



Established 1975

The Aerograph



Naval Weather Service Association

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May, 2015



President's Report

I hope this doesn't sound like a broken record, but I've had this honor before – 2008, 2010, 2012 – and now its 2015 – 2017. AGCM Mel Bourn, 1st Vice President and CWO3 Jim Romano, 2nd Vice President and I have been elected to serve you and with you for the next two years. We will do our best to keep the NWSA moving forward and to uphold the high standards of the past. In order to do that, however, we **NEED** your help. There are two important positions that need to be filled:

- 1) Our Secretary Treasurer, Elizabeth (Libby) O'Brien, has tendered her resignation as of May 2016. Libby has been exceptional in that position for eight years and desires to move forward to a life of Leisure and Golf. This is not the only place in this issue you will see this request, but **PLEASE** let me know that you would like to be Libby's relief when we meet in The Villages next May. The Secretary/Treasurer is an elected position and serves for two-year terms.
- 2) Gary Cox, our most able editor of The Aerograph, is also looking for a relief. Joe McKinzie, Charlie Jordon and Gary Cox have brought The Aerograph forward from my day of hard copy snail mail to the internet and NWSA WEB Site. It is a very rewarding endeavor to keep the members of our Association up to date with what is happening in our organization. Gary will be happy to work with and familiarize you with what is needed to publish our quarterly newsletter. This is an appointed position. **PLEASE** talk to Gary and let me know that you will be his relief.

If you were not in Nashville for Reunion #41 you missed out on a very good time. Carol and I opted out of the Grand Old Opry, but we did do the Tour of Nashville and the Franklin Civil War Battle Tour. Both were very interesting. The reunion food was excellent and the Hospitality Room was what else – a place for meeting new friends and greeting old friends – and, of course, sea stories. I believe we did pick up a couple new members there. I want to thank **Earl and Lynne Kerr** for all their efforts in planning and executing a wonderful reunion in Nashville – remember Earl and Lynne live in Anacortes, WA. **JOB WELL DONE.**

I want you to know that Mel, Jim and I are here to serve you for the next two years. If you have and questions, problems, issues concerning the NWSA please let me know and we will do our best to help you in any way we can.

Bill Bowers
NWSA President

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<http://www.navalweather.org>

Attention on Deck!

Now is a good time to begin receiving your Aerograph by email or downloading it from www.navalweather.org

We are committed to serve our membership in the best manner and want to reassure anyone who prefers a printed copy that they will continue to receive one in the mail. It is important that we hear from you if we are to be able to provide the most effective service.

There are three ways to receive your Aerograph:

1. Via: email (quicker and in color)
2. Via : regular USPS mail (slower and in black and white due to costs)
3. 3.Via: the website (always available, avoids large email files, color)

Currently we mail over 339 print copies per edition! This takes considerable effort to produce and cost to the association. Please help us by updating your preference by emailing (Aerographpreference@navalweather.org) or by sending the Secretary-Treasurer a card or letter confirming you wish to continue receive a printed copy in the mail(now or when you renew your membership). See form on last page.

Thanks from your Aerograph TEAM!



Welcome Aboard to our newest life member AG3 Marvin Hungate, USN REL! He is life member #473. Our membership is now at 493 with 382 of those life members.

Those of us who were able to make the Nashville Reunion had a wonderful time, thanks to our hosts Earl & Lynne Kerr. They were assisted by Tom Miovas and Berl Myers. A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all. Even with the rains we didn't let it damper our spirits. Hey, we're getting use to these wet reunions! I still think we should contact the governor of California and ask him to sponsor our reunion! We can guarantee him RAIN!!

We are still searching the NWSA membership for the Secretary/Treasurer's position. No one stepped up to the plate at the reunion. It is a very rewarding and interesting job plus you get to meet all the members either in person, by the internet or by mail. I have held the position since 2008. Even though I enjoy the position, it's time for me to sit back, relax, play golf and enjoy retirement with my husband. Now that the scholarship funds from the USAA CD's have been dispensed the job is a whole lot easier. Please think

about it and consider supporting your NWSA by stepping up to the plate!! My term expires in June 2016. Have a wonderful spring and summer! Stay safe!

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Libby O'Brien

EDITOR'S DESK



The late, snail-mail arrival of the February Aerograph was a source of problems to those planning to use it to register for Reunion 41. At the reunion I promised to do better, but this Aerograph issue may not have arrived any sooner via USPS. In my defense, I must mention that the email version of the February Aerograph went out on January 30th.

Below is a picture of my welcome home from Reunion 41:



April 18th - Man Your Shovels!

In a lighter vein:



"One Good Reason..."

The cut-off date will be **Monday, 20 July 2015** for the August issue of The Aerograph

E-Mail Gary at garylcox@charter.net (This is a **NEW Email address!**)

USPS Address: xAG2 Gary Cox USN REL

1405 West 31st St.

Cheyenne, WY 82001-2435

307 632-0656 (Please leave a message on the machine, if we don't answer.

I'll get back to you ASAP.)

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Master-At-Arms: TBA

Executive Council

AGCM Jim Maxwell, USN RET - Past President
LCDR Mike Gilroy, USN RET - Past President
LCDR Joe McKinzie, USN RET - Past President
AGCM Mel Bourn, USN RET - 1st Vice President
CWO3 Jim Romano, USN RET - 2nd Vice President
AGCM Moon Mullen, USN RET - Past President



REUNION #42 – THE VILLAGES, FL May 1st to 6th, 2016

The Villages is located 20 miles south of Ocala or 55 miles from Orlando. The hotel is the Marriott's TownePlace Suites:

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/leets-towneplace-suites-the-villages/>

Besides the usual amenities of a hospitality room and banquet, a golf tournament and free breakfasts will be offered at Reunion #42. Due to all the potential activities and attractions at or near The Villages, there will be no official tours

Biographies Wanted! (Before it is too late!)

Daisy and I attended the grave side service for LT George Buie recently. . What I take away from his service is how important it is to have a BIO of you for the family, especially for the person responsible for writing the OBIT. No one knows your story as well as you do!!!

Another subject... Daisy and I attended the last two NWSA Reunions at Las Vegas and Pensacola and noted the number of times that people talking/trying to recall where or if their paths had ever crossed. They seemed to know each other but could not put a finger on the when and where. I have discussed the idea with a couple of NWSA Members about making a list of their duty stations with dates and duties. The finished product could be placed in a database on a laptop computer at each reunion.

While attending my grandson's Boot Camp Graduation at Great Lakes last September, he introduced me to a couple graduates that were going into the Aerographers Mate career field. I think that we should establish an honor wall about the NWSA at the "A" School. Also, look into the possibility of an NWSA member, in the Chicago vicinity, working with the chain of command at NTC obtaining the names of those folks coming into our community. A welcome aboard letter could be developed and mailed to each person while they are still in Boot camp.

Submitted by AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET

What is a Biography?

It is simply the history of a lifetime. It narrates the most important facts of someone's life, his or her childhood, adolescence, military service, wars he or she lived through, educational background, professional life, marriage, children, and most outstanding achievements. Also, it tells anecdotes, memories, trips and dearly cherished moments. It is our most precious legacy to Shipmates. AGCS Corbett suggests that BIOs be about 150 words and archived on CD/DVDs.

MY BEST EXPERIENCES WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY

This feature in the AEROGRAPH is intended to provide a forum for member to tell their stories and remind others of their experiences. Because our diverse membership has service which spans over 70 years the forum will be organized in decades. Please indicate the decade that the experience occurred so we place it correctly in the article. Please try to be brief (250 words or less), or send in a photo with a caption. If your submission does not make it in the next edition of the AEROGRAPH it means we were limited by space and printing costs. It will be included in a future edition. We will also post them immediately on the website. We prefer to receive submission by email but you can mail them in to the Editor if you are still using an old typewriter for correspondence. For information please contact Mike Gilroy or Gary Cox at aerograph@navalweather.org

Enroute Vietnam

I was chief staff officer, DESRON22, home-ported Norfolk, VA in 1967. We received orders to Vietnam via The Canal to arrive Vietnam on a particular date. How we got there was our problem! The squadron was made up of 3 DDs and 1 DLG. I presented my plan to the Commodore and it was approved. It was very important that we arrive off the coast of Vietnam at the specified date.

When we got to CINCPAC FLT HDQ in Hawaii I realized that I had computed crossing the International Date Line wrong. We had to make up one day to get to Vietnam on time. I told the Commodore of the problem and his response was, "I can take care of it" between Hawaii and our next fuel stop, Guam. He put out an order for all ships to form up on a line of bearing with the flag ship (USS Dupont, DD-941) and to lite off super heat. When all were lined up the Commodore announced there would be a race for 24 hours. At 31 KTS for 24 hours we made up the lost day.

