— REUNION — REUNION —
YOU DESERVE IT!

— HELLO SEABEES OF MCB-8 —

The organizing committee for the 2016 reunion invites you to beautiful San Diego next fall. The reunion activities will take place from September 25 to the 28 but because there are endless things to see and do here, the Holiday Inn Bayside is extending the special rate of $124 per night to the weekend before and after. This is a significant discount. RV parking is also available nearby.

Reunion activities will include a large hospitality room in the hotel with a deck view of the harbor, a wives’ luncheon and reduced fare tour on the Aircraft Carrier Midway Museum. Tuesday evening we will have a western Barbeque and Wednesday’s Banquet will be a Hawaiian Luau featuring a senior Navy SEAL from the Coronado base as our guest speaker.

If any of you have photos, art, or special creations involving our ‘Can Do’ Seabees, please bring them. We will have display tables in the hospitality room which will be open 4 straight days. We will also have a DVD player and projector running there.

For those of you who would like to take advantage of your visit and see a bit of San Diego, here are just a few of the options available in our fair city:

• World’s largest zoo (They are celebrating their centennial this year)
• San Diego Zoo Safari
• The original Sea World
• San Diego Maritime Museum
• Seaport Village specialty shopping center on the harbor
• Gaslamp Quarter (more than 100 restaurants and active nightlife) Try to Remember how you partied 50 years ago.
• Over 20 museums in Balboa Park, named one of the dozen best Urban parks in the world.
• 26 miles of beaches
• The grand old lady, Hotel Del Coronado (1887)
• Harbor cruises.
• Several Indian casinos nearby.— Continued next page
Visit Our NMCB-8 Website At:
HTTP://WWW.NMCB8.COM
To Access The Roster And Dues List, Use The Password 8CANDO

——REUNION——REUNION——
YOU DESERVE IT!

—Continued from front page.

… and much, much more. If there will be groups going to many of the above venues, we can get discounts.

We have reserved 60 rooms for the event. Please make reservations at the hotel as soon as possible so we can determine if more are needed. The sign-up forms in this newsletter has the contact information. Please remember that you can cancel up to 24 hours prior to arrival with no charge. They provide free shuttle service to and from the airport and are waiving the hospitality room charge and parking fees.

We look forward to having you here. Let’s make this the best ever!

—Rick Clark, Engineering Officer.
MCB-8, 1967-1969

IT LOOKS LIKE WE’RE READY for the San Diego Reunion. 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.

There’s a lot of work that goes into coordinating the reunions, setting up the functions, visiting the area and getting the best deals available. I want to thank all involved with putting this together. I’ve been in contact with Rick Clark, Ron Sabbatis, Ron Dougal and Rick Reese. It looks like they’ve covered every detail. Now it’s our turn to get on the phone and call some of our Seabee brothers and start pushing.

Call The Hotel and Make Reservations. Remember, you can cancel the hotel one day prior to arrival. Also, send a check with the forms to Ron Sabbatis. We do expect this reunion to be one of the biggest. The agenda is outstanding and the venue is just perfect for us. There has been a lot of work and planning involved with this.

Each year we lose more members. This could be the last year we’re able to see some of our brothers. With each passing year, some will not be able to travel and some will be gone but never forgotten!

I also want to extend an invitation to our nonmilitary friends and other veterans. In previous reunions, we’ve had various guests and friends join us to the festivities and banquet. They’ve had a great time. Our banquet speaker will be from the military. His background will be of interest to us all, and it will be one of the most engaging presentations you will ever hear. We are looking forward to hearing about his experiences.

This is a small note to our boys down South. If you are flying, make sure you put the moonshine in baggage check. They will not let you take it on carry-on.

We plan to have a small meeting to go over the website. We have a good website, but we still need more pictures. Please bring photos. We will scan and make copies to place on the web. We will also correct the roster.

Remember, we are Seabees, and NMCB-8 is still alive with our “Can Do” spirit. —Arnie Cicerone, Pres. NMCB-8 Assoc.
Portions of the following article appeared in the fall issue of Vietnam Era Seabees SEABEE NEWS.

