

National Association of Atomic Veterans



Atomic Veterans News



VOLUME 23 — ISSUE 4 — W. HARPER, ED. — QUARTERLY NEWS

VIETNAM-era DoD Secretary Robert McNamara and Current VA and DoD Officials Allegedly Covered Up Medical Records

**Shaw Pittman Files First-of-its-kind
Complaints to Hold Officials
Personally Liable**

Washington, DC (October 30, 2002) — Former Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara is among eleven defendants named in two first-of-their-kind class action lawsuits for allegedly covering up medical records without which veterans of atomic, biological, and chemical warfare testing cannot receive needed medical and other benefits. The plaintiffs include veterans, their families, and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), who allege a deliberate and ongoing cover-up by US government officials to conceal and ignore relevant records, many of which are personal medical records that would allow them to seek proper benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the often devastating long-term health effects of the government's testing of weapons of mass destruction.

Brought by the law firm of **Shaw Pittman, LLP**, the complaints — one for veterans exposed to atomic detonations and the other for veterans exposed to biological and chemical tests, as well as their survivors — aim to hold the govern-

ment officials personally responsible for their involvement in illegal and unethical activities and to obtain justice for aging veterans. The complaints tell disturbingly similar stories of government and military officials protecting the government and themselves from liability for the effects of cold war atomic, biological, and chemical experiments on their own troops, sailors, airmen, and marines.

The complaints point to several smoking guns, including a White House memo that describes the classification of records as a tactic to minimize public relations risks and ultimately limit the government's legal liability. The veterans and their families also cite original test documents and reports that record large-scale radiation overexposures and medical test procedures that directly contradict government and military official statements and veterans were not used as test subjects and were not exposed to unsafe levels of radiation.

The "Atomic Veteran" plaintiffs consist of approximately 415,000 surviving veterans exposed to radiation as part of the government's atomic testing and military programs in the 1940-1950s and their

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"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor...simply justice...no amount of radiation is safe"

The Atomic Veteran is the official publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), a non-profit corporation, made up of United States military veterans involved with atomic and thermonuclear testing and deployment, their families and friends. It is published four times per year as a newsletter. It is downloadable from the NAAV web site (www.naav.com) or available in mailed hard copy upon request. The current address for NAAV is P.O. Box 11517, Chandler, AZ 85248, Attention: Bill Harper, national commander. NAAV is chartered as a non-profit corporation in the State of Iowa. The U.S. Internal Revenue Service recognizes NAAV as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation. All financial donations to NAAV are deductible by the donor for income tax purposes. Orville and Wanda Kelly were the co-founders of NAAV

NAAV Board Approves Funding for State Commanders

The NAAV Board of Directors recently approved funding to help State and Area Commanders with some expensive money to help cover the costs of staying in touch with its membership. The sum of \$5.00 per member will be available to help cover the cost of envelopes, stationery and stamps.

As many State Commanders, because of limited funds, are finding it difficult to stay in touch with their members, we feel this will help. More information on how to apply for these funds will be mailed to active State Commanders after Jan. 1st, 2003.

2003 Convention

The National Association of Atomic Veterans 2003 Annual Convention is being planned for Houston, Texas. This will be held around July 14 - 15 - 16. More details will be in the next NAAV Newsletter.

DUES

If your membership has not been paid, please remit as your dues cover the cost of the newsletter to: P.O. Box 11517, Chandler, AZ 85248

From the Commander:

The first 4 months as your new Commander I have been busy trying to set up the new office and getting permission to do business in Arizona. We have gotten the first newsletter out after convention, had 3 invitations to speak and attended 4 veterans affairs including the dedication of the new Southern Arizona Veterans Cemetery. I also had an opportunity to speak to Sec Principi at a social the day before the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Awards. We also got all membership cards out and answered all inquiry letters.

Our biggest concern today is lack of help on the State level. Many of our State Commanders, as we all get older, are slowing down and can no longer help as they have in the past. To those who have given so much for so long, we thank you for your loyal support.

Today we badly need some new blood, or old blood, but we need new Commanders to help us carry on with supporting our membership in their fight for recognition within the VA Health System and give any assistance or help when asked on how to file claims.

If you have some time to help or know a member who can, please contact Director Claude Burpee our State Commander coordinator at 1-865-984-8646 or at cburpee@aol.com.

