



# NAAV NEWS

Members' Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

1st QUARTER 2016



## NAAV joins the Marshall Islanders to help their cause to get recolonization

The Compacts of Free Association, or COFA are a series of treaties between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands. Under these treaties, the U.S. exercises strategic control of more than a million square miles of the Pacific between Hawai'i and Guam and significant economic control of the three nations. For many years, the U.S. tested nuclear weapons in Micronesia. At the nuclear test grounds at Eniwetok and Bikini in the Marshall Islands, 67 open-air atomic and hydrogen bombs were detonated. As a result, many islanders suffer disproportionately from serious health problems linked to nuclear weapons testing and ongoing U.S. occupation. Residents were forced to relocate, traditional agriculture became impossible on lands rendered unusable by fallout or military operations and the economy became dependent on the U.S. With few local

jobs available, proportionally more recruits from COFA nations have joined the U.S. military than from any other state or territory.

Now the National Association of Atomic Veterans is stepping forward with our support to help their cause to get recolonized. Even since nuclear testing began, it has been very difficult to get a useful accounting of the effects of human exposure to the radiation particle fallout from these tests. This was largely motivated partly by military secrecy, partly by a desire to allay public fears (i.e. public relations reasons), and partly by a fear of possible legal actions by actual (or potential) radiation exposed victims.

Some exposure related incidents have been revealed due to the impossibility of hiding them, namely higher radiation exposures of the

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### Change of Address, Membership or Renewal....Write or E-Mail

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### Published quarterly by NAAV

Deadlines are the 1st week of every 3rd month and any material submitted after that time may be delayed until next issue. All submissions are to be e-mailed to [bobruyle34@gmail.com](mailto:bobruyle34@gmail.com) or mailed to Robert L. Ruyle, 420 Steinway Road, Lincoln, NE 68505-2564. All photos must be sent in JPEG format preferably at 300dpi or mail us an original and we will copy it and get it back to you.

# Las Vegas 2016 NAAV Convention



Commander Fred Schafer reports that he will be working on getting set up in Las Vegas for the 2016 convention. The date will be in September. He wants to give everyone a chance to get the convention booked. **MORE ON THIS LATER.** We are all looking forward to a big turnout.

We will be at the **FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON LAS VEGAS EAST FLAMINGO** located only two miles from the Las Vegas Strip, and provides easy access to the best of Las Vegas and the surrounding area. Our convenient location provides easy access to McCarran Airport (LAS) and you can take advantage of walkable streets to see the sights of the city. Explore our full list of things to do in Las Vegas and start planning your trip.

Our Las Vegas hotel features include everything you would want for a trip into town, like fast & free WiFi, bottled water to stay hydrated, and a heated outdoor rooftop pool to catch some sun. Stay fit on the road with our 24-hour fitness center, and at the end of a long day of sightseeing or work, stop by our Las Vegas restaurant, JP's Bar and Grill, for American favorites or a cold Best Brew® craft beer.

With so much to experience on the Las Vegas Strip, it's hard to know where to start. Check out the assortment of casinos, clubs, and attractions that line one of the most celebrated streets in America. We will be able to visiting the National Atomic Testing Museum and a tour to the test site. <http://nationalatomicmuseum.org/> This is there excellent web page.



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Marshallese and Japanese fisherman after the 1954 Castle "Bravo" disaster in the Marshall Islands. But most information on this topic has been largely withheld, either deliberately buried in obscure reports, or never collected at all.

This past September 24th National Commander Fred Schafer and his wife attended a KICK OFF for the Marshall Islanders, who are hewing out a 30 foot dugout canoe at Portland State University. This will take 85 days from start to finish. They were donated 3 -30 foot Sequoia logs for this project. The master carver is from the Marshall Islands and came to hew out this canoe. They have been asked to have it ready for the November 11th Veterans day parade in Linn County Oregon. Commander Fred will tow it with his pickup with our NAAV banners flying. This Parade is the largest parade this side of the Mississippi. This will show that NAAV and the Marshall Islander are joining forces for recognition of the Atomic Testing in the vicinity of the Marshall Islands.



