



NAAV NEWS

JUNE 2020

2ND QUARTER

Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander

It seems like “Double Speak” from “1984” to wish all of you a Happy Independence Day (4th of July) while so many remain in lock down. Also, please observe Atomic Veterans Day or Remembrance Day, July 16th in the best manner possible under the circumstances.

To me it seems like we are living a collage of “1984”, “Catch 22” , and “Animal Farm”.

I imagine the twenty dollar question is, are we going forward with our Sept. Convention. It is with mixed feelings I must announce we will be canceling this year’s convention. A number of factors led to this decision. First and foremost is the health and safety of our members and attendees. The uncertainties of COVID 19 and the riots could potentially be detrimental to all attendees. Secondly, to date no one has sent in their registration and only two individuals had been making hotel reservations. A great deal of time and financial commitment is required for a convention, and would be better served with greater participation.

With the convention being cancelled we will have to figure out the best way to handle the election process to fill four positions (terms) that will be expiring. Those positions are National Commander, Director of State Commanders, and two Directors at Large (one including Historian). More about how this will be handled in future communications.

One would think the NAAV leadership would have more free time with the lock down. However, for me the workload has quadrupled. Most particularly requests for help with claims and other applications. I’m further behind than ever.

Our application to become a United Nations Non Government Consultant is in and being considered. We may not get a decision until sometime in 2021.

I wish all of you a safe, healthy summer.

Keith (K²)



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FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAV VICE COMMANDER



Fred Schafer
NAAV -Vice Commander

Hope all are doing Great, with this virus all around us. We are all staying safe. This staying at home is hard to live with.

Keith Kiefer is doing a great job as National Commander. He is a very busy person. We need to thank him for the time he spends doing what he does.

Gillie Jenkins is still having a hard time keeping State commanders. If you want to help your state commander, call him and ask to help. I am sure he will find something for you to do.

After knee replacement, I am getting around a lot better. We are fixing up around the house and working with our Honeybees. We gained 6 more hives this spring. A very busy Queen.

We are working on several projects to improve the items in the store. Membership continues to grow and the items in the store continue to sell. Keith has set up an account to pay your dues online, so if you want to pay online call Keith. His phone # is 612-232-6596. Also several donations have come in.

I will repeat this. "Keep working with you State and Federal Congress to get July 16th as Atomic Veterans day annually. 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 to members that send in extra dues earmarked for helping someone that needs help with their dues and other support of NAAV. Please make checks out to NAAV, not to me. Remember when you send in a check for your annual dues please send in your phone number and e-mail address. Let's update the data base.

A big Thank you to the State commanders and members that have supported NAAV, with donation and working with your State and Federal VA to make these happen.

Business Info, we will have to elect or reelect four members to the board this September. At Present Keith Kiefer, Lincoln Grahlf, Haskel Watts and Gillie Jenkins.

Please stay safe and be careful!



**REMEMBER
JULY 16TH, 1945**

TAPS



THOMAS L. SNIDER.....Marshalltown, IA
 TED MILLIGAN.....Lebanon, OR
 EDWARD W. WALLACE.....Lebanon, OR
 HAROLD E. SIMMONS.....Parkville, MO
 ANTHONY J. TUDISCO..Fort Jefferson Sta., NY
 JAMES E. MCMAHON.....Twin Falls, ID
 WILLIAM D. GRIFFITH.....Eugene, OR

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

During a time when most non COVID 19 related legislation is on hold we have made progress promoting Atomic Veteran related legislation.

With the leadership of Lilly Adams, an Outreach Consultant with the Union of Concerned Scientists, NAAV collaborated with 126+ organizations advocating and signing onto a letter to Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, etc. We attempted to get the RECA legislation and the COFA Medicaid legislation added to the COVID 19 Hero's Act.

The final House Bill which passed included the COFA Medicaid legislation however, didn't include RECA. A follow up Conference Call with Congresswoman Pelosi's senior staff and other Congressional member staff included 11 (NAAV being one) of the 126+ organizations being represented took place. During this conference

call the staff became more knowledgeable and sympathetic to the our cause.

They assured us it's on their radar and will look for other opportunities to promote the legislation. The downside is it does not look promising the Senate bill will include the COFA Medicaid provision, if this is the case a reconciliation process will determine if the provision becomes law or not.

Progress is being made on the Atomic Veteran Service Medal. At this time I can not go into any detail other than to say multiple approaches are being pursued and Congressman McGovern has stated this is one of his top priorities for this session.

I'm not aware of any progress on a State level at this time.

RAISING PUBLIC AWARENESS

Some States like Alabama have Atomic Veteran plates.

