

NEREA NEWS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Fellow Retirees and friends,

What a summer! We've had so much rain this summer as compared to a "normal" summer. And its easy to see the difference. July just ended and our lawns are so nice and green. Usually at this time of the year our lawns are brown. This summer also has some great sporting events going on like the Summer Olympics in Paris. Another sport that is growing by leaps and bounds is the WNBA. Rookies Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese are

reminding folks of Magic Johnson & Larry Bird.... good times. Don't forget Baseball.....

Another of my favorite sports is Formula 1 racing. It's the ultimate technological form of car racing. If you haven't seen it yet, NETFLIX has a great show called "Formula 1: Drive to Survive" in 6 seasons filled with incredible photography. The next race is on Sunday August 25th at 9 am. Practice sessions (3) and Qualifying are usually on Fridays and Saturdays.

We are still looking to open up new/former chapters in NEREA. We can assist you, and a few of locations that have a lot of retirees are Great Lakes, Las Vegas, and San Diego (Tess, still out there?)

The NEREA Board of Directors met on June 18th as scheduled. Remember the CAC card problem we had when the use of our CAC card was "expired" and no longer would get you on base? AAFES Retirees were also impacted, and they felt that we were losing part of our benefits earned as retirees. Each Base can have different rules and we couldn't bring our spouses on base without having to get a visitors pass. My counterpart in the AAFES Retiree Association (AREA), Rick Fair and I discussed a unified approach to contact our elected officials in a letter writing campaign. We (in Virginia) did one of these in our Long Term Care problem. CNA wanted a 400% increase in the cost of Long Term Care and the most they got was a 200% increase in the most expensive plan. We are going to use AREA's letter that was sent to their retiree's. Please read and follow the suggestions in the letter. We can do this and protecting our retirement benefits is why we exist as well as providing Scholarships for our members, and we have 8 awards in this newsletter. AREA already started their process..... There is strength in numbers!!!

Keep Your Stick on the Ice
Cheers,

Tom Williams

CHAPTER CHATTER

TIDEWATER

WOW!! It has been extremely hot in Tidewater/Hampton Roads area. Cutting grass and yard work was almost impossible to accomplish at my house, I had 2 speeds only, slow and stop. I was never so thankful for AC.

I have been President of the NEREA Tidewater Chapter for over a dozen years and I am now stepping down, this will be my last Newsletter. Election for our new President will be held at our December 2024 meeting and will be effective January 2025.

During these dozen years I have improved attendance and memberships, however I never achieved my goal of 75% of Tidewater/Hampton Roads retirees paying their \$5.00 a year dues. I felt homeless sometimes begging for \$5 a year dues and saying, every penny of that \$5 goes to the scholarship fund. I didn't achieve that goal but we got plenty of other good stuff done.

During these dozen years, I only missed 2 meetings sent out over 5000 birthday cards and hundreds of get well, and sympathy cards. We had many guest speakers on safety, benefits, Wills & Trust, & Admiral visits. Great Holiday function, over 30 food drive and many lunch meetings. I called over 1000 retirees to say "congratulations on your retirement" invite them to our "monthly meeting" inform them of "our purpose" and our "dues".

I was voted President at the second meeting I attended. This so called "2 year" volunteer job that lasted over 10 years, has been so much fun lots of laughs and very satisfying. Our retirees, our volunteers, & our Officers are nice, friendly, respectful, loyal and so giving. Our Officers & our volunteers are the best, they give so much of their time and absorb all their personal cost 99% of the time.

I want to say "THANK YOU" to all you wonderful people who gave me your undivided attention and support all these years. I will be setting and having lunch with you guys in 2025. Hugs and Kisses.

Stay well, safe and happy.
Raye Eaton -
President

OAKLAND

Summer in the SFO Bay Area is cool fog rolling through the Golden Gate Bridge. The weather perfect for the San Francisco Marathon on Sunday July 28, 2024.

The NEREA Oakland chapter meets every other month for lunch at Pier 29 Ballena Harbor Alameda. If you are passing through...let us know. Our next meeting is Friday August 30, 2024.

Under BRAC, Naval Bases closed 3 decades ago. I joined the Navy Exchange in 1972, the NEREA in 2007 and think of former co-workers on the West Coast and in the Pacific

I worked with these associates in Oakland, Saigon Vietnam, San Diego and twice in Yokosuka. You might recognize some from a Navy Exchange conference, an end of year physical inventory or an "open early close late" Christmas sales event. I hope their names bring you great memories.

