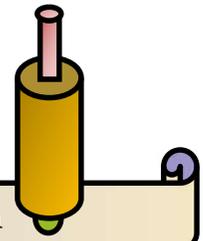




The DASH POT



The Official Newsletter of the Association of Minemen

In This Issue:

- Minemen of the Year 2020
- Mine Warfare in the News
- Underwater Mine History:
- Navy Munitions Command Updates
- AOM Reunion 2021 Update
- TAPS and Binnacle List

From The President

M.N.C.M John Epps, USN (Ret.)



My sincerest condolences to the families of recently departed shipmates and family members. Best wishes for a speedy recovery to those on the Binnacle List and any others suffering medical issues. You remain in our thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations to the sailors selected as the 2020 Mineman of the Year; MN1 (SW) Kelly B. Vosika (Sea), MN1 Benjamin F. Marvin (Shore) and MN 1 Henry A. Becker III (Reserve).

The Coronavirus is not showing signs of slowing down any time soon so take whatever means necessary to stay safe. It's very important for each of us to stay healthy for ourselves, shipmates and loved ones.

Thanks to all the members that opened their wallets and donated to the scholarship fund this year. I'd also like to thank Vic Martin for donating one of his sculptures, holding an on-line auction and donating the proceeds to the scholarship fund. We're still hoping for more donations to this important cause.

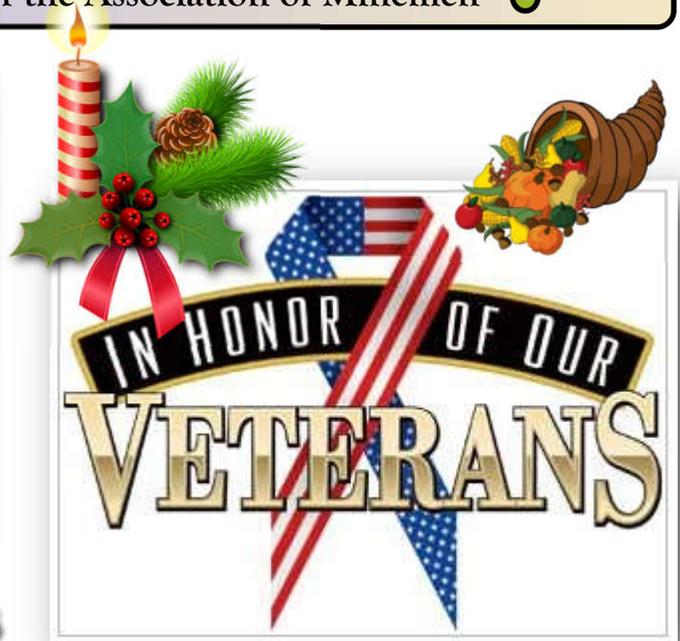
Additionally, I'd like to thank those that donated to members in need this past fall. Thanks for everyone's support. We were able to extend each elected official one year so we can properly fill upcoming vacancies. We need to replace the President, Vice President and two Board of Directors in 2021. Vic Martin is our only volunteer so far that expressed an interest for assuming a position. There are still more vacancies to fill so please consider volunteering your expertise. If you are interested in taking on any of the positions, please contact Charles Humbard or Warren Savage.

Our Facebook page continues to boom. There are currently 827 members. Welcome aboard Shipmates. Your input and participation is making the page a success.

Thanks again Don for your management of the AOM Facebook page and Website.

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

John



NOTABLE QUOTABLE

"...the enduring curse of civilization: It is constantly beset by invading hordes of people who literally have no idea what came before the moment they were born."

Jonah Goldberg

"We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection."

A. Lincoln

"In America, anyone can become president.

That's the problem." — George Carlin





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 the knowledge of undersea mine warfare, necessary to America's first line of defense

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22 Jan 2021

From the Editor...



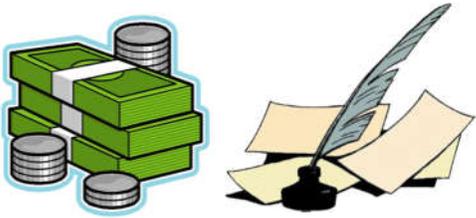
Greetings AOM Shipmates and friends. I sincerely hope you are doing well after a rough 8+ months or so. While it seems more like years, I fear we still have a long way to go with all of the protest turmoil, political division and metamorphic viral affliction. Our Navy also faces challenges from within, including maintenance, training and funding... and from without, as we face challenges from China's fast-growing Navy and Russia's submarine incursions off our coasts.

By the time you receive this issue, most of you will have voted and await the outcome of a very divisive election. The year 2020 has been intense to say the least! All that said... We CONGRATULATE our 2020 Minemen of the Year, MN1 (SW) Kelly Vosika (SEA), MN1 (SW) Benjamin Marvin (Shore) and MN1 Henry Becker (Reserve). I am very impressed by their professional accomplishments and skills. Read all about them on pages 9, 10 & 11.

Also we congratulate Captain Nichol Schine on her recent promotion. Many of you had a chance to meet and hear her as our guest speaker during the 2019 Reunion in San Antonio. A well deserved promotion!



All the best! RON



Secretary Treasurer Report-Oct 2020

We have had a tremendous response from members donating their 2020 Reunion refund to our Scholarship fund. However, there are still 5 members that have not contacted me regarding their choices! As a reminder, the options are 1) Full refund. 2) Apply monies towards annual dues. Limited to a total of 5 years which includes current dues status. (Up to 2024) The remainder refunded or any portion donated to the Scholarship fund 3) Member to donate some or all to the Scholarship Fund. 4) Any combination of the before mentioned options. Please, if you are one of the 5 yet to respond, we would love to hear from you so that we can clear the books for this new fiscal year. On behalf of the Scholarship committee, I would like to thank those who have already donated some or all their registration refund to the Scholarship Fund. As you may know, the action money that we would have collected at the reunion picnic all goes to this fund! So again, many thanks for your generosity! If you can think of anything that could improve how we do business, please feel free to email me your suggestions at: assocminemen@yahoo.com. **A sincere thank you for your support!**



Your AOM Scholarship Committee thanks you for your support. We think the very creative 'E Bay Auction' of Navy Mine Warfare memorabilia is a GREAT idea and helps us support students during a time when we can't gather for a reunion safely.

Scholarship Committee Chairman



Nate Miranda

Nate



Membership Committee Report

Membership Committee Report October 2020

This quarters membership stats are 3 new members and 1 reinstated member. We also had 2 members dropped! Sad to say, both deceased! Please keep in mind, that if you move, drop me a note with your new address. This way you will receive your Dashpot in a timely manner and you'll save AOM the expense of return mail and the re-mailing cost! Thank you to those who have brought their membership current!

Remember, if the date on your Dashpot label is highlighted, please send your dues in via mail; Association of Minemen, P. O. Box 2180, Temple City CA, 91780 or via electronic transaction by going to <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>. If you find that the date on the mailing label is incorrect, let me know approximately when you sent in your renewal, and I will research it and make the correction.

Nate



Visit the A.O.M. Ship's Store



<https://minemen.org/wp/memories/aom-ships-store/>



YOU DID IT! *Congratulations*



**COMMANDER NICHOL SCHINE, USN
(FORMER COMOMAG)**

PROMOTES TO CAPTAIN!

1 OCTOBER 2020

BRAVO ZULU

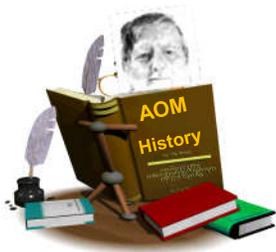


Promoting Officer is RDML Kurt Rothenhaus, NAV WAR PEO C4I & Space, her Combat Systems Officer on CVN-75 USS HARRY S TRUMAN when she was the Combat Systems Maintenance Officer .