The winner of the race was the USS Eaton (DD-510), a Fletcher class DD. The old WWII destroyer could do 36 KTS, so the old "five and dime" won easily.

Submitted by CAPT Ace F. Trask, USN RET

Snow Forecast in SFO

In 1967 and early 1968 I had the privilege of working with a fine, fine group of Navy weathermen (AG's) while stationed at Fleet Weather Central, Alameda. I am referring to the LDOs and AGCs who learned to ply their trade at 'B' School in Lakehurst.

I was standing the day watch on March 11, 1967. It had been determined that a cold core low located off of the Oregon coast was moving south on a 180 degree course and would pass to the west of the Bay area early the next a.m. All of us watch standers had been agreed on that movement for several days. Calling for rain, of course. So, about 24-hours prior, I changed the forecast from rain to snow flurries.

The oncoming watch section was LT ___ and AGCS ___. When they saw my snow forecast, they hooted, sneered and were downright ugly. I was only able leave for home after wagering \$2 with each of them. Oh, CLIMAT indicated that it had been 30 years since snow had been recorded at sea level in the Bay area.

It snowed that night.

On relieving the watch the next day, I hung up a poster entitled "ye olde forecast shoppe – p. grisham, prop." Sadly, I was forced to embarrass and further belittle the LT and CPO before they would pay up. {Names withheld – kinda}

Submitted by LT Paul O. Grisham, USN RET

Kitty Hawk's Last War-time Deployment

The scene: Mid-'73, Kitty Hawk has completed her last war-time deployment and has been converted to a CV, vice CVA, ND from black oil. and was doing her shake-down in SF Bay and off-shore. We had a production crew from the local NBC TV station headed-up by its weather lady, Terri Lowry, onboard for a two day, one night cruise off-shore. Since the TV crew had spent so much time in and out of the wx office, our honcho LCDR Ken Hinman, devised a little entertainment for the ship's crew for the upcoming deployment to WestPac and the I.O. We had the deployment's MovRep, so we knew 'where and when' we'd be. Ken and I devised a five part presentation that the TV people filmed. First was in the S.C. Sea, the day before Hong Kong; the second off Singapore; then in the Gulf of Oman; then crossing the line a day out of Mombasa, and the last approaching Subic, to end our deployment. It was remarkable how many of the deployed crew thought we really had Terri onboard for the past 9+ months!!!!

Submitted by AGCS Dan Daniel, USN RET



BINNACLE LIST

HRC – See their chapter news for complete listing.

CARL DRAKE recently underwent surgery on his left shoulder. Evidently healing will be slow, as Phyllis says that Carl is not permitted to drive or write.

Patti Straten is still recovering from January's Rotator Cuff Surgery and spends many of her days at Physical Therapy.

DO YOU DO FACEBOOK?

(You must be logged into Facebook to access either site.)

Find Facebook's Navy AG group here:

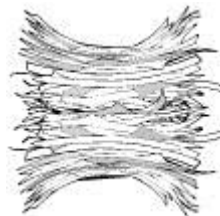
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/34563>

[272172/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/34563)

Find Facebook's Navy METOC Officers here:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/98578>

[891936/](http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/98578)



LETTERS

Operation Deep Freeze

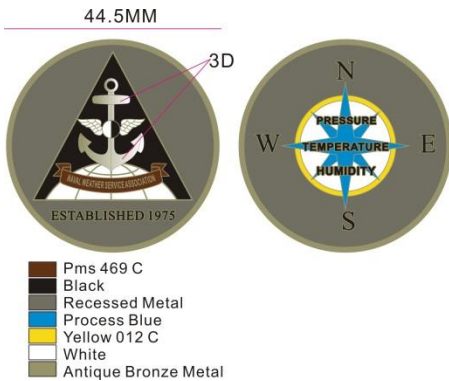
March 28, 2015

From 1955 until 1998 U. S. Navy meteorologists have participated in the exploration of Antarctica as part of OPERATION DEEP FREEZE. Most were volunteers in this endeavor;

a few were assigned as needed. Some of those also volunteered for more than one tour of duty in Antarctica. Here is some recognition of those personnel. How many AG's and Meteorological Officers did a tour there?? I have attempted to put together a roster and need your HELP. As of February 2015, at this time the list is of 669 names and there should be many more; the list is available on the www.navalweather.org website for your viewing. [Also see Page 18...Editor] Listing is by Deep Freeze Year. Check it out, if you are not listed, need correction or if you know of anyone that served in Antarctica, please forward this information to me or contact me at the following addresses:

Joseph R. Gogel AGC USN Ret.
334 W 9th Street
Ferdinand, IN 47532-9263
e-mail: cemetery@psci.net
phone: 812 367-2142

NWSA Challenge Coin



Front on Left; Back, Right

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. Traditionally, they are given to prove membership when challenged and to enhance morale. In addition, they are also collected by service members. In practice, challenge coins are normally presented in recognition of special achievement by a member of the unit. They are also presented in recognition of visits to an organization. The idea of a challenge coin for our Association came from Bob Jacques and Ed Straten of the Pensacola Chapter came up with the logo. I presented the idea and Ed's logo to the Pensacola Chapter, and the members agreed we should look into having coins made. I contacted a shipmate in the Nimitz Association and found out he had used an outfit named 4Heros. After contacting 4Heros, they provided me with a cost to produce 100 coins using brass or zinc casting. We did not have ample funds to purchase the coins, and it was recommended we approach the National Association with the idea. After presenting the idea to the Association at the 41st Reunion, a motion the was made at the 2nd general membership meeting and seconded to have the coins purchased. However, before a vote could be carried out, AGCM Ret. Moon Mullen offered to purchase the coins on behalf of the Association. The membership agreed to sell the

coins at \$10.00 a piece and asked that the chapters take a count to see how many each chapter wanted. Then we would mail the amount to each chapter, rather than to individuals. Of course, for those who do not have a chapter, the coin would be mailed directly to them.

Contact Pat or Libby O'Brien at:
NWSASecTreas@panhandle.rr.com

Looking for a Shipmate

I'm looking for AGC Jim Brown. I served with him in the late 60's at FWF Kef.

AGCS John Brunette jackbrun1940@hotmail.com

I am trying to locate a former crewmember who was an AG onboard USS Oriskany in 195/76. He was AGAA Michael Wilson.

Thank you, Ken Roth ken_roth@hotmail.com

Super Constellation Video (in German)

A beautiful aircraft! It is a very clear video with a super HD resolution. View it in full screen. You will see Mount Pilatus, the Bürgenstock and many more scenery parts in Central Switzerland:

<http://vimeo.com/user16527720/review/106930507/96077cbe4>

Submitted by Moon Mullen, Bruce DeWald and others

U.S. Military Campgrounds and RV Parks Complete information, maps and reviews for your computer:

http://www.militarycampgrounds.us/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4:milcamps-dir&catid=67&Itemid=7

(Repeated from February Aerograph)

Submitted by AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET



The Fiddling with Temperature Data Is the Biggest Science Scandal Ever

New data shows that the "vanishing" of polar ice is not the result of runaway global warming

By Christopher Booker,

The Telegraph, 7 Feb. 2015

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/earth/environment/globalwarming/11395516/The-fiddling-with-temperature-data-is-the-biggest-science-scandal-ever.html>

Submitted by LCDR Bruce DeWald, USN RET

Cliff Mass Weather Blog: The U.S. Air Force Turns to a Foreign Weather Forecasting System

<http://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2015/04/air-force-turns-to-foreign-weather.html>

Submitted by LCDR Mike Gilroy, USN RET

Hollywood Movie: Destination Gobi

The movie DESTINATION GOBI, made in 1953 and starring Richard Widmark, is now available. It is about some Navy weather guessers in WW II. I believe it is based on a true story. I got it from Amazon.com.

Submitted by AGC Byford Hall, USN RET

Travel via the Moon

It didn't matter if you were up in First Class, got lucky and upgraded to Business, or in the very back of the plane in Coach, during the past 20 years you probably flipped through that *SkyMall* magazine in the seat pocket in front of you. Looking at all the things you didn't need, you spent many minutes deciding, usually by the prices, that the magazine was waste and you slid it back in the pocket.

Now on most airlines, that seat pocket is cleaned after each flight by the "clean-u crew" before the next passengers come on, but when you discover another magazine, candy-wrappers, or used Kleenex in your pocket along with that *SkyMall*, you kinda get a clue that they had "hurry-up" orders to get ready for boarding your flight. Unless you're flying out of Boston and wearing gloves due to all the snow, just imagine all the germs you will be meeting. And you'll notice the *SkyMall* magazine is just about one or two inches higher than the seat pocket, so it's always sticking out to remind you to look in the pocket.

