



NAA&NV NEWS

JUNE 2018

2ND QUARTER

Members Publication of the National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans



From the Desk of the Commander --

We have just gotten home from a fabulous trip to Paris, France and London, England. Keith Kiefer and I met with the French nuclear veterans and invited them to attend our September 12th-15th convention. We saw many of the sites in Paris and enjoyed our time there. Then we were off by train from Paris to London. The Eco Star train is a two hour 268 mph trip. We thank NAAV for covering the airfare for Keith and me. We were able to cover our own and our wives' expenses ourselves and while we had a wonderful time, sincerely hope that this trip begins a new era in international atomic veterans support and resources.

Alan Owen, Chairman of the British Nuclear Test Vets, (BNTVA) and his wife met us at the train station and took us on a tour of London and then off to Bristol Bay for their convention on the 18th-20th. What a wonderful time we had with the British nuclear vets and their wives. Ocean front hotel! BNTVA provided that hotel experience to us at no expense to NAAV. You could look out the windows and see "whales". My wife, Barb, said she could not see the spouts of the whales, and then she realized the sighting was of Wales, England. We all had a good laugh. Barb and I volunteer for the Oregon State Parks for whale watching, Whales Spoken Here event in December and again in March each Year.

Before the convention closed Keith and I were made members of the BNTVA. We were also told that three of the French nuclear veterans, three trustees (board members) from the BNTVA, one from Australia and one from New Zealand would be attending our convention in Portland. The Marshall Islanders will also be here.

NAAV is invited to attend the French Nuclear Veterans Convention in October.

We will need some great support from our members to help with the convention in Portland, Oregon in September to be a great success. We are hoping a 6-7 Nation convention will make some great news and help us all in our fight for recognition of atomic and nuclear veterans.

Please send your donations to help support our NAAV convention in Portland OR. September 12th-15th to NAAV, 130 Cleveland St Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

Thank you

Fred Schafer

A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE COMMANDER



I hope all of you have been having a great Spring/Summer. There has been a whirlwind of activity since the last newsletter. We have continued to push Atomic Veteran legislation. Before leaving for Europe, at the eleventh hour we managed to get the Minnesota House Bill to the floor, as a stand alone Bill, for a vote on May 9, 2018, it passed unanimously 122 to 0.

While I was in France, with the French Atomic Veterans on May 14th, I received notice that Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton signed the Bill into law. Yeah!!! This Bill places July 16th, designated as Atomic Veterans Day on the Minnesota calendar in 2018 and every year hereafter. I was concerned we weren't going to be able to make this happen since the legislative session ended May 21, 2018. If it had not happened by then, we would have to start all over again. We need to duplicate this in other States instead of Proclamations or Resolutions, which are generally only for one year.

Back to Europe, we were picked up at the London train station by the BNTVA Chairman, Alan Owen and his delightful bride Mel. We were then treated to a tour of "London in an afternoon." Traffic was congested due to the preparations for the Royal wedding. This was a blessing for us, not so much for the driver (Alan), in that we were able to slowly take in the beautiful architecture and other sights. After the tour we were transported to Weston Super Mare, U.K., the site of the BNTVA (British Nuclear Test Veterans Association) convention. This was a 144 plus mile cross country trip one way. We had a welcome not unlike that of the prodigal son. Every aspect of the convention was professional, yet not stuffy. Both Fred and myself were made Honorary BNTVA members, receiving a jacket with the BNTVA emblem containing the Queen's crown. After the convention Alan and his bride (Mel) drove us cross country via Cheddar, Bath (for those that are Jane Austin fans) and other sites to Heathrow airport (again 144+ miles). Then they drove 200+ miles back west the opposite direction. What dedication they have for the cause.

Working together with other Atomic Veteran organizations has been mutually beneficial. Alan (the BNTVA chairman) was inspired by a patch he saw