Her CDR silver oak leaves were presented to LCDR Brent Ricker, current XO COMOMAG and to LCDR Tony Barcelos P-XO COMOMAG. Her Mom, Jan Anderson and Husband, Bill Porter, ETCM (ret.), pinned on her Captain's Eagles. Captains Mark Meskimen and Michele Brandt 'adjusted' them afterwards...





AOM Historian Don Moody

Tinian Minemen in World War Two - By Donald J. Moody

I have had an interest in Tinian ever since Lanny Forbes showed me some documents about the island in World War 2. I remember reading about the explosion that happened on Tinian, the only mine assembly location to have an explosion. So be noted that there were no Mineman working when the explosion on Tinian took place, it was caused by other ordnance personnel.

This information has been taken from various sources. It is hard to locate naval records, most came from Air Force (Army Air Force) documents. I was able to find a few comments on old Seabee documents.

First the Seabees had to build a mine assembly depot for them to work from, and it began. All this on the North Field Tinian. In December 1944 the Navy set up a team of mine experts (Mineman) to start assembling the mines. By 20 February 1945 they had established Mine Assembly Depot No 4 (MAD 4), with 12 officers and 171 enlisted men responsible for mine preparation and modification.

Well who would drop these mines? On 26 January 1945 General LeMay recommended using an entire bombardment wing rather than a group to deliver 1,500 mines per month. The 504th Bomb Group of the 313th Bombardment Wing carried off this highly specialized mission, aerial mining of Japanese waters. The B-29's carried 12,000 pounds of mines to be placed in Japanese shipping lanes. It was a dangerous

flight, Japanese Navy search-lights and anti-aircraft guns. Due to the planes flying at an altitude of 5,000 feet, the guns were very effective and deadly. "Hell" is what the crews called the flight.

This was called "Operation Starvation" a program to aerial mine the Japanese home waters. The planes each carried 12 MK 36 mines or 7 MK 25 mines, sometimes they would carry a combination.

With eighty percent of Japanese shipping using the Shimonoseki Strait, located between Honshu and Kyushu this is where the more than 12,000 mines were laid. This mining operation sank half of all tonnage lost by the Japanese merchant fleet in the entire war. Operating from Tinian the Air Force caused the loss of 9 percent of all Japanese ships operating in the war.

Some of the Minemen that were on Tinian (MAD 4) are Max Chilcutt, Zygmund Otto Chuhay, Joseph N Glowa and Fredrick A Reid. Due to poor records I could not find anyone else, maybe someday we'll know. If you know of someone missing from this list let me know.

Now for a personal note on the book "U.S. Naval Mines and the Minmen", there is a section on the "Inner Zone Mining Campaign" which is mostly taken from the US Army Air Force document on "Operation Starvation". There is no mention of the work by the Minemen in MAD 4 on Tinian, just a real shame and loss in my opinion. It was the perfect time to collect this data.



The Revolutionary War Gave Birth To The Age Of Naval Mine Warfare

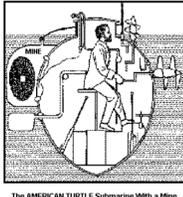
America's knack for weapons ingenuity goes back to its roots.

By Tyler Rogoway



Sea mines are among the most widespread, deadliest and strategically effective anti-access/area-denial weapons available today. A huge selection of sea mine types can be deployed by submarines, ships or aircraft—from simple floating contact mines to smart "influence mines" that lay in wait until a target's pre-programmed signature triggers their attack. Yet 239 years ago, it was a group of break-away colonists fighting for their independence from the British Crown who put the modern idea of a sea mine to work for the first time. David Bushnell, the same Yale graduate and secretive naval weapons inventor who built the first attack submarine,

the *Turtle*, also first modern naval yet United States. mine-like devices Chinese warlords before the Revolved ox bladders as testines as snorkels, timed or manual



The AMERICAN TURTLE Submarine With a Mine

designed and built the mines for a not-quite-Very crude naval were designed by hundreds of years lutionary War. They dry bags and pig in- as well as very crude cable fuses, each with

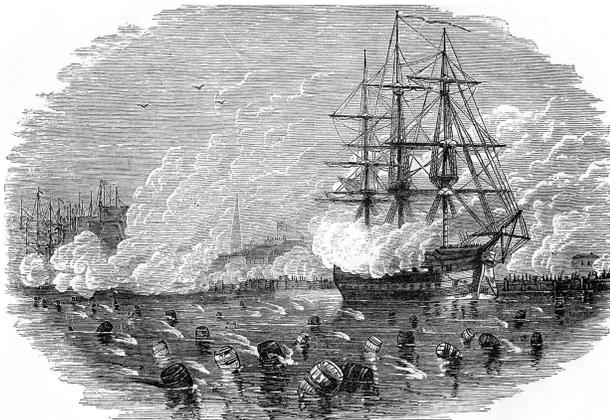
questionable success. Centuries past before Bushnell used his naval explosives knowledge to come up with a totally different trigger mechanism, one that was fired when the mine struck an object, making the naval mine concept much more relevant and deadly. Bushnell's contact-triggering "keg" mine was made up of a fairly simple watertight wooden keg filled with gunpowder and attached to a float. The idea was to float the mines, also called torpedoes at the time, with the prevailing current towards enemy warships docked or anchored in a channel. Once the mine came in contact with something solid the flintlock fuse would be punched, then the keg would detonate. On August 13, 1777, Bushnell and his team attempted to use his contact-trigger mines for the first time, deploying two of them in an attempt to sink the sixth-rate British frigate the HMS *Cerberus* anchored in Black Point Bay, just west of New London. Bushnell guided a small whaling boat in the darkness up toward the frigate and released two mines in tow far apart in hopes one would ride the current accurately to the hull of the *Cerberus*. One of the two mines floated right on course toward the *Cerberus* when it was snared by a schooner that was anchored between Bushnell's release point and the targeted frigate. The curious British sailors aboard the schooner hoisted the weapon aboard when it detonated, killing three sailors, severely injuring another and sinking the schooner. The HMS *Cerberus* remained unharmed. Although the mission was not a *total* success, it was the first time a ship had been sunk by a modern contact mine and the event caused the HMS *Cerberus*, which had been prowling the waters off of Connecticut, to redeploy immediately to Newport so the Captain could warn his Royal Navy superiors

of the new weapon he'd encountered. Bushnell tried again four months later, this time unleashing 20 slightly improved mines on the Delaware River, near Bordentown, New Jersey. The plan was to float the mines down the river and sink British ships anchored in Philadelphia harbor. Although none of the keg mines hit a large British vessel, a small boat was struck, killing a couple of young boys. Still, the massive blast freaked out British naval commanders so much that they ordered pretty much anything floating in the water to be shot from a distance. For over a day the British waged a full-out war on Bushnell's mines and everything else floating on the Delaware River. Although George Washington had been very supportive of Bushnell's secret maritime super-weapons, this was the last time mines were used during the revolutionary war. Yet the technology would become a staple of warfare in the decades and centuries that followed.