The pilot or flight attendant will also get you to reach in there and check for the exits and emergency data for your aircraft. You can usually just look around the plane and see where the exits are (don't forget to look behind you to the closest exit), so maybe you won't have to go in that seat-pocket. Of course, if you haven't had a good cold yet this year, this could be your chance. The good news here is *SkyMall* is going out of business.

As we've mentioned NUMEROUS times in this column, if you were planning to go on vacation from May to September, you should have made all those reservations and schedules back in February, because the prices during the summer season will probably be double what it was in Feb. But there still are bargains available *if you look closely at those ads!*

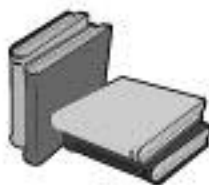
Let's talk about Hawaii. In Jan-Feb-March you could get a room at hotels in Kauai for around \$600-700 a night, per person, which included your round-trip airfare, and even a rental car. Downtown Honolulu, add \$200-300 to that price BUT, watch that these prices are not for specific dates frequently starting on a Monday and good for 3 days. These "super" prices may only be available on specific dates such as 2 March or 16 Feb. so read the fine print at the bottom of the advertisement.

Cruising...same rules...check the fine print to find when those 50% discounts apply. If your vacation plans allow you to take one of those vacations, don't hesitate to contact those travel professionals right away because they disappear fast.

As we've mentioned in previous columns, contacting those hotels, airlines, or cruise ships and asking for specifics will get you frequent advertisements from them for the rest of your life. But the savings for one great vacation that you go on can be worth it...and the delete button on your computer, or the recycled paper you put in the trash each week make the price even better.

Enjoy! You deserve It.

Submitted by AGCM Moon Mullen USN RET



CHAPTER NEWS



HAMPTON ROADS

President	Bob Steiner
Vice President	Frank Muscari
Treasurer	Bob Daigle
Secretary	Fay Crossley
Social Coord.	Frank Muscari
VA Hospital Coord.	Joan Akers
CMAA	Frank Muscari



Spring Meeting – March 29, 2015

In attendance: (22) **Steve and Sylvia Shafer, AG3 Ed Mazareno, Kathi Clark, LaRue Wright, Pat Scott, Howard Lee, Ive and John Chubb, Frank and Eve Muscari, Dave Milot, Bob and Carol Daigle, Doris Stepaniak, Bob and Tammie Steiner, Fay and Donna Crossley, Louise and Chuck Steinbruck, and Dennis and Susan Pauly.**

REGRETS received from:

Joan Akers....Frank dealing with lung cancer.

Bob Wright....had to work.

Dan and Carmen Lee....called away on business.

Mel and Marty Harder....hates to drive at night.

Eileen Fifield....unexpected visitors, (Eileen is doing well)

Meeting called to order at 330 by president **Bob Steiner**. Pledge of Allegiance was led by CMAA **Frank Muscari**. A blessing was given by **Chuck Steinbruck**.

50/50 winner of \$45 was won by **Susan Pauly**.

Dave Milot introduced himself to the group. He had a great career in the Navy, joining in the 80s being selected to attend the USNA, and retiring in 2008. We hope Dave can find the time to join us often.

Motion was made by **Frank Muscari** to accept the minutes of the Secretary report as sent through Email as received, was seconded by **Ive Chubb**, motion carried.

Treasure report was given HRC has a balance of \$3163.98. A letter of thanks for our \$140 contribution to the St. Mary's Home was received by Mr. Daigle and is contained in the report. (See Enclosure 4)

OLD BUSINESS:

1...By – Laws change: Motion was made by Frank Muscari to change the HRC by-laws Article VIII Section 1 first line to read Second Sunday vs. first Sunday. Motion was seconded by **Ive Chubb** and carried. The Secretary will make the modifications and file the new by-laws.

2...USS Wisconsin BB64: **Dennis Pauly** gave a report on the Wisconsin effort. He, **Frank Muscari** and **Bob Daigle** have been working on the project for some time. (See partial data listing Enclosure 2). The HRC primary responsibility would be to maintain the OA spaces on the ship, and to help with supplying equipment and items that would make the space look more like a weather office. FWC Norfolk is doing the lion's share of getting equipment and the like. HRC members are to contact Dennis Pauly if they would be interested in helping with keeping the OA spaces clean. Please contact Dennis and give him an idea of days that you could work on the ship, a minimum number of field day efforts are 6 per year, and Dennis will be looking for days of the week when a working party can be mustered. Dennis' email is.... dennispauly@gmail.com
Contact Dennis ASAP.

3...Our Charity collection for this meeting was Judeo-Christian Outreach Center (Hope) as proposed by **Carmen and Dan Lee**. Collection was completed. (See Enclosure 1)

4...BINNACLE LIST.....(members are asked to keep HRC officials in the know about their own or anyone that is connected with HRC illnesses, injuries or the need for our special thoughts and prayers.)

Ann Salvato....second round of chemo she is doing okay.

Frank Shrout....continues with chemo and doing okay under the watchful eye of nurse Joan.

Dick Dempsey....keeps on plugging away.

John Shay....Spinal stenosis.

Kathi Clark....what a trooper, was at the meeting neck brace and all, she still will have the brace for a couple more months.

Eve Muscari....hip operation scheduled for 4/17.

Steve Shafer....shoulder replacement 4/23.

5...**Fay** will be the only HRC member at the #41 reunion. He will report on what he can at the next HRC meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

1...Roster corrections and additions: Any corrections or additions to the roster should be sent to Fay.

2...For The Good Of The Order:

a...**Steve Shafer** gave a report on the work they are doing in NC to help the Wounded Warriors. Next week he will be involved with cooking 200 pounds of pork for a picnic at camp Lejeune. This is an effort that they do about once a quarter. Perhaps the HRC might want to get involved.

b...We were happy to have **AG3 Ed Mazareno** attend our meeting, he is from California, and will be heading to "C" school soon, we hope he has a good impression of our group and will consider looking into other groups wherever he may go.

3...Summer Meeting....will be at the **Chubb's** UNLESS the house is sold between now and then. The date will be Saturday July 11, starting at 1pm. Ive asks that you let her know what you are bringing for the picnic so we don't have too many of one thing. More information will follow. The charity for that meeting will be the American Legion Wounded Warrior Fishing/hunting program.

Copies of any enclosure can be requested from **Fay Crossley**, fdcross@charter.net.

A motion was made by **Donna Crossley** and seconded by **Frank Muscari**, too adjourn the meeting, motion carried at 512PM

Submitted by Fay Crossley, HRC Secretary



SOCAL CHAPTER

Pres	John Rodriguez
V. Pres	David Rue
Sec/Treas	Morry Summey

The SOCAL Chapter is saddened to report the passing of two of our group in the past two months. **AG1 Al Marchment**, USN RET passed away on 26 February, 2015. **LCDR Raymond E. (Ed) Betancourt** USN RET passed on 20 March, 2015. The Chapter extends our deepest sympathy to the families of both departed shipmates.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Our Annual Valentine's Day Brunch was held on Sunday, 15 February 2015 at the Admiral Baker Navy Golf Course Restaurant. **Dolores Cohenour** organized the event, who attended with **Bernie** and their daughter, son-in-law, and grandson. Other attendees were **John & Fujii Rodriguez**, **David & Lois Rue**, **Bob Clark** was accompanied by Shelia's mother, **Carl & Phyllis Drake** plus two guests, **Morry Summey**, and **Bill Bridge** also brought two guests. We were extremely pleased with such a good turnout for the events.

On Thursday, 2 April 2015 we held our business/luncheon meeting at the Admiral Baker Navy Golf Course Restaurant. Attending were **John Rodriguez**, **Morry Summey**, **Bill Bridge**

Bernie & Dolores Cohenour, and **David & Lois Rue**. The attendees were informed of the need for a replacement for **NWSA S/T Libby O'Brien** and for the **Aerograph Editor Gary Cox**. There were no volunteers. Also, the Chapter Officers were due for selection for the coming year. A motion was made to continue all Chapter Officers for another term.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES

CARL DRAKE recently underwent surgery on his left shoulder. Evidently healing will be slow, as Phyllis says that Carl is not permitted to drive or write.

JOHN RODRIGUEZ & Fujii have nothing new at this time. The yacht club opening day is April 19th, and our next JMSDF ship visit is mid-June.

BERNIE COHENOUR & Dolores report their grandson Brian Denny (9 months old) started standing unaided. Bernie says next step is asking for the keys to the car. They also report that Dolores is having a retina operation on Monday, 6 April.

MORRY SUMMEY plans to head east for the Nashville reunion in about a week. He will be accompanied by daughters Martie Locke and Marilyn Roberts. At this time he wants to go on record that he expects warm weather from the eastern portion of the U.S. None of this snow nonsense.

Submitted by Morry Summey SOCAL Sec/Treas.



