

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

“KEEPERS of the DRAGON”©™

## NNWA Bulletin



June 2022



Our website address is: [www.navynucweeps.com](http://www.navynucweeps.com)

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### NNWA Board Members 2021-2022

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Director	Tyrus George	724-516-7284	<a href="mailto:Boardmember1@navynucweeps.com">Boardmember1@navynucweeps.com</a>

Gray Dragon: Frederick Wacha

## **President's Message**

To our finest and important Dragon Keepers,

Our second Gray Dragon, GMTTC John Cummings passed away in January and we now have a new Gray Dragon, Fredrick Wacha. His biography and photos will be published on the website upon receipt of his complete bio. I am hoping he can make it to the reunion where he will be presented and recognized as the Third Gray Dragon at the business meeting and the dinner. If he cannot make it, I will fly out and present him the documents and have pictures taken of the presentation. Welcome Fred and thanks for being one of the first "Keepers of the Dragon".

Welcome to the midyear report. The 36th reunion in Norfolk is up and running and as of my writing there are only 7 Keepers who have signed up in the hotel. I know it is still early but hopefully it will be a great reunion, a sellout and members who have not made some of the reunions will be present. John and Maggie Hawkins are the host and have done a great job and will submit information on the reunion.

Members need to think about becoming board members and assist in the running of the board. Some members have been on the board for a long time and will be "retiring" from the board in the future. Time to step up, learn about positions and volunteer and help keep the association up and running. I do thank all the board members who are on the board for their presence and last year was a disaster with the COVID pandemic.

We are still active and trying to get the reunions set for the future. I would like to see three years of reunion sites planned out and host volunteers with board assistance, so it will be easier for the membership to plan. As our membership is slowly decreasing the reunions have been declining also. The cost has increased, and most are on a fixed income so let us plan and present the sites for your attendance at the reunions.

Tucson, AZ is the site for the West 2023 and the Central is for 2024 then back to the East for 2025. There has been some talk about New Orleans, but we may need to make some changes in the scheduling because of the football seasons resulting in short stay and hotel booking problems. The Central area is ND, SD, NE, KS, OK, TX, MN, IA, MO, AR, LA, WI, IL, and MS. There is a map of the division and states for each on the website.

I will close for now and let the other board members have their input and see you in Norfolk, VA.

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

Kris A Hobbs  
NNWA President

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

Fellow Members,

The president with the concurrence of the BOD has proposed two changes to the NNWA By-Laws; specifically:

1. Current wording of Article VI, Section 1:

"...Every effort shall be made to conduct the Annual Business Meeting between September 15th and October 15th of each year."

Proposed change:

"Every effort shall be made to conduct the reunion and associated Annual Business Meeting between September 15th and October 15th of each year; however the BOD may schedule reunions outside these dates to allow for more flexibility in working with reunion hosts and providers."

2. Current wording of Article VIII, Section 6:

“At least 50% of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. No proxy votes are permitted. Votes shall be recorded by the Secretary either verbally, telephonically, or electronically (such as by e-mail). The Secretary shall maintain written records of all Board votes and report the same to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.”

Proposed change:

“Attendance by at least 50% of the Board of Directors shall be considered a quorum for BOD meetings. In the event that a board member cannot attend a meeting of the BOD or the Annual Business Meeting in person because of a family emergency, emergent medical condition, or other extenuating circumstance then virtual attendance may be made using a technology based solution such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, or conference calls providing such technology allows for real-time interaction with other members of the association membership and/or BOD.

This virtual attendance provision is to be used to facilitate obtaining a quorum in order to conduct required association business. It is not to be used as a means for a board member to NOT attend such meetings in person under normal circumstances.

The President shall make the determination on whether the requesting board member is approved to attend any meeting(s) via a technology based solution.

No proxy votes are permitted. Votes shall be recorded by the Secretary either verbally, telephonically, or electronically (such as by e-mail). The Secretary shall maintain written records of all Board votes and report the same to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.”

I'd like to thank whoever gave a dress to Liz to give to me. What a nice surprise.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Norfolk this fall.

Bethany  
NNWA Vice President

### Secretary's Message

Fellow Weaponers,

Just a reminder when ordering items from the Ship's Store - the order form says to mail the completed order form with check made out to the **NNWA Treasurer**. The check and order form are then mailed to the Storekeeper, who processes the order and sends payment to the Treasurer.

At the 2020 Annual Business Meeting Jim Little requested that we poll the membership on who may be experiencing cancers in order to strengthen any VA claims. This poll was completed and results are included in his Radiation Exposure letter that is posted in the “Members Only” area of our website.