Gallants, attend, and hear a friend Trill forth harmonious ditty, Strange things I'll tell, which late befell In Philadelphia city. 'Twas early day, as poets say, Just when the sun was rising, A soldier stood on a log of wood And saw a thing surprising. As in amaze he stood to gaze The truth can't be denied, sir, He spied a score of kegs or more Come floating down the tide, sir. A sailor, too, in jerkin blue, This strange appearance viewing, First damned his eyes, in great surprise, Then said, "Some mis-

chief's brewing. These kegs, I'm told, the rebels bold, Packed up like pickled herring; And they're come down to attack the town, In this new way of ferrying." The soldier flew, the sailor, too, And scared almost to death, sir, Wore out their shoes to spread the news, And ran till out of breath, sir. Now up and down throughout the town Most frantic scenes were acted; And some ran here and others there, Like men almost distracted. Some fire cried, which some denied, But said the earth had quaked; And girls and boys, with hideous noise, Ran through the streets half naked. Sir William, he, snug as a flea, Lay all this time a-snoring, Nor dreamed of harm, as he lay warm, The Yankee foe ignoring. Now in a fight he starts upright, Awed by such a clatter; He rubs his eyes and boldly cries, "For God's sake, what's the matter?" At his bedside he then espied Sir Erskine at command, sir. Upon one foot he had one boot, And t'other in his hand, sir. "Arise, arise!" Sir Erskine cries, "The rebels, more the pity, Without a boat are all afloat And ranged before the city." "The motley crew, in vessels new, With Satan for their guide, sir, Packed up in bags, or wooden kegs, Come down the tide, sir. Therefore prepare for bloody war. These kegs must all be routed, Or surely we despised shall be, And British courage doubted." The royal band now ready stand, All ranged in dread array, sir, With stomachs stout, to see it out, And make a bloody day, sir. The cannons roar from shore to shore, The small arms make a rattle; Since wars began, I'm sure no man E'er saw so strange a battle. The rebel dales, the rebel vales, With rebel tees surrounded; The distant woods, the hills and floods, With rebel echoes sounded. The fish below swam to and fro, Attacked from every quarter. "Why, sure" thought they, "the devil's to pay 'Mongst folks above the water." The kegs, 'tis said, though strongly made Of rebel staves and hoops, sir, Could not oppose their powerful foes, The conquering British troops, sir. From morn till night these men of might Displayed amazing courage, And when the sun was fairly down Retired to sup their porridge. An hundred men, with each a pen, Or more, upon my word, sir, It is most true would be too few Their alor to record, sir. Such feats did they perform that day Against those wicked kegs, sir, That years to come, if they get home, They'll make their boasts and brags, sir.



THE BATTLE OF THE KEGS.



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

NMC COMOMAG By MN1(SW) Joseph R. Fields , USN

Greetings from Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group (COMOMAG). Fall has brought about many activities and exciting new changes to COMOMAG! As the days begin to shorten and the temperature drops, we hope everyone can take advantage of the last few weeks of fall before the holiday season. We continue to make strides towards the overall betterment of our mining community. Here is a quick look at what COMOMAG has been up to:

Due to the ongoing travel restrictions from COVID-19, COMOMAG has been coordinating and shifting schedules around to fit the needs of the Naval mining force. We are starting to ramp back up into full swing and the Mine Readiness Certification Inspection (MRCI) team is on hot standby. Everyone here is anxiously awaiting for the travel ban to be lifted and to finally get back to normal operations.

On the N32 side of the house, progress has steadily maintained pace. In support of the new mining mission shift from the P-3 ORION aircraft to the P-8 POSEIDON, the N32 team has been training air crews out of Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida on establishing procedures for loading and unloading, along with overall testing of its fit and function when it comes to our handling mines. We successfully coordinated with Navy Munitions Command, Charleston, South Carolina and several Naval Reserve Mobile Mine Assembly Units, the safe assembly of MK62/63 and MK 65 Quick Strike mines in support of multiple exercises, resulting in the on time delivery of 100 laying mines to the 340th, 96th, and 20th Bomber Squadrons located on Barksdale Air Force Base, Louisiana. COMOMAG also had the honor of supporting the first ever High Speed Craft and Littoral Combat Ship combined mission exercise that demonstrated the effective use of the Airborne Laser Mine Detection System and Airborne Mine Neutralization System to the Fleet.

We would like to take a moment to congratulate our Operations Officer, CWO5 David L. Sledge, on his promotion. He is the newest amongst the rare and fabled “Unicorns in the Fleet.” Other noteworthy promotions include, our Administrative Officer (LT Kristine L. Gavino) and our previous Commanding Officer (CAPT Nichol M. Schine). Congratulations to all and may you all continue to provide the Navy with outstanding leadership and expertise.

The COMOMAG family would like to bid farewell to MNCS Christopher T. Alford. Senior Chief Alford served at COMOMAG as the N3 Departmental Leading Chief Petty Officer during his two years onboard. Thank you for your leadership and guidance and we wish you the best of luck in your civilian endeavors. Fair winds and following seas, Shipmate, you will be greatly missed! With that being said, we welcome onboard MN1(SW) Raul A. Orozco, MN1 Saul Barroso, IT2(SW/IW) Namakaomakahiki F. Fernandez, and YN2(SW) Angelique C. Borjon.



CWO5 David L. Sledge's Promotion: Chief Warrant Officer Sledge re-affirming his oath of office with Commanding Officer, Mobile Mine Assembly Group, CDR Eric C. Olsen, onboard Naval Base Point Loma, Harbor Drive Annex.



AROUND THE MINE WARFARE FLEET

SASEBO, Japan – The Center for Surface Combat Systems' (CSCS) Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) recently concluded its first mobile training team (MTT) event in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of operations aboard four forward deployed Avenger-class mine countermeasures (MCM) ships to maintain fleet readiness. Deploying two instructors, **MN1 Grant Meier** and **MN1 Juangabrielle Brucelas** awarded critical Navy Enlisted Classifications (NECs) to operators aboard USS Warrior (MCM 10), USS Patriot (MCM 7), USS Pioneer (MCM 9), and USS Chief (MCM 14). Instructors trained indispensable Minemen who serve as equipment operators and maintenance personnel. "We were able to award 23 total NECs," said **Chief Mineman Yves Dessources**, MTT lead and Mineman "C" School leading Chief Petty Officer (LCPO). "The training included the SQQ-32 Minehunting Sonar maintenance and operator course and Precise Integrated Navigation System maintenance and operator course." The MTT primarily utilized equipment aboard the ships, including combat information centers, for hands-on training. Instruction was also conducted in a classroom onboard Afloat Training Group Pacific. The length of the entire event was five and a half weeks. "Actual training commenced 22 July but we had to comply with a 14-day restriction of movement (ROM) upon arrival to Japan and utilize protected transportation to the ship," explained Dessources. "These requirements do add time and cost but the MTT prevented forward deployed Sailors from having to meet those same requirements at a higher cost to attend training in San Diego. Most importantly, without this option, the travel requirements would either affect the ships due to the absence of their Sailors and / or result in their Sailors' inability to receive mission-essential training to operate and maintain equipment. "Warrior's operations departmental LCPO, **Chief Mineman Kyle Maxwell Jacobs**, says training received from the

MTT was extremely beneficial.

"By conducting the classes here, MWTC prevented a total of 14 months of ROM for waterfront Sailors," he said. "This allowed each ship to send more Sailors than if the training was held in San Diego. Sailors across four ships received critical NECs, improving mine warfare capability in the largest forward deployed U.S. fleet and its area of responsibility. Thank you for supporting the MCM fleet out here in Sasebo." MWTC received further positive feedback, including requests to hold this type of training event at least once a year.

"Based on the efficiency and success of the training, we are optimistic that MTT events will become a permanent part of the MWTC training curriculum, offered one to two times per year in forward locations," said Dessources.

CDR Dawn Ricketts, Commanding Officer, MWTC, never questioned her team's ability to deliver this training successfully. "There was never a doubt as to whether we would support this training effort, it was just a matter of figuring out who we had to ask to get to 'yes'," she explained. "COVID-19 travel restrictions made it a little more challenging but sending instructors forward was the obvious response to sustaining mine warfare superiority. Deploying a mobile training team is a clear demonstration of our ability to be agile, adaptive, and innovative and we look forward to growing this capability across both U.S. 5th and 7th Fleets." CSCS is a global organization of professional military and civilian educators and support personnel focused on training the Surface Navy to fight and win. CSCS trains over 36,000 U.S. and Allied Sailors a year to operate, maintain and employ weapons, sensors, communications, combat systems and deck equipment of surface warships to build Combat Ready Ships with Battle Minded Crews.