PENSACOLA CHAPTER

President Larry Warrenfeltz
 Sec/Treas. Ed Straten

Greetings from the Pensacola Chapter!

Our Chapter met March 15 at the IHOP in Pensacola. We had a great group including **Bernie Bauer, Paul Belt, Dave and Jerri Dunlap, Elsbeth Lloyd, Denny and Helen Maljevac, Ed and Gerri Marsch, Pat and Libby O'Brien, Ken and Barbara Overholt, Dick and Elizabeth Tokryman, Larry and Nancy Warrenfeltz** and **Ed and Patti Straten**. Our waitress with the fantastic memory (all the orders were correct and she never even wrote one thing down) served us a wonderful lunch.

Most of our talk was centered around the reunion. Everyone was looking forward to Nashville. Our next meeting will be June 7.

The O'Briens have stayed close to home for the most part this winter. They continue to play golf and attend the Pensacola Ice Flyers' Hockey Games. Neither **Libby nor Pat** had ever attended an NHL Hockey Game, but at the end of February they took the time to go down to Tampa to see the Lightning play the Maple Leafs. In addition to attending the hockey game, they visited the Tampa Aquarium, attended a spring training baseball game between the Orioles and the Blue Jays in Dunedin, Florida, and got to see an NBA Game between the Celtics and the Magic in Orlando. Pat said it was a nice trip except for the cold front that moved through on the second day there. Temps went from the mid to upper 70s to mid 50s, and that was not what he and Libby wanted.

Welcome to **Bob Jacques** as a new member to the Pensacola Chapter! He planned on attending our last meeting but had to have shoulder surgery and was unable to travel.

Bob shared that his last duty station was NAS Moffett Field, California in the late 50's. He has long been a supporter and life member of the Moffett Field Historical Society, and recently they asked him to donate a uniform. Bob donated his 3rd class work jumper with the AG and Crow on it. Bob's uniform is on display showing the various rates working in base operations. At least the Aerographer Rate will have a part in their display. Thank you, Bob!

Bob has worked with the Doolittle Raiders from WW11 for the past several years and was active in contacting Congressmen and Senators to support a gold medal for that organization. Congress has finally authorized a gold medal for the Doolittle Raiders, and the Speaker of the House has requested Bob's presence at the Medal Ceremony. Bob reports there is only one Raider left to attend the Medal Ceremony, co-pilot of plane #1 with Doolittle, Lt Col. Dick Cole. The Medal Ceremony will be in Washington DC during the same week as Reunion 41. Bob will be in Washington rather than Nashville although he was looking forward to our reunion. Hope he brings back some pictures of the ceremony!

Rose, Arthur and Timothy Frazier did an 11 day trip to Europe with 40 other people from Milton High School and families over Spring break. They visited Verona and Venice, Italy, then drove to Lake Como and did a cruise over to Bellagio, then around a portion of the lake before getting back on the bus and heading north into Switzerland. In Verona, they visited (Romeo &) Juliet's balcony, did a walking tour of the city, had lunch and relaxed a bit before heading to the hotel for the night. The next day was spent in Venice, arriving there by boat and after a walking tour, they took a gondola ride, then did some shopping and snacking. The morning after they arrived in Switzerland, they spent the morning in Lucerne, touring the town, eating fondue for lunch and finding some geocaches. Then they headed up to the top of Mt. Rigi! The Alps are beautiful, still covered in snow but not too cold! Many of the students in the group had never seen snow on the ground! They had a blast playing in the snow and throwing snow balls. One boy rolled down part of the hill from the peak to the train depot! He loved it! This had to be the best day of the trip!

The next day was an early start, headed to Bern to catch the Bullet train to Paris. Got there before lunch and headed to Mont Martre Museum at the top of the highest hill in Paris! LOTS of steps. Then they walked around the corner to a square near the artist's area and saw some very interesting paintings there. Had crepes at a local restaurant before heading back down into the city. They took the metro to another area for dinner after some free time then went to see the Eiffel Tower at night. Rose had a slight spill on the stairs so they caught a taxi to the hotel for the night while the others all went up into the tower to see Paris by night. The next day was a bus tour of the city, then a trip to Versailles. After that, they had some more free time to try out some macarons and find a geocache or two. Went to a restaurant called Flam for Flammerkueche, a pizza like dish from the Alsace region. The third day in Paris, Rose stayed at the hotel to rest her legs and the others went to the Louvre and Notre Dame. They had a great time and Rose was able to get rested up for the rest of the trip.

The next morning was another very early morning so they could catch the Eurostar train to London. They had two days there, the first was a bus tour of the city, a visit to the hotel to

settle in and then a train ride back into the city for dinner and to see the Piccadilly Circus. Their last day was a free day for the most part, so the Fraziers went to the Science museum at Tim's request, ate lunch at the original Hard Rock Cafe, then went to the Ripley's Believe it or Not. After that, the group all met for dinner at an Asian Noodle place near the train station then some went to see "Wicked" the play, some went shopping and rest went back to the hotel.

Sunday morning they flew back to the US. It was a very educational and exciting trip for all. Sounds like the trip of a lifetime and thanks for sharing it!

Back at home, Timothy received an invitation from Buzz Aldrin to attend a Congress for Future Science and Technology Leaders in Boston this June. He is very excited about this and eagerly accepted the invite. His college plans are starting to take shape and he wants to study mechanical engineering.

We do have some travel plans for the summer, but not firm yet. Maybe they need a rest before planning the next one?

Patti Straten is still recovering from January's Rotator Cuff Surgery and spends many of her days at Physical Therapy. Saint **Ed Straten** has taken over cooking, shopping and chores.

They did celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style, dressed flamboyantly in green. Ed prepared the famous Car Bomb Cupcakes (full of Guinness Beer, Jameson Irish Whiskey and Baileys Irish Cream) for their friend's annual blow out party with the best corned beef and cabbage ever! Patti and Ed continued the celebration on St Pats at Paddy O'Leary's on Pensacola Beach.

Granddaughter Caitria DeLucchi, ready to complete her freshman year at FSU is thrilled about her new summer job at the Flight Academy on NAS Pensacola.

Patti and Ed are excited about hosting their three youngest grandchildren this summer. Braedyn, Jordyn, and Ryan will be staying with them in June while their son, Craig, and his wife, Melissa, celebrate their tenth anniversary.



A reminder from the **Tokrymans** that everyone should have the do not call number for your cell phones. The number to call from your cell phone to not pay, for unwanted phone calls is; 1-888-382-1222. If you don't call this number you will be charged all of these unwanted propaganda/advertisement calls. Call this number from your cell phone, and, you're safe from these charges for five years! Please pass this word along to our shipmates, friends, neighbors, and, family members. Thanks for this great info!

[Sorry, this is a hoax. Check out Dept. of Consumer Protection, Connecticut at:

<http://www.ct.gov/dcp/cwp/view.asp?Q=516640> Editor]

Nancy and Larry Warrenfeltz had a busy spring. In February at the Krewe of Les Gals Mardi Gras Ball, they were chosen as the Queen and King. The pirate skit included Larry playing a peg-legged Captain Stede Bonnet and Nancy as his colonial-dressed wife.



Nancy was the chair of the "Raffle Basket Committee" for the Newcomers Club's annual Fashion Show and Card Party. For several weeks their house looked like one of the Easter Bunny's assembly plants. (But bottles of wine replaced the Peeps in many of these baskets!) The committee put together 75 raffle baskets for the club's fundraiser to support a scholarship to Pensacola State College. Each year the club awards a scholarship to one single mother who is working towards a degree.

Larry is the assigner, lead evaluator, and rules interpreter for the Pensacola Softball Officials Association. Rainy days during the high school softball season are his biggest enemy. Being a weather-guesser isn't much help. Larry's cell phone gets a workout whenever the rain comes. He was able to get on the field to umpire a few games. It's always a pleasure to be back in the game. God Bless America and let's play ball!

After a request to members for their latest and greatest

.Submitted by Ed Straten, Sec/Treas.



CDR Ronald W. "Ron" Phoebus, USN RET

March 26, 1944 to February 21, 2015



Ron Phoebus was born at home in Baltimore, MD and passed away at home in Monterey on Feb. 21, 2015, in the presence of his loving family members and Labrador retrievers.

Ron was both a seaman and an airman. He saw the world while sailing as a merchant marine, both before and after he graduated at the top of his class, earning a B.S. with Honors in Nautical

Science from the Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy in 1967. After graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Joan Stevens. Then, as the Vietnam War grew more intense, Ron volunteered to join the Navy if he could go to flight school. Again graduating at the top of his class, he was assigned to Miramar Naval Air Station in 1969, to VF-142, to fly in F4 Phantoms. Ron flew in over 100 operational missions in Vietnam. In between cruises, he and Joan produced two children, Ron, Jr. and Erika Joan. Post-Vietnam, Ron transitioned to the F14 Tomcat and became a flight instructor, which eventually landed him in Iran from 1975—1977 training aviators for the Shah. By the time he ended his Naval aviation career, Ron had made over 300 carrier landings.

