

CONSTRUIMUS BATUIMUS -- "WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"

8TH NCB — NMCB-8 — 8TH NCB



# NEWSLETTER

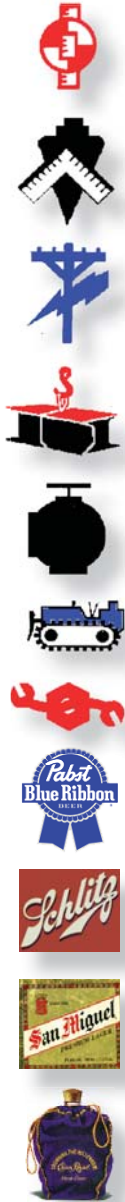


U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT

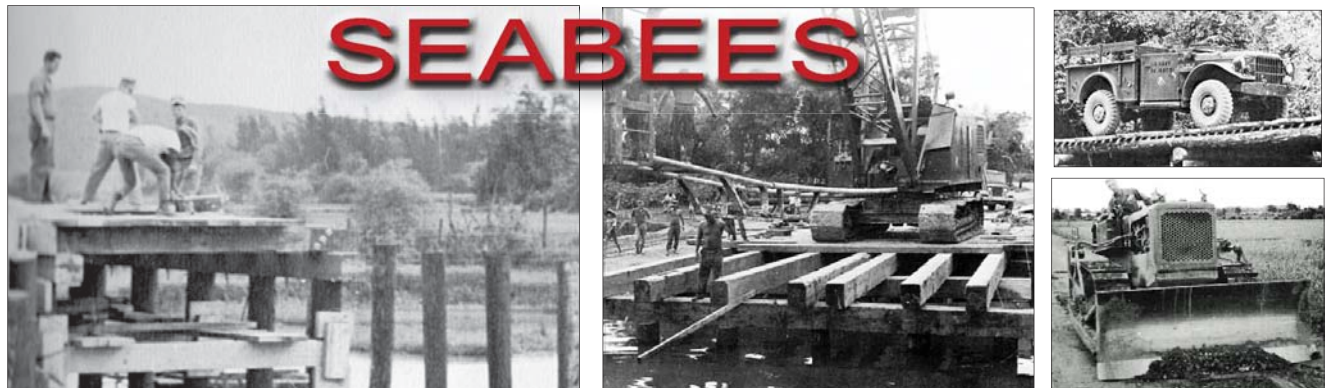
Volume 9, Issue 2

—Thank You World War Two Seabee Veterans—

August 2009



*Dodge M37 "Weapons Carrier". 115,000 were produced between 1951-1968*



*"The largest and most well equipped army in the world is useless unless you can get them to where they are needed"*

### —FROM YOUR PRESIDENT—

I WANT TO THANK THE STAFF for all their work, and special thanks to Ken Bingham for the work on the newsletter—along with maintaining the treasurer's position.

In our on-going—but elusive—quest to appear smarter than we look, we recruited Rick Clark—a talented Architect out of San Diego—to help proof-read/edit the Newsletters. Thanks largely Rick!

I've been out of the country, going back and forth between Germany, Italy and Calif. (tough job but someone has to do it) and have not made as many phone calls as I'd like—but I hope to get back to the phone-calling shortly. I plan to call more members and see if we can get more help in various projects. We also need a good showing at the reunion. Please contact others and drag them, if necessary, to the reunion. It's amazing to see members who are hesitant and then surprised at the great time they/we have—and believe it or not some of you are getting older. It's a special honor to have served with the Battalion, and we have a unique bond between us—let's not lose it.

I would like to make a special invitation to all of the spouses of our deceased members. You are welcome to all of our functions along with the reunions. We will keep sending the newsletters unless you notify us not to.

Let us try to reach out to any of our members that may be having health or financial difficulties. Please consider assisting them to the reunion and ensuring that special care is given. This could be a great showing of care for our brothers.

Well, both my two boys have enlisted; one in the Marines, the other in the Navy. They both will be leaving this summer for boot camp. My youngest has been going to San Diego. He passed the physical and swim test for the Navy Seals so when he gets out of boot camp he will be going to SEAL training.

I would like to have everyone go to the NMCB-8 web site and look over the newsletters. The pictures are in color. We also have some of the original newsletters from our deployment days. Please look them over and see if you have any that are missing. We would like a copy to add to the web site.

*Thanks & summer well.— Arnie Cicerone*

**Inside**

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Dear Captain O'Leary,

You are in our our thoughts. We wish you and your family all the best during these tough times. Thank you for all of your Naval Service, and your leadership of NMCB-8.



Capt. O'Leary turning over Command, RVN, 1968



Note: Captain O'Leary is experiencing pancreatic cancer.



