



NAA&NV NEWS

June 2017

2nd QUARTER

Members Publication of the National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans

Desk of the Commander --

We have several bills introduced in federal and state Committee's this year.

We hope that several will get passed and become law.

Here in Oregon we have a bill in committee to make a section of I-5 Atomic Veterans Highway, approximately 20 miles long from Salem to Albany Oregon. Several other states are working on July 16th as Atomic Veterans Day annually. We are also working on Atomic Veteran service Medal.

I am very proud of our State Commanders and each member for their efforts. We have gotten our tax-exempt status reinstated after several attempts, so all donations are tax deductible.

Convention 2017 is well on its way. Sept 13th, 14th, and 15th in Branson MO. This should be a lot of fun for many. Last year we had approx 35 members and wives attend. This year we want to set a new record with at least 50 veterans and spouse's attending. We will be honored this year by Alan Owen the British counter part to our National Commander for Atomic Veterans and he will be speaking about their activities in Great Britian.

We have just appointed Robert N. Celestial as the Area Commander to Guam. If you visit be sure to contact him, and tell him thanks for his support. I hear he is an excellent tour guide.

Submitted by Fred Schafer, National Commander NAA&NV

NOTICE:



**ALL CHECKS SENT TO THE NATIONAL
COMANDER OR TO NAAV MUST BE
MADE OUT... PAY TO THE ORDER OF ...
NAAV or NAA&NV.**

NAA&NV SECRETARY COMMENTS

The 2017 N.A.A.V. Convention is approaching – September is on its way! We hope YOU will be there with us. As the wife of an Atomic Veteran and as Fred Schafer's wife, I've seen how empowering and comforting it is for our veterans to find each other, to support each other and to help each other find resources to help, especially with the myriad health issues that plague many of our husbands after their military service.

Every single day, Fred answers phone calls from all around the country. Many calls are from wives of Atomic Veterans, worried about their husbands' health issues or about the financial disasters after huge medical bills. Other calls are from veterans who just need to connect with someone who is also an Atomic Veteran. Sometimes the calls start at 5:00 a.m. Sometimes there is a late night call. I'm proud to be the wife of a man who answers those calls.

Attendance at the national convention is much like answering the call. Not everyone can make it, but for those of us who can, the convention will help enable us to better reach out to others who need us. There will be information, news, support and alliances made which will further support the Atomic Veterans we love.

With **SIGNIFICANT** help and encouragement from EACH member of our convention committee

team, we have utilized the organizational services of a group called "GATHERINGS PLUS" in Branson, Missouri. There is an activity package that allows everyone to prioritize their activities during the convention. I've finally convinced Fred that we, as a couple, will do the whole package. It will be important for us to socialize and get to know the members present and that happens out on a showboat just as well as in a meeting. That's my story and I'm stickin' to it.

It's a stretch for many of us to get to attend and participate. I hope you will too. Hope to see you and get to know you better in Branson, September 13-16. In the meantime, many of you, like Fred, reach out to other Atomic Veterans and their families and try to make life a little bit easier for them.

To you all, **Thank you for your service!**

Barb Schafer
NAA&NV Secretary

PS: Please e-mail me at schafeb@yahoo.com if you plan to attend whether you are ready to pre-register or not. Need the info to get an idea of the number that to be in Branson on September 13-16. Thanks!

ARTICLES • NEWS ITEMS



When I took over the newsletter from Darryl we had many news worthy items stacked up and on hold for their turn to run in the news letter. Well we have finally reached the end of all those items and are needing items to publish. So if you have a story that you would like to see in our newsletter let us know or get it to us via mail and/or e-mail. If you have pictures to go with the article get them to me either in high resolution jpeg via e-mail or mail me the original and I will scan it and return the photos to you. Not all of us have pictures of

our times in the area, as cameras were forbidden and in many cases were confiscated and then returned when you were on your way home.

At any rate if you have an item get in touch with Bob Ruyle the editor of the newsletter either by e-mail at (bobruyle34@gmail.com) or by phone at 402-450-7123. You can also write by mailing the info to ... Bob Ruyle

402 Steinway Road
Lincoln, NE 68505-2564



OPERATION HARDTACK

William Smith, A1C was in the Navy from August 25th, 1952 to June 16th, 1954, then in the Air Force for April 1955 to February 1959. He was a crash boat engineer and rescue diver with Operation Hardtack at Eniwetok in the Marshall Islands in 1957. Work duty included constant exposure to nuclear ionizing radiation on the island and in the sea testing waters where he was one of the two top divers. Individual protective outfits were nonexistent during those years.

