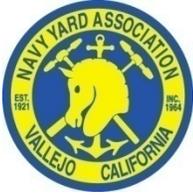


The Navy Yard Association Newsletter



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Treasurer.....Lloyd Mahan
Benefits Officer.....Robin Leong
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NYA Bulletin Board

If you wish to reach more than 200 of your fellow NYA members, this bulletin board is available for your use to post information. **Send an e-mail to Veronica Laird at vcullum@hotmail.com (use the subject line "NYA Bulletin Board")**

Shop 64 Breakfast Meeting

Rotating between Vallejo, Suisun, Fairfield, Vacaville, & Napa
Third Friday each month at 9:00am
POC: Jim Davis; (707) 226-1119

Shop 38 Breakfast

Denny's, 1701 E. Monte Vista Ave., Vacaville
Second Monday of even months at 9am
POC: Bill Cruz (916) 716-4661

Vallejo Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador St., Vallejo
Second Tuesday of each month at 1:15pm
POC: Robin Leong; robin_leong@netzero.net

Delta Chapter of NARFE Meeting

Denny's at Hwy 4/Somerville, Antioch
First Monday of each month at 12pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Sep)
POC: Bob Martin, (925) 458-1260

Mare Island Historic Park Foundation

Mare Island Museum Whitthorne Room
Last Monday of odd months at 9:00am
POC: Ken Wright (707) 557-4646

Nuclear Inspectors' Luncheon

The Sardine Can, Vallejo
First Tuesday of each month at 11:30am
POC: TBD

Ocean Engineering Luncheon

Sports Bar inside the Marriott Hotel, Napa
Last Wednesday of each month at 11:30am
No POC at this time

Nuclear Engineering Luncheon

Locations vary each month
Each Friday at 11:30am
POC: John Watson, retirednuke94590@gmail.com

President's Corner

Ralph McComb

Welcome to the September issue of the Navy Yard Association of Mare Island's Newsletter, and thanks to you and our staff for making our group what it is as we move into our 100th year in existence.

We all look to Bruce's column for the excellent information he shares about the many things taking place on the former shipyard. Usually, I just want to talk about my gratitude for our NYA Officers, Directors, and members. For this issue, I really want to talk about the loss of two very special people, a more somber topic.

This summer, we lost two friends who devoted many years of their personal time to the NYA. On July 9, 2020, Consuelo "Connie" Raguindin died following a brief illness. Connie had a successful 33-year career as a Metallurgist at Mare Island Naval Shipyard while raising her beautiful family. She very capably stepped into the role of Recording Secretary and Executive Secretary to the Navy Yard Association following the unexpected death of longtime Officer and Director Shirley Butkus. We would have been lost without Connie; her enthusiasm, friendship, and assistance were invaluable to the NYA. She was a true friend.

On July 11, 2020, Dave Mathews died following a short 18-day battle with COVID-19. Dave's Mare Island career was impressive and storied. He started in the Shop 38 apprentice program and worked his way up to Chief Planner. He helped the Shipyard transition to closure and led the environmental cleanup of the 5,500 acre military base. He then spent another 20 years working in

healthcare administration. Dave served as Vice President of the NYA in the early 1990s, and he served as a Trustee of the NAONE dental plan for more than 25 years. His kindness and love for his wife and family are a hallmark of his life.

It would be easy to go on and on about them both and their many accomplishments and contributions to the NYA. Our organization, at its core, is about our members; and Connie and Dave gave their whole hearts to the NYA and its members. All of us will miss them dearly.

Around Mare Island...

Bruce Christensen

Following are some of the current goings-on around Mare Island:

USS Emory S. Land Returns to Mare Island

On Sunday, August 16, 2020, submarine tender AS-39 arrived at Mare Island Dry Dock (MIDD) Berth 12 to commence a \$36 million overhaul and repair availability.



Navy Crew on Main Deck of the USS Emory S. Land In Transit across San Francisco Bay en-route to Mare Island

The ship will be at Mare Island for 150 days and undergo extensive work, much of which necessitates being in dry dock. The ship's crew of about 450 consists of 300 U.S. Navy officers and sailors, supplemented with 150 civilian maritime workers.

Being able to bring large Navy vessels, such as the USS Land, into Mare Island provides a significant amount of additional ship repair capacity, which the Navy very much needs.



USS Emory S. Land Crossing Dry Dock #2 Sill

On Friday, August 28, the MIDD docked the USS Land into Dry Dock #2 to permit the five-month ship availability to proceed unrestricted. Spectators watched the docking from the Vallejo waterfront, on both sides of the Mare Island Strait. Some were fortunate enough to view the proceedings from the roof of Mare Island's Building 126 adjacent to Dry Dock #2.