### —Treasury Report—

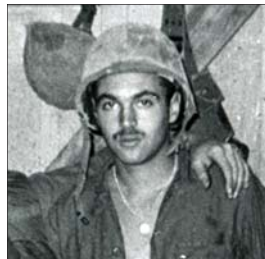
- Our account balance is \$11,080.23
- Newsletter costs are running approx. \$410.00 including postage.
- At the last reunion we collected \$221.00—from collection box—for the “Fallen Seabee Scholarship “Fund”.
- Future Considerations: PORHUE Museum Memorial Bricks for our fallen brothers-in-arms.

Ken Bingham

### 2010 Reunion Update

Greetings to you all. As you know, the next MCB-8 reunion will be held in the fall of 2010. The location will be in Branson, MO.

I want you to be thinking about the reunion and how we can make it as memorable as Pigeon Forge.



I have been reviewing the information/brochures from the Chamber of Commerce as well as Branson's web sites. The hotel choices are limitless and all seem to offer something different. All of this is a bit overwhelming as I have not personally had the pleasure of visiting the area. I'm sure the location of the hotel on the strip warrants careful consideration. I'm afraid that I am a bit clueless as to what the best area is. Soooo, I am asking all members who have been to Branson to e-mail, snail mail, or call me with your input.

Remember, this is your reunion so any and all suggestions are welcome!

Thanks, your faithful servant,  
Ron Sabbatis

e-mail: [sabagus@charter.net](mailto:sabagus@charter.net)  
Phone: 831-359-0073

### Ken Bingham—Newsletter Editor

I began as a Seabee in June 1966. I had just graduated from Brockton Trade High School in Brockton MA (Electrical Construction Program). The Navy and I both mistakenly thought I knew something. Accordingly, they gave me a IPO (Instant Petty Officer) rating and classification of CEW-3. Three tours to Viet Nam and I was de-commissioned along with MCB-8 (1969). I left as a CE2 still thinking I knew something. I married Pat in 1969—married for 40 yrs. now. I was finally accepted into the IBEW (Electrical Union) where I learned how long a short circuit was.

I went back to school (B.S) on the G.I. Bill, which led me to work as an Electrical Project Engineer overseas—mainly in the Middle East (*Iraq in 2006*). I'm retired now.

My passion lately is to help non-profit organizations promote themselves—through their own rich histories. The latest book that I wrote is about the history of Groton School Camp (1893-2009)—the first Camp for “underprivileged” boys. Surprisingly, Seabee history intertwines with the history of many youth camps over many years. Seabees have donated 1000's of volunteer man-hours lending their construction skills to youth programs and camps—many of them CB reservists. I witnessed this myself as a youth at Camp and then as a Seabee volunteer myself. Check out my web-site <http://binghamus.com/> for a description of my Book. If your so inclined, please buy one—and help a Boys Camp. *Ken B.*



# 8TH NCB WORLD WAR II-(Part 2)

—The Roots Of Our Organization—

—Continued from Last (April 2009) Newsletter—

FROM THE PHYSICAL, WE RUSHED THROUGH the issue room where we received our clothing and, in exchange for an entry of \$5.10 against our future pay, a little bag containing a Blue Jacket's Manual and some toilet gear. Loaded to capacity, we made our way across the railroad tracks that divided Camp Barry from Camp Branson, and were shown to our new quarters: barracks which, though new and clean, struck us as a great come-down from the homes we had left less than a week before.

## Summary Of The 8th NCB Battalion, WW II

After activation on May 23, 1942, the Eighth Battalion left Norfolk June 19 for Seattle, then embarked for Dutch Harbor July 9. The Eighth worked on 78 separately listed projects in the Amaknak, Dutch Harbor, and vicinity and on projects on eight outposts extending from Cold Bay on the east to Adak on the west. On all the outpost jobs except one, the Eighth landed on undeveloped beachheads under extreme conditions where no shelter or housing existed. Major projects included South Amaknak housing, submarine base construction, P.T. base facilities and Joint Command Post. After 13 months, the Battalion returned to Seattle and then to Camp Parks in August 1943. On its second tour, the Eighth left Hueneme for Pearl Harbor in June 1944. While at Pearl, the unit worked on 13 projects in the vicinity of Iroquois Point. In February 1945, the Battalion left Pearl for Iwo Jima, landing on March 3. The Eighth remained at Iwo through the war's end. The Battalion then transferred to Hiroshima, Japan.

None of us will ever forget the days, or the nights, passed at Camp Bronson. The Navy method of converting a civilian into a sailor seemed to be very simple. It consisted merely of making a man wash down heads, polish brass-work, and scrub and steel-wool spotless decks five or six times a day and then forcing him to wrestle all night with a hammock. Almost the only breaks in the routine were the periodic trips to sick bay for inoculations. We began to believe that that sick bay was equipped with the world's most varied collection of hypodermic needles. They felt as if they were square, angular, bent, blunt, spiral, and screw-shaped, but of course we don't know for sure, for none of us could bring ourselves to look at the damn things.