The Marshall Islands Flag



Eniwetok Today

In October our Commander and Frank, Judy Farmer were invited to Salem, Oregon along with several Oregon dignitaries to a dinner with the King of the Marshall Islanders. He was on his return trip from Washington DC. where he spoke to Congress about their recognition and problems. We were able to present him with a NAAV cap and a lapel pin. It was a great opportunity for N.A.A.V. to join forces with the people of the Marshall Islands.

I encourage you to visit <http://www.fsmgov.org/>

## TREATIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ACTS SERIES 04-501 COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION

Agreement between the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and the MARSHALL ISLANDS Amending the Agreement of June 25, 1983, concerning the Compact of Free Association, As Amended Signed at Majuro April 30, 2003

December 14, 2011 The case for justice for Micronesians in Hawai'i Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice

(by newsboynaav)

# Color vs B&W



## To all of our NAAV Veterans About our Newsletter About our Operating Funds by Darryl Hirst

Publisher/Editor of the NAAV Newsletter

You will see an article regarding NAAV Operating Funds, on page 2. It is an important statement made by our National Commander. Many of us are paid up life members but, we are aging with far fewer members than in years past. Your financial support is needed. I would like you to know that our Directors and Officers are doing a stellar job in making ends meet plus keeping us "in the black".

I am writing you about the newsletter and a possible enhancement. After posting the article on page 2 about our NAAV Operating Funds, I would wish to add a remark. I will be asking for a \$5.00 donation from you. If you choose to make this donation I encourage to send an extra \$5.00 that is steered to the NAAV Operating Funds.

Commander Ritter published his final newsletter in October of 2013. A year later I was asked by NAAV to take on the task and then we went from a black and white, eight page newsletter to what you have just seen in the FALL Issue, full color, 10 pages and on glossy paper. I would like to see this newsletter continue and even go to 12 pages. Let me explain that.

A letter this past month stated "keep up the good work", enclosed was a \$100 note.

The focus of our newsletter is personal stories. The format has been designed to bring "our stories" into the paper. Amazingly, not surprised at the number of stories received some typed, some verbal and some handwritten. One story was six pages all handwritten. Here are the meat and potatoes of my article to you, the

NAAV has a certain amount of money that is allocated to the publishing of the newsletter. That amount covers the publishing of a quarterly, black and white, 8 page newsletter. That newsletter runs between \$700 - \$1100 per quarter. We first mailed last year to some 1420 members, of which some 300 received, through the Internet colored issues and the newsletter was placed on our [www.naav.com](http://www.naav.com) web page. That basic newsletter will continue.

In order to lay out an issue, like the FALL one you received, that will be full color, mailed to all members, on a glossy paper and possibly increasing to 12 pages we believe that will add an additional cost of some \$600 to \$700 dollars per quarter. Nearly \$3000 more for one year (four issues). We need to maintain the already budgeted amount, however, I feel that you, like me, would like an enhanced newsletter. I am convinced that newsletter will present an easy to read and personal touch that black and white can not offer.

I know that you, like me, are most likely Paid UP LIFE members. We paid for it once. Where can our organization come up with the money to upgrade our newsletter? We currently possess approximately 1300 members. I propose that if I would donate \$5.00 that is directed to the enhancement that I have explained and if we had 1000 members donate \$5.00 we have \$5000. That would take care of nearly 2 years. That money would be strictly used for the purpose described.

Please send your \$5.00 and/or \$10.00 donation to NAAV and write a note, on your check "newsletter donation and/or "NAAV Operating Fund". Then mail it to National Commander Fred Schafer, NAAV, 130 Cleveland Street, Lebanon, OR 97355).

*Make sure you include your current address, zip code and e-mail address so we can update our list.*

*We will update you with each newsletter how much money is in the enhancement fund and how it is applied.*

# Going nuclear: The fight for 'atomic' veterans

By Michael Buettner  
NEWS EDITOR

It isn't true that Gillie Jenkins glows in the dark. But it's a joke he like to make when he tells people about his 16 months of service in the Navy aboard a ship that had been flooded with nuclear radiation during an atomic bomb test.

Nearly 70 years later, Jenkins has become something of an activist on behalf of the surviving members of a group that once numbered nearly 200,000 -- U.S. service members who participate in nuclear weapon tests from the 1940s to 1960s.

