





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

RAY L WILLIAMS BUR2 NMCB & 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 KRISSMAN NMCB 8: 7/10/68 DIED PHU BALVIETNAM

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

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

- FROM THE PRESIDENT-



I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED the reunion. It's always something special to come back to Port Hueneme. The base still has the look when we were there but today's Seabees have gone through some big changes.

I want to thank Ron Sabbatis, Billy Boggs, Troy Branch, Ken Bingham, Ron Dougal, and Master Chief Jim Daniels for all the work they have put into the Association over the years and also what they did for this reunion. I also want to give a special thanks to Rick Clark and Harry Davis for their contributions to the success of the reunion.

Rick, the video you created showing our Vietnam deployments was tremendous. For those of you who did not make it to the reunion, the entire video is available. See page 11 to order, or view on You Tube at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Fkdmy7CZqo.

In addition, the "Can Do" effort you made in arranging for our Speaker Captain Dean Tufts, Commander Naval Construction Group One, was much appreciated and a job well done.

Harry, again thank you, we all enjoyed your inspirational video of the various war memorials around Washington DC and Paula, you are the Queen Bee for lead-



Jack Quinn Dennis (above) with Captain Tufts at the NMCB-8 Reunion. Captain Tufts gave a great presentation of today's Seabees and explained the cut-back of some battalions.



Troy Branch stands next to his replica of the Seabee. This replica is based on the one we had in our RVN base-camp. Does anyone remember where in our Camp this model was located? The main body of the Bee is an antique nail-keg. Thanks Troy, from all of us, for building this great replica and bringing back the memories.

-Continued on next page.

Presidents column—Continued from front page.

ing us in the singing of the Seabee song.

I want to thank our Skipper, Captain Bob Westberg and our XO, Joe Patterson. I don't know if it is a Seabee thing or not, but the men who commanded EIGHT throughout our four deployments to Viet Nam were all top professionals and well liked by all hands. We had great respect for and were proud to have served under you. "Thank You" from the men of EIGHT.

I know we all enjoyed the new Seabee museum and walking on the memorial bricks known as the "Road to Victory" outside the entrance was something special. I am glad I live close to Port Hueneme so I can revisit. Your Association will be donating \$500.00 to the museum. Even though the building is completed and open, much work remains to get the displays completed. They still have quite a ways to go to get it finished. I'm sure the museum would appreciate it if our members would make a cash donation or purchase a brick with a personalized inscription. If you do, make sure you mention that you are from NMCB-8. Another thought, those memorial bricks would make a great gift. You could buy one to honor a shipmate who has passed away or someone who may not have the financial resources to buy one.

At the end of the evening after our banquet at Duke's place, Captain Tufts gave an outstanding presentation on today's Seabees and explained the reasons behind the cut-backs in battalions due to the drawdown in Afghanistan. It's very important to keep our history alive and let all Americans know what the Seabees have done and are continuing to provide around the world. There is no prouder group than the Seabees especially "NMCB-8". Stay in contact with the Seabee Museum via the internet, or get on their mailing list. If you didn't attend the reunion and are wondering about your past donation to purchase a brick you can go on line to the Museum website and through an interactive tool locate your name, inscription and location on the "Road to Victory".

Our newsletter editor Ken Bingham has done a great job researching Seabee history and is the author of several books on the Seabees. These books would make great gifts to local schools. They could be used to educate students as to how Seabees provide assistance to people around the world in remote areas by building hospitals, schools, drinking water facilities and much more. Utilizing Seabees in this way is a great way to show other countries that America cares.

Unfortunately, many Americans, including our own Congress, do not know what a potential force the Seabees could be in the fight against terrorism. We should as a group and as individuals let our Congressmen and Senators know how important it is to maintain current force levels and increase them rather than decommission battalions. We are trained to "build and fight". What a good deal for the Government and for America it would be, twice the bang for the buck. Correspond with your congressman or senator, or visit their local office and let's see if we can save a couple of Battalions.