08.13.2020

Story by Kimberly Lansdale

Center for Surface Combat Systems

2020 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SEA)



**MN1(SW) KELLY VOSIKA, USN
(USS PIONEER MCM 9)**

Commanding Officer's Summary :

Petty Officer Vosika has distinguished himself through exceptionally meritorious service to the United States and the Navy while serving as Operations Department Leading Petty Officer during fiscal year 2020. He was directly responsible for all Mine Warfare, Surface Warfare, Antiterrorism, and Ammunition Qual/Cert qualifications while assigned to arduous sea duty in USS PIONEER forward deployed in support of Seventh Fleet operations. As Combat Information Center (CIC) Watch Officer (CICWO) and MCM Evaluator, he actively contributed his expertise in four major international exercises: 3JA-2019, KSE-2020, NOBLE BASTION-2020, and 2JA-2020. Additionally, MN1 Vosika led his team of 14 sailors through 180 hours of Mine Hunting and Mine Sweeping. His efforts resulted in finding 26 mines, 15 Visual Identifications, and the completion of five combination sweeps and two maintenance sweeps. His direct efforts were vital in qualifying two CICWO's and one MCM Evaluator. As Crew Served Weapons Instructor and Small Arms Marksmanship Instructor, MN1 Vosika planned and conducted 13 small arms qualification gun-shoots across four commands on the Sasebo waterfront, qualifying over 180 sailors in all small arms weapons and expending over 10,000 rounds of ammunition. Through his direct efforts, he supported the successful completion of Antiterrorism mission area certifications for PIONEER and PATRIOT, and Surface Warfare mission area certifications for PIONEER and WARRIOR, earning scores well above 90 percent for all certifications and ultimately



bolstering the safety and security for all mine countermeasures ships in the Seventh Fleet area of responsibility. As Qual/Cert Manager & Quality Assurance Stamp Holder, MN 1 Vosika was directly responsible for the coordination of one ammunition offload, one ammunition onload, one Shipboard Explosive Safety Inspection with an overall grade of 91%, and the restoration of USS CHIEF'S Qual/Cert program, resurrecting it from being non-effective to being ready to conduct an ammo offload without outside assistance. MN1 Vosika is the most versatile Mineman on the waterfront! In addition to his Combat-savvy expertise, he is involved in EVERY deck exercise; there is not an Operations Department event that in which he does not play a key role. He was both Petty Officer in Charge and winch operator for the minesweeping elements of NOBLE BASTION 2020. During shape recovery operations as Forecastle and Fantail safety, he oversaw the safe deployment and recovery of four check shapes with zero safety violations. He proves his versatility to PIONEER daily, filling the following vital functions throughout the command. As a Damage Control Training Team Member, he trained 80 Sailors across all Damage control watch stations, from Basic DC to Scene Leader. His efforts qualified 80 Sailors and created five proven fire teams, increasing PIONEER'S Damage Control capabilities and overall fleet readiness. Furthermore he ran and helped organize over 40 drills, managing a total of 80 personnel in the preparation of MOB-D certification resulting in an overall grade of 92%. As the Combat Systems Training Team Coordinator, he planned and finalized 18 Drill Guides and Drill Authorizations, revitalizing the CSTT program, ensuring effective training for all Combat watch standers and increasing training team member's proficiency. His efforts resulted in 10 Surface Warfare drills, six Emissions Condition drills, and two Deceptive Lighting drills with zero discrepancies. As ATTT member, he trained and qualified 20 sailors for general sentry duties and responsibilities as Ship's Reaction Force members, leading to a 93% score during the Antiterrorism mission area certification. MN 1 Vosika is my most versatile Mineman onboard and my top first class petty officer! He has my absolute HIGHEST and STRONGEST

recommendation and is most deserving to earn the title of Mineman of the Year! MN1 Vosika makes PIONEER better every day! His involvement across the ship is extraordinary. I have directly observed him for over two years and his professional knowledge, maturity, and positive attitude truly make him a stand-out Sailor!

MN1(SW) Vosika was born in 1990 in Sacramento, California and was raised in San Diego, California. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 2008 after graduating from El Capitan High School. He attended Basic Training at Recruit Training Center Great Lakes and then completed follow-on training at Training Support Center Great Lakes and Mineman "A" School in Ingleside, Texas. His first sea tour was onboard USS Defender (MCM 2) homeported in Sasebo, Japan from 2009 to 2013, where he served as Auxiliary Technician and CIC Leading Petty Officer (LPO). During this tour he earned his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist pin as a Seaman, promoted to Petty Officer Second Class. Ashore, MN1 Vosika served at Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Guam in Agana, Guam from 2014 to 2017 as Submarine Launched Mobile Mine (SLMM) LPO and Qual/Cert LPO. During this tour MN1 Vosika was promoted to Petty Officer First Class. MN1 Vosika reported to his second sea tour onboard USS Pioneer (MCM 9) homeported in Sasebo, Japan in 2017, where he serves as Operations Department LPO and Combat Information Center (CIC) LPO. He was recognized as the Senior Sailor of the Quarter for the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2018, and qualified as CIC Watch Officer and MCM Evaluator. MN1 Vosika is entitled to wear the Navy Achievement Medal (four awards), Battle Efficiency "E" (two awards), and various other unit and service awards. He is married to Mrs. Yuko Vosika, and has two children, William and Riley.



2020 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (SHORE)



**MN1 (SW) BENJAMIN MARVIN, USN
(MINE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER)**

Commanding Officer's Summary :

As MN "A" School Night Shift Leading Petty Officer, MN 1 Marvin is responsible for the leadership and development of seven instructors and 58 new accession Sailors. To align with COVID-19 social distancing requirements, Petty Officer Marvin devised a plan to reduce class size to no more than 10 students to minimize exposure during the pandemic, generating a watchbill to ensure subject matter expertise was always available as students transitioned through the MN "A" School curriculum. As a result, MWTC successfully produced 43 new Sailors to the fleet. In his primary role as an instructor, he dedicated 1312 podium hours to 191 students, resulting in 175 Minemen ready to support to the fleet in FY21, twenty graduating with honors and six promoting to Third Class Petty officer for outstanding academic achievement. He oversaw all curriculum, testing, revisions, certifications, and the instructors. He attended numerous workshops to lay the foundation for MN "A" School's move into Block Learning and Ready Relevant Learning. He led MN "A" School through a successful Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) Area Visit inspection. MN1 led the CSCS Distance Learning initiative. During this pilot program, he oversaw three instructors and five students in all aspects of Distance Learning, tailoring "A" School's curriculum to support distance learning. His leadership and expertise was crucial in the successful execution

of this pilot and high quality training in spite of COVID-19 requirements. Petty Officer Marvin provides constant training and mentorship to over 300 new accession students as a Naval Military Training (NMT) Instructor for both Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare (FASW) training center and MWTC. His expertise was paramount during MWTC's NMT pilot where he created local instructions, indoctrination and policies for shifting duties from Training Support Center (TSC) San Diego to FASW/MWTC for the sundown of the TSC organization. As Command Fitness Leader, he administered the cycle 19-2 Physical Fitness Assessment (PFA) for 36 staff members and assisted with over 110 students Physical Readiness Tests (PRT). He led 105 physical training sessions for MWTC staff and students to ensure all Sailors maintain their physical wellbeing. His Command Fitness Program received green marks across the board during MWTC's most recent Area Visit (AV), earning praises for his meticulous attention to detail. As the most proactive and motivated Master Training Specialist (MTS) Mentor, MN1 sat five MTS boards resulting in two Sailors earning their qualifications. He also provides weekly in division training to three Sailors and has instructed two command MTS trainings to 18 Sailors in their pursuit of this coveted qualification. Petty Officer Marvin is the Chief Master-at-Arms for Mine Warfare Training Center and the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) Treasurer, managing a budget exceeding \$12,000. MN1 Marvin is a sought out leader amongst his peers, and regularly provides mentorship as the command liaison to the Coalition of Sailors Against Destructive Decisions (CSADD) to ensure that new Sailors are given every opportunity to succeed in the Navy. An active community leader, contributing his off time to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. During FY20, MN1 Marvin selected as Sailor of the Quarter (FY20Q1) and Instructor of the Quarter (FY2.0Q2). Additionally, he earned his Master

