

COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE!

SPRING 2024

BEE NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION



Welcome Aboard, Navy Seabee Foundation!

Organizations join to Honor the Past and Build the Future

Seabees assigned to Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 14 conduct morning quarters at Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Nathan Burke)

SEABEE MEMORIAL TURNS 50!

HAPPY 82ND BIRTHDAY, SEABEES!

SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OPEN

ROAD TO THE PACIFIC: A WWII SEABEE'S STORY



10



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DAN MILLER, NSF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



It's been a whirlwind of activity in the past few months as we completed the merger of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation (SHF). Before we turn our full attention to the future, I would like to look back to say thank you to the hundreds of individuals who worked hard to make each of these two fine organizations possible. Hundreds of volunteers worked thousands of hours starting in 1970 when the Seabee Memorial Association was formed and 1991 when the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation was formed.

There are too many people to name all of the volunteers, board members and donors who got us to the point. I'm in awe of the vision of the SMSA founders who built the Seabee Memorial and started the scholarship endowment and the relentless drive of the SHF board and leadership to fund and build the \$13 million US Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme. Please join me in saying a big "Thank You" for a job well done to everyone who played a part in getting us here.

"With willing hearts and skillful hands, the difficult we do at once. The impossible takes a bit longer!" The Seabee Memorial was dedicated fifty years ago this year. Here's to the next fifty!

BEE NEWS

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SEEKING SPONSORS!

2024

SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENTS

<p>WEDNESDAY MAY 1</p> <p>The Club at Diamondhead GULFPORT, MS</p>	<p>MONDAY JUNE 10</p> <p>Springfield Golf and Country Club WASHINGTON, DC</p>	<p>MONDAY AUGUST 19</p> <p>Fairbanks Ranch Country Club SAN DIEGO, CA</p>	<p>THURSDAY OCTOBER 10</p> <p>Virginia Beach National Golf Club VIRGINIA BEACH, VA</p>
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WWW.SEABEEGOLF.ORG

FEBRUARY 2024

EXTRA BEE NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

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INTRODUCING THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION!

Combining the best of two great Organizations.



In a groundbreaking development, the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation officially merged, forging a new identity as the Navy Seabee Foundation. The historic agreement, signed on December 2nd, 2023, and effective as of December 31st, 2023, culminated nearly two years of extensive research, discussions, and negotiations. This strategic consolidation marked a pivotal moment in the history of the U.S. Navy Seabees, signifying a unified front to preserve their esteemed legacy and propel the mission into a dynamic future.

The Navy Seabee Foundation emerges with a clear mission: the preservation and protection of the illustrious history and heritage

of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Beyond historical stewardship, the foundation is poised to continue its crucial role in awarding scholarships to deserving family members of Seabees, CEC Officers, and all



those who served with the Naval Construction force.

In addition to its commitment to

supporting the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, monuments, memorials, and other heritage sites, the Navy Seabee Foundation pledges support to current and former members of the Seabee/CEC community and their families. This multifaceted approach positions the foundation as a cornerstone for the community's past, present, and future.

The merger not only marks a structural change but also ushers in a new era of leadership. Rear Admiral Kevin Slates, CEC, USN, Ret., now stands at the helm as chair, supported by Vice Chair Rear Admiral Lou Cariello, CEC, USN, Ret. A significant addition to the leadership team is the newly established position of Vice Chair, Senior Enlisted Leader, occupied by CMDCM Doug Heiner, USN, Ret.

With headquarters in Springfield, Virginia, and a presence at the Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport, Mississippi, the Navy Seabee Foundation positions itself for efficient and effective operations.

Rear Admiral Kevin Slates, Ret. expressing his excitement about the merger, views it as an opportunity to better support Seabees and their families, calling it a “huge milestone for all Seabees, past, present, and future.” Vice Chair Rear Admiral Lou Cariello echoes this sentiment, describing the merger as a “watershed moment” unifying the



Seabee community.

CMDCM Doug Heiner emphasizes the merger’s significance in streamlining operations, expanding capabilities, and fortifying the foundation’s commitment to serving Seabees and their families.