One morning we were awakened at the usual hour, 0530, with the usual call, "Grab your socks! Hit the deck!" We marched to a room called the barber shop and, after a long wait in line, sat down in the chairs. Each chair was attended by two "barbers" who seemed to be purposely paired off like Mutt and Jeff. The wanton slashes of their whirring clippers soon removed the last outward symbol of our civilian individualism. We all emerged from their shearing pens wearing the badge of the authentic Navy boot - - the "crew-cut special."



"Singing men are fighting men!" we were told, and we picked up the words of "Here Comes the Navy" and sang them to the tune of the "Beer Barrel Polka." Not content with this, we added a favorite of the Boston boys, "Ole Mamie Riley," and others.

The climax of our indoctrination period came at the end of the third week, when we were given our first pay and a twenty-four hour pass. Although some of us suffered from the after-effects of shots taken in the morning, that first liberty, spent by most of us in Chicago or Milwaukee, provided a memorable finale for our stay at Great Lakes.

*—It is worthy of note that the CPO's who went through boot with us made up the first company of Chief Petty Officers ever to go through boot training as a company in the history of the United States Navy.—*

—AND THEN! AND THEN—

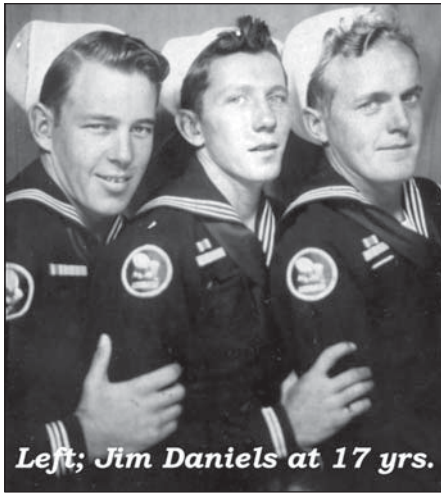
Another train ride took us to our next camp. The only disheartening feature of the trip was the trudging with our bedding rolls a mile and a half over to the baggage cars at 0500 on a cold morning. In those days, traveling Navy troop style still meant sleeping in Pullman berths and being served by the white-aproned waiters of the dining cars, well-cooked and well-seasoned meals topped off by coffee, which the remembrance of Navy brew made only the more delicious.

We arrived at Norfolk, Virginia, early one morning in the latter part of May, crossed the Chesapeake Bay via ferry, and docked at the Naval Operating Base. From there we were transported by buses to Camp Allen, one of the first camps built for the Seabees.

—Continued in next newsletter—



–Seabee “Master Chief” James F. Daniels–  
James Enlisted In 1942 At Age 16. He Served 26 Years  
Through Three Wars And Was Wounded in Vietnam



*Left; Jim Daniels at 17 yrs.*

a 80 North West shovel.

In time, half of the outfit was sent to Funa Futi. I ran 4 evaporaters making water from salt water that fed to a 10,000 gal. tank on a barge that supplied ships.

About 20 of us were sent to Nana Meia, where 7 of us worked grading. We also assisted with kitchen duties and cooked breakfast every day.

In about 4 months, we returned to Funa Futi for a few months, then boarded a ship back to American Somoa.

After two or three months, we boarded another ship to Tongatapu, Nu'u Fa'atau, Espirito, and New Caledonia. We were at these islands for several months, loading special equipment aboard ships (worked around the clock). Had a lot of replacements waiting for us and had two other groups assigned to us at other islands. Not too many of us left of the original Unit, so they let us come home for leave and to get new orders, but by then the war ended and I came back to Port Hueneme on February 17, 1946.

I met my wife around the 23<sup>rd</sup> of Februry and married her on May 24<sup>th</sup>. We stayed at Hueneme for 2 ½ years. I was then sent to advanced training school and then to the 103<sup>rd</sup> NCB. Our boy (Bill) was born on January 8, 1948 and our daughter was born in Guam April 14, 1950.

I went to Saba Japan for 13 months and then back to Port Hueneme to join MCB-2 Dist #1. 148 of us left Port Hueneme for Guam to put the AFDB1 (Floating Dry Dock) together. The AFDB1 consisted of 8 ships put together side-by-side with a structure built on top. I then received orders to the Phoenix, Az. Naval Air Station and stayed there for 2 ½ years. I went back to Guam with ENB-2 and made Chief on 16 March 1955.