Training Specialist qualification. There is not an individual in this organization more dedicated to the development of Mineman than MN1 (SW) Marvin. He has made it his personal goal to incorporate warrior toughness into every student that walks through our door. He is regularly called out by name in course critiques as being approachable and willing to assist no matter what the situation. Students comment that he holds them to exceptionally high standards, and that he is dedicated to ensuring they are prepared to serve as Mineman in the fleet. Although he is always my go to for special projects, I have to be cautious not to over task him as he will continue to take on additional responsibility and run with it. No matter how large or small the task, he always finds a way to exceed my expectations. His achievements and qualifications speak for themselves; there is no one more deserving of this prestigious recognition than MN1 (SW) Marvin.

Petty Officer Marvin grew in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. After high school, he enrolled in college majoring in Corporate and Homeland Security. In January 2013 he suspended his studies and enlisted in the Navy as a Mineman (MN). After boot camp and "A" School graduation, he reported to MCM Crew Fearless, forward deployed to Bahrain, as the primary AN/SLQ-48 Operator and Maintainer. Following permanent crewing of Avenger Class MCMs, he was transferred to MCM Crew Conflict, embarked in USS Scout. During this tour he was promoted to Second Class Petty Officer, serving as LPO, Lead AN/SLQ-48 Technician, Work Center Supervisor, and Anti-Terrorism Tactical Watch Officer (ATTWO). Following his sea tour, Petty Officer Marvin accepted orders to Mine Warfare Training Center (MWTC) to serve as an MN "A" School instructor. Here he promoted to First Class Petty Officer, selected Sailor of the Quarter (twice), and Instructor of the Quarter. MN1 Marvin met his wife while attending MN "A" School in Point Loma, California, and together they share two sons.



2020 MINEMAN OF THE YEAR (RESERVE)



**MN1 HENRY BECKER, USNR
(NR MOMAU THREE)**



Commanding Officer's Summary :

MN1 Becker plays an extremely vital role to the overall success of MOMAU Three as Leading Petty Officer, Unit Career Counselor, and Education Services Officer.

MN1 Becker was a force multiplier and an indispensable resource as Quality Assurance Safety observer during the completion of two quarterly mine builds at Navy Munition Command LANT Unit Charleston, SC. Under his leadership while attending these builds, he led multiple units to seamlessly integrate successfully upgrading and downgrading 24 MK-62/63 and 15 MK-65. He also boarded one Team Leader (TL) and five Team Members (TM). MN1's supervision, attention to detail and technical expertise led to 100% weapons reliability and zero safety discrepancies.

MN1 Becker's charismatic leadership style resonates with his Junior Sailors and inspires them to reach their highest potential. Four of his junior Sailors have stepped forward and assumed leadership roles resulting in increased efficiency of NR MOMAU Three.

As a civilian, MN1 is the Senior Lead Engineering Technician at The Navy's Packaging Handling Storage and Transportation Center located at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. He oversees the periodic certification and recertification of all WHE & OHE equipment for the Navy. MN1 is also a designated inspector with type one and type two traceable seals for all of The Depart-

ment of the Navy stationed on Picatinny Arsenal. MN1 Becker dedicated over 200 hours of personal time to MOMAU Three. As Unit Career Counselor, he is responsible for conducting all the Career Development Boards for the unit. He has achieved a 100% submission rate. MN1 Becker worked side by side with the Unit's Sailors to obtain 100% PMKEE completion in preparation for the next cycle of advancement exams. He also completed mid-terms that resulted in the preparation of 7 evaluations on Junior members. As LPO, submitted 6 AT waivers and assisted 3 members with security clearance issues.

Petty Officer Becker has my highest recommendation for Reserve Mineman of the Year. His energy and willingness to accept greater responsibilities are unsurpassed. Until a Chief Petty Officer was assigned to the Unit, MN1 Becker flawlessly stepped up to fill the gap. He ensures the Unit tempo reflects superior sustained performance and takes all tasks I delegate with professionalism and pride. By using his natural leadership abilities, he has created an environment within NR MOMAU THREE that brings out the best of each Sailor resulting everyone to be the best Sailor they can be. In addition to the accomplishments above, his mentorship has increased Sailor retention and overall unit readiness to levels not seen in over 10 years. Petty Officer Becker's dedication and professionalism has earned the highest consideration for Reserve Mineman of The Year. He has my utmost recommendation.

Petty Officer Henry Adam Becker III was born in Denville, New Jersey on 16 May 1990. He attended Morris County School of Technology, graduating in 2008 with a High School Diploma and multiple certificates in Construction Management. He started his military career shortly after high school in 2009 signing an active duty contract with the United States Navy as a Mineman. He graduated basic training 06 November 2009 from Naval Station Great Lakes, then attended Apprentice Technical Training (ATT) January 2010. Being part of a large class, was appointed Assistant Class Leader. He always led by example, and complet-

ed ATT ahead of schedule. In March of 2010 he attended "A" school at MWTC in Point Loma, CA. Upon graduation, Petty Officer Becker he transferred to Navy Munitions Command East Asia Division Unit Guam from 2010 – 2013. After serving 4 years on active duty, he was honorably discharged in 2013 at the rank of Petty Officer Third Class (E4). Petty Officer Becker chose to continue his military career by joining the United State Navy Reserves on 14 September 2013 continuing as a Mineman. He reported to NOSC Earle, New Jersey November 2013, assigned to NR MOMAU THREE. Over the next 7 years, he executed 17 orders to NMC Charleston and NMC Seal Beach, CA. During those years, he was promoted from to E5 and then to E6. His duties included tracking and executing travel arrangements for AT/IDTT/ADT orders, assuming the role of Muster Petty Officer, Berthing Petty Officer, Educational Services Petty Officer, Command Career Counselor, Assistant Leading Petty Officer and now as the Leading Petty Officer of MOMAU 3. In addition, he achieved Quality Assurance / Safety Observer and is now a Qual/Cert board member in charge or maintaining, certifying and recertifying Mineman from all over the community.

MN1 Becker plays a crucial role as Leading Petty Officer managing the unit's Qualification/Certification program, training plan and ensures his sailors maintain a high level of morale while empowering his junior sailors to take charge and better their careers.

His personal awards include two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement medals, Three Good Conduct medals, National Defense Service Medal, Three Overseas Service ribbons, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Numerous Letters of Appreciation from volunteer and extracurricular activities.

Marriage to wife, Christina, and two dogs: Iris (9yrs) and Mayhem (8yrs), has provided sustenance and much stability in his life.





RUSSIAN PACIFIC FLEET'S IL-38 MPA PRACTICE OFFENSIVE MINE WARFARE IN SEA OF JAPAN

A tactical exercise was held in the Primorye Territory in Russia's Far East to practice complex maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) missions, the Russian Defense Ministry's press office said. [NATHAN GAIN](#) 01 OCT 2020

The exercise is being directed by Chief of the Pacific Fleet's air arm Colonel Andrei Kosterin and involves five Ilyushin Il-38 (NATO reporting name: May) antisubmarine warfare (ASW) planes, the press office added. During the exercise, two Il-38 antisubmarine warfare planes trained mine laying in the Peter the Great Gulf. The aircraft headed for the assigned point at the same time and dropped mines, observing the set interval and distance. During the exercise, an Il-38 ASW plane successfully attacked surface targets with P-50T bombs in Anna Bay in the Primorye Territory.