Dan Miller, continuing in his role as Executive Director, looks ahead with enthusiasm, eager to continue events and activities that foster the camaraderie among Seabees and their supporters. The future, he believes, holds boundless possibilities for the Navy Seabee Foundation and the community it passionately serves.

Want to know more? Visit our website at www.seabee.org



The Purpose of the Navy Seabee Foundation

is to preserve and protect of the history and heritage of the U.S. Navy Seabees and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps through 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
- Supporting current and former members of the Seabee/CEC Community and their families.

1970

The Seabee Memorial Association

was formed to sponsor and build a monument in Washington, D.C. to honor the memory of those who served in Naval Construction Battalions.

As the Memorial was being constructed, the Association changed to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) to provide scholarships for the children of Seabees and CEC officers. SMSA has awarded over \$7.5 million in scholarship funds since 1971.



1991

The Seabee Historical Foundation

was founded to promote the history and heritage of the US Navy Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps. The Foundation built the \$13 million U.S. Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, CA which opened in 2011.



2023

The Navy Seabee Foundation

is formed when the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation signed an agreement to merge the two organizations and become one organization. The agreement took effect on December 31, 2023. This was the culmination of nearly two years of research, discussion and negotiations.



MEET YOUR NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP



**KEVIN R. SLATES, RADM,
CEC, USN (RET)
NSF CHAIRMAN OF
THE BOARD**

It's a real honor to be the Chairman of the new Navy Seabee Foundation (NSF). Both Lou Cariello (Vice Chairman, former SMSA Chairman and great friend) and I have been passionate champions of the value of combining our predecessor organizations (SMSA and SHF) into a single Seabee nonprofit to better support Seabees and their families. I am excited about our new organization and the opportunity to serve with Lou and Doug Heiner as our Senior Enlisted Leader Vice Chairman.

We've got a team of motivated leaders on our board who are

passionate about our great Seabee scholarship program and our proud history and heritage. We are all excited about the opportunities to be more efficient as a single organization and look for new ways to support Seabees and their families in the future.

We will continue to promote education and sponsor scholarships for our Seabee families just as we have in the past. Just in case you haven't seen or heard, 2024 scholarship applications are now being accepted, so please help spread the word. We will continue to support the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum and other heritage sites.

This year we'll be supporting the renovation of the entry way and grand hall at the museum, which is the first phase in the masterplan to update the exhibits.

I want to personally thank you (our donors, sponsors, and supporters) for all you've done to support our predecessor organizations and say thanks for all the positive feedback we've received about our new combined organization. I know you are as passionate about Seabees as we are and hope that you will continue to support NSF. It's all about Seabees and families ... that's why we exist. Ooh-rah! - Kevin

Greetings to all Seabees and their family and friends! 2024 is a bit of a new day for Seabee non-profits, with the stand-up of the Navy Seabee Foundation (NSF) on January 1st. Of course, we will continue doing all of the same things to support Seabees and Seabee families as we did when we were organized as two separate Seabee non-profits (SMSA & SHF). But, I want to emphasize that the Navy Seabee Foundation will continue the tradition of funding scholarships for children and grandchildren (and potentially spouses in the future) of Seabees as a top priority.

We have experienced great success over the past few years, increasing annual scholarship distributions from about \$320,000 to 90 students five years ago to over \$560,000 to 190 students this past year. Unfortunately, our success in recent years to significantly increase the level of educational support we provide to Seabee families still results in many highly qualified applicants to whom we cannot support. But now as one Seabee non-profit, we expect the reduced confusion and clarity with singular name recognition will enable NSF

to connect more substantially within our Seabee community and beyond to pursue more of this unmet need.

It was a pleasure and honor for me to have served the past few years as both Vice Chair and Chair of the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association. I look forward to serving closely with our new NSF Chairman, Kevin Slates, and NSF Senior Enlisted Advisor, Doug Heiner, as we chart the course for doing the most we "Can Do" together for Seabees! OohRahh!