As a result of his efforts, and the help of a local legislator, July 16 will be marked as National Atomic Veterans Day in Virginia. Jenkins hopes the Virginia commemoration will help spur lawmakers in Washington, D.C., to make the annual observance a national one.

What got him involved, Jenkins said, was his first visit to the national convention of the National Association of Atomic Veterans several years ago. "I had never seen so many men so bad off," he said.

Exposure to radiation during and after the nuclear tests left atomic veterans with high rates of debilitating diseases. mainly That Jenkins, a Midlothian resident who remains remarkably spry at 85, felt a need to try to help bring attention to his comrades' plight. "i feel like I was lucky" he said. "I've been empowered by a lot of gentlemen in this organization." Lucky indeed. From April 1948 to August 1949, Jenkins was part

of a crew assigned to take care of the USS Independence, a light aircraft carrier that had seen action in the Pacific during World War II. Afterwards, the carrier was put to use as part of a fleet of mothballed ships taken to Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands for a pair of atomic bomb tests.

The fleet, which also included three surrendered German and Japanese ships, was staged inside the atoll's lagoon, and in July 1946 two atomic bombs were detonated there, one above the target area and the other (about three weeks later) just under the sea surface.

In the first test, five ships were sunk, and 14 were seriously damaged, including the Independence, which was just 560 yards away from the 23-kiloton blast. In the second, 10 ships sank, and virtually every ship in the target fleet was drenched with highly radioactive water.

The Independence remained afloat and was later towed to the San Francisco Naval Shipyard for study, and that was where Jenkins encountered the scarred ship. (It was eventually towed off the California coast and used for target practice until it finally sank in 1951.)

Jenkins said safety precautions for his crew were minimal. A hard hat and work shoes, and "clothes with red marks" qualified as protective gear. After each 3 1/2 hour stint aboard the "hot" vessel, crew members "had to trip to the bone," then "take a shower and go through a Geiger counter," a device for measuring radiation.

As for security, Jenkins and his crew, like all other atomic veterans', were sworn to secrecy



*Library of Congress*

An atomic bomb explosion spreads to engulf a fleet of mothballed ships at Bikini atoll in the South Pacific in a 1946 weapon test. A Midlothian man later served as a guard on one of the ships exposed to radiation in the blast, the USS Independence, after it was towed to San Francisco for scientific study.

about their duty, a restriction that wasn't lifted until 1996.

That shroud of secrecy contributed to the difficulties the atomic veterans have faced over the years in trying to get help from the government with their service-related health issues. For too long, Jenkins said, officials' attitude has been "Delay, deny until they all die!"

The National Association of Atomic Veterans was created in 1979 in large part to increase awareness of the veterans' stories and their health issues, but as the clock keeps ticking, the group's membership keeps falling. (The organization's website, [naav.com](http://naav.com), provides information and forms for veterans who need to file government disability or other health-related claims.)

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## Going Nuclear (continued)

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Gillie Jenkins from virtually every state legislator, including Virginia's U. S. Senate and congressional delegations -- and his anger over that treatment still shows when he talks about it.

But finally this year, Delegate Roxann robinson (R-Chestrfield) sponsored a resolution designating July 16 as National Atomic Veterans Day, and it passes both houses in the General Assembly without opposition.

If the recognition helps more of his comrades-in-arms get help, Jenkins says he'll be happy. Many of them went through much worse experience than he did. "A lot of them went through multiple tests," he said. "Some were just a few hundred yards awas when the darn bomb exploded. And then they had to go in and do cleanup."

And besides, he added, he just isn't the kind of guy who can really retire. "I just can't sit still," he said.

## LOOKING FOR...

"Looking for" is a new item and is designated to be a way of getting in contact with people from your unit. We will not publish the names of any individuals other than the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and location. The name and information of the individual attempting to make the contact will be published. An example ... of how the article might appear.