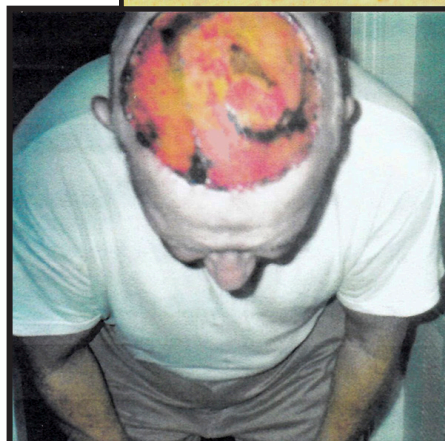
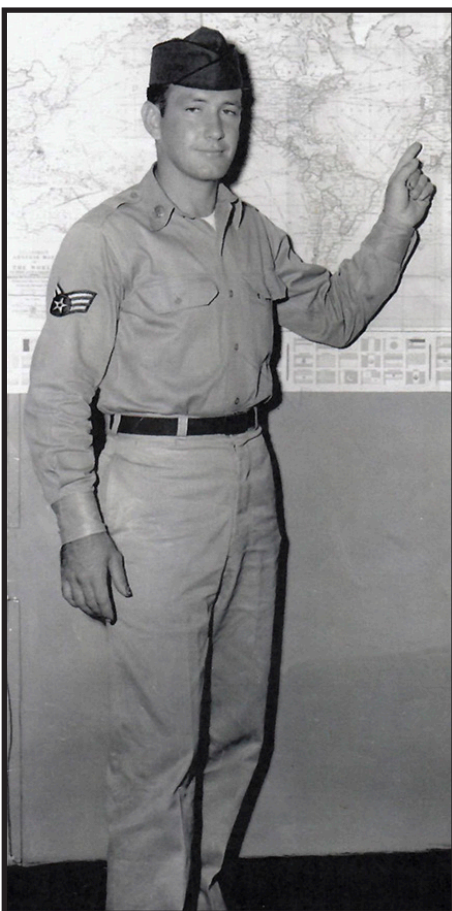
While in the Air Force, William was aboard the PT-37A-1276 which had been modified as a crash rescue boat. The PT-37A-1276 had a crew of 6 men. William is the only survivor as all the others have died of cancer.

Years later, he too, developed recalcitrant skin lesions with eventual diagnosis of basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma and melanoma. William underwent surgery and radiation treatment for the melanoma to his scalp. His scalp was removed six time between 2008 & 2013 to remove melanoma.

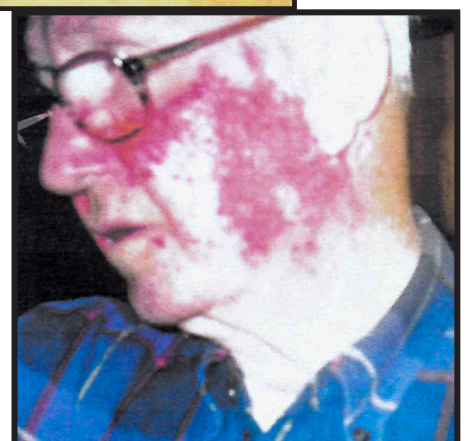
He was then treated by chemo and radiation and unfortunately radiation affected the bone on skull with subsequent development of osteomyelitis. He was treated for weeks with IV antibiotics from April to June, 2013. The radiation cause burns on the side of his face as well as the body to the waist.

What you never heard about is the suicides on Eniwetok. I was called to at least 13 deaths while in the area and you hear nothing about the suicides while actually on duty. Finally after all these years I have received full compensation in 2013. It took the VA along time to come thru with coverage of what they knew was caused by those tests.