- Lou



**RDML LOU CARIELLO,
CEC, USN, (RET)
NSF VICE CHAIR**



**CMDCM DOUG HEINER, USN,
(RET), NSF VICE CHAIR,
SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER**

The formation of the Navy Seabee Foundation is the result of a long, deliberate, well thought out process on how two nonprofit organizations can best serve our beloved Seabees. The Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA), and the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation (SHF) have worked together on many endeavors over the years and have had a number of people

working on both boards concurrently. Streamlining our operations and eliminating duplicated efforts gives us greater freedom and capacity to do more of the things we love - supporting and bragging about Seabees and Seabee families!

For me, it is an amazing honor and privilege to continue being associated with the Seabee community and to

serve alongside our amazing board members -- to be able to give back in a meaningful way to that which has given me and my family so much over the last 38 years. My cup overfloweth, and I still have a lot of gas (gratitude) in my tank. I look forward to continuing as your humble servant. Let's go, Seabees! Hoorah!

- Doug

NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION



board members & staff as of March 2024

OFFICERS:

Chair
 RADM KEVIN SLATES,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

Vice Chair
 RDML LOU CARIELLO,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

**Vice Chair,
 Senior Enlisted Leader**
 CMDM DOUG HEINER, USN,
 Ret.

Executive Director
 DAN MILLER, CNE, CDE

Treasurer
 CUCM GERALD SCHMUCK,
 USN, Ret.

Secretary
 CAPT GARY ROUSE, CEC, USN, Ret.

General Counsel
 CDR GREG PHILLIPS, CEC, USN, Ret.

DIRECTORS:

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 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT MICHAEL BLOUNT,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

EQCM PATRICK BRENNAN,
 USN, Ret.

UCCM DAVID J. CROWELL, USN, Ret.

CMDM(SCW) THOMAS CYR,
 USN, Ret.

CAPT JENNIFER DONAHUE,
 CEC, USNR, Ret.

CAPT KATHRYN DONOVAN,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT ANTONIO EDMONDS,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT WILLIAM FINN, CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT DAVID FLEISCH,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

DR. LARA GODBILLE (ex officio)

MR. DWIGHT HAMBORSKY (ex officio)

RADM MARK HANDLEY,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

MR. CHARLIE HEWITT

MRS. TRUDY HOFF

EQCM MICHAEL KORMAN,
 USN, Ret.

CDR JOHN KUCINSKI,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT CHRISTOPHER KURGAN,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

YNC KELLI LaPOINT, USN, Ret.

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CAPT CLIFFORD MAURER,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

RADM JAMES M. MCGARRAH,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT ROBERT McLEAN,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

RDML DOUG MORTON,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT ROGER MOTZKO,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

RADM BRET MUILENBURG,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT ROBERT RAMSAY,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT WILLIAM RUDICH,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

MRS. BARBARA RUSINKO

CM3 TOMAS SANTOS, USN, Ret.

CAPT JIM SCHROEDER,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT E. BRIAN SMITH,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

FORCM(SCW/EXW) PERCY
 TRENT, USN, Ret.

CAPT HEATHER WALTON,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT MIKE WILLIAMSON,
 CEC, USN, Ret.

STAFF:

Dan Miller, CNE, CDE
 Executive Director

Beth Reuning
 Scholarship Manager

Heather Deviney
 Marketing & Development
 Coordinator

Catherine Jung
 Database Administrator

UTCS Bob Smith, USN, Ret.
 Database/Special Projects



SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP QUESTIONS ANSWERED

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR A SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarships are awarded to the children and grandchildren of a Seabee or a Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) Officer. Children and grandchildren of active duty, reserve, retired and honorably discharged Seabee are eligible to apply.

Eligible sponsors include:

- Enlisted personnel with a Seabee rating
- Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) officers,
- Others who have served, or are serving, in a Naval Construction Force Unit.
- Members of other service branches assigned to a Seabee unit.

WHAT TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OFFERED?

Seabee Scholarships are awarded for accredited

- Four-year bachelor's degrees
- Two-year associates degrees
- Career & Technical Education (CTE) degrees

WHAT CAN THE SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP BE USED FOR?

Scholarship awards may be used for tuition, books and academic-related fees. Scholarships are renewable for up to four-years provided recipient meets academic requirements.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR A SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP?