To all, Happy and Healthy New Year.

Wm. A. Harper
Nat'l. Commander

† ***** IN REMEMBRANCE ***** †

Warren H. Schwartzle
"Operation Crossroads"
Oct. 2, 2002

"the Atomic Veteran seeks no special favor...simply justice...no amount of radiation is safe"



WWII Veteran Battles for Recognition of Radiation Exposure

As a nurse in a surgical ward with Headquarters, 2nd Field Hospital in Hiro, Japan, Ms. Ayers staffed the surgical ward along with two doctors, a Navy corpsman, and a host of energetic Japanese boys who helped with errands and other tasks. For more than three months, she provided medical assistance and comfort to the men who braved the intense battles of the Pacific, as well as survivors of the nuclear strike only 10 miles away at Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

Ms. Ayers said she didn't think much about excursions to Hiroshima after being replaced by Australian medical workers and heading home in March of 1946. Nor did she think of them when she was diagnosed with colon cancer nearly 20 years later. She still didn't suspect damage from radiation exposure when she was diagnosed in 1976 with multinodular thyroid disease, a condition effectively ending her ability to work.

"After calling the VA hotline for atomic veterans and filling out some paperwork, I was told I had not been exposed to radiation because the rains of the monsoon season had washed away any contamination. I remember thinking to myself,

'But I drank water from wells there, not knowing that there was any danger. How could I not have been exposed?'" said Ms. Ayers, who already had a service-connected disability for pulmonary tuberculosis.



"Like so many atomic veterans, she was a prisoner in a continuing war. It was being fought within, and the fighting was between her body, the radiation and system refusing to believe her claims."

Finally, Ms. Ayers received some good news about her battle. On March 26, 2002, the VA announced an expansion of the list of presumptive diseases of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation to include cancer of the bone, brain, lung, ovary, and to Ms. Ayers' relief, the colon.

The new rules apply to veterans who participated "radiation-risk activities" during active duty, active service for training, or inactive duty training as a member of the reserves, and included service members, like Ms. Ayers, involved in the occupation of Hiroshima or Nagasaki.

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On May 10, 2002, 37 years after Ms. Ayers underwent surgery to remove part of her cancerous colon, and more than 56 years after she arrived at Hiroshima to attend to sick and wounded warriors and civilians, she was granted a 10% disability rating for the damage done to her colon by exposure to radiation.

“Atomic veterans are often ostracized from the mainstream of those with disabilities. You can’t always see the damage they’ve suffered. A veteran shot in combat will have a scar, but those exposed to radiation can’t show their wounds so easily. They can’t say, ‘I faced the enemy, and this is what happened.’”

Bernice Ayers said the important thing now is to inform other veterans exposed to harmful doses of radiation during military service of the benefits available to them under the new legislation. Don’t give up.

DAV Magazine

Shaw Pittman

Continued from page 1

survivors. The plaintiffs in the second complaint are the approximately 10,000 military personnel used as involuntary test subjects in biological and chemical warfare tests in the 1960s known as “Project SHAD” (Shipboard Hazard and Defense).

“The VA has a statutory mandate to advocate for and protect the interests of these veterans, but instead VA officials have purposefully failed them. This is the age of Enron, when the government contends that you are personally responsible for your unethical decisions. We’re holding up a mirror and expecting them to practice what they preach,” said **Shaw Pittman partner David Cynamon**, who filed the complaints.

Former Navy crewmember of the USS Navarro in 1963 and plaintiff Robert Bates said, “I wasn’t asked if I wanted to be a human guinea pig. I wasn’t told that I was part of an experiment until thirty years later. And now, I can’t get my complete medical records from the government so that I can get needed benefits.” Mr. Bates suffers

from congestive heart failure and joint problems thought to be related to the chemical warfare tests.

The **Shaw Pittman** complaints allege a policy that government and military officials began in the 1940s and current officials continue to carry out in order to keep veterans from claiming their just medical benefits. For example, government and military officials admit that Project SHAD medical records were and remain “classified” and unavailable to veterans attempting to claim VA benefits for health problems arising from biological and chemical agents used on them by their own military. The government contends that other relevant records disappeared, were destroyed, or never existed.