while attending our convention. This was the catalyst for their Medal Campaign logo. Alan's presentation was the catalyst for a letter I wrote, on behalf of NAAV, to President Trump asking him to sign an Executive Order for an Atomic Veteran Service Medal on July 16th, 2018. (Please call 202-456-1111, email president@whitehouse.go, and mail at; President Donald Trump 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500 Asking for the president to sign an Executive Order for an Atomic Veteran Service Medal on July 16th, 2018.) I plagiarized some of Alan's presentation to make a more convincing argument. We should also benefit from the information BNTVA and AVEN (the French Nuclear Veterans) will share once their genetic/DNA studies are complete. These are just a few examples of how our organizations will be stronger through joint ventures and sharing. AVEN will be having their French Atomic Veteran Convention in October. They have asked we send a NAAV representative to the convention. At this time BNTVA also plans to attend. I have heard the President of Tahiti may attend the NAAV Convention. I have extended an invite to President Trump also. Please solicit donations of items to be auctioned or Ruffled at the NAAV Convention, as well as, cash donations. We need these funds to offset expenses not covered by the Conference fees. Thank you in advance for your support in this effort. Have a Blessed Atomic Veterans Day (July 16th, 2018) and remember those Veterans and family members that have given so much to keep America free and protect other nations. Contact your State Commanders to determine what date, location and activities may be taking place. Minnesota will be having our activities on Sunday July 15th, 2018 (assuming a larger turn out than on Monday) from 10:30 AM to 5 PM at Veterans Lake in Ramsey, Minnesota 55303. Please RSVP the National Vice Commander so we can plan on having adequate food, drinks, cake and other accommodations. Catch and release fishing is available without a license. All Veterans and supporters welcome.

Keith (K2)

"War is the greatest evil Satan has invented to corrupt our hearts and souls. We should honor our soldiers, but we should never honor war."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2nd QUARTER 2018

While we were in Europe, Minnesota Senator Tina Smith Introduced S2821 (formerly S283 introduced by Senator Al Franken, Minnesota). This is an administrative action since Senator Franken was replaced by Senator Smith. This action took from March 28 to May 2018. S2821 is the companion Bill to HR632, the Mark Takai Atomic Veteran Healthcare Parity Act. S2381 has 13 of the 100 Senators as authors or Cosponsors. Presently, Minnesota and Oregon are the only states with 100% support. HR632 has 233 of the 435 House members supporting the Bill. By the time you get this newsletter we will have 180 or less days to get these Bills passed. Please contact your Senators and Congressmen to cosponsor and pass these Bills. S197/HR2049 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments of 2017 has only picked up two Congressmen and No Senators since the last Newsletter. The two Congressmen are Janice Schakowsky (D IL-9) and Eleanor Holmes Norton (D DC at Large). S1283/HR2754 Atomic Veteran Service Medal, despite the Bipartisan support and efforts of Congressman McGovern (D MA-2) and Congressman Emmer (R MN-6), have made no visible forward progress. Please see comments in the Vice Commanders message. HR4675 Low Dose Radiation Research Act of 2017 has passed the House however, no visible activity has been seen regarding a companion Bill being introduced in the Senate. Atomic Veterans Day please see the Vice Commanders comments. Please call, write and email your representatives, asking them to cosponsor/support these Bills. We can't do this alone.

VISITING BNTVA



To the left is Keith Kiefer and his wife (our Vice Commander) and to the right is Fred Schafer and his wife at the British Convention -- 2018.

NEW IN THE 'Q' STORE

You can now purchase NAA&NV "Atomic Veteran" thank you cards. These are available in sets of ten cards with envelopes for \$10.00 including shipping and handing. Thank your family, friends or law makers for their support. If interested we could provide blank (inside) note cards.

FRONT



INSIDE

Thank You

for your

Support of Atomic Veterans!

NOTICE

Members-- If you are planning on attending the convention in Portland, OR, PLEASE CALL the Monarch Hotel ASAP. The rooms are going fast. Then Fill out this SIGN UP page and send to Gathering Plus or call them and signup. We have several from the British Nuclear Test Vets Association that are planning on being there. The French are planning on two members, the Marshal Islanders will be there and they will have their canoe on display. We have invited 5 different Nations to attend. We want this to be the best convention that we can plan and make National News. It is up to our members, you will make this a great convention. Hope to see many of you there.

Fred Schafer

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--Continued on Page 5

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NEED HELP?

Kathleen Barber is with the DOJ and will help any and all with the forms for the \$75,000. She can dig out some records for Vets. Call and leave a message. She will help. 1-202-514-0979.

MOTEL ROOMS GOING FAST



Gentlemen, the rooms are going fast and they are on a first come first serve basis. So if you call and they are full let me know as I have set up room in a hotel a block away with shuttle service, just in case. My number is on the letter but it's 541-258-7453. So if you have't made your reservation I suggest you do so as quickly as possible.

Frank H. Schaf

ELECTION OF NAAV BOARD MEMBERS

In September 2018 at the convention we will have 4 board members that are up for re-election.

Anyone that plans to be at convention can throw their hat in the ring. You must have a phone and e-mail address. This is so we can conduct NAAV business over the internet. Board members that want to be on the ballot for the board must let us know their intent. This is a 4 year assignment.