CAPT Joe Jones, Bill Wheless, Chet Best, Walt Greene, Frank Reuter, Delores Andrew, Matt Tello, Dave Foote, Dave Noble, John Hyde, Dick Jensen, Rusti Rausch, Kathy Burns Halliday, Dennis Roberts, Norm Shishido, John Smekal, CDR Gerald Lempka, Ed Alexander, Richard Yonehiro, Kato-san, Miwa-san, Sato-san, Judy Gnade, Kawamura-san, Akiya-san, Minami-san, Horie-san, Itagaki-san, Tsunoda-san, Sharon Stebbins, Wally Wakida, Ted Mitsumori, Mike Higa, Susan Dowell, Jack Labato, Connie Dietrich, Myra Pollock, Ron Ueno, Dave Fratangelo, Bill Holder, CJ Wagner, Gary Walls, Doyle Autrey, Helen Salamanka, Hal McCracken, Rex Valentine, CAPT George Kachigian, Randy Webber, Georgia Barnhill, Jackie Hochenauer, Ko-san, Susan A/P, J Winge, Fred Ostendorf, Gary Carter, CAPT James Kopp, Yuki Takara, Miki-san, Susan, Freddie Hendrix, Katrina Nelson, Ed Alexander, Dan Morris, Sandy Buresh, Phil Strom, Freddie Vazquez, Bob McGinty, Tom Quirk, Carol Rosenberg, Pat Igoe, Denny Metz, Walt Schonfeld, Martin Babinec, LR Ford, Harry Ryles, Evelyn Higuchi, Gary Shirley, Les Willis, Jerry Scroggs, CDR Ron Sugihara, Bill Scott, Bill Harper, Barrie Johnson, Terry Jimenez, Alice Zamora, Kato-san GL,

Kato-san A/P, Shimazu-san, Eva Mazon, Kitty Case, Rhoda Lebeng, Zonia, Lumanlan, Paz Sta Maria, Joy Leyeza, Emily Pasold, Jerry Harrison, Bob Nadell, Jeff Blevins, Dan Cougevan, Jan Cowling, Paul Sorensen, Vicky Harrison, Pat Patterson, Ashigaki-san, Carolyn Ishiwata, CDR Preston, Dick Garza, Lita Sohn, Barbara McCune, Bobby Davis, Betty Nazarino, Jake, Al Burdetsky, Jerry Butler, Harold Davis, Beverley Medina, Hata-san, Kathy Perazzo, Paul Sohn, Dave Oyama, Tom Speedling, Ben Mallory, Vince Brown, Sandra Franklin, Jerry McMahan, Tom Givens, Pete-san, Jerry Hopper, Mark Gehrig, Dave Ensor, Rusti Rausch, Shiba-san, Dave Thompson, Matt Barnwell, Carl Cosby, Dennis Bael, Jerry Burge, Jim McShane, Pappy Jarrell, Paul Agurkis, Tony Kelly, Jim Caron, Tajima-san, Ohta-san, Pat Huber, Fumi-San, Tomoko Oka, Kazuhiko Azuma, Akemi Nagao, Hiroko Kamata, Miki Ichikawa, Fujiyo Tokunaga, Keiko-san, Yoko Narita, Takeshi Sagara, Yoko Haruta, Toshiko Tamura, Yumiko Green, Nunzio Campagna, Cathy Holmes, Ely Macayran, Jackie Silver, Vicki Carlos, Baby Eria.



In closing this photo is from 1975. NEXCOM, Brooklyn NY, Navy Exchange Accounting workshop.

I recognize Mo Fisher, Jerry Scroggs, Ed Alexander & me.

Have a great summer,
Lucky Fung

NEW ENGLAND

Greetings from good old New England!

A meeting was held on 22 April 24 again at Greggs restaurant. We just love that place. Food is great! There were 15 attending members. Sheila Mitchell won the 50/50 raffle and donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Nothing exciting to report. Just a good get together with a lot of yapping.

Another meeting was held on 22 July 24 at Greggs (where else) with 12 members attending. Three members were unable to attend due to illness. Pat Taylor won the 50/50 raffle and generously donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Neta Perry and a couple of others donated items that were raffled off and netted \$50 for the Scholarship Fund. Every little bit counts. Several of us raided our cellars and came up with what we call GIVE AWAYS. No one went home without something. Better off in their cellar than mine. No one had anything to bring up for discussion so spent the time socializing.