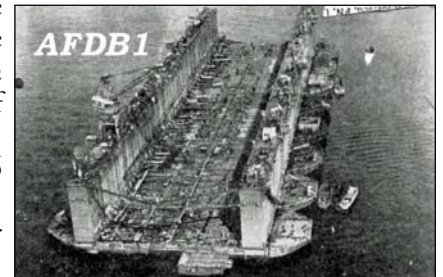
During my assignment to Arizona NAS, I took 5 or 6 tests for my GED and put in for instruction duty at E.O. School Porhue. It turned out three of us had a 5 year tour there. (Made E-8)

MCB-5 became my new outfit. I was assigned as “A”

Company Chief and sent to Guam for 7 month and then back to Port Hueneme for training. About 5 days before we were to leave for overseas, the XO called me and said I had appointment with Major Smith USMC. (He was in charge of training the 6 Battalion at that time.) Two days before we were to ship out the XO called and said the Major had picked me to be his leading Chief setting up training programs. I was there for 16 months. I then put in for instructor duty and was sent back to the school command for another 3 years. In 1967, I joined MCB-8 as leading Chief of A Company and deployed to Gia Le Combat Base (Phu Bai) Vietnam.



*Welcome Home !  
L-R; Daughter Brenda, Wife Virginia  
and Son William*





# —“Master Chief” James F. Daniels Recieves Honorary Award—

May 8, 2008 (From News Article)



Former Port Hueneme City Councilman and 26 year Seabee veteran James Daniels receives the designation of Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy during the Pass and Review Parade. Presenting the honor is Vice Adm. Michael Loose, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics [our first 3 star Admiral since WW2]

Jim Daniels, former Councilman and Seabee veteran, received appointment as an honorary Master Chief Petty Officer. Daniels joined the Navy, with the help of his father, when he was 16 in 1942. He served in the Pacific in WWII, on Guam, in Japan, and at Port Hueneme where he became an equipment operator with the Seabees.

He married Ida Virginia Middaugh, who was also in the Navy serving as a Wave and they had two children, William Leslie and Brenda Jean.

He served in the Korean War and in Vietnam. On Jan. 31, 1968, he earned a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during a rocket attack. Just 11 days earlier, an RPG hit his son Bill (MCB-5, Dong Ha)—while in a vehicle. Jim visited Bill on a hospital ship while he was recovering from his serious injuries he had sustained—to which he later succumbed (Feb, 23, 1973). (More about Jim's Son in the next newsletter.)

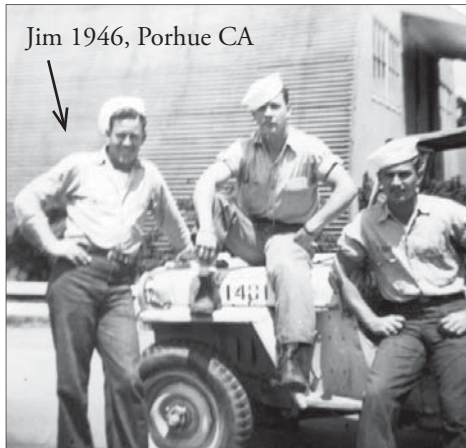
His son ultimately became very ill due to his injuries. During this time, Daniels earned the rank of Master Chief, but it was conditional upon his returning to Vietnam for another tour. With his son so sick, he declined and retired with the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer in 1969. After 26 years and three wars, he had served his country well. There is no doubt that had he continued his Navy career, he would have retired with the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer.

Following his Navy career, Daniels worked at the Port Hueneme School District, ultimately retiring as head of maintenance for the district. Following retirement he was elected to the City Council in Port Hueneme, where he served for eight years, two of those as Mayor Pro-Tem. Daniels continues to this day as an active member of the community, participating in the Port Hueneme Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, and in numerous other projects as well as being an avid supporter of Naval Base Ventura County.



Chief Jim

Service (vessels and stations served on)	From	To
1946 - TADCEN, Port Hueneme, Calif.	1942	1969
1948 - 103RD NCB, Guam, M. I.	1942	1969
1950 - NAVY 3912	1942	1969
1951 - SASBOE, Japan	1942	1969
1951 - AFOB-1, Guam, M. I.	1942	1969
1952 - Litchfield Park, Arizona	1942	1969
1954 - CHB-2, Guam, M.I.	1942	1969
1956 - P.W. CENTER, Guam, M.I.	1942	1969
1957 - NAVSCON, Port Hueneme, Calif.	1942	1969
1962 - USN MCB FIVE, Port Hueneme, Calif.	1942	1969
1964 - NAVHOSP HAVEN AH-12	1942	1969
1964 - REAR ECHELON, MCB FIVE	1942	1969
1964 - NCBBU, Port Hueneme, California	1942	1969
1964 - USNAVSOLCONST, Port Hueneme, Calif.	1942	1969
1967 - USN MCB EIGHT, Port Hueneme, Calif.	1942	1969
1969 - Fleet Reserve	1942	1969
	1942	1969



