

NAVY EXCHANGE RETIRED
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NEREA NEWS

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Vol 32, Issue I Spring 2025

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Wow, another year begins 2025. Remember when Y2K took Place? Almost like the end of the world, and here we are 25 years later. Time marches on.

We have a couple of new Presidents in the Chapters, Brian Thomas is the new Tidewater Chapter president; and Tess Paquette is the new President of the San Diego Chapter which is making a comeback. WELCOME!

NEREA is the only united voice, source of information, and watchdog of your Navy Exchange Retirement Benefits. NEREA devotes its total effort and energy to only one specific cause, You!

Our recent efforts include Long Term Care letters to State Government officials to counter a price increase of 400% increase as requested by CNA. Your efforts helped them only getting no more than 200%. We teamed up with the AAFES Retiree Association to protest the current method of getting on-base to shop at the Exchanges since they stopped letting us have a CAC card. If you want to bring your spouse on base now, you need to get a visitors pass each time you go on base. That issue is still going on, and it may take a back seat to all the RIF's going on in DOD. The point is: your efforts can make a difference!

The Officers and Board of Directors and the local chapter officers of NEREA want to keep you up to date on issues and activities, jog your memories with sea stories of past happenings and enlist your interest and participation in NEREA. We print 3 newsletters a year and also have a Facebook site at: NEREA We run 2 non-profit organizations, NEREA and also NEREA Scholarships. Every penny that is donated to the Scholarship program goes to either \$2,000 awards to a 4 year program or \$1,000 awards for a Community College. If you go to NEREA.org and click on the tab "NEWS" then click on "Scholarship" for the process rules.

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USS Hornet (CV-12) which was tasked with recovering the astronauts on Apollo 11

OAKLAND

Spring is here. The days are getting longer and soon baseball will be here. Interestingly the LA Dodgers season opener will be against the Chicago Cubs at the Tokyo dome in Japan

Spring signals a new beginning, renewal, hope, optimism and... cherry blossoms

Cherry blossoms are in bloom at the San Francisco Japanese Tea Garden. The Tea Garden dates back to 1894 as part of the California Midwinter international exposition

The return of the 2 NASA astronauts recently on 3-18-2025 reminds me of the USS Hornet (CV-12) which was tasked with

recovering the astronauts on Apollo 11: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin & Michael Collins in 1969. It seems like only yesterday. The USS Hornet museum is located at the former NAS Alameda

This year Easter is on Sunday, April 20, 2025

From Kathy Halliday, Sandy Buresh, Dave Foote & me... Happy Easter

Wishing you all good health and safe travels

Lucky Fung

TIDEWATER

The Tidewater Chapter held this month's meeting on March 6th, 2025. During the meeting, we

celebrated our beautiful Raye Eaton and thanked her for all her support over the last 10 years as our president.

Raye not only increased monthly meeting attendance from 17 members to an average of 55 attendees each month, she has selflessly given many, many hours of her time representing us, creating and mailing hand made birthday cards to every member of the chapter, keeping the value of our benefits in the forefront and making money year after year to support NEREA Scholarship fund.

LETTER FROM THE **PRESIDENT** CONTINUED

We welcome your comments at: NEREAnational@gmail.com

We also would like to share your NEX stories. Everybody has some... We can't promise we can print all stories in the newsletter, but we can put them on our Facebook site.

It's very important for socialization in older adults. It provides opportunity for connection and companionship, ensuring older adults remain a vital part of their community and fostering a sense of belonging. Those of us who have a local chapter to meet with other NEX associates, are fortunate. Many other retirees don't have that as an option. A phone call works wonders too. Let's keep in touch and try and watch out for those who may not as fortunate.

And it's baseball time. The L.A. Dodgers have by far the best team money can buy. At the time of this article, they are 7 and 0. Do you think they can go undefeated??