"Under the exercise's scenario, the Il-38 antisubmarine warfare planes are flying above the Sea of Japan. The pilots are practicing flying along the assigned route above an unmarked area and cohesion during flights without ground-based radio navigation aids. They are also searching for, classifying and tracking the simulated enemy's submarines with the use of radars and sonars,"



MINE WARFARE IN THE NEWS



Ambush! The Navy's New Hammerhead Mine is a Submarine Killer

Hidden at sea, Hammerhead will unleash guided torpedoes on enemy submarines.

BY KYLE MIZOKAMI



- **The U.S. Navy is reinvesting in sea mines as a means of harassing enemy ships and submarines.**
- **The new Hammerhead mine will be placed by unmanned undersea vehicles where they could intercept enemy submarines.**
- **Once the mine detects a passing enemy sub, it unleashes a homing torpedo to chase down its prey.**

The U.S. Navy is developing a new sea mine to make the lives of enemy submarines in wartime a lot trickier. The new Hammerhead mine is designed to lie in wait on the seabed floor, listening for the telltale signs of enemy submarines. Once a foe passes over, Hammerhead unleashes a homing torpedo that hunts down and destroys the offending sub.

Laid in the path of enemy ships, sea mines can slow passage through vital areas or deny transit entirely. Sea mines are also difficult to detect, and the underwater explosions caused by their detonation can cause serious, sometimes fatal damage to a ship's hull.

Unglamorous and unmanned, mines don't receive much publicity, but they're also more effective than the general public is led to believe. Allied sea mines sank 266 Japanese merchant or naval vessels during World War II—all without endangering a single Allied sailor or airman. Three U.S. Navy warships, the cruiser *USS Princeton*, frigate *USS Samuel B. Roberts*, and the amphibious transport *USS Tripoli*, have been damaged by sea mines since the end of World War II.

Now, faced with the prospect of naval warfare across the expanse of the North Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the U.S. Navy is preparing a new generation of sea mines to help box in Russian and Chinese Navy submarines. The new Hammerhead mine is a modular system consisting of a "capsule module (to include the 'effector'), a mooring module, an energy module, a sensor

module, a command, control, signal processing and decision module, and a communications module."



The capsule module includes a Mark 54 lightweight hybrid homing torpedo (above). The Navy plans for uncrewed underwater vehicles (XLUUV) such as the new Boeing Orca to plant Hammerhead mines in key locations. It could also deploy mines in key straits and passages, potential battlefields, and other locations.



Here's how Hammerhead works. After the XLUUV releases the Hammerhead, the mooring module anchors the mine to the seabed where it might wait days, weeks, or even months for the activation order. Once the command and control module receives the activation order, the sensor module quietly listens for the acoustic signature of approaching enemy submarines, running suspected underwater noises through the signal processing and decision module and comparing them to the recorded signatures of known enemy submarines. If an enemy sub is confirmed present,

Hammerhead can release its Mk. 54 torpedo and then signal its controllers it has engaged an enemy sub.

One important role for Hammerhead could be to stop Russia's new Poseidon nuclear apocalypse torpedo. Poseidon, a large, 65 foot long nuclear-powered torpedo with a two megaton warhead, is designed to attack ports and coastal targets during a nuclear war. Poseidon would likely be launched from specially modified Russian Navy submarines and travel underwater at speeds of 56 knots, making it difficult to intercept. A wall of Hammerhead mines laid across likely Poseidon transit routes could stop the doomsday weapon in its tracks.

The Navy began work on Hammerhead in 2018 and wants industry to deliver 30 prototypes in 2021.



MINE WARFARE IN THE NEWS



ECA GROUP'S BELGIAN SUBSIDIARY TO MANUFACTURE MINE WARFARE DRONES FOR MCM PROGRAM

ECA Group reaches another milestone with regard to the unmanned systems that will be manufactured in Belgium for the mine counter measure (MCM) program of the Belgian Navy and the Royal Netherlands Navy

ECA Robotics, a French subsidiary of ECA Group, has recently signed a contract worth several hundred million euros. This contract comprises the outsourcing to its Belgian subsidiary ECA Robotics Belgium of the manufacturing and delivery of unmanned vehicles dedicated to the underwater mine counter measures as part of the renewal of the mine countermeasures capacity.

Belgium and the Netherlands have awarded the renewal program to the consortium Belgium Naval & Robotics, set up by Naval Group and ECA Group. This program consists of 12 new generation vessels (six for the Belgian Navy and six for the Royal Netherlands Navy) and containerized systems. It is the first program that applies the stand-off concept by using a Toolbox. This Toolbox is comprised of several unmanned vehicles that operators can command and deploy from a safe distance in order to carry out autonomous mine clearance missions. The unmanned vehicles will be manufactured in a new, very modern plant to be built in Ostend, Belgium. Building will start early 2021 so that production can commence in 2022. ECA Robotics Belgium will recruit about 70 people in Belgium to achieve the production for the contract that will take circa 10 years to complete. In addition, ECA Robotics Belgium will be able to perform maintenance on drones at the plant upon delivery of the first drones.



Xavier is based in Paris, France. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Management Information Systems and a Master of Business Administration from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT). Xavier has been covering naval defense topics for nearly a decade.



Linda J. Hayes passed away on Thursday, August 13, 2020 at her home in Little Axe, OK at the age of 72 after a brave battle with pancreatic cancer. Her strong will to live, unwavering faith in God, and the love and prayers of family and friends carried her through her struggles. Linda was born on April 26, 1948 in Shawnee, OK. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rev Ottis C and Clara L Click. She was an only child. Linda leaves behind her high school sweetheart and loving husband of 52 years, Clifton Duke Hayes Sr, three sons and their wives, Cliff and Debbie, Robert and Shawna, Charlie and Briana. Linda's legacy carries on in the eyes of her 8 grandchildren, Kasee, Abby, Jackson, Jocelyn, Jaeger, Valerie Estell, Michael Saldana, Sherry Webster and 9 great grandchildren. Linda fell in love with Duke while attending Capitol Hill HS in Oklahoma City, OK and they were married March 2nd of 1968. Linda was dedicated in her support of Duke during his proud service in the U.S. Navy and as a OKC Firefighter. While she mostly considered herself a homemaker, Linda was extremely active taking on various jobs and serving as a volunteer in many organizations all while raising her 3 boys. In 1982 Linda helped start Southpark Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and served as the church secretary for 10 years. In 2005 Linda and Duke, together, travelled to Louisiana and helped with Hurricane Katrina emergency response efforts. Linda opened her home to many people in need over the years and considered everyone close to her as family. She claimed many honorary sons, daughters, and grandchildren. She loved her pets and always kept them near her. In her retirement years Linda found a passion for painting and was quite good at it. She was also extremely active in the OKC chapter of the Naval Enlisted Reserve Association (NERA). A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2020 at 1100 at Sunny Lane Funeral Home and Cemetery.



MNCS Clinton Lee Chacanaca, USN (Ret.) was born September 21, 1956 and passed away on August 5, 2020



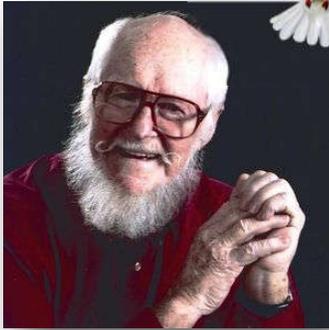
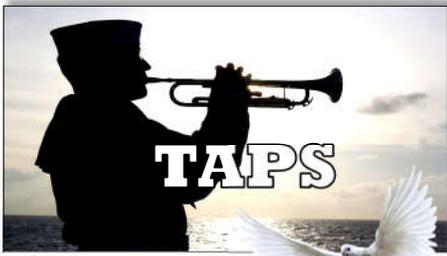
Andrew James Hume, MN3
Ft Lauderdale FL, DOB: 28 Dec 1945 - DOD: 2 Dec 2019.

