



# NAA&NV NEWS

JUNE 2019

2nd QUARTER

Members Publication of the National Association of Atomic & Nuclear Veterans

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



**Keith Kiefer**

NAA&NV - Commander

planning Minnesota's Atomic Veterans Day celebration, to name a few of the activities.

Well it has been a whirlwind of activities since our last Newsletter. Putting our 40th Annual Convention together, attending the British Nuclear Test Veterans Conference and then meeting with the French, following legislative action that affects Atomic Veterans and testifying on a Bill in committee,

The line up of speakers for the 40th convention is exciting and should prove to be surprising. Additionally, the activity day should be just as relevant and interesting as the National Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas. Dayton, Ohio is rich in Nuclear/Atomic history, as well as other history topics like aviation.

The British Nuclear Test Veterans Conference helped further build relationships with similar organizations, veterans and advocates for Atomic Veterans. During the convention the Chairman of the BNTVA mentioned the British scientist stealing and selling secrets of the Manhattan Project to the Russians. Not long after, he mentioned stealing the Order of the Guinea Pig idea from Fred and NAAV for a new campaign initiative. I couldn't resist asking if he planned to sell the idea to the Russians. At the Chairman's expense it received a few laughs. I'm waiting for the other shoe to drop when he attempts to get even with me in September.

The topic of discussion during the meeting with the French, once properly vetted, may be announced at a later date.

I was asked to testify before the VA Committee in reference to HR1628, a bill to study the Enewetak Atoll Cleanup Veterans. In summary, I stated NAAV would support the Bill as long as it did not impede the passage of HR1377/S555.

The baby step toward recognition (an Atomic Veteran Certificate of participation) is now available. The details of this will be discussed in another article.

I ask all State Commanders to plan an Atomic Veteran's Day get together/celebration in their respective states. Minnesota will be celebrating on Sunday, July 14th instead of the 16th in hopes of a larger turnout.

Please make your convention hotel reservations and attendance registration as quickly as possible. There is only a limited number of spaces available. Thank you for your generosity; please consider a donation of cash or an item for the raffle or auction at the convention.

Thank you for your support,

*Keith (K<sup>2</sup>)*



## FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE COMMANDER

Time to celebrate Memorial Day, Remembering those who have given their all.

We are putting together the 40<sup>th</sup> NAA&NV convention. Keith is working hard to make this a great convention. Dayton, Ohio on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to see a lot of the members there. The British BNTVA will be coming again. We



**Fred Schafer**  
VICE COMMANDER

have invited the President of the Marshall Islands, the French. Kathleen Barber from the Department of Justice, and several other guests.

We have ordered more of the Challenge coins. We will be starting a new Challenge coin this Next year. It will be Crossroad Shot Baker. We also have a new patch that you can iron on or sew it to your jackets. It is 6" long and 1½ inch wide. It says Atomic Veteran? This will give you a chance to explain to people what we are. They will cost \$10.00 which includes shipping.

Membership continues to grow and the items in the store continue to sell. Also several donations have come in. I will repeat this. "Now is the time to start

working with you states and Federal Congress to Get July 16<sup>th</sup> as Atomic Veterans day annually. I can send you a copy of what Oregon got passed on July 16<sup>th</sup>. Also get a section of Highway to become Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway. State Commanders work with your members and get members to get current in dues, just \$ 25.00 will get you current. Please update your information. Phone numbers are not current. E-mail or call with that information. When you send in dues let us know of any changes.

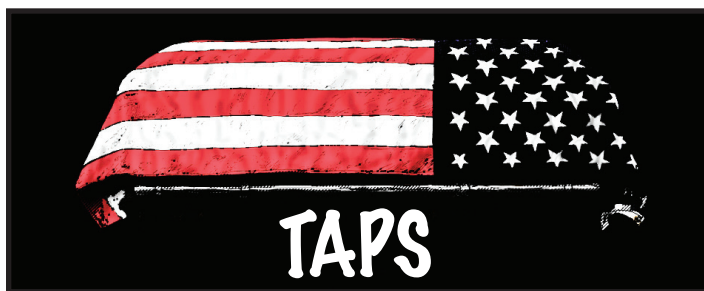
Thank you members that send in extra dues earmarked for helping someone that needs help with their dues and other support of NAA&NV.

We have a lot of events planned for this year, and we are here to help anyone that wants help. Just let us know.

Remember to celebrate July 16<sup>th</sup>. Have a get together in your state. State Commanders try to put something together. Call your senator's and representative's. Ask them to help.