Go Cubs -

Cheers, Tom Williams



NEW RETIREES

EVELYN ABANO	CHESAPEAKE, VA	SHIRLEY ELLIS	BREMERTON, WA
ROBERTO ADRIATICO	WAIPAHU, HI	GERALD ENGEL	FRANKLINTON, NC
GENARO AGUSTIN JR	OXNARD, CA	RAUL ESPINOZA	SAN DIEGO, CA
ANNA MARIA ALABADO	NORFOLK, VA	ELMA ESTRELLA	SAN DIEGO, CA
ANGELA ALFORD	CORDOVA, TN	LOLITA FISCUS	BARHAMSVILLE, VA
CECILIA ALONZO	NORFOLK, VA	CYNTHIA FISHER	NORFOLK, VA
ANALIZA ANTES	BREMERTON, WA	JOHN FISHER	NORFOLK, VA
ZOSIMO ARELLANO	HONOLULU, HI	CYNTHIA FLORENCE	NORFOLK, VA
LAURIE BAHR	PUYALLUP, WA	CHRISTINE FLORES	LEMOORE, CA
JOHN BAKER	JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FL	GLORIA FLORES-KEIDERLING	PACE FL
LAURA BALLENGEE	HAMPTON, VA	IRENE FONTANEZ	MOYOCK, NC
JOE BAMO	DEDEDO, GU	RUBEN FONTANOZA	SAN DIEGO CA
AMELIA BATARA	EWA BEACH, HI	NORMA FOXEN	GULFPORT, MS
MARISELA BERTON	CORONADO, CA	DIANA GAGNON-HOSKINSON	SAN DIEGO, CA
JOHN D BEST	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	BLANCA GARCIA	IMPERIAL BEACH, CA
TINA BIGWOOD	IMPERIAL BCH, CA	RONALD GILLENBERG	SAN DIEGO, CA
CECELIA BOYER	MERIDIAN, MS	LISA GIMENEZ	SAN DIEGO, CA
DEBBIE BRADBURY	AIEA, HI	VIRGINIA GRAVES	NORFOLK, VA
CHASTITY BROWN	PORT HADLOCK, WA	CAROL GRAY	MIDDLETOWN, RI
DOROTHEA BROWN	FALLON, NV	ANITA GREENFIELD	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
BARBIE BURNS	EL CAJON, CA	ARCELIA GUTIERREZ	ONTARIO, CA
DEBORAH BUTTRUM	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	GREGORY HARDY	CHESAPEAKE, VA
DIAMARA CARDE	ST. CLOUD, FL	DAVID HARPER	CHESAPEAKE, VA
PEARL CASCO	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	SANDRA HAYES	PENSACOLA, FL
ROGER CHALUPA	SAN DIEGO, CA	EVANGELINE HERNANDEZ	EWA BEACH, HI
ALICIA CLARK	FLEMING ISLAND, FL	BOBBY HICKS	LEMOORE, CA
THEODORE COLE	MERIDIAN, MS	EVELYN IBANEZ	BARRIGADA, GU
MAUREEN CONLEY	CHESAPEAKE, VA	IRVING INDYK	REGO PARK, NY
DANILO CRUZ	NATIONAL CITY, CA	PAMELA JENNINGS	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
EUGENE CRUZ	TAMUNING, GU	DORETHERA JOHNSON	PORTSMOUTH, VA
MILANDA DAUS	HONOLULU, HI	PURIFICACION JOHNSTON	OAK HARBOR, WA
PERFECTO DAUS	HONOLULU, HI	STANLEY JONES	PORT ORCHARD, WA
ATINA DAVIS ALFRED	ME	ELKE JONES	SAN JOSE, CA
CORAZON DAYRIT	AIEA, HI	FLOYD KAWASAKI	HONOLULU, HI
JACQUILINE DE GUZMAN	NEW BERN, NC	KAREN KHER	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
JOHN DURFEE	REHOBOTH, MA	GLORIA KEIDERLING	PACE, FL
JUAN ECHON	JACKSONVILLE, FL	DAN KINZLER	BREMERTON, WA