Each state has different requirements and documents needed for the plates, but your DD-214 is a usual one them but, all States are different.

Prices vary as in some States you can draw up your own design and pay an extra price to get it made.



LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL STUDY CANDIDATES

YOU WILL NOTE TWO INSERTS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

One is of an old study done in 2004. The second is a new study that we would like to do so we get a more complete picture and we can follow through with our DNA studies.

We have lost historical documents. Please communicate with your spouse, loved ones, children and heirs that if the family doesn't want or doesn't know what to do with your Atomic Veteran related documents, old NAAV Newsletters, books or memorabilia, please contact NAAV before destroying them. NAAV has lost valuable historical documentation because loved ones didn't know what to do with them.

If anyone has copies of the 2004 survey they submitted, we would like to get a copy of that.

Another form is included to collect potential participants in three DNA studies we would like to conduct.

The three study groups we are looking for potential candidates are:

1. The original Atomic Veterans (primarily 1945 to 1963 Atomic Veterans)
2. Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Lojwa/Ruint
3. Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Enewetak.

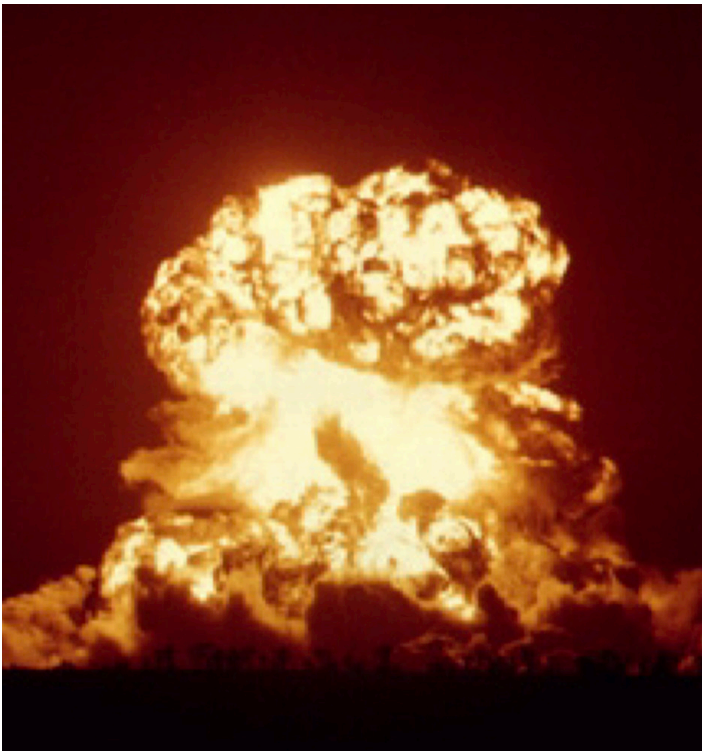


Want to thank the State Commanders that have responded and got new information to Gillie and myself so we can keep our membership lists up to date. Many die each month, and they have no one to let us know and the mail doesn't always come back as it should.

So it remains as our duty to once a year, at least, contact our members in our state and, believe it or not the state commanders that have the most states (more than one in some cases) have been the first to bring us up to date on their lists. It's a real job as many don't have e-mail access and some have moved without letting us know their new address. So thank you to those who have responded and a reminder to those who have not, we will be contacting you to keep your list up to date.



OPERATION UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE



SHOT SIMON

I was present for Operation UPSHOT-KNOTHOLE, and in particular SHOT SIMON, which took place at 4:30AM on April 25th, 1953 at the Nevada Test Site. It was a 300 foot tower detonation with a yield of 43 Kilotons. Seven Volunteer Soldiers were in a trench shielding themselves from the detonation, while the photographer captures the moment by fission light, bright enough to be seen from the moon. In a moment the ground and air shock waves will toss them like dolls, then fill their mouths with radioactive dust and also

make it temporarily impossible to see.

Simon was the largest U.S. continental nuclear test to date. Three thousand troops witnessed the detonation; for the first time a group of them would “attack” ground zero, where 300 roentgens/hour of radiation were recorded. Simon’s radioactive debris cloud rose to a height of 44,000 feet, grew to a width of 80 miles, and then scattered deadly fallout throughout Southwest Utah, particularly the town of St. George, 100 miles to the east of the test were recorded.

The Atomic Energy Commission banned airplane flights over the area and despite closing all the roads in the region, 40 vehicles were contaminated; highly radioactive rain fell in Albany, New York the following day. Simon tested the primary stages of a thermonuclear bomb mock up, leading to the Mark-17 and the Mark-24 bombs which were stockpiled from 1954 to 1957. With a yield of 10 to 15 megatons, they were some of the largest and deadliest weapons ever deployed by the United States.

