



NAAV NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2019

3rd QUARTER

Members Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander

So much to say, so little time and space. A lot has happened since the last newsletter.

Many States celebrated July 6th Atomic Veterans Day.

James Hamann and I gave a presentation about Atomic Veterans to the Roger's Friends of the Library group (mainly Seniors). This

is a topic which we discussed at the September Board meeting. We want to expand this outreach to the general public, especially to the children. If you are willing to be a speaker or know of an organization that would be interested or looking for a speaker please contact me.

We completed our 40th anniversary Convention in Dayton, OH. If you didn't attend you missed an educational, relationship building event. We had a great lineup of speakers from RECA (the DOJ), Nuclear Policy advisors, the Ambassador of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the USA, British, French representatives, authors just to mention a few. Our membership also grew as a result of the convention. We came up a bit short on covering the cost of the convention, so if your looking for a cause to donate to this would be appreciated.

Many were recognized at the convention for their contributions to NAAV and support of the organization.

A 40th anniversary commemorative challenge coin was introduced. Each convention attendee received a coin. If you would like one purchase it through the Q Store. These make great Christmas, birthday, collector or other occasion gifts. The legislators (Congress, Senate and local) love these. It's a good way to keep NAAV in front of them and thinking about us.

Get out your calendar/planner and mark February 28th, 29th & March 1, 2020 in Springdale, Arkansas for the Marshallese Remembrance Day and September 9th, 10th and 11th for next years convention. Both of these will be an outstanding event. Donations to host these also would be appreciated.

At our board meeting we decided to pursue funding for several DNA studies. We estimate each bare bones study will cost \$100,000.00. If the study returns the results we expect it will set the stage to pursue Benefits for our children similar to the Agent Orange descendant. Anyone knowing or having contacts for donations or grants please let me know.

Additionally, we will be pursuing becoming a non government advisor to the UN. You can learn more from the board meeting minutes.

We expect to know more about the status of the Atomic Veteran Service Medal by the publication of the next newsletter.

I also expect a Congressional companion bill for the Polomares, Spain Broken Arrow Veterans to be introduced soon.

I just returned from France attending the AVEN conference (French Atomic Veterans).

Today I'll be in Washington DC gaining support for our legislation.

To those that may wonder both of these trips are not funded though NAAV funds. Additionally, the funds (\$200.00) given to me from the Tempe South Rotary Club in recognition as the "2019 Atomic Veteran of the Year" were donated to NAAV.

We hope to see you at our future gatherings.

--continued on bottom page 2

FROM THE DESK OF THE VICE COMMANDER



Fred Schafer
NAAV VICE COMMANDER

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 are putting in this newsletter that all members will have to update their information to your state Commander or to the Data base, or you will not receive the next year newsletters, until it is updated. We are sending out newsletters to old addresses and members that have passed away. We want to be Good Stewards of the funds we receive.

Membership continues to grow and the items in the store continue to sell. Also several donations have come in. I will repeat this. "Keep working with your states and Federal Congress to get July 16th as Atomic Veterans day annually. I can send you a copy of what Oregon got passed on July 16th. 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 NAAV.

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

We had a great 2019 40th year convention. The biggest convention that I can remember. Dayton, Ohio was nice weather and very busy.

Next Date to Remember is **Veterans Day**. Lets get into any local parades and get NAAV in the public eye.

Thank you

Fred Schafer
National Vice Commander

Remember contact your State Commander either by Letter, Phone or E-Mail as to you present address, phone number and E-Mail if you have one. We need to be kept up-to-date!

Do it once a year - PLEASE!



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL? GET IT TO ME WITH ANY PICTURES YOU MIGHT HAVE.

--continued from page 1

Again, anyone wishing to help defray some of the convention/gathering costs should send the donation to NAAV C/O Fred Schafer

130 Cleveland St Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

"Live long and prosper - Spock"

Thank you,

Keith

NAAV SEPTEMBER 12, 2019 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting minutes can be found on the NAAV website at https://www.naav.com/assets/2019_NAAV_Convention_Minutes.pdf. Keep in mind the treasurers report included all funds collected for the convention and expenses for the convention had not yet been paid. The expenses for the convention exceeded the revenue collected.