MARIA KOST	CHULA VISTA, CA	VIRGINIA RATLIFF	EWA BEACH, HI
MARCIA KRUMWIEDE	TUCSON, AZ	KINTINA REWEIN	HONOLULU, HI
SHARON LINHART	FERNLEY, NV	REMIGIO REYES	AIEA, HI
KENDRA LEMKE	FALL RIVER, MA	ROMA RIVERA	AIEA, HI
EMERITA LEWIS	JACKSONVILLE, FL	PHYLLIS ROBNETT	PENSACOLA, FL
WILLIAM LOWE	EWA BEACH, HI	TROY ROCHARD	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
TOMMY LUCERO	YIGO, GU	TERRI ROMINGER	BREMERTON, WA
JULIA LUM	WAIPAHU, HI	DONNA ROTHROCK	PENSACOLA, FL
KATHERINE LUQUE	SPRING VALLEY, CA	ARCHIE SALAS	AGAT, GU
TAMARA MALLERY	BELFAIR, WA	BRENDA SALOM	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
MAYUMI MARAR	HONOLULU, HI	MANUEL SANCHEZ	KEY WEST, FL
RONNIE MARIN	WAUKEGAN, IL	NANCY SANTOS	BARRIGADA, GU
LINDA MARTIN	MIDDLEBURG, FL	JOHN SAPIENZA	KILL DEVIL HILLS, NC
JEANNIE MCMILLAN	SPRING VALLEY, CA	WESLEY SCRUGGS	JACKSONVILLE, FL
GABRIELLE MEHL	BURIEN, WA	CLEOFÉ SESMA	DEDEDO, GU
ANTHONY MELILLO	FPO, AE	RENEE SHARP	LONG BEACH, MS
JOSEPH MENO	AGAT, GU	ANDREA SIMEK	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
DALE MILLER	VINEGAR, AL	ANGELA SIMS	JACKSONVILLE, FL
FLERIDA MILLER	LAKESIDE, CA	ALINE SOFFER	FPO, AP
ALICIA MINELLI	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	CARINA SPENCER	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
KELLY MORGAN	BURLINGTON, WA	JOHN STARNES	PORTSMOUTH, VA
LISA MOSS	HOLUALOA, HI	ANDREA SURWILL	SPEARFISH, SD
CHRISTOPHER NICHOLS	SOUTH MILLS, NC	DEBORAH SZCZEPAN	NAPLES, FL
DAMARY OLTER	HERTFORD, NC	KIMBERLY TANITA	EWA BEACH, HI
LONI OOKA	FORNEY, TX	SHARLENE TORRES	SINAJANA, GU
RANDALL OVERLY SR.	PENSACOLA, FL	TERESA TUCKER	GREAT LAKES, IL
CHERYL PAGE	OAK HARBOR, WA	DEBRA VEAL	PENSACOLA, FL
JANICE PANGELINA	HONOLULU, HI	BARBARA VICE	CHESAPEAKE, VA
YVONNE PARKER	MOSES LAKE, WA	TAMMY VIDRINE	PORTSMOUTH, VA
TAMARA PARRISH	SAN DIEGO, CA	LAURO VILLAREAL	IMPERIAL BEACH, CA
IVAN PATROVIC	KEY WEST, FL	HARVEY WILLIAMS	SAN DIEGO, CA
JOSEPH PEREDA	KILLEEN, TX	GAYE WILSON	WYOMING, RI
ANGELA PERKINS	GULFPORT, MS	SHERRILL WINES	ATLANTA, GA
ROGER PETTREY	PENSACOLA, FL	CHERYL YONKMAN	OAK HARBOR, WA
DAVID PIERCE	PORT ORCHARD, WA		
TERRY PINNICK	IMPERIAL BEACH, CA		
JANICE PLEASANT	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA		