Keep in contact and get ready for the next Reunion! —Arnie Cicerone, President, NMCB-8 Association





Captain Tufts with his beautiful wife.



Dan Epplett (L), Jim Wasson, Trish and Lou Beland



Master Chief Daniels at the reunion.

—From Kevin Lynch—

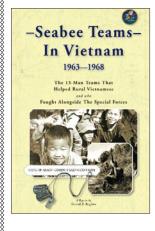
Dear Ken,

Thank you for keeping me in the LOOP all of this time.—

—Since I retired from the Fire Service, in 1998 (from two strokes) I have had one operation after another:

- 2003 Right Rotator cuff
- 2005 Removal of 18" of colon
- 2006 Left knee replaced
- 2007 removal of disk #5 in neck.
- 2008; Left shoulder rotator cuff.
- 2010/2011; Right Achilles tendon severed.
- 2012; Right knee replaced.
 But I'm on the mend now!

Say hello to all. Yours in comradeship.



25 Jan. 63; The first two (STAT) Seabee Teams, 0501 and 0502, with secret clearances, arrived in Vietnam in support of the U. S. Army Special Forces,

12 Mar 63; Village elder who recruited labor for Team 0502 in Chau Doc Province assassinated by the Viet Cong and his mutilated body left at team project site.

—From The Book, Seabee Teams in Vietnam. Available through the Seabee Museum Store, Port Hueneme. Tel. **(805) 382-2585.**

To "All" MCB-8 Members: We Need Your Help In Updating Our Roster.

Some members have done away with their land lines and went to cellphones. Please send us your new number. Also, when you move, please inform us of your new address, phone number, and e-mail address. We need to know these changes to keep the MCB-8 Roster current.

This will ensure that you get all of the current newsletters and information on the association—not to mention if any of your old MCB-8 buddies trying to get in contact with you. Go to the ROSTER and check your information for correctness at:

http://www.nmcb8.com/

Please send your current mailing address, phone number, and email address to: **Ronald Dougal**

Ronald Dougal Email: dougalsr@aol.com Phone #: 480-807-3016





Reunion 2013







Catain Tufts and Wife Bauman, William Beland, Louis & Patricia Bingham, Ken & Pat Bolton, Carl & Yvonne Branch, Troy & Dawn Cicerone, Arnold & Marilyn Clark, Rick & Nilsa Daniels, James & Peggy Davis, Eric & Cynthia Davis, Harry & Paula Dougal, Ron & Carol Draprau, Lois Epplett, Dan

Forrest, Henry & Helen Gilbertson, Gil & Anita Glass, Donald & Debbie Gleaves, Paul Greyson, James & Sandra Hansel, Larry & Vicky McGraw Hanson, Dallas & Marilyn Hart, Claude & Judy Haynes, Chris Jackson, John & Ruth Lyman, Dennis & Joan Maggs, Rusty & Denise Malmos, John & Naomi Mackey, Bill & Ingrid





McCormick, Howell & Georgia John and Cecilia McDonald Padrick, Dick Patterson, Joe & Patty Pecjak, Frank & Sudrey Bohon Quinn, Jack Dennis and wife Janet Reese, Rick & Ann Schoocraft, Mike & Becky Schreck, Edward & Judy Soliz, Miguel & Diane Sonne, Gordon & Marcia Albert Wasson, James Westberg, Robert & Marilyn Vietmeier, Ronald & Helen Adams











On the right is a picture taken at the First Reunion in 1999.

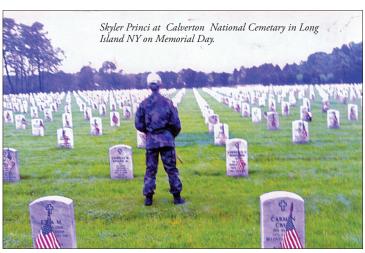












Dear Ken,

I am a member of NMCB-8 Association, served in Vietnam 1968-69. My grandauter is 12 years old and is a member of New York Civil Air Patrol. This picture [above] is her—Skyler Princi—in uniform placing flags on Calverton National Cemetary in Long Island NY on Memorial Day. I thought this was very touching. If you could put this picture in the next Newsletter I would be very proud. Thank you for your time.