OPERATION HARDTACK ADVENTURES

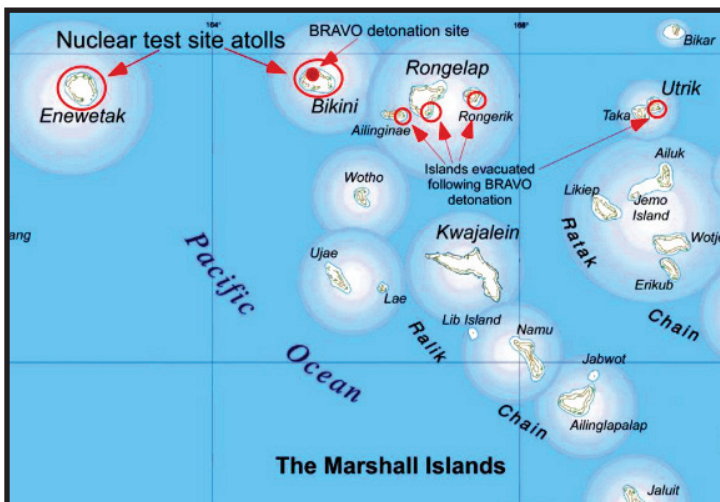


How did I ever become a soldier on Eniwetok and Bikini Atolls? I was there from November 1957 to the end of 1958. They called it “Operation Hardtack” and YES I volunteered to go there, dumb move!

I left Oakland Army Terminal and Travis Air Force Base, then to Hawaii for refueling, then to Johnson Island and finally to Kwajalein Atoll in the South Pacific.

I remember looking out the plane’s window as we approached Eniwetok, water on the ocean side, water on the lagoon side, a runway that ran from one tip to the other. Could this plane land without going into the drink?

Going down the ladder from the plane, wearing a winter uniform I was hit by a blast of hot, humid air and heard the “cat calls” from the ground crew – “Here comes a load of white meat!” Yes, I guess I was “WHITE



MEAT.” Those on the ground wore a uniform of a white t-shirt, cut off khakis and shoes of canvas with thick plastic soles for protection from the coral that could cut hurt and infect ones feet.

Being on the “ROCK” was a way of life I never dreamed possible – no buildings other than Quonset Huts and tents (6-Man). No stores or businesses, no real roads, or stop lights, no life as we knew it in the States. Oh, we did have a consolidated Mess Hall and an outdoor movie screen. No phones to call home, we were isolated in a “TOP SECRET” Nuclear Test Zone. We did have a Quonset hut that had a bathroom and a shower for all. Water was very scarce and was developed from the salt water. No wasting water!

I will not go into the nuclear test information as I signed a ton of papers to keep my mouth shut. I will just say I saw most all of Operation Hardtack.

I’m 81 years old now. I tried once to get benefits from the Government, no dice! The cancer I had was not on their list. I guess there are GOOD cancers and BAD cancers and I had GOOD!

However, about 2 years ago my cancer got on the list. I guess “Uncle Sam” figured most of the “Operation Hardtack” people were dead. Since most were dead it didn’t cost them much to get me into the VA. I did get a physical that I didn’t need but I did get a pair of very good hearing aids. I figured I deserved that!

The radiation exposed people were Guinea Pigs for the U.S. Government - - forgotten and unrewarded. I guess some guys did get benefits that they had to fight for. Dying from radiation exposure is a slow process in many cases and in many cases could take years to kill you.

The NAAV Group continues to fight for all of us who fought the “Invisible War.” We owe it to those who have “passed on” and the folks they left behind. We will fight until the last of us are dead!

