

CONSTRUIMUS BATUIMUS -- "WE BUILD, WE FIGHT"



8TH NCB — NMCB-8 — 8TH NCB



# NEWSLETTER



U.S. NAVAL MOBILE CONSTRUCTION BATTALION EIGHT

Volume 12 Issue 4

—Happy Holidays—

December 2012



New NMCB8 License Plate, designed and arranged by John Hoogendoorn.



New NMCB8 Assoc. Banner, designed and arranged by Jack Quinn Dennis.



New NMCB-8 Coins, designed and arranged by Rick Reese.

## — FROM YOUR PRESIDENT —

It's always great to reunite with the members and friends of our NMCB-8 Seabee Association. We have a bond that gets stronger each passing year. Our recent reunion in Las Vegas is proof of that. It went very well and I hope some of you went home with sacks of money!

I want to thank Ron & Leslie Sabbatis, Rick & Annie Reese, Ron & Carol Dougal, Troy and Dawn Branch and Billy & Sally Boggs.

There is a lot of work coordinating the reunions, setting up the functions, visiting the area and getting the best deals available. Ron Sabbatis has taken the lead these past several years and has continually provided outstanding service to help organize the reunions. Ron came up with plan for a reunion every year instead of every other year. (For details, see Ron's article on next page). Please contact Ron for any questions and let's provide him all the help he will need.

I want to thank the members for electing the same group of officers and staff to lead your association once again. It is an honor to be involved with these guys. I can't say enough about Ken Bingham. He continues to provide us with a professional newsletter as well as being our treasurer. Ken works endless hours to provide the communication with our membership and keeping us informed with Seabee history world wide. Our newsletters are like reading National Geographic. Thank you Ken once again for your devotion. The Association would not be what it is without your enthusiastic support.

With respect to the Association's web-site—www.nmcb8.com—Jack Dennis has volunteered to take control of the library. Our intentions are to have a section

that will contain several hundred pictures. I solicit your help in identifying the pictures after they are posted. Please send any information concerning the information to Jack Dennis at—[prosoljack@mac.com](mailto:prosoljack@mac.com).

We thank Troy Branch for taking on the office of "Master at Arms". Thanks also to Jack Quinn Dennis for our new NMCB-8 Banner, John Hoogendoorn for the NMCB-8 License Plate, and Rick Reese for the NMCB-8 Memorial Coin. Thanks to Jack Quinn Dennis and Charles Perry for the reunion Photos. Thank you all for your volunteerism.

Please check the Association roster on our web-site, as we have a lot of changes. I plan to have the roster updated every month. Another plan is to expand the web site capacity to make it more usable for members going to the web site for information. Also, we need 1942-1970 battalion newsletters/family grams, etc.. Please go to the web site and review the original newsletters and send any that we may not have. Contact me by email or phone. (562) 760-8314—[ac1dar2dme@aol.com](mailto:ac1dar2dme@aol.com)

It is always a pleasure to be with Billy & Sally Boggs. They have a special gift of caring and helping people.

Billy came up with an idea of assisting folks around the country who may be in of our help in our areas of expertise. He mentioned that many of us are retiring or slowing down and may have a little extra time on our hands. Perhaps some of us can "mount-up" and "mount-out" and go on detachment with Billy. We can still use a hammer and saw, paint and do some small jobs. Remember, we are Seabees, and NMCB-8 is still alive with our "Can Do" spirit. This could be a great experience. (see Billy's article on next page.)

—ARNIE CICERONE, PRESIDENT NMCB-8 ASSOC.



JAMES O MILLER UTP2  
NMCB 8 2/6/67  
DIED TAN KY VIETNAM

RAY L WILLIAMS BUR2  
NMCB 8 3/13/67  
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM

MICHAEL D ESTOK BUR3  
NMCB 8 5/13/67  
DIED CHU LAI VIETNAM

LOREN F STUDER SWF2  
NMCB 8 5/31/68  
DIED TAN MY VIETNAM

RUDY P KRISMAN  
NMCB 8 7/10/68  
DIED PHU BAI VIETNAM

WILLIAM C LEGAT BU1  
NMCB 8 10/30/69  
DIED DANANG VIETNAM

HARRY H MIDDAUGH UT  
NMCB 8 4/25/68  
DIED BUNG KAN THAILAND



Ron cutting cake.