“They tell you that they can’t give you benefits until you prove you were involved, but they keep the documents that can prove it in a sealed vault behind their desks. This is not the government my husband intended to serve,” said Pat Broudy, whose husband died due to lymphoma, a cancer known to be caused by radiation exposure. Her husband had served in occupation of Nagasaki, Japan, trained on a radioactive target ship, and participated in mock assaults on ground zero following atomic detonations in the Nevada desert but was denied VA benefits.

The complaints were filed October 29, 2002 in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

NAAV Would Like to Thank the Following Members for Their Donations.

Raymond Walters, Genevieve Dale, Peter Dale, Bernard Krzemien, Erwin Rayfield, Daniel Gingrich, Richard Critchfield, William Peter, San Wheat, John Gomez, Ivis Smedley, Louis Meassick, Andrew Dranchak, Roberta Bell, Louis Rizzo, Mary Peterson, John Sawyer, W.H. Schneider, Frank Richardson, Curtis Olier, Vernon Ripley, DAV Chapter 9, Winchester, PA.

Your donations help cover the cost of your newsletter.

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“The Atomic Veteran – The Forgotten Warrior”

There were 1066 atomic weapon device detonations, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, from July 16, 1945 to September 23, 1992. Two of those detonations were on August 6, 1945 and August 9, 1945, over enemy soil, and during a declared war with the Empire of Japan. The remaining 1064 detonations were for the purposes of the continued development and improvements of nuclear, thermonuclear and hydrogen weapons of war, in the interest of the National Security of the United States of America during the “Cold War” years.

More than 500,000 military and civilian personnel were active participants and witness to these detonations; the military by order of the Defense Department, the civilians as members of the atomic weapons development teams from Sandia Laboratories, Lawrence Livermore Laboratories, Scripps Oceanographic Institute, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, and several prominent Universities, who were select participants in the scientific development and enhancement of America’s current nuclear arsenal.

Little was known, early on, of the hazards of radiation exposure effects on the human mechanism, however; the Defense Department had a need-to-know of the immediate effects of a nuclear explosion on military personnel & equipment including tanks, vehicles, ships and submarines, and the effects on live animal specimens, used as control subjects. It is only within the last 15 years, that the long term effects of ionizing radiation has begun to be recognized, or fully understood, by the medical community involved in post atomic particle exposure studies.

The National Association of Atomic Veterans (N.A.A.V.) was formed by a group of ex-military personnel who were first hand participants in the U. S. atomic testing program. Members of N.A.A.V. include those involved in the actual development and detonation of the first atomic bomb on July 16, 1945, at “Trinity Site” in the

New Mexico desert and military personnel who were the very first to go ashore at Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, after the Japanese surrendered to General McArthur, in Tokyo Bay, for the purposes of assessing the atomic bomb damage and to assist in the post blast clean up operations. Other members participants at “Operation Crossroads,” June and July, 1946 (in the Marshall Islands), and those who were a part of “Project Ivy”, the first Hydrogen Bomb (detonated at Enewetak Atoll), on October 31, 1952.

The common link between all of those who were associated with these events, and those who are still alive to recall their experiences, is exposure to ionizing radiation particles, the by-product of an atomic bomb detonation. The radiation detection devices used, at that time, were crude, did not reflect all of the exposure hazards, and (it was later determined) the readings were, in a large percentage of cases, questionable and inaccurate, giving rise to the term “presumptive” when applied to health anomalies that may be “presumed” to be associated with an atomic device detonation.

This fact of record contributed partly to the U. S. Government’s recent decision to form a “Radiation Dose Re-construction” team, comprised of select scientist-physicians, to approximate the amount of radiation exposure experienced by military participants currently seeking medical assistance from the Veteran’s Hospitals and clinics. It is assumed that the dose reconstruction project will satisfy the increased challenges to the “Official” radiation exposure data, or the lack of availability of exposure data issued early on by the Department of Defense & Military agencies. The Achilles heel of this approach does not take into account the non-measurable levels of “free air” radiation particles inhaled, or ingested into the human body, at or near the blast site.

The Dose Reconstruction program is viewed by Atomic Veterans as an attempt by the U. S. Congress to determine base line measurement

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that will justify a degree of acceptance of the Atomic Veteran's claims that an illness, or health anomaly is "presumed to be" related to his/her participation in the U. S. Atomic Testing Program, and it is feared by all, that this degree of acceptance factor will severely and unfairly limit the medical assistance that may be required by the Atomic Veteran.