Looking for... Atomic Veterans who may have served aboard the USS Independence (CVL22) or any other ship at Hunter's Point, NS San Francisco during 4/1948 – 8/1949 involved with radioactive cleanup. Gillie Jenkins 804-334-8585 atomicgillie@verizon.net

Looking for... Atomic Veterans who may have served aboard the USS Crook County (LST611) during Operation Redwing in 1956. Haskell Watts Jr. 304-752-55552 hwatts4@frontier.com

## What Do Atomic Veterans Want?

I would certainly not presume to speak for all atomic veterans. However; based upon my research, I would like to offer the following observations. A large portion of these men state, one way or another, that they wish the government would acknowledge, openly, that they were subjected to unusual risk. Military service is classified as a hazardous occupation, and they all accept that fact, but they are offended by the government's denials. Some of us would like to see legislation making it a criminal offense for any government employee or contractor to lie about, or cover up exposures or potential exposures to radiation. A significant number of them feel that the government should provide them with free medical care for ailments which may possibly have been induced by their exposure to radiation; some feel they should receive monetary compensation; many others want nothing more than official recognition, by either a public declaration, a certificate, or a medal. Several have suggested that medals have been awarded to veterans for much less. Atomic veterans, like almost everyone else, are concerned about the world in which their children and grandchildren will have to live. They are concerned about both the prospect of a horrible nuclear war, as well as the harmful environmental effects of nuclear weapons. Most, however, are pleased to see the United States playing a significant role in working for worldwide implementation of both nuclear disarmament and a comprehensive test ban. America's military veterans have, in general, had a great tendency to be patriotic and supportive of a strong national government. The findings of my study greatly support that proposition. At the same time, however; there is an appreciable degree of cynicism and disillusionment expressed by America's Atomic Veterans. National leaders might do well to take notice. Is not the alienation of this potentially most loyal group and supportive segment of the population a sign to be taken seriously?

by F. Lincoln Grahlf

(U.S.N. Ret.) N.A.A.V. Vice-Commander – Madison, WI.



This past month we lost two Past National Commanders, Dick Conant, and Rudy Florentine. We've also recently lost four State Commanders, Rudy Florentine, Rodney Guidry, James Brettell and Lee Meadows.

# Atomic Explosions Remembered

As a Commissioned Officer of the U. S. Public Health Service (PHS), I was assigned to the 1957 Atomic Tests in Nevada, designated “Plumbbob,” to provide off-site monitoring along with about 50 other PHS officers, one civil service scientist, and two U.S. Army veterinarians. The last surface atomic test in the United States took place in 1962. The Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963, and since then many nations have tested their nuclear weapons underground. Unfortunately, some nations have exploded them above the surface.



Shot Charleston • 35Kt  
Photo courtesy of Atomic Archives

After each atomic explosion, about 15 other PHS officers, the civil service scientist and I were assigned to drive under the nuclear cloud as it moved eastward to test for radioactive fallout. The remaining officers

were stationed in strategic communities in Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and California to provide continuous monitoring of radiation and to keep the local citizens informed of atomic explosions and related activities. The two Army veterinarians observed animals in the four-state area potentially affected by the atomic tests. So that we would blend in with the public, none of us were in uniform. The Atomic Energy Commission provided on-site monitoring.

The Atomic Test Site was located 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas. Except for those stationed in surrounding areas, all of the personnel involved in the tests were stationed at Camp Mercury. We lived in small trailers with two sets of bunk beds. We could look out our window and see an Army encampment across a dry gulch where U.S. Army soldiers suffered in the heat living in pup tents. The

soldiers were there to take their places in trenches along with U.S. Marines about a mile or two from “ground zero.” This was later determined to be a bad decision to use humans as “guinea pigs” in the test. The Department of Veterans Affairs has treated veterans of those tests for many years.

On days when an atomic shot was scheduled for the following morning, we would check the tower in the center of the camp at 6:00 p.m. to see whether the light was green or red. If the light was red, we would head into Las Vegas to see live entertainment with famous movie stars. If the light was green at 6:00 p.m., we would eat supper and relax until 11:00 p.m. and check the tower again. If the light was red, we would sleep through the night. If the light was green, we would go to bed and get up at 1:00 a.m. and eat breakfast in the dining hall.