WE HAD A SLOW START WITH REGISTRATION but when everyone signed in, we had a good turnout of 135 people; 72 were association members. The Palace Station was very accommodating, the rooms were nice and affordable, there were several good restaurants, and lots of local color. There are a few people I need to thank: Billy and Sally Boggs for all that you do and have done over the years, Rick and Annie Reese for

your help and support and Ron Dougal for always being there when needed. I would also like to thank Mike Schoolcraft and his son for arranging the entertainment at the banquet Saturday night. A new feature at the reunion this year was a luncheon on Friday for the ladies. What a great turn out! It was a terrific way for our ladies to get to know one another. A special thank you to Leslie Sabbatis, Sally Boggs and Annie Reese for coming up with the idea for a ladies luncheon. We hope to repeat the event at future reunions.

—A Word About Future Reunions—

It was brought to everyone's attention that we are all getting a little older and having a reunion every two years might be too far apart. If you miss one, then it means it's another four years before the next get-together. The vote was unanimous to hold our reunions annually. We will rotate locations between, East Coast, Middle States and West Coast. When we decide on a location, we will be asking for volunteers from those areas to help with planning.

We will continue to hold our reunions around the end of September and move the days from Thursday, Friday and Saturday to mid week Monday thru Thursday. So—beginning in 2013, we will be going back to Port Hueneme. Unfortunately there will be no Seabee Days that year. In 2014 we move to the east coast. Troy Branch, Ray McPeak and Billy Boggs have volunteered to research locations for us. In 2015 we move to the middle of the country. We're are also looking for volunteers for that region. 2016 back to the West Coast. Rick Reese, myself and Arnie—if he's in town—will cover the West Coast. We were thinking of San Diego for 2016. If anyone has any suggestions on locations to hold our reunions, please let us know.

Thanks to all—Ron Sabbatis



Chaplain's Corner

by Billy Boggs



WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME WE ALL HAD AT THE REUNION. There were so many good stories and so much laughter. I believe a good time was had by all. I especially enjoyed the magician at the banquet. The lady's luncheon was a hit I hear. "Go Queen Bees".

As we were in our small meeting, kicking around

ideas about where and how often we hold our reunions it dawned on me that we may also indulge in some mini-reunions or maybe a detachment of sorts or call it a Seabee Team. We would first ID a need, maybe one of our own, or someone you know that is in need of some Seabee knowhow. We would need a team leader to head this up. We would advertise this project to our membership for worker Bees and donations of material and supplies. We could change the lives of someone and have a whole new set of stories to tell.

Bad things happen to good people, and we never know why. But, God gives us resources to make a difference. Let us all pray that if it is His will that we make a difference like this, then lets work together to make that difference become a reality.

When you come up with an idea please let me know, I will work to help put this together. Phone 864-723-7667. E-mail boggs45@gmail.com

In Christian love,  
—Billy



DURING OUR RECENT REUNION, Tom Cobb—Army Vietnam Veteran—and freind of Michael D. Estok, gave a fine eulogy for Michael. They grew up together near San Bernadino Ca.

Tom had fond memories of Michael, and gave us a glimpse of their lives before the winds of Vietnam swooped down on them.

Tom, thank you very much for showing up at our reunion and remembering Michael. —NMCB8 Assoc.



Member Don De Groff asks if anyone knows the wherabouts of the four NMCB-8 Plaques that are shown on the cover-page of this newsletter. Perhaps this would be a good volunteer project for someone; to cast new plaques and offer them up for sale in the NMCB-8 Store. Don's contact info is: Don De Groff 11 S. Bay Ave. NY 11520-4214 (516) 223-9013





SEABEE JAMES POOLE presented these two pictures. On the left he stands near the *Welcome* sign in 1969. On the right, in 2012, he stands near the same sign. Many changes over the years for Vegas; Jim has held up better—we think.



*John Markam with his wife Peggy. I don't think anyone drove farther. They drove from central Maine.*



*Master Chief James Daniels, WW II Vet.*



*Bill (L) and Daryl Hall, Father and Son. Both are war veterans.*



*The Prez Arnie is "Stylen"*



Go to: <http://www.nmcb8.com>, for more reunion images and history.