The Vietnam Era Seabees and NMCB-8 combined forces and attacked Port Hueneme with a full fledged reunion on July 29, 30, & Aug. 1, 1999. Personnel vertically enveloped the reunion from as far away as New York and Alaska. Armed to the teeth with war stories, old times, rekindled friendships, and a sense of deja vu, the 118 Seabees and wives stormed the beer bar at Channel Islands Inns and Suites on Friday, suffering only moderate hangovers by the advance party.

Saturday saw the participants deployed around the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), attending memorials and starting old rumors. Rounding out the day (and the Seabees) was a fine dinner at Duke’s Restaurant on the base. After the meal there were guest speakers including CAPT Pap Phelps (NMCB-8 CO in 1965-66), CAPT McConnell (current CO of NCBC), and Dutch Filbry (Commander, Veteran of all wars, and “Cat House” builder extraordinaire). Master of ceremonies of this psychological warfare was CAPT Bob Quinn (former NMCB-40 and NCBC CO) along with the moral support of his wife Judy and the Vietnam Era Seabees President, Bruce McDougall (NMCB-8)... Logistics and direction was facilitated by Bob Quinn and CAPT Gordon Gilmore (NMCB-8 & OICC Cambodia, Thailand and Laos). Gordon was also successful in finding many of the lost NMCB-8 personnel for their reunion, thus making that group the main body of the reunion.

Leonard Nevins Writes:

Hi Ken,
I found bought up on your letter I had to parts.
I cannot get to your mail now I have to find the your address.
Please put more of your mailing list.
I have the McB History from Sept 1951 to 1955
I got with four of first 1954 to February 1956 then on to Mob 8th Oct. from then on to 1971
I have a written History of sept 1951 to 1955
Written by Chief
Compliments of Capt. Harry Davis (Editor) and Capt. Gordon Gilmore (President)

Rusty Maggs Writes:

Dear Ken,
It was good to talk to you again. I hope things are well with you and we are all doing good here. Looking forward to the reunion hope to see you there.

Thank you for your help with the cruise books.

Rusty J. Maggs

Leonard—yes, please send the history to me at:
Ken Bingham
1773 Tamarin Ave.
Ventura CA 93003

Leonard Nevins Writes:

Ken
my name is John C. Och I live at
215 Willowdale Lane. Round Number 204
I was in the Seabees from 1 July 1957
to August 1964.
I was discharged August 5th 1966 with the rank of E.R 1
I met Don Glass last year while traveling in Ky. He told me about the McB 2 reunion.
I would like to sign up for the newsletter
and get info on the reunion. I am enclosing a check for $10.00.
I am planning on coming to the reunion in October. You will hear more from me later.

John C. Och
Abbreviation: MARS
Motto: “Proud, Professional, and Ready”
Formation: November 1925
Purpose: To provide contingency communications support for the United States Department of Defense and Military Services
Region served: Worldwide

Kennrick Belling Writes:

Dear Mr. Bingham,
The April 2015 edition of the NMCB-8 Association’s newsletter put out a call for funds to pay for its web site upgrade. The enclosed check is being submitted in memory of my father, Frank K. Belling (EOC retired). He was an EOC “plank owner” when MCB-8 was recommissioned in November 1960. I am sure he would want to lend support if he was still with us. Keep up the great work.

Thank you Kennrick from MCB-8

K.M. Belling

From Dan Eppelett.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT ENJOY SEEING THIS ARTICLE. FOUR YEARS IN THE NAVY AND THIS WAS THE ONLY SHIP I EVER BOARDED, THE USS NEVER SAIL. GLAD SHE IS GETTING A FACE LIFT. I WILL CHECK THIS OUT AT OUR NEXT REUNION IN SAN DIEGO.

Ken
Jerry Durbin Did A Wonderful Job Chronicling His Deployments To The Nam. The Pictures Below Describes The Chu Lai Deployment 1966-67. (His Images Of Tam Key And Phu Bai Will Be In Next Newsletter.)