Thank you

Fred Schafer  
National Vice Commander



- DON M. LUTH.....Joelton, TN
- JACK E. BOLEY .....St. Marys, WV
- CHARLES R. MCKAY .....Severna Park, MD
- THEODORE P. GECK.....Stayton, OR
- PATRICK J. O'REILLY.....Smithsburg, MD
- DALE K. CARNAHAN.....Selinsgrove, PA



Please meet our NAAV ambassador to England  
Alex Partezana of Ohio.

## OPERATION CROSSROADS ADVENTURES

Memories of my tour of duty in the Marshall Islands during Operation Crossroads involving the detonation of two Atomic Bombs. (In which they tried to blow Landau out of the water!) That was 74 years ago. My ship was the USS Sylvania AKA-44 and it was one of the first ships into Bikini Lagoon in preparation for the "A" Bomb Tests in 1946.



The setting for this event was one of wonder for this 16 year old kid. The island was picturesque with the white sand, palm trees and the blue coral waters. It never occurred to me that the U.S. Government was planning to blow up the whole scene.

We had liberties on Bikini at the "Coral Reef Tavern" which was in fact a lean-to with a long bar made out of 2 saw horses and 3 foot long plank. This facility was built after the \$30,000.00 Officers Club was built on the other side of the island. I recall in the early days of our arrival, we could stand in line at the coral reef tavern and buy cans of beer for 10 cents each.

As more ships joined our ranks and more supplies became available the price per can went down to 5 cents each. Then it didn't take long for the price to be "NOTHING" it was free. Soon you could get in line and get a whole case of beer at no cost.

I remember sitting under a palm tree with my case of beer eating coconuts, basking in the sun after a swim in the beautiful surf.

This routine went on for a couple of weeks in which I developed stomach problems. My stomach was rumbling all the time and I couldn't be too far from the nearest HEAD, I had the backyard trots.

I remember thinking the problem was getting to the point where I was seriously considering giving up the beer, thinking that was the cause of all my troubles. I was sitting there one day with my beer and coconuts when this older looking Marine walked by. He stopped and looked at me and said, "Hey Kid, you keep eating those green coconuts and your're gonna get the shits!" At 16 what did I know? Well, the good news was I didn't have to give up my beer.

I was 6'5" tall in service and needless to say I couldn't fit in the racks below decks for sleeping. I somehow came in possession of one of those Army fold-up cots which I used every night on deck. Many mornings I would wake up to find myself soaking wet from the multiple night rain showers that occurred quite often. I didn't mind getting wet, it was worth it just to wake up on deck with the full view of Bikini Lagoon.

One morning I woke up to find the Flattop USS Shangri-La moored not too far from us. In the days that followed it was interesting to see the planes take off and land on her deck. The real interesting part was, they had no pilots. They were remote controlled Drones.

Another morning I noticed a Sea Going Tug also anchored near by. I found out later the tug was used to position the mothball fleet being used as target ships for the A-Bomb Tests.

On that first morning I saw a black seaman come up on deck of that Tug, strip down and dive in the water. We had been advised that swimming in the Lagoon was Prohibited for a time because of shark infestation.

Continued on Page 4

## OPERATION CROSSROAD CONTINUED

Continued from Page 3

I watched this swabbie swim out a ways from the tug. Evidently, because of the Tugs middle of the night arrival, the word of NO SWIM DUE TO SHARKS was not passed along to the Tug Crews.

While watching him swim I noticed the tell-tale fin of a shark heading toward him. I tried to yell out a warning but he didn't hear me. The shark made a quick pass and took his thumb off, clean as a whistle. Now this is not funny because the man was injured, but I swear to God I never seen anyone swim so fast in all my life. He out swam the shark and I swear I never saw him pull himself up on the Tugs deck. It's like he jumped right out of the water on to the deck. He was holding the hand where the thumb was missing and ran below deck. That was the last I ever saw of him.

I started to write just a couple of sentences prompted by peanuts and ended up writing half a book. I guess I just got carried away. There's more in the future if you want.

Submitted by  
Seaman 1/C Hank Landau



Alex - being Italian decided to set off an Italian nuclear bomb in his hosts', Sandy and Doug Hern's oven.

--from our new NAAV English Ambassodor

## BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS ASSOCIATION



**Alan Owen**  
BNTVA - Chairman  
voice of the Nuclear Veterans is heard.

On behalf of the BNTVA, I would like to thank the NAAV National Commander and his wife for attending our Annual Conference in Worcester in May and for the presentation to our members. The international co-operation that exists between the BNTVA and NAAV is essential to ensure that the worldwide voice of the Nuclear Veterans is heard.