I am asking that new members consider serving on the Board of Directors to help chart the course for the future of our organization. When we were on active duty, having new personnel rotate into a command brought in fresh ideas and perspectives on how to get things done. Serving on the BOD is like that - new members bring new ideas. Long serving members can step aside and let the “new blood” take over.

How do you get to be a board member? Volunteer yourself to an existing BOD member via email, phone, or in person. Then that member will ensure your name is placed on the elections ballot at the next reunion's Annual Business Meeting. Assuming you are elected the term will be for a two year period. Some people serve only one term – others stay on for ten years. It is up to the individual.

You will likely serve as a Director for at least one year so you can become familiar with the workings of the BOD and the organization. Starting the 2nd year on the board you can express interest in one of the other officer positions. Specific officer positions are filled at the BOD meeting immediately following the Annual Business Meeting by consensus of the BOD members.

Board Members do not have to attend every reunion, we understand that is just not possible, so we all cover for each other. Items at the reunion requiring a vote are carried by the majority of the BOD in attendance. We actually conduct most business over the course of the year via email. We do leave each reunion with a “to do” list of items to improve the organization, how it operates, and to make our reunions better.

Hopefully this answers most questions about how to serve the NNWA as a board member. If you have any other questions feel free to ask any of us – we are here to help.

Again – I encourage any member who has not served on the BOD to consider it – it takes members serving on the board to keep our organization running.

We hope to see you at the reunion in Norfolk!

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:

Louis Brown	Daniel Prater
David Ruff	Thomas Sledge
Francis Guyton	

We now have 842 members listed on the membership roster; 403 members in good standing; 72 life members (spouses of deceased members); 367 past members (members with unpaid dues for three years); 90 members with dues in arrears.

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 your 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 at your leisure and notify the Treasurer or any board member of any changes in your status.

Currently, we have \$25,998.42 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

## Historian's Message

In what I hope will be another continuing series of articles I will be covering some of the lesser known sites where NW/GMT/WTs were stationed. I will start with the one I served at, the Naval Weapons Evaluation Facility, at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque. It was a small tenant command at Kirtland, only 120 Navy (and two Marines – can't forget them), and there were only four GMT billets. In 1978 when I reported in I relieved GMTC Roger Ortiz, who retired. Also there were GMT1s Art Eberle, Larry Mayo and Paul Schimming.

By 1949 most of the military's Nuclear Weapons business was centered at Kirtland. Los Alamos Labs weapons development group - "Z" Division – moved into the east side, known as Sandia Base, and eventually became Sandia Laboratories. The Navy wanted to develop its own nuclear capabilities and established the Naval Air Detachment for liaison with the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project. Its mission was to help develop specific navy aircraft for nuclear delivery, thus working closely with Sandia. In 1952 the detachment became the Naval Air Special Weapons Facility, and its mission began to grow. It was located in the southern half of a large hangar, Bldg. 1002.

Over the years NWEF became the Navy's authority for nuclear weapons safety. Located in Bldg. 1029, near the hangar, their personnel performed many investigations into weapons accidents and incidents, both nuclear and conventional, determining causes and instituting corrective measures. They developed stockpile to target sequences, insured weapon/aircraft compatibility, and set standards for environmental survivability. They came up with procedures for Emergency Destruction of Nuclear Weapons, and, when that turned out to be a bad idea, for disabling weapons. When the Navy's WWII air-dropped moored mines grew obsolete 1029 oversaw the development of the new Mk 52, 55 and 56s, and then the Mk36, 40 and 41 Destructors, which gave

all of us GMTs on Yankee Station something to do for the war effort.

Many different aircraft were assigned to NWEF over the years. At one time or another there were:

A-1, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-6 and A-7 attack aircraft, C-47, C-54 and C-118 transports, F-2, F-3, F-4, F-7 and F/A 18 fighters and P-2 and P-3 ASW planes. Other types came TAD for special projects. We also had a TA-4 which, at the end of its life, was traded for a TA-7. About eight or ten pilots were assigned to NWEF and all had to be qualified in several aircraft. They were also project officers in what spare time they had. The pilots loved to take up passengers in the back seat of the TA birds. If they were not aircrew types the pilots would almost always fly straight and level for a time and then turn up the cockpit heat. That would be followed by repeatedly gently raising and lowering the nose until nausea set in. If not, when the plane landed the passenger got to proudly display the empty barf bag. All of our planes displayed the big blue Thunderbird on the vertical stabilizer. Of course, it was known as the "Albuquerque Turkey".

On the 2nd deck of the hangar were the tech writers – mostly AOCs – who wrote all the loading checklists for all Navy/Marine aircraft with every type of nuclear and conventional ordnance. Each was assigned to a specific aircraft. It was from them I learned just how much AOs were deathly afraid of NTPIs. The writers were constantly inundated with demands that the checklists be expanded to include every conceivable variation of steps possible for getting the simplest task done. Just to avoid the chance of a deficiency in an inspection no one wanted to take the least bit of initiative. I saw this countless times as an inspector.