Submitted by William L Smith



Scalp Removal



Radiation Burns

ATOMIC VETERAN LEGISLATIVE CORNER

On the Federal level HR632 in the House and S283 titled Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act now have 88 and 7 sponsors respectively. This legislation adds the Enewetak Atoll Radiological Cleanup Veterans to the list of Atomic Veterans included for Title 38 presumed diseases. Legislation for the Atomic Veteran Medal was introduced in both the House and Senate. The House version, HR2754 has bipartisan support with Congressman McGovern (D MA-2) coauthoring the Bill with Congressman Emmer (R MN-6) it already has sponsors four from Minnesota, three from Massachusetts and one from North Carolina. Senator Markey (D-MA) introduced the Senate version of the Atomic Veterans Service Medal in May. National Atomic Veterans Day continues to be on the radar, no Bill has been introduced nor do we have any expected introduction date. On the State Level Minnesota House and Senate introduced Bills to change Chapter 10 of the Statutes to Include July 16th as Atomic Veterans Day. These Bills made it out of committee. The Senate version was voted on as a stand alone Bill, all 67 Senators voted in favor. While the House Bill was attached to another Bill Passing only to be vetoed by the Governor. Another attempt was made to include the House Bill in an Ominous Bill. This effort was unsuccessful. The session has adjourned until next year. We will attempt to get a Proclamation from the Governor, like last year. Another attempt will be made to make it permanent in 2018. See table for respective Bills.

Atomic Veteran Bills in the 115th Session (5-31-2017)

Title	House Bill#	Author/ CoSponsors	Committee	Senate Bill#	Author/ CoSponsors	Committee ReferredTo
Mark Takai Atomic Veterans Healthcare Parity Act	HR632	88	Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs	S283	8	Committee on Amendments of 2017
Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2017	HR2049	26	Committee on the Judiciary Committees on Education and the Workforce Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice	S197	5	Committee on the Judiciary
Atomic Veteran Service Medal	HR2754	8	Committee on Armed Services	S1283	1	Committee on Armed Services
July 16th National Atomic Veterans Day	TBD	TBD	SubCommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs	TBD	TBD	TBD

LOOKING FOR A SHIPMATE



Anyone that was aboard the USS Lexington CVA-16 from April 1948 to August 1949 would you please contact Gillie Jenkins our Director of State Commanders at 804-334-8585 or e-mail him at atomicgillie@verizon.net.

OPERATION STAND TOGETHER (OST) A SUCCESS

OST took place on May 20th, 2017, Armed Services Day, in Washington DC. OST was a Military Toxic Exposure Veterans Rally at Sylvan Theater, in the National Park near the Washington Monument. Military Toxic Exposure Veterans are Veterans that have been exposed to toxins, including, but not limited to, Chemicals, Mustard gas, Atomic radiation (including DU and Fukushima), Agent Orange, and burn pits. OST provided hope and an opportunity for our collective voices to be heard, educating the public and elected officials. This event was not the end of a 14-month planning effort; but instead, represents the beginning of the next chapter of a collective effort in this fight. We will continue to move forward and we must all remain dedicated to this fight until all Military-Related Toxic Exposures are identified and every Toxic Veteran and family member is provided the justice that they deserve. Approximately, two hundred Veterans, family members and friends attended. The Atomic Veterans, family members and friends numbered approximately forty. NAAV members included James Hamman (Minnesota State Co Commander), William Craft (NY Enewetak 1958), Terry Hamrick (NC Enewetak Cleanup), Mark Sargent (ME Enewetak Cleanup), Al Gettier (NV Enewetak Cleanup), Keith Kiefer (MN Enewetak Cleanup). Non NAAV members in

attendance were Enewetak Cleanup Veterans: Harry Daniels (NC), Thomas Brewer (IN), Mike Chumley (IN), Willie Walker (IL), Greg Meyer (MD), John Carpenter (NY), Bernard Stearos (OH), John Baenen (WI), Paul E. Laird II (ME), Michael Horten (NC), Bill Pittman, David Simon, Phillip R. Daggs (OK), Ken Bertrand (MI), Terrence Graham (DC), Dr. Bates (UT), Ken Brownell (?NY), Arthur Jackson (TX), Dr. Ernest T. Davis (DE). Also, Brian Cowden (CA), a documentary film maker was on site. Harry Daniels (Enewetak Cleanup Veteran) was a Guest Speaker sharing many facts and stats on the cleanup operation. Keith Kiefer, also a Guest Speaker, spoke on behalf of all Atomic Veterans, NAAV and the Enewetak Radiological Cleanup Project. Erin Brockovich spoke along with two members of Congress: Jack Bergman, LTGEN, USMC Retired (R MI-1) and Dan Kildee (D MI-5). Porter (D NH-1) had to Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter (D NH-1) had to cancel last minute due to a family situation. Many other knowledgeable speakers shared their areas of expertise. The Friday before and Monday after the rally, many of the Atomic Veterans personally met with Senators and Congressmen, and or their staff members. My personal experience was that these meetings were fruitful in garnering more support for Atomic Veteran issues, and discussing strategies going forward.