*Chief Henry taught us fencing in Viet.*







*ALPHA COMPANY*



*BRAVO COMPANY*

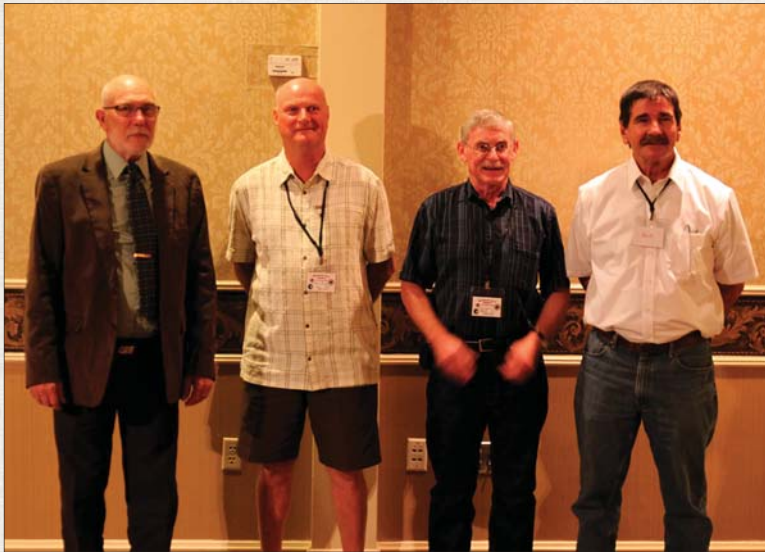


*CHARLIE COMPANY*





*DELTA COMPANY*



*HEADQUARTERS COMPANY*



*NMCB-8 Purple Heart Recipients:  
L-R standing: John Hoogendoorn, Connie (Mack) Harrington, Jack Quinn Dennis, Larry Hansel, , Jim Daniels  
and Craig Fisher seated.*





### 2012 REUNION ATTENDEES

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Thomas Angier   | Leonard Mechels   |
| Thomas Barba    | Roger Mechels     |
| Ken Bingham     | Jim Mills         |
| Billy Boggs     | Richard Monks     |
| Troy Branch     | Mike Moroney      |
| Raymond Cheely  | Bob Myers         |
| Arnold Cicerone | Robert Olsen      |
| Tom Cobb        | Stephen Payton    |
| Darryl Coffey   | James Poole       |
| James Daniels   | Jack Quinn Dennis |
| Skip Dautel     | Rick Reese        |
| James Davenport | Robert Rosengrant |
| Eric Davis      | Ron Sabbatis      |
| Don DeGroff     | Wayne Sahl        |
| Loyd Dockery    | Mike Schoolcraft  |
| Ron Dougal      | Edward Schreck    |
| Dan Epplett     | Frank Sergi       |
| Craig Fisher    | Joe Setting,      |
| Jim Glasgow     | Gordon Sonne      |
| Bill Hall       | George Spicer     |
| Larry Hansel    | Dennis Stanfill   |
| Joe Hardner,    | Bruce Swenson     |
| Mack Harrington | Donald Talley     |
| Forrest Henry   | Gary Thede        |
| John Heppel     | Larry Thomas      |
| Terrill Herbert | Ron Vietmeier     |
| John Hoogendoon | Allen Vortman     |
| Milburn Howard  | James Wasson      |
| Eddie Howell    | John Whitwell     |
| John Jackson    | Jay Wilkinson     |
| Ken Kelton      | Jack Wilson       |
| Dennis Lyman    | Paul Wyman        |
| Rusty Maggs     | Tom Zopfi         |
| John Malmos     | Dennis Dillon     |
| John Markham    | (Dave Duecker ?)  |
| Keith McGee     |                   |