Our next meeting I believe is on 21 Oct 24. Where has the year gone? The businesses here have the

Halloween merchandise for sale already. Next it will be Christmas in October. Oh well, what can you do but go with the flow. Until next time, stay safe, healthy and happy

Ann O'Connor

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

The Pacific Northwest NEREA Chapter had their annual picnic on June 4, 2024 at Cranberry Lake at Deception Pass State Park. Coordinating the picnic were Connie



Punch (former Navy Lodge Manager) and Yvonne Musgrove (former HR/EEO Manager). Attendees invited were NEX retirees and also included anyone who previously worked at the Navy Exchanges (all departments), Services and Navy Lodges. Punch and Musgrove wanted it to be an all inclusive event. It was a great opportunity to reunite with former co-workers and meet new NW retirees. Pictured from left to right: Yvonne Musgrove, Lee Ochoa, Jan Cozine, Lynn Brown, Jackie Hanson, Lyn Lamson, Linda Brunson, Connie Punch, Miranda Long, Theresa Rumble, Leigh Stevens, and Marie McGinnis.

NEW RETIREES / MARCH-JUNE 2024

RACHEL ABBEY	PORT WASHINGTON, NY	CHRISTINE JACKSON	BREMERTON, WA
ESTRELITA ABELLA	WAIPAHU, HI	BILLY JAMERSON	COMPTON, CA
NORENE ALDRIDGE	LAS VEGAS, NV	GAIL JAMES	DISTRICT HEIGHTS, MD
JAMES ANDERSON JR	GASTONIA, NC	ANITA JERDON	FORT WORTH, TX
SUSAN AYALA	JACKSONVILLE, FL	GONZALO JIMENEZ JR	ENCINITAS, CA
ELIZABETH BACON	JACKSONVILLE, FL	JEFFREY JODOIN	FPO,AE
ROGER BAINBRIDGE	PRINCETON, IN	NIEDA JOHNSON	MEMPHIS, TN
ESTRELLA BAKER	JACKSONVILLE, FL	KATHY JOHNSTON	SAN DIEGO, CA
ROXANNE BALITZ	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX	SON KIM	PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL
LORENZO BANSIL	WAUKEGAN, IL	MARIA KING	MORENO VALLEY, CA
MELISSA BARIANTOS	KAILUA, HI	MAXINE KUOHA	WAIANAE, HI
ELLIOTT BARNES	SAN DIEGO, CA	MANNING LEEVI	WAUKEGAN, IL
DUANE BAUER	OAK HARBOR, WA	NELY LICUDINE	EWA BEACH, HI
MICHELLE BENSON	PORTSMOUTH, VA	DEBORAH LONG-OVERBY	HANFORD, CA
TAMMY BESSETTE	ST AUGUSTINE, FL	ARLENE LOPEZ	EWA BEACH, HI
KAREN BLINDT	FREDERICKSBURG, VA	EDITHA LUCIER	ORANGE PARK, FL
TIMOTHY BROOKS	OLIVE BRANCH, MS	JOHN LUKE JR	NORFOLK, VA
IRENE BROWN	CHESAPEAKE, VA	JESUS LUNA	DESERT HOT SPRINGS, CA
MARTHA BROWN	N. CHARLESTON, SC	VIOLETA MACALE	YIGO, GU
CELESTINA CARLON	ATLANTIC BEACH, FL	HELEN MANICK	NORFOLK, VA
JENNY CARLSON	MARYSVILLE, WA	WILLIAM MAYHUE	CHESAPEAKE, VA
ANGELINE CATEIL	WAIPAHU, HI	IGNAZIO MELILLO	FPO,AE
ERMELINDA CHUCK	SAN DIEGO, CA	PAMELA MILLER	PENSACOLA, FL
ROSETTA COCHRAN	MILTON, FL	TAMATHA MOORE	JACKSONVILLE, FL
LINDA CODY	ORLANDO, FL	GWENDOLYN MORRIS	HARVEY, LA
GRACE COOK	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	JOSEPHINE MUESCAN	DEDEDO, GU
PAUL COON	OAK HARBOR, WA	WAYNE NAKAMITSU	NETCONG, NJ
ROSALINDA CORTEZ	JACKSONVILLE, FL	LADONNA NICHOLS	SOUTH MILLS, NC
WILLIAM COX	NORWICH, CT	MARISSA O'BANION	JACKSONVILLE, FL
BERNADIT CRUZ	YIGO, GU	JOSEPH PENNELL	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
CATHERINE CRUZ	TAMUNING, GU	CATHY PIACZYNSKI	CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
JEANIE DAVIS	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	ZEF PREKA	EAST LYME, CT
MARIA GINA DORSEY	OXNARD, CA	KARIN PRIOR	MIDDLETOWN, RI
CHERYL EDWARDS	IMPERIAL BEACH, CA	ROSAURA PROPPS	SAN YSIDRO, CA
MICKEL ELLIS	MERIDIAN, MS	CHIKAKO RAMSEY	RIVERVIEW, FL
JENNIFER FISCHER	RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA	ROSEMARIE REDES	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
MARIA VICTORIA FRANCIA	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	ROLINDA RICKERSON	JACKSONVILLE, FL
DEXTER FROGOSO	CHESAPEAKE, VA	CORA RISSER	STANWOOD, WA
LILIA GAGE	MIDDLEBURG, FL	ALBA RIVERA	ORLANDO, FL
ARLEEN GREEN	EL PASO, TX	ROCIO RIVERA	FILLMORE, CA
SUSAN HAMILTON	MOUNT VERNON, WA	JOHN ROBBINS	OLIVE BRANCH, MS
SANDRA HARRINGTON	NORFOLK, VA	DANILO RODRIGUEZ	CHULA VISTA, CA
DEBORAH HASELDEN	PENSACOLA, FL	REMOR ROMANES	YIGO, GU
JOSEFA HOWARD	KINGSVILLE, TX	BRENDA ROSS	CANTONMENT, FL
OLIVIA IVY	SAINT MARYS, GA	HOLETTE SAGESSE	SAN DIEGO, CA