Submitted by:

F. LEE WHIPPLE, PV2

COMPANY “L” 2ND BN 2053RD ASU

FT. MEADE

GREAT NEWS!!

Please welcome Alan Owen and Susan Musselwhite to NAAV staff.

Alan and Susan are descendants of British Atomic Veterans and are passionate supporters of all Atomic Veterans and the community. Both of them have agreed to help NAAV as Director(s) of Fundraising. They will be helping NAAV raise funds for special projects. Their initial project will be to raise funds to conduct four DNA studies which include the NAAV Atomic Veteran community. NAAV thanks them for their willingness to take on this role.



LABRATS NUCLEAR VETERANS ASSOCIATION



Alan Owen
LABRATS Co-Founder

It has been a very busy few weeks for Susan Musselwhite and myself, we have left our roles as Trustees of the BNTVA after 4 years. My wife Melanie has also stood down as the BNTVA shop manager after 2 years and 875 orders!

Over those 4 years, we have met some incredible passionate, and dedicated people who are committed to the Atomic Survivor cause. NAAV members are amongst those who I consider to be the most dedicated and passionate people, dedicating their lives to ensuring that no Atomic Veteran is forgotten, listening to their stories at the conferences is sometimes overwhelming.

I have enjoyed attending the NAAV conferences over the years and meeting people from the Atomic community, I have made great friendships which will stay with me for life.

The Coronavirus outbreak led to the cancellation of all UK Nuclear Veteran conferences this year, the BNTVA Annual and Research conferences and the All Tests Reunion in September. With no face to face contact, we instigated Project Fallout which enabled us to supply 175 electronic tablets to the BNTVA membership so that they could contact loved ones via Video messaging. This was a great success following grants from the Veterans Foundation and the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

Susan, Mel and I are not leaving the community, in fact we are expanding the Nuclear Veterans Worldwide Platform, it will be renamed The Legacy of the Atomic Bomb, Recognition for Atomic Test Survivors or LABRATS for short. This new organization will be the voice of the Atomic Community, we will publicize events, help with Fundraising, help Veterans and their families find the support they need across the world and ensure that the Atomic Survivor Community is never forgotten.

Our new website is located at www.labrats.international. Susan can be contacted using media@labrats.international and my email address is info@labrats.international. We chose LABRATS because you were all involved in an experiment, you were experimented on and discarded as lab rats are.

This new Organization encompasses all the Atomic Community, including the indigenous people of the islands and Maralinga (Australia) and the clean-up crews. There is so much to be told, and still so much to do, the fight for recognition for so many communities is one which needs to be undertaken, the voices of the people involved need to be heard and we hope that this new digital platform, along with educational material, videos, interviews, research papers, links to organizations and guidance will help the Atomic family.

A new Facebook page, new Twitter account and website will be launched on Wednesday 24th June 2020. The world needs to understand that the Atomic Community is still suffering, the testing programs across the world affected this planet and its inhabitants forever. The Legacy continues to haunt families to this day.

We hope to speak at your next conference (whenever that will be), but for now, please look at the site, contact us if you need any assistance with Social Media, online presence or just advice, we are here to help the whole community in the fight for justice. We look forward to working with NAAV and other organizations across the world.

Alan Owen
Co-Founder LABRATS International



Melanie Owen
Co-Founder



Susan Musselwhite
Co-Founder & Media Specialist

NEW NAAU CHAPLIN

Fr. Patrick Rohen has volunteered to serve NAAU as our Chaplin. Please welcome Fr. Patrick Rohen and feel free to contact him. Fr. Patrick Rohen will not proselytize or evangelize you. He is available to help.



Fr. Patrick Rohen
Chaplin (Captain) U.S. Army (Retired)

Dear Fellow Atomic Veteran Members,

Kindly allow me to introduce myself to you as your new chaplain. It is an honor and a privilege to serve our association in this capacity. My name is Fr. Patrick Rohen, I live near Toledo, Ohio, and am presently a retired Army chaplain and Catholic priest. I was born in Toledo in 1957, my deceased father was a staff sergeant in the Air Force during the Korean War, and my mother is a retired nurse. I am the oldest of five children.

The day after I graduated from Anthony Wayne High School, at seventeen years of age, I left for active duty in the Air Force, serving from June of 1975-October of 1980. Upon completion of basic training and security police training, I arrived at the 379th. Bomb Wing at Wurtsmith AFB, Michigan, on November 10, 1975 (the same night that the SS Edmund Fitzgerald sunk). My job was to guard the bombs on the B-52 and KC-135 aircraft that would accompany them from this SAC base to

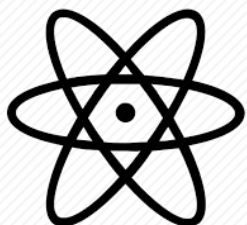
their ultimate destinations. Later I was stationed at another SAC base (in Arkansas, and with NATO in Europe). I distinctly remember the Iranian Hostage Crisis while serving in Europe and finally in Oklahoma.

