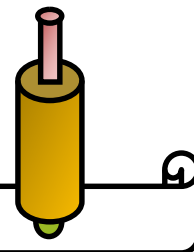




# The DASHPOT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

## In This Issue:

- 2018 Minemen of the Year
- AOM Reunion 2018
- Welcome New Officers
- Naval Mining Articles
- AOM History
- Sea Stories

## Congratulations

*To the 2018 Mineman Of the Year!*

*Mineman First Class Petty Officer (SW) Yves Dessources (Sea); Mineman First Class Petty Officer (SW) Pua C. Xiong (Shore); and Mineman First Class Petty Officer James Edward Washington Jr. (Reserve)*

## From The President

*MNEM John Epps, USN (Ret.)*

I'd like to pass on my condolences to the families of our recently departed shipmates and family members. Know that you and those on the Binnacle List are in our thoughts and prayers.



I'd like to welcome **Charles Humbar** to the Board of Directors who took over for Paul Santa Maria. **Thank you for your service Paul** and **thanks to Warren Savage** for agreeing to stay on the Board for another term. A big welcome goes out to **Nate Miranda** who gave up the Chaplin job to accept the Secretary/Treasurer position from **Mike Femrite**. **Thanks Mike** for all the devoted years you gave to the position. And last but not least, welcome to **Don Moody** for accepting the Historian position. Don also set up an AOM – Minemen Facebook page that has gotten a lot of attention since its inception. If you haven't seen it; **check it out!** With that said, we still have the vacant **Chaplin** position that needs to be filled. Are there any volunteers out there who would like to step up?

In spite of the threat of Hurricane Michael, the 44<sup>th</sup> annual reunion in Jacksonville, FL went off without a hitch. **Thanks again to Tracey Hays** for putting on this great event. **BZ!** And thanks to all the people who donated items and the successful bidders for their generosity at the Scholarship Auction. As you may have already heard, the **2019 reunion** will be held in **San Antonio, TX** and **2020** back in good ole **Charleston, SC**. I'm sure our Committee Chairmen will keep us posted as their Reunion plans develop.

Recruiting new members is everyone's responsibility. We need to add new members, old and young to our membership rolls. I've seen some comments on the new Facebook page concerning membership, so thanks again Don for its creation.

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



## NOTABLE QUOTABLE



*"The nation that makes a great distinction between its scholars and its warriors will have its thinking done by cowards and its fighting done by fools." — Thucydides*

**If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.**

**-Dalai Lama**





## Association of Minemen

### 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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*Volunteer needed*

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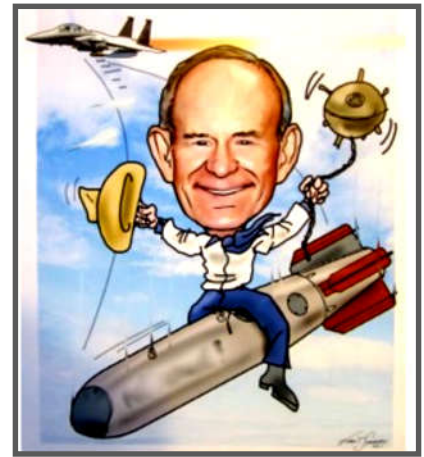
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**dashpot-editor@comcast.net**

**Input for Winter 2019**  
**Dashpot #98 is due NLT:**  
**January 31, 2019**

## From the Editor...



**The 2018 AOM Reunion in Jacksonville, FL** was a great success, perhaps partly due to the fact that I couldn't make it this year...

San Antonio Texas will be the location for our 2019 reunion and Charleston, SC in 2020.

More good news was the election of **Nate Miranda** as the new Secretary-Treasurer, **Charles Humbard** as a new Board Member and **Don Moody** as the Historian! Welcome Aboard to you all and thank you for serving the AOM!

Furthermore, we thank **Mike Femrite** for his 8 years of service to our Association as the Secretary-Treasurer. **Thank you Mike!** You did a great job! ..... Thinking about the **Historian** position, (having once held it myself), I encourage the BOD to review the Historian's duties with a view towards making them more specific as to what is expected of the job... (record keeping, collections of 'stuff', writing articles, keeping a library, etc.). I seriously doubt that anyone knew what our last Historian was doing for the AOM.

*All the best! RON*







This year the Scholarship Committee has awarded 9 Scholarship Awards. Each scholarship was worth \$750, for a total of \$6,750. Since 1996 the Association of Minemen have awarded 229 scholarships totaling \$152,900.

In 2017, the number of scholarships awards was 5. In 2016, we had 4 Scholarship Awards, in 2015, we had 12 Scholarship Awards, and 2014, we had 10 Scholarship Awards. As in 2017, all of our applicants just graduated high school or are already in college.

This year we received 9 applications. Of the 9 applications 7 were from women, and 2 were from men. Three of the applications were from PAST AWARD recipients, and six were from first time applicants just graduating high school and are entering college for their first time.

Any apathy to the rules and instructions when filling out the application, will be taken into consideration by your committee when making our decisions for any scholarship award.

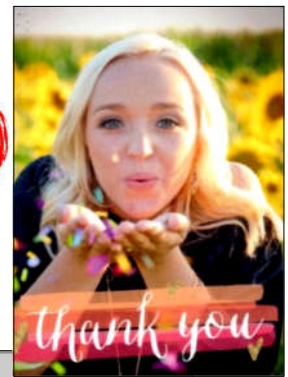
The rules for completing an application must be strictly adhered to as they were written.

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-land 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.

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 "Search Coil" Glasen



Mr. Glasen,  
I would like to thank you for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. I am honored to have been chosen. The generous amount will help pay tuition costs in the fall. Your scholarship will help me achieve my goal of becoming a nurse!  
Thank you,  
Audren Arpers

TO THE ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN,  
I WANT TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR GIFTING ME WITH YOUR SCHOLARSHIP. THIS SCHOLARSHIP MEANS SO MUCH TO ME BECAUSE MY POP-POP, BOB WILSON, WAS THE PRESIDENT RIGHT BEFORE HE HAD PASSED AWAY IN 2010. AND THANK YOU FOR SELECTING ME AS ONE OF THE RECIPIENTS FOR THIS SCHOLARSHIP. MY NUN IS VERY PROUD OF ME & I KNOW MY POP WOULD BE TOO.  
WITH MUCH GRATITUDE,  
JORDAN WILLIAMS

Erin Latimer  
3131 Treva Vista Drive  
Independence, KS 67301

September 1, 2018  
Association of Minemen  
P.O. Box 310519  
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Dear Ronald R. Glasen,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Association of MINEMEN'S 2018 Scholarship Award. Thank you for your generosity.

As I begin my education at the University of Kansas, I am very thankful for receiving your thoughtful gift.