Jim 1946, Porhue CA



1954

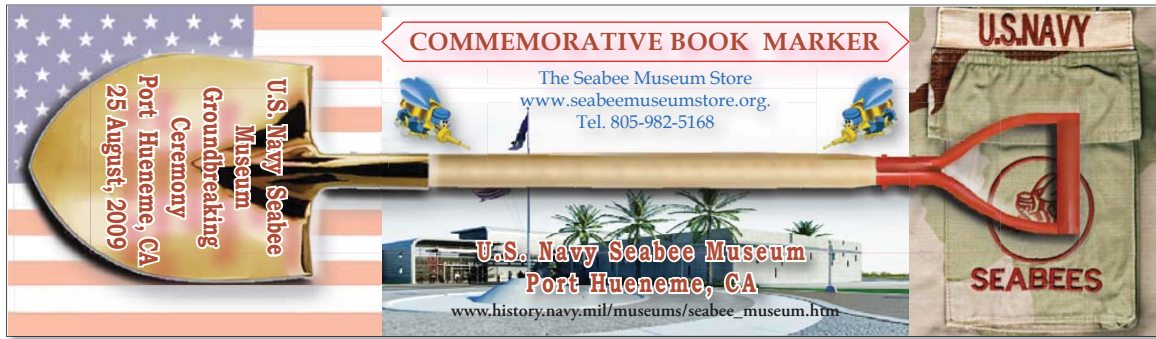


2nd Class Jim 1946

—Thank You, Master Chief Daniels, For All Of Your Service—Both Military And Civilian—



# — OUR NEW SEABEE MUSEUM AT PORT HUENEME —



**T**HE ABOVE COMMEMORATIVE BOOK MARKER is your souvenir for a very important event coming up for us Seabees. Just peel it off and it's yours as a reminder of your association with the Seabees and the up-coming Museum ground-breaking event.

The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation Team/Trustees have worked tirelessly for years on our behalf to bring about a modern building that will be a depository for all of our history and safe-keeping of CB archives. It will be beautiful. The location will be on the outer perimeter of the Base allowing for easy access for everyone—without the need for gate passes. We ask that you please honor someone special to you, Seabee or not, by purchasing a brick in their memory, or by making a donation to the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation. And don't forget yourself. You deserve a permanent marker and resting place for your name & service at The Historical Seabee Base at Port Hueneeme.

An image of Ken Bingham's memorial BRICK is shown below. It's bought in honor of Andy Braun who drowned at Port Hueneeme in Aug. 1966. So remember your friends, and family members, and honor them with a brick or a donation.



**\$125.00/ Brick**



**Or Make a Donation**

**To:**

**CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation  
P.O. Box 657  
Gulfport, MS 39502  
228-865-0480  
info@seabeehf.org**

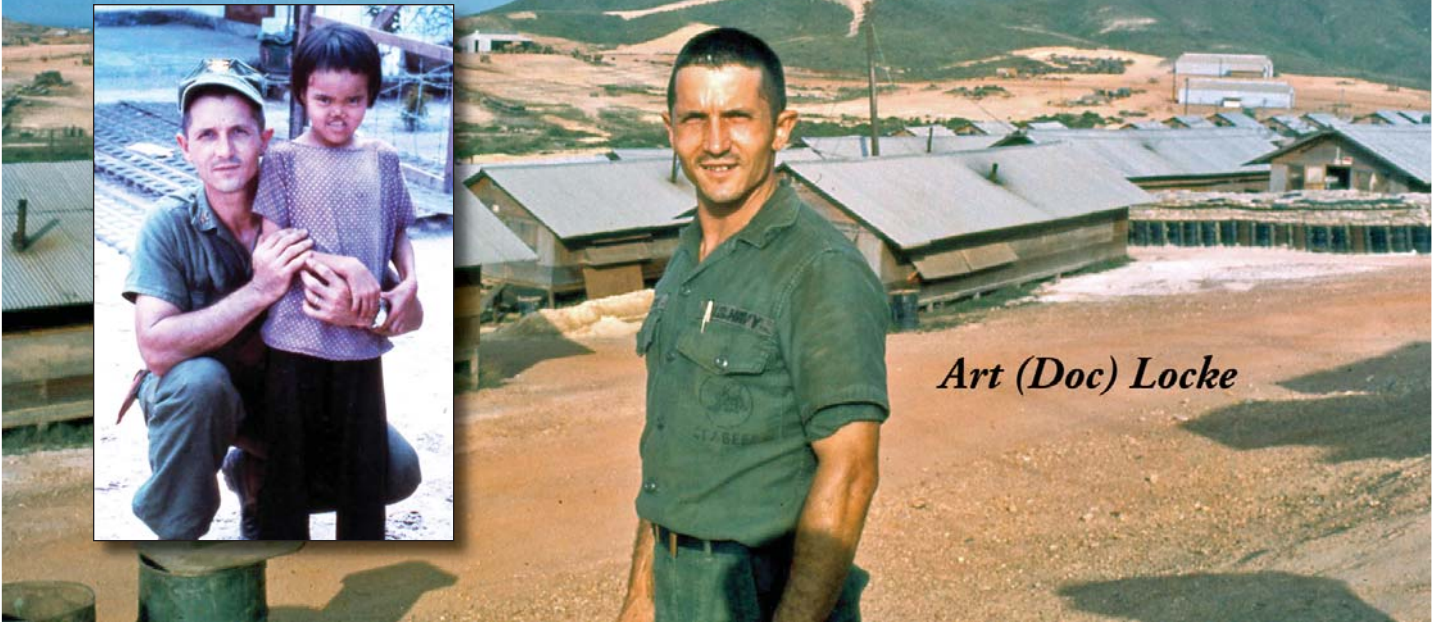
**For ordering a brick, use the attached form and envelope or go on-line to:  
<http://www.seabeehf.org/museum/index.htm>**