# —IN MEMORIAM—

—In Remembrance Of Those Who Served With Us—



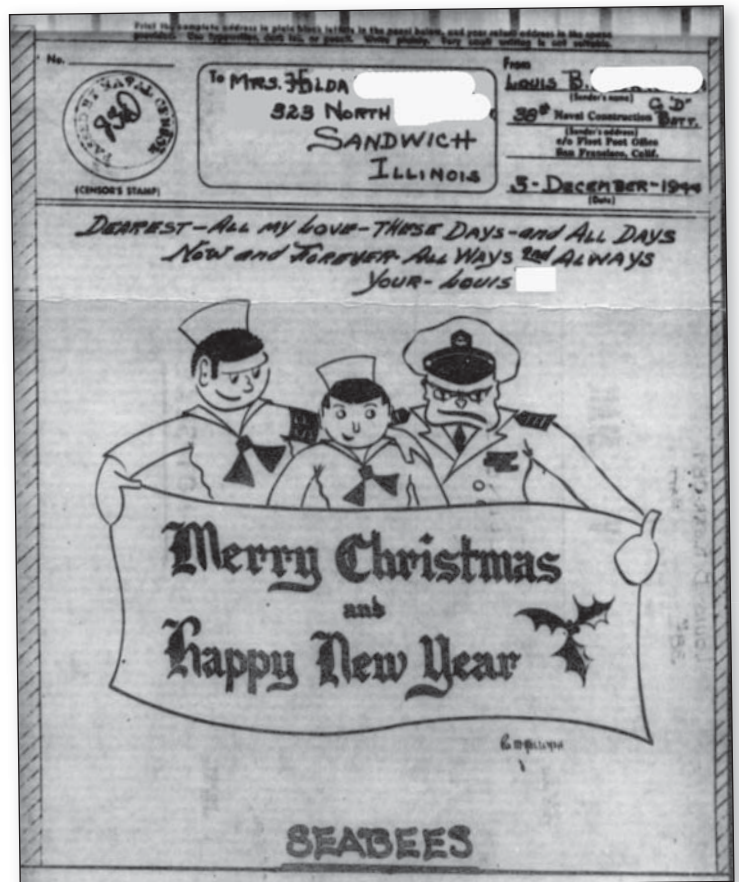
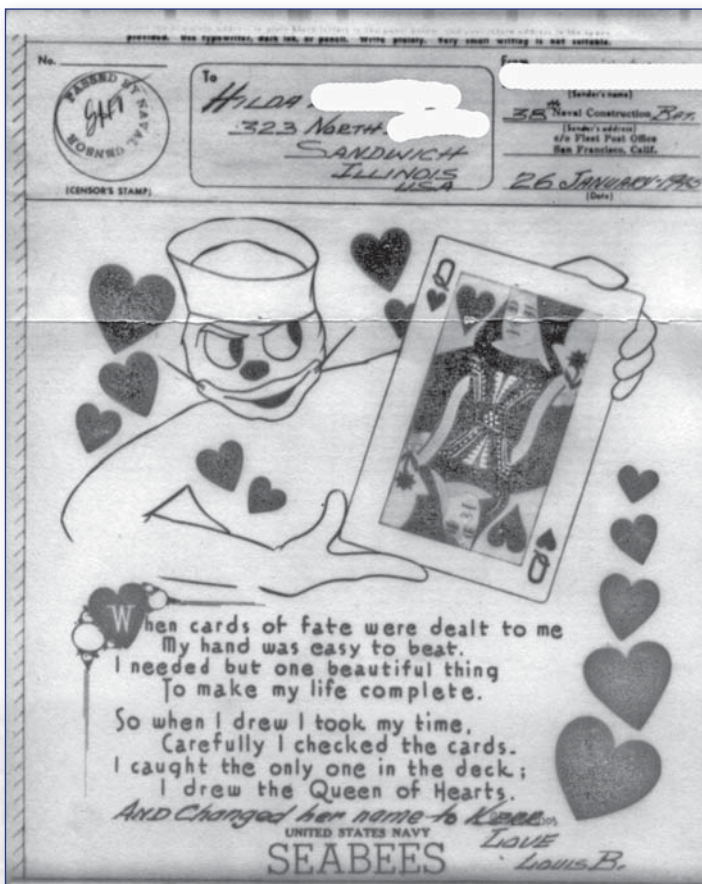
- MEL SCHNEIDER BU2 PLANK OWNER MCB8 DIED two days before his 85th Birthday, and the day before Labor Day, 2012. (See story next page.)
- Earl Waddle Feb. 2012
- Francis P. Kelly, Brick, NJ 9-20-2011

A Note (excerpt) from new member Gordon Sonne.