-Yours truly Charlie Beck



Phillis, your method of raising recruits smacks of the press-gang a trifle Here I am wearing impossible boots And marching about with a rifle Because you have said We can never be wed Until I am carried home, wounded or dead

Now I've a number instead of a name The cut of my clothes is atrocious Daily I'm drilled until aching and lame By officers young and precocious Who force me to lie On my tummy to try And shoot an imaginary bull in the eye.

Please do not think I'm unwilling to go I've no intention quitting; But Phillis, there's one thing I really must know. For whom is that muffler you're knitting?

> I don't care a lot If by Germans I'm shot; But if that is for me I'll desert on the spot! –Author unknown

Note!

I was on Iwo Jima from beginning to end. My bulldozer tank blew up on approch to airfield.

I stayed for the whole campaign. I was in the 4th Marine Division.

I made a field promotion to Lieut. on Maui. I'm 93 years

old; doing well. -Donald singer

(The 133rd NCB was attached to the 4th MARDIV at Iwo Jima.)

—Ноосн Music— **POINTS HOMEWARD**

12:30

I used to live in New York City Every thing there was dark and dirty Outside my window was a steeple With a clock that always said 12:30.

Young girls are coming to the canyon And in the morning I can see them walking I can no longer keep my blinds drawn And I can't keep myself from talking.

Cloudy waters cast no reflection Images of beauty lie there stagnant Vibrations bounce in no direction And lie there shattered into fragments.

Young girls are coming to the canyon And in the morning I can see them walking I can no longer keep my blinds drawn And I can't keep myself from talking —Momas and the Papas



Ken,

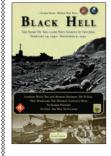
5/30/13

Thank you for all your hard work on behalf of all Seabees and thank you for your service also.

Your Book, "Black Hell", has given us the stories that for a generation were untold.

It helps us to understand the young men of the Greatest Generation.

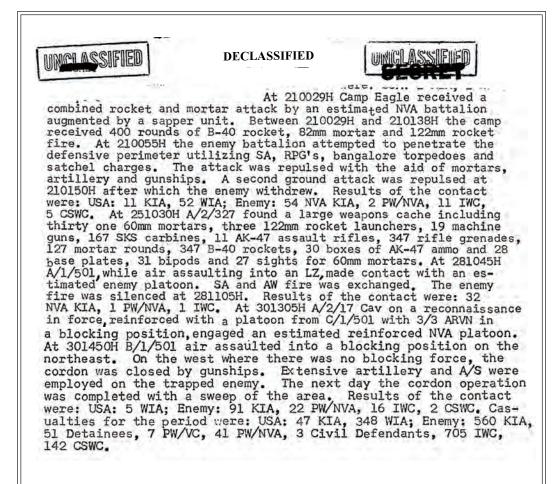
> —Majorie A. Albers (See top of page 11)



Black Hell, and other Seabee Books, are now available through the Seabee Museum Store.

Go to their web site at: http://www.seabeemuseumstore.org

—NVA Attack On Our Camp— May 21, 1968 Army/Marine After Action Report Found Recently On-Line. —kb



-Dan Epplett's Take On The Above Attack-(And Our Flag Was Still There!)

Yes I will never forget that early morning rocket and cround attack MORNING ROCKET AND GROUND ATTACK. My bunk was on the opposite side of the hut from the bunker and so there was always a logjam of bodies ahead of me scrambling to get inside to the relative safety they provided, once in I was always at the entrance. Many rounds were impacting about our camp and I could see tracer rounds going in all directions so though this doesn't look good as no one in the bunker near the entrance had a weapon. I didn't have much time to ponder that before the GQ alarm was sounded. I made a dash: back into my hut and grabbed my battle gear and in so doing plotted a course to my station in our fighting trenches via a ravine and kept my head down just below the ridge line until I got in a closer position to make a mad dash for the trenches. The rounds impacting in our

camp gave a strobe effect and in the flashes I could see other Seabees running and joining the trenches with their battle gear.

