



# The DASH POT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

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- A Farewell to Cecil Martin
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The 43rd AOM Reunion and membership meeting is now in the books. This Fall issue introduces our new association officers, including unofficial reports from the Board of Directors, the general membership meetings and committees. We are proud to announce the selection of our Minemen of the Year in the Sea, Shore and Navy Reserve categories. Congratulations to these three stellar Minemen!

We are all saddened by the passing of our shipmate and national hero, Cecil Martin. The outpouring of condolences from our membership, fleet Minemen, his friends and family members has been overwhelming. We take a look at his exemplary service, and his amazing talent as an internationally acclaimed artist, in a special tribute.

## From The President

*MNCM John Epps, USN (Ret.)*

It's a privilege and honor to be given this opportunity to serve you, the members of our organization, as your president. I will do my utmost to fill the shoes of my predecessor Tracy Hayes and continue to be an advocate for the Association as the past presidents have done before me.

I'd like to welcome Eddie Atkins as the Vice President, Danny Epperly to another term on the BOD and Gary Cleland once again to the BOD. We were shy on participation at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion but not on fun and excitement. I'd like to personally thank Gary Cleland, Warren Savage and Barb Leetch for providing us with great accommodations, insightful tours and fabulous chow. I'd also like to thank Gary Cleland, Charles Humbard, Ross Maddox and Jim Miller for their contributions to the Scholarship Auction. And a special thanks to all who generously handed over their cash for those auction items. There was also some unforeseen hotel excitement, but I'll remain silent and let the Reunion Committee tell that story.

We've had many discussions on how best to awaken the next generation of Minemen to the benefits of a strong Association, however, we haven't had much luck. I'm challenging the membership to give this shortfall some thought and come up with some strategies to share at the 2018 Business Meeting. If we're unable to attract younger Minemen, our Association will surely wither away. Our 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be held in the Jacksonville/Mayport area 9 – 12 Oct, with Tracey Hays and Toby Horn orchestrating the event. Happy Holidays to all and I wish you a safe and prosperous New Year.

God bless our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines and God bless the USA!

*John*

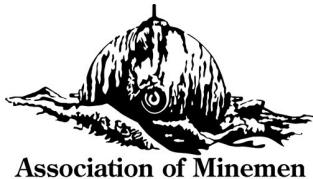


## NOTABLE QUOTABLE

*"In the old days, it was not called the Holiday Season; the Christians called it 'Christmas' and went to church; the Jews called it 'Hanukkah' and went to synagogue; the atheists went to parties and drank. People passing each other on the street would say 'Merry Christmas!' or 'Happy Hanukkah!' or (to the atheists) 'Look out for the wall!'"*  
— Dave Barry

*"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes... This is not coincidence."*  
— Erma Bombeck





## **Dedicated to Serving the U. S. Mine Force**

The Dashpot, published quarterly, is the newsletter of the Association of Minemen (AOM), a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of South Carolina...to perpetuate a knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense

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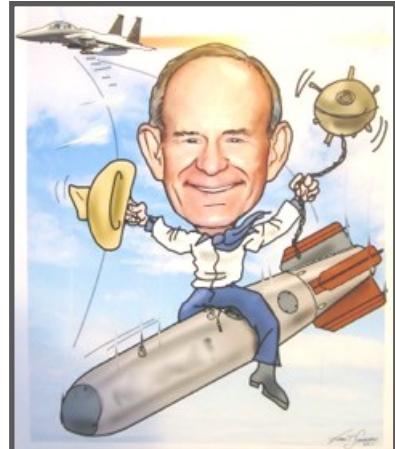
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**Input for Winter 2018  
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## **From the Editor...**



First of all: **Congratulations** to our new **Minemen of the Year**: MN1 (SW) Daniel P. Cadigan, USS Sentry, (Sea); MN1 (SW/EXW) Garrett Schilz. NMC Seal Beach, (Shore); and MN1 John T. Payne, NR MOMAU 9, (Reserve Forces). You can read through their impressive credentials and accomplishments and, as members of the AOM, take pride in our support and recognition of our Navy's Minemen afloat, ashore and in the reserves. BZ!

Congratulations to our new Association President, Vice President and new board members. The AOM continues to be in good hands. Because the AOM is comprised of many generations of Minemen and not all members served together or even in the same era, I've asked the AOM Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs to provide us all with a short biography so that we may get to know them a little better. I'll be featuring their input as I get them. Happy Holiday season, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

**Ron**





This year the Scholarship Committee has awarded 5 Scholarship Awards. Each scholarship was worth \$750, for a total of \$3,750. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen have awarded 220 scholarships totaling \$145,750. In 2016, the number of scholarships awards was 4. In 2015, we had 12 Scholarship Awards, in 2014, we had 10 Scholarship Awards, and 2013, we had 9 Scholarship Awards. As in 2016, all of our applicants just graduated high school or are already in college. This year we received 6 applications. Of the 6 applications 4 were from women, and 2 were from men. Two of the applications were past award recipients, and four were from first time applicants just graduating high school and are entering college for their first time. One of the applications was rejected. Either way, some of our applicants still don't seem to be able to follow the instructions when completing the scholarship application form. This seemingly indifference to the rules and instructions when filling out the application, was again taken into consideration by your committee when making our decisions for this year's scholarship awards. The rules for completing an application must be strictly adhered to as they were written. These rules are published on the AOM Web Page. Under Section G. Paragraph 2 of the AOM Published Rules. To Receive An AOM Scholarship.

- (1) The Candidate must complete the application forms S-1and S-2.
- (2) Provide a current transcript of credits earned from applicable schools.
- (3) Provide two letters of recommendation.
- (4) Provide a study plan covering the scholarship term, which provides a synopsis of the field of study he or she plans to complete, and...
- (5) any other pertinent information the candidate feels might enhance their chances of receiving the Scholarship AWARD.

Failure to follow these rules will make the application incomplete, and will not be considered for a scholarship award.

This year with the passing of long time beloved friend and committee member Curtis Christian, Ed Smith has joined your Scholarship Committee and Ed is following the example that Curtis has exemplified as a Scholarship Committee member. Curtis will be missed, but we have an excellent replacement for Curtis with Ed Smith. Your Scholarship committee of Robert Stancik, Ed Smith, and myself Ronald Glasen want to thank you for your past support, and ask you to Please continue to support the Scholarship Program with Your generous donations, our Scholarship Fund could use a little tweaking, as the Scholarship Fund is not without limits, and a little shot in the arm would be greatly appreciated. We need to continue the proud and great tradition of the Association of Minemen Scholarship Awards Program.

**Ronald Glasen**  
Scholarship Chairman

#### CONGRATULATIONS 2017 AOM SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

- |                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Ryan Glasen         | Purdue University         |
| 2. Elizabeth Ann Runge | Chapman University        |
| 3. Christopher Tohill  | Suny Oneonta College      |
| 4. Gianna Trillo       | Suny Oneonta College      |
| 5. Jordan Williams     | University of Connecticut |



**Congratulations** go out to "Gunner" Nathan 'Nate' Miranda, the latest member of the **WORLD-FAMOUS CONSOLIDATED ORDER OF CLOCK-COCKERS**.



The **"Consolidated Order of Clock Cocks"** plaque is awarded in recognition of those Sailors who have served as a Mineman (MN Rating) from the beginning of their Navy service, for a minimum of 25 years Active Duty. To be recognized for this award, the following information must be submitted:

1. Full Name and Rank
2. Active Duty Base Date
3. Your Mailing Address, unless you want the plaque presented to you during the Annual AOM reunion.

**Mail requests for recognition to:**

R. Schommer, 827 N. Aylesbury Rd,

Goose Creek, SC 29445

email to: rschommer @bellsouth.net.

Please allow 30 to 45 days for the plaque to arrive by mail.