I talked to Troy [Branch] again today, he sure has a great memory—much better than myself. But, the more he talks the more I remember. Strange how that works. —Gorden



**V**—OR VICTORY MAIL, WAS A VALUABLE TOOL for the military during World War II. The process, which originated in England, was the microfilming of specially designed letter sheets. Instead of using valuable cargo space to ship whole letters overseas, microfilmed copies were sent in their stead and then “blown up” at an overseas destination before being delivered to military personnel.





## HOOCH MUSIC POINTS HOMEWARD

There's a new world somewhere  
They call The Promised Land  
And I'll be there some day  
If you will hold my hand  
I still need you there beside me  
No matter what I do  
For I know I'll never find another you

There is always someone  
For each of us they say  
And you'll be my someone  
For ever and a day  
I could search the whole world over  
Until my life is through  
But I know I'll never find another you

.....

—“I'll Never Find Another You” —by *The Seekers*



1968 Phu Bai



MEL SCHNEIDER BU2 PLANK OWNER MCB8 DIED two days before his 85th Birthday, and the day before Labor Day, 2012. He died at home in bed, of a worn out body, from a life of hard work and production during his time here.

I met Mel in Davisville R.I. when MCB8 was commissioned, we were in “D” Company. Mel was in the cadre of Seabees who took APL 48 down to Gitmo, to moor it at the Dock, where we would all live for the next six months.

He was our crew chief on the building 803, in charge of a dozen guys fresh out of builders school. He ran an efficient, productive job. He was a master carpenter.

Mel was one of the two guys who stood up at the Branson Reunion, when they asked for WW II Vets. He served in Okinawa in 1945-46. He stayed in the reserves and was called back in 1951 to fight North Korea, so they sent him to Cuba.

He often said, “why did they call me in to fight Koreans, and then send me on the other side of the world.” I figured it was to train a bunch of new wood butchers.

Mel had a contracting Business back in O’Fallon, MO and was engaged to be married when he was called back for service. His business ended, and he got a “Dear John” letter while in Cuba.

Since I lived in St. Louis near O’Fallon MO we both got liberty together for two weeks.

He lost his girl, so I asked him if he wanted to go on a blind date with my sister-in-law Jackie.

My brother Fred married Jackie and had two kids. Fred ended up getting killed in a construction accident. Jackie was then pining away for over a year and was anxious to get out for a change.

After that first date, Doris and I never saw them again, for the next two weeks they were constantly together.

They got married a year later three weeks before Doris and I did.

They would have celebrated 60 years together in January 2013, along with their six kids along with my niece and nephew that he took on and raised as his own.

There are many ways to gauge success in life, fame and fortune are two. I like to think that raising your kids, be a good citizen, hard work, and being productive adults is the best measure of success. Mel’s family turned out very well, several in construction.

You did a good job, and spent your time well. I’m a better man for having known Mel Schneider.

—Your Brother-In Law & Pal  
Rick Berry BU2 Plank Owner MCB8

## Note From Your Editor:

*(I Forgot Where I Put My Memory!)*

Some of you may have mailed me a request or asked a question. Or, you may have mailed me an article/story for inclusion in the Newsletter. If you have done this and you haven’t received results, then please remind me. I’m not ignoring you. I forgot!

—Ken Bingham





THE U.S. NAVY SEABEE MUSEUM NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT. PLEASE DONATE.  
THE NAVY IS NOT PERMITTED TO PAY FOR MUSEUMS.