JOHNNY SILVA
LEE SMITH
MARIELLE SMULDERS
HWA SUN SOUZA
EDWIN STEWART
TERESITO TANTENGCO
LAURA TARRANI
CRYSTAL THOMPSON
GEORGETYQUIENGCO
DIANA VAZQUEZ
STEPHANIE VIUST
JOCELYN WALKER
CHERYL WASHINGTON
KRISTIE WENGREN
JOHNNY WIDENER
ROSCOE WILLARD
ANDREW WILLIAMS

ORLANDO, FL
HARTSVILLE, TN
PENSACOLA, FL
KISSIMMEE, FL
PENSACOLA, FL
HAYWARD, CA
WESTBURY, NY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
AGAT, GU
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
STANWOOD, WA
CHULA VISTA, CA
PORTSMOUTH, VA
ARLINGTON, WA
ORANGE PARK, FL
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
MEMPHIS, TN



NEREA annual business meeting October 2019

RECENTLY DECEASED

SUSIE BELL
MILAGROS BUAN
ROBERT BYRD
BARRY CLAIBORNE
JAMES COSTIGAN
DOROTHY CULAT
WANDA DAY
BARBARA DEXTER
MORTON DRESCHER
EDILBERTO FAJARDO
ANDREA FAVOR
FELIX FIGUEROA-PINERO
BARRY FLAYTON
DOROTHY FORD
ROSE FREIBOTH
JOHN GARVIN
SALVACION GASGONIA
MARTHA HARRIS
DORIS HOLZINGER
DELBERT HUTCHESON

CHESAPEAKE, VA
NATIONAL CITY, CA
LUMBERTON, NJ
NORFOLK, VA
FLORAL CITY, FL
N. CHICAGO, IL
PENSACOLA, FL
PORTSMOUTH, VA
SUNRISE, FL
EWA BEACH, HI
KAPOLEI, HI
NAGUABO, PR
HAZLET, NJ
LAS VEGAS, NV
POULSBO, WA
HANAHAN, SC
WAUKEGAN, IL
SAN DIEGO, CA
NOVATO, CA
STEILACOOM, WA

DOROTHY HUTCHINSON JACKSONVILLE, FL
ROSETTA JARVIS ORLANDO, FL
ETHEL JOHNSON ORLANDO, FL
DIANE LEADY MILLINGTON, TN
SUSAN LEE CORONADO, CA
VIVIAN LINDBERG MORGANTON, GA
JAMES MEALEY BREMERTON, WA
STANLEY MITCHELL SAN DIEGO, CA
SHIRLEY MONTGOMERY ORANGE PARK, FL
SHIRLEY MOODY OAK HARBOR, WA
JUSTINA NE HONOLULU, HI
EMANUEL OCASIO CHESAPEAKE, VA
BERNICE OSBURN ORLANDO, FL
HECTOR RAMOS ORLANDO, FL
YOLANDA REYES TAMUNING, GU
MARIO RIOS CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
CARL SNEED MILLINGTON, TN
JUDY SNYDER JACKSONVILLE, FL
NANCY SPRAGUE WAKEFIELD, RI
GEORGE THOMPSON SEDRO WOOLLEY, WA