#### Reunion Booklets

*The 2015 Reno reunion and 2016 Yorktown-Williamsburg reunion booklets are available through Storekeeper Tracey Hays for \$20 worth of reunion memories in color laser print!*



Association of Minemen



**From our Secretary/Treasurer:**

**TREASURER'S REPORT 2016/17**

CASH ON HAND	\$58,939.71
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$14,622.10
"BOOTSIE" SCHOLARSHIP FUND	\$20,857.23
2016/17 DUES	\$2,839.00
HISTORY BOOK	\$4,751.55
STORE KEEPER	\$4,657.00

**EXPENSES THIS YEAR**

SCHOLARSHIPS	\$3,750.00
DASHPOT	\$1,842.15
SOFTWEAR FOR DASHPOT	\$167.00
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE	\$95.40
POST BOX	\$232.00
CONSTANT CONTACT	\$168.00
PERMIT# 270	\$225.00
BOX SOFTWEAR FOR D/P	\$180.00
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE	\$132.00
HOST GENERAL WEBSITE DOMAIN	\$19.70
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,811.25</b>

**SUBMITTED BY**

**MICHAEL D. FEMRITE**

**TREASURER**



**43rd Reunion Overview**

The 2017 AOM Reunion in San Diego was not particularly well attended this year, as members who usually attend were facing challenges that prevented them from traveling...after all, stuff happens and we aren't getting any younger! (I too couldn't make the trip this year).

While I don't have the 'official' Board and Membership minutes to print, I do need to get this issue out the door. Accordingly, I have gleaned some of the topics that were discussed and offer my hopefully not-too-inaccurate summary for our members.

President Tracey Hays kicked off the BOD meeting attended by the VP, John Epps and board members Tom Hoffman, Danny Epperly, Eddie Atkins, and Warren Savage... enough to make a quorum. Also in attendance were Gary Cleland, Past President, Ron Glasen, Scholarship Chairman. Well, the Membership and Communications committee reps couldn't attend so their reports were not available, however Ron Glassen provided the Scholarship Report (provided in this issue) and Gary Cleland briefed for the 2017 reunion planning committee. The Treasurer's Report was provided in writing by our Secretary/Treasurer Mike Femrite, who also couldn't attend.

New nominees were put forward for President, Vice President and two positions on the Board of Directors. I guess it is now official that John Epps accepted the Presidency, Eddie Atkins, the Vice Presidency, Gary Cleland and Danny Epperly replaced BOD members whose term was over. We still have vacancies for Chaplin and Historian.

President Tracey Hays, who also serves as the Association "Storekeeper" provided a report on what the store has in stock and what was sold this past year. Some discussion, I'm told, centered around clearing out old items and restocking some new gear. I hope to expand on that in a future issue. Tracey, now as Past-President, will also remain as our "Storekeeper".

Our Association of Minemen "Bravo Flag" and streamers are MIA somewhere in the logistics system and it is very unlikely that we'll get them back, so they're looking into purchasing replacements.

Tracey Hays discussed the 2018 AOM Reunion plans for the Jacksonville / Mayport area, although meeting facilities and lodging haven't been determined at this point. The targeted dates are 9, 10 and 11 Oct 2018 (Tues, Wed, Thur). If anyone has good ideas for activities and tours, please contact the planning committee: Toby Horn or Tracey Hays. The Reunion target for 2019 appears to be Corpus Christi, TX.

(Editor Note: there are a lot of retired or former Minemen in Texas, even after everything moved to San Diego).



# 43<sup>rd</sup> Association of Minemen Reunion





**Keynote Address**  
**43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion**  
**Association of Minemen**

**CAPT Jeffrey S. Lee, USCG (ret.)**

President Tracey Hayes, Vice President John Epps, Sr., Gary Cleland, Warren Savage, and my old, Bestest Buddy — Ron Swart. Ladies and Gentlemen, Esteemed Members of the Association of Minemen (in good standing, that is), Children of All Ages.... Honored Guests... Bonsoir, Konbanwa, Guten Abend, Buena Noches, Godaften (good-aften), Good Evening... **and Aloha to you all...** I am very honored to be here tonight — as your Guest Speaker — for this, your 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Reunion of Minemen. **Tonight I'm going to tell you a great story about adventure, adversity, suffering, and leadership — one that has mine warfare at its core — and has a Coast Guardsman as its main character. That's right... hard to believe! But before that, I have this to say...** When Ron Swart and Gary Cleveland approached me some months ago — about addressing you all tonight ... — a sharp zing of pure fear went through my body — terror... — paralyzing me just like the time I drew my service weapon for the first time in combat — my trusty 1911A .45 caliber pistol (you guys remember that weapon, huh?) — but we'll get back to that later on — (By the way... I timed this speech, and it runs about an hour and 10 minutes — so if you have to break for the restroom (we called it a "head" back then) — you'd better run for it now! We'll wait. — No just kidding. The speech runs as long as it takes for me to go to the restroom — so, maybe it is that long! But first, let me introduce myself — I am a retired Coast Guard guy — a Coastie, if you will. A shallow-water sailor. Puddle jumper. There's a height requirement — most of you know this — you're not tall enough, they told me... have to be at least 6 feet tall — in case you have to walk back to the beach. (I lied about my height to get in) After 25 years of service, yes, I've heard them all. (Did you know that Popeye was a Coastie?)



**Adapted from:**  
**Lieutenant Thomas James Eugene Crotty:**  
**A Coast Guard Leader, Hero and Prisoner of War**  
by Doctor William H. Thiesen, Coast Guard Historian

This is a true story. This is the story about a Coast Guardsman — a true hero, and a dedicated Mine Warrior. A prisoner of war.

(He was the first Coast Guardsman to be taken prisoner since the Revenue Cutter Days in the war against the Brits.) He was the only active duty Coast Guardsman to help defend the Philippines — and is the sole reason the Coast Guard displays the Defense of Philippines Battle Streamer. The sole reason. The only Coastie. This is the stuff of legend... And like all true stories, this one ends in death.

LT THOMAS JAMES EUGENE CROTTY — “JIMMY” to his shipmates graduated from the Coast Guard Academy Class of 1934. Born in 1912 — Jimmy Crotty was the youngest in a family of five boys and a girl. He grew up in the old Fifth Ward of Buffalo, New York, and was a passionate athlete — both playing and coaching baseball and basketball. When he was a senior in High School, Jimmy won the Legion’s junior League championship. (*One of Crotty’s childhood friends later wrote to his mother Helen and reminisced about “those wonderful days when we were boys, athletes, and friends together.”*)

By 1930, Crotty had graduated from Buffalo’s South Park High School and gained entrance to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. As a cadet, Crotty excelled in athletics once again, participating in basketball for three years; competing in football for four years, and serving as the team’s captain his senior year. During his time at the Academy, Crotty also served as class vice president and, during his senior year, as class president and company commander. In the 1934 Academy yearbook, *Tide Rips*, the editorial staff wrote: **“He will be missed by all of us when we come to the temporary parting of ways, but the future will be enlightened with thoughts that we will serve with him again. Bon Voyage and Good Luck.”** For most of Crotty’s friends, graduation would be the last time they would see their classmate and friend.

Crotty quickly matured after graduation — as he experienced six years sea duty in cutters based out of New York, Seattle, Alaska and Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. (*His career included duty on the cutter Tampa, during its famous rescue of passengers from the burning liner Morro Castle, and a Justice Department appointment as special deputy on the Bering Sea Patrol.*) In the late 1930s, diplomatic tensions increased in the Pacific between the

U.S. and Imperial Japan -- the American military began sending additional personnel and units to overseas outposts. **Unbeknownst to him, Crotty was on a collision course with tragic events unfolding half way around the world in the Pacific.** In April 1941, Crotty received orders to undertake studies at the navy’s **Mine Warfare School in Yorktown, Virginia**. With additional training at the navy’s Mine Recovery Unit in Washington, DC, **Crotty became the Coast Guard’s leading expert in mine operations, demolition, and the use of explosives.** In the summer of 1941, Crotty got orders to sail for the Philippines and join a navy mine recovery unit near Manila. By early fall, Crotty had departed on a one-way trip to the South Pacific. He arrived in the Philippines on 28 October 1941. He never returned home.

On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy launched a surprise attack on American military installations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Over the course of the next few days, the Japanese also attacked U.S. bases at Wake Island, Guam and the Philippines. As many of you know, Wake Island and the Philippines held on in heroic Alamo-like struggles against overwhelming enemy might. (This was not reported in the Stateside press at the time.) The next several months of Crotty’s career proved some of the most eventful and arduous ever experienced by a Coast Guard officer.

Upon his arrival in the Philippines, the navy sent Crotty to Shore Patrol Headquarters at the American Navy Yard at Cavite, located near Manila. On December 10, Japanese aircraft bombed and damaged most of the facilities at the Cavite Navy Yard. Advancing enemy ground forces necessitated the movement of American units behind fortified lines on the Bataan Peninsula and onto the island fortress of Corregidor.

During this evacuation, Crotty supervised the demolition of strategic civilian and military facilities to prevent them from falling into enemy hands. This included the navy yard’s ammunition magazine and the fleet submarine *USS SEA LION*, which the enemy damaged during the air attack.