Dr. Kristina Kiefer, daughter of Atomic Veteran Keith Kiefer manned the OST NAAV information table.



Left to Right Bernard Stearos, Harry Daniels and John Carpenter all Enewetak Cleanup Veterans manning the OST Enewetak Atoll Radiological Cleanup Information Booth.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of ATOMIC & NUCLEAR VETERANS
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM
Branson, Missouri Reunion
September 13-14-15, 2017**

Name (on name badge) _____
 Spouse/Guest _____ Guest _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone _____ Cell _____
 Email _____
 Wheelchair Access? Yes No Dietary Restrictions? _____

HOST HOTEL: THE RADISSON HOTEL BRANSON

120 South Wildwood Drive, Branson, Mo. 65616

Call **417-335-5767** for room reservations and mention you are with the NAAV Reunion. The room rate is \$99.00 per room per night plus tax. A hot buffet breakfast is included in room rate and rate is available 3 days prior and 3 days after the reunion based on availability. Rooms not reserved by August 13, 2017 will be dropped from the group block. Complimentary hotel parking.

For airport transportation needs please call Gray Line Cab Service at 800-542-6768. For a special discount please let the dispatcher know you are with National Assn Atomic Veterans Reunion

REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE \$299.00 per person (does not include the optional show)

Includes early bird Registration prior to August 1st. # _____ of attendees x \$299pp = \$ _____

Late Registrations after August 1st up to August 25th **\$309.00**. # _____ of attendees x \$309pp = \$ _____

Partial ACTIVITY PACKAGES AVAILABLE – \$55 REGISTRATION FEE per person applies

Welcome Buffet \$15pp x _____ = \$ _____	Tour & Showboat Lunch \$88 x _____ = \$ _____
MDQ Show \$48pp x _____ = \$ _____	Luncheon Buffet \$16pp x _____ = \$ _____
Banquet Dinner \$43 x _____ = \$ _____	ADD Optional Show #1 Hits \$45pp x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____

Any late registrations after August 25th will not include any activities based on the venue deposits and final guaranteed counts. No refunds can be given on activities after August 25th.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

GRAY LINE GATHERINGS PLUS
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*Branson's number one Military Reunion Planner and Branson's First Class Fleet
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OPERATION SANDSTONE MEMORIES

In April of 1953, the 278th regimental Combat Team was at Fort Devens, Mass. We were told that we were going to Nevada to see an atomic bomb experiment. We were shown some films about the effect of bombs that were dropped on Japan. Then we were told if we did not have dog tags to be sure and get them.



Postcard picture of a typical street at Ft. Devens 1954

We left Fort Devens, Mass in April of 1953 on a troop train. We were on the train four days and four nights. We never got off until we got to Las Vegas, Nevada. The porter made our beds at night and we had a mess car where we ate.

When we got to Las Vegas, olive drab buses were waiting for us on arrival. We then traveled over 70 miles from Las Vegas to a place called Camp Desert Rock.

The first time we were to see an atomic experiment, it was canceled. I read in a book about atomic tests that said if the wind blew over Las Vegas and California they were to call off the tests, but if the winds blew over Utah go ahead with the tests. Utah is less populated than California.

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tests that said if the wind blew over Las Vegas and California they were to call off the tests, but if the winds blew over Utah go ahead with the tests. Utah is less populated than California.



Highway sign for turn off to Desert Rock

We were in a trench that came up to my neck when I was standing, but we were told when the bomb was dropped we were to kneel in the trench. After the blast the first thing we saw was a white light that lit up the trench like a huge flash bulb. Then the worst explosion I have ever heard. Then we stood up and saw the mushroom cloud as it got lighter and lighter. It was a purplish color to start with, then we saw the shock wave pass over us. We were six miles away from ground zero. The bomb was dropped from an airplane.

After the shock wave passed over us we went to within 5000 yards of ground zero. Along the way we saw green cactus here and there on fire. Farther on we saw some sheep, some had protection from the blast and appeared unhurt. Some had little protection and had wool burns and some were blinded. Some were staked out in the open and were killed on the spot. Old jeeps and trucks were burned out. Some were moved around by the force of the blast.