It is with heavy hearts that the Hume family announces the passing of our beloved husband, father, grandfather and father-in-law, Andrew James (Jim) Hume. He passed away on Monday, December 2, 2019 at home. He was diagnosed with bone cancer in his spine in September, but the year was a difficult one for Andrew. In May, he had a partial kidney removal due to cancer and July, he had his gallbladder removed. He spent most of September, through November in the hospital but made it home for Thanksgiving, for which we are all grateful. He was laid to rest with full military honors, in the South Florida National Cemetery, a beautiful resting place for Veterans. Andrew was born and raised in St. Louis, MO and moved to Ft. Lauderdale, FL after his discharge from the Navy. He Joined the Navy May 1963 at the age of 17 and was discharged December 1966. He often said that he wished he would have made the Navy a career. He was very proud of his service to his country and was very proud to have been a Mineman. He loved telling his children and grandchildren of this time in his life and all the great friends he had made. When he joined the Navy, he didn't even have a driver's license. He earned the National Defense Service Medal and was discharged honorably as a Mineman Third Class. Andrew is survived by his wife, son, daughter, one granddaughter, two grandsons, a son-in-law and a daughter-in-law, all of whom meant the world to him. He will be truly missed.



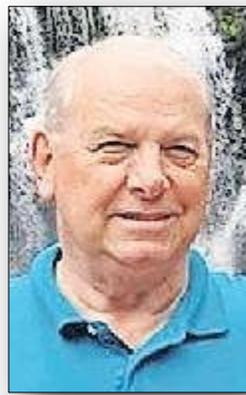
Perry J. Favero, age 57 of Titusville, FL, died Monday August 22, 2016 under Hospice care in Titusville. Perry was born April 30, 1959 in Niagara Falls, NY, the son of the late Joseph and Phyllis (Barner) Favero and was a graduate of Bishop Duffy High School. Perry served in the U.S. Navy from 1977 to 1979 as a Mineman. While in the Navy he enjoyed playing Rugby and Soccer. He was also a Buffalo Bills fan and loved fishing. He was the husband of the late Sharon (Smith) Favero and is survived by two brothers, Anthony of Niagara Falls, NY and Joseph Favero of Lewiston, and a sister, Loretta Sauer of Lockport. Services were private at the families request.





Robert Clyde "RC" Gochnauer, Sr. 87, of Summerville, South Carolina, entered into eternal rest Thursday, March 28, 2019. His Mass of Christian Burial Service was held Thursday, April 4, 2019 in St. Theresa the Little Flower Catholic Church and his burial held Monday, April 8, 2019 in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Kennett Square, PA. Robert was born May 20, 1931 in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, son of the late Clyde Simon Gochnauer and Catherine Mitten Gochnauer.

He was a retired U.S. Navy Veteran, proudly serving for 20 years as a Mineman. His Navy career sent him all over the world, serving in Malta, Italy; Argentina, Newfoundland; Trinidad BWI; Hawthorne, Nevada; Yokosuka, Japan; and finally Charleston, SC. Retiring at the age of 38 opened new adventures and a new career. Drawing on a lifetime love of cars, he opened his auto repair shop and sold, repaired and restored automobiles, specializing in imported and sports cars. He was well known and highly respected in Tri County area, and the southeast United States for over 40 years. His passion for cars led him to join the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) in 1963. He was sought out for his expertise on building racing car engines and many young men and women were mentored by him. His need for speed, and loving consent from his wife, Penny, he started driving the race cars he built. He raced both sedans and open wheel cars all over the Southeast earning a National License. When he had to give up driving, he volunteered and became an event official, serving at every level including Chief Steward. He will always be remembered for his level headed decisions, smiles, and those hats! RC was a lifetime member of the Sports Car Club of America and ➡



Greg Rolan Moffatt, MNC, Oklahoma City OK, DOB: 2 Jul 1945 - DOD: 6 Sep 2020, Greg Rolan Moffatt, Sound Engineer and Retired U.S. Navy Chief, was born on July 2, 1945 and left to be with his Lord and Savior on September 6, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 52 years Charlotte, son Matthew and wife Melaina, son Mark and wife Elaine, son Lucas and wife Amanda, ten grandchildren, brothers Dana and Gary, sister Neo, and many loving family members and friends. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at Southpark Baptist Church, 2900 SW 119th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73170.

the Fleet Reserve Association. He was a former member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Charleston and a current member of St. Theresa the Little Flower Catholic Church, Summerville SC. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elaine Gochnauer "Penny" of Summerville, SC; daughter, Patricia G. Huffman of Summerville, SC; two sons, Robert C. Gochnauer, Jr. of Wilmington, NC, and Larry F. Gochnauer (Janet M.) of Lawrenceville, GA; two sisters, M. Catherine Eick of Kennett Square, PA, and Mary Anne Fazio (Lorenzo B.) of Oxford, PA, five grandchildren, Meredith H. Sakoda (Richard) of Chicago, IL, Bradley A. Gochnauer of Decatur, AL, Nicholas T. Gochnauer (Kathleen) of Atlanta, GA, Georgiana G. North (Austin) of West Monroe, LA, and Christian F. Gochnauer of Lawrenceville, GA; three great-grandchildren, Ava Jayde Gochnauer of Decatur, AL, Alexander B. North and Amelia E. North both of West Monroe, LA. He was predeceased by his son Mark Allen "Rusty" Gochnauer.



MN1 (SW) Brent James Sturgeon, 30, of Spring Valley, CA passed away in a tragic car accident on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 in San Diego, CA. Brent was born December 26, 1989 in Fort Thomas, KY. Brent grew up in N. Ky and graduated from Conner High School. After graduation, Brent proudly joined the U.S. Navy and had been active up until his sudden passing. Brent was a happy and loving guy, and his family was so important to him. He and his wife Jessica were expecting their second child in November. He is survived by his loving wife: Jessica Sturgeon, his son: Michael Morrison, his mother: Missy Wingo (Paul), his father: Jimmy Penick, his maternal grandparents: Charles Sturgeon and Emily Leach, his mother and father-in-law: Edward and Terri Morrison, his uncle: Jeffrey C. West (Tracy), his aunt: Jane Heffernan (Steve), his cousin: Jeffery West Jr. (Casse), his brother-in-law: James Morrison, and numerous other loving friends and family. A visitation was held for Brent on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at Linne-mann Funeral Home, 1940 Burlington Pike, Burlington, KY 41005. A service was held following the visitation at 1:00 PM at the Funeral Home. Brent's wishes were to be cremated and he will be laid to rest in private at the convenience of his family. Memorial contributions can be made to Brent's family through their gofundme page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/donations-for-the-family-of-brent-sturgeon>.

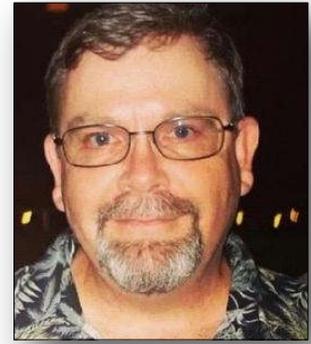


James "Steven" Albury, 68, of North Charleston, South Carolina, husband of Edna Garcia Albury entered into eternal rest Friday, October 9, 2020. His memorial service was held October 17, 2020 at the Northwood Baptist Church. Steve was born August 7, 1952 in Miami, Florida, son of the late James R. Albury and Alzaria Bonnell Albury. He was a contractor and lead mechanic, working on Naval Ships and maintaining Marine Corps equipment. Steve proudly served his country in the United States Navy, serving from 1970 to 1985. He served in Italy, Guam and in the Philippines, from which he spent a stint in The Vietnam War. Steve was an avid fan of all things "Sci-Fi". He loved listening to music, was a big fan of Patsy Cline and Elvis Presley and never met a cold Budweiser he didn't like. He is survived by his loving wife Edna of 13 years; his children; Zenife (Scott) Payton of Crestview, FL, Ana (Kory) Aschenbrenner of Niceville, FL, Shenandoah (Danielle) Albury of Royal Palm Beach, FL, James "Christofer" (Diana) Albury of Milton, FL, Leo Joel Garcia and Ruth Ann Garcia of Northern Mariana Island; grandchildren; Christain, Alyssa and Chloe Payton; Summer and Elias Aschenbrenner; Aiden, Ryleigh, Cadence and Tatum Albury; Abby, Ayesha, Rhianne and Lexine Garcia. He was preceded in death by his parents.