On Christmas day, Crotty had the sub stripped of useful parts, filled it with depth charges and blew it up. The navy again moved Crotty and its other sailors from Cavite to the Sixteenth Naval District Headquarters at Fort Mills, on Corregidor. There — while assigned to the local guard unit — Crotty participated in night raids on the mainland to demolish more American equipment and facilities before the Japanese occupied the mainland around Manila. During February and March of 1942, Crotty served as executive officer of the navy minesweeper *USS QUAIL* (*a LAPWING CLASS MINESWEEPER – AM 15, Commissioned in 1919*), which shot down enemy aircraft and swept American mine fields so U.S. submarines could surface at night to deliver goods

## Keynote Address (Cont.)



and remove critical personnel. QUAIL served as command vessel and provided shore bombardment for an offensive against Japanese landings attempting to cut off supply lines to American forces trapped on the Bataan Peninsula. The combined sea and land operation wiped out the Japanese on the beachhead.

But by the end of March, Bataan's defenders had been under siege for over five months -- and on April 9, the exhausted American and Filipino forces on Bataan finally surrendered. (*The island defenders of Corregidor held out for another month after the Bataan surrender.*) QUAIL's Crew, and others, had cannibalized deck guns and moved them onto the island to mount a final stand against the encircling enemy forces. (Damaged by enemy bombs and guns, QUAIL was scuttled on 5 May 1942 to prevent her capture.) Crotty served up to the bitter end fighting alongside the island's stubborn Army, Navy and Marine defenders. Eyewitnesses reported last seeing him commanding a force of Marines and Army personnel manning seventy-five millimeter beach guns -- firing down on enemy forces landing on Corregidor's beaches. When Japanese bombardment finally silenced Crotty's guns, Corregidor's defenders knew the island fortress would soon fall. **With Corregidor's capitulation on May 6, Crotty became the first Coast Guard prisoner of war since the War of 1812, when the British captured Revenue Cutter Service Cuttermen.** Like Corregidor's other prisoners, Crotty made the journey to the prison compound at Cabanatuan in the Philippine interior via railroad boxcar. (Meanwhile, the captain and many crew members from USS QUAIL managed to escape the encircling Japanese forces using one of the minesweeper's motorized lifeboats. They embarked on a successful 2,200-mile odyssey through enemy waters to the safety of Australia.)

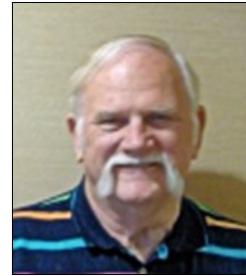
In October 1942, (a year after Lieutenant Crotty had arrived in Manila) Coast Guard Commandant Russell R. Waesche received a letter from navy intelligence officer Lieutenant Commander Denys W. Knoll. On May 3, Knoll had boarded the last submarine to leave Corregidor before the island fortress fell into enemy hands. In his letter, Knoll recounted his recollections of Crotty's service in the Philippines and concluded the letter with the following paragraph:

**"Lieutenant Crotty impressed us all with his fine qualities of naval leadership which were combined with a very pleasant personality and a willingness to assist everyone to the limit of his ability. He continued to remain very cheerful and retained a high morale until my departure from Fort Mills the evening of May 3rd. Lieutenant Crotty is worthy of commendation for the energetic and industrious manner in which he performed all his tasks. He continued to be an outstanding example of an officer and a gentleman to all hands and was a source of encouragement to many who did not possess the high qualities of courage and perseverance that he displayed. Having seen Lieutenant Crotty undergo all the trials during my five months in the Manila Bay area, I feel sure that the rigors and trials of a prisoner of war will produce little if any change, and I look forward to the return of Lieutenant Crotty to active duty, for I am sure he will continue to perform his duties in keeping with all the traditions of the Naval and Coast Guard Services."**

Crotty's fellow prisoners at Cabanatuan knew him for his love of sports as well as his sense of humor and optimism. One of them wagered a bet with Crotty on the outcome of the 1942 World Series while another later recounted that: "The one striking thing that I remember was his continued optimism and cheerfulness under the most adverse circumstances. He was outstanding in this respect at a time when such an attitude was so necessary for general welfare." But Crotty's courage and optimism could not sustain him late in the summer of 1942 when a diphtheria epidemic swept through the camp killing forty prisoners per day. **Crotty contracted the illness and, with the prison's lack of necessary medications and proper health care, he passed away only days after getting sick.** LT Crotty did not merely try to achieve the Coast Guard core values of honor, respect and devotion to duty; he lived them. He served his men, his country and the Coast Guard to the best of his abilities and he remained true to the core values even under the most cruel and inhumane conditions. The U.S. Coast Guard authorizes the use of thirty-four battle streamers representing heroic service action in battle since 1790. Records indicate that Lieutenant Crotty was the only active duty Coast Guardsman that participated in the defense of the Philippines, an operation that merit-ed the authorization of a **"Defense of the Philippines"** battle streamer for the Coast Guard. In January 1945, the army's Sixth Ranger Battalion liberated Cabanatuan Prison, an event that has been dramatized in books and movies. Liberation came too late for Crotty however, whose body lies buried beside thousands of other American and Filipino heroes who perished in the insuffer-

able conditions at Cabanatuan. Crotty received little recognition for his heroic efforts during those desperate days of early 1942 due in part to the destruction of records and historical information and the deaths of so many eye witnesses. To this day, no one knows the precise day he died or the exact location of his final resting place. LT Jimmy CROTTY remains to this day, a true mine warfare warrior, a leader – and a hero.

*Captain Lee presently serves as the Navy's civilian head of minefield plans for Surface and Mine Warfare Doctrine Command (SMWDC)*



**Meet our new Vice President Eddie Atkins otherwise known as Willie E. Atkins, Jr.**

Joined AOM in 1973. AOM director from 2012 to 2017. Elected Vice President 2018 to 2020.

Joined the Naval Reserve January 5, 1955. Retired from Bell Telephone Co of Virginia in 1994, Hekimian Laboratories Inc. in 2008 and retired from retired Naval Reserves March 15, 1997 as a Master Chief Mineman [**the first reservist promoted to MNCM**].

Attended Mine Warfare Schools Yorktown and became a Mineman striker in 1957. Is a plank owner in NR MOMAG 1006, Yorktown [1973]. He Was Commanding Officer MOMAG 1813 Great Lakes, IL.

Has been assigned duty at Mine Project 4 Yorktown, MOMAT 032X, Yorktown, CO MOMAG Charleston, MOMAG Det 11 Charleston, MOMAG Dets in Machrihanish, Scotland, Glen Douglas, Scotland, Subic Bay, PI, Kadina, Okinawa, Sigonella, Seal Beach, CA, and retired from CinC LANT FLT Communications Center, Norfolk.



## MEET THE NEW AOM PRESIDENT



### John W. Epps, MNCM (Retired)

I joined the Navy in December 1968, went to boot camp in San Diego and attended Mineman Class "A" School in Charleston, SC. After graduation, I met the USS Hancock (CVA-19) in Subic Bay RP and was assigned to W-Division. The cruise ended in April, 1970 and all ships company Minemen were reassigned. I was assigned to Mobile Mine Assembly Unit Pacific, Long Beach, CA and made one last WestPac aboard the USS Oriskany (CV-34). I was a selectee for MN2 in 1972 but elected to get out of the Navy upon my EAOS in December.

My family and I returned to Warsaw MO. I worked as a carpenter, laborer and all around gofer for nearly two long years. I eventually talked to a recruiter who offered me a deal I just couldn't refuse. Since I had been out for less than two years, I was able to enlist as an MN3. I received orders to Great Lakes for new uniform issue and then on to Mobile Mine Assembly Group (MOMAG), Unit Eight, Guam. I worked in Component Test (CT) and after making MN2, was assigned to Quality Assurance (QA). Transferred to Unit Nine, Subic Bay and worked in Supply and later QA. I was advanced to MN1 and received orders to Unit One, Long Beach, CA. I worked in CT, Supply and after making Chief was assigned to Admin. As a Chief selectee, I was issued orders to RTC Great Lakes as a Company Commander. I pushed five Recruit Companies, and had three hold jobs; taught Company Commander LMET class, conducted survival training at the pool and supervised Recruit Academic Testing. After being advanced to E-8 I received orders to MOMAG Unit Eleven, Charleston, SC. I was assigned as the Supply Department Head, Mine Assembly / Deck Department Head and then was sent TAD to attend the Navy Senior Enlisted Academy. Upon my return, I was assigned to the Admin Department. I advanced to Master Chief and later relieved Bob Forbes as Command Master Chief upon his retirement. My final tour was at the Naval Undersea Warfare Engineering Station (NUWES) Detachment, located on the Hawthorne Army Ammunition Plant in Hawthorne, NV. I was assigned as the Navy Fleet Mine Liaison. I worked for a Mustang Lieuten-

ant (Previous GMT) and we were the only two Navy personnel at the Plant. As a matter of fact, the only other military personnel assigned were a Marine Gunnery Sergeant, an Army Colonel and Army Captain (Plant CO & XO). The mine and component refurbishment, QA and transportation was conducted by detachment civilian personnel. I was trained as a Contracting Officers Technical Representative and provided oversight to the NUWES Logistics contractor.