**ANDREW BRAUN  
MCB-8  
1962- 1966**

-- Kenneth Bingham and victim swam out approximately 100 yards leaving Richard McClellan close to shore. Kenneth Bingham stated the victim became very tired and felt he couldn't make it back, Bingham told he'd help him and not to get excited. Kenneth Bingham assisted the victim by holding his head out of the water and calling for help. His calls were not heard but when he commenced waving Leonard St. Onge and Richard McClellan attempted to swim out but the tide and waves prevented him. The victim was brought into the beach with the help of Kenneth Bingham, Leonard St. Onge, and life guard resuscitation was administered to the victim with negative results. The Fire Department was at the scene and their attempts to revive the victim were unsuccessful.

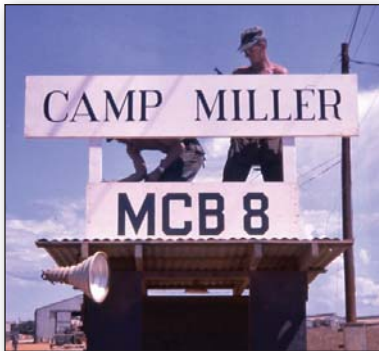
*Above, Ken Bingham's Memorial Brick to Andy.*

### Gia Le, Viet Nam 1968



*Art (Doc) Locke*

*Doc Locke at Gia Le, Vietnam. Inset picture of Doc with disfigured girl who he helped. Many pictures used in the MCB-8 Newsletter are courtesy of Art (Doc) Locke. Thanks, Doc!*



#### —NMCB-8 WEBSITE—

Are you aware that your Association has a web site? Some of you are, because several folks downloaded reunion forms for our last reunion from the site. Also posted on the web site are all of the newsletters that have ever been published (21 in number). Deployment completion reports, back issues of Newsletters and pictures are also included. In addition there is a list of all Association members and their states of residence. Addresses and phone numbers are omitted for privacy reasons.

So navigate the site and see what you can find. The web address is: <http://www.nmcb8.com>. See you on line!

#### Wanted!

An MCB-8 Newsletter Editor  
 Computer Savvy, or a family member that is.  
 Knowledgeable of: PDF's, JPEGs, Adobe Photoshop,  
 Word, OCR and "PUBLISHER" or other suitable  
 Newsletter program —with broadband connection.

#### —A WORD ABOUT DUES—

Please note the mailing address space of your newsletter. Next to your name, you will see a date (month & year) denoting when your membership should have been renewed. The word "LIFE" next to your name denotes a life member and no renewal of membership is necessary. If your membership has expired but you would like to renew it in order to continue receiving the newsletter and keep up on the latest reunion information and other news, please submit payment by check to NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION. Send checks to Ken Bingham 1773 Tamarin Ave, Ventura, CA 93003.

From Bob Francella, MCB-8 Cuba 1954-55  
 Please put in the newsletter my phone number and e-mail address, just in case one of my old friends wants to get a hold of me. Sincerely, Bob Francella 858-518-2557 bob@francella.com



*This WWII Seabee-JAP fight had to be over the last can of Kerin Beer.*



# — MCB-8 in Viet Nam —



**Army 155mm "Arty" Fire Support, Mis-fire  
Gia Le 1968**

**Adjacent to  
MCB-8 Camp**

3 Army artill. were killed in the above mis-fire. Several MCB-8 CB's narrowly missed being casualties when chunks flew through the MCB-8 Camp.



*John Wayne visiting Seabees in Vietnam*

—From Bill Haedt, USAF—

I WAS SURFING THE NET AND THOUGHT ABOUT JAMES O. MILLER, who was a Seabee at Tam Ky, RVN when I was there in 1967. I found an NMCB8 Newsletter dated Spring, 2001, Vol 3, Issue 1, in which you described his Camp Miller Arch was in a sad state of disrepair.

James was a good man and well liked and respected by his fellow Seabees and the rest of the compound military troops. Our compound was mortared during the night of Feb 6, 1967. James was hit only a few yards away from where I was standing seconds before and took the brunt of the mortar blast. He was one of two casualties in the compound. The other casualty, a US Army soldier, survived. That night still remains very vivid in my memory. I can still "see" the impact-point of the mortar next to an NCMB deuce and a half which absorbed some of the shrapnel of the blast and possibly saved others from injury.

