From the President’s desk...

03-21-17

There is an old saying “the more things change, the more they stay the same”. In this case we still find that our retirement benefits are in the crosshairs. With the economy, 15 years of war, humanitarian missions, delays and cost overruns of ships and aircraft (i.e. the Littoral Combat Ship and the F-35 Lightning II), health care and still more new uniforms, Congress will be looking for ways to pay for all of this without cutting into domestic programs.

When I read the Navy Times and other military organization publications, I still have the impression that the Department Of Defense looks upon retirees as a burden they must contend with. More than ever we must give our support to NERA and The Military Coalition in their efforts to fight to retain our benefits; we earned them.

As usual, we are always looking for people who want to be involved in the workings of our chapter. We need new blood to bring in new ideas, changes to the status quo and revitalize our organization.

Please consider attending your chapter meeting(s). They are still held on the second Tuesday of February, April, June, August and October and the first Tuesday in December at the American Legion Post 888 in Northlake, IL (on the south side of North Ave just west of Manheim Rd; US 12/45). We start promptly at 2000. The next meeting will be held on 04-11-17.

Remember that, more than ever, “what Congress and DOD doth giveth, Congress and DOD can taketh away”.

Butch Michaelson
Chapter President

Mark Your Calendar: April 11, 2017 Meeting
At the American Legion Post in Northlake, IL

Windy City Chapter Meeting Minutes-February, 21, 2017

Meeting of the Windy City Chapter convened at 20:35. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Council and Secretary present.

A quorum exists.

List of Attendees:
Butch Michaelson  Andy Anderson  Paul Smurawski
Vicki Koehnke  Gunther Kleinmaier  Gene Koelker
Alan Koehnke  Connie Koehnke  John Nickelson
Darlene Nickelson  Mike Brock  Penny Padour
Ed Whiteside
• December 2016 reading of the newsletter was read and accepted as stated. MX-Vicki Koehnke, 2X-Mike Brock.

President: Nothing to report.

Treasurer’s Report: Accept the Treasure report as stated-MX-John Nickelson, 2X- Mike Brock.

Sunshine Fund: Send a get-well card to
  o Sue Devereaux—sprung ankle
  o Sympathy card to Al Edquist on passing of his daughter.
  o Sympathy card to Linda Oca wife of Eddie Oca (Past National President) on February 4, 2017. Ed ashes final resting place will be in San Francisco. His wife Linda contact information is as follows: 14228 Hubbell Street, Livonia, MI 48154.

Executive Council: Nothing to report.

Communications: No activity to report.

Supply CPO: Brought in shirts and challenge coins. Shirts $5.00 each and National and chapter coins available.
  o A motion was made to give American Legion bartender a NERA T-shirt. MX-Ed Whiteside, 2X-Mike

Old Business:
• The letter regarding the NERA National Conference was sent to NERA National President-Steve Sandy. At the present time “NO” regional conference. NERA national is focusing only on the next National Conference to be held in 2018.
• Tabled from the December meeting discussion was brought up again by Alan Koehnke about the pamphlet his passed around at the October 2016 meeting on the Chicago Submarine Memorial on the Chicago River walk. Per WCC President, he has not had time to review. This will be tabled again to discuss at the April 2017 meeting. The Submarine Memorial Organization is looking for donations to help finish their memorial. (If you want to make a personal donation, please go to their website for additional/donation information. http://crashdivebase.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Memorial-Leaflet.pdf). Chapter secretary will send the pamphlet to Chapter President for viewing.
• As of today, meeting, Supply CPO has not heard on the USS Illinois coins if they are available to purchase. Will follow up with the Chief of the boat.
• Gene Koelker will be working closely with Great Lake Naval Base to promote the top reservist award at boot camp graduation. Once Great Lakes admiral accepts this program, then NERA National and USAA will take the promotion to the next levels. Chapter Executive Council Gunther will help promote this event as well.
• Active Duty Chapter member, need to find out who needs their dues paid with active status.
• Navy has the rating back.