I retired in 1991 and took a Program Analyst job with the VITRO Corporation in Silverdale, WA. My main tasks were training and publication development for the MK 50 Torpedo and the MK 50 Recoverable Exercise Torpedo (REXTORP). We moved to Richland, WA in 1995. I am currently a Project Manager for Jantec, Inc., in Richland. We are the Mail Services contractor for the Hanford Nuclear Site and I have held the Project Manager position for nearly 22 years. I am married to Carolyn and we have four children; Tammy, Tony, John Jr., and Michael. We have four grandchildren; Jessi, Luke, Roman and Emery and one Great Granddaughter Presly Rose.

## MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBER



### Gary Cleland, MNCM/CWO4 (Ret.)

I do not remember when I first joined the Association, I could swear it was early on when it was pitched to the MN "A" classes early on. I was extremely fortunate to stand in formation at FMWTC when MN1 Cecil Martin was awarded his Navy Cross. Later like most youngsters I soon let the membership lapse. Also, I do not remember the date that I re-affiliated but my membership number is 0720. I remember making an early reunion held at the Weapons Station at the park along side the Cooper River. I had my boat then and remember giving boat rides to anyone asking. That had to be the mid 1970's when I was on Instructor Duty at the school. I also made the early reunions held at Seal Beach in the 1980's. How could I forget bidding (unknowingly) against my wife for a framed copy of the Giles Cartoon? Fast forward a few years when I was taken under the wing of an old "sea daddy" who I will keep nameless, but his initials are Jose Balderama. He suggested I agree to put my name up for a position on the B.O.D. which I did. Lo

and behold I was actually elected to my first elected office. I sailed on and on the B.O.D for a number of years and was cycling through for the 2nd time. Bob Hart called and asked if I would consider placing my name in for VP to which I agreed thinking 3 years VP. If memory serves me right it was all in one call which I answered outside the massive chiller plant for San Diego State University. He said congratulations you were unanimously approved for VP, the sad news is our newly elected president Willie Wilson died on the return trip home in a very serious single car accident. Needless to say I was stunned. Bob volunteered to stay on as long as I needed, but instead I agreed to shoulder the responsibility then and there and assumed the position as AOM President. Below is my summary of service. I am forever grateful for missing that seat in FT "A" school and wound up as a Mineman instead.

- 28 OCT 68 ENLISTED NAVRESCEN COR-PUS CHRISTI TX
- 22 DEC 68 - 3 JAN 69 - ACDUTRA - BOOT CAMP, NTC SAN DIEGO
- 23 MAY 69 - GRADUATED FROM ROY MILLER HIGH SCHOOL
- 8 - 22 JUN 68 - ACDUTRA; USS YORK COUNTY LST 1075; LITTLE CREEK, VA
- 5 OCT 69 - MN "A" SCHOOL, FMWTC CHASN SC, MNSN
- 22 APR 70 - NASU IWAKUNI, JAPAN, MNSN
- 4 JUL 70 - MOMAUPAC, LBEACH CA, MN3
- 9 JUN 71 - USS ENTERPRISE CVAN 65, MN2
- 13 FEB 72 - MOMAUPAC, LBEACH CA, MN2
- 27 SEP 72 - FMWTC, MN "B" SCHOOL, AND INSTRUCTOR DUTY, MN1
- 17 Dec 72 - Married the former Christie Ellen Bangle of Lakewood CA .
- 28 MAY 76 - COMOMAG CHASN SC, MN1
- 29 SEP 76 - MOMAG DET 5 SIGONELLA, SICILY, MN1
- 19 MAR 77 - COMOMAG CHASN SC, MN1
- 6 JUL 77 - DISCHARGED FROM ACTIVE DUTY, MN1
- 7 JUL 77 - SELECTION to MNC
- 25 JULY 77 - RE-ENLISTED USNR FOR BENEFITS OF RATE - MNC
- 19 AUG 77 - USS CAYUGA COUNTY LST 1186, MNC
- 23 JUL 79 - MOMAG 2419 SEAL BEACH CA, MNC TO MNCM, (CWO3 SEL)
- 7 OCT 92 - NWS SEAL BEACH HQ DET 119, CWO-3
- 1 MAR 96 - COMMANDER NAVAL FORCES KOREA HQ DET 119, PORT HUENEME, CA, CWO4
- 1 MAR 99 - RETIRED, 30 YEARS 5 MONTHS TOTAL SERVICE
- 21 JUL 77 - 20 MAY 79 - BODINE AND SCOTT HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING CO. CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
- 4 SEP 77 - 28 AUG 78 - DELMAR TECH-NICAL COLLEGE, HEAT AND AIR CONDI-TIONING SERVICE
- 5 JUN 79 - 5 JUN 85 - SWITZ-AIR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING CO, LONG BEACH, CA
- 6 JUN 85 - 23 AUG 12 - MCQUAY INTER-NATIONAL CORP
- 23 AUG 12 - RETIRED, 35 YEARS.

# Mineman of the Year (Sea) 2017



## MN1 (SW) Daniel P. Cadigan Biography

Petty Officer Cadigan is a native of Sayreville, NJ. He enlisted in the United States Navy in August 2007. Following completion of basic training at RTC, Great Lakes, IL, he reported to SSC Great Lakes, IL where he completed Apprentice technical Training and reported to Mine Warfare Training Center Ingleside, TX for Mineman "A" school in 2008.

Upon completion of training in 2008, he reported to rotational crew MCM Crew Dominant onboard USS Champion (MCM 4), homeported in Ingleside, TX. While stationed with MCM Crew Dominant, he completed four deployments to Arabian Gulf and a homeport shift from Ingleside, TX to San Diego, CA. Upon completion of his 4-year tour, he earned the rank of Second Class Petty Officer and sailed on 4 different ships.

In late 2012, he reported to NMC CWD UNIT SEAL BEACH at Seal Beach, CA. During his 3-year tour at NMC he held the title as Supply Leading Petty Officer and earned the rank of First Class Petty Officer.

In April 2016, he reported onboard USS SENTRY (MCM 3) homeported in Manama, Bahrain. He is the Operations Department Leading Petty Officer supporting mine warfare operations forward deployed. He is Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualified. His personal awards include: Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards),

Good Conduct Medal (three awards), and various unit and campaign awards.

Petty Officer Cadigan's exceptional tactical proficiency as Combat Information Center Watch Officer (CICWO) directly contributed to the training and efficiency of his watch team during four international exercises in the Arabian Gulf resulting in 20 training mines found, highest of any MCM in the force. Sailor Advocate. As Operations Departmental Leading Petty Officer, his relentless dedication to duty, loyalty and passion for his Sailors is beyond reproach. Bottom line, his Sailors achieve unprecedented success resulting in eight advancements, one meritorious advancement, one Junior Sailor of the Year, two Blue Jacket of the Quarters, seven Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist qualifications, 16 Career Waypoints approvals, and 17 career development boards. His Sailors emulate his thirst for knowledge and desire to achieve perfection.

**Command Impact:** Petty Officer Cadigan performs his collateral duties with the same dedication and vigor as his primary duties. As Command Urinalysis Program Coordinator, he conducted 44 random tests, collecting 220 samples with zero fatal discrepancies and a 100 percent negative return rate. As Assistant Command Fitness Leader, Petty Officer Cadigan mentors Sailors on healthy eating and culture of fitness and conducts command Physical Training sessions directly resulting in a 99 percent pass rate for cycle 17-1. As Command Watchbill Coordinator, Petty Officer Cadigan is the right-hand man to my Senior Watch Officer directly impacting the watch bills supporting underway, inport and special evolutions. Expert Trainer. Always engaged in the command at all levels to include Damage Control Training Team, Seamanship Training Team, Combat Systems Training Team, First Class Petty Officer Association, and CPO 365. If it is command related, he is at the fore-front leading the way.