From the dining hall, we would load up into vans to go to the test site to be in place by 4:00 a.m. (Before the test series was started, we had been given a tour in closed vehicles around the craters from earlier atomic tests. The craters appeared similar to a volcano crater, except that they were not black with lava but white with fused sand. The craters were about a half-mile in diameter and were ringed by structures made from different materials to determine how they stood up under explosions.) When we arrived at the test site before an atomic shot, it would be completely dark. Most of the bombs were detonated about one minute before daybreak to allow testing for radiation without any sunlight. Sunlight consists of many of the same types of radiation as an atomic explosion – visible light, infrared light, ultraviolet light, etc., and they wanted to observe the initial explosion without sunlight. We would be standing in a bunker, which was essentially a mound of sand about 15 feet high and about a mile long, located about ten miles from ground zero. Our only protective clothing was a pair of dark goggles. An atomic blast is about 100 times brighter than the sun, so we could look directly into the sun with those goggles and it

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## Atomic Explosions Remembered • Continued

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would appear as only a bright disc.

A voice would come over a loud speaker at intervals giving us warning of the approaching time for the explosion. Finally, the count-down would begin – ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one, zero. Immediately there was a bright flash that was all that my eyes could bear even through the dark goggles. Within a couple of seconds, a bright white ball formed and expanded very quickly at ground zero and then started to rise quickly. At that point the sun would rise suddenly as it always does in the desert, and it appeared that the explosion had lit up the world.

After the initial bright flash, we were allowed to remove the goggles. The white ball would expand rapidly and start turning bright yellow as it rose. The color turned quickly to orange and then to a fiery red as the ball arose. Finally as the cloud took the form of a gigantic mushroom, the whole column would turn white and keep expanding upward. The next sight seen at every test was a silver airplane circling the cloud and reflecting both the sunlight and the brightness of the cloud and then flying into the cloud. Years later, I saw the pilot of that plane on television, and he said that it was a bumpy ride. After about a half hour, the cloud would begin drifting east. We would then go back to the camp and get into vehicles to start driving out across the desert to test for radioactive fallout. There would be two men per car or truck tracking the cloud, and we would stop periodically to check for different forms of radioactivity – gamma rays, beta particles and alpha particles – and call in our results to our headquarters by radio. We used something like what the public knows as Geiger Counters that used removable shields to block out all but one type of radiation at a time.

One time we made the mistake of calling in from a point on the side of the road in the barren desert when it was about 110 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, except there was no shade. Commander Carter, assistant director of our mission said over

the radio to stay there and call in readings every fifteen minutes. We were there for about three hours in the dry heat, and I became dehydrated and developed a severe headache. When we finally got to a populated oasis, my partner went swimming in a public swimming pool surrounded by palm trees, while I lay on a bench and suffered. I got over it after drinking a lot of water and having a good night's sleep. We would sometimes be gone for two or



Cham with Fat Man in Pensacola Museum

three days on these cloud-tracking trips. In the meantime, our headquarters was plotting the radioactivity readings on maps as we called in.

One time, a bomb on a tower did not go off and Commander Carter picked me as the subject of a practical joke. When I got back to our headquarters,

he said in front of the team, “Cham, we got a call from Control Central and they want a Public Health Service Officer to go up the tower with the technician and see why the bomb did not go off. You have been selected.” For a moment, I believed him and I know that I must have turned white. We all had a laugh.

The main test that I want to describe in detail took place in the open desert in full daylight with the bomb suspended on a balloon about a mile high in the sky. From a mountain top about seven miles away, we could see a cable reaching from a structure at ground zero to the balloon, which looked somewhat like the Goodyear blimp. Without any protection except our usual goggles, we took the full impact of the explosion. Most of the other explosions we had seen from behind the bunker were from bombs equivalent to 10,000 to 20,000 tons of TNT. This special shot was rated at

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## Atomic Explosions Remembered • Continued

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60,000 tons of TNT and is the largest surface test ever conducted in the U.S.

After a long wait, the announcement came from the loud speakers that we should put on our goggles and stand by. A few minutes later came the countdown, this time with everyone having strong feelings of uncertainty and awe – ten, nine, ...zero! Suddenly, the atmosphere was electrified. An extremely bright light appeared at ground zero. Even though the explosion actually took place a mile high over the desert, it appeared to take place at ground level like all of the other shots. The white ball stretched from the balloon all the way to the ground. The next sensation was the passing of the heat wave. It had the same intensity as one would experience if the door of a blast furnace at a steel mill were opened and closed suddenly. Fortunately, we were not harmed by the extreme heat because of the short duration of the heat wave passing by us.