Scholarship Applications are accepted January 2-April 15 each year. Applications must be completed and submitted online, www.seabee.org. Mailed in applications will not be accepted.



seabee.org

**TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY,
 GO TO SEABEE.ORG!**

Help spread the word to others who may benefit from a Seabee Scholarship.

A LASTING SEABEE LEGACY FOR FIFTY YEARS

The National Seabee Memorial has stood near the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery since 1974. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the memorial. It's more than just a monument.



The Seabee Memorial in Arlington, Virginia is more than a monument; it's a sacred tribute to the unwavering spirit of the U.S. Navy's Construction Battalions.



For active duty and retired Navy Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps officers, the Seabee Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, is more than a monument; it's a tribute to the spirit of the U.S. Navy's Construction Battalions. As we mark the 50th anniversary of the memorial's dedication in 2024, it has become a symbol of the enduring legacy of these "Can Do" heroes.

Dedicated on May 5, 1974, the Navy Seabee Memorial was established to pay tribute to the Seabees who have served their country since their inception in 1942. The Seabees are unique in that they are both skilled builders and combat-ready troops, undertaking a wide variety of tasks from building airstrips and bridges to engaging in direct combat operations.

Felix de Weldon, a WWII Seabee, designed the Navy Seabee Memorial, infusing it with a personal connection to the struggles and triumphs

of his comrades. The memorial features a larger-than-life bronze statue of a Seabee in action, surrounded by a granite wall adorned with



Inscribed on the Memorial are the words that still ring true for Seabees today, "With Compassion for Others we Build ~ We Fight for Peace with Freedom."

plaques detailing the history and achievements of the Seabees. The statue depicts a Seabee holding a rifle in one hand and a builder's square in the other, embodying the dual

nature of their responsibilities – as warriors and builders. The granite wall serves as a canvas for inscriptions that recount the Seabees' vital

contributions in conflicts such as World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The symbolism captures the spirit of these versatile servicemen who play a crucial role in shaping the

battlefield and supporting the overall military mission.

The Navy Seabee Foundation, in partnership with Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command (NAVFAC), places wreaths three times a year at the Memorial – on the Seabee Birthday in March, Memorial Day in May and Veteran's Day in November. The public is welcome to attend these wreath laying ceremonies. More details can be found at seabee.org/events.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of its dedication in 2024, the Navy Seabee Memorial stands as a living testament to the deep personal connection and commitment that inspired its creation. It also serves as an inspiration to active duty Seabees and a reminder of the service and sacrifice of those who came before them.





THE ROADS TO VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC:

Built by
U.S. Naval
Construction
Battalions

Written By:
Suzanne Pool-Camp
*daughter of Chief Warrant
Officer James A. Pool*

As one of the few military units which participated in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of World War II, the 29th Naval Construction Battalion had the rare experience of the piercing winds and cold seas of the English Channel as well as the intense heat of the Pacific islands. They were, so to speak, the bookends of both theaters. Chief Warrant Officer James A. Pool, from Cincinnati, Ohio, was one of those in the 29th to serve from 1942 in the Atlantic until after the end of the war in the Pacific in 1945.

Approximately eighty percent of the 151 Naval Construction Battalions and other Naval Construction units were stationed in the Pacific theater. The Seabees were spread all over--from the beginning to the end of World War II -- namely because they were needed everywhere. As General MacArthur famously said: "The only trouble with the Seabees is that you don't have enough of them."

When the 29th landed in the British Isles in December 1942, to help prepare the Allied forces for the invasion of Europe, the 1st NCB had already landed on Bora Bora in the Society Islands. Known as the "Bobcats," (the code name of the island), they were the first of hundreds of thousands of Seabees to serve in the vast Pacific Island chains. Their mission was to build a port for the ships which would provide fuel and supplies to the US ships before the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The Bobcats were just the tip of the shovel for all the other Seabee battalions who followed them. They could flatten jungle terrain, rip up

palm trees, and bulldoze through thick gooey rivers of mud to create a smooth road or airstrip in record time. Seabees became known as "the goddamned-est, toughest, most efficient bunch of hairy-chested broncos who ever went to war under the Stars and Stripes."

After Bora Bora, the Seabees built over 300 bases on 300 islands across the Pacific. Sometimes they even joined the Marines in beach

"The only trouble
with the Seabees
is that you don't
have enough of
them."