The ability to gain access to proper V. A. medical facilities is greatly hampered by the fact that the Defense Department (and Pentagon) did not permit any mention of atomic test participation on a veteran's (DD-214) discharge forms. Additionally, the Defense Department demanded that most military personnel swear to a long term oath of secrecy, under penalty of imprisonment, should they mention, in any way, their association with or participation in any atomic device test. The Veterans Administration uses the DD-214 discharge form to determine the level (or group) of medical services to which the veteran is supposedly entitled.

Currently veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange (during the Vietnam conflict) are classed in medical Group 6C, and those Atomic veterans who can prove their participation of any atmospheric atomic device detonation event are also classed in Group 6C, while those veterans who were awarded the Purple Heart are listed in the top of the group order, and entitled to unlimited, no-cost, V. A. medical and prescription medication services.

Given these restrictions, it was virtually impossible for an Atomic Veteran to get a fair hearing for medical treatment from the Veteran's Administration admissions office, for illnesses, that include several types of cancers, melanomas lymphomas, etc., that are "presumed" to be the result of their atomic test participation, because he could not prove that he was in an Atomic test. The burden of proof is on the shoulders of the Veteran seeking such services.

Additionally, many Atomic Veterans were told that their military records were destroyed in a

fire, and therefore are unable to get past the Veteran's Administration "burden of proof" fence. In other cases, they were told (by U. S. Government Agencies who are responsible for researching their claims,) that it would cost them a substantial fee for the information they were seeking, for the purposes of satisfying the V. A. mandates.

The Mission Statement of the National Association of Atomic Veterans states that "N.A.A.V. is dedicated to the goals of assisting all military and civilian personnel involved in the manufacture, testing, storage, or destruction of nuclear weapon devices, or nuclear materials, who's health has been adversely effected, as the result of their exposure to radiation particles during the performance of their duties and responsibilities associated with any of these events."

N.A.A.V. firmly believes that exposure to nuclear radiation is equal to, or above the level of being wounded in action. A war wound will heal and, in most cases, will not effect the continued health of those who have been wounded. However, radiation sickness is forever, and slowly damages and destroys the body mechanisms of those who were exposed, and in several cases, the children of those who were exposed. There is no credible medical proof that a bullet wound will effect the health of the offspring of the wounded. It has been proved that Ionizing radiation has caused genetic mutation of the reproductive processes of Atomic Veterans, that resulted in the birth of children with genetic defects and other deleterious health conditions.

In a statement recognizing July 16, 2002 as a "National Atomic Veteran Day of Remembrance," President George W. Bush compared the Atomic Veteran's exposure to a nuclear radiation, as being just as grave as any War Veteran who was wounded in action, in both instances, standing in harm's way while doing his duty, and protecting The United States of America. N.A.A.V. firmly believes the President's statement was both accurate and compassionate, and we offer our thanks for his personal interest in the general

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welfare of all military personnel, including America's Atomic Warriors.

Given the difficulties Atomic Veterans experience in dealing with the Veteran's Administration, it is the firm belief of N.A.A.V., that Congress should mandate that Atomic Veterans be given the same V. A. medical group classification as those who were awarded the "Purple Heart." Likewise, they should also eliminate "Dose Reconstruction" studies, as the results cannot be certified as being scientifically real, or believable, and cannot address the long term effects of inhaled or ingested ionizing radiation particles, and as such, the plight of the Atomic Veteran would once again, be prolonged until there are none remaining to register a complaint.

The Directors, Officers and membership of N.A.A.V. are all volunteers who devote a great deal of their personal time to N.A.A.V. mission statement. N.A.A.V. Directors are in constant contact with the U. S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, who are most helpful in assisting us in all of our areas of interest, while N.A.A.V. Officers, State Commanders and designated members are in daily contact with several key members of the U. S. Congress in an effort to gain better access to the Atomic Veteran's military records, for the purposes of confirming his or her participation in atomic testing activities. They also spend a lot of time trying to get local V. A. Hospital and Clinic personnel to read (and understand) their own admissions guidelines manual, as most are obstinate and in total violation of the current rules governing Atomic Veteran issues.