NEX TRIVIA - CHALLENGE YOUR BRAIN

1. True or False: Sales totaled 2.5 million during this first year the two private label apparel brands for men, women and kids (Yard & Sea and Eight Bells), were introduced.
2. The Gas Bay debit card, introduced in 1992, led to the introduction of card readers at the pump during major gasoline dispensing upgrades. At what NEX was this new initiative implemented?
3. NEXCOM moved from Fort Wadsworth Staten Island NY to Virginia Beach in 1993. Prior to Staten Island, where was NAVRESSO headquartered for approximately 35 years?
4. What monthly NEX program advertises extra low prices and the opportunity to “save money on the brands you love”?
5. The NEXCOM enterprise provides essential products, services and hospitality for military communities worldwide via seven separate divisions. What division is missing from the following enterprise listing: NEX Resale Stores, Navy Lodge Program, Navy Gateway Inns & Suites (NGIS), Telecommunications Program Office, Uniform Program Management Office, Navy Clothing & Textile Research Facility.
6. A Navy Exchange Mini Mart is located on the Navy’s newest base, Naval Support Facility Redzikowo. Where in the world is NEX (NSF) Redzikowo?
7. Where is the Navy Clothing & Textile Research Facility located?
8. Who is eligible to receive the Anthony “Tony” DeGaetano Commemorative Award ?

Answers are found below.



Trivia Answers from above

1. True. Yard & Sea and Eight Bells brands were introduced in 2018.
2. Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
3. Brooklyn, NY
4. True Blue Monthly Deals.
5. Ships Store Program
6. Slupsk, Poland
7. The NCTRF, which researches, develops, tests and evaluates uniforms to ensure Sailors have what they need to do their jobs comfortably and safely, is located in Natick, Massachusetts.
8. A NEX manager best exemplifying the honesty, integrity and strong moral character Tony stood for during his 28-year career with the NEXCOM Enterprise.

DID YOU KNOW

- 1956 For the first time, a Never Out list was published, a correspondence course in retail store management was developed, a merchandise calendar was distributed and training films and booklets were produced.
- 1967 Project ATOMIC was introduced in larger commissary store complexes. The purpose of the project was to automate procurement, inventory control and accounting functions through the use of a Robot XI desk-size computer.
- 1969 Ground breaking for the new Norfolk, VA Navy Exchange occurred as did the establishment of the San Diego Navy Exchange Service Center (NESC).
- 1973 NRSO entered the fast-food field with the creation of Chick-Inns at five U.S. locations.
- 1976 NRSO was granted authority over the selection of key management positions in the field. The Secretary of the Navy approved central office selection and funding for the transfer of personnel October 1.
- 1985 Men's clothes were added to the Harbor View label, after ladies slacks were introduced to the Harbor View label in 1985.
- 1987 The House Armed Services Committee abolished the price ceiling for ready-to-assemble furniture.
- 1989 The Carlson Award was established to recognize Navy Lodge excellence. The award was named after Edward E. Carlson who served as distinguished member of the Navy Resale System Advisory Committee for 24 years.
- 1992 The first and only NEX Club was located in Alameda, CA. This NEX Club was based on a warehouse concept and offered a no-frills shopping experience. Originally opened as a test site, the NEX Club closed in August 1995.
- 1994 NEX Great Lakes prerecorded music superstore had its grand opening on the 28th of December.
- 1996 The Navy Exchange Service Command celebrates its 50th anniversary on the 1st of April.
- 2004 The NEREA Scholarship Fund awarded fourteen (14) \$2000 scholarships.
- 2010 Navy Lodge North Island opens a new 146,000 sq. ft, 4-story, 205 - room Lodge that replaced the original 90 room Lodge built in 1969.
- 2014 NEX launched the private label snack North Star Trading Company program, which features a selection of nuts and nut blends.
- 2016 The first electric vehicle (EV) charger within the Department of Defense is installed at NEXCOM Headquarters in Virginia Beach.
- 2018 In the aftermath of Hurricane Michael NEXCOM sent a Mobile Retail Facility (MRF) to NSA Panama City Fl. to help in the clean up effort. The NEX MRF was stocked with basic health and comfort items as well as food and cold drinks.
- 2020 NEXCOM's Ships Store Program launched the first Micro Market@Sea concept in November. Worldwide, there were 77 Micro Market ashore operations, located in Navy hospitals, aircraft hangers, office spaces and shipyards.
- 2022 The overseas Student Meal Program served more than 925,000 meals to military children at 20 Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Europe, Japan, Guam and Guantanamo Bay Cuba.

