

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

## NNWA Bulletin



January 2022



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Gray Dragon: John Cummings

## **President's Message**

Happy New Year to all Dragon Keepers,

What a year 2021 has been, glad it is over but I am holding my breath for 2022 to be better. The pandemic took its toll on the 35th reunion in Oklahoma City, but it turned out great anyway thanks to Denice Young and the Board of Directors. I would like to thank Ray Breton for volunteering to run the 50/50 raffle due to the Master at Arms not being able to attend due to personnel health issues.

We have a new event planner so hopefully this will work out better for the 36th in Norfolk, VA which is being hosted by John and Maggie Hawkins with the BOD to assist as needed.

We have a previous board member who rejoined the BOD, Richard Gurule - thanks for stepping up. I want to personally thank Dwight "Chip" Chipperfield for his years of dedicated service as a board member and for being the Storekeeper. Feel free to come back anytime - you will be welcome. I want to thank all new and reinstated members who have joined or extended their membership. Welcome aboard and welcome back.

The 36th reunion is on schedule for Sunday, September 11 to Thursday September 15, 2022. I know that we normally hold the reunion Monday thru Friday, but the hotel availability did not let this happen this year. That is one reason I would like to have the planning of the reunion and sites two years in advance so the planners can have a jump on finding hotel accommodations and tour information.

The 37th, 2023 reunion is in the West Region at Tucson, AZ - date is TBD. We will get information on the 2024 Central and 2025 East completed for reunion sites at the Annual Business Meeting in Norfolk. Keep an open mind as to where and possible dates for them so we can present options and have the membership vote via

the "monkey" survey that the webmaster, Ray, puts out.

Have a great beginning of the new 2022 and we will have more in the Spring issue of the bulletin on the reunion, tours, and costs.

Thank you for being members of the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association and may you all be blessed and safe this New Year.

Kris A Hobbs  
NNWA President

## **Vice-President's Message**

Fellow Members,

As a reminder it is the Vice President's responsibility to maintain the SOP/PDL document, keeping it accurate and current. If you have any recommended changes to this document then forward them to a board member for consideration. If approved I will update the SOP/PDL with the change.

We use a reunion planner to set up our reunions but we need a host to work directly with the planner and Board to make our reunions successful. That being said, we are looking for volunteers from our membership to host future reunions with great assistance from a reunion planner and the board. Please contact a member of our board if you are interested.

See you all in Norfolk at our next NNWA Reunion this September!

Happy New Year!  
Bethany  
NNWA Vice President

## Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponeers,

Our upcoming reunion will be held in Norfolk, VA. The Hampton Roads area has a rich Navy Nuclear Weapons legacy that many members of the NNWA have direct experience with, myself included. Some of the area commands that supported our program include:

Naval Station Norfolk is situated in the Sewells Point area of Norfolk, near the site of the battle of the Monitor and Merrimac (CSS Virginia), and is the largest naval complex in the world. It was known officially as Naval Operating Base (NOB) until 31 DEC 52, then on 1 JAN 53 the name of the installation was changed to Naval Station Norfolk. Despite the name officially changing in 1953, during my first tour on CV-62 from 75 -79 the base was still referred to as NOB by many sailors. Of course many of us were stationed aboard nuclear capable fleet units homeported at NOB.

Nuclear Weapons Training Group Atlantic was located in the Deak Parsons Center. It was named after RDML William "Deak" Parsons who worked as an ordnance expert on the Manhattan Project during World War II. NWTGA was originally located on NAS Norfolk with the enlisted courses being taught at Breezy Point close to the seaplane flight line in a metal frame structure. After the fire main froze in 1977 they were relocated to the Deak Parsons Center. The majority of the officers courses and the weapons museum was held somewhere in the CINCLANT Fleet compound prior to being moved to the new NWTGA building as well.

Naval Weapons Station Yorktown Skiffes Creek Annex, commissioned in 1953, accommodated nuclear munitions for Tomahawk and carrier based naval aviation. On 1 APR 70, Skiffes Creek Annex, located near the York River, was disestablished and was designated as the Special Weapons Department of the station. Many of us

W-Division personnel remember our loadouts coming from Yorktown.

One of the authorized navy nuclear weapons supply points was the Naval Supply Center (NSC) Nuclear Weapons Supply Department (NWSN) Code 900 Norfolk. All Naval Supply Centers and Naval Supply Depots were renamed Fleet and Industrial Supply Centers March 1, 1993. The name changed to NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) Norfolk on 1 JUL 11. NWSN activities included the stocking and distribution of OA/8A material including inert nuclear training weapons, major assemblies and components, nuclear ordnance test and handling equipment, and repair and preparation of various Bomb Dummy Units (BDUs). I was stationed at NWSN Code 900 from 83 – 86 and the name was changed to Special Material Supply Department (SMSD) about 1985 as I recall.