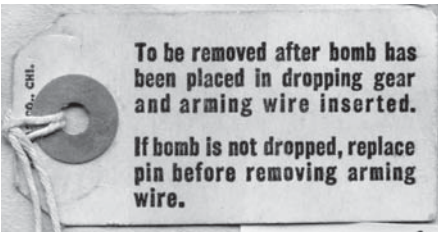


**CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation**

P.O. Box 657  
Gulfport, MS 39502-0657  
1-228-865-0480 — [info@seabeehf.org](mailto:info@seabeehf.org)



*Louis Bartlett Kerr on Tinian Island WW II.*



*B29 bomb tag from Tinian Island WW II.*

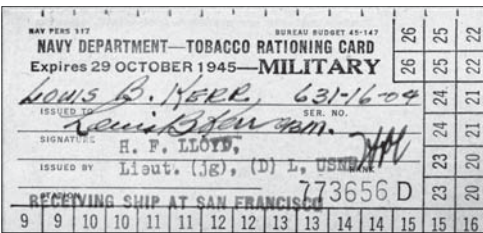
**D**URING OUR RECENT REUNION, James Wasson handed me a large scrap book. He offered it to see if I could glean some history from it and then, perhaps, have it saved in the Museum archives. The scrap book once belonged to Seabee Louis Bartlett Kerr, assigned to the 38th NCB on Tinian Island during WW II (24 Sept. 1943—22 July 1945).

So how does a veteran's scrap book of memories and service during war become orphaned and detached from the care of family, and end up in the hands of a stranger (me)? Perhaps it's because the family members died off, or no grandchildren exist to care for it. Or, maybe they just wanted to get it to a safer place before it deteriorated further. In any event, if it wasn't for James Wasson's rescue, who knows what would have happened to it.

I'm honored to have intercepted Louis Bartlett Kerr's WW II scrap book. In fact, I'm going to arrange to have a memorial brick honoring him with his name, unit and service dates. It will be placed in front of the new museum.

I suggest you do the same. Get your service represented in the form of a brick. A memorial brick is a salient statement of your service and establishes a permanent linkage to your *Unit's Records* in the Museum archives. Remember, the vagaries of life—like in war—and sands of time, are often impersonal and unpredictable. Don't let your service be forgotten—memorialize it in the form of a "Brick". Don't forget to attend the NMCB-8 Reunions—when possible!

—Ken Bingham



*Louis Bartlett Kerr's Tobacco Ration Card*

**Also, Please Donate To The Museum. They Need Your Help!**

Order a brick at: <http://www.seabeehf.org/museum/buy-a-brick/>





— NMCB-8 ASSOCIATION STORE —

**MADE IN THE U.S.A**

**ORDER NOW**

Support The Association With Your Tax Deductable Purchase.



Front



Back



- License plates \$25.00 ea. includes S & H
- Ladies cups \$12.00 ea. includes S & H
- T-Shirts. Call for sizes and pricing.
- Hats Fidel or Ball \$24.00 ea. includes S & H
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- 100% of the sales goes to the Association.

**Send check To:**

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Capitola CA 95010  
(831) 476-5944 sabagus@charter.net



**—High Quality Collectable Coin—**

**Only \$12.00 each plus S&H**

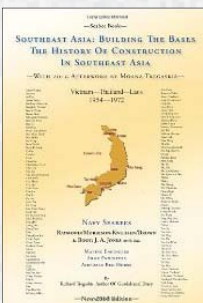
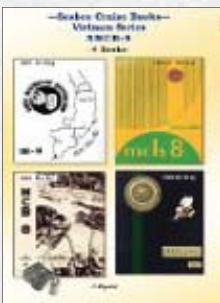
Please Add S & H as follows:

- 1-10 coins = \$5.00
- 10-20 coins = \$7.95
- 20 or more = \$10.00

For Coin, Send Check Or Money

Order To:

NMCB-8/Rick Reese  
5363 Via Aploina,  
Yorba Linda, CA 92886  
Tel.714-461-9990



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**NMCB-8 Cruise Books:**

1965 Da Nang, 1966-67 Chu Lai,  
1968 Phu Bai, 1969 Da Nang.  
**\$28.95**

**Southeast Asia: Building The Bases.** The History Of Construction (Seabees) In Southeast Asia: Vietnam Construction. **\$24.95**

Order at: **Seabeebooks.com**  
Or, send check plus \$5.00 (S&H) to:  
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1773 Tamarin Ave.  
Ventura Ca 93003



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NMCB-8 Seabees' Association

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- MASTER AT ARMS ..... TROY BRANCH

Past Presidents ..... Gorden Gilmore, Ken Kerr, Rick Reese



**-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!