Fred Schafer, Frank Farmer, Robert Pfiefer and Haskell Watts have terms ending in September.

The State commanders that are planning on being at convention must let us know and they will be on the nominating committee.

Atomic Veterans Daughter NEEDS HELP!

Can you identify any of these men? His daughter says her late father, Richard William West from Missouri, is in the bottom row middle. She believes it was taken at Camp Desert Rock in 1952 at Operation Tumbler/Snapper. She is guessing that it was at either Able, Baker, or Charlie.

If you can identify any of these men in this 4th Army Unit or know which operation(s) they took part in. Contact Keith Kiefer at Kiefer4Ramsey@yahoo.com or 612 232 6596.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIES GROUND ZERO

Clem Berger was born and raised in North Dakota. Back in 1942 when he enlisted at Mandan, N.D. he originally wanted to join the Marines, but a couple of his buddies talked him out of it. "These two buddies talked me into joining the Navy and I'm glad -- the Marines had a hell of a time."

Since he was not yet 18, Berger's parents had to sign for him in order to enlist. He did his basic training at Farragut Naval base, near Sandpoint, Idaho, and was later assigned to the Appalachian.

After 73 years, looking through Clem Berger's old scrapbook still brings back vivid memories and chilling detail of when he visited the ruins of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan shortly after atomic bombs had destroyed the cities. His scrapbook, which his friend Frank Cappa of Pennsylvania put together for him, still contains many photos of his fellow Navy seamen.

Berger, now 92, formally of Enterprise, had served in the Navy during World War II on the USS Appalachian, or "The Apple", as it was affectionately known to its crew.



USS Appalachian AGC-1

On November 1, 1945, the Apple harbored at Kure Harbor and some of the crew went ashore to see the aftermath of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

Eight days later, the ship anchored at Nagasaki where some of the crew went ashore to see the aftermath of the second atomic bombing at Nagasaki.

"I don't remember how long we were there." Berger explained. While he can't remember whether it was Hiroshima or Nagasaki or both he does remember a few details. "It was disintegrated." he said.

Berger remembered seeing miles and miles of rubble with everything flat, except for a few concrete building, at best with a few stories still standing around an elevator shaft.

The experience of seeing the devastation didn't appear to over traumatize him or cause him to linger too long on the deep philosophical issues raised by the use of the bomb. "I really didn't give it any thought."

As a 19-year old kid, he explained, he didn't have a lot of interest at the time in sightseeing the burned out "I wanted to get the hell out of the Navy and go home!" he said.

While a lot of the photos show his pals joking around in clubs posing with lady friends, other photos show glimpses of the grim realities of war: like the photo of the severed head of a Japanese soldier -- with his helmet still on his head.

Other photos show officers from the appalachian posing in front of the rubble of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Officers of the USS Appalachian AGC-1 pose for a photo in the rubble of Hiroshima, Japan, after the first atomic bomb instantaneously destroyed the city.

His ship, the Appalachian, did see combat during the war in the Marshall Island, the Marianas and landing at Guam, Leyte, Luzon and Lingayen Gulf.

Berger was part of the crew who manned two-barreled 40-millimeter guns and shot at his share of Japanese Kamikaze fighter pilots in his day.

Clem and his wife Valerie now live in Snohomish, Washington.

--Submitted by Clem Berger

OHIO IS ON ITS WAY TO GET ATOMIC VETERANS DAY PASSED

Thanks to David England & David J. Crawford Ohio State Commanders and Representative Tim Schaffer a Bill declaring July 16th National Atomic Veterans Day has passed the Ohio House with a unanimous vote of 88 to 0. In February 2018 Representative Schaffer, NAAV members, David England, David J. Crawford and Keith Kiefer all provided testimony in favor of this Bill. In Ohio, Representative Schaffer's Press Release he stated: "Pickerington American Legion former commander, David England, brought the issue to Schaffer's attention on Memorial Day last year. "I am so pleased that my colleagues in the House agree that these veterans, who sacrificed so much for the safety of our nation and for peace throughout the world will finally get the recognition they deserve," Schaffer said. "And thank you to David England of the Pickerington American Legion for his action on this issue, bringing it to me and appearing at the Statehouse to offer his testimony of support." "This legislation is now on its way to the Ohio State Senate for consideration.