## CO's Endorsement:

Petty Officer Cadigan is the Sailor every Commanding Officer hopes and dreams for. A passionate caring leader that routinely goes "above and beyond" to ensure my crew is trained and at the ready to execute the difficult task of mine warfare. SENTRY has enjoyed operational success this year, with over 120 days underway, including a 51 day emergent FIFTH Fleet tasking within 48 hour notice.

Military bearing, professional expertise and personal involvement are the cornerstones of his leadership style and the foundation to my command's mission accomplishment.

His sense of Navy tradition and customs are not lost on his Sailors. His forward thinking is a force-multiplier that ensures his presence is noted every time he is in the room. Petty Officer Cadigan is a bold warfighter that assumes additional responsibilities and has excelled as an Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer (ATTWO), Combat Information Center Watch Officer (CICWO), and I fully expect him to qualify as an MCM Evaluator in the coming months; all qualifications that I don't give out easily. He shows an uncanny tactical instinct and I fully trust him in command-wide responsibilities.

Petty Officer Cadigan is the ABSOLUTE #1 FIRST CLASS PETTY OFFICER ONBOARD SENTRY and HANDS DOWN the best **Mineman** I have observed during my five years serving on multiple MCMS. His demeanor, professional appearance, FIFTH Fleet operational experience, and advanced qualifications make him deserving and the obvious choice for selection as **Mineman of the Year**. There is no better candidate to represent the Mine Warfare community.



# Mineman of the Year (Shore) 2017



## MN1 (SW/EXW) Garrett J. Schilz Biography

Petty Officer Schilz was born on June 14, 1990 in Boise, Idaho. His immediate family includes his parents, Marty Schilz and Shawn Freund and two sisters, Krista and Ashton. The family moved to Buhl, Idaho where he graduated from Buhl High School in 2009 and was accepted to the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls, Idaho. After his first semester, he decided to answer a higher calling and enlisted in the United States Navy on February 24, 2010. After completing recruit training in Great Lakes, he graduated Mineman "A" School at Mine Warfare Training Command in Point Loma, California on November 5' 2010.

Upon Completion of Mineman "A" School, Petty Officer Schilz started his career out at Southwest Regional Maintenance Center (SWRMC) where he was a maintenance man and worked on the AN/SLQ-48 Mine Neutralization Vehicle.

After his short tour at SWRMC he received orders to the USS Guardian (MCM-5) in Sasebo, Japan where he was advanced to MN3. In the early morning of 17 January 2013 his Naval training was tested when USS

Guardian struck a reef. The crew battled to save the ship, but nothing could be done. The crew was ordered to abandon ship and leave their ship resting on the Tubbataha reef. Petty Officer Schilz received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his unmatched bravery. Soon thereafter the USS Guardian was cut to pieces and Decommissioned. The Crew was moved to the USS Warrior (MCM-10). Onboard USS Warrior Petty Officer Schilz served as the Work Center Supervisor, Lead Sonar Tech, and Combat Ready Petty Officer. While onboard the USS Warrior participated in multiple exercises in the 7th fleet AOR and went through INSURV. He was advanced to MN2 and awarded two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals and one JSOQ in his time aboard. In May of 2015 he transferred to Coastal Riverine Group Two DET. Bahrain where he served as Tactical Supervisor, Chief of the Guard and 3MA which provide point defense to afloat high value assets in the 5th, 6th, and 7th fleet AOR in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve and Vigilant Mariner. While at CRG-2 DET. Bahrain Petty Officer Schilz was advanced to MN1 and awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal and JSOQ. In August of 2016 he transferred to NMCPAC CWD Unit Seal Beach where he hit the ground running hard and took roles as the Supply Leading Petty Officer, Command Sponsorship Coordinator and Base Forklift Instructor. In his first year he has already received Sailor of the Quarter twice and Sailor of the Year.

His Personal Decorations include Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy

and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal (two awards) and various campaign awards

## Summary of all personal and professional achievements during 2017 justifying his nomination:

**PRI:** Supply Leading Petty Officer; As supply LPO, he had five Sailors advanced to the next paygrade and two Sailors selected as junior Sailor of the Quarter and Bluejacket of the Quarter.

**WATCH:** mine assembly team leader and command duty officer.

**COLL:** Command Sponsorship Coordinator, Command Forklift Instructor, Command Master at Arms, Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society command representative, Combined Federal Campaign Coordinator.

**AWARDS:** Sailor of the Quarter 1st and 3rd quarter fy-17, Letter of Commendation from Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton Chief of Staff on behalf of the Commanding General.

**COMM:** Seal Beach Holiday Parade, Destroyer Escort Sailors Association turkey drive.

## Director's endorsement:

Petty Officer Schilz is my number one First Class Petty Officer. He is an excellent manager; his motivation and phenomenal work ethic is reflected through his subordinates. With his superb time management, organization, exercise planning, and communication skills he led and held supply department to a higher standard. MN1 Schilz has brought exceptional recognition to this command. I see this as one of many notable accomplishments in his naval career. He is an invaluable asset to the command and highly deserving of selection as

**Mineman of the Year.**



# Mineman of the Year (Reserve) 2017



## MN1 John T. Payne Jr. Biography

MN1 Payne was born in Ft. Walton, Florida on August 18, 1970. He moved to Texas after his Father retired from the Air Force. After graduating High School he attended the Art Institute of Dallas where, in 1992, earned an AA in Graphic Design. A few years later he went back to the Art Institute of Dallas this time earning an AA in Computer Animation. In 2008, he earned a Bachelor in fine arts with a Major in Printmaking and a Minor in Ceramics from the University of North Texas. In 2009, Payne earned another Bachelors in Fine arts with the major being Art Education and the Minor in Art History. During this time he also was certified by the state of Texas to teach art and has been an art teacher in the Dallas Ft Worth area for the past 7 years and has loved every minute of it. His military service started March of 2000, his first unit was a Non Prior Service (NPS) unit. Sept of 2000 he affiliated with MOMAU 9 in Ft Worth and stayed for 2 years. 2002 he joined EODMU 12 out of Charleston and for 2 years drilled with them in Charleston learning a lot of how the EOD community operates.

But the traveling to Charleston started to get expensive and the time away from family was straining. In 2004 Petty Officer Payne went back to MOMAU 9 in Ft Worth, working his way through the ranks to MN1 and eventually the LPO of the unit. He made board on the last two Chief Exams and has hope that next year will be his year. He has deployed to Guam more times than he can count. During the last 17 years of service MN1 Payne has been awarded two Navy Achievement Medals, two Reserve Over Seas Medals, the Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal with 17 years good service, the Global War on Terrorism and the National Defense medals, expert for both the Pistol and the Rifle. MN1 Payne states that he has been married to his wife Teresa for almost 20 years. *"She has been my rock through the last 17 years. A few years ago we decided to try and Adopt a child. After a very long and tedious process I am proud to say in 2016 Jazmin became a citizen of the United States and an official member of this family. We could not be prouder of her. She is an excellent student and an avid Volleyball player. I have met many people in my career with the Navy. I regret none of it. I am blessed beyond belief to have a loving family at home, a civilian career I love, and Navy shipmates that I get to teach and learn from at the same time. Life is good!"* The most significant achievement for MN1 Payne resulted during the 2017 Mine Readiness Assist Visit, (MRAV) at NMC EAD Unit Guam. Months prior the MRAV, MN1 Payne had systematically trained and prepared NR MOMAU 9 personnel to ensure quality certification compliance with NMC EAD Unit Guam Training Plan. At the MRAV, MN1 Payne oversaw enlisted

personnel with NR MOMAU 9/10/11 which resulted in combined total of 2960 direct operational support hours, production of 108 Mines and 31% reserve component integration between MOMAU 9/10/11 and NMC EAD Unit Guam. With the conclusion of the MRAV the reserve units departed, while MN1 Payne as lead Reserve LPO and small contingent of reservist remained providing post-MRAV support. At this juncture, a Mineman reservist from Seal Beach arrived under six month ADSW orders. MN1 Payne promptly became the liaison in coordinating the time critical issues with NMC EAD Unit Guam, PSD and NOSC Guam; his actions resulting rapid integration in to the command and community for the reservist. The accomplishments included emergency OHA, secure of a Navy loan, rental of an apartment, food, and transportation.