From Iran, Ron came to Monterey to study oceanography and meteorology at Naval Postgraduate School. There, he met and married his second wife, Patricia, a meteorologist at NPS. After receiving his MS, Ron served a short tour of duty at FNMOC, before reporting to Washington DC in 1982. During the rest of his Navy career, Ron served in Commanding Officer and Executive Officer positions at various operational and research centers in the Navy's geophysics command structure. In addition, he spent a year at the National Defense University studying energy policy, and later obtained an MBA in contract management. Altogether, his career took him to 6 continents, from the geographic South Pole to the north shore of Alaska.

In 1990, Ron and Pat returned to live in both Carmel and Monterey. Ron was the Associate Director of the Navy's local atmospheric research laboratory until he retired from the Navy in 1991. Soon, he was hired as the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's Chief Financial/ Administrative Officer. After leaving MBARI, Ron returned to his first love and happily spent his semi-retired years as the Chief Pilot of local flying clubs/schools.

Ron lived his life spontaneously and loved adventures. He had many hobbies over the years, each one approached with gusto, each one learned through complete immersion in the topic, each one mastered....then he moved on to the next challenge. His basement and garage are littered with the remnants of past interests and projects---sporting, artistic, technical, and creative. Ron lived life fully and loved the people and the Labradors in his life deeply. He faced the end of his life with the same bravery that lived it.

Ron is survived by his beloved wife Patricia, his daughter Erika, his brother and sister-in-law, Edgar, Jr. and Muriel Phoebus. He is pre-deceased by his parents Edgar and Marguerite, and his son, Ron, Jr. He also cared deeply for his wife's family, who were with him at his passing, parents Jr. and U.V. Wallace, and sisters Debbie Landon and Danita Pelt. A memorial service and celebration of life reception was held on February 26th. Donations in his memory can be made to either the American Cancer Society or to Monterey Bay Lab Rescue. Please visit www.missionmortuary.com for online guestbook. Published in *The Monterey Herald* on Feb. 24, 2015.



**LCDR Raymond E. "Ed"
Betancourt, USN RET**

Passed March 20, 2015 at Age 84

It is with utmost sadness that I must let you know that Raymond "Ed" Betancourt passed away on

03/20/2015. He was 84. His health began declining in October, followed by a stroke in December and a fall in February that he finally was not able to recover from. I know he appreciated your friendship over the years and would want you to know this. Services (military honors and a celebration of life) will be held on or around Raymond's birthday 10/12/1015.

Please always remember the fun you had together fishing, flying, golfing, forecasting, or exchanging humorous emails. Ray had a wonderful life and I am glad to have shared 31 years by his side.

Melanie "Ann" Betancourt

Submitted by Morry Summey, SOCAL Sec./Treas.



**AGC James Stalworth Black,
USN RET**

December 9, 1921 to November 11,
2014

James S. Black, "Jim", was born at Canoe, Alabama and passed away on 11 November 2014, Age 93. Jim was under Hospices care at the time. He was laid to rest at the Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent Washington on December 9, 2014. He was the son of Ella Hardee and Lawrence Black. Jim had an older brother Claude, an older sister Louise and a younger brother Virgil. Jim walked a mile from the family farm to attend elementary school in Atmore, Alabama. He graduated from Tate Agricultural High, Gonzales Florida in 1940. Jim then joined the Civilian Conservation Corp and worked at various jobs before joining the Navy in October 1940. James Black was married to Anna VanVynck who preceded him in death on 21 May 2001. Jim and Anna had 2 children, son Frank, daughter Jane, 3 Grandsons and 2 Great Grandchildren.

AGC Black had a most adventurist Navy career. In January 1942, Jim was assigned to the USS Wasp, CV-7 and began his weather duties as an Observer. In early 1942, the Wasp was assigned to help the British in the war against Germany. The Wasp made two trips from Clyde Estuary, Scotland to Malta to deliver Spitfire Fighters for the RAF. Winston Churchill proclaimed – "Many thanks to you all for the timely help, Who said that a Wasp couldn't sting twice". From Malta, the Wasp was transferred to the Pacific 3 May 1942 and participated in the landings on Guadalcanal. During this battle, the Wasp was hit by 3 torpedos on 15 September 1942, subsequently sunk with loss of life and casualties. Jim Black survived the sinking and was eventually reassigned to the USS Nehenta Bay CVE-74. Jim served on the Nehenta Bay from January 1944 to May 1946. On 1 June 1944, Aerm2e (AG2) was promoted to Aerm1e (AG1). During this time the ship was involved with a major typhoon in August 1944 which caused major damage and necessitated a return to San Diego for overhaul. In April-June of 1945 the Nehenta Bay participated in the attack on Okinawa and survived a kamikaze attack. In August 1945 the Nehenta Bay patrolled around Japan and dropped supplies to prisoners of war. In September, AerM1c (AG1) J. S. Black was awarded a Commendation for his performances as an Aerographer's Mate while the Third Fleet participated in strikes against the Japanese Empire during July and August 1945 (and a large number of other combat operations). On 30 Sept. the Nehenta Bay sailed to embark homeward-bound troops from the Marshall Islands and reached San Francisco in Mid-October. Next the Nehenta Bay returned to the Philippines to pick up more troops and returned them to the West Coast in November 1945.

In the late 1940's and early 50's, AG1 Black had a variety of assignments including the USS Reina Mercedes, USNPG Dahlgren, and the USS Leyte. On 8 August 1950, James S. Black was given a Permanent Appointment to Chief Petty Officer. In 1954 AGC Black was sent to NATTU Lakehurst for nearly 4 years as a Phase Supervisor/Instructor. Jim's last Navy assignments were the Headquarters in Yokosuka, Japan, FWF NAS Seattle and NAVSTA Adak. He retired in 1961 after 19 years and 6 months of Active Duty. Jim Black then went to work in 1963 for Seattle City Light as a helper and eventually became a crew chief in the metering division. Jim retired a second time in 1985 after some 21 Years with Seattle City Light. After retirement, Jim and wife started traveling (all 50 states) and finally settled down in Kenmore Washington.

Submitted by LCDR Earl Kerr, USN RET

CWO2 Marvin LeRoy Berger, USN RET

28 July 1931 to 23 November 2015

CW02 Marvin L. Berger "Marv" was born in Vinton Iowa and passed away on 23 November 2014, age 84. At the time of his death he was in the Salem Oregon hospital. He was cremated without ceremony. He was the son of Louise DeBates and Henry L. Berger. Marv had one older and one younger brother. Marvin went to elementary school in Vinton until the 9th grade when he elected to terminate schooling. While waiting to join the Navy in 1948, Marvin worked with his father building smaller bridges. Marvin was married to Jamesetta Corth on 6 April 1956 and they have a son, Guy, a daughter Lee, 3 Grandsons and 5 Great Grandchildren.

His first Navy tour was on the USS Siboney in 1948 and then in 1949 he went to Lakehurst to attend AG A school. Following Lakehurst, Marv went to Headquarters in Yokosuka, NAS Seattle and NAS Iwakuni Japan. In 1957 he went back to Lakehurst for B and C schools. Marvin was then assigned to the USS Constellation in 1959 and then off to NAS Barbers Point Hawaii in 1963. While in Hawaii, Marv attended the University of Hawaii. In 1966 he went to Electronics Officers School in the Great Lakes in preparation for being selected as MOETLO. Marv and family were off in 1967 for a 3 year tour in USNS Rota Spain where he was the MOETLO. It is of note that a number of Spanish Naval Officers also attended the Electronics School in the Great Lakes. Some of these same Spanish Officers and their families were present in Rota when the Burgers were stationed there. Upon retirement in 1969, the Berger's, moved to San Diego.

Marvin worked at a number of jobs while in San Diego and it was decided that he, Jamie, and Lee would return to Sanlucar Spain for the period Jan. 1972 to 1977. The Bergers operated an Antique shop just outside the Rota Naval Base during this second "deployment". The family returned to El Paso Texas in 1977 and where Marvin graduated from UTEP with a degree in Computer

Science. He also earned a Master's Degree in Computer Science from the Webber On Line College. Marv taught in the El Paso Community College until late 1990. Marvin's next adventure was to go to work for Electronics Data System in Jeddah Saudi Arabia from early 1980 to mid-1984. The Bergers returned to El Paso where Marv taught computer science at UTEP. In 1989 Marv began teaching school for the University of Maryland in several European Cities including Berlin Germany, Rota Spain, Mons Belgium, Edsel Scotland, and finally Mildenhall England. Their final move was to Salem Oregon in 1993. Marvin taught computer science for several years at the Chemeketa Community College after having returned from Europe. Jamie is now in the process of moving her household to Colorado Springs to be near their daughter Lee.