Jerry Durbin Heading out.

Jerry on Eimco dozer.

Third from left, Jim Langhoff and Durbin. By the looks of the uniform—just arrived.

Road mines were becoming a problem for MCB-8.

Locals Taking a break at the Chu Lai Rock Quarry.

MCB-8 allowed the locals to break rock (rip/rapp), by hand, and sell them to the battalion for road construction.

Lunch-time swim break.

Morse Handy and Jerry Durbin.

Rain-gear was used quite a bit in Chu Lai. It rained once for over 40 consecutive days.

Morse Handy and Friends. (Seabee # 1)

They would be over 60 years now.

Gerry Durbin and Morse Handy.
The Vietnam War ended decades ago, but closure for a Vallejo man didn’t come until Thursday.

Fifty years after his tour in Vietnam, Warlito Moises, 70, received four medals that, due to a long-overlooked bureaucratic snafu, he never got while in the military.

“The medals never mattered to me, but it’s good to finally be recognized,” said Moises, a retired police officer. “It’s long overdue. It feels good.”

Rep. Mike Thompson pinned the medals on Moises’ suit in a brief ceremony aboard the LCS 102, a World War II-era “Mighty Midget” ship docked at Mare Island in Vallejo. Moises received the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Star, a Navy Unit Commendation and a Combat Action Ribbon for his time in the jungle dodging the Viet Cong.

Moises wanted to join the Navy almost from birth. He grew up in Vallejo when it was still a bustling Navy town, and graduated from Vallejo High School. He was inspired to enlist in part by his father, a former member of the Philippine Scouts who survived the Bataan Death March in World War II.

But when he went to enlist, the Navy wasn’t quite as enthusiastic.

“They told me I could be a steward or a cook. That’s what all black and Filipino guys were told,” he said. “I said, ‘None of the above. I want to be a Seabee. If you say no, fine, I’ll go to the Army or Marines.’ They finally said OK.”

So Moises joined the Navy’s Construction Battalion, whose members are known as “Seabees,” for C.B.

He was stationed in Chu Lai, Vietnam, from February to October 1965, building airstrips with his battalion. They slept in foxholes and endured nightly attacks from the Viet Cong, he said.

He has had health problems ever since, due to Agent Orange exposure, and still suffers nightmares from his time there, he said.

“Just dreams that the Viet Cong are jumping out at you, and you grab your gun and it’s not there,” he said. “Or when I hear a muffler backfire. ... It can be hard sometimes.”

When he returned to the U.S., the Vietnam War was so unpopular he was in no hurry to collect his medals, he said. He went to work as a Naval police officer on Mare Island, a job he held for 28 years, and served 24 years in the Navy reserves.

He and his wife of 47 years, Elicita, a retired nurse, have lived in Vallejo most of their lives. They have two daughters, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Now retired, Moises volunteers on numerous veterans endeavors, including the American Legion, and a year or so ago decided to track down his lost medals.

Thompson, himself a Vietnam veteran, said he receives one or two such requests a year, and always tries to assist.

“It’s very important that when someone serves our country, in combat, and they haven’t received their medals, that we follow through,” he said Thursday. “It allows them to close a chapter in their life, and they certainly deserve that.”

It wasn’t uncommon, in the chaos of wartime, for medals to get lost or never issued, he said.

The medals may have signified the end of one chapter for Moises, but he’s not done with his military work. He plans to keep crusading for veterans of all ages, he said.

“I am very happy today,” he said, “but the work continues.”
—Dutch Harbor, Alaska—

—LAND HO! THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY—The morning of our fifth day out of Seattle found the seas reasonably calm. Late in the afternoon someone shouted “Land” and we all crowded the rails to view our new home. The sight that greeted us was one that few of us will ever forget. A heavy fog lay about 100 feet above the water, obscuring the tops of the mountains, so that our first impression was that we were sailing through a group of high, flat plateaus. It seemed just the place for airport construction until a little later when the fog lifted. Then we got our first glimpse of the far-flung Aleutian peaks. They rose so steeply from the water that nowhere as far as we could see did there appear to be enough flat land to lay out a ball field, much less an airport. The dull green color of the mountain slopes came from the tundra, a dense, wet, peat-forming grass peculiar to the Northlands, which covered them. At places they ran down into narrow beaches of fine volcanic sand. Nowhere was a tree visible.