### CO's ENDORSEMENT:

MN1 Payne is my LPO and an outstanding sailor with strong leadership, management and mentoring skills which has had a significant positive direct impact on 100% retention. MN1 Payne covers every measure to ensure new unit members are welcomed and provided with resources and information to succeed. He knows his sailors and handles or escalates their personal and professional issues appropriately while displaying a genuine interest in the development and success of sailors and as a result, he is sought out for advice beyond command. MN1 Payne is well on his way to an impressive career in the Navy Reserve and will make an outstanding Chief Petty Officer or Limited Duty Officer. MOST STRONGLY RECOMMENDED for selection as **Mineman of the Year**.





## AOM Tribute to Cecil H. Martin



We mourn the passing of **Cecil Harvey Martin** U.S. Navy Veteran and Mineman, age 76, of Savoy, IL formerly of Casey, IL who passed away at 10:18 p.m. on Monday, September 18, 2017 at Carle Hospital, Urbana, IL. He was born November 6, 1940 in Yale, IL, the son of Roy Forrest Martin and Ella Belle Baker Martin. On March 9, 1962 he married Kazuko Yamamoto in Yokohama, Japan. Survivors include his wife of fifty-five years, Kazuko Martin of Savoy, IL; son, Toby Brien Martin (Cathy) of Pearland, TX; daughter, Regina Christine Leuck (Timothy) of Champaign, IL; grandchildren, Kristen Nicole Leuck, Jarrett James Leuck, Casey Brianne Martin, Riley Quinn Martin and Kelsey Renee Martin; sisters, Carol Faye Farrell (William) of Casey, IL and Deborah Belle Pillers of Roscoe, IL and many friends and comrades. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Alan Eugene Martin and sister, Barbara Ann Tarr Finn. Cecil was a 1958 graduate of Casey High School. He later earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees from Eastern Illinois University. Cecil proudly served his country in the US Navy from July 23, 1958 to April 30, 1979. During his lifetime career he attained the rank of Lieutenant in the US Navy; he was awarded many medals including the Navy Cross, Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Cecil enjoyed carpentry and wood carving. He was well known for his one of a kind wood carvings, many of which he donated and sold for charity. Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 23, 2017 at Markwell Funeral Home with Rev. Gene Ellis officiating. Visitation was held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. prior the service at Markwell Funeral Home, 200 N. Central Ave., Casey, IL. Burial will be held in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, 675 E. Linton, Springfield, IL 62703 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis, TN 38105.





## AOM Tribute to Cecil H. Martin

From:

The Troubleshooter No. 2-69

It is not often that the Navy Cross, the nation's second highest medal for heroism, is awarded. When the recipient is a Mineman, the occasion is rarer still. Mineman First Class, Cecil H. Martin received the honor at the Naval Schools Mine Warfare, Charleston, S. C. on 5 September 1969. Rear Adm. Douglas C. Plate, Atlantic Fleet Mine Force pinned the medal on Martin's jumper.



Petty Officer Martin, with 11 years service in the Navy, played an important role as the commander of a two boat patrol with River Division 531 in Vietnam. While in the Mekong Delta on the night of 21 November 1968 Martin's patrol came under heavy attack from ambush. His cover boat was hit by two rockets aboard and causing the craft to run aground directly in front of enemy positions. Finding himself beyond the center of attack, Mineman Martin ordered his coxswain to reverse course to rescue the besieged crew. Re-entering the ambush area under increasing enemy fire, and while directing effective and tallying counter fire, Mineman Martin directed his boat to position between the helpless cover boat and the blazing enemy shore batteries. He then directed rescue operations and at crucial intervals personally manned a machine gun to suppress enemy fire. Boarding the disabled craft, he extinguished fire and helped transfer the casualties to his boat. While maintaining contact with the Naval Operations Center, and advising of the attack, he directed a success full withdrawal and rendered first aid to the wounded.

A native of Grandville Township, Illinois, and as a veteran of 11 years in the Navy, Mineman Martin enlisted in the Navy on 23 July 1958 and completed his recruit training at NTC, San Diego, Calif. He was initially assigned to the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va., from 28 Oct 1958 to 24 Apr 1959 as a student. Ordered to the Naval Schools Mine Warfare to attend the Mineman Class "A" school, he graduated as Honor man, first in his class, on 30 Oct 1959. He returned to the Naval Weapons Station, Yorktown, Va., for duty form 16 Nov 1959 until 1 Nov 1960. From Yorktown he transferred to the Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan, where he served until 7 Nov 1962. From there he went to COMINERON Seven at Long Beach, Calif., and served until 30 Aug 1963. He served from 19 Sep 1963 to 30 Aug. 1966 at the Naval Air Station. Atsugi Japan. From 3 Oct 6 to Feb 1968 he was attached to the Naval Ordnance Facility, Yokosuka, Japan. From 28 May 1968 to 24 May 1969 it was duty with River Squadron Five in Vietnam as a patrol boat captain. In addition to the Navy Cross, Mineman Martin has earned the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

In the words of the citation: "His great personal valor in the face of heavy and sustained enemy fire was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Services."





## AOM Tribute to Cecil H. Martin

### Cecil H. Martin

#### Welcome you to his webpage

"this page is dedicated to all who do the best they can in all their endeavors even if sometimes they fail!!

this does not include self proclaimed or other wise "ordained" preachers who work for the devil by their deeds"

"It does include all

Good and True Veterans living or dead, and especially River Patrol Boat Sailors"

<http://riversectiondivision531.org/>

This miniature turkey is approximately 8 inches high. The carving placed 2nd in the Open Class Miniatures of the Ward Foundation World Championship Wild Fowl Carving Competition held in Ocean City MD in 1990 and was Grand National Champion at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention held in Charleston, SC in 1990.



"This is my little PBR Chief. He is approximately 6 inches tall. He has drawn mixed comments from actual PBR Chiefs!! I quite frankly think he may just be one of the best caricatures I've ever seen and the Chiefs ought to be honored that I chose to do him before any others!! I assure you he was done with the greatest of respect."



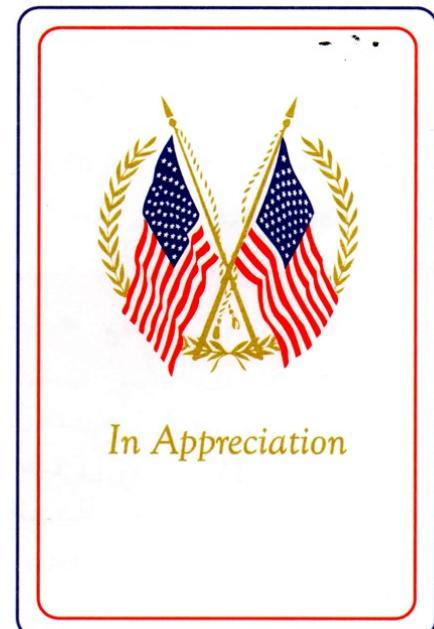
Dear Association of Mine men:-

Thank you all for the outpouring of sympathy and support on the loss of my dad. We were touched by all the kind words we have received over the past few weeks. Dad often said that the Best Day of His life was the day he joined the Navy. He →

so cherished the years he was a mine man and all the life-long friends he made along the way. Again thank you All for your support.

The family of  
Cecil Martin  
acknowledges with deep gratitude  
your kind expression  
of sympathy.

The  
Martin  
Family  
Kazuko, Regina  
& Tobey



AC-86 Bass-Mollett Printed in U.S.A.





# Taps



It's with heavy hearts that we pass along that we recently lost a fellow Mineman Michael Daigle, MNCS (SW) Retired. He passed peacefully in his sleep in Corpus Christi, TX. on Nov 03, 2017.



Our condolences and expressions of sadness are sent in behalf of CWO-4 Jack Smoot (USNR, ret.) on the death of his wife, Ethel.