Submitted by LCDR Earl Kerr, USN RET



AG1 Raymond J. (Ray) Malinowski, USN RET

April 26, 1927 to January 21, 2015

Ray Malinowski was born in Pennsylvania on April 26, 1927. He quietly passed away in his home and business after a short illness on

Wednesday, January 21 while surrounded by his family.

Ray was predeceased by his wife of 60 years, Nita Malinowski. They raised two sons, Raymond (Janice) and Ricky both of Pensacola, Florida. Ray is survived by his grandchildren, Bishlum, Charity, Nichole, Matt and several great grandchildren. His surviving siblings are, Annie Walters, Mary Smith and Stan Malinowski.

Ray retired from the United States Navy where he served for 20 years as an Aerographers Mate 1st Class. During his service he practiced not only his professional designation but also served as a photographer.

In Civilian life he continued his love for photography and with his wife Nita built a very successful photographic business in Pensacola. He was noted in his community for his excellence in many areas of photography, especially weddings where he was sought after by many bridal couples. Ray will be certainly remembered for his many contributions to Professional Photography. He was president of the Florida Professional Photographers in 1978, past president and founder of the Northwest Florida Professional Photographers Association which continues today after 40 plus years, and was a member of Professional Photographers of America. Ray held a lifetime membership in all three organizations. He has also received many awards for his service to professional photography as well as awards for his photographic excellence.

Ray will be long remembered by his family, friends and the professional photographic community.

A Memorial Service was held at Waters and Hibbert Funeral Home on February 15, officiated by Rev. Ted Bowne. Interment was at Barrancas National Cemetery, Pensacola, on March 2. with military honors.

Submitted by Libby O'Brien, NWSA Sec/Treas.

CWO2 Dave Hanon, USN RET

Details Soon

AG1 Al Marchmont, USN RET

Passed February 26, 2015

Marilyn Jo Collins

December 11, 1934 to March 12, 2015
(Wife of LCDR Dan E. Collins, USN RET)



Articles

Stop Reductions to Commissary Budget

FRA Today, April 2015

FRA is working to ensure adequate funding for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) in order to preserve the value of the current benefit for active duty members and retirees. The Association opposes the Department of Defense (DoD) FY 2016 budget proposal to save money by slashing funding for stateside commissaries by \$1 billion over three years. DoD currently provides \$1.3 billion annually for the commissary benefit.

Commissary funding was already cut by \$100 million last year. Further cuts to funding would be reflected in higher prices paid by patrons whose incomes are simultaneously capped by congressional mandate. Annual pay increases for active duty personnel are capped over the next few years and retirees' cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) are also limited to just keep pace with inflation. Thousands of junior enlisted personnel with families are already eligible for food stamps and increased prices would create an even more onerous hardship. Additionally, profits generated from stateside commissaries are currently used to offset the operating costs at overseas locations where they are needed most.

Members are urged to use the FRA online Action Center (action.fra.org/action-center) to ask their legislators to oppose further cuts to the commissary budget.

Prescription Medications

The Embedded Benefit

. By Jerome Greer Chandler

[Excerpts from] *VFW Magazine*, March 2015

You'll find scant reference to this critical health care benefit in Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors 2014, even though it's embedded in every fabric of VA health care. You have to dig around to see the scope of medication prescription benefits you've earned. That's what we did recently, and here's what we found.

BY THE NUMBERS

Medication prescriptions are part and parcel of what VA health care provides, says Joseph Canzolino, deputy chief consultant for VA Pharmacy Benefits Management Services. "The health care we provide veterans is a combined managed care benefit," he says. It includes a host of services. Among them: medical care providers, labs, X-rays, as well as pharmacy.

In fiscal year (FY) 2013, some 8.9 million veterans were enrolled in the VA health care system. Of these, about 6 million "actually received some [sort of] benefit," says Canzolino. And of those 6 million, 4.9 million vets got pharmacy benefits. He says about half of the 4.9 million recipients had to ante up a co-pay.

More figures reflect the breadth of the benefits. Out of an overall VA budget of \$153.8 billion for FY2014, Canzolino said \$4.5 billion went for prescriptions. Some \$3.7 billion of that amount went for outpatient medications only.

As the number of veterans enrolled in VA health care grows by approximately 2% per year, the number of prescriptions filled by VA increases commensurately. In FY2013, VA filled about 268.5 million 30-day equivalent prescriptions. By the end of FY2014, it was 271.4 million.

THE MEDS

The most common medications VA prescribes largely reflect the consequences of lifestyle choices, genetic predisposition and age. The top five drugs prescribed in FY2014 may well ring familiar:

- Lisinopril, usually used to control high blood pressure
- Omeprazole, employed to help control acid reflux.
- Simvastatin, to reduce cholesterol.
- Amlodipine, another blood pressure medication
- Metroprolol, used to treat angina (chest pain) and high blood pressure.

Contrary to impressions some mass media messages might leave, you won't find pain medication among the top five drugs VA prescribes. Matter of fact, VA providers (the people who write the prescriptions) are making a concerted effort to cut the number of pain medication prescriptions written.

Evidence? In a Nov. 17, 2014, article on VA's website, VA staff writer Tom Cramer writes, "At the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston (South Carolina), for example, a little less than 3% of the total patient population is on chronic opioid (such as morphine or oxycodone) therapy. That's 5% below the national percentage for patients receiving such drugs." Opioids ease pain, but they also can cause physical dependence.

Even as VA lessens its own dependence on opioids to manage pain, it continues to depend heavily on generic drugs to counter the effects of many ailments. Still, not all prescriptions are for generics. "Absolutely not," says Canzolino. "There are a log of brand-name drugs that we supply."

While VA has its own formulary – a list of core drugs providers can prescribe for patients – it's not necessarily bound by those specific medications. "If a provider requires a drug that's not in the formulary, they put in a non-formulary request and make a case for [it's use]," says the deputy chief consultant for Pharmacy Benefits Management Services. If the clinical case is accepted, the provider can use the drug.

The point: there's flexibility built into the system, just as there is a degree of protection for patients. No one can totally eliminate adverse drug interactions. That said, "We have a

robust system of alerts built into our pharmacy program.” contends Canzolino.

When a pharmacist enters a medication into a patient's profile, it's checked against all other medications in the profile. If the system identifies a possible interaction, it's flagged. Then the pharmacist can alert the person who wrote the prescription to do a benefit/risk assessment.

To keep up to date as to which combinations of medications can hurt patients, VA buys a set of drug alerts from commercial vendors. These alerts, those drug/drug interactions, go to a review group that meets weekly. Then they assess the interaction's severity. The reaction might be mild for someone under 65, but severe for those over 65. “For our population that's a very severe interaction,” says Canzolino. “Because more than 50% of our population is over 65.”

WHO'S ELIGIBLE

To be eligible for VA health care is to be eligible for VA prescriptions. VA says if you served in the active military and were separated under any condition other than dishonorable you may qualify for health care benefits – including prescription medications.

If you're a current or former member of the Reserves or National Guard and were called to active duty by federal order – and completed the full period for which you were called to active duty – you too may be eligible. Reserves or National Guard members with active duty time for training purposes only don't meet the basic minimum duty requirement.

Most vets who enlisted after sept. 7, 1980, or who entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1982, must have served 24 continuous months – or the full period for which they were called to duty – in order to be eligible. The minimum duty requirement may not apply to veterans discharged for a disability, one which you got or aggravated in the line of duty. Nor may the minimum duty requirement apply for a hardship or “early out,” or those who served before Sept. 7, 1980.

Bottom line here is that there are a number of other exceptions to the minimum duty requirements. Best thing to do is go ahead and apply to VA so it can determine your eligibility. Certain veterans also may qualify for “enhanced” eligibility status. A couple of examples: if you're a Purple Heart recipient or have a compensable VA-awarded service-connected disability of 10% or more.

There's a window of opportunity for family members to avail themselves of VA medications, too. It's not wide, but it exists. Provided they're not eligible for the Department of Defense's TRICARE, the Civilian Health and Medical Program of VA (CHAMPVA) offers coverage-including prescriptions-to the spouse or surviving spouse, and to the children, of a veteran who:

Is rated permanently and totally disabled because of a service-connected disability, or

Was rated permanently and totally disabled because of a service-connected condition at time of death, or;

Died of a service-connected disability, or;

Died on active duty, and his or her dependents are not otherwise eligible for TRICARE benefits.