- General MacArthur

landings and followed them with heavy equipment and vital supplies. A short list of the numerous missions included building advanced naval bases, roads, bridges, PT and seaplane bases, housing for the troops, piers, wharves, warehouses and storage for equipment, fuel storage tanks, water pump stations, mess halls and hospitals.

But the most critical mission of the Seabees was to build the airfield runways for the Marine and Air Corps pilots. Jumping from one island chain to another -- Efate, Espirito Santo, Guadalcanal, the Gilberts, the Marshall Islands, the Carolines, the Marianas (Saipan, Guam and Tinian), Peleliu, Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa--the NCBs were always under time pressure to complete their construction so that the pilots could shorten the mileage to their next targets. To get an air field ready in record time, the Seabees would often set up floodlights, so that they could continue to work in shifts through the night. At Segi Point, New Georgia, they graded, drained and leveled a clearing with 12 to 18 inches of coral. On top of this they laid steel matting for the minimum "fighter strip" of 75 by 2500 feet. Fortunately, the strip was ready in 11 days for an emergency landing of a Navy Corsair fighter. Commander Lyles was in charge of this achievement-- not surprisingly he had previous civilian experience from building the Will Rogers Airport in Oklahoma City. This was just one example of



This is the second part of two part series. The first article can be found in the 2023 issue of the Seabee News. View the publication on our website: www.seabee.org/news-publications



the 111 airfields Seabees built across the Pacific islands.

It wasn't until March 23, 1945, that the 29th would join their fellow Seabees in the Pacific. After the invasion of Normandy, the 29th returned to the US, where following a brief R&R, they prepared for their second tour of duty. On January 27, 1945, the entire battalion--consisting of 27 officers and 1056 men—and the 96th NCB and the CBMU (Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit) 621 boarded SS Sea Scamp, a C3 S-A2 troop transport. With a total of 2500 men and 65 officers they departed from Port Hueneme, California, bound for an unnamed island in the Pacific. Chief Warrant Officer James A. Pool, one of the officers on the Sea "Tramp," was a former merchant marine and builder of homes from Cincinnati, Ohio. Due to the sweltering heat below decks and the "long and tedious" 58-day voyage, he lost over 20 lbs. by the time their ship finally dropped anchor off Samar, Philippines. Their equipment and gear didn't arrive until a week later on April 5th. The weather was hot and humid—sometimes reaching 110 degrees in the shade. The average rainfall

was 12 to 15 inches per month. On dry days the air was filled with thick red dust, but when it poured rained at night it was transformed into a thick muddy mess.

Pool and his unit set up their tents surrounded by coconut trees near the beach. Within a few days, he found himself in the sickbay. Like most of the men, he experienced a bit of dysentery from the change in diet and water. Some Seabees got more severe illness like malaria, cholera, dengue fever. The frequent rains and humidity made it difficult for the men to keep their feet dry, which led to "jungle rot"—a fungus and skin peeling condition. Chaplain McHale later wrote about Nature being an "enemy" just as much as the Japanese: "Even the big tropical moons are dangerous, for then the bombers roam. The winds stir the sea and the rains cause trucks to bog down. The insects bedevil the men and the threat of malaria hangs over each man like a shadow." Pool complained in a letter to his wife that "the ants are eating me up tonight." And of course, there were always the venomous snakes and huge crocodiles waiting for a bite of human flesh! The long-

"All day long we sweated and swore and worked to bring the heavy stuff ashore and hide it from the Jap bombers. The men ceased to look like men; they looked like slimy frogs working in some prehistoric ooze."

- Commander H. Roy Whittaker, CEC, USNR

tailed macaques would jump from the trees and slid down the tent tops, much to the chagrin of the sleeping men: "Monkeys wake me at night," Pool said, "but they are a good warning against the Japs."