The rounds where coming in from the other side of a small low hill and the Marines and Army atop the hill at Gia Le on our left directed some 50's [50 Cal M.G's] on them and that was it. More tracers and what seemed to me larger tracers came in from farther out exploded over our heads. I had not experienced this before, maybe off course, friendly. Soon after that two Cobra Gunships hovering just over our heads opened up with everything they had, rockets, mini guns and the spent brass falling all around us. I was not complaining but glad I had my helmet on. And so our Flag would fly there for another day. IT WENT BOOM_ MANY TIMES THAT NIGHT!

> The AH-1G would be the Army's primary gunship in the Vietnam war. Over 1,000 were produced.

Armed with two 6-barreled 7.62mm Mini-guns and 2.75" rocket pods, the AH-1G Cobra had plenty of firepower to suppress the VC when transports were landing or taking off at an LZ. In addition, they were used to provide close support for troops on the ground. In fact, some units were used primarily for this and were designated Aerial Rocket Artillery Battalions. Many a grunt blessed the familiar "Whopwhop-whop" sound of a Cobra overhead.



AND THEN IT

—Dan Epplett B Co.



—**SEABEE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** Association Inc. P.O. Box 667 Gulfport, Mississippi 39502

BOARD OF DIRECTORS GEORGE REIDER, Chairman January 23, 2013

DEAR NMCB 8 Association,

Thank you and the members of NMCB 8 Association for your generous gift of **\$500.00** to the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association. You can be assured that for many of our Scholarship recipients the financial support offered by the Association literally make the difference between going to a college or university.

RADM. CEC, USN (Ret.) DAVID J. NASH, Chairman of the Board RADM, CEC, USN (Ret.) JAMES V. BARTLETT, JR., Vice Chairman [Many more names listed]

NOTE: Scholarships serve deserving children of "Fallen Seabees" and other Seabees' children. Please donate. —MCB8 Staff



Lonnie, do you remember that stuff they used to put in our coffee during the war, to make us forget about women? I think you mean salt peter Dwayne. Yep, that's the stuff. I think it's beginning to work!

-Some Naval History-

THE U. S. S.. CONSTITUTION (OLD IRONSIDES), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea.

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and <u>79,400 gallons of rum</u>."

Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and **68,300 gallons of rum.**

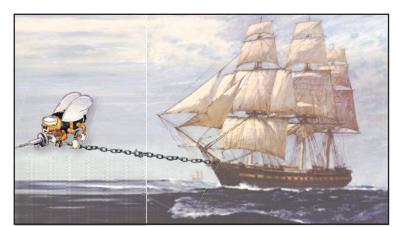
Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and <u>64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.</u>

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, **salvaging only the rum** aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred <u>40,000 gallons of single</u> <u>malt Scotch</u> aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The U. S. S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky, and 38,600 gallons of water. — GO NAVY!

What shall we do with a drunken sailor, What shall we do with a drunken sailor, What shall we do with a drunken sailor, Early in the morning? Chuck him in the long boat till he's sober.



U. S. S.. Constitution (Old Ironsides),

Chaplain's Corner – October 2013 by Billy Boggs

First of all I would like to say that I wish Sally and I could have joined you folks in Hueneme, but this time it was not possible. It looks like the next one will be in the "Holy City" Charleston SC. Wow, what beautiful city with so much history and good food!!

As I ponder the political turmoil, financial crisis, the ongoing war on terror, government shutdown and other things that causes us concern, I can't help but think, "what is going on?". Can we as a nation survive? A person sure could get depressed thinking about it. Well I would like to offer a perspective, In the last 230 years our forefathers dealt with a great civil war, which tore at the very fabrics of our young nation and abolished slavery. They ended two world wars and saved the world from mad men. They survived a depression we cannot even conceive of.