CHAMPVA benefits have been extended to dependents 65 and older. For specifics, go to: www.va.gov/hac/forbeneficiaries/champva/faqs.asp

HOW TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTH CARE

If you have access to a computer, that's the easiest way to apply for health care benefits. Complete VA Form 10-10EZ, Application for Health Benefits. Do that online by going to www.va.gov/healthbenefits/apply. Alternately, you can call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Eastern Standard Time 9EST), or 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. EST on Saturday.

You can complete the application via phone with a VA representative. In three to five business days, VA says you'll be receiving a completed Form 10-10EZ via mail. Look it over to make sure the information is right, sign and return to:

Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Road, Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329-1647

HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS

Once in the system, you can get VA prescription medications, sometimes without copay. VA says, “While many veterans are exempt [from] medication co-pays, non-service-connected veterans in Priority Groups 7 and 8 are charged \$9 for each 30-day or less supply of medication provided on an outpatient basis for the treatment of a non-service-connected condition.”

If you're a vet in Priority Groups 2-6, you'll pay \$8 for each 30 day or less supply. There is a \$960 yearly cap on co-pays for non-service-connected medications.

Veterans rated over 50% service-connected disabled “pay no co-pays for any medication they receive for any condition, whether or not it's service-connected,” says Aleks Morosky, VFW's deputy legislative director. Those vets are in Priority Group 1.

If you sign up for CHAMPVA, or are spina bifida-eligible, and don't have any other prescription coverage (including Medicare Part D) you can receive Meds by Mail – non-urgent maintenance drugs delivered to your mail box. These medications have neither co-pays nor deductibles. The initiative is designed to deliver medications that treat chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, high cholesterol and high blood pressure.

Separate from Meds by Mail is the much more encompassing VA Mail Order Pharmacy. VA provides a full 80% of outpatient prescriptions this way. It is, says spokeswoman Magan Lutz, the “preferred method” of delivering medications.

In FY2013, the Mail Order Pharmacy processed 117,173,713 outpatient prescriptions via a network of seven highly automated pharmacies. VA health care has come in for its share of withering criticism of late, but the medication mail order effort appears to work well. Since 2009, the J.D. Power U.S. Pharmacy Study has rated VA's Mail Order Pharmacy

among the best such pharmacies in terms of customer satisfaction.

Mailboxes are nice and tidy, symbols of the ordered world. But what happens when the world comes apart because of man-made or natural disaster? Veterans still need their medications, especially when local services are blown away.

Enter VA Emergency Pharmacy Services. Mounted on trucks deployed strategically around the country, these mobile drug stores are positioned to respond when trouble hits. Fitted with computers, satellite dish, generator, tele-conference capabilities and fax machine, they afford what VA calls "secured connectivity to the VA health care network." The emphasis: filling prescriptions for urgent and life-threatening conditions.

Medication management matters, whether you receive your prescriptions in person or via mail. To better help you keep track of your meds-refill history, medication list, even medications and supplements – check out My Health Vet at www.myhealthvet.va.gov (Veterans Services>Refill Prescriptions).

Merely signing up with VA health care doesn't automatically sign you up with My Health Vet says Ryan Gallucci, VFW's deputy director of National Veterans Service. "You have to opt in.

WHO WRITES THE PRESCRIPTIONS?

If there has been one overriding complaint about getting prescriptions filled by VA it's what has happened in the past when a non-VA physician or provider writes a prescription and VA subsequently fills it. The gripe "is that it's [taken] a long time," says VFW's Morosky.

Here's the reason. VA prescription writers have been working under what is called the "dual care" policy, says Canzolino. That makes them "responsible for the prescriptions that are given to the veteran." If a vet comes in with a non-VA prescription, it has to go through VA's own internal decision-making process all over again. VA has to make its own, separate decision on, "Whether they're going to re-write it, or say 'No, I want [the patient] to have a different drug,'" says Canzolino.

Things have changed. In the wake of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA), VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald said in an open letter to America's veterans that his department "is issuing a Veterans Choice Card to every veteran who is potentially eligible" for this "temporary benefit".

It would allow some vets to receive health care in their communities rather than having to wait for a VA appointment or travel to a VA facility. If the provider writes a prescription as a result of that visit, Canzolino says the prescription "will be filled based on the non-VA provider writing it." It no longer will have to wind its way through VA's dual care system.

"The news that they're not going to have to do any secondary vetting process [of prescriptions] is good," says Morosky. Labeling the new process more "stream-lined," he believes, "will help people get their care faster through non-VA providers."

In the event that veterans need the medication immediately from a non-VA provider, what happens then?, asks Morosky. "Where will they go to get those prescriptions filled, and what sort of supply will they receive at the time?"

In a written response to that question, VA says, "The veteran could receive a prescription from any authorized non-VA medical care provider for up to a 14-day supply. VA can only pay for an initial 14-day supply. The veteran could then fill the prescription at any pharmacy by paying for it up front and filing for later reimbursement, or fill the prescription via Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy (CMOP)...The veteran would need to receive follow-on prescriptions from a VA medical facility."

WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR THE CHOICE CARD?

VFW's Choice Program Fact Sheet says you must have been enrolled in the VA health care system on or before Aug. 1, 2014, or be eligible to enroll as a recently discharged combat veteran within five years of separation. You also have to meet at least one of the following criteria:

Be told by your local VA medical facility you will have to wait more than 30 days from your preferred date, or the date medically determined by your physician.

Your current residence is more than 40 miles from the closest VA health care facility.

You reside in a location other than Guam, American Samoa, or the Philippines and need to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility nearest your home.

You face a geographic challenge, like extensive distances around water or other geologic formations-such as mountains-that make for "significant" travel hardship.

In short, eligibility for Choice is pegged to where you live or how long it will take to get an appointment with VA. Specifically, "The veteran's place of residence or the inability to schedule an appointment within VA's 'wait-time goal.'" For more information on Choice call 1-866-606-8198 or go to www.va.gov/opa/choiceact.

The Choice Program is a direct result of the wait-time scandal that has shaken VA health care to its very core. Despite the fact pharmacy benefits are embedded in VA health care, they appear to have weathered the storm.

Canzolino sums up Pharmacy Benefits Management Services' mission this way: "our role is to provide our nation's veterans with a benefit that is effective, safe and cost-effective – [delivered] in the most appropriate way possible. We feel that we owe the veteran the best."

Submitted by AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET

Looking Back...

Thanks to the hard work of AGCM Tom R. Miovas, USN RET, we now have access on the NWSA's Aerograph (Restricted) webpage to copies of the *Aerograph* dating back to July 1977. The following article goes even further back to the FIRST ANNUAL AEROGRAPHER'S MATE REUNION at NATTC Lakehurst on 15-16 August 1975:

The first annual Aerographer's Mate reunion was hosted by the staff of the Aerographer's Mate School, Naval Air Technical

Training Center, Lakehurst, New Jersey, on 15 and 16 August 1975. Active and retired "weather guessers", from the four corners of the Union, made a pilgrimage to the home of the Aerographer's Mate to renew old friendships and learn of new techniques of training.

During the morning of the first day, after attendees' registration and coffee, a business meeting was held. Master Chief Eugene C. Cleary acting as master-of-ceremonies, introduced Captain Frederick A. Rodgers, USN, Commanding Officer, Naval Air Technical Training Center, Lakehurst, New Jersey, who welcomed the group aboard.

The captain was followed by Chief Warrant Officer Dorniece "Don" Butler, USN, Superintendent, Aerographer's Mate School, who presented a slide presentation on the present day AG School, and new methods of training within Navy schools.

Miss Mary Ellen Thomas, Naval Weather Service Facility, Pensacola, Florida was then introduced as the principal speaker. Miss "T", our educational specialist at the AG School from 1951 to 1973, was a former mentor of a majority of those who attended. She presented a very interesting slide presentation of "Training in the Seventies", as programmed by the Commander of the Naval Weather Service.

Prior to adjourning for lunch at the Chief Petty Officer's Mess (Open), each member was introduced and allowed to present a brief resume of themselves.

During the afternoon session, and after a great deal of discussion, it was decided that the second annual AG reunion would be held at Pensacola, Florida - the site of the initial training of Quartermasters with aerological duties (QMA). Also, it was agreed that the AG Reunion be open for all active or retired Navy and Marine Corps "Weather Guessers", no matter what their rate or rank. LCDR Thomas G. Fitzpatrick, Naval Weather Service Facility, Pensacola, Florida, 32508, is the chairman for the second AG Reunion. The prospective dates are 5-7 August 1976, so let's all plan ahead and make it bigger and better than the first.

During the business meeting on Friday, the ladies had a very enjoyable bus excursion to the Renault Winery and historic Smithville village.