NEXTRIVIA - CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN

1. NEX's 060-040 and 060-100 were attached to the Naval Administrative Command and Naval Training Center in what city and state
2. The NEX Student Meal Program serves up delicious and nutritious breakfasts and lunches to all PreK-12 grade students on Navy bases in nine overseas locations. What are these nine locations?
3. NEX 010-051 was attached to a Naval Security Group Activity, Winter Harbor until the base and the NEX were closed in 2002. In what state was the Winter Harbor exchange located?
4. True or False. NEREA sponsored an annual convention on a cruise ship?
5. What term is often applied to members of newly commissioned units, new military bases and recommissioning crews as well as crew members that were present at a US Navy, US Coast Guard Cutter or Royal Canadian Navy ship's first commissioning?
6. What NEX opened a Navy Exchange Fitness Center in October 1988?
7. More than 850 debit cards were issued at the Guantanamo Bay NEX in 1992 that allowed motorists to fill up their gas tanks anytime, day or night. What was this debit card called?
8. True or False. Pay telephone services on military installations were arranged locally prior to the late 1980's when NEXCOM awarded a contract to AT&T for pay telephones services on most Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard installations.

Answers are found on page 8.



- 1949 Direct responsibility for Navy ships stores afloat was transferred from the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts to the Navy Ship's Store Office (NSSO).
- 1952 The Navy Resale System's West Coast Branch, located in Oakland CA was established. This West Coast Branch provided technical guidance and administrative support to resale activities in the five western naval districts (San Diego, San Francisco, Seattle, Pearl Harbor and Alaska) as well as the Pacific Ocean area and units of the Pacific Fleet.
- 1959 The NSSO enjoyed the distinction of being one of the first large-scale retail organizations to automate its central accounting functions.
- 1968 A Guide for Doing Business with the Navy Resale System was published and used as a training and information tool for merchandise vendors.
- 1970 A full line of home sewing products was developed.
- 1979 The Navy Resale System Office became the Navy Resale and Services Support Office, and the title of the officer in command was changed from Commanding Officer to Commander.
- 1986 New Navy Lodges were constructed and opened in Gulfport MS, Moffett Field CA and Atsugi, Japan.
- 1992 A new concept known as Value Meal was tested in the San Diego area. This was a spin-off of the Super Value program available at NEX retail stores and provided breakfast and lunch prices ranging from 99 cents to \$2.99 at regional NEX cafeterias and snack bars.
- 1994 Navy concept shops were established and featured products with military themes and logos. Examples included giftware, apparel, luggage and commemorative items.
- 2005 440 cookbooks were published and sold as a fund raiser for the NEREA scholarship fund, providing over \$2200 for the scholarship fund.
- 2007 NEREA's 13th annual convention was held in May in Denver, CO.
- 2014 The NEX's first patron loyalty program, My Navy Blue Rewards, is launched.
- 2020 NEX in-store shopping and Navy Lodge guest privileges were extended to eligible veterans and their primary-selected caregiver.
- 2022 NEREA's Scholarship Fund awarded five \$2,000 scholarships for academic year 2022-2023.
- 2024 Navy Lodge and Navy Gateway Inns & Suites locations received their first shipments of private label Harbor Home bath linens for use in guest rooms. Through this program, guests are able to purchase the same high quality products in NEX stores that they enjoy in NEX Lodges and Gateway Inns & Suites.

Trivia Answers from above

1. Orlando, Florida
2. Guantanamo Bay, Naples, Sigonella, Rota, Bahrain, Yokosuka/Ikego, Atsugi, Sasebo/Hario, and Guam.

3. Maine



4. True, twice. The 12th annual convention was held aboard the Royal Caribbean Enchantment of the Seas during the month of May 2006 and the 23rd annual convention was held aboard Celebrity Reflection as noted on this souvenir pen.