The nuclear weapons business grew and in 1961 NASWF was joined with the Navy Nuclear Ordnance Evaluation Unit at China Lake. It was

then named NWEF and all activities were moved to Kirtland. Its jobs were greatly expanded, to include many special projects for a wide range of customers, and, especially, certifying all, at first, Navy aircraft to carry and deliver nuclear weapons, and later even foreign aircraft.

In my time at NWEF I got to participate in many of these special assignments, frequently involving conventional ordnance. One was the CAPTOR Mine project. The Navy wanted to develop an air-dropped mine that could penetrate the sea ice in the Arctic Ocean, near some foreign Naval Base. It would lay in wait on the ocean floor until a message was received that armed the unit. The mine had a payload of an Mk 46 ASW torpedo, and if an enemy submarine should come near, well, you can figure out the rest. Our aircraft dropped these penetrators for testing at the only place in CONUS where the surface was the exact equivalent of the sea ice at the spots desired. That happened to be at the southern end of the White Sands Missile Range. Not only that, but it was right smack in the middle of the Space Shuttle's emergency landing field! Naturally, timing was everything for these tests.

Well, I'm out of space, so this column will have to be continued in the next bulletin. I still would like to hear stories from other former NWEFers. It looks like the problems with my NNWA address have been resolved, so you should be able to reach me at the "Historian" address. I will respond to each one I receive. If you do not get a response, use my personal address, it works every time:

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

See you in Norfolk.  
Lindy

### **Upcoming Reunion Information**

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

The reunion registration link is on our website at:

[Navy Nuclear Weapons Association  
\(navynucweeps.com\)](http://navynucweeps.com)

Or you can go directly to the registration webpage at:

[Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Reunion  
2022 \(afr-reg.com\)](http://navynucweeps.com)

Good Day to you all,

I surely hope that you are all well and pleased that we are finally seeing an end to the Virus that has kept us confined for the last two years. I have been working with Armed Forces Reunion planners on our 2022 reunion in Norfolk, Virginia, home to the largest Naval Base in the United States. Maggie and I look forward to another great reunion and good times. The Reunion will be held from Sunday 11 September through Thursday 15 September.

The Reunion will be held at the Doubletree by Hilton Norfolk Airport, just about 15 minutes from the airport, traffic permitting. The meet and greet will be on Sunday evening with the General Meeting being 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.

The following tours are being provided for your enjoyment:

On Monday the 12th, you will visit one of Virginia Beach's most prized attractions, the Military Aviation Museum, home to one of the largest private collections of World War I and II

era military aircraft in the world. Each plane has been beautifully restored to its service condition. Most of the planes are flown in flight demonstrations and air shows throughout the year. The dozens of aircraft on display can change at any time, but you're likely to see planes such as the P-51 Mustang, B-25J, FM-2 Wildcat, Skyraider, and DeHaviland Mosquito, just to name a few. A box lunch will be enjoyed while at the museum. Upon departure from the museum, we will 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. We will 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.

On Tuesday the 13th, you will board the motor coach and depart for downtown Norfolk, where you'll learn the port city's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through its lovely historic district and restored areas, with your tour guide pointing out areas of interest along the way. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin and the restored waterfront area. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial and a state of the art cruise terminal. The Hampton Roads area is home to military bases from all branches of the military, and the Norfolk Naval Base is the world's largest naval facility. As you pass by the Norfolk Naval Base, the tour guide will point out certain facts of interest. Heading toward downtown Norfolk and you will have time to enjoy lunch at the BB-64 Café at Nauticus.

On Wednesday, the 14th, you will board the bus to venture to Downtown Norfolk, the home to the MacArthur Memorial, the final resting place of the late General and a museum and research center

dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the life of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Norfolk was the hometown of his mother, Mary Pinkney Hardy, his parents were married here in 1875, and his oldest brother Arthur was born in Norfolk. The Memorial also pays tribute to the millions of men and women who served with General MacArthur during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Visit the gift shop and see a film summarizing the General's life and achievements. Our next stop is City Cruises by Hornblower, a three-level yacht style dining vessel. See excellent views of the Naval Base as well as a new take on the City of Norfolk - from the water! Enjoy a wonderful buffet with multiple entrees, sides, and dessert while the captain narrates. After lunch, enjoy a stroll on the open-air deck or sit back and relax in the climate-controlled decks

The cost of the tours are included on the reunion registration form. 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

The reunion registration link is on our website at:

[Navy Nuclear Weapons Association \(navynucweeps.com\)](http://navynucweeps.com)

Or you can go directly to the registration webpage at:

[Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Reunion 2022 \(afr-reg.com\)](http://afr-reg.com)

## Reunion Options

Please input the number of people for each event in the boxes below

### Tours

Monday, September 12: Military Aviation Museum & VA Beach Riding Tour	<input type="text"/>	\$83 each
Tuesday, September 13: Norfolk Riding City Tour & Nauticus	<input type="text"/>	\$67 each
Wednesday, September 14: MacArthur Memorial & Lunch Cruise	<input type="text"/>	\$109 each

### Meals

Sunday, September 11: Meet & Greet (Pizza Party)	<input type="text"/>	\$1 each
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Thursday, September 15: Banquet Dinner *(Please select your entree below)*

Beef Tenderloin	<input type="text"/>	\$40 each
Free Range Chicken	<input type="text"/>	\$40 each
Stuffed Flounder	<input type="text"/>	\$40 each
Vegetarian Entree	<input type="text"/>	\$40 each
Disability & Dietary Restrictions <i>(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)</i>	<input type="text"/>	

### Registration Fee

<b>Mandatory Per Person Registration Fee</b> Includes Registration Fee and access to Hospitality Room *	<input type="text"/>	\$15 each
Total Number of People Attending Reunion*	<input type="text"/>	

*There will be a non-refundable credit card convenience fee added to your total at checkout*

### Travel Insurance - *Protect Your Investment Against the Unexpected!*

Armed Forces Reunions is pleased to announce that we have teamed with an insurance company to offer travel insurance to all our reunion attendees! This comprehensive travel insurance will cover transportation costs, reunion fees, and even COVID quarantine and medical expenses, at a very reasonable cost.

Click on the link below to apply and receive a quote:

[Trawick Insurance](#)





**MILITARY AVIATION MUSEUM/VIRGINIA BEACH RIDING TOUR**  
**Monday, September 12, 2022**

Visit one of Virginia Beach's most prized attractions, the **Military Aviation Museum**, home to one of the largest private collections of World War I and II era military aircraft in the world. Each plane has been beautifully restored to its service condition. Most of the planes are flown in flight demonstrations and air shows throughout the year. The dozens of aircraft on display can change at any time, but you're likely to see planes such as the P-51 Mustang, B-25J, FM-2 Wildcat, Skyraider, and DeHaviland Mosquito, just to name a few. A box 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).

**\$83.00 Per Person**  
**9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.**  
**Lunch is included**





## NORFOLK RIDING CITY TOUR/NAUTICUS

Tuesday, September 13, 2022

Board the motor coach and depart for downtown Norfolk, where you'll learn the port city's colorful history of over three centuries as you ride through its lovely historic district and restored areas, with your tour guide pointing out areas of interest along the way. View the stately homes along the Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, Nauticus, a maritime center, the Battleship Wisconsin and the restored waterfront area. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial and a state of the art cruise terminal. The Hampton Roads area is home to military bases from all branches of the military, and the Norfolk Naval Base is the world's largest naval facility. As you pass by the Norfolk Naval Base, the tour guide will point out certain facts of interest. Heading toward downtown Norfolk and you will have time to enjoy lunch at the **BB-64 Café at Nauticus**. After lunch you will tour **Nauticus**, an exciting 120,000 square-foot science and technology center that explores the power of the sea with interactive and educational exhibits. On the second deck of Nauticus is the **Hampton Roads Naval Museum**, which features a large collection of naval artwork, ship models and underwater artifacts. Also part of Nauticus is the **Battleship Wisconsin**, one of the largest and last battleships to be built by the U.S. Navy. Before returning to the hotel, enjoy a stop at **Doumar's**, home of the world's first ice cream cone machine. Guests will be given an introduction and history, and everyone will be treated to a fresh baked waffle with choice of ice cream flavor.

**\$67.00 Per Person**

**10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.**

**Lunch on Own**





## MACARTHUR MEMORIAL / CITY CRUISES NORFOLK

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

Downtown Norfolk is home to the **MacArthur Memorial**, the final resting place of the late General and a museum and research center dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the life of General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Norfolk was the hometown of his mother, Mary Pinkney Hardy, his parents were married here in 1875, and his oldest brother Arthur was born in Norfolk. The Memorial also pays tribute to the millions of men and women who served with General MacArthur during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. Visit the gift shop and see a film summarizing the General's life and achievements. Our next stop is **City Cruises by Hornblower**, a three-level yacht style dining vessel. See excellent views of the Naval Base as well as a new take on the City of Norfolk - from the water! Enjoy a wonderful buffet with multiple entrees, sides, and dessert while the captain narrates. After lunch, enjoy a stroll on the open-air deck or sit back and relax in the climate-controlled decks.

**\$109.00 Per Person**

**10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.**

**Lunch is included**