Hopefully James' "Arch" at Port Hueneme has been restored by now and stands in dignified honor. I hope to stop by one day on a trip "south" and pay my respects.

—JAMES OLEN MILLER—UTP2—E5—NAVY—REGULAR—CASUALTY WAS ON FEB 6, 1967—IN QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM—HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY—MULTIPLE FRAGMENTATION WOUNDS—BODY WAS RECOVERED— PANEL 14E - LINE 13—

Bill Haedt, USAF FAC Intel 66-67 RVN



*Purple Hearts and Bronze Star 1967*

Bronze Star Award given  
LCDR G. R. Gilmore  
by Capt. A. R. Marschall

Purple Hearts awarded SWF3 Jack D. Nicpon, BUL2 Lionel A. Richard, BUH2 Daniel F. Dugal, and RM2 Jack W. Dennis shown left to right, by Brig. Gen. W. A. Stiles for injuries incurred in a mine incident off Highway One on February 11.

—IF YOU WERE BUILDING AN E.M. CLUB IN HANOI NORTH VIETNAM BETWEEN 1965-1969, LET US KNOW—

Seriously, some of you served on "SECRET" projects as part of your service. If so, please send me your stories. They should be de-classified by now. Ken Bingham jorden2323@msn.com



## A Story By John North



*John North CE2, Phu Bai 1968*

**M**CB-8 HAD A LOT OF DIFFERENT TASKS to complete during the 1968 deployment to Hue/Phu Bai. B-Company electricians were assigned to assist the UT's in building a pipe line. The pipe line extended from Col Co Island to the Marine Air Group complex at Phu Bai.

One of the electricians, Jack Williams, A. K. A. "OKIE", was assigned to assist in construction of the pipeline.

"Okie" had already spent several months working as an electrician in construction of the various buildings on Col Co Island. Okie and Joe Dreisch were both working partners on Col Co Island. Both of them completed IPO boot camp together in Gulfport, MS in 1967 and then both of them were assigned to MCB-8. "Okie" was sent back to the main camp after the Col Co Island work was completed and was then sent to assist the UT's building the pipeline, which was, at that stage, south of Hue next to Highway Number 1.

While on the pipeline job a young Vietnamese boy came by en route to his work in the rice paddy. The young boy was riding a water buffalo. Okie just happened to have his camera with him so Okie indicated to the young Vietnamese boy that he, Okie, wanted a picture of himself on the back of the water buffalo. The young boy agreed and "Okie" got on the back of the water buffalo and history was made! Jack Williams, "Okie", from the great Rodeo loving state of Oklahoma became the world champion Water Buffalo Rider Year 1968.

For all practical purposes Okie holds this title to the present day. Unfortunately, he never received his rodeo award of an oversized belt buckle engraved with his name and title.

But Okie said he got a lot better prize then the usual belt buckle. He came home alive in one piece and that was all he wanted! *John North*



**"Okie" Jack Williams - Bartlesville, OK  
"WORLD" Champion Water Buffalo Rider - Year 1968**



### *C-Rations:*

Development began in 1938 and was completed between 1941 and 1945.

Used extensively during World War II.

Issued as one boxed ration per person per day.

One case of C-Rations contained 6 rations.

Each ration was composed of a B-unit and a M-unit; total weight was approximately 7 pounds.

B-unit: (3) 12 ounce cans of bread, coffee and sugar.

M-unit: (3) 12 ounce cans of meat and vegetable components.

Limited menu selection [(3) M-units and (3) B-units]; many of the menus contained beans.

Intended for limited use but sometimes it was used as the sole source of subsistence for weeks.

Rarely were all of the components available so substitutions with duplicate components were common. This exacerbated menu fatigue.

Menus were expanded in 1944 to include (10) M-units and (6) B-units.

Surplus C-Rations were used in both Korea and Vietnam. *(Note: I ate WW II rations in 1967, mmm good. kb)*







Thank You Doc—thank you Corpsmen.  
From all of us MCB-8 Members.



MCB-8 Medical Staff: Upper left, Dr. G.G. Hazouri; lower left Art (Doc) Locke (Please submit remainder of names for next N.L)



Perfume River near Hue, Viet. 1968

MCB-8 Seabee making an ass-of-m'-self



Rover—Over!

Here chop-chop  
There chop-chop  
Everywhere chop-chop  
Gimme chop-chop  
I give chop-chop  
But the kid wasn't  
Even hungry!