How did our forefathers survive these events and prosper? My answer is that our nation was created by incredible men who were committed to our God. And, we as a nation have been blessed beyond measure not to mention hard work, sacrifice, and perseverance.

I submit to you that it is our time to hold our heads high, claim our heritage and our God, and move forward. Hard times and hard decisions are never easy. Be informed and vote wisely. Let's all pray for our country and our world. —*Billy*



THE NMCB-8 Association Continues To BE A CHEER-LEADER AND SUPPORTER OF THE CEC/SEABEE HISTORICAL FOUNDATION.

ALL SEABEE UNIT ASSOCIATIONS, along with their Newsletters—including this NMCB8 Newsletter—will eventually come to an end—but not the CEC/ Seabee Foundations' Newsletters. Through their work and with support like ours—our Seabee history will be honored in perpetuity. Please donate to this most important of Seabee Organizations (The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation) to ensure our history is passed on.

SUPPORT FROM NMCB 8 REACHES \$29,000

Having far surpassed its original pledge of \$10,000 in support of the new facility for the Seabee Museum at Port Hueneme, Calif., veterans of NMCB 8 continue to add to the pledge. Recent donations have brought EIGHT'S total support to more than \$29,000.

Support from the veterans themselves has been augmented by profits from the sale of former CE2 Ken Bingham's reprints of several official reports [and books] about the Seabees. Those sales have added \$7,005 to EIGHT'S support. Bingham's reprints are available through the Seabee Museum Store in Port Hueneme; to reach the Museum Store, call (805) 382-2585.

An NMCB 8 veteran, Bingham has pledged the profits from his sales to the new Museum project and requested that they be credited to the [NMCB8] battalion. —From the Aug. 2013 Seabee Quarterly, (A publication of the

CEC/Seabee Historical Foundations' Newsletter.)



CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation P.O. Box 657 Gulfport, MS 39502-0657 1-228-865-0480 -- info@seabeehf.org

From Milt Peterson, Formerly JO3 Peterson, ML Jr. 693 67 08.

... you never forget your service number, do you?...

—I had been a member of the Naval Reserve throughout high school and college. I had heard that there was police action going on in Vietnam, and the surest way to avoid personal involvement in that mess was to 1) join the Naval Reserve and 2) get involved in a real skate rate -- like Journalist... yeah, that's the plan!

So when graduation happened (1968) and the deferments ceased, I was faced with a couple of years of active duty. I reported to Treasure Island for further assignment. It was there that I learned what SEABEES were and where "In Country" was. I also realized that my plan for eschewing personal involvement was substantially flawed.

After military training, I joined MCB8—deployment already in progress—in Phu Bai. The battalion returned to Port Hueneme later in 1968, and underwent military training before deploying to Da Nang in 1969. Shortly after return to CONUS later that year, the battalion was de-commissioned, but I the found myself headed back to the Land of the Golden Dragon to spend the rest of my sentence aboard the USS Ranger CV-61.

Working in the Public Affairs Office was both interesting and gratifying (I can say that now), and allowed for involvement in Civic Action and other programs. I also avoided doing any real work, which was more or less consistent with my original, flawed plan.

—I enjoyed my experience with the officers and men of MCB8, and have tremendous respect for the SEABEES. Rick Clark and John Ariko are examples of the high standards demonstrated by Naval Officers.

I'm not certain I did much for the battalion. But my job was to write about them and what they accomplished. I hope I didn't disappoint.

—After naval servitude, I returned to the great white north to pursue what I always considered a life.

I returned to my job at an aerospace company, got my MBA (and mortgage and kids) and continued to live the American dream. Worked roughly 25 years before retiring due to illness—I made my boss sick.