**YORKTOWN, VA - Ethel Smoot** peacefully departed this life on October 4, 2017, at home with her family at her side after a long fight with Amyloidosis. She was born on January 11, 1941, in Neelyville, Missouri, and was raised, along with five sisters and two brothers, by her parents Arthur and Opal Cassinger. She was brought up in the church her parents founded. As a military family the majority of their duty stations were in the Southeastern United States and Europe, where they traveled extensively. Ethel graduated from University of Pennsylvania's Department of Horticulture program in 1984. Her proudest accomplishment soon followed: opening her own flower shop, Brandywine Floral, in Grafton, Virginia, with the help of her daughter Angela and a long-time friend. She

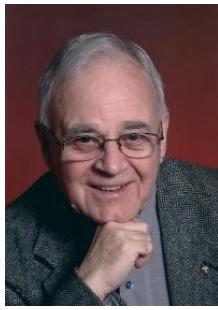
was nationally certified as an FTD Master Designer after passing rigorous oral, written and hands-on timed testing. She also won many design awards within the Hampton Roads florists' community and was featured as a panelist for floral wholesaler shows. Brandywine Floral had the honor to help decorate the Governor's Mansion in Richmond, Virginia, for Christmas in 1990. Ethel married Jack Smoot in 1998. After selling the flower shop she and Jack spent the rest of her years traveling, cruising, boating, and supervising multiple house remodelings. Jack and Ethel had a special house on Little Black River in Fairdealing, Missouri, where they loved to sit on the deck and listen to the river running by and watch well over twenty hummingbirds jockey for position at the feeders. They made their final home together in Marlbank Farms in Yorktown, Virginia. She is predeceased by her parents and son Stephen. She is survived by her husband Jack Smoot; son Mark Bellamy Jr (wife Robin), daughter Angela Bellamy-Knowles (husband Richard), daughter Connie Reynolds (husband Lonnie), daughter Pam McFall (husband Kirk); grandchildren Lauren Kudley, Kaitlyn Bellamy, Ryan Reynolds, Matthew Reynolds, Jeremy Worthy, Jason Worthy and Eric Worthy; 12 great grandchildren; and her devoted dog, Sofie. She was laid to rest next to her son Stephen in her family's cemetery in Coon Island, Missouri.



**Our prayers** and well wishes go out to **Nancy Femrite**, wife of our Secretary/Treasurer Mike Femrite and to **Masako Swart**, wife of our Editor, Ron Swart. We hope you have a successful and rapid return to good health!



**Charles William Briggs, Jr.**, 78, of Ravenel, South Carolina passed away, surrounded by family, Friday November 10, 2017. He was born on April 29, 1939 in Akron, Ohio, son of the late Sarah Frances Shavily Briggs and the late Charles William Briggs, Sr. Charlie retired from the US Navy after serving 20 years as a **Mineman Chief Petty Officer** and also retired from the Charleston County Sheriff's Office as a police officer. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife of 61 years, Charlotte Brueggeman Briggs of Ravenel, SC; three sons, Charles Briggs, III and wife Susan, Karl Briggs, Sr. and wife Wendi, and Mark Briggs; daughter, Deborah Brandon and husband Thomas; three grandchildren, Jason Brandon and wife Christine, Karl Briggs, Jr., and Keira Briggs and 3 great grandchildren, Kathleen Brandon, Henry Briggs, and Elizabeth Briggs; brother Terry Briggs and sister Jackie Lou Harris. Along with his parents, Charlie is predeceased by his brother Bill Briggs. A memorial service will be held at 11:00am on Wednesday, November 15, 2017 at McAlister-Smith Funeral Home West Ashley Chapel. A reception will follow immediately in the café. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to MUSC Children's Hospital. Expressions of sympathy may be viewed or submitted to [www.mcalister-smith.com](http://www.mcalister-smith.com). Arrangements entrusted to McAlister-Smith Funeral Home, West Ashley Chapel, 2501 Bees Ferry Road Charleston, South Carolina, 29414, 843-722-8371.



**Meet Ronald R. Glasen  
AOM Scholarship Chairman**

Graduated SFDS Grammar School 1952

Attended Mendel HS graduated 1956

Enlisted US Navy 1956

Graduated US Naval Schools Mine Warfare 1957

Advanced to MN3 1959

US Navy Honorable Discharge 1962

Married Claire Dowling (Charleston South Carolina) 1962

3 Sons, 1 Grand daughter, 6 Grand Sons

Worked Marquette Cement (1962-1968)

Graduated DeVry Institute of Technology 1968

NBC TV Channel 5 Chicago (camera Man) (1968-1969)

Radio TV Repair (1969-1970)

WGCI AM & FM Radio -- (1970-2000)  
Radio Broadcasting Engineer), (7 years as Chief Engineer)

While working on a film documentary in Montreal Canada, during the 1976 Olympics, I met America's Golden Boy in Judo, Jim Wooley. Jim persuaded me to pose as a coach and march with him in the 1976 Olympic Games closing ceremonies. (Which I did posing as a coach)

Graduated Roosevelt University 1987

Graduated DeVry Institute of Technology (again) 1988

While at WGCI Radio Served 2 years as the NBA Chicago Bulls Radio Broadcast Engineer. Served 15 years as Broadcasting Engineer for the University of Illinois at Chicago covering all Basketball and Hockey Radio Broadcasts.

Real Estate Broker (Realtor) Serving Indiana and Illinois 2000-Present

Still active with the Knights of Columbus, Past Grand Knight 1972-1974.



## Ed Simmons Retires

**Congratulations** go out to Ed Simmons who, after 46 years of service to our Nation and the Navy, has reached his second retirement this time from government civil service. His first retirement as LCDR (LDO/MNCS) made him a perfect fit to assume his responsibilities at COMOMAG as the Exercise and Training Operations Manager. As the fleet's manager for exercise and training mines, including MCM threat mine targets, Ed also served as the Navy's fleet manager for non-combat expenditure allocations (NCEA), ensuring that all Navy and Air Force activities, units, squadrons, aircraft and ships had the authorization for training assets they needed to meet their requirements each year... a very big job that was masterfully conducted by Ed. As some of our members know, Ed was thrust into a difficult leadership challenge almost



immediately after his commission to Ensign (LDO) when he assumed command of MOMAG Unit 5 in Sigonella. He went on to serve as CO of MOMAG Unit Eleven in Charleston, MOMAG Unit Twelve in Misawa, Japan and MO-MAU One in Seal Beach, CA.

Ed was not only an expert in mine maintenance and assembly as well as MIW training, was the last person remaining in government service (active



duty or civilian) who had graduated from the Mine Warfare Training Center's 6-week Minefield Planning course of instruction, before it was permanently cancelled. On behalf of Minemen everywhere, we wish Ed and Yoshi all the very best as they sail off to retirement and a life of golf, puppy dogs and relaxation that is well earned. **Thank you for your service Ed-san!**





# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET



By MN1(SW) Jonathan Wampler

**Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG).** We hope everyone had a fantastic summer and was able to enjoy the warm weather. The COMOMAG team was hard at work supporting exercises and training events. Here's a look at events COMOMAG was involved in.

The N31 team, consisting of LT Rodney N. Rogers, MNCM(SW) Samuel B. Dorbandt, MNC(SW) Jamnis R. Lacy, and Mr. David M. Epton, visited Naval Munitions Command PAC EAD Unit Okinawa and Guam and conducted Mine Readiness Assist Visits (MRAV) at each site. The MRAV is an essential part in the Mine Readiness Certification process, where the team spends one week at each NMC, conducting training and inspections on publications, procedures, programs, and many other areas in the Mine Readiness Certification.

The N32 team supported many exercises around the fleet. Mr. Edward J. Simmons, Mr. Rodney A. Biggs, and MN1(SW) Jonathan D. T. Wampler traveled to Norfolk, Virginia to assist in the recovery of assets used in a demonstration hosted by Naval Air Station Patuxent River. MN1 Carlos Hernandez, MN1(SW) Tyler G. Cowen and MN3 Arthur S. Guevera assisted the Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command in their Versatile Exercise Mine System training exercise here in San Diego, California. In addition, we participated in Helicopter Advanced Readiness Program in Florida and joint exercises in Japan.

We would like to welcome our Prospective Executive Officer, LT Delton C. Drum and MN1(SW) Cowen to the COMOMAG team. LT Drum is joining us from the USS CARL VINSON (CVN-70), where he served as the Ships Gunner.

MN1(SW) Cowen is arriving from the USS SENTRY (MCM-3) in Manama, Bahrain where he held the position of Leading Petty Officer for Deck division. Both are outstanding additions to the COMOMAG family and we look forward to working alongside these Sailors.

With new arrivals, we also say farewell to a few members of the COMOMAG team.

Mr. Ed Simmons has retired after 46 faithful years of military and civil service and MN1 Hernandez has departed COMOMAG and returned to the Fleet Reserves. We want to wish them both "Fairwinds and Following Seas" and good luck in all of their future endeavors.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> a change of command and retirement ceremony will be held to honor Captain James D. Craycraft's 38 years of faithful service. Captain Craycraft will be relieved by Commander Nichol M. Schine as COMOMAG's Commanding Officer. We wish CAPT Craycraft and his family all the best.