Nuclear Veterans Worldwide has gone from strength to strength this year and has ensured that we continue to publish research and involve as many organisations as possible who are involved in all aspects of the Nuclear testing and clean-up process.

I am dismayed that many of your Veterans are in the same situation as ours and are fighting for pensions and healthcare payments. The legacy of Nuclear testing and the dismissal from governments of the damage that has been done to Veterans and their families and will continue for generations to come.

In July 1963, US President John F. Kennedy delivered an address to the nation in which he urged the ratification of a treaty to end atmospheric testing: "... the number of children and grandchildren with cancer in their bones, with leukaemia in their blood, or with poison in their lungs may seem



statistically small to some, in comparison with natural health hazards, but this is not a natural health hazard - and it is not a statistical issue.

Wise words in 1963, the treaty was ratified, and  
Continued on Page 5

## BNTVA CONTINUED

Continued from Page 4  
atmospheric testing was banned, but it was already too late for these families affected. 56 years later we are still suffering. Perhaps the governments of the world should read this address again.

I will be attending the NAAV conference in Ohio in September with my wife, with Mr & Mrs Eric Barton and possibly some other British Veterans. I hope to see many of you at the conference, stay well and enjoy the summer.



### AN URGENT PLEAS A LAYMAN'S VIEWPOINT



Prior to the nineteen forties, a bomb was a device which produced heat, concussion and a loud noise. Then, in August 1945, the atomic bombs which were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki exhibited these characteristics PLUS radiation.

Radiation is sneaky; you cannot see, hear, smell, taste or feel it. But its effects can be devastating. It can invade materials exposed to it and can cause a breakdown or re-arrangement (mutation) of their cells. For both plants and animals, the consequence can be serious health problems, and even death. There are, moreover, two other devastating aspects to this: (1) If the mutations occur to the genetic cells the anomalies can be passed on to the offspring; (2) There can be a considerable time delay (latency period) before the negative consequences become evident. This makes it possible for officials to deny any "cause and effect" relationship between the radiation exposure and the health problems.

It has been estimated that somewhere between two and three hundred thousand Japanese civilians died during, and within four months after the atomic bombings of their two cities. However, in the three quarters of a century since then, well over a thousand of these weapons have been detonated in tests; and of those, more than two hundred were exploded above ground or in the water.

Continued lower right column

## DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency now has the Department's Atomic Veterans Service Certificate program up and running. The AVSC was authorized by Sec 581 of the FY19 NDAA. Information on the program and the associated AVSC application form can be found at:

<https://www.dtra.mil/Mission/Nuclear-Test-Personnel-Review/Atomic-Vets-Service-Certificate/>

The direct link to the AVSC application (DTRA Form 150) is:

[https://www.dtra.mil/Portals/61/AVSC%20Application%20-%20DTRA%20Form%20150\\_1.pdf](https://www.dtra.mil/Portals/61/AVSC%20Application%20-%20DTRA%20Form%20150_1.pdf)

Articles announcing the roll out of the program can be viewed below:

DTRA announced the AVSC program via a press release earlier this week:

<https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/06/03/1863489/0/en/DTRA-to-manage-Atomic-Veterans-Service-Certificate-program.html>

Also, the Defense Media Agency recently released the AVSC news story at:

<https://dod.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1868467/atomic-veterans-can-apply-for-defense-secretarys-honor-certificate/>

Continued from left column

Literally millions of innocent people were in the path of the fallout from these bombs; many have experienced serious (sometimes even lethal) health problems. We, who are among those victims should raise our voices in the plea for nuclear abolition. Under the present circumstances, not to do so is to gamble with the potential for disaster.



Submitted by  
Lincoln Grahlf

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS  
40TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION  
REGISTRATION FORM  
Dayton/Miamisburg, Ohio  
September 11, 12, 13th, 2019**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Dayton/Miamisburg	The Mound Miamisburg	Speakers 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Lunch on your own	Check out



4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Registration	USAF Air Museum Wright Patterson		
Dinner on your own	Box lunch provided		
6:00 pm Social time with appetizers	Dinner on your own	6:30 pm Dinner	
	7:00 pm Board meeting		

# TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION DAYTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

3600 Terminal Drive  
Dayton, Ohio 45377  
(877) FLY-DAY-1  
[www.flydayton.com](http://www.flydayton.com)

**AIRLINES:** Allegiant, American, Delta, United

## CURRENT NONSTOP SERVICE

Atlanta, GA (ATL) Charlotte, NC (CLT) Chicago, IL (O'Hare, ORD)  
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX (DFW) Denver, CO (DEN) Detroit, MI (DTW)  
Houston, TX (IAH) Myrtle Beach, SC (MYR) Minneapolis, MN (MSP)  
New York, NY (LGA) New York, NY (EWR) Orlando/Sanford, FL (SFB)  
Punta Gorda, FL (PGD) Philadelphia, PA (PHL) St. Pete-Clearwater, FL (PIE)  
Washington, DC (IAD) Washington, DC (DCA)

## Airport Transportation Services

Dayton Express Cab Co. (937) 226-9999 [daytonexpresscab@gmail.com](mailto:daytonexpresscab@gmail.com)  
[www.daytonexpresscab.com](http://www.daytonexpresscab.com)

Airport Taxi Starter (937) 454-8312

Charter Vans (937) 898-4043 [www.chartervans.com](http://www.chartervans.com)

Callahan's Premium Car Service (937) 789-3829 [www.callahanspcs.com](http://www.callahanspcs.com)

Air City Taxi (937) 435-7999 Anytime Cab (937) 228-5555

Clean Cab (937) 242-8779 Diamond Cab (937) 277-1000

Dayton Checker Cab (937) 277-1000

Miami Valley Tran. (937) 270-0613

South Dayton Tran & Taxi (937) 530-3035

Walt's Taxi Cab Service (937) 825-3861

Lift Uber Hail

If you rent a car and don't mind driving about 1 hour you can look at flying into Cincinnati (LUK) or Columbus (CMH)

Convention Hotel: DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Dayton/Miamisburg

300 Prestige Place Miamisburg, Ohio 45342-5300 USA Tel +1 937 436 2400

Special code rate is: NAA \$112.00 plus taxes ( includes breakfast ) rate is good for dates of the convention and three days prior and after the convention. Limited number of rooms at this rate, first come first serve.

**Make reservations prior to August 10th, 2019.** Reservations can be made online at this link:  
<http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/D/DAYSSDT-NAA-20190911/index.jhtml>



NAA&NV  
130 Cleveland Street  
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 35  
Lincoln, NE 68505-2141

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

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

Vice Commander & Treasurer NAA&NV  
Fred Schafer • 130 Cleveland Street  
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505  
Phone: 541-258-7453  
E-Mail: [derf@trcschafer.com](mailto:derf@trcschafer.com)

***Published quarterly by the NAA&NV***

Deadlines are the 1st 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.

**NAA&NV BOARD MEMBERS**

**NATIONAL COMMANDER**

Keith Kiefer • 14944 295th Avenue NW  
Zimmerman MN 55398 • Phone: 612-232-6596  
E-Mail: [kiefer4ramsey@yahoo.com](mailto:kiefer4ramsey@yahoo.com)

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER & TREASURER**

Fred Schafer • 130 Cleveland Street  
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505 • Phone: 541-258-7453  
E-Mail: [derf@trcschafer.com](mailto:derf@trcschafer.com)

**SECRETARY • NEWSLETTER (EDITOR/PUBLISHER)**

Robert L. Ruyle • 420 Steinway Road  
Lincoln, NE 68505-2564 • Phone 402-488-7927  
E-Mail: [bobruyle34@gmail.com](mailto:bobruyle34@gmail.com)

**TREASURER**

Frank Farmer • 32255 Hidden Valley Road  
Lebanon, OR 97355 • Phone: 541-259-1559  
E-Mail: [hfrankfarmer@gmail.com](mailto:hfrankfarmer@gmail.com)

**DIRECTOR OF STATE COMMANDERS**

Gillie Jenkins • 10500 Dakins Drive  
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236 • Phone: 804-334-8585  
E-Mail: [atomicgillie@verizon.net](mailto:atomicgillie@verizon.net)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

Bob Pfeifer • 61374 Stardrift Lane  
Bend, OR 97702-2051 • Phone: 541-330-1134  
E-Mail: [lazboyscott@yahoo.com](mailto:lazboyscott@yahoo.com)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE • NAAV HISTORIAN**

Haskel Watts Jr. • 216 2nd Avenue  
Logan, WV 25601 • Phone: 304-752-5552  
E-Mail: [hwatts4@frontier.com](mailto:hwatts4@frontier.com)

**DIRECTOR AT LARGE**

Lincoln Grahls • 333 W. Main Street Apt. 104  
Madison, WI 53793 • Phone: 608-230-5870  
E-Mail: [flg17@caa.columbia.edu](mailto:flg17@caa.columbia.edu)