Although the Marines had driven most of the Japanese troops to the north of Samar, there were still some night invaders. In a letter to his wife dated April 10th 1945, Pool commented about "all kinds of shooting" the other night from "some Jap troopers." A few days later he wrote: "We had to take some stuff to another island and before we got there, we were fired on two times and it was kind of close." Encountering enemy attacks was nothing new to the NCBs in the Pacific—they were either getting bombed on the beaches or fired on by deadly raiding parties. Although Seabees were not trained for combat, they eagerly took up arms when given the chance. They showed courage and creativity using a M1 carbine—if they had one—or whatever they could use as a weapon, even a bulldozer!

Writing letters to his wife on sky blue stationery with the heading "ACORN Assembly and Training Detachment, Port Hueneme, CA", (ACORN was the Naval acronym for Aviation, Construction,



Ordnance and Repair, i.e., code for an air base,) Pool told her about the natives coming from miles around to gamble on chicken fights, the street markets selling pig meat with hairs on it, fish with heads, and long grass skirts. The only native gifts he bought her were a "grass skirt" (later sprayed with DDT to kill any local insects!) and some Dutch New Guinea and Philippine coins for a bracelet. In April, he told her about the best dinner they had since they arrived: "For a salad we had what they call the million-dollar salad—it is made of the hearts of palm. They get it from the heart of a palm tree and after they cut it out the tree dies, but there are millions of them out here; it sure is good!"

Later that month Pool mentioned that some men he knew were sent to

(Continued on Page 12)

NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS SEABEE FAMILIES

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) is a crucial component of a Seabee Battalion, providing support to families of service members during deployments. However, the financial demands of FRG initiatives are considerable, especially with growing restrictions on fundraising. Balancing the desire to fulfill FRG objectives becomes challenging, as fundraising efforts are not only costly but also time-consuming, diverting members from their family obligations.



The Navy Seabee Foundation presented the first of its 2024 Seabee Support Grants to NMCB-11 Family Readiness Group, at their pre-deployment FRG meeting, January 2024.

Recognizing these challenges, the Navy Seabee Foundation (NSF) remains committed to supporting these organizations. In its second year, NSF continues its initiative by offering monetary grants to Seabee family groups, aiding them in organizing activities and providing support during deployments. For some groups, this funding is essential and represents their only resource to offer activities to family members.

In the coming month, NSF will extend additional monetary grants to Seabee battalion family groups in Gulfport, MS, and Port Hueneme, CA.



Using grant money provided last year, NMCB-1 was able to rent an inflatable water slide and provide food and prizes during their Over the Hump family picnic, June 2023.

(ROADS TO VICTORY, *continued from Page 11*)

Okinawa: "We were supposed to go with them, but it was changed." These were a few of the 55,000 Seabees who followed the Marines on to the island to unload and distribute supplies, ammunition and manpower for all construction tasks. As soon as the fighting abated, they started to build airfields, roads, fuel tank farms, hospitals and a PT base. Commander Andrew G. Bisset, (CEC), also had 45,000 Army engineers under his command on the island, forming the largest group of construction troops in the Pacific at the time.

Although the main base for the 29th NCB was at the southern tip of Samar, they also had work projects on the adjacent Calicoan Island, which was about a mile wide and 7 miles in length. At Guiuan, the HQ in the center of the island bordering the eastern side of Leyte Gulf, the mission was to build two air strips, one for heavy bombers and one for fighters.

They also did some work on the island of Tinian. This could have involved building a dock for the USS Indianapolis which was bringing components of the atomic bomb or perhaps constructing a shed and pit for the secret uranium and plutonium bombs. In a letter Pool wrote in response to his wife on May 15, 1945: "Yes, we were in on the 'special' work at Tinian, but I can't see anything so special about that, not near as much as here." Of course, the Manhattan project was still secret at this time.

On August 10, 1945 Pool told his wife that he had been transferred temporarily to

another battalion (the 75th NCB) on another island (Calicoan). At the end of the letter, he wrote a P.S. with exciting news: "Just heard on the radio that the war is over—hope that is true and will see you soon!" Four days later he could finally say, "Well the war is over, got the news today! Boys shooting their rifles and search light cross the skies." But the 29th had to continue their work until the end of September. "You would think the war was still on the way they keep building." Pool finally got his orders to return to the States on September 28. The rest of the battalion was heading for China before they would get to go home.