Sincerely yours,  
Erin Latimer  
Erin Latimer



### 2018 AOM Scholarship Awards

1. Catlin Clark
2. Elizabeth Ann Runge
3. Warren Glisk
4. Hannah J. Tuller
5. Cara Nicole Ryan
6. Ryan R. Glasen
7. Lauren Kreps
8. Erin Latimer
9. Jordan Williams

Valparaiso University  
Chapman University  
Georgetown University  
Monroe County Community College  
Culinary Institute of America  
Purdue University  
Mercy College  
University of Kansas  
University of Connecticut

Ron Glasen presents AOM Scholarship checks to Ms. Catlin Clark, a freshmen at Valparaiso University and Mr. Ryan Glasen a Senior at Purdue University.



# Nate Miranda

## *Note from new Secretary Treasurer*

### **Nate Miranda**

*As Mike Femrite is stepping down as the Secretary/Treasurer, I have accepted the challenge of taking over as your new Secretary/Treasurer. I am committed to the position and look forward to serving the AOM community. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions on how we can improve how we do business. Thank you for your support!*

### **Bio of Nathan (Nate) Miranda, CWO4-Retired - Nov. 1970 to Jan. 2002**

I enter the Navy during the height of the Viet Nam war. Having completed Boot Camp at Naval Training Center, San Diego in Feb. 71, my first assignment was MN "A" School, Charleston, SC. (Mar. 71 – Aug. 71). Upon completion of "A" School my first duty station was Mine Division, Naval Magazine, Guam (Sep. 71 – Dec. 72). My next duty station was Mines Division, Naval Magazine, Subic Bay, Philippines (Jan 73 – Dec. 75). I then went to Fleet & Mine Warfare Training Center, Charleston, SC for "C" School (Dec. 75 – Jun. 76). Next duty station was Mobile Mine Assembly Group Unit 8, Guam (Jul. 76 – Aug. 78). From there to Naval

Weapons Depot, Indian Island, WA (Sep. 78 – Nov. 80). Having completed 10 years of active duty, I then joined the reserves as was assigned to NR Mobile Mine Assembly Unit 1, Los Angeles, CA (Jan. 81 – Jan. 02). AKA, Long Beach then Seal Beach, CA. Unit 1 augmented Mobile Mine Assembly Units in Guam, Okinawa and Misawa Japan. I ended my naval career after 31 years of total service as the **Commanding Officer of NR MOMAU 2419**.

My civilian career began after my Active Duty ended in November 1980. I entered into the field of museum exhibit fabrication where I worked for 5 years as a production manager for an exhibit fabrication house (Dec. 80 – Nov. 85). I then was hired by the State of California, Museum of Science and Industry, now known as the California Science Center (CSC) as the **Manager of Exhibit Services** (Nov. 83 – Nov. 08).

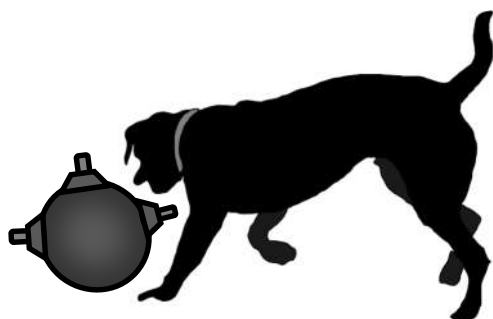
A few years before my retirement, I took on the position of **Assistant Deputy Director of Operations** (Nov. 08 – Nov. 12). Beside being responsible for the day to day operation of the largest Science Center west of the Mississippi, I was tasked with being the **Logistic Coordinator** between CSC and NASA for the movement of the **Space Shuttle Endeavour**. Soon afterwards, I retired from State service completing 28 years at the California Science Center. After 13 months into my retirement, I was called back into service by the President of the Science Center to be the **Project Manager** (Dec. 13 – Apr. 15) for the movement of the **Shuttle Fuel Tank, ET-94** from NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans to the California Science Center. My main responsibility for the move was when ET-94 hit land in Marina Del Rey, through the streets of LA ending at the Science Center. 16 months later, I reentered retirement where I stay busy doing home remodeling and repairs projects.





# Tails from the Poopdeck...

## Minemen Stories



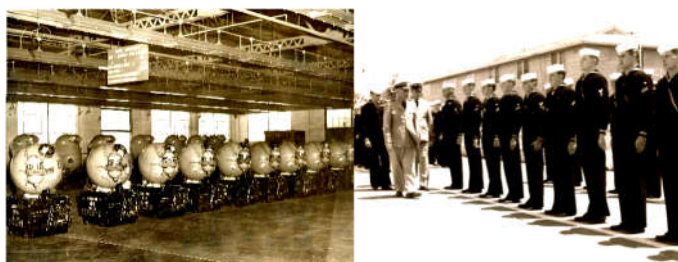
**Tar-Face**, a large, black lab-retriever, was our beloved mascot at NAD, Hawthorne, Nevada. Since sailors on Navy side had to march over to the spic-and-span Marine side of the base for meals, Mineman Charlie Cowell taught Tar-Face to carry some piece of trash over to Marine side and drop it on command. With a big grin on his face, Tar-Face would trot over to join his laughing Navy buddies who had pulled one over on the straight-laced and haughty Marine guard at the security gate.

Sailors loved to take Tar-Face out to Walker Lake where he would retrieve beer cans and thrown rocks into shallow water. One day while sailors were drinking beer on the 2nd deck of the wooden barracks Tar-Face jumped out the window to go after a beer can someone had tossed out the window. We heard a loud thump and a whimper so we rushed over to see Tar-Face limping away from where he had landed in loose sand.

One despised sailor thought Tar-Face's color scheme was too plain and boring so he took a stencil brush and some zinc chromate and painted yellow stripes on Tar-Face's flanks. It took us an hour or more to get paint off our buddy Tar-Face. In a phone call from 95-year-old MNC Dickinson, USN Retired, he said Tar-Face would ride on the bus that carried sailors to work and back. And he would stand on his hind legs looking out the windshield for vehicles coming the opposite way and bark like the devil as he raced down the aisle.

The day I got transferred from Hawthorne, I couldn't find Tar-Face. I wanted to say goodbye to the best buddy I had on the base. But I figured he was out at Walker Lake having fun with his other buddies retrieving beer cans, so I felt content and swore that **someday** I would write about a Sailor's buddy named **Tar-Face**.

**MNCM Don Jones, USN Retired**



**AOM HISTORIAN**

**DON MOODY**

Donald J. Moody Bio: Entered the Navy in August 1968. Basic Training at NRTC Orlando FL. Then Minemen "A" school at Naval School Mine Warfare. Charleston, SC then off to NAF Atsugi Japan in August 1969 - missing Woodstock - that is another story. Served with some of the finest MN I have ever known. After closing Atsugi Mine shop, I transferred to NAVMAG Subic Bay, RP. Did a short tour at NAF Mine Det Naha, Okinawa. Before leaving NAVMAG Subic I helped prepare mines for mining Haiphong Harbor. Then off to FMWTC Charleston, SC for Mineman "B" school. Then MOMAG Charleston SC, sea duty with a tour to MOMAG Det 5 Sigonella. Off to NOF Sasebo, Japan, closed this one down and off to MOMAG Unit 8 Guam, MI - only place I volunteered to extend (fun times), While in Guam I helped with Operation New Life. Then for a tour of duty at MOMAG Det 7 HI.