PS: There was not one female on Eniwetok or Bikini while I was there no wonder some of our men went crazy! Submitted by H. W. Harmelink (Once SP4)

**PROPOSED DESIGN
FOR THE
ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE METAL**

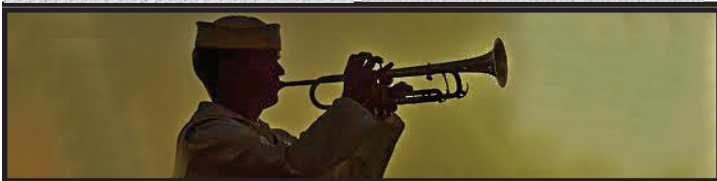
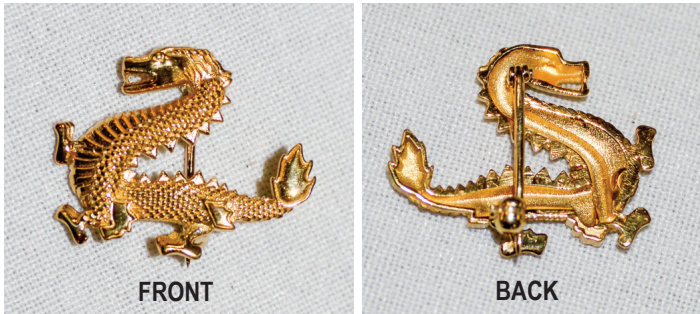
Michael Cobb has proposed his Design for the Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

The cost of the gold in the dragon @\$1500.00 per oz is \$190.00. Production for wax cast is \$75.00 and finished labor is \$175.00 Total cost \$440,00. The dragon weighs 4 grams and is 94% pure gold.

\$190.00 goes to NAAV and \$250.00 for production and finishing. All are custom made at this time. With high production this cost would go down considerably.

1 ounce of gold has been donated to NAAV and the money will be used for legislative contact and to get the medal approved by congress for Atomic Veterans.

Michael Cobb
28162 Sky Harbor Road
Friant, California 93626
Phone: 559-822-2390



- LAWRENCE JOHNSON.....Portofino, CA
- ED R. RURACK.....Haverhill, MA
- RICHARD L. FIRESTEIN.....Prescott Valley, AZ
- ALBERT E. ADAMS.....Cape Coral, FL
- JAMES H. LAUGHAN.....Kaufman, TX
- CHARLES F. FLEEMAN.....Bandera, TX
- HAROLD E. HEFNER.....Yorba Linda, CA
- DAVID S. BORGLUM.....Wilton, CT
- GERALD STEWART.....Elk River, MN
- HERBERT C. LUNDEEN.....Bloominton, MN
- DAVID V. JOHNSON.....Maple Grove, MN
- THEO J. THESING.....Herman, MN
- JOSEPH P. HUBERT.....Duluth, MN

**VETERAN REMEMBERS
FALLEN HEROS**



**Field of Flags
Southern Regional High School
Manahawakin, New Jersey**

I stand beneath the flag, half staff, at rest
It weeps for those who lie beneath
I stand among six thousand flags
with heroes who gave their all
I listen for their silenced voices
and share their pledge:

**I PLEDGE ALLIGENCE TO THE FLAG
OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND TO THE REPUBLIC FOR WHICH
IT STANDS, ONE NATION UNDER GOD,
INDIVISIBLE, WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL!**

For additional details on the Field of Flags:
**GOOGLE: SOUTHERN REGIONAL HONORS
VETERANS WITH FLAG TRADITION**

A remembrance by:
1st LT Frank Nunziata (FMR)
MOWW Clearwater Chapter Assistant Marshall
and
National Association of Atomic Veterans
(Submitted by 1st LT Frank Nunziata, FMR)

NAAV COMMANDER RECIEVES AWARD



DON KELLY & KEITH KIEFER

NAAV National Commander receives “The 2019 Atomic Veteran of the Year” award from the Tempe South Rotary Club, “For Giving so much”, “For so Little in Return”, “ For..... so Many in Need”. The award was presented by the NAAV Arizona State Commander on behalf of the Rotary. A check drafted to Keith Kiefer for \$200.00 was presented with the award. These funds were donated to NAAV by Keith.

BEST WISHES FOR KATHLEEN BARBER!!!