About five o’clock, still sailing through calm waters, we passed the spit that marks the entrance to the harbor. The efforts of the crew to make the usual preparations for landing were hampered by our persistent crowding the rails. Ahead of us appeared a small settlement. Most of us took it to be Dutch Harbor; it turned out to be Unalaska, the adjoining town. As we approached the dock the weather took a quick turn for the worse; a mild williwaw blew up and brought with it a flurry of snow. Then, as the side of the Chaumont touched the dock, a greeting Army band broke into “Here Comes The Navy.”

Very little time was lost before our personnel and gear began to leave the ship. Details were formed and we spent most of the night moving material to the warehouses. Toward morning we got a few hours sleep wherever we could, atop packing cases, on bare wooden floors, or in the ship’s musty hold which for the first time in five days seemed almost comfortable.

A word about the situation at Dutch Harbor. Much of the construction work there had been done by contractors employing civilian workers. But now the Japs were on the move. They had landed on Kiska and Attu, they had already sent a fleet of planes against Dutch Harbor, and, although nobody knew just where, they were expected to strike again soon. Therefore the Navy considered it wise to evacuate all civilian workers and replace them with construction men who also bore arms, the Seabees. We arrived there at month after the Japanese planes had bombed the Harbor. The Fourth Battalion had preceded us but had not been able to do much work because their hand tools had been lost when one of their warehouses was destroyed by a bomb. Together with the Fourth, we began the task of repairing and strengthening the base.

—From the 8th NCB Cruise Book
I continue to read in the news of many Veteran Charitable Groups spending large amounts of donated money on overhead costs—with small percentages going to the intended recipients.

The heart-tugging media blitz on helping and donating to Veterans Groups isn’t always what they seem.

Accordingly, I only give to Seabee organizations—because I was a Seabee myself, and I know my money will go to a good cause—and will be responsibly spent—with low overhead costs.

It makes sense and is a no-brainer for me.

The MCB-8 Association Has Been Actively Supporting the Following Two Seabee Organization For Several Years now, and we encourage you to consider donating as an individual.

- The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation is deeply involved in Seabee History; they built the wonderful Museum in Port Hueneme—a real show-piece, that preserves our History.

- The Seabee Memorial Association— was founded in 1970 to build the Seabee Memorial in Washington DC. The Association began awarding scholarships in 1972 and became the Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) —kb

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Mailing Address:
SMSA
P.O. Box 6574
Silver Spring, MD 20916

Donation Address:
SMSA
P.O. Box 667
Gulfport, MS 39502
Phone: (301) 570-2850

Executive Director-
Joe Leahy -joeleahy@seabee.org
Chief Development Officer-
Dan Miller-danmiller@seabee.org
Administrative Assistant-
Sheryl Chiogiogi-smsa@seabee.org

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

AND THE:

The Seabee Memorial Scholarship Association (SMSA) is the nation’s only provider of need-based scholarships to children and grandchildren of America’s Navy Seabees and Civil Engineer Corps service members attending accredited colleges and universities. ★ Since 1972 SMSA has awarded more than 2,600 scholarships valued at over $4 million. In 2015 alone, the Association provided over $250,000 in scholarships to a large pool of students to attend a two or four-year academic institution. ★ Most of their scholarship recipients graduate in the top 10% of their high school class. The average family income of Seabee recipient families is less than $45,000 so these scholarships help ensure they can achieve their academic goals.
Jim Morissey Writes:

—The SEABEES at Normandy—

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Tennessee Ernie Ford——

Sixteen Tons

Some people say a man is made outta mud
A poor man’s made outta muscle and blood
Muscle and blood and skin and bones
A mind that’s a-weak and a back that’s strong

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don’t you call me ’cause I can’t go
I owe my soul to the company store

I was born one mornin’ when the sun didn’t shine
I picked up my shovel and I walked to the mine
I loaded sixteen tons of number nine coal
And the straw boss said “Well, a-bless my soul”

You load sixteen tons, what do you get
Another day older and deeper in debt
Saint Peter don’t you call me ’cause I can’t go
I owe my soul to the company store

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Jack Nielson Writes:

Hi Ken,

Thank you for the Newsletter.
Do enjoy it. I was with MCB-8 Sept. 1951 to March 1955.