The announcement came that we could remove our goggles. Then we could see the rising fireball turn from white to yellow, orange and then red and finally back to white as the mushroom cloud formed. Being in bright daylight, we suddenly could see the shock wave kicking up an expanding circle of dust about 50 to 100 feet high while moving outward at the speed of sound from ground zero. We were given no warning of this and the sight was awesome. We had nowhere to hide. All of a sudden, the shock wave hit us with its cloud of dust, and we were pushed backward several yards by the impact. However, before the group I was with could fall to the ground, a force came behind us and pushed us back up. Apparently, the shock wave moving outward in a gigantic circle created a partial vacuum behind it so that the wave expanded in both directions and got broader and broader. Surprisingly, there was no actual sound in the wave, at least not at our elevation, but the sensation was one of great pressure, like a strong wind kicking up dust. The sand in the air momentarily blinded us, and when it went by, we

could feel that we were covered with sand. The only sound that we had heard was a brief, low, almost imperceptible rumble in the distance.

Being able to see again, we observed the huge white cloud mushrooming out at the top and the usual airplane circling around. We stood there in awe. This atomic explosion, rated as equivalent to 60 kilotons of TNT, was about three times the power of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, in 1945.

I was amazed that all that energy could come from a small amount of matter. According to Einstein's equation, the amount of mass converted to energy is multiplied by the speed of light squared, showing that the amount of energy in a small amount of mass is tremendous. I thought of the instance of creation when God must have converted a part of His unfathomable energy into the mass of the universe. Astronomers and physicists have no other explanation, but this one satisfies me.

In thinking back on that special assignment over [houstondaemon@yahoo.com](mailto:houstondaemon@yahoo.com) half century ago, I am grateful to have been a part of that highly significant and awesome experience that helped to keep the United States in a strong defensive position in the world. From an agency perspective, it provided the opportunity for the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps to contribute in a vital and visible way in an operation so important to our country.



by  
Captain  
James  
Chamblee  
Meredith  
USPHA  
(Retired)

## NAAV Supports Atomic Cleanup Veterans

NAAV continues its support for the right of the Atomic Cleanup Vets to be recognized for their work that brought them in contact with radiation involved in the cleanup projects. The NAAV believes that this group deserves the “official” description as Atomic Veterans by the Veteran’s Administration.

Listed on their Web Page <http://www.atomiccleanupvets.com/> (of which I suggest you “check out” is their Current Mission Statement). In addition are informative statements under “Our Original Mission”, “Our Atomic Health”, “Eniwetak Cleanup Roster”, “Shirts – Cups – More”, “Glossary” and “... Photograph Album (circa 1977-1980)” Their Current Mission begins below (edited for space).

We are but a few of the Survivors of the 1977-1980 Eniwetak Atoll Atomic Debris Cleanup Mission in the Marshall Islands. Our main focus is to help each other with information and moral support during challenging times. Our secondary focus is to urge Congress to change the current laws and recognize soldiers of the cleanup mission as “veterans who participated in radiation-risk activities during active service.”

By obtaining this goal, we will be eligible to apply for funds set-aside for those who experience health complications due to radiation exposure at Eniwetak Atoll.

Atomic Debris Cleanup Participants are not included in the U.S. Government’s definition



because “Congress has not created any presumptions for veterans or civilians based on residual contamination of nuclear tests at Eniwetak Atoll.”

We served our country by participating in the Eniwetak Atoll Atomic Debris Cleanup Mission. The Marshallese People have returned to their homeland. The U.S. Government awarded us Humanitarian Medals for our efforts and we appreciate their praise.

However, many of our survivors and their families have health challenges that are not inexpensive. The Justice Department has ruled for medical funds to be available for those who participated in radiation-risk activities during active service, but Congress has refused to include cleanup participants in that definition.



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***IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!***

All NAAV members – here is a list of all State Commanders as of 9 November 2015. Your Director of State Commanders Gillie Jenkins wishes for all members to be able to contact their State Commander for questions. Hopefully this will “keep us together.” If your state does not have a State Commander or to volunteer to be a State Commander in your state, call or write to Gillie.

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