BOARD VOTED TO SUPPORT AAFES'S POSITION IN THE CAC CARD ISSUE

Dear Members,

AREA is not satisfied with the pace of standardized installation access for retired DoD Civilians. Working with Exchange leadership, AREA has communicated its concerns regarding retiree access with OSD, Army and Air Force stakeholders. While this impacts all DoD Civilian retirees, AAFES retirees are uniquely impacted due to our shopping privileges. While the deadline for full implementation is not until May 2025, AREA does not believe the current situation is acceptable and is impacting one of our cherished retirement benefits. AREA is encouraging our members and other retirees to contact their representatives asking them to act in support of all DoD Civilian retirees. AREA is in contact with the Navy Exchange Retired Employees Association (NEREA) President who concurs with our call to action. NEREA has indicated they will participate with AREA on this issue.

To expedite this effort, AREA is providing relevant talking points to assist in developing communications with representatives. We have decided that this is better than providing a standard letter, which may be ignored if seen as a form letter. AREA recommends using bullet points and brevity to increase chances of the letters/ emails being read. Be sure to point out Exchange retirees dedicated most of their lives not only to the Exchange systems and their mission to support the military, but to an individual commitment to the US military to serve in the US and Globally. Many have proven this through voluntary deployment to areas of conflict. Contact information for Senators and Representatives (contact with Governors especially in states with a high Military and Retiree populations). This link provides contact information by mail, phone and most have a Contact Us Tab on their sites. This link also has contact information for state officials.

AREA's Goal

- AREA would like to see the intent of the REAL ID Act fully implemented across DoD. (Ideally before the questionable May 2025 implementation deadline)
- Utilizing a scannable REAL ID i.e. Driver's License for common access to all installations unless access is determined by mission/security concerns.
- A Standard that the REAL ID would be accepted for access until that ID expired in which case access would be renewed when the ID is renewed unless for reasons of change of status of the ID holder or failure to pass a background check.
- Portability of that ID across installations unless access is restricted due to mission/security concerns.
- Include escort privileges for immediate family members. Would like to see spouses IDs included in DBIDS.

Impact

- The Exchanges provide a significant impact for MWR facilities, providing millions in dividends each year to support critical military Quality-of-Life programs. Sales determine the amount that is provided each year.
- Retirees of the Exchange systems earned the shopping benefit through a dedication to the Exchange and contribute significantly to the overall sales of the Exchange systems.
- The Exchanges provide significant employment opportunities for military spouses and veterans. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service has earned numerous awards for their employment of military spouses and veterans. For this to continue, the viability of the Exchange systems must be maintained. This means every effort must be made to maintain and build on shopping privileges to increase sales.

- Use of installation MWR facilities provides additional funds. If a retiree has a problem accessing the installation, those funds are lost.
- The change in stopping the use of the retiree CAC has impacted ALL DoD civilian retirees, not just those that retired from an Exchange system.

AREA hopes that most of you utilize the guidance and contact your elected officials. Please keep all communications professional and respectful. We are asking for their assistance and support. Remember only 18% of our Representatives / Senators have had military service so their understanding of the culture and organizations involved may be limited. Refrain from using acronyms, do not have expectations that they will initially understand who AAFES is or what we do. Many of you may no longer visit installations so feel that it does not apply to you, but it does. Our Pension and benefits are dependent on the health of the Exchange. The shopping benefit is important to your fellow retirees, help support them.

Sincerely

Rick Fair
President
National AAFES Retired Employee's Association
President@aafesretired.org

CNA LONG TERM CARE **INSURANCE (LTC)**

In 2002, NEXCOM began offering CNA Long Term Care Insurance (LTC) to associates and retirees. In 2016, CNA closed the Plan to new enrollees. The LTC landscape vastly changed and companies offering group LTC Plans began to exit the market.

CNA recently began notifying all NEXCOM associates and retirees enrolled in their plans about upcoming premium increases that have been approved by the state or Commonwealth. These increases will be implemented over multiple years and will vary based on the specific product and inflation features of each plan.

To remain up-to-date on CNA premium increases, go to www.nexcomltccenter.com

CNA has mailed detailed information to affected associates and retirees, including their new rates and the options available to them. The information presented in this letter is deadline sensitive.