N.A.A.V. Directors and Officers do not draw a salary for their positions, or daily activities. These activities are not accomplished without monetary costs. The base source of funding is from N.A.A.V. membership dues and donations which are collectively applied the continued costs of researching atomic veteran military records, maintaining a medical database of all atomic veterans who seek assistance in dealing with the Veteran's Administration in these areas, publishing a quarterly newsletter, and in continuing pub-

lic recognition programs. These funds are not enough to get the job done properly, and therefore N.A.A.V. must rely on good samaritan (tax exempt) contributions from a few other military organizations, including the American Legion and V.F.W. Posts, and fraternal groups including the Loyal Order of Moose, Elks, and the Knights of Columbus and small donations from private individuals, physicians, professionals and small businesses. N.A.A.V. recently received a contribution from a Russian immigrant who had become a close friend of an Atomic Veteran.

Time is not on the side of the thousands of Atomic Veterans who feel they have no hope of gaining the much needed medical assistance from (their) U. S. Government. These veterans are suffering from a host of radiation exposure illnesses, and are dying at a rapid rate. It would be both thank-less and unforgiving for the United States of America to allow them not to be properly recognized and medically tended to, as a small reward for following their orders, doing their duty, and standing in harm's way (against and invisible and deadly enemy), and being gravely injured, many years after the fact.

The Atomic Veteran grieves for all of those who were amply rewarded by the U. S. Government, after losing their loved ones during that terrible event on September 11, 2001. However, it is a fact that the Atomic Veteran is still lying mortally wounded and slowly dying on the "home front" battle field, with no visible hope of being properly recognized for their sacrifice, on behalf of the citizens of their own country. Is there no one who would listen, or even care?

Submitted by:

R. J. RITTER – Director – Treasurer
National Association of Atomic Veterans

**Tax exempt contributions should be
addressed to:**

**N.A.A.V. TREASURER
11214 Sageland, Houston, TX 77089**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

My name is Ivis "Ike" Smedley. I was on the U.S.S. O'Brian DD 725 at Operations Crossroads at Bikini in 1946 for the Atomic Bomb tests Able and Baker. Test Able the Bomb was dropped from a plane. Our ship followed the cloud taking air samples. Test Baker the Bomb was set off under the ships in the Lagoon at Bikini. Our ship took water samples outside the lagoon the first day and on the second day the ship entered the lagoon and took water samples inside the lagoon. I helped bottle these samples of water which spilled all over the starboard side of the deck and myself. The scientists who were in charge of this water testing had special suits on that were made for this testing and I had dungress's for my protection. Test Baker as was disclosed 50 years later had a high rate of radiation in the water. In 1995 I found out that I had Cancer on my neck. I took extensive radiation treatments, which contained the cancer. In the process I lost 60 pounds, lost my saliva glands, and had to have all of my teeth pulled. In 1996, my daughter found out that she had breast cancer, cancer in her bones and tumors in her brain. She passed away in March 2001 at age 50. In 1999, my son found out that he had cancer on his neck. He received radiation treatments and his cancer was contained. In July of this year (2002) his cancer has returned. He is now going through Chemo nd radiation treatments.

My cancer returned in June (2002). I had all of my lymthnoeds removed in my neck on July 1, 2002. The operation wounds would not heal because the radiation treatments in 1995 destroyed the healing tissues in my neck. On August 27, 2002 I had to have plastic surgery to bring tissue to my neck in order for it to heal. I can swallow liquids but can not chew any foods and I have a feeding tube.

In January 2002 I read a small item in the newspaper that I was qualified to file a claim to the Department of Justice if I was at Bikini and had

a certain type of cancer. I file a claim on April 2, 2002 and on July 2, 2002 received notice that my claim had been approved. I received my \$75,000 check the first part of Oct. 2002.

Ike Smedley

Commander Bill Harper
National Association of Atomic Veterans

Dear Commander Harper,

As being a paid life member of NAAV, and my husband was the first state commander of Louisiana (Bernard Chapman) he passed away 3 years ago, of which I worked very hard and closely with him.