The 29th NCB and the other 235,000 Seabees made an invaluable contribution to the Allied success in the Pacific. They truly built "the Roads to Victory", as well as most all of the airfields, ports, docks, warehouses, Quonset huts, hospitals, etc. on each island captured from the Japanese, as well as some other tropical locations. The sacrifice made was over 272 enlisted Seabees and 18 officers killed in action and more than 500 Seabees, who gave their lives in construction accidents. May they never be forgotten!



Want More? Check out NSF bonus content in our digital **BEE NEWS EXTRA** publishes electronically each month. Go to seabee.org for more Seabee stories and news!

OktoBEEfest Brings Bees Together Across the Globe!



OktoBEEfest is held every October, and brings active-duty, retired and former Navy Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps officers, friends and families together in different geographic areas for camaraderie and networking. OktoBEEfest events are hosted by the newly merged Navy Seabee Foundation (NSF). These events serve as both FUNDraisers and FRIENDaisers.

OktoBEEfests events are always a great time of 'BEEs connecting with old and new friends. In 2022 we saw

14 OktoBEEfest events. Last year, 2023 we increased to 21 events around the globe. This year, we hope to add even more locations, but hosts and sponsors for each location are needed now. Consider hosting an event in your area -- we keep it simple! Go to seabee.org for details about hosting. In addition to event coordinators, sponsors are also needed. Email info@seabeehf.org if you want more details about hosting and/or sponsoring an OktoBEEfest event this year. 2023

PAST OKTOBEEFEST LOCATIONS:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Boston, MA | Norfolk, VA |
| Chicago, IL | Oahu, HI |
| Cleveland, OH | Port Orchard, WA |
| Denver, CO | Roanoke, VA |
| Georgetown, KY | Rota, Spain |
| Guam | Salt Lake City, UT |
| Gulfport, MS | San Antonio, TX |
| Jacksonville, FL | San Diego, CA |
| Jacksonville, NC | Ventura, CA |
| Lubbock, TX | Washington, D.C. |
| Naples, Italy | |

NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

Seabee Bricks

A memorial brick is the perfect way to honor that special Seabee family member or friend in your life – a thoughtful gift that will permanently display their name and honor their service to their country.

Customize your brick with your own special message. It can be a tribute to a former or current Seabee, a Seabee unit, your own service.

\$125

seabee.org/bricks

2024 Seabee Sponsorship Opportunities

seabee.org

Businesses and corporations stand to gain both meaningful engagement and recognition by sponsoring Navy Seabee Foundation events and programs such as...

- SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENTS**
Gulf Coast - May 1
Washington, DC - June 10
San Diego - Aug 19
Virginia Beach - Oct 10
- SEABEE CELEBRATION**
September - location TBD
- OKTOBEEFEST** - Held in October. Seeking title sponsor to cover all 20+ events, or local sponsors for specific locations.
- NAVY SEABEE MUSEUM** - fund new museum exhibits
- FUND A SCHOLARSHIP** - for Seabee Scholarship funding info, email info@seabee.org.

2024 SEABEE EVENTS



MARCH

- 01** **Hawaii Seabee Ball**
Friday, March 1 - Honolulu, HI, Hale Koa Hotel
- 02** **Seabee Birthday Wreath Laying**
Saturday, March 2 - Seabee Memorial, Arlington, VA
- 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

- 08** **Guam Seabee Ball**
Friday, March 8 - Hyatt Guam
- Pacific Northwest Seabee Ball**
Friday, March 8 - Kiana Lodge, Poulsbo, WA
- 09** **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
- 15** **San Diego Seabee Ball**
Friday, March 15 - Marriott Marquis
San Diego Marina
- 16** **Rota Seabee Ball**
Saturday, March 16

APRIL

- 15** **SEABEE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE**
- 30-5** **SVA ISLAND X-24**
30 Apr - May 5 - The Ramsey Hotel,
Pigeon Forge, TN

MAY

- 01** **GULF COAST SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENT**
Wednesday, March 1 - The Club at Diamonhead, MS
- 2-5** **GULFPORT ALL SEABEE REUNION**
May 2-5 - Gulfport, MS
Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront
- NMCB 121 Reunion**
May 2-5, 2024 - Gulfport, MS
Courtyard Gulfport Beachfront