5. Find the answer below:



6. Navy Exchange, Naval Air Station Corpus Christi. The exercise equipment was donated and made available to associates during lunch breaks and after normal working hours?
7. Gas Boy debit card. Gas Boy operated like an ATM bank card with a magnetic stripe and a personal identification number. Customers opened a line of credit of at least \$10 at the gas station, and then could start up the pumps by running their cards through the credit machine. The pump turned off automatically if a customer ran out of credited funds.
8. True

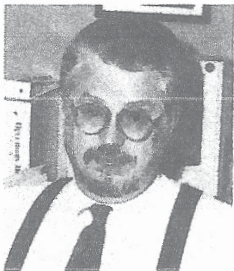


CURRENTS

Produced for the Associates of the Navy Exchange System

January 1996

INTRODUCING ...

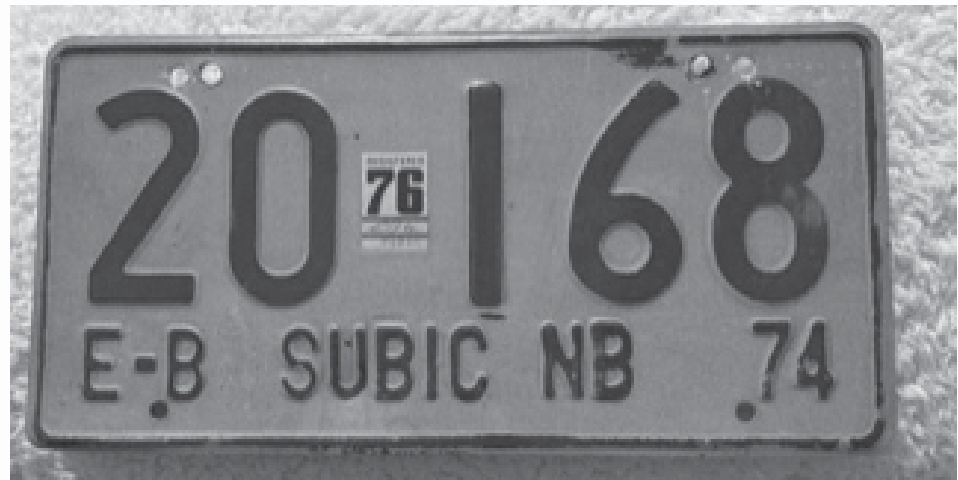


Tom Williams, NEXCOM
Deputy Director,
Business Process Re-engineering

In his new role as deputy director of business process re-engineering, Tom Williams assists the BPR director, Elliot Zucker, in managing the process re-engineering implementation and execution. In doing so, he assures that functions and modernization support each other to achieve maximum benefit.

Williams has 19 years of experience within the Navy Exchange System. He began his retail career as a store worker in Great Lakes, Ill., and diligently climbed the corporate ladder to his present position as BPR deputy director.

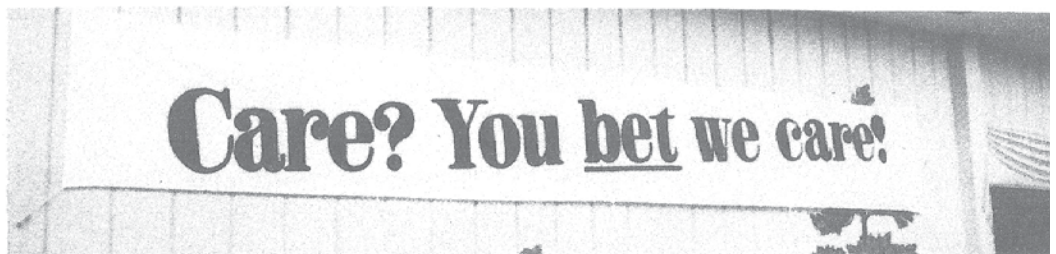
"The BPR project should enable the exchanges to take care of the customer in a way the customer deserves to be taken care of. It should make us efficient enough to not only compete with other retailers but provide a better shopping experience as well. Checking out will be simplified. The right merchandise will be in the right place at the right time, and lower operating costs will mean lower prices for customers."