For questions, contact CNA at 1-877-838-8508

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: MIKE OATMAN

In December of 1986, I started my first job with the NEX, as the Automotive Services Supervisor (UA8) Pearl Harbor, starting pay, \$19,700 plus a small COLA. I answered an ad in the Honolulu newspaper. Mr. Walt Schonfeld Services Operations Manager, hired me sight unseen via a series of phone interviews. I lived in Bend Oregon, but, was interested in moving back to Hawaii, where I lived previously. My first time ever driving on to a Naval installation was through the Makalapa gate, Pearl Harbor, in a borrowed rusted out Toyota. I was in awe of the history, facilities, ships and submarines. Walt toured me all around the base and we ended up in the HR office in building 693. My indoctrination consisted of going from desk to desk filling out paperwork, ending up with the benefits clerk (Gladys). I'll never forget the last thing she said to me, "and in 30 years, you can retire...Yes.." I wisely made the decision on that day that I would do exactly that. I had embarked on a great 30+ year adventure. And boy, what an adventure it was! Within a few months on the job, I decided we needed another Automotive Service Advisor. Next thing I knew, HR Manager, Hank Bookman and I were sitting across the desk from Mrs. Higuchi. She looked over her glasses at me, and said "Mr. Oatman, how are you going to pay for this?" The woman terrified me. I suppose you had to be there. This said, I worked for and with some very interesting people. Probably the biggest influencer was Jim Murphy during

my second duty station, on Naval Station, Guam. Being "Murphy trained" actually served me for the rest of my career. It's not easy to rattle a Murphy trained person. Murphy already took care of that! Air Station North Island San Diego brought me back to CONUS and then within a year, I was a UA 12 Automotive Repair Specialist working for Larry Boone at NEXCOM. I was afforded the chance to travel all over the system, and helped re-write the automotive section of the revised Navy Exchange manual, Next,



it was the "Sound of Freedom" watching EA6B Prowlers land at Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island as the Services Operations Manager. One day, Bob Bishop our GM decided to play a joke on me. He thought it would be funny to have the VM manager tape a "For Sale" sign on my prized 1955 Chevy hot rod (which I still own). Next thing I knew, I'm getting phone calls from excited potential buyers. Bishop played dumb, but, I found out he was the culprit of the joke. Well, since he didn't have a real full head of hair, I repaid him by using photo-shop, then, reprinting his large official front

door GM picture with a full head of hair... then I played dumb. One day, while at Whidbey Island, I got a call from Tony DeGaetano. He "suggested" that I needed to apply for the GM job at Naval Air Station Meridian Mississippi. Meridian was actually a good assignment for a first time GM. I still have friends there and I got to pursue my blues guitar playing. Hurricane Katrina gave us all an opportunity to help clean up and support other stores in the district. Soon I was assigned as GM for the Seabee base in Gulfport Mississippi, where I helped plan and opened the new main store that replaced the Katrina damaged store. Finally, I ended up listening to the Blue Angels roaring over my office at Naval Air Station Pensacola as the complex Operations Manager. I retired in June 2017.

My wife, Karen and I have settled down in a small South/Central Utah town. We like to go antique shopping, 4-wheeling, visiting grand kids, car shows with the 55 Chevy, and finishing up our new home. I play guitar and sing at a weekly dance, and when I can, at some assisted living centers. I even picked up a part time job as a parts delivery driver for Peterbilt... keeps me out of mischief

Having the opportunity to work for the worlds finest Navy is one of the highlights of my life. I'm sincerely thankful for those who mentored me, believed in me, tolerated me, and gave me a chance.

Mike Oatman

If you want to share your Member Highlight story in a future newsletter, email it to nereantional@gmail.com.

NEXCOM RECOGNIZES ‘BEST OF THE BEST’ NAVY EXCHANGES

The Navy Exchange Service Command named nine of its NEX locations as Bingham Award winners. The Bingham Award recognizes outstanding performance in operations, customer service and community support.

“Each year, the Navy Exchange Service Command recognizes those Navy Exchanges that have achieved service and operational superiority with the Bingham Award,” said Christopher Burns, Senior Vice President, NEXCOM Operations. “To ensure we are in lock-step and always ready when needed, our NEX locations work closely with their base Commanding Officers to support quality of life for the military community. Because of that close working relationship, the Bingham Award is presented to both the base and the NEX. Congratulations to everyone who worked each and every day to support our war-fighters, veterans and families!”

NEXCOM’s 2023 Bingham Award winners and runners up are:

Sales over \$50 million (Category 1)	Sales \$26 - \$50 million (Category 2)
Winner: Naval Station Great Lakes, Illinois Runner Up: U. S. Naval Base Guam	Winner: Naval Air Station Pensacola, Aviation Plaza, Florida Runner Up: Naval Base Coronado, California
Sales \$17 - \$26 million (Category 3)	Sales \$9 - \$17 million (Category 4)
Winner: Camp Lemonnier Djibouti Runner Up: Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina	Winner: Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Greece Runner Up: Naval Hospital Guam
Sales \$4 - \$9 million (Category 5)	Sales \$2.5 - \$4 million (Category 6)
Winner: Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Naval Station Guam Runner Up: Naval Base San Diego	Winner: Naval Construction Battalion Center Gulfport/Naval Meteorology and Oceanography, Stennis Space Center, Mississippi Runner Up: Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, California
Sales \$1.4 - \$2.5 million (Category 7)	Sales \$700,000 - \$1.4 million (Category 8)
Winner: United States Merchant Marine Academy, New York Runner Up: Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida	Winner: U.S. Naval Joint Services Activity The New Sanno, Japan Runner Up: Naval Support Activity Naples Italy, U.S. Embassy Rome
Sales under \$700,000 (Category 9)	
Winner: Naval Support Activity Naples Italy, Gaeta Runner Up: Naval Support Activity Crane, Indiana	