04 Gulfport Seabee Days
Saturday, May 4 - NCBC Gulfport

17-19 UCT 50th Anniversary Reunion
May 17-19, 2024 - Port Hueneme, CA

21-24 MCB-12 Vietnam 1968-1969
May 21-24 - Bath, ME

27 Memorial Day Wreath Laying
Monday, May 27 - Seabee Memorial, Arlington, VA

JUNE

10 WASHINGTON, D.C. SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, June 10 - Springfield Golf & Country Club
Springfield, VA

AUGUST

19 SAN DIEGO SEABEE GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, August 19 - Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, Rancho Santa Fe, CA

SEPTEMBER

TBD SEABEE CELEBRATION

23-26 MCB 11 & NMCB 8 REUNION
September 23-26 - Stone Castle Hotel, Branson, MO

27-29 NMCB 12 & 121 REUNION
September 27-29 - Hampton Inn, Westport, MA



OCTOBER

OKTOBEEFEST EVENTS

Local coordinators needed! Go to oktobeeffest.org
For more details on hosting an event in your area.

10-12 CBMU 302 Reunion
October 10-12 - Thousand Hills Resort Hotel
Branson, MO

12 NMCB-14 Association Reunion
October 12 - NAS Jacksonville
[20th Anniversary of the loss of our 7 Seabee Brothers]

NOVEMBER

7-10 NMCB 4 Reunion
November 7-10 - Golden Nugget Las Vegas, NV

11 Veteran's Day Wreath Laying
Monday, November 11 - Seabee Memorial,
Arlington, VA



NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

HONOR THE PAST. BUILD THE FUTURE.

www.seabee.org

To stay in the know, follow us on social media!



@NavySeabeeFoundation



@SeabeeFoundation

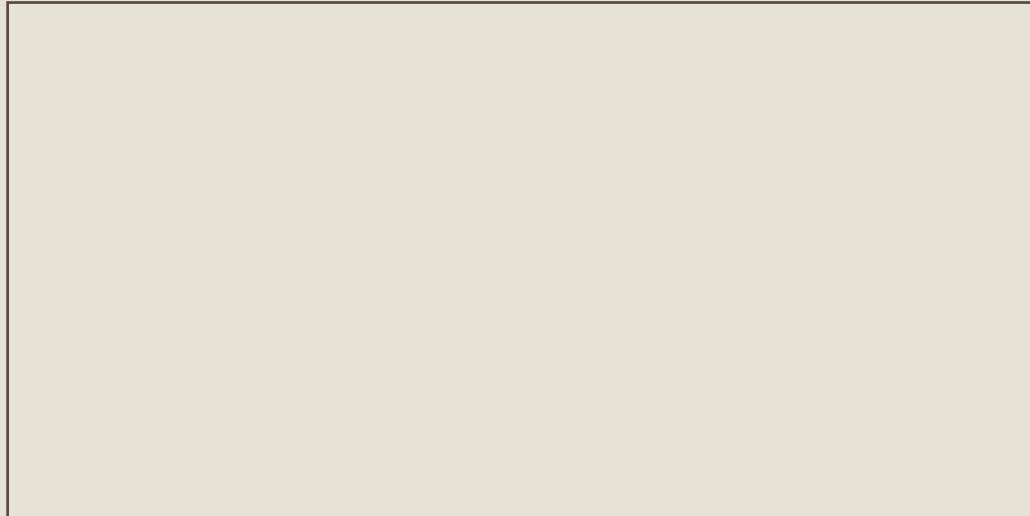
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SEABEE SPOTLIGHT



NMCB 22 Water Well Team poses in front of the Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme, CA. Participation in heritage events is crucial for US Navy Seabees as it fosters a deep connection with their unit's history and traditions, instilling a sense of pride and identity. These events provide an opportunity for Seabees to honor the legacy of those who came before them, reinforcing a strong esprit de corps and camaraderie within the unit. Additionally, attending heritage events allows Seabees to gain insights into the historical context of their service, promoting a shared understanding of the sacrifices and achievements that have shaped the Navy's Construction Force. (Photo by U.S. Navy Seabee Museum)