USS Emory S. Land (AS-39) docked safely in DD#2 with MIDD Executive VP Christina Snyder and Bruce Christensen Observing from Roof of Building 126

Ship-out of Factory OS Modular Units Continues during Pandemic

Deliveries of the manufactured homes constructed in the 250,000 square-foot former machine shop (Building 680) on Mare Island extend well beyond the San Francisco Bay Area. During the summer, barges carrying modular units were seen leaving Mare Island and heading east up the Sacramento River. Many of the modular units previously constructed, packaged, and stored at the Mare Island area bounded by A Street, Railroad

Avenue, and Nimitz Avenue have now been transported off-island to fill the many Factory_OS contracts for manufactured homes.



Factory_OS Manufactured Homes in Storage and Awaiting Ship-out



Barge Transporting Manufactured Home up the Sacramento River – July 2020

Mare Island Cemetery Restoration Continues

In July 2020, Congressman Mike Thompson reported that his legislation to transfer the Mare Island Cemetery to the control of the Department of Veterans Affairs had been included in the 2020 Defense Authorization Act. This will allow the cemetery to be properly repaired and maintained as a final resting place for several hundred of our nation’s heroes.

Over the past year, this National Historic Landmark has undergone major restoration, including the removal of many trees and a portion of the fence surrounding the cemetery. The removed fence will be reinstalled after the surface water drainage system for the cemetery has been put in place. On September 3, the Vallejo Times-

Herald reported that the restoration of the cemetery had been delayed since Spring 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions. Work has now resumed; however, it has resulted in shutdown of the Shoreline Preserve’s weekend visits—that will be delayed until cemetery work is completed on October 9, 2020.



Mare Island Cemetery Looking West to Location Identified for the new Drainage System

Mare Island Museum is Seeking Tour Guides and Docents

Former Mare Islanders and friends who can spare four to six hours during the week are invited to visit the Mare Island Museum on any weekday between 10 am and 2 pm, to become a tour guide and/or docent. Please consider joining others who have been trained to lead tours at the Museum in Building 46, at historic St. Peter’s Chapel and/or Quarters A (the Admiral’s Mansion) on Mare Island.

Tour Guides: The training for tour guides at the Museum includes learning the history of the many military artifacts that are on display inside the museum. Tour guides normally help to lead small groups (5-10 people) through interesting exhibits representing Navy history from as early as the 1700s.

Docents: If you prefer docent duties (mainly during an evening or weekend event), training consists mainly of familiarization with the facility (St. Peter’s Chapel or Admiral’s Mansion) and a briefing prior to the event (wedding, memorial ceremony, reception, etc.).

Those interested in becoming a tour guide and/or docent may obtain additional information by calling 707-557-4646.

Membership update

James Porter

Current NYA membership stands at 266. Membership numbers are struggling following the closure of the NYA dental plan. I really hope you will renew your membership for 2020-2021—the 100th year for the NYA.

We offer sincere condolences to friends and families on the passing of Ernesto Thamy, Raymond J. Lussier, Lea Zajac, former NYA Recording Secretary and Executive Secretary Consuelo “Connie” Raguindin; and former NYA Vice President and longtime NAONE Trustee Dave Mathews.

Benefit Officer’s Column

Robin Leong

I hope everyone is doing well dealing with COVID-19 restrictions and the many, serious wildfires in California. I hope you all are in good health, good spirits, and have not been adversely affected by either.

There’s nothing new to report with the few benefits we offer in the NYA. I’m pleased to report that we still have **FREE** notary service generously provided by NYA member Penny Hicks. You need an appointment, so please reach her by cell phone at (707) 337-0077, or send an e-mail to PenLHicks@aol.com. I have used her services (occasionally, she comes into Vallejo), and it is so nice to have this wonderful benefit.

From September through December, NARFE has their membership drive. Since I am the membership chair of NARFE Vallejo Chapter 16, I would like to share a few thoughts on why I am a life member of this organization. Many Federal retirees and active Federal employees have no clue that NARFE exists or understand why they should join, yet there are almost five million active

and retired Federal employees! The Chinese word, ”hui,” is for a group of people that band together for the common good. I think all of us know that if you try to tackle an issue with Congress by yourself, one person will have much less chance to be successful than a group of people. It is the reason why police work together to apprehend criminals, why our army fights together, and demonstrators have groups. This is why NARFE needs more members. My thought is that my annuity comprises about 80% of my income, and my health plan is what I worked for so in retirement I would not have to stress on whether going to the doctor would bankrupt me. NARFE takes on these issues for all Federal employees and retirees.

Some would like to know, what else is in it for me? There are pages of discounts for a lot of activities that you may do, i.e., rental cars and moving companies. More than that, there are webinars that members can watch for free, i.e., information on the TSP, the choices available when registering with Medicare benefits when you reach 65, what states are tax free, etc. Through FEMA, there is disaster relief for fires, earthquakes, etc., and scholarships for members and grandchildren.

It is time to get off my soapbox; stay safe and enjoy every day to its fullest.