Commissioned LDO in 1979 at MOMAG Det 7 and sent to MOMAG Unit 9 as XO, mine preparation for Indian Ocean. The off to duty as OIC MOMAG Det 5 Sigonella, changed to MOMAG Unit 5, 1st CO. Off to be OIC MOMAG Det 11 Charleston, SC, changed to MOMAG Unit 11, 1st CO. Then up to NWS Yorktown, VA as the CAPTOR Mine IMA Officer, helped in converting the IMA to MOMAG Unit 14. Retired in 1989 at NWS Yorktown.

In 1971, I married Aiko Okano from Hemi-cho Japan, she died in 1994. I still miss her light to this very day. We have two children Emmie Joanne and Donald Jay Jr.

I am entitled to wear the Navy Commendation, Navy Achievement, Good Conduct with 2 stars, Humanitarian Service with 3 stars, National Defense, Meritorious Unit Commendation with 3 stars and the Overseas Service Medal.

After retiring in Williamsburg VA I went into the real estate business. I moved back to Satellite Beach FL, to take care of my mother. I owned a couple of real estate companies both being bought out by others. I then went to teaching real estate agents until deciding to retire again. Then, a real estate broker asked for my help and I went back to guiding agents. So I retired once again and toured the USA in an RV for 3 years, most likely drove right by you when I was out and about. On one of my return trips to the Melbourne, FL area I was asked to help a real estate company where I taught agent real estate and technology. In 2008 I retired from real estate again due to health issues... **surprise** I am still here!

I now play as a YouTube Creator making videos and learning how to be a better person... not that I was a bad person before. Remember be good to yourself first, then others. In 2018 I made the decision to return to the AOM and am happy over what it has meant to me.



ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN



# Reunion 2018







ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN

# Reunion

2018





# NOW HEAR THIS!

## THE 2019 ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN REUNION WILL BE HELD IN...

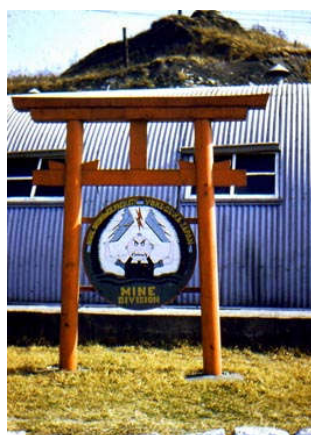


Stand By for further Details from the 2019 Reunion Chair Gary Cleland!



### NOW HEAR THIS...

## Azuma Island Mine Shop Reunion



The 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closing of the Naval Ordnance Facility on Azuma Island in Yokosuka Japan will be the theme of the **2020 AOM East Coast Reunion to be held in Charleston, SC**. All former Minemen and other Shipmates who served, are invited... AOM members or not!

**We have many of the names but need contact information and more photos from your time in Japan.**

**Derick Hartshorn writes:** Our AOM web site will dedicate a page to all those who served on Azuma Islands, in whatever capacity. The very idea rouses some really wonderful memories I have of "Baka Shima" and those I served with. We want to know all those who served with NOF in the middle of Tokyo Bay. If you ever served on Azuma Island or know of someone who did, please go to the web page (<http://minemen.org/Azuma.htm>) and use the criteria listed and send it to Derick Hartshorn at [derickh@charter.net](mailto:derickh@charter.net)

**Contact Information:**

"Azuma Is. Reunion Coordinator" Bill Holloway at: [william.holloway1010@gmail.com](mailto:william.holloway1010@gmail.com)

AOM Communications Chairman and Web Master at: [derickh@charter.net](mailto:derickh@charter.net)





## ASSOCIATION OF MINEMEN PRESIDENTS



**Forrest 'Foxy'  
Fisher  
1975-77**

**The Navy's  
First Mineman**



**James 'Jim'  
Coffman  
1989-92**



**Robert 'Bob'  
Hart  
2007-11**



**Maurice 'Toby'  
Horn  
1992-95**



**Robert 'Willie'  
Wilson  
2011-11**



**Jack Smoot  
1978-81**



**Warren Savage  
1995-98**



**Gary L. Cleland  
2011-14**



**Gordon  
Webster  
1981-81  
(Looking for  
Picture)**



**Joe A.  
Balderrama  
1998-2001**



**Tracey A. Hays  
2014-17**



**Lyal Striker  
1981-83**



**J. Paul  
Santa Maria  
2001-04**



**John Epps  
2017-2020**



**Richard 'Dick'  
Schommer  
1983-89**



**William 'Bill'  
Johnson  
2004-07**

# 2018 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SEA)



## USS WARRIOR (MCM 10)



### Mineman First Class Petty Officer (SW) Yves Dessources, USN

Petty Officer First Class Dessources was born on 06 June 1986 in Boston Massachusetts. He enlisted in the Navy on 15 August 2006 and immediately began active service. He conducted basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois, and upon completion, attended SN ATT "A" School in Great Lakes, Illinois. He reported to his first duty station in 2006 at United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. While he was there his job was to develop midshipmen morally, mentally, and physically and imbue them with the highest ideals of duty, honor, and loyalty in order to provide graduates who are dedicated to a career of the Naval Service. In 2008, he transferred to the USS Boxer in San Diego, California as a deck Department in Second Division, responsible for the preservation and maintenance of 53 Divisional Spaces, Upper/Lower Vehicle Stowage Areas and Well Deck. He completed one deployment to include Counter Piracy Operations, Western Pacific Deployment. While onboard he also received his Enlisted Surface Warfare Qualification during that deployment.

In 2009, he reported to Center for Surface Combat Systems, Great Lakes, Illinois. He was a student under instruction from 10 January 2010 to 04 March 2010. He then reported to Training Support Center San Diego, California to complete MN "A" School. Upon completion of MN "A" School he went on to complete MN Boatswains mate "C" School. He then decided to reenlist in the United States Navy for another four years with his family by his side to support him during the process.

He then transferred that year to report to MCM Crew Exultant onboard USS Dextrous in Manama Bahrain as a deck Mineman. While assigned to MCM Crew Exultant, he was advanced to Petty Officer Third Class and was named the LPO to lead sailors while awaiting for their LPO. While assigned to MCM Crew Exultant, he completed four deployments to Manama, Bahrain and two UK-US MCMEXs and IMCMEX, while also conducting crew rotations onboard USS Warrior and USS Scott. During these operations, he was advanced to Mineman Petty Officer Second Class and also selected as the Sailor of the Quarter.