It is with great sadness we announce the passing of **John Leo "Grandpa Pinky" Asmussen** May, 21, 1929 - April 21, 2020 . He was one-month shy of his 91st birthday and died peacefully of natural causes at his home in Denver, Colorado. He is survived by his beloved wife of nearly 70 years, Jean Asmussen, his five children Linda, John, Jim, Alan, and Christena, their spouses, 11 grandchildren, and 21 great grandchildren. He was in the Navy from 1951-1954 as a Mineman Second Class and retired from the Union Pacific railroad after 46 years of dedication and hard work. He led a long and active life, full of love and humanity towards others.

A man as humble and loving as Grandpa John will always be remembered by those of us who knew him and loved him. He was a busy and creative person who loved nature and the outdoors. He was happy to share woodworking tools and build things together in his garage workshop. He built many creations including clocks, toy cars, doll houses, and beehives to give out to his children and grandchildren. He also made and shared honey from his backyard beehive. He was so much fun to be around, he loved to laugh, and we all adored him. He will be greatly missed.



Ronald D. Blaisdell, 64 of Chittenango passed away Saturday morning, August 8, 2020. Born on March 18, 1956, he was the son of Ronald D. and Bernadette Blaisdell Sr.. He was a graduate of East Syracuse Minoa High School. Ron served in the United States Navy as a **Mineman** for 13 years. He worked in the IT field for many years retiring from Emmi Farms in Baldwinsville. Ron enjoyed computers, technology, fishing, diving, camping, riding his Rad bike, gardening and being outdoors. He loved being with his family, his dog Lily, his kitties Zippy and Foster and especially spending time with his grandchildren. Surviving is his wife Joan; his children, Michelle (Daniel) Poepoe and Michael (Melissa) Blaisdell; his step children, Tyler Judd, Aaron (Tristyn) Judd and Christopher Rudnick; 15 grandchildren; siblings, Barbara (Richard) Bennett, Jeanine (Darrell) Flagg, John (Joanna) Blaisdell and Laurie (Gary) Saturno; many loving nieces, nephews and cousins. A private funeral service was held at Schepp Family Funeral Homes. In lieu of flowers, in his memory, contributions can be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Heart Association.





RONALD JAMES ASCHBRENNER
MNI USNR, Cedar Rapids Ronald ("Ron," "Uncle Ronnie") James Aschbrenner, 78, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died peacefully surrounded by loved ones on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020. As he was listening to his favorite song, "I Can Only Imagine," he took his final breath and gave up his long fight with cancer. A visitation was held at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Marion. An outdoor funeral service with full military honors took place at Linwood Cemetery in Cedar Rapids.

Ron was born on July 18, 1942, in Sumner, Iowa, the son of Arthur and Elsie (Lemke) Aschbrenner. He served in the U.S. military for more than 25 years, with service in the Navy, Naval Reserves and the National Guard. Ron married Shirley Warnke on Nov. 22, 1963, in Sumner. He worked as a park ranger for Black Hawk County and then moved to Morgan Creek Park in Cedar Rapids to work for Linn County Conservation.

Ron became a rural mail carrier for the U.S. Post Office and retired in the summer of 2002. Ron was an outdoorsman who enjoyed hunting, fishing and metal detecting. He was a member of the Izaak Walton League, the NRA and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He also was a member of two car clubs and owned a 1929 Model A and a 1950 Pontiac. Ron loved traveling, whether it was with his family, with Shirley, on military trips or disaster relief. He enjoyed meeting new people and seeing new things and ventured to six different continents. He was known for driving hours on vacation to see places like Ayers Rock, Normandy Beach, the Alaska Highway and various beaches and lighthouses. Ron's strong Christian faith was visible in all he did. He was a member of Concordia Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, volunteered as an elder and visited shut-ins. He also supported Wycliffe's Bible Ministry. Ron will be remembered for his sarcastic sense of humor and as a kind and generous neighbor, loving husband and devoted father. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Shirley Aschbrenner of Cedar Rapids; daughters, Tania (Jim) Johnson of Cedar Rapids, Terese (Dave) Nelson of North Liberty, Iowa, and Tiffany (Joel) Kercheval of Montezuma, Iowa; grandchildren, Kai and Cameron Johnson, Jenna and Kelly Nelson and Joel, Laila and Analeece Kercheval; sister-in-law, Beverly Aschbrenner of Monteta, Va.; several nieces; and one nephew. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Elsie Aschbrenner; stepmother, Ella Aschbrenner; brother, Milan Aschbrenner; sister, Lois Domke; and brother-in-law, Dale Domke. The family wants to thank the staff



of Garnett Place of Cedar Rapids, especially his "drill sergeant" Tina, who cared for him as her own. Also many thanks to the staff at the VA Hospital for taking care of Ron and all veterans with the love and respect that they deserve. Because of Ron's love of the outdoors and his service to the county parks, memorials may be directed to Linn County Conservation.



The Binnacle List



Bryan Allston is recovering from brain surgery 11 Oct 2020 and is doing well.



Carleton Zuelke reports that his cataract surgery went well and he was home resting



Feel Better Soon!



Association of Minemen

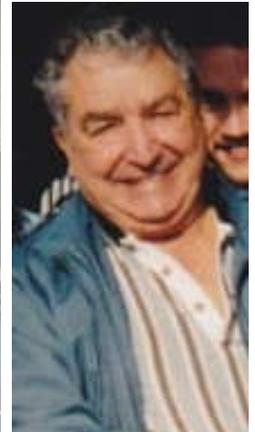


Mineman Miscellany

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.

REUNION 2021 UPDATE

Reunion Chairman **Charles Humbard** reports that the hotel **Double Tree Hotel & Suites, Charleston Airport** has changed their mind about alcohol in the hospitality room, and said it was an insurance issue. "I may be back to square one again. I will keep you informed." Watch for a complete update in the Winter 2021 Dashpot!



AOM Members can purchase streamers to commemorate their service and we'll attach them to the AOM Bravo flag. We've got 20 or so on the flag now. You can purchase a streamer from:

Carolina Flag and Banner
 1375 Ashley River Rd
 Charleston, SC 29407
 843-544-8535



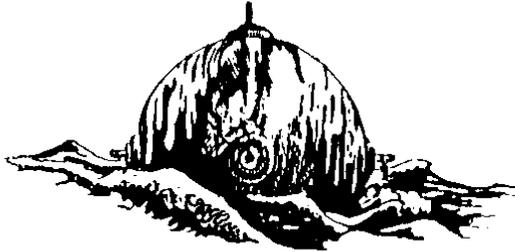
245TH NAVY BIRTHDAY

Don't forget to pay your
 AOM dues.
 Only \$15 !! keep getting
 "The DASHPOT"

<https://www.jotform.com/90215855401148>

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1974 - 2020

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ RANK/RATE/TITLE _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ - _____

DATE _____ EMAIL _____

TEL _____ SIGNATURE _____

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 Our on-line member application link- <https://form.jotform.com/90215855401148>. If you have any questions about your membership, please send an email with your question to: assocminemen@yahoo.com.