JUNE 2018 ISSUE of AMERICAN LEGION RECOGNIZES NAAV



American Legion Magazine June issue featured part one of a three part series on "Exposure Wars". The article was noted on the Magazine front cover, NAAV National Commander and the Vice Commander were both quoted in the article. This article was well received and has generated nation wide recognition. Both Fred and Keith have been receiving multiple calls daily as a result of the article. The article content can be seen here: <https://www.legion.org/magazine/241986/exposure-wars-long-connected-and-continuing-fight-accountability>

NEW COIN TO BE MINTED IN 2019

A law was passed (PL-115-65) to mint a US legal tender coin Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the American Legion to pay tribute to the years of promoting the importance of and caring for those who served in uniform.



REGISTER FOR 2018 NAAV CONVENTION ONLINE

If you haven't registered for the coming NAAV Convention in Portland you can do so online! You need to go to [gathering plus.com](http://gatheringplus.com) and go to NAAV. the pass word is **NAANV** all capitals. Look forward to seeing you there!

GOOD NEWS FOR FELLOW TOXIC EXPOSURE VETERANS

Former VA Secretary Shulkin recommended adding four conditions (bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like tremors and hypertension) to the VA list of fourteen illnesses presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides. Congressman Waltz, Ranking Member of the House VA Committee recently followed up on this by writing to the Office of Management and Budget. He wants to ensure these recommendations are acted upon.

TAPS

- Sam S. Bellestri**
.....Monroe, MI
- Bill F. Vorwald**
.....Union Grove, WI
- Dennis T. Osterbuhr**
.....Minden, NE
- Sidney R. Evans**
.....Picayune, MS
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PORTLAND Convention

Sept 12-15, 2018

Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14	Saturday 15
 <p>Check in at THE Monarch Hotel \$139 + Tax with Breakfast Included</p> <p>Hospitality Room Open</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Welcome Reception</p>  <p>\$22 Per Person</p>	<p>Breakfast</p>  <p>Day Trip to Evergreen Aviation & Space Museum \$</p>  <p>Lunch at American Legion in Tigard Or (\$15 PP-Group will pay Fred)</p>  <p>Oregon Garden Tram Tour \$85 pp @ 40 people \$76 pp @ 50 people Return to Hotel Hospitality Room Open</p>	<p>Breakfast</p>  <p>Business Meeting with Lunch on own 8:30 am – 4:30 pm</p>  <p>6:30 p.m. BANQUET DINNER</p>  <p>\$52 per person</p>	<p>Breakfast</p> <p>Depart</p> <p>ACTIVITY PACKAGE \$159</p> <p>INCLUDES: Welcome Aboard Reception Day Trip to Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum Garden Tram Tour Final Evening Banquet</p> <p>Registration Fee: \$65 Per Member Hospitality Room Name Badges Welcome Packets Convention Website Admin Fees</p>

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of ATOMIC & NUCLEAR VETERANS CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM
Portland Oregon Convention
September 12-15, 2018**

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

HOST HOTEL: Monarch Hotel & Conference Center
 12846 S/E. Ninety-Third Avenue, Clackamas, OR 97015

Call 503-652-1515 for room reservations and mention you are with the NAAV Convention. The room rate is \$139 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 12, 2018 will be dropped from the group block. Complimentary hotel parking.

Airport transportation is provided on a complimentary basis. Upon arrival guests should collect baggage then call (800) 492-8700. The Hotel Staff will direct guests to the designated pick up area and advise the approximate wait time. Due to Port of Portland restrictions, the Hotel cannot meet flights and is limited on time in the pick-up area.

REUNION ACTIVITY PACKAGE \$159.00 per person

Required Registration Fee \$65 Per Member. # _____ of attendees x \$65 per Member = \$ _____
 (Registration for Spouse is Free)

Partial ACTIVITY PACKAGES AVAILABLE – \$65 Required REGISTRATION FEE applies

Welcome Reception \$25pp x _____ = \$ _____ Thursday 9/13 Day Trip \$89pp x _____ = \$ _____

Banquet Dinner \$55 x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL DUE: \$ _____ Check Information

Enclosed is check # _____

Today's Amount: _____

Credit Card Information

Charge Amount: _____

Circle Type: MasterCard Visa American Express Discover

Card #: _____ Exp Date: _____ Key Code: _____ Signature: _____

Any late registrations after August 12th will not include any activities based on the venue deposits and final guaranteed counts. No refunds can be given on activities after August 12th.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK PAYABLE TO:

GRAY LINE GATHERINGS PLUS
 155 Industrial Park Drive
 Hollister, MO 65672
 417-338-4048



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