In 2013 he transferred to NMC COMOMAG in San Diego, California. While onboard he was assigned responsibilities for the readiness, maintenance and assembly of the U.S. Navy stockpile of sea mines and mine assets. He was also hand selected to be the Command Fitness Leader and he attended the necessary school to lead Command PT program. He authored weekly reports encompassing unit personnel and material readiness for Flag-level consumption. His accurate and timely reporting to NMAWC and USSSTRATCOM directly supported Mine Warfare Operations and the forward deployed staff. He was hand selected from command staff to provide technical guidance and execute a comprehensive training plan for 10 SELRES, and provided hands-on training to assist in their advancement studies and exam preparations. After having been aboard for only a short period, he was selected Sailor of the Quarter. He also completed his Bachelor's degree.



During this tour, he supported multi-national Mine Warfare Exercises: WPNS-14 in New Zealand, Foal Eagle 14, C7F Exercise Foal Eagle 15, C5F IMCMEX 15, Poseidon Assurance 15, Foal Eagle 15, PAX River S&T DEMO and CTF 52 ATLAS. He also conducted fleet Training for NMC Units Misawa and Okinawa for the MK 65 MOD 3 Fleet Introduction Assistance Team. He was selected as the NMC COMOMAG Sailor of the Year (FY14). Following his shore tour, he transferred to USS Warrior in 2016 where he was assigned as the LPO of CIC, leading 14 sailors in their administrative and maintenance duties, preparing them for warfare and watch standing qualifications. He has played a vital part in the community as he continues to give back, coaching children in basketball and soccer.

Dessources unfortunately lost his parents at a young age, and was raised by his wonderful grandmother along with his sister. Growing up in an urban middle class neighborhood in Bridgeport, CT he knew he would have to work very hard to be successful. He knew working for minimum wage was not a future he wanted, and was drawn to the opportunities the Navy offered. After speaking to a recruiter and meeting others who had enlisted, he decided the US Navy was the career path he wanted to pursue. His journey as a Sailor has had a great impact on his life and also inspired his sister to follow in his footsteps and join the Armed Forces. He has since graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts, while moving up in rank. With the continuous support of his wife Martha and their three children, he has committed himself to continue his education and have a positive impact upon those he meets while serving his country.





# 2018 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SHORE)



## Navy Munitions Command Pacific East Asia Division Unit Guam Mines Division Leading Petty Officer

### Mineman First Class Petty Officer (SW) Pua C. Xiong, USN

Petty Officer Xiong is a native of North Carolina and enlisted in the United States Navy in March of 2010. He attended basic training at Recruit Training Center, Great Lakes and then completed Apprentice Technical Training at Training Support Center, Great Lakes. He attended Mineman "A" School in November 2010.

Petty Officer Xiong has completed the qualification and has been awarded the Navy Enlisted Classification as an AN-SQQ-32 (V) 4 Mine Hunting Sonar Set Operator and Submarine Launched Mobile Mine Technician. He is also qualified Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist.

Petty Officer Xiong's sea tours include MCM Crew Exultant, MCM Crew Reaper, USS SCOUT (MCM 8), and USS DEXTROUS (MCM 13); and is currently serving as the Leading Petty Officer, Mines Division, Navy Munitions Command Pacific East Asia Division Unit Guam.

Petty Officer Xiong is authorized to wear the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal (three awards), Good Conduct Medal (two awards), and various campaign, expeditionary, and unit awards.

NMC Pacific East Asia Division, Unit Guam, Mines Division is the former Mobile Mine Assembly Group, Unit Eight (MOMAG Eight) Ed.



# 2018 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (RESERVE)



## NAVY RESERVE MOBILE MINE ASSEMBLY UNIT SEVEN (NR MOMAU SEVEN)

### Mineman First Class Petty Officer James Edward Washington Jr., USNR

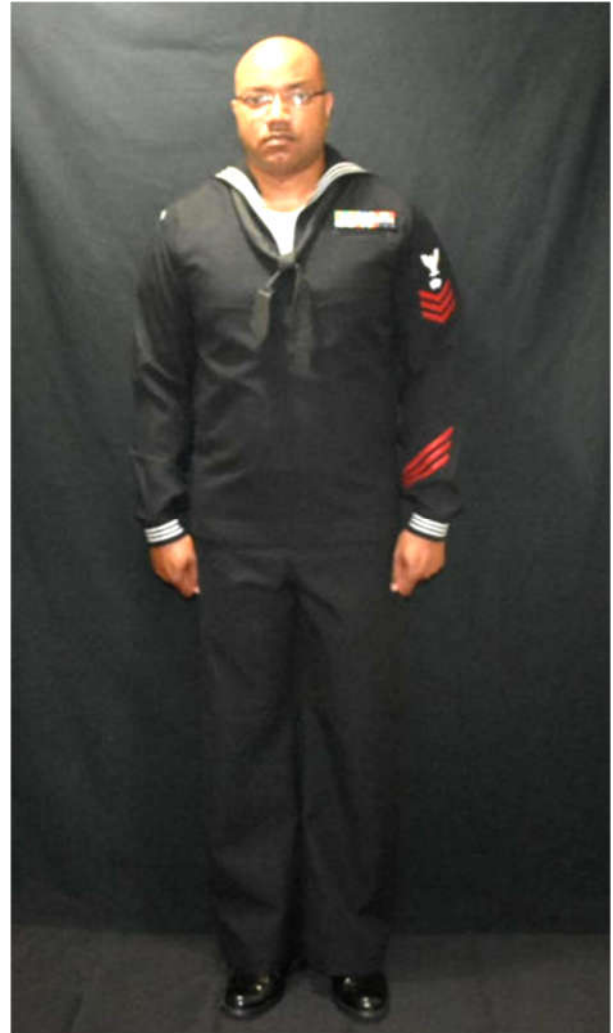
was born in Columbia, South Carolina on 12 February, 1979. He attended South Carolina State University, graduating in 2002 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He later earned a Master's degree in Information Systems Management from Devry University in 2011.

He started his military career after graduating high school in 1997 with the United States Army Reserves as a Light-Wheeled mechanic (63Bravo). He was mobilized to active duty for a life changing deployment to serve Iraq, Operation Enduring Freedom from 2004- 2005. After serving 8 years, he was honorably discharged in 2005 at the rank of Sergeant (E5). He would later decide to continue his military career by joining the United State Navy Reserves on 26 May, 2008 as a Mineman. He reported to NOSC Columbia, South Carolina on June, 2008. He was locally assigned to NR CART TM II DETA and cross-assigned out to NR MOMAU SIX.