NAS Norfolk was originally part of NOB, but in March 1946 the CNO ordered the Commandant of the 5th Naval District to place NOB Norfolk and NAS Norfolk as separate installations under the command of Commandant Naval Base. On 5 FEB 99 the Navy merged NS Norfolk and NAS Norfolk back into a single installation to be called Naval Station Norfolk. Per Ray Margeson NAS Norfolk originally had a MAUW shop, but a Service Storage Facility (SSF) was stood up between 1979-1981 during his tour there.

Undoubtedly there were other navy activities in the Norfolk area that were involved in our line of work back in its heyday. I encourage members to share memories with our Historian so the association can have a record of them. And I encourage you to attend one of our reunions so we can share sea stories about our program over a beer!

All the Best,  
John

## **Treasurer's Message**

As treasurer and keeper of the roster, let me welcome our new and reinstated members since the last newsletter. They are:

Tracy McDaniels	Robert Breisch
Antone Rodrigues	Eric Wickstrom
Tommy Thompson	Ralph Rogers
Donald Odom	John Failoni
John Jabson	Ronald Akre
Edward Evans	Richard Perez

We now have 849 members listed on the membership roster; 336 members in good standing; 68 life members (spouses of deceased members); 352 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 92 members with dues in arrears; and one reciprocal member (NAAV).

Past members can be reinstated by sending the \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$15.00 for a total of \$25.00. They will then be reinstated as a new member.

If you are unsure whether yours dues are up to date and you receive your newsletter by mail, look at the date in the upper right corner of the mailing which shows the month and year to which your dues are paid. If you receive your newsletter electronically, log onto our website and check your membership status there in the Membership Roster. The dues date will be listed in the date column to the right of your name.

The current membership roster is posted on our website. Members not on-line can request a hard copy of the roster by calling or writing:

Donald Schultz  
573 Beaulieu Loop  
The Villages, FL 32163  
Phone: 352-259-1403

Please review the roster and notify the Treasurer or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$24,463.53 on deposit with Wells Fargo Bank.

When making a payment to the NNWA, please make checks payable to NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz NNWA Treasurer or Donald Schultz. The bank will not accept made out any other way. Please ensure that when sending money to the NNWA that it is the correct amount.

Donald K. Schultz  
Treasurer and Keeper of the Roster

## **Chaplain's Corner**

Greetings to my "Keepers of the Dragon" Family,

The Oklahoma City Reunion is now in the History books. The Holidays have come and gone and we are venturing in to a New Year. With the New year looming we can still reflect back. That is what we do with the past you know. The memory of the past is a reflection of what was.

Oklahoma City was a good time for us that were there. There were a few that planned to make it but due to unfortunate situations, it just wasn't meant to be. We honored more of our family during the Two Bell Ceremony then I have seen in a long time. I am not sure if it was because of the situation, we have been in for the past two years or if it was due to natural causes because of our ages, but which ever it was, we know that they are all honorably serving on the staff of our Supreme Commander. As for the rest of us, may we stay in good health for the coming years.

Whatever your faith may be, I hope that you had a Very Happy Holiday Season. There are some that had the Menorah lights shining. There are some that had their homes decorated, inside and out,

with many lights. There are those that display their Nativity Scenes. No matter how you may have observed this time, the main thing is that it is a time for giving. A time to give to help that homeless veteran, to help that shut in senior citizen, to help fill the pantries for those that are less fortunate and to put a smile on the faces of everyone you help. I love to see smiles, Don't you???

Well, now that we are into the New Year, what do we have to look forward to? NORFOLK, VA!! Yes, our reunion for 2022 will be in Norfolk. It was 60 years ago, (1962) that I left that Destroyer at D&S Piers. I am sure that it has changed a lot since then. No more East Main St. and Duffy's Tavern and no more Vice Detective Robinet. Some of you may have other memories.

Talking about memories, that's what I was talking about when I mentioned reflecting back. To me that's what our reunions are for - reflecting back on our past times together. As Keepers of the Dragon, you are a special breed, a one of a kind that is no more. We couldn't talk about things back then but now we can get together and talk all we want with each other. Come to the reunions, invite others that you know to come.

Take care and see you all in Norfolk in September.

Ed Deitzler  
Chaplain

### **Historian's Message**

Merry Christmas Shipmates!