New Business:
• Navy Exchange is honoring all honorable discharge status to make purchases on-line shopping only. Article was in the Navy Times.
• Gunther asked Penny Padour if she keeps in contact with her division (Cobra) ask if they are interested in joining the chapter. Stated she does.
• Andy Anderson will forward to Gunther the VP-90-member listing so we can reach out to them about joining NERA.

Good of the Chapter:
• New Treasurer Paul Smurawski still in the process of opening the new checking account.
• Thank you to John and Darlene Nickelson for hosting the Holiday. Everyone attended had a great time...like always.
• President Windy City Chapter stated the last call roster on file was from 2010. A new sheet was passed around so chapter member can provide new contact information.
• Gene Koelker (Past National President) attended Recruiter Award program in D.C, with Steve Sandy and Mike Hughes.
• Andy Anderson stated the following American Legion events:

  Saturday February 25-Bingo @ Concord Hall for all veteran event 4-gun raffle-tickets cost $10.00. Motion on the floor was made for the chapter to purchase 5-$10.00 ($50.00). MX-John Nickelson, 2X Mike Brock.
  Brought in green bulbs to support the veterans. A donation is acceptable when taking a bulb.
• 50/50-Gene Koelker Motion to adjourn @ 21:42
  MX-John Nickelson, 2X-Mike Brock.
Navy Surgeon General: Navy Medicine Focused on Readiness for Next Conflict

Story Number: NNS170330-03 Release Date: 3/30/2017 8:27:00 AM

From U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery public affairs
FALLS CHURCH, Va. (NNS) -- The Navy’s top doctor testified before Congress, March 29.

Vice Adm. Forrest Faison, Navy surgeon general and chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, appeared before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense to discuss the current status of Navy Medicine, alongside his Army and Air Force counterparts.

His testimony emphasized readiness, a top Navy Medicine priority.

"We have no greater responsibility than sustaining readiness, now and in the future. On any given day, Navy Medicine personnel are forward-deployed with the fleet, Fleet Marine Forces, special warfare units, the joint force, and at overseas commands, supporting a high operational tempo and meeting the demand for contingency operations around the world," said Faison.

Faison differentiated Navy Medicine from private-sector health care organizations because of its readiness responsibilities and surge capabilities.

"We remain one of the few nations that maintain a sizable, ready-to-immediately-surge standing medical force to both support operational contingencies and rapid disaster response, helping to preserve America's strategic influence in key regions of the world and strengthening relationships with our partners and allies," he said.

With an eye toward the next conflict, Faison underscored new approaches to training, preparation and operational support, which he said are paramount to sustaining high combat survivability rates.

Critical to this effort are the Navy's medical personnel and military treatment facilities.

"These military commands are our training and surge platforms where we prepare and then rapidly surge medical forces when needed," said Faison. "They are readiness and force projection platforms."

"Combined and integrated within Navy Medicine's readiness commands and structure, our personnel gain both clinical competencies and develop required military skills in these commands, and are prepared to rapidly surge when required," he continued.

Faison highlighted hospital corpsmen as another primary reason for high combat-survivability in recent conflicts.

"One of the primary reasons for the high combat-survivability rate we have realized is heroic work by our hospital corpsmen, the Navy's largest enlisted rating. You, and the American public, can be justifiably proud of their tremendous contributions," he said.

He also announced changes to the corpsman "A" school curriculum to better prepare corpsmen for the types of injuries they are likely to encounter in a future conflict.

Other examples of Navy Medicine readiness included private and academic partnerships, such as trauma training with LA County and the University of Southern California, global health engagements during annual humanitarian missions Continuing Promise and Pacific Partnership, and innovative research and development work, including a malaria vaccine.

"America's Sailors and Marines are the most highly trained, educated and specialized force in our nation's history, and each is essential to the mission. We in Navy Medicine have no greater calling than to ensure we are doing all we can to provide the best care our nation can offer, and do all in our power to one day, return home alive, safe and well, those who have volunteered to defend our freedom," said Faison.