Entrepreneurship followed. I owned a small manufacturing company which would be described in 2000's language as a perspiration parlour... but certainly not a sweat-shop. Life was good; cash flow was acceptable.

I foresaw the impending fiscal train-wreck, and sold my company for a song. The good news: blood pressure down; more time to devote to my real passion: creating, but mostly drinking the ultimate martini.

So...enough about me. -Regards, Milt Peterson



Note: Milt Peterson donated his 1969 MCB-8 Cruise Book to us. It's in "new" condition and available for \$300. Cruise Books are rare. The money will be donated to the SEABEE ME-MORIAL SCHOLARSHIP ASSOCIATION INC.

Send \$300. check to: NMCB8 Association 1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

Or, donate the \$300. yourself to the FUND (See page 6, top left, for mailing info.) I will send you the BOOK upon receipt of the donation

CRUISEBOOK STAFF



JO3 M. L Peterson, Editor



JOSN P. J. Flanigan, Assistant Editor



LTJG Arako, Jr., Cruisebook Advisor

For many, it's the later years when the importance and real appreciation of cruise books come to light.

To all of the Cruise Book Staff—thank you so much. We are very grateful for your work.

Sincerely, All NMCB-8 members.

—Update on the PUC for the 133rd NCB (Iwo Jima)—

W/e have the following volunteers who are communicating with their congress-persons to action/facilitate the award of the PUC for the 133rd NCB for their IWO JIMA deployment.

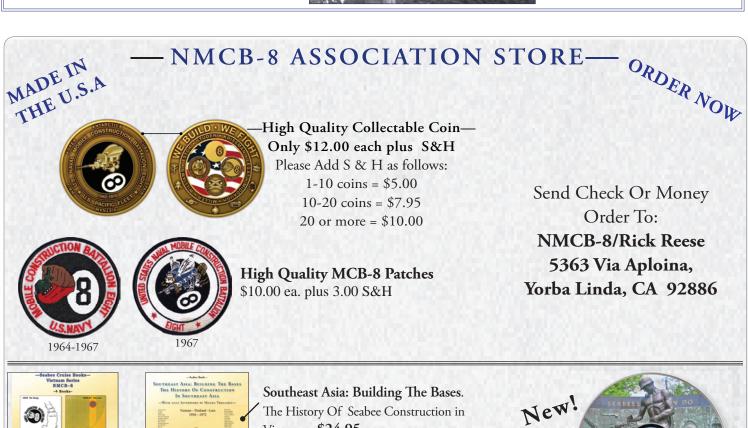


- Tammy S. Weibel
- Sion D. Griffin, Jr.
- Marjorie A. Albers
- Ron Sabbatis
- Dan Epplett

The LST-790 that delivered Sion D. Griffen Jr. to the hellish beaches of Iwo Jima.

FYI-Several of the 8th NCB were attached to the 8th Field Depot of Marines for the invasion. I drove an ammo loaded truck off of LST 790, (A Coast Guard manned ship) onto the shores of Iwo. I know what it was like and agree that the 133rd should get the PUC. Thanks.

—Sion D. Griffin, Jr.





4 Books in one: NMCB-8 Cruise Books: 1965 Da Nang, 1966-67 Chu Lai, 1968 Phu Bai, 1969 Da Nang. \$28.95

The History Of Seabee Construction in Vietnam. \$24.95

> A Wonderful 15 minute Historical Overview of MCB-8's four Vietnam deployments. Created by Rick Clark (LTJG). Includes 100's of images and great accom-\$12.00 panying music of that era.



Send check plus \$5.00 (S&H) to: NMCB-8 / Ken Bingham 1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca 93003



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



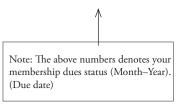
To:



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



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





NMCB-8 Seabees' Association

1773 Tamarin Ave. Ventura Ca. 93003

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President	Arnie Cicerone
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Recruiting	Ron Dougal (9 Years)
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 L 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. 12

Thanks for your support!