He went to Naval Station Great Lakes for Apprentice Technical Training (ATT) 09 May, 2009. In a class with over one hundred Sailors, he was appointed Class Leader. He led by example, ranked number 1 in his class with the highest test percentage, resulting in his early graduation. In September 2009, he received orders to the Anti-Submarine Warfare base in Point Loma, CA for Mineman "A" School. Petty Officer Washington was again appointed Class Leader over the class of 20 Sailors. MN1 Washington completed "A" school training early and with Honors for having the second highest test percentage in the class. On 8 August, 2012, he was cross-assigned to MOMAU SEVEN where his Mineman career would greatly accelerate. Over the next six years, he executed 26 orders to NMC Charleston, NMC Seal Beach, CA, and NMC East Asia Division Okinawa, completing 17-29 days of AT and 16-20 days of IDTT/ADT each year.

During those years, he was promoted from E5 to E6, and enthusiastically accepted greater responsibility when advanced. Such duties included: creating a travel SOP that helped unit leadership with tracking and executing travel arrangements for IDTT/ADT orders, assuming the role of Muster Petty Officer, Berthing Petty Officer, Training Petty Officer, Assistant Command Fitness Leader, Assistant Leading Petty Officer and now the Unit Leading Petty Officer. In addition, he completed all of his own Weapon Handler Qualification/ Certification requirements and achieved Quality Assurance/ Safety Observer in an expedient manner. MN1 Washington plays a vital role as Leading Petty Officer and fills the gap left by not having a billeted Chief in the unit. He manages the unit's Qualification/Certification program, training plan, ensure his sailors are recognized and rewarded for their hard work, maintains a high level of morale, empowers his junior sailors to take charge of their careers and is instrumental to the overall success of the unit.

His personal awards include Certificates of Achievement



(two awards), Certificates of Appreciation (two awards), National Defense Service Medal, War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Sailor of Quarter Fiscal Year 2018 (Quarter 2 and Quarter 3), and Sailor of the Year (Fiscal Year 2017).

Marriage to wife, Kimberly, and four sons, Isaiah (18yrs), James III (11yrs), Justin (9yrs), and Jonas (7yr) has provided support and much stability in his life.







# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

## BREAKING DEFENSE

### Critical Navy Center Damaged in Hurricane; LCS Modules, Mine Warfare Tests Imperiled

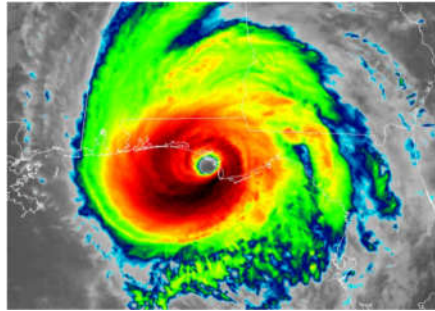
By PAUL MCLEARY on October 17, 2018 at 2:51 PM

ANNAPOLIS, Md. The massive hurricane that slammed into Florida's Gulf Coast killing at least 27 has also taken a chunk out of the Air Force and Navy's most advanced weapons. The Air Force is still evaluating about 17 F-22s left behind at Tyndall Air Base, but the nearby Naval Surface Warfare Center at Panama City also took a hit, stopping testing of the Littoral Combat Ship mission modules and many unmanned systems the Navy is developing.

The Navy's Capt. Danielle George, program manager for mine warfare, said that the hurricane may have caused serious damage to important equipment. "We're taking a look at satellite photos," she told NDIA's Expeditionary Warfare conference here, "and some of the buildings were damaged. Possibly some of the equipment that was in there ranging from government accepted test pieces of equipment to manufacturing capability for one-off parts for legacy systems" could be at risk. Neither George nor other Navy officials went much further, citing the early days of their assessments.

But the Navy has recently placed a priority on testing new mine warfare capabilities — a field both US and NATO officials have admitted have atrophied since the end of the Cold War. "One of the biggest problems is mines in the water, specifically in the surf zone in very shallow water," said Marine Brig. Gen. James Adams, director of the Corps' Capabilities Development Directorate. "That's a very, very hard problem, that's a show stopper when you get to that point in our landing." Earlier this month, the Naval Sea Systems Command received approval from the Pentagon to begin developing an unmanned surface vehicle that would act as a mine counter-measure system. The long-range plan is to field a platform that can mix and match several different modular systems for mine hunting, minesweeping and mine destruction, Navy officials said today Tuesday.

Capt. Peter Small, head of the Navy's unmanned maritime systems, described the program as a way to build "a common craft serving at least those three payloads and then the contracting and



programmatic stuff to acquire the payload" for the Littoral Combat Ship. "Once we get that payload defined we could indeed adapt more payloads to that craft as necessary for that MCM mission."

Dr. Sam Taylor, who works in the office of Unmanned and Small Combatants, said "we need to make these things as plug and play as we can," and that the mine countermeasure program for the Littoral Combat Ship is "alive and well." The Navy is also looking to award initial contracts next year for the second phase of a new unmanned undersea vehicle program, Small said. Teams from both Lockheed Martin and Boeing/Huntington Ingalls will undergo a critical design review for their prototypes of the Orca Extra Large UUV, which Small said should have a range of "thousands of miles" in order to allow manned ships and aircraft to keep a standoff distance from potential threats.



## New Tech will take the Navy Beyond Mines

Proceedings Magazine  
September 2018 Vol.  
144/9/1,387 [2]

By Dr. Peter Adair

The discussion of the "other mine warfare" begun by Admiral James Winnefeld and Captain Nadeem Syed Ahmad [3] in the July **Proceedings**, and advanced by Captain Hans Lynch with a comment and discussion in the August issue, offers good insight. That said, it may be helpful to provide some amplifying information, explaining how offensive mine warfare is beginning to transform into multidomain offensive and defensive capabilities from the seabed. These new asymmetric warfighting capabilities build a more lethal force using advanced autonomous systems. Instead of minefields—comprised of some number of

individual mines, however "smart" or "dumb"—new concepts now call for prepositioned undersea canisters with flexible, encapsulated payloads (unmanned aerial and underwater vehicles, missiles, torpedoes, etc.) as part of a distributed "kill web" providing scalable effects from the seabed. Such a persistent system of disposable payloads can be delivered by either clandestine or overt vessels and vehicles of opportunity. Such a system supports the strategy of fielding capabilities faster, by means of rapid maturation of unmanned systems and payloads in months, rather than in business-as-usual years. These encapsulated payloads could be used to engage targets for the whole joint force, including forcible entry operations from the sea. They also could enable layered force-protection options for expeditionary advance base operations. The seabed devices would be configurable with multiple types of effectors used to delay and disrupt enemy maneuver and planning or attrite forces as needed. Most of the required technologies are ready for integration in an initial demonstration. In fact, the Navy has teamed with the Army to propose a joint capability technology demonstration (JCTD) to start in fiscal year 2019 that leverages the Naval Sea Systems Command (NavSea) Warfare Center's smart mine prototypes alongside other Navy and Army science and technology investments. For instance, a smart mine encapsulated UAV swarm is being developed that will launch from inshore waterways to support Army missions in dense urban environments. A deep-water canister will provide multiple effects against traditional naval threats. (The proposed JCTD is called "Dragon SLAER" for "sea and land-attack encapsulation with remote control.") As more advanced autonomy becomes available, the seabed fields will become more intelligent and be able to survive heavily contested environments. They will discriminate among targets accurately, apply scalable effects (including swarms), and self-heal. Changing the mix of payloads in different field configurations will enable innovative missions. These advanced mining and other seabed-based systems have begun to challenge the Navy's current view of mine warfare. They promise to provide effects across the range of strategic, operational, and tactical levels of war and ultimately may provide commanders with affordable, scalable maritime mining options to shape the sea, air, and land battlespace.