Concerning the Editor's Note: There are a lot of members that don't have access to the internet, I for one don't. The reason we pay dues is to keep on top of the latest information concerning radiation exposure and what can be done to help ourselves with claims, of which we look forward to receiving the newsletter paid for with our dues. I anticipate receiving the newsletter, looking for new data to reopen my husbands claim, the VA says that is the only way I can, especially since Bernard's claim was denied again, with a note from the VA stating that when and if there is any new evidence, I can reopen the case. Tell me how can there be new evidence on a dead person, unless the laws change. VA gives a widow hell. NAAV is the only way I can keep on top of what is being done in Washington. Please continue to mail my copy of the newsletter. I would appreciate it very much.

Mary Chapman

HELP WANTED

NAAV is looking for a few good men (or women) to serve as State Commanders. If you can help, contact Director Claude Burpee at: cburpee@aol.com

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Bill Harper, National Commander

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing a check for \$100.00 to use in the cause of getting the NAAV news out. Andrew is a life member.

Andrew was a member of the crew of the USS Van Valkenburgh DD656 that went into Nagasaki in August '45 to get the allied prisoners out that the Japs had worked in the coal mines. The Van worked with a hospital ship. The Van was there 2 weeks. The crew walked in the radiation - took it back to the ship - slept in it, ate it, and breathed it. They brought the Van back to Charleston S.C. and it was decommissioned April '46.

Andrew served 27 years in the Navy and retired as a Lt. Two years ago our family doctor referred him to a hematologist-oncologist. The first question the doctor asked, after lab work: "Were you ever exposed to radiation?" His bone marrow has turned to dust (my words). He is now getting a shot every Monday - "Procrit" - \$910.00 a week. Yes, \$910.00. The diagnosis :Myelo Dysplastic Syndrome."

Thank you for your help with veterans.
Name withheld

We here in Minnesota seem to be having better luck than the average Atomic vet in getting a claim through for a radiation disease. Our Minneapolis medical center has doctors who will write up diseases caused by ionizing radiation that was ingested by the vets at these various sites. Three of us here were aboard the USS INGRAHAM DD 694 at the 2 Crossroads tests. We all put ourselves into the PTSD, clinics and got phycologist to talk to and tell our story of being used as guinea pigs. all got rated at 30 percent. then we had doctors at our various clinics at the VA Medical Center to write consultations to be seen by the rating doctors and along with our medical history and lots of scientific evi-

dence from books like NO PLACE TO HIDE written by a Dr. Johnson who was at Crossroads with us making statements like the fall-out we took in our bodies will never leave especially plutonium. Then the book Hiroshima in America, which tells things the American public never heard of let alone believed America would do. Anyway this is some of the material we supply, again we have done well here. Just thought I would mail you and tell you and the members not to give up the fight cause claims can be gotten.

Robert Sattler

NATIONAL COMMANDER ELECTED TO VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Dear Mr. Harper:

It is with great pleasure that I, on behalf of the Governor's Office and the Department of Veteran's Services, congratulate you on your selection for membership in the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame. You will join an elite group of Arizona veterans that includes 26 of our Medal of Honor recipients and other distinguished Arizonans such as Barry Goldwater, Ira Hayes, Burton Barr, and Madeline Ullom. In addition to the Governor and the Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, the invitation list includes Arizona's Members of Congress. Again, congratulations on your selection to receive this most prestigious honor.



National Commander talks with Executive Secretary to Governor at Hall of Fame Awards.

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NAAV Loses Two of its Best Supporters

Rep. Patsy T. Mink (Hawaii)

Rep. Patsy T. Mink, 74, a friend of atomic veterans, whether U.S. Military or civilians caught in the South Pacific tests, died from complications of viral pneumonia, in Hawaii, on September 27. She will be sorely missed.

Rep. Mink was the lead Congressional sponsor of H.R. 134, to do away with the Dose Reconstruction (DR) which forces individual former military personnel to prove the amount of radiation they received in order to receive compensation for radiological diseases other than presumptive cancers.

Educating Congress and the Bush Administration on the fallacies of DR became a major NAAV priority at the 2002 National Convention held in Branson, MO in July.

Rep. Mink's Bill lapsed at the end of the 107th Congress, without being acted on, but will hopefully re-introduced in the upcoming session beginning after the first of the year. According to Charles Clark, NAAV Hawaiian State Commander, Rep. Neil Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, has agreed to pick up where Rep. Mink left off.