It is with mixed emotion we have to say good bye to Kathleen Barber. Kathleen worked at RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act)/DOJ (Department of Justice). She was a dedicated worker for the Veterans and the DOJ. Kathleen helped many of our members and non-members alike with their claims. Duty called her husband away from the DC area and the family has had to relocate. We wish her and her family the best life has to offer and thank both her and her husband for their service. We hoped Kathleen would have been able to attend our 40th anniversary in person, she was disappointed but was there in spirit. Kathleen’s boss, Rebecca Krafchek and Jason Bougere attended our convention giving status and updates on the RECA program, they can be reached at 202-353-7832.

Awards of appreciation were presented jointly to Rebecca and Jason while Kathleen’s was mailed to her.



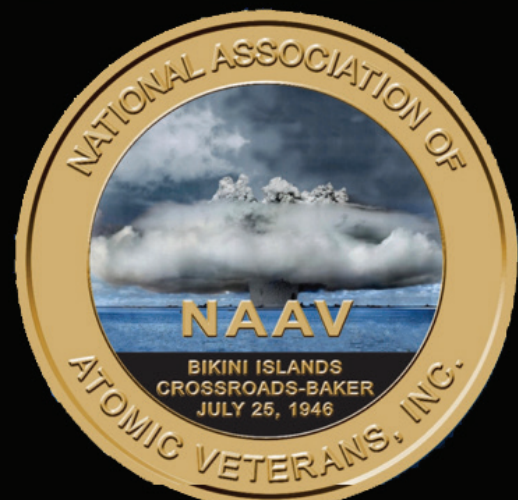
JASON BOUGERE, REBECCA KRAFCHER, LINCOLN GRAHLFS, KEITH KIEFER, BOB PFEIFER & FRED SCHAFFER



ATTENTION



You may have noticed the name of the newsletter has changed back to NAAV, instead of NAA & NV. This was discussed and voted on at the September 12, 2019 Board meeting. It was decided to use the legal incorporated name instead of a DBA (Doing Buisness As) NAA & NV.



BIKINI CROSSROAD-BAKER COIN

BRITISH NUCLEAR TEST VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Alan Owen
BNTVA - Chairman

The BNTVA representatives arrived at Dayton Ohio for the NAAV Conference and were welcomed with open arms. Eric & Janet Barton and Alan & Melanie Owen were welcomed with open arms, meeting old and new friends.

The visits to the Mound Museum and the USAF Museum were fantastic and provided a unique insight into the Manhattan project and the history of the Air Force.



Eric Barton at the Mound Museum



Nuclear bomb at the USAF Museum

The Conference on Friday provided an opportunity for the BNTVA to provide an update on their current projects and to promote Nuclear Veterans Worldwide to the audience. During the initial presentation, we provided details of how the American national anthem tune is taken from an old English drinking song from the 1700's, a comeback to the NAAV National Commander who asked us if we were going to sell any ideas to the Russians! All in good humour.

The NAAV Commander presented the Chairman with a Star Trek uniform which was then worn during the Nuclear Veterans Worldwide presentation. At the gala dinner, the NAAV Commander presented the Chairman with hoodie with details of the stolen ideas being sold to the Russians. This was worn by the Chairman on the way back to the UK, and he was stopped by an American who wanted to read it!



Alan in his Star Trek Uniform



Alan in his Hoodie

A joint award was presented to Brian Cowden for his outstanding contribution to both Organisations, the 'Jesse' award was created in memorium of the Chairmans' father, 6 will be produced and this is number 4.



Alan Owen, BNTVA Chairman and Brian Cowden, Movie Producer

The BNTVA would like to thank the NAAV board for allowing us to attend and present at the 40th Anniversary conference and would like to invite NAAV to the BNTVA conference on the 16th May 2020 in Blackpool. International collaboration, sharing of material and awareness is vitally important to ensure that the Nuclear Veterans message continues to be heard across the world.

"Live now; make now always the most precious time. Now will never come again."
Jean-Luc Picard

NAAV AWARDS

If not for Orville and Wanda Kelly NAAV wouldn't be here today. We thought we were going to be honored by a member of the Kelly family attending our 40th anniversary Convention. Last minute family commitments resulted in the Kelly family member being unable to attend. A plaque to recognize this contribution would have been presented. The plaque was mailed instead.