Navy Medicine is a global health care network of 63,000 personnel that provide healthcare support to the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, their families and veterans in high operational tempo environments, at expeditionary medical facilities, medical treatment facilities, hospitals, clinics, hospital ships and research units around the world.

Lorraine Cwieka reports on getting care while traveling.

Are you on Spring Break or preparing for vacation? Either way, you should know how to get medical or dental care when you need it.

Your rules for getting care depend on your TRICARE plan and travel destination. If you’re using Prime, get your routine care from your primary care manager before you go. If you have an emergency, go to the nearest emergency room. However, if you decide you need urgent care, you need to get a referral from your doctor.
Standard and Extra beneficiaries can visit any
TRICARE-authorized provider for care, whether
stateside or overseas. Keep in mind, if you’re
overseas, you may need to pay up front and file a
claim with the overseas claims processor for
reimbursement.

If you need dental care and are enrolled in the
TRICARE Dental Program, you can visit any licensed
dentist for treatment. You can search for participating
dentists at metlife.com/tricare. TRICARE Retiree
Dental Program enrollees can search for a stateside
dentist at trdp.org or call Delta Dental’s international
dentist referral service collect at 1-312-356-5971.

Don’t forget about your prescriptions! TRICARE
beneficiaries have several options for filling
prescriptions; military hospitals or clinics, network
pharmacies, non-network pharmacies and home
delivery. Visit express-scripts.com/tricare for more
information.

This Day In Naval History - March 31

Story Number: NNS011215-32 Release Date: 12/15/2001 6:37:00 PM
From Naval History and Heritage Command, Communication and Outreach
Division

1854 - Commodore Matthew C. Perry and Japanese
officials sign the Treaty of Kanagawa, opening trade
between U.S. and Japan. The treaty also provided
protection for American merchant seamen wrecked in
Japanese waters.

1917 - Rear Adm. James H. Oliver takes possession of
the Danish West Indies for the United States, and they
are renamed the U.S. Virgin Islands. He also becomes
the first governor of the islands under American control.

1945 - USS Morrison (DD 560) and USS Stockton (DD
646) sink the Japanese submarine I 8, 65 miles
southeast of Okinawa.

1992 - USS Missouri (BB-63), the last active American
battleship, is decommissioned. Commissioned in June
1944, she served during World War II, notably for the
location of the official Japanese surrender on Sept. 2,
1945. Today, the “Mighty Mo” is open for visitors in Pearl
Harbor, Hawaii, as the Battleship Missouri Memorial,
under the care of the USS Missouri Memorial Association,
Inc.

1993 - Two 2 EP-3E aircraft, from Fleet Air
Reconnaissance Squadron 2 (VQ-2), are on station over
the Adriatic providing crucial support to the delivery of
humanitarian air drops over eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina
in Operation Provide Promise. This operation becomes
the longest running humanitarian airlift in history at the
time and operates from February 1993 to January 1996.

MARINE CORPS STATEMENT REGARDING
CAMP LEJEUNE WATER
January / 13 / 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- We are pleased that the
Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a new
rule to consider certain diseases presumptively
connected to service for our Marines, Sailors and
families who have lived or worked at Camp Lejeune.

The authority to prescribe all rules and regulations for
presumptive disability is given to the VA by Congress.

We support the Camp Lejeune health care law and any
related policy decisions made by the VA and/or
Congress that provides health care and benefits to our
service members and their families.

The health and welfare of our Marines, Sailors, their
families and our civilian workers are top priorities for the
Marine Corps. We continue our commitment to find and
notify those who used the water during the time period
in question, and keep them informed regarding the
latest scientific and medical information. All updates can
be viewed on our website. To be added to our registry
or learn more about ATSDR studies visit the below
websites:

http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/camp-lejeune/
https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/sites/lejeune/

“Failure is only the opportunity to begin again
more intelligently.”

-Henry Ford