Established in 1979, the Bingham Award is named in honor of the late Capt. W.H. Bingham, SC, USNR. Capt. Bingham was the Chief Executive Officer of R.H. Macy’s Company and was appointed by SECNAV in 1946 to lead an advisory board for the establishment of NEXCOM.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Thanks to the generosity of our members and the significant contributions from the Tidewater NEREA chapter, our Scholarship Fund was able to award eight \$2,000 awards to children and grandchildren of NEREA members/ NEXCOM associates. Scholarship awards are one of the primary missions of NEREA and we are overjoyed to be able to offer assistance to so many deserving individuals. Best wishes to the following young adults in the pursuit of their academic careers (listed with their schools and sponsors).



Olivia Box

School: Christopher Newport University
Sponsor: Joe & Susan Box (Act)



Lindsey Dettloff

School: Boston College
Sponsor: Art Lavalle (Ret)



Cooper Furlough

School: University of Tennessee
Sponsor: Scott Furlough (Act)



Connor Harrity

School: Old Dominion University
Sponsor: Jeff Harrity (Act)



Maxine Horne

School: University of Richmond
Sponsor: Capt JK Fyfe, Jr (Ret)



Addison Miller

School: Liberty University
Sponsor: Kristin Miller (Act)



Katherine Rotolo

School: Virginia Tech University
Sponsor: Kristy Rotolo (Act)



Vivian Scheck

School: West Carolina University
Sponsor: Arthur Scheck

MEMORIES



NRCA 1987



ELI 1998

Forwarded by NRCA and ELI class attendee
Mike Oatman - Member Spotlight

NEX activities have created some really cool plaques! Is there one currently hanging on a wall in your house that you can share with other retirees? Please take a picture of your cool plaques and email them for a future newsletters to nereanational@gmail.com. NEX plaques, Naval Support Activity, Naples Italy Pulcinella, a well-known masked from Neapolitan tradition is on both plaques and is a symbol that represent the typical spirit of the Neapolitan: simple, authentic, witty, spontaneous, fighting, cheerful, generous, despite all the adversities of daily life.

Job Vacancies 1988

EMP Vacancies

Ann.No.	Location	Position	Grade	Dept
1230-87	NAVRESSO SI NY	EEO Spec	UA 12	EEO
1317-88	NAVRESSO SI NY	Operating Act	UA 11	CNAFD2
3417-88	RESALEACT Alameda CA	Navy Ldg Mgr	UA 9	
3418-88	FSO Oakland CA	Safety and Occ Health Mgr	UA 10	

Vacancies Filled

Ann.No.	Location	Position	Grade	Name
1296-88	NAVRESSO SI NY	Supvy Pers Mgmt Spec	UA 12	S. Condon

SMP Vacancies Filled

The SMP Manager has announced the following selections

Ann. No.	Position/Location	Grade	Name/Activity
8033-88	Labor/Empl Rel Br Mgr NAVRESSO	UA 15	M. Vitola

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

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Look at the back page of the newsletter next to your name. **If the year after your name is 2023, 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

NAVY EXCHANGE RETIRED
EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (NEREA)
P.O. BOX 62189
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23466-2189

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

NEREA SCHOLARSHIP DONATION

Yes, I would like to support the NEREA Scholarship Fund by making a tax deductible donation in the amount of \$ _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Name(First/M/Last) _____

Street: _____

Apt: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Make checks or money orders payable to NEREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND and mail to:

NEREA SCHOLARSHIP FUND
P.O. Box 62189
Virginia Beach, VA 23466-2189

NEREA DUES COUPON

ANNUAL DUES - \$10.00

DUES FOR ADDITIONAL YEARS OF 20 _____ & 20 _____ ARE ALSO ENCLOSED

TOTAL - \$ _____ (PLEASE PRINT)

Name(First/M/Last) _____

Street: _____

Apt: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Spouses's First Name _____

NEX Retirement Date (Month/Year) _____

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