Memory for those who were stationed in Subic Bay



OCTOBER 1973



The NEX Yokosuka proclaims its new motto in ten-foot banners in front of the Exchange retail facilities.

Associates from **NEX Souda Bay, Greece**, won the 2010 Naval Support Activity Souda Bay volleyball tournament championship. The associates played against several departments on base including Navy and Air Force personnel. The NEX staff at NEX Souda Bay is truly "connected" with the base community.

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Look at the back page of the newsletter next to your name. **If the year after your name is 2024, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until you pay your dues which is \$10.** The address is at the bottom of the NEREA Dues Coupon also on the back page.

GOOD TO KNOW

NEXCOM HUMAN RESOURCES CONTACT

Toll free: 1-888-639-2363

Routine requests for information about your retirement benefits or medical coverage, can usually be handled by calling the following person at the toll free number.

Mrs. Melissa Allen –
Benefits Insurance Examiner

Technical questions or requests for information and/or specific actions are more effective if they are submitted in writing to:

NAVY EXCHANGE SERVICE COMMAND

Retirement Department
3280 Virginia Beach Blvd.
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-5724

It is suggested that you retain copies of all your benefits correspondence for your records. You may also contact your nearest Navy Exchange for additional assistance person at the toll free number noted above.

ADDRESS CHANGES

If your mailing address changes, be sure to notify NEREA so that you will continue to receive our Newsletter. Please send your change of address – old and new – to the NEREA POST OFFICE BOX.

Please note that you must advise NEREA, NEXCOM and Bank of New York, Mellon separately of any address changes.

If you are currently receiving a Navy Exchange System Annuity, be sure to notify the John Hancock Insurance Company, the paying agent for the annuity. The address for John Hancock is:

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company
200 Berkeley Street
Boston, MA. 02117
Toll Free Number 1-800-624-5155

Questions concerning direct deposit of your Bank of New York Mellon retirement check please call
1-800-418-0273
FAX 1-877-358-9729
email:
bdpensionphone@bnymellon.com

NEREA IS ON FACEBOOK! @NEREA

We want to remind you that a Facebook page has been created to assist in connecting our many Navy Exchange Retirees.

If you have any pictures or information that you would like to post please send them to: nereanational@gmail.com

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR NEREA

It is: nereanational@gmail.com

This is for you if have questions or things to share. We care!

NEREA NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE ON WEBSITE

The NEREA Newsletter is now available on our website: <http://www.nerea.org/>.

We are currently paying over \$2,300 to publish and distribute printed copies of each newsletter. We can reduce these costs by eliminating distribution of printed copies to those NEREA members with internet access. You can now view the newsletter in color and, if you want, print a copy at home.

Please let us know if you want to help us save money by sending us an email to: nereanational@gmail.com and ask us to delete your name from our mailing list. And Thanks!

SEND US YOUR MEMORIES

Please email Memory Section articles or pictures you would like to share to nereanational@gmail.com

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EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NEREA)
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VIRGINIA BEACH,VA 23466-2189

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PERMIT # 508

Please send separate checks for Dues and Scholarship Donations since checks are deposited in different bank accounts

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ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00

DUES FOR ADDITIONAL YEARS

OF 20 & 20 ARE ALSO

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TOTAL - \$ (PLEASE PRINT)

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City:

State:

Phone:

E-mail:

Spouses's First Name

NEX Retirement Date (Month/Year)

Make checks payable to NEREA and mail to:

NEREA

PO Box 62189

Virginia Beach,VA 23466-2189

NEREA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Yes, I would like to support the NEREA

Scholarship Fund by making a tax deductible

donation in the amount of \$

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Make checks or money orders payable to

NEREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND and mail to:

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