Does this make me a Plank Owner?

You understand I’m a carpenter, not a English Major.

I knew Richard Berry But lost track of him.

If you have his address, please send it to me.

While I was at Builders School, I would hitch hike through Ventura.
My new wife was staying in Carpenteria.

Thought if we ever moved to Cal, we would live in Ventura. But it’s grown in 64 years.
Thank you again.

P.S.—The V.A. takes great care of me. I’m 82.
Sincerely Jack
84 Henry St.
Greenwich CT 06830
I Have The Above Two Plaques.

If You Have The Plaques Below, Please Send Them To Me And I’ll Have Copies Made.
—Ken Bingham, Editor

Sign Up!

http://www.vietnam-era-seabees.org
—Dallas Hanson Died—
May 4, 2015

—On October 10, 1967, he enlisted as a Seabee in the United States Navy and served two tours in Vietnam. The Seabees built roads, bridges, and support facilities while fighting alongside Marines. They also built schools, hospitals, and utility systems in the Vietnamese villages for humanitarian support. He was extremely proud of his service and lived his life by the Seabee motto, “The difficult we do immediately, the impossible just takes a little longer … Can Do!” During his service, he earned numerous medals including the Combat Action Ribbon. On December 18, 1969, after serving for two years, two months, and nine days, Dallas was honorably discharged.

I just heard from Pam Smith that her husband, Floyd Smith, (NMCB-8, 1967-68), passed away on 11/24/15 after a long illness. He was a good man and a good friend.

—Lou Beland

Lou Beland Writes:

I just heard from Pam Smith that her husband, Floyd Smith, (NMCB-8, 1967-68), passed away on 11/24/15 after a long illness.

He was a good man and a good friend.

—Lou Beland

—Chaplain’s Corner—

Spring Has Sprung
by Billy Boggs

First of all, I feel that I need to express to you my long term love affair with wild flowers. Just let me say they sweep my breath away. This past winter we had a lot of rain in our area, and the spring has been mild. Consequently, the flora has been exceptional here in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. I wish you could be with me to see the Jack-in-the-Pulpit, or the Oconee Bell, or an expanse of May Apple nestled in a sheltered cove. The color and diversity of size and shape boggles my mind. In my way of thinking, all this is not some cosmic accident. This has to be part of a grand design, which leads me to think

of our upcoming reunion. A brotherhood formed so long ago and seasoned with time, will again have its spring this September in San Diego. A kindred-ship that cannot be explained any more than the wild flowers. I believe, as I am sure you do, that all of life is a fabric of something that is larger than anything we can imagine. God has a plan for all of us and everything he has created. I encourage you to be attentive and listen for God’s words to you, helping you to discern what he has planned for your life or what impact you can have on the life of another.

I wish you well and hope to see you in September
In the love of Christ—Billy
Reunion — Reunion — You Deserve It!
September 25—28th, 2016
San Diego, California

NMCB-8 Seabees’ Association
1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura Ca. 93003

To:

NMCB-8 Seabees’ Association
1773 Tamarin Ave., Ventura Ca. 93003

President .................. Arnie Cicerone
Treasurer .................. Ken Bingham
Newsletter Editor ......... Ken Bingham
Proof Readers .............. Rick Clark/Harry Davis
Recruiting .................. Ron Dougal (9 Years)
Master at Arms ............. Troy Branch

Past Presidents ............. Gorden Gilmore, Ken Kerr, Rick Reese
Previous Editor ............... Capt. Harry Davis (9 years)

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.