**Dr. Adair is the director of Mine Warfare and is responsible for leading NavSea Warfare Center engagements with the fleet to foster the acceleration and fielding of advanced warfare capabilities.**



## AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

### Navy, Air Force Test Deploys 2,000-Pound Mine at Stand-off Range

By: [Ben Werner](#) September 24, 2018 5:31 PM



U.S. Air Force Airmen with the 96th Aircraft Maintenance Unit prepare a Quickstrike mine to be loaded onto a B-52 at Andersen Air Force Base, Sept. 16. Air Force photo.

A joint Navy and Air Force test successfully deployed a 2,000-pound shallow-water mine from altitude and at speed from outside a presumed enemy's anti-aircraft range – a first for the U.S. military – during the recently completed Valiant Shield 2018 exercise. A U.S. Air Force B-52 bomber dropped the 2,000-pound Quickstrike-extended range (ER) mine into the water near the Northern Marianas, and the mine was directed into position by a Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) kit, according to a U.S. Pacific Fleet statement. A Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft monitored the test to collect data, and Navy divers recovered the inert mine afterward. "Quickstrike mines in the past were dropped by just gravity weapons. So the B-52 or other bombers had to be low to meet their accuracy," Air Force Capt. Craig Quinnett, the Quickstrike's B-52 test lead, said in a video of the test released by the Air Force. "So now with JDAM and the Quickstrike ER, this gives us the ability to deploy precision mines, so we can stand off, put these weapons exactly where we know they're going to go, so we don't have to get in, get low next to the enemy's weapons. So the Quickstrike-ER is a huge step forward for the naval mines." Laying mines from the air is not new for the Navy and Air Force. The problem with older mines, though, is that accurately placing them in the water required bombers to fly low and slow, often making several passes over what could be a heavily defended target area, according to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command officials in a news release. "There's the legacy Quickstrike mines, which have the standard parachute tail fin," Jeffrey Dudgeon, from INDO-PACOM's Joint Innovation and Experimentation

division, said in the release. "To deploy them, it requires carrying the load slow, getting close in, and making several small passes. What this weapon allows us to do is precision placement from altitude, at speed." During Valiant Shield 2016, Air Force B-1B Lancers and Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornets demonstrated how smaller 500-pound mines in both the Quickstrike-JDAM precision mines and Quickstrike-ER longer-range standoff precision mines could be deployed from altitude and at speed, according to Pacific Fleet. Though the recent mine test at Valiant Shield with the larger mine size validated a big leap forward in U.S. capability, those who monitor offensive mining capabilities have been arguing the need for mining advancements for many years now. For decades, sea mine technology used by the U.S. had been an afterthought, starved of resources and deprived of research, Air Force Col. Mike Pietrucha wrote in a [2016 essay](#) for USNI News. Just two years ago, the Navy and Air Force had only successfully deployed 500-pound Quickstrike mines from altitude and at speed, Pietrucha wrote. The Navy and Air Force were starting to perfect the deployment of larger 2,000-pound munitions. For military planners, Pietrucha wrote, the goal of such precision-laid minefields is not to stop enemy naval vessels. The target would be to disrupt the commercial shipping routes that increasingly serve as economic lifelines to various countries. "The accurate placement of large naval mines can have an interdiction effect massively disproportionate to the density of the actual threat," Pietrucha wrote in his essay.







# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

**NMC COMOMAG**

By MN1(SW) Jonathan Wampler

Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG). To the Association of Mineman, we hope you had a great 2018 reunion. We are looking forward to attending the 2019 reunion! This past quarter has been very eventful for COMOMAG with Sailors departing, diversity observances and operational commitments. We hope everyone had a scary good time during Halloween, as we now turn our sights to a much merrier holiday season. We look forward to the upcoming new year and all the continued success throughout the Mineman community!

First, we would like to congratulate the Sailors selected as the Mineman of the Year for 2018. MN1(SW) Yves Dessources from USS WARRIOR (MCM-10), MN1(SW) Pua Xiong from Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Guam, and MN1 James Washington from Naval Reserve Unit Seven. These Sailors professional knowledge, performance, and unmatched military bearing represent the very best of the Mineman community! Congratulations once again well done!

## Operations



The N31 Service Mine Team consisting of Mr. Dave Epton, LT Rodney Rogers, CWO4 David Sledge, MNCM Samuel Dorbandt, and MN1 Cowen traveled to NMC Seal Beach, to conduct the bi-annual Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI). This inspection is essential to maintain mine readiness throughout the fleet by ensuring each NMC is strictly adhering to policies and procedures. The inspection was outstanding and we would like to extend a Bravo Zulu! to NMC Seal Beach! Additionally, we would like to recognize GM2 Daniel Cox and MN2 Christian Quesada for their outstanding performance during MRCI.



Additionally, CDR Nichol Schine, LT Delton Drum, and the N31 Team traveled to NMC Charleston to provide a Mine Readiness Assist Visit. The purpose of the assist visit was to provide training to the NMC in order to prepare for their bi-annual MRCI. The visit focuses on many areas including policy, procedures, safety, maintenance, assembly, and test set maintenance.

Mr. Rodney Biggs, MNCS Christopher Alford, and MN1 Jonathan Wampler traveled to Guam during "Valiant Shield 2018" in order to participate in the Office of Naval Research event and Quickstrike Extended Range (QS-ER) Testing. The QS-ER offers new capabilities to the current Quickstrike mine program by enhancing the range and accuracy of current Quickstrike assets. The Office of Naval Research is also hard at work developing new technologies and tactics in mine warfare. Mr. Biggs, and MNCS Alford also traveled to Seattle Washington for Vigilant Shield. While there, they were embarked aboard the USCGC Henry Blake assisting in deployment of the assets.