Others that have been instrumental in keeping NAAV going were also recognized. The recipients were Fred Schafer, Barb Schafer, Lincoln Grahlfs, Gillie Jenkins and Mary Ann Kiefer. They were recognized for their contributions. Thank you again for your scarifies. It takes a team to make an organization work. So many others have been instrumental in the success of NAAV. I thank them also.

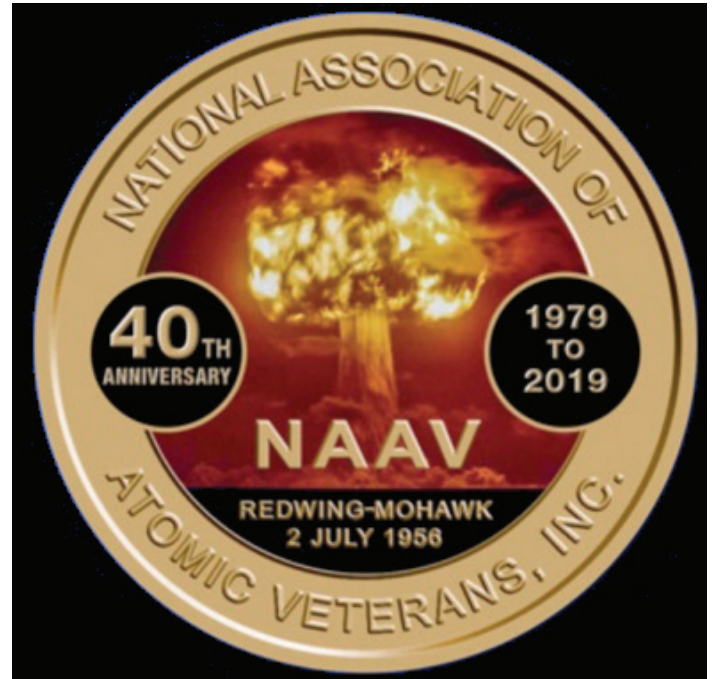


IMPORTANT NOTICE

It was brought up at the Board Meeting in Dayton, Ohio that we need to put in the NEWSLETTER a reminder that **each** NAAV Member should contact his State Commander each year by Phone, E-Mail and or Correspondence to give him/her their **ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, and E-MAIL**(if he has one) so that we can get our mailing list up-to-date and keep it that way over time. Also inform your family that you are a member and if something should happen to you they need to remind NAAV so changes can be made. Thank You!

NEW "Q" STORE ITEMS

The Q Store has two new items - a NAAV 40th anniversary commemorative challenge coin and a Bikini Crossroads-Baker Challenge Coin found on bottom of Page 5. These are available for \$25.00 each including shipping and handling. We have a few "Still engaging an Invisible enemy flag. It is 3 feet by 5 feet in size. This also sells for \$25.00.



FRONT



BACK



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Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

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

Vice Commander & Treasurer NAAV
Fred Schafer • 130 Cleveland Street
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505
Phone: 541-258-7453
E-Mail: derf@trcschafer.com

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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 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.

NAAV BOARD MEMBERS

NATIONAL COMMANDER

Keith Kiefer • 14944 295th Avenue NW
Zimmerman MN 55398 • Phone: 612-232-6596
E-Mail: 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

SECRETARY • NEWSLETTER (EDITOR/PUBLISHER)

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

TREASURER

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

DIRECTOR OF STATE COMMANDERS

Gillie Jenkins • 10500 Dakins Drive
N. Chesterfield, VA 23236 • Phone: 804-334-8585
E-Mail: 1naavvet@gmail.com

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Bob Pfeifer • 61374 Stardrift Lane
Bend, OR 97702-2051 • Phone: 541-330-1134
E-Mail: 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

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Lincoln Grahls • 333 W. Main Street Apt. 104
Madison, WI 53793 • Phone: 608-230-5807
E-Mail: flg17@caa.columbia.edu