Next time I shall  
Stop and ask his  
Name, and maybe  
Where he lives, and  
How Many brothers  
And sisters he has,  
And does he go  
To school, and  
How old he  
Is, and are his  
Parents well.  
And in return he  
Will ask me all  
The same-same questions.  
We will smile at one  
Another and he will  
Grab my arm or leg  
And ask me where  
I learned his language.  
And both of us  
Will hunger for more.  
By LCDR J.F. HARRIS

From Father Harris's "Hunger on Rte.1". -Hard Hat Newsletter 1968 (Vietnam)



U.S.S Repose Hospital Ship Vietnam Coast 1968



# Seabee Memorial, Washington, D.C.



*Sculptor - Felix de Weldon*

## IN MEMORIAM

### In Remembrance Of Those Who Served With Us

Dear Mr. Ron Dougal: It is with great sadness that I must inform you that my father, Willis ( Bart ) Bartholomew passed away on the 5th of March. Please update the Seabee mailing list. Thank you, Dave Bartholomew.

Gerald (Tiny) Duane Koenen, CMC Retired, January 30, 1937 to April 14, 2009, Sumner, Washington, passed unexpectedly of a heart attack at his home on Tuesday, April 14th.

Today, the New York Times reports the death of CDR. Duane Wolfe, 54, Port Hueneme, assigned to the Corps of Engineers in Baghdad. Here is a link to the San Luis Obispo paper: <http://www.sanluisobispo.com/183/story/732702.html>

Glen Barnes passed away on April 2, 2009; (Deborah Fellman, daughter). Glen served in MCB-8 in 1951-53.

Jim Buchanan passed away in 2008

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## Notes, Help and Info

11TH CAV VIETNAM VET Jerry Williamson reminds us that "Lowe's" Hardware Store gives 10 % discount to Vets. Thanks Jerry!

Hello. In my never ending battle (so it seems) with the VA regarding my Diabetes, I am requesting help in proving that I was "in country/on the ground". It seems that my DD-214 does not indicate that I was in country with MCB-8. They seem to think that because I was in the Navy, I was on board a ship. I don't know if anyone remembers me or not, but I was in Danang and in Hue with the asphalt plant and road crews. Any support will be appreciated. (Rotts4evr@aol.com) Thanks, Keith Woodcock (Doc Woodcock/Woody)



*Les Uhlmann 1969*

Hello Sir: I am the son of a former Seabee with NMCB-8. His name is Lester J. (Les) Uhlmann and he served twice in Vietnam in '68 and '70, I believe. He had tours in Huan [Hue] and Da Nang. I am just trying to find anybody who may have served with him. He was killed in an auto accident in September of 2005, down in Texas. He was originally from Bay City, Michigan. Thank you for your time. Marc Uhlmann, Portage Central High School, Social Studies Teacher, 269-323-5245, [www.muhlmann.portage.site.eboard.com](http://www.muhlmann.portage.site.eboard.com)

*“The Only Trouble With Your Seabees Is That You Don’t Have Enough Of Them.” Gen. Douglas MacArthur*

The Seabees were the heroes of one of the most famous war movies: 1944’s “The Fighting Seabees,” starring John Wayne (Wedge Donovan) and Susan Hayward. It is the story of how the military, after the fall of Wake Island— (*Morrison Knudsen, MK was constructing on Wake at the time of the Japanese takeover.*)— formed a Construction Battalion—hence the name Seabees from CB— that could fight as well as build. “The Fighting Seabees” was filmed at Port Hueneme, Point Mugu and Camp Pendleton, the name of the bulldozer John Wayne was driving when he died gloriously in battle was Natasha. Note: *Harry Morrison—of Morrison Knudsen (MK)—was devastated to have over 1,000 employees of his small Boise, Idaho company captured and or killed while working for him on Wake Island. All but 98 of the men were shipped to labor camps in Japan and China. Over 200 of these men either died on the ships or in the labor camps. The 98 men who were left on Wake Island were mostly experienced construction hands who could operate the machinery. All 98 of these men were executed by the Japanese before the island was liberated. It is a gruesome tale.*

**NMCB-8 Seabees’ Association**

1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



To:

Note: The above numbers denote your membership dues status (Month-Year). (Due date)

Example 1-10 = Due on Jan. 2010

**NMCB-8 Seabees’ Association**

1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

- President ..... Arnie Cicerone
- Treasurer ..... Ken Bingham
- Past Presidents ..... Ken Kerr
- “ “ ..... Rick Reese
- Recruiting ..... Ron Dougal (9 Years)
- Newsletter Editors ..... Arnie Cicerone/Ken Bingham/Rick Clark/Harry Davis
- Previous Editor ..... Capt. Harry Davis (9 years)



**-NMCB-8 Association Roster Update-**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone & E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



The mailing list and roster for the NMCB-8 Association needs to be continually updated. Only through a current roster can we ensure your receipt of the newsletter and information of current and future reunions. If you have had a change of address within the past year, you can update this information by filling out the above form. Please include your e-mail address, if you have one. Detach the form at the dotted line and return to:

Ken Bingham, 1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura Ca. 93003. If you have e-mail and want to make your update electronically, please do so. Send updates by e-mail to; jorden2323@msn.com.

Thanks for your support!