## Welcome



The COMOMAG family would like to welcome its newest edition CWO4 David Sledge. CWO4 Sledge hails from Tuscaloosa, Alabama and joined the Navy in 1990. After graduating Gunners Mate "A" School he reported to his first duty station the USS MOBILE (LKA 115). In 2003 he advanced to Chief Petty Officer and in 2008 was commissioned to Chief Warrant Officer. A few of his duty stations include: the USS

KLAKRING (FFG 42), USS ELROD (FFG-55), USS ROOSEVELT (DDG 80), USS MUSTIN (DDG 89), Naval Munitions Command, Detachment, Yokosuka, and his most recent duty station prior to COMOMAG, Naval Support Activity, Bahrain as the Weapons Officer. We are proud to welcome the Sledge family to COMOMAG and San Diego.



# AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

**NMC COMOMAG**

By MN1(SW) Jonathan Wampler

## Farewell

With new people arriving there are always those who depart. LCDR Richard Diaz will report to the USS JOHN C. STENNIS (CVN-74) as the Combat Systems Officer and LT Rodney Rogers is heading to the USS COWPENS (CG-63) as the Systems Test Officer. Both have been an integral part of the COMOMAG team and we wish them all the best in their future tours. Fairwinds and Following Seas!

## Celebrations

Woman's Equality Day was observed on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August to commemorate when the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was accepted into the Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Additionally, this day has become a time to focus attention on women's continued efforts towards full equality. To honor this day COMOMAG visited the Women's Museum of California. We were privileged to have a guided tour by Mrs. Rosalie Schwartz during our visit. We would like to thank Rosalie for the informative and educational tour and the entire Museum staff for the outstanding visit.

Pictured to the right from left to right:

MN1 Wampler, MNC Warren, CDR Schine, IT2 Hollingworth, CWO2 Montero, MNC Lacy, MNMC Dorbandt, Rosalie Schwartz, LT Drum, YN2 Payne, LT Rogers, MN1 Cowen, MNCS Alford



National Hispanic Heritage Month is observed from 15 September – 15 October every year. It is a time to celebrate several significant events from many different Hispanic communities which fall within the observance period. To celebrate this COMOMAG visited Historic Old Town San Diego for a guided tour by Sr. Connor to learn about the Hispanic heritage here locally in San Diego. While on our tour Connor told us about the Bandini family which was a prominent community family during its time. In 1846 during the Mexican-American War the Navy sloop-of-war, USS CYANE captured San Diego from the Mexican's. Upon capturing San Diego, the Bandini Family, warmly welcomed the Americans by hosting music and dancing every night. The Mexicans however, did not give up so easily and took San Diego back in October. Shortly after it was once again captured by the Americans. In December the USS CYANE returned to San Diego and most of the crew accompanied armies marching north, thus leaving the USS CYANE unable to leave port. During its time in port the captain of the USS CYANE, Commander Samuel Francis DuPont hosted the Bandini Family the USS CYANE. Without the hospitality of the Bandini Family, maintaining control of San Diego as a vital Navy port would have been next to impossible and thus could have changed the outcome of the Mexican-American War.



Pictured from left to right

MNC Lacy, IT2 Hollingworth, LS1 Reyes, LT Drum, Sr. Connor, MNC Warren, CWO2 Montero, CDR Schine, MNCS Alford







**Walter W. "Buttsy" Peters Sr.**, 81, of Ardara, died Thursday, Aug. 30, 2018, at home. He was born March 16, 1937, in Wilksburg, a son of the late Walter A. and Sara A. (Brown) Peters. Buttsy retired from the Navy after 21 years' service and also worked for Parker-Hannifin Corp., Walmart, and Union Cemetery, North Huntingdon. He was a member of Ardara Evangelical Presbyterian Church, was a life member of American Legion Post 9345, Harrisburg, a member of Fleet Reserve Association, Steel City Branch, Pittsburgh, the **Association of Minemen**, Charleston, S.C., and Larimer V.F.D. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Sarah Jane (Lentz) Peters; his children, Robert K. (Catherine) Peters and Walter W. (Lynn) Peters Jr., both of South Carolina, Lynette R. (Richard) Martel, of Virginia, Jodi A. (Sam) Murray, of North Huntingdon, Harry Damerow III, of Greensburg, Shawyn E. (Denise) Damerow, of North Huntingdon, and Hans K. Damerow, of Greensburg; his grandchildren, Christopher (Mia) Peters, Megan (Rob) Colson, Andrew Peters, Sabrina (Jamie) Nesbit, Rebeka, Victoria, and Alexandra Martel, Kylie, Shawyn, Laurel, and Keeghan Murray, Anthony and Zacary Damerow and Alexander and Nicholas Puskari; his great-grandchildren, Brandon and Preston Johnson, Abigail, Ella, and Nora Peters, Eli and Easton Colson, and Dalton and Reagan Nesbit; his brother, James F. (Odeana) Peters, and sister, Ruth E. (John) Terhorst, both of Harrison City; also many nieces and nephews.

His wife, Jane, passed on the following: "...went to the Lord after a long battle with cancer. He was a loving husband to Jane for 30 years. 7 children, 15 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren [survive him.] He was the most honest and kind person to all. He will be missed by all who knew him." A memorial service was held at the Ardara Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ardara, PA. In lieu of flowers, a contribution can be made in Buttsy's name to the Ardara Evangelical Church. For online condolences please visit [snyderfuneraservices.com](http://snyderfuneraservices.com)

Jane would welcome cards of condolence or e-mail expressing sorrow at:



### **MNCM Kurt M. Stauff (SW) USN Ret.**

...passed into the arms of his Savior, Jesus Christ, around 3:40 p.m. EST on Monday, Sept. 17. After a brief illness with a deadly infection, he was taken off life support and was surrounded by loving and caring doctors, nurses, a Christian Social Worker, and his TN pastor. His sister Karol was with him for 7 days, had to return to MI to continue with her new job. Kurt passed away the day after Karol returned. Condolences may be sent to the family home 471 Conkey Dr., Fenwick, MI 48834. Attn: Karol Stauff. Kurt was one the most accomplished Minemen in the fleet and loved each of the thirty years he served. He was a straight-shooter with seven gold hash marks and was accomplished in eight languages.

Jane Peters  
3040 Annette Street  
Ardara, PA 15615  
[wwsippa@yahoo.com](mailto:wwsippa@yahoo.com)



### **LT Richard Martin U.S. Navy (LDO USN Ret.)**

Minemen will be saddened to learn of the tragic death of LT Richard Martin, U.S. Navy (Ret.) of Crossville, Tennessee. On August 31st he and wife Doris were in their car, routinely stopped at traffic light when they were rear-ended. Dick was severely injured and was rushed to the hospital. Doris received minor injuries in the accident. Dick was in the hospital for a week until his passing on September 8th. He is survived by his wife Doris, 2 children 4 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

The Hood Funeral Home of Crossville is serving the family. Interment will be later in the fall at Knoxville State Cemetery. No further details were provided. Doris would welcome a card or a call expressing condolences at: Doris Martin, 6 Deer Circle Crossville TN 38555

(931) 788-1109



#### CONOVER NC—

**Lana Kay Cline Hartshorn, 73**, a life-long resident of Catawba County left this earth on July 21, 2018 to reside with her Heavenly Father for the rest of eternity. Born in Hickory, NC on 13 June 1945, she was the daughter of Clyde Thomas and Bertha Lackey Cline. She attended Hickory High School and maintained a lifetime of close relationships with fellow students, church members and neighbors. She retired from the Lutheran Nursing Home where she was employed as a Medical Records Secretary until Rheumatoid Arthritis made it impossible for her to type. With eight admissions to the hospital in the past ten years, her life was an existence of constant pain. Still, with a zest for life, she participated in every activity that presented itself.