We could see at a distance what appeared to be drums of oil burning. At 5000 yards from ground zero we ended our walk. At that distance the ground was burned black and bare of cactus. I had a hand held meter that began to register radiation, but we were told that it was not enough radiation to hurt us. We went over each other with a broom and a Geiger counter, then got in trucks and left the area.

Submitted by Paul S. Mason

TAPS

W. B. Anderson.....
 Lancaster, OH
Robert A. Raymond.....
 Old Orchard Beach, ME
Raymond Benoit.....
 Gentilly MN
Fred R Rupert SR.....
 San Diego, CA
Bob F. Wallace.....
 Albertville, AL
Howard Shaemaker.....
 Omaha, NE
Larry K. Brinnerman.....
 Antwerp, OH
Raymond H. Neeley.....
 Harrison, OH
Bobby W. Gooden.....
 Elkton, VA
Gerald Jacobson.....
 Woodridge, VA



Capt. J. F. Moore.....
 Bentville, VA
Harry E. Smith.....
 Colonial Beach, VA
George Mace.....
 Waynesboro, PA
Kenneth J. Oeschger.....
 Palatine, IL
Howard P. Joeckel.....
 O'Fallon, MO
Robert Van Boening.....
 Derby, KS
Michael Pellegrino.....
 Media, PA
James N. Ruoff.....
 Palmyra, IN
Joseph Powers.....
 Riverside, CT
Donald Cooke.....
 Irvine, CA
Jack Boley.....
 St. Marys, WV
Charles Douglas.....
 Ona, WV

ATOMIC VETERAN COMPENSATION COMPARISON


Veterans Ionization Radiation Group	Included as Occupational Exposure Priority Group 6	RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act)	VA 38 CFR 3.311(B)(2)(as of Dec 15, 2016)
Participated in an above-ground nuclear test, 1945–1962	Included	Included	Included
Was part of the U.S. military occupation forces in/around Hiroshima/Nagasaki before 1946 (beginning on August 6, 1945, and ending on July 1, 1946)	Included		Included
Was held as a POW in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki (certain cases).	Included		Included
Service in which the service member was, as part of his or her official military duties, present during a total of at least 250 days before February 1, 1992, on the grounds of a gaseous diffusion plant located in Paducah, Kentucky, Portsmouth, Ohio, or the area identified as K25 at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, if, during such service the veteran:	Included		Included
(f) Was monitored for each of the 250 days of such service through the use of dosimetry badges for exposure at the plant of the external parts of veteran's body to radiation; or Served for each of the 250 days of such service in a position that had exposures comparable to a job that is or was monitored through the use of dosimetry badges	Included		Included
Service before January 1, 1974, on Amchitka Island, Alaska, if, during such service, the veteran was exposed to ionizing radiation in the performance of duty related to the Long Shot, Milrow, or Cannikin underground nuclear tests.	Included		Included
Service in a capacity which, if performed as an employee of the Department of Energy, would qualify the individual for inclusion as a member of the Special Exposure Cohort under section 3621(14) of the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384(14)).	Included		Included
Enewetak Atoll Radiological Cleanup Project 1977 to 1980			
DU (Depleted Uranium)	Included		
Fukushima (Operation Tomodachi) March 12 to May 11, 2011	Included		

Prepared by Keith Kiefer, NAA&NV Vice Commander

CORRECTION NOTICE

NOTICE in the 1st Quarter Issue on page 4 which had a continuation of the chart that started on page 3 the item listed under DISEASE (**PROSTATE CANCER**) should not be checked that is in error. So please be informed that the "X" should be removed. See part of table 1 below.

Table 1 (continued)

Disease	RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act)	VA 38 CFR 3.311 (B)(2) (as of Dec 15, 2016)
Cancer of the rectum		X
Prostate cancer	 X	X
Any other cancer		X
(4) If a claim is based on a disease other		

NAAV JACKETS & TIE

Gillie has two new NAAV jackets and a tie given to him by a former members widow. One is a Medium and one is a XLarge with the NAAV emblem on the back. He also has a tie with the emblem on it and is looking for those who would like to have it. Simply send him and bid and once we find out who the winners are he will notify you and you can send him a check. He will then ship it to you free and all the money will go to the NAAV treasurer. So give him a call or e-mail him today with you bid today.

Submitted by Gillie Jenkins, NAA&NV Director of State Commander





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