COMOMAG would like to congratulate MN1(SW) Daniel P. Cadigan, MN1(SW/EXW) Garrett J. Schilz, and MN1 John T. Payne on their selection as Mine-man of the Year. These individuals have upheld the highest standards expected of a Sailor in the United States Navy and demonstrated outstanding professional knowledge. Keep up the hard work and we wish you continued success.

Below is COMOMAG partaking in an old Navy Tradition called Rope Yarn Wednesday. The tradition was originally Rope Yarn Sunday, a day in which Sailors at sea would receive a half day devoted to mending their clothes and hammocks using rope yarns kept for making new rope. After the days of sailing ships, the tradition became a half day in which Sailors would use that time to attend to personal errands or just to take a break as work is not required during Rope Yarn Wednesday. Today, Rope Yarn Wednesday is mainly observed on Fridays and affords Sailors the opportunity to take some time off





# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

## Navy Declares COBRA Coastal Mine Detection System Operational

By: Megan Eckstein



On 1 October, 2017, Patrol Coastal Squadron ONE was decommissioned and Naval Surface Squadron FIVE (CNSS-5) was placed in commission during a waterfront ceremony at NSA Bahrain. In addition to the new title, CNSS-5 assumed Administrative Control (ADCON) of the four Mine Countermeasure (MCM) ships home ported in Bahrain. This shift of ADCON duties aligns all 10 Patrol Coastal (PC) ships and four MCMs under a single Type Commander responsible for all man, train and equip duties and responsibilities. We officially welcome USS SENTTRY (MCM 3), USS DEVASTATOR (MCM 6), USS GLADIATOR (MCM 11) and USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13) to the Naval Surface Forces Atlantic family!



WASHINGTON NAVY YARD – The Navy completed the first phase of its initial operational test and evaluation on the AN/DVS-1 Coastal Battlefield Reconnaissance and Analysis (COBRA) airborne mine detection system and is awaiting Littoral Combat Ship availability to complete the remaining testing. COBRA is a sensor payload that operates onboard the MQ-8B Fire Scout and can detect beach zone mines in the daytime to help plan amphibious landings. An eventual block upgrade would add nighttime and surf zone detection capabilities. COBRA wrapped up its IOT&E Phase 1 at NASA's Wallops Flight Facility this summer, and the Navy declared initial operational capability on July 31, Sam Taylor, mine warfare senior leader at the Program Executive Office for Littoral Combat Ship, told USNI News in a Sept. 28 interview. Using air vehicle operators and mission payload operators from Air Test and Evaluation Squadron (VX) 1, maintainers from Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21 and operators from USS *Independence* (LCS-2) and the LCS Squadron (LCSRON) 1, the LCS program proved to the Operational Test and Evaluation Force that COBRA can effectively and reliably meet its mission requirements. "Right now, in order for us to do the kind of reconnaissance you need in advance of an amphibious landing, you've got to put sailors and Marines, you've got to put somebody in there with eyes on target to see what's there, see if there's any obstacles. People are involved in it," Taylor said. "With this capability, you're able to go from the LCS with an unmanned vehicle, you're able to recon a whole line of beach – not just one or two areas, you can look at the whole beach, you can look at all the lanes that are possible without putting somebody there – which allows you to come back and look at that and choose which lane or lanes are available and which are not." Data from COBRA will be sent to the amphibious landing force through the Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Assault Breaching System (JABS), which could either direct a JDAM air assault on the beach to clear mines or could feed the location of mines to the precision navigation and lane marking systems on the amphibious vehicles coming ashore. COBRA can also feed the data through the LCS to other components of the mine countermeasures mission package, including to systems that can neutralize the mines COBRA located. Taylor said IOT&E Phase 1 included 21 flights that covered sandy beaches, partial vegetation and full vegetation; different mine types; and different mine densities in the water, including some runs with no mines in the water at all. The Navy's operational testers are still scoring the event, but an initial impressions letter declared COBRA's performance adequate to meet operational requirements. An MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned aircraft system from the Magicians of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) 35 lifts off the flight deck of the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth (LCS-3) on Dec. 17, 2014.

Four IOT&E phases remain: one will require COBRA to operate on an LCS at sea to prove the Fire Scout unmanned vehicle and the operators can successfully deploy and run the system while other shipboard activities take place; a maintenance event will require time aboard a LCS in port to prove the system can be maintained on a ship and the supply and logistics chains are ready for on-ship operations; and two cyber-related tests will also have to take place on a ship in port.

Taylor said these events will likely take place on *Independence*, which is now the lead mine countermeasures test platform in a four-ship test squadron in San Diego. However, several other mission package systems need shipboard time for testing too, and Taylor said the COBRA tests are ready to go as soon as they can get on the ship's schedule. He said the Navy hopes to conclude all COBRA IOT&E events by mid-FY 2018.

In the meantime, the Navy bought two systems in Fiscal Year 2017 and will continue to buy more as quickly as budgets allow. Taylor said the Navy intends to first outfit the squadrons with six systems, so operators can become proficient with COBRA. Then the mission packages that will deploy aboard ships will be outfitted – the Navy currently plans to buy 24 mission packages, he said, so the plan is to buy 24 additional COBRAs, for a total of 30. Each system, made by small business Areté Associates, includes two COBRA Payload Sub-systems that attach to the Fire Scout and one post-mission analysis station to go on the LCS.



# A.O.M. Mineman Miscellany



On October 12, 1943, The Navy Bureau of Ordnance (BuOrd) established the Mineman rate and re-designated those Gunner's Mates (Mines) and Ordnance Technicians whose primary duty was the maintenance, assembly and planting Navy Underwater Mines, as Minemen.

## The FY-2018 MN Chief's List

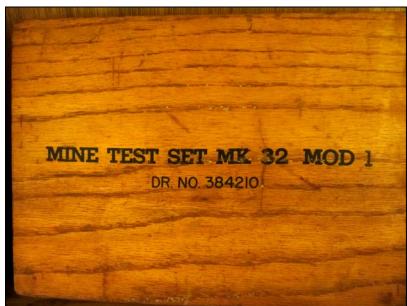
MN1 HARRELL THOMAS GEORGE	MN1 RODRIGUEZ JOAQUIN RODOFO
MN1 HINTZ BRENDON M	MN1 RUBLE TYLER JASONRAY
MN1 JACOBS KYLE MAXWELL	MN1 SAVELLANO ANDRE RIMORIN
MN1 KELLEY CHRISTOPHER ALAN	MN1 SPERRY AARON MICHAEL
MN1 KELLY NILES EMERY	MN1 STEVENS JASON MICHAEL
MN1 LAMPMAN BRIAN EMMET	MN1 TAYLOR ROBIN MARIE
MN1 LINDSAY JIMMIE MICHEAL JR	MN1 TEMPLETON ZACHARY RYAN
MN1 MANKA JEFFREY JAMES	MN1 TRNKA MICHAEL WAYNE
MN1 MCREYNOLDS PATRICK RYAN	MN1 TULLY COY ALAN
MN1 MEYER JACOB JOHN	MN1 WASYLENKO MICHAEL D
MN1 MOORE DONALD LEWIS	MN1 WATSON ADAM TRAVIS
MN1 MOORE JARROD EDWARD	MN1 WELLS BENJAMIN WESLEY
MN1 MORSE WILLIAM ALLEN	MN1 WILLIAMMEE KEVIN ALAN
MN1 PIERRE ERIC DENATTO JR	



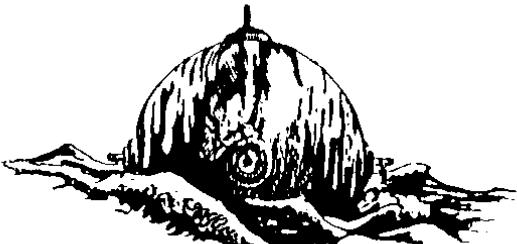
MN1 Cecil Martin Boat Captain and Crew PBR 110



Cecil & Kazuko Martin & Family



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Application Fee: \$5.00 - Annual Dues: \$15.00 - NOTICE: To maintain membership, dues must be paid annually by the month of October. The dues expiration date is printed on the mailing label above your name. Mail checks to the Association of Minemen, P.O. Box 510519, Punta Gorda, FL 33951