She leaves her beloved husband, **Derick S. Hartshorn**, with whom she spent the best years of their lives. Married on 15 October 1983, they enjoyed time together in the Mexican Caribbean and Canada during their earlier years together. Subsequently, they traveled across the country, often accompanied with their grand children. She enjoyed being with naval wives at the U.S. Navy reunions her husband, Derick, attended.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her eldest brother, Thomas Carroll Cline and wife Revonda Moretz Cline and her older brother Daniel Paul Cline. Left to cherish her memory are her husband,

Derick S. Hartshorn of the home, her two sons; Timothy Southers and wife Amy Pruitt Southers of Lenoir, NC and Matthew Southers and wife Brandy Eddy Southers of Grant Town, WV; step-son Glenn S. Hartshorn and wife Joyce Keen Hartshorn of Bluffton, SC and step-daughter Tracy Hartshorn Robinson and husband Rich Robinson of Lesslie, SC, her brother Jack Donald Cline and wife Linda Childers Cline of Hildebran, NC, her sister Martha Susan "Susie" Cline Hollifield and husband Dwight Hollifield of Bostic, NC, her sister-in-law, Joyce Glazebrook Cline, as well as numerous grand children, nieces, nephews and a blessed God-child, Jessica Martin Eckles of San Diego, CA.

Lana's first loves were that of church and family. A steadfast mother and grandmother, devotion to her children and grandchildren were high on her list. She was always in prayer, asking her Lord and Savior to watch over her loved ones, praying constantly that they would come to know Jesus Christ and accept Him as their personal savior.

A celebration of her life was held by her family at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Conover on Wednesday, July 25th. The family received friends, rejoicing in Lana's arrival in heaven with Pastor Brian Correll who conducted the funeral. Interment was in the Conover City Cemetery following the funeral.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials may be made to Emmanuel Baptist Church Children's Programs, 1405 Emmanuel Church Rd., Conover, NC 28613

Condolence messages may be sent the Hartshorn family at [www.bennettfuneralservice.com](http://www.bennettfuneralservice.com)

The Hartshorn family entrusted arrangements to Robert F. Bennett Funeral Home 828-465-2111.



#### AOM—MINEMEN

The Association of Minemen has set up a Facebook Group page for current AOM Members and potential members who qualify to join.

Looking for someone you served with? This is a great way to connect or reconnect with Shipmates and fellow Minemen.

This is a 'closed' group but all Minemen and their spouses can join. Any current Group member can nominate a Mineman and/or their Spouse to join as well.

Any Facebook member can find the AOM-MINEMEN group page but can't see the posts unless they become a member.

#### Come JOIN US

There are a lot of memories, sea stories and recollections going on every day!

The Group Administrator is Don Moody, AOM Historian

[donmoody8@GMAIL.COM](mailto:donmoody8@GMAIL.COM)

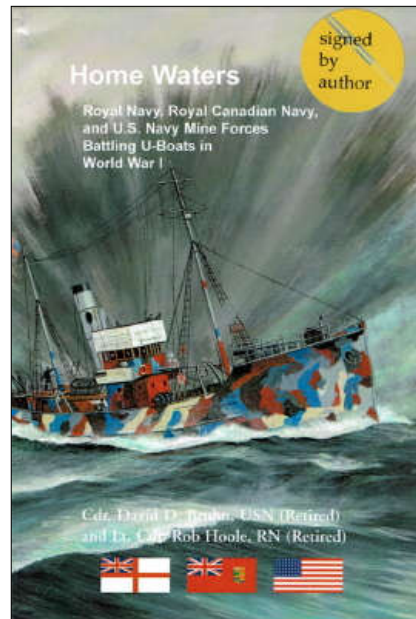






# A.O.M. Mineman Miscellany

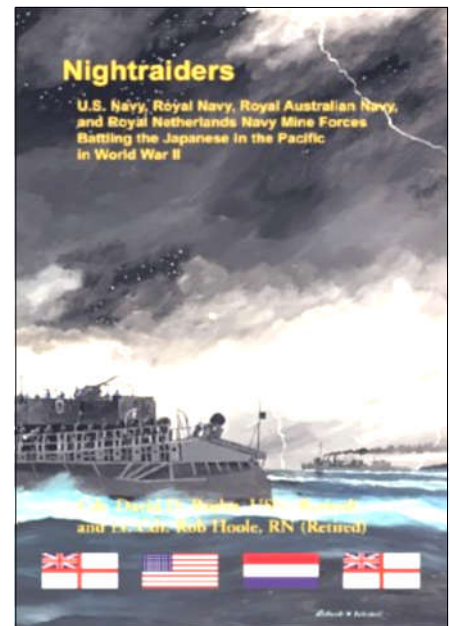
**On Leadership – “...I want you to remember, you only have to win one battle, but it’s one you have to win every day. And that one battle is for the hearts and minds and the trust and affections of the young men and women who are going to be serving alongside you, that you out-rank, but you’re very, very close to.”**  
*Defense Secretary James Mattis, addressing the Cadet Corps at VMI 25 September 2018*



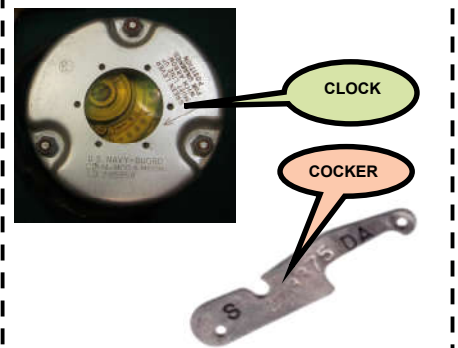
AVAILABLE NOW ON AMAZON.COM



## NEW MINE WARFARE BOOKS



COMING SOON



The “Consolidated Order of Clock Cockers” 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](mailto:rschommer@bellsouth.net).  
 Please allow 30 to 45 days for the plaque to arrive by mail.



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Photo from 1961 Contributed by  
 Gunner ‘Stan’ Stancik

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**P.O. Box 2180**  
**Temple City, CA 91780**



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TEL \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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ELEGIBILITY \_\_\_\_\_ APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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 2180, Temple City, CA 91780