At the dinner dance held in the Chief Petty Officer's Mess (Open), recognition was given to a number of persons present. Once again Master Chief "Gene" Cleary excelled as Master-of-Ceremonies. A plaque was presented to the oldest attendee, CWO Ralph P. Darr (Ret) of San Diego, who was also the earliest graduate (1927), as well as the first to make chief. His date of rate, February 10, 1932, was documented in his Continuous Service Certificate, which also listed every ship and station since his enlistment in 1923. The youngest AG present was AG1 Dick Thayer, who was born after CWO Darr retired in 1947. The "Camel Award", for traveling the greatest distance, went to AGC Bob Brownlee (Ret) of Pasco, Washington. AGCM Leroy O'Rork (Ret) of Norfolk, Virginia, was awarded a plaque for being the first Aerographer's Mate to be advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer.

Captain Rodgers made two (2) advancements in rate during the evening. After less than two years in grade, AG3

(honorary) Mary Ellen Thomas was advanced to AG2 (honorary) due to her zealous application of effort in the field. At 0001 on 16 August, Fred Brown was advanced to Chief Aerographer's Mate. CWO Ralph Darr presented Fred with his chief's hat from the chiefs of the AG School Staff.

Saturday, the scheduled picnic at Freedom Park was shifted to Historic Hanger One at Lakehurst, due to a torrential downpour which inundated the picnic area that morning. Comments were made, by the uninitiated, regarding the quality of the weather. However, those privy to the secretive and extensive planning which preceded this event, knew that there would be weather at the outing, because AG's "do it with Mother Nature".

FIRST ANNUAL AEROGRAPHER'S MATE REUNION
COMMITTEE
CWO Dorniece BUTLER, USN
SUPERINTENDENT
AG SCHOOL — NATTC
Lakehurst, New Jersey 08733
CO-CHAIRMEN
AGCM Eugene C. CLEARY, USN
AGCM Donald B. KLINE, USN

ATTENDEES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL AG REUNION
15-16 AUGUST 1975

LCDR Robert J. & Betty BARE, USN (Ret)
AG2 Marvin R. & Helene BEACHLER, USN
AGC Lloyd & Naomi BELLINGER, USN (Ret)
AG1 Robert D. & Judy BENTLEY, USN
AGC M. "Ray" & Joann BIERLY, USN (Ret)
AGC Martin & Linda BONK, USN
LCDR James F. BOWLIN, USN (Ret)
GYSGT Charles F. & Linda BRADLEY, USMC (Ret)
AG1 Michael A. & Diane BRADDAN, USN
AGC Frederick W. & Beth BROWN, USN
AGC James M. & Thora BROWN, USN (Ret)
AGC Bob BROWNLEE, USN (Ret)
CWO Dorniece & Delores BUTLER, USN
AG1 Gale E. & Sue CAPLEY, USN
AGC Al & Winnie CHAPATES, USN, (Ret)
AGCM Eugene C. & Doris CLEARY, USN
AG1 Bennie C. & Frances COGBURN, USN
AGC David COMFORT, USN (Ret)
AGC William N. & Connie COURVILLE, USN (Ret)
CWO Ralph P. & Francys DARR, USN, (Ret)
AGC Gerald A. DELANEY, USN
AGC Gerald H. & Cathy DUFFORD, USN (Ret)
AGC Charles H. & Winnie DUNNING, USN (Ret)
AGCS Gerald N. & Janet EDWARDS, USN
AGC Rod K. & Pam ELLIOTT, USN (Ret)
LCDR Thomas G. & Patricia FITZPATRICK, USN
AGC Robert F. & Carol Ann FRAZIER, USN
CWO Lester D. & Martha FROM, USN (Ret)
AGCS Ross K. & Marine GARDNER, USN (Ret)
AG2 John P. GLEASON, USN
LCDR Dale GRAGES, USN (Ret)
AGC Leo A. & Isabel GRENIER, USN
AGC Millard R. HALE, USN (Ret)
AG1 William R. & Barbara HAMILTON, USN
AGCM Leroy R. & Wanda HARGER, USN
AGC Ronald E. & Barbara HARRIS, USN
AG1 Edward J. & Dee HERMAN, USN
AGC Lonnie M. & Madge HOMANN, USN, (Ret)
AGC Robert M. & Naoma HOUSER, USN, (Ret)
AGC Michael R. & Shirley HYYTINEN, USN
AG1 James L. & Sandra KILMER, USN
AGC Al P. & Lillian KLIM, USN (Ret)

AGCM Donald B. & Mardell KLINE, USN (Ret)
 AGC John KLOS, USN (Ret)
 RADM William J. & Betty KOTSCH USN (Ret)
 CDR Hal R. LAMBRIGHT
 AGC C N. Hank LIKES, USN
 AGC Henry C. & Bobbie LOSCH, USN (Ret)
 AGCS Denny L. & Helen MALJEVAC, USN
 AGC Walter H. MAY, USN (Ret)
 LCDR Francis J. & "Toddy" McGAYHEY, USN (Ret)
 AGC George C. & Ellyn McMULLIN, USN
 AGCS John A. & Mary MIGALEDI, USN (Ret)
 AG2 Wesley C. & Rhonda MILLER, USN
 AGC Harold L. MITCHELL, USN
 AGCM C. R. "Moon" & Nadine MULLEN, USN
 LCDR William H. MYERS, USN (Ret)
 AGCM Leroy M. O'RORK, USN (Ret)
 AGC Anthony M. PACHENCE, USN (Ret)
 AGC George E. & Mary PAINTER, USN
 AGCM Ronald W. PALMER, USN
 AGC Charles J. & Kay PATTERSON, USN
 AG1 Anthony & Judith PETRILLO, USN
 AG1 Frank J. & Mary REGAN, USN (Ret)
 AGC William D. & Marion REED, USN (Ret)
 AGCS Ted E. & Anita ROLOFF, USN (Ret)
 CAPT Richard J. & Marion RYAN, USMC (Ret)
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 AGCS Norman A. & Jan SILVA, USN (Ret)
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 AGC James W. & Marjorie STONE, USN (Ret)
 AGCS William W. & Judy SWARTHOUT, USN
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AGCM Astor J. & Rose SYCURO, USN (Ret)
 AG1 Richard E. & Betty THAYER, USN
 Ms Mary Ellen THOMAS (Honorary AG2)

LCDR Raymond C. & Stella Brykczynski USN (RET)
 AG1 Richard P. & Joanne TOKRYMAN, USN
 AGCM Al M. & Ellen UPTON, USN
 CWO L. R. & Ruth UPTON, USN (Ret)
 AGCM Harry VINICOMBE, Jr., USN (Ret)
 AG1 Vincent & Rita VITALE, USN
 AGCM Ed & Lois WANZOR, USN, (Ret)
 AGC George B. & Gladys WEST, USN (Ret)
 AGC Robert T. W???, USN (Ret)
 AGCS Harry A. & Patricia WHITWORTH, USN (Ret)
 MSGT John P. & Dorothy YOST, USMC
 AGCS Louis & Marie ZELLER, USN (Ret)



Group Picture at Business Meeting

NEW LIFE MEMBER

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LCDR Bud Horn, Jr. USN RET	AGCS James Welch, USN RET	Mrs. Dottie MacKenzie

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Huntersville, NC 28078-8322	Virginia Beach, VA 23462-3380	Brunswick, GA 31525-2108
(704) 875-6383	(916) 715-8672	(912) 261-1496
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xAG2 Fay Esters, USN REL
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 (270) 535-8921
Fay.esters@twc.com

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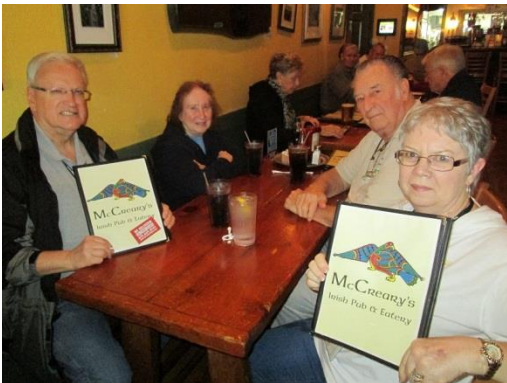
AGCS Lloyd Corbett, USN RET

NEW ADDRESSES, PHONE NUMBERS, E-MAIL ADDRESSES

CAPT John Sears, USN RET
lc2puna@gmail.com



Happy 54th Anniversary Harry and Jeannie!!



Scenes from Nashville Reunion #41, Battle of Franklin Tour
(McCreary's Irish Pub)
All Pictures on this Page Courtesy of Nancy Warrenfeltz



***Listing of Aerographers and Meteorological Officers
1958 - 1998***

[Part 1](#) [Part 2](#) [Part 3](#)

(Click Links to Display Lists and Images to Enlarge, or go to www.navalweather.org/operationdeepfreeze.html)

Submitted by AGC Joseph R. Gogel, USN RET



Snowcraft Survival School, McMurdo, Sept. 1985





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