviced by Seabees.

19 February 1968: A small detail of Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 301 distinguished themselves during the tense siege of Khe Sanh, Vietnam. On January 21, 1968, the North Vietnamese commenced concentrated rocket, mortar, and artillery attacks in preparation for their offensive to take the mountain outpost. The men of the detail repaired numerous rocket, artillery, and mortar holes in the airstrip. The runway crews exposed themselves to enemy fire during repairs. They learned to take cover whenever an aircraft landed because the enemy gunners exercised maximum effort to disabled planes and helicopters on the ground. The last of the detail returned to base camp on February 19, 1968. Members of the detail have been authorized to wear the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon for assistance rendered to the 26th Marines during the siege of Khe Sanh.

22 February 1968: EON2 H.H. Aguayo was injured when the tractor in which he was riding hit a mine on Route No. 1, south of Phu Bai, RVN.

24 February 2008: Five Mobile Utilities Support Equipment (MUSE) technicians returned to Port Hueneme, California after making final adjustments to the prime power plant they installed at Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, Africa, to meet the camp's increasing energy demands. The plant, which began producing power the first week in February, is the largest expeditionary power plant MUSE has installed since the Vietnam era.

27 February 1942: Advance Base Depot, Davisville, Rhode Island is established as a unit of the Naval Operating Base, Rhode Island. This was the first of a total of four advance base depots established during World War II. Camp Thomas, also at Davisville, was concurrently established this day.

January-February 1962: Navy Seabees erected the PM-3A on Observation Hill overlooking McMurdo. On March 4, 1962, the power plant reached its first criticality. It was initially operated by Martin Marietta before operations and maintenance was handed over to Navy Officers, Seabees and Hospital Corpsmen of the Naval Nuclear Power Unit. Crews were also augmented with Army and Air Force personnel.

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

Nonprofit in the Spotlight

Vehicles For Veterans



Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Vehicles For Veterans is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit vehicle donation program dedicated to providing funding that will help to build better lives for all of our nation's veterans and their families.

Our Impact

The Vehicles For Veterans program supports disabled veterans and other causes for our nation's veterans. These causes include, but are not limited to, health and wellness, employment, medical care, disability, pension, and housing.

About Our Charity Recipients

Vehicles For Veterans helps several veterans' charities throughout the U.S. Charities that have benefited from Vehicles For Veterans include: The Travis Mills Foundation, Team RWB, Oscar Mike Foundation, The United Service Organization (USO), Homes For Our Troops, Operation Homefront, K9s For Warriors, Veterans Airlift Command, Fisher House Foundation, Semper Fi Fund, Bob Woodruff Foundation, Operation Gratitude, Tragedy Assistance for Survivors, Echo Hill Ranch, Minnesota Military Family Foundation, Hope for the Warriors, Intrepid Fallen Hero's Fund, Warrior Bonfire Program, Folds of Honor Foundation, America's Warrior Partnership, Gary Sinise Foundation, wear blue: run to remember, Team RWB, Military Spouse Advocacy Network, and Tee It Up for the Troops. In the past, Vehicles For Veterans has also donated proceeds to Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Areas Served

Whether you live downtown, in a small town, or way out in a rural area, Vehicles For Veterans will come pick up your car at no cost. You don't need to worry about driving your car to a nearby donation center; we come to you. For more information, from the web address below, click on your state to learn about our services in your area.

About Our Services

Making a car donation is a smart move whether you're just looking for an easy way to give to charity or you want to enjoy the benefits of car donation. Vehicles For Veterans is a car donation program that offers everything you need from a car donation charity. We're proud to offer our donors these services:

- The Maximum Possible Tax Deduction.
- Free Towing.
- A Streamlined Donation Process.
- Acceptance Of Most Vehicles.

About Our Donation Process

If you have a car to donate, don't hesitate to get in touch. Our friendly donation staff is ready to accept your donation and help with any questions you have about donating a vehicle to charity. To donate your car, all you need to do is follow these steps:

Call 1-888-585-5353 to speak with a representative, or make your donation online using our car donation form. Both methods are quick and easy. If you donate over the phone, we'll schedule your vehicle pick-up time right away. When donating online, we'll contact you within 24 hours of the next business day to schedule your vehicle towing time.

For more information:

Please visit <https://www.vehiclesforveterans.org/about-vehicle-for-veterans-car-donation/>

REUNIONS & EVENTS

“If you never did, you should. These are fun and fun is good.” -Dr. Seuss

SEABEE BIRTHDAY EVENTS

Hawaii Seabee Ball

Friday, March 1 - Honolulu, HI,
Hale Koa Hotel

National Capitol Region Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Arlington, VA
Crystal Gateway Marriott

Hampton Roads Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Virginia Beach, VA
The Westin, Virginia Beach Town Center

Jacksonville, FL Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Jacksonville, FL,
The River Club

Blairsville, GA Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Hiawassee, GA,
The Ridges Resort

Midwest Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Bloomington, MN,
Hilton Minneapolis/Bloomington

Camp Lejeune Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Camp Lejeune, NC,
Marston Pavilion

China Lake Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - China Lake, CA
Kerr McGee Community Center

Oklahoma Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 2 - Oklahoma City, OK
OKC Bricktown Hilton Garden Inn

Guam Seabee Ball

Friday, March 8 - Hyatt Guam

Pacific Northwest Seabee Ball

Friday, March 8 - Kiana Lodge, Poulsbo, WA

Okinawa Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 9 - Camp Butler Officer's
Club, Camp Foster

Sigonella Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 9 - Sigonella, Sicily
Blue Panorama, Aci catena CT

Gulfport Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 9 - IP Casino Biloxi, MS

Ventura County Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 9 - Commemorative Air
Force, SoCal Wing, Camarillo

San Diego Seabee Ball

Friday, March 15 - Marriott Marquis

Rota Seabee Ball

Saturday, March 16

SEABEE REUNIONS & EVENTS

Wreath Laying

March 02, 2024
Seabee Memorial, WA DC

NSVA Island X-24 Reunion

April 30-May 5, 2024
The Ramsey Hotel,
Pigeon Forge, TN

NSVA Island X-1 Gulfport All Seabee Reunion

May 2-5, 2024
Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront

NMCB 121 Reunion

May 2-5, 2024
Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront

UCT 50th Anniversary Reunion

May 17-19, 2024
Port Hueneme, CA

MCB 12 Reunion

May 21-25, 2024, Bath, ME

MCB 11 & NMCB 8 Reunion

Sept 23-26, 2024 - Westport, MA
Stone Castle Hotel, Branson, MO

NMCB 12 Reunion (2nd)

Sept 27-29, 2024 - Westport, MA
Hampton Inn Westport, MA

NMCB 121 Reunion (2nd)

Sept 27-29, 2024 - Westport, MA
Hampton Inn Westport, MA

CBMU 302 Reunion

October 10-12, 2024
Thousand Hills Resort Hotel
Branson, MO

NMCB 14 Reunion Association

October 12, 2024
NAS Jax

NMCB 4 Reunion

November 7-10, 2024
Golden Nugget Casino/Resort
Las Vegas, NV

For more details about these events,
go to www.seabee.org/events



NSF Seabee Scholarships are awarded for accredited four-year bachelor's degrees, two-year associates degrees or Career & Technical Education (CTE) degrees (12-18 month career and technical education programs). Scholarships are awarded to the children and grandchildren of a Seabee or Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) Officer. Online application open until April 15.