The reunion in OKC was not as big as some in the past, but all attendees were again enthusiastic. I am looking forward to the reunion next year in the Norfolk area, as I haven't been there in 70 years! There probably have been a few changes since then.

First, all my issues were resolved at the reunion, so I volunteered to serve one more tour as

historian. Second, my columns featuring good friend and Manhattan Project veteran Steve Kasunic have run their course, so I'm off on another long time desire.

Now, starting with the next bulletin, is the time for my next subject. For all my years in the program, I often wondered what was going on at all the other sites we NW/GMT/WTs served at, particularly those had only a very few billets. I was lucky enough to be assigned to one – the Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility at Kirtland AFB, in Albuquerque, so that will be the subject of my next column. I am asking any and all veterans of the “Albuquerque Turkey” to e-mail me any histories, stories, experiences, interesting events, etc., that would be interesting to all the members who have only heard of it before. In subsequent articles I would like to cover St. Mawgan next, and then any others members can suggest. But, please do NOT use the NNWA Historian e-mail address. I have never received a single e-mail from that address. Please forward them to me at my regular address:

[jaylindstrom@hotmail.com](mailto:jaylindstrom@hotmail.com)

Thank you, and I hope to see you next year in Virginia.

Jay Lindstrom

### **Upcoming Reunion Information**

**NNWA 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
Norfolk, VA  
11-15 SEP 2022**

Hello All,

Plans are coming together for our next reunion.

The dates for the 2022 Reunion will be Sunday 11 September with check out on Friday 16 September at the Doubletree by Hilton Norfolk Airport. The meet and greet will be Sunday evening and the

General Meeting will be held on Thursday along with the dinner dance. Rooms are \$109 per night plus tax of course and the hotel provides free parking and a discounted breakfast is offered. They also provide free shuttles to/from the Airport and shuttles to venues within a three mile radius of the hotel which includes the Norfolk Outlets and the Light Rail System which provides access to the downtown Norfolk area.

As for tours, the reunion Planners are possibly offering the following tours. As with anything this far out, all are subject to change.

First off is a tour of the Military Aviation Museum in South Virginia Beach. This museum houses one of the largest personal collections of military aircraft and equipment in the US. It also includes a WW II hangar and WW II Aircraft control tower that were dismantled and brought to Virginia Beach by the owner of the museum. In the gift shop, which is stocked with all things flight-related. A boxed lunch will be enjoyed while at the museum. Upon departure from the museum, embark on a Virginia Beach Riding Tour as you learn about the history of Virginia's largest city and get the pulse on current day in Virginia Beach. Stop at the First Landing Cross, where the first English colonists arrived in 1607, and the Old Cape Henry Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark that has guarded the mouth of the bay since 1792 (climb on own for a small fee). It is touted as a 7 hour tour and includes lunch.

MacArthur Memorial/Nauticus Tours which includes the USS Wisconsin as part of the Nauticus tour. It would be a seven hour tour. Lunch on your own.

The McArthur Memorial & City Cruise includes a tour of the Memorial and museum followed by a City Cruise by Hornblower providing a Cruise of the Norfolk area from the water and the Naval Base. Lunch is included on this 5 hour tour.

Another possible tour is a Riding Tour of Norfolk by motor coach where we will be guided around

the City of Norfolk. Then we will board the Victory Rover for a two hour tour of the Elizabeth River and the Naval Base from the Water. A box lunch will be served while onboard. End the day with a stop at Doumar's Ice Cream and Cones, home to the world's first ice cream cone machine. Guests will learn the history of the cone and then enjoy an ice cream treat. Wonderful Ice Cream too!!!! This is touted as a five hour tour.

The cost for the tours have not been finalized as it is dependent on the availability of the tours and the number of people participating. The costs will be included on the registration form.

Also the costs for the dinner dance will come at a later date and will be included on the registration form members will fill out when registering. As usual, we will probably be offering meat, poultry and fish as the entrée for the dinner.

Also if you are going to the Dinner Dance, Please remember that we routinely do a gift Exchange and try and keep the cost moderate at say around \$25.00 or so.

Hope to see you all in Norfolk for the 2022 NNWA Reunion. .

John Hawkins

### **Future Reunions**

The 38<sup>nd</sup> reunion of the NNWA in 2023 will be held in:

Region:	Western US
Location:	Tucson, AZ
Host:	TBD

The 39<sup>th</sup> reunion of the NNWA in 2024 will be held in:

Region:	Midwestern US
Location:	TBD
Host:	TBD