Sen. Paul Wellstone (Minnesota)

Paul David Wellstone, Minnesota's senior senator, was born to Russian Immigrants Leon and Minnie Wellstone on July 21, 1944. In 1963 Paul married Sheila Tson, with whom he has three children.

Paul was raised in Arlington, VA. In 1965 he earned his B.A., and four years later was awarded a Ph.D. in Political Science. Soon he accepted a teaching post at Carleton College in Northfield, MN where he taught for 21 years.

In 1990, underdog Senate candidate Paul Wellstone rallied a dynamic volunteer force and

traveled throughout Minnesota. On election day he was the only Senate challenger that year to unseat an incumbent.

During his first Senate term Wellstone led legislative battles to make health care more accessible and affordable. He helped raise the minimum wage, successfully fought to protect seniors' pension funds from corporate raiders. Since 1996, Wellstone has expanded health care coverage for those suffering from mental illness. He has worked tirelessly on behalf of veterans, passing legislation to aid homeless veterans and securing compensation for "atomic veterans" suffering from cancers due to radiation exposure during their military service.

NATIONAL COMMANDER SPEAKS AT VETERANS MUSEUM



On October 13th and 14th National Commander William Harper was a guest of the Ramada Hotel in Laughlin, NV and spoke at its Veterans Museum. This museum was opened several years ago and is a very popular place for veterans to visit. Most in attendance were not aware of the National Association of Atomic Veterans and were very sympathetic in NAAV's fight for recognition for its members. Many questions were asked. While there, Commander Harper donated 4, 8x10 Navy photos taken at "Operation Crossroads" for display in the museum. He has been invited back to speak again.

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NAAV FINANCIAL REPORT – ENDING 10-15-02

First National Bank - New Mexico - NAAV life Account #1291727

Balance on Hand (09-30-02)\$26,692.59
(Includes Interest paid to date\$254.93)

Note: A check for \$26,692.59 was mailed to R J Ritter (Treasurer) for deposit in the J.P. Morgan-Chase bank in Houston, Texas - as follows:

CD # 6346022882-19 (9 mo.)\$10,000.00 – Current value\$10,011.51
CD # 6346022874-19 (13 mo.)\$10,000.00 – Current value\$10,011.92
Money Market Acct. # 634003452865 \$ 6,692.59 – Current balance ...\$ 6,692.59

First National Bank – New Mexico – NAAV General Account #1213946 – final statement – Sept. 30, 2002

Balance on hand (09-30-02)\$2,687.33
(Includes interest paid to date\$13.85)

Note: A check for \$2,630.15 was mailed to Bill Harper (Commander) for deposit in a (new) General Account to be set up on Arizona.

Authorized signatures on these accounts are: Bill Harper, Bernie Clark and R. J. Ritter (any two of which may be used for check writing purposes.)

J.P. Morgan – Chase – Houston, Tx. – NAAV Account #634002324765 (used for Quartermaster Stores only)

Current balance\$1,817.30.

Note: A check for \$1,285.00 was forwarded to Bill Harper for deposit in the NAAV General Fund.

A check for \$350.00 will be deposited into the NAAV Life account.

These amounts reflect dues & donation funds forwarded from New Mexico to Houston, during the bank accounts transition period – from New Mexico to Arizona.

A more complete financial report will be available after the next “Bank Reporting” cycle.

Respectfully Submitted
R. J. Ritter
National Director - Treasurer

PATRONIZE THE NAAV ON-LINE STORE www.naav.com Click the “On-Line Store” button for a catalogue of items for sale. Or write R.J. Ritter, manager, NAAV Quartermaster Store, 11214 Sageland, Houston, TX 77089. Profit from items sold through the store helps support the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

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I wish to continue receiving the Atomic Veteran newsletter by U.S. Mail at the following address

Place Stamp Here

The U.S. Post Office
will not deliver
unstamped mail

Clip this Notice and Mail to:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS

P.O. Box 11517
Chandler, AZ 85248

Please Remember!!

Beginning with the first newsletter of 2003, those currently subscribing as NAAV members, who do not indicate in writing that they wish to continue receiving the newsletter by mail, will be dropped from the mailing list, and it will be assumed they are getting their newsletter from the internet at www.naav.com.

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