After getting out of the Air Force in 1980, I attended and graduated from The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, received my B.S. from The University of Toledo, and an M.A. and M. Div. from Saint Meinrad Seminary, Indiana. It was during this period of time that I served in the Army National Guard (infantry officer and the chaplain candidate), finally getting out as a First Lieutenant. I was subsequently ordained to the priesthood in 1996. In 2003 I was recalled to active duty with the Army, serving as a chaplain (Captain) at Fort Rucker, Alabama; Camp Humphries, Korea; and Fort Drum, New York. It was at Fort Drum, while undergoing medical treatment, I was diagnosed with PTSD associated with my work around nuclear weapons. I also was diagnosed with it for the work I did with soldiers who were suicidal or had actually committed suicide. I got a lot of help from the VA after being fully medically retired From the Army, as a chaplain (Captain) in 2007. I am presently retired as a priest, but still help by saying Mass, praying, and serving as a volunteer chaplain and deputy with the Wood County (Ohio) Sheriff's Office

Thank you for your service to our country. If I can be of any help to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Fr. Patrick Rohen
Chaplain (Captain), U.S.Army (Retired)
Senior Status Priest
Diocese of Toledo China in America
Phone: 567-213-1652
E-mail: patrickrohen1957@icloud.com



Remember when you first saw this symbol?

Did you ever imagine how it would change your life?

LOOKING FOR VETERANS THAT KNEW - Harley C. White.

Harley C. White is reported to have been part of Operation Crossroads, Bikini. If you know Harley C. White please contact Keith Kiefer. Email Kiefer4Ramaey@yahoo.com or call 612 232 6596.



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IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!

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Write or E-Mail**

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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.

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS

Genetically Affected Children's Research Project 2020



If any of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren were born with birth defects, mental retardation, physical handicaps, chronic illnesses, Downs and other syndromes, or if you lost children and/or grandchildren to SID, miscarriages or still births, and if your wife, daughters or granddaughters have experienced chronic pregnancy problems or illnesses, these conditions may have been caused by your exposure to ionizing radiation while in service. Specify also if any of your children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren have health problems similar to your. PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE and RETURN THIS FORM TO:

Genetically Affected Children's Project 2020
14944 295th Avenue NW • Zimmerman MN 55398
Phone: 612-232-6596 • E-Mail: kiefer4ramsey@yahoo.com

1. Veteran's Last Name: _____
2. Veteran's Middle Name: _____
3. Veteran's First Name: _____
4. Wife's Full Name: _____
5. Veteran's Date of Birth: _____
6. Veteran's Social Security No.: _____ Service: _____ Telephone #: _____
7. Address: _____
(Street Number&Name) (City) (State) (Zip Code)
8. Number of: A. Children: Boys _____ Girls _____ B. Grandchildren: Boys _____ Girls _____
C. Great - Grandchildren: Boys _____ Girls _____
9. Veteran Deceased: Yes ___ No ___ If YES, cause of death: _____
10. Names of nuclear bomb test or othr radiation risk activity: _____

11. Branch of Service: _____ Ship/Military Unit: _____
12. Military Rank: _____ Dates of Service: _____
13. List individually health problems of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren plus miscarriages, premature births, premature deaths etc. Give sex and age. Please give technical medical name first and common name in parenheses i.e. **Osteoporisis (Bone Disease)**

PLEASE USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS OF PAPER IF NECESSARY!

Looking for potential study candidates

We are presently looking for potential future DNA study candidates.

There are three study groups we are looking for potential candidates for. Those being original Atomic Veterans (primarily 1945 to 1963 Atomic Veterans), Enewetak Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Lojwa/Ruint and Enewetak Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Enewetak.

Which study group do you fall in ?

____ original Atomic Veterans (primarily 1945 to 1963 Atomic Veterans)

____ Enewetak Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Lojwa/Ruint

____ Enewetak Cleanup Veterans primarily living and working on Enewetak.

What time period and operation was your exposure?

Are either of your parents alive?

Are you married/have a spouse/significant other/civil partnership/a biological parent?

Is your this individual alive?

Would they be prepared to participate in the study?

Do you have Children?

How many children?

Would they be prepared to participate in the study?

Do you (the exposed veteran) have brothers or sisters that are alive?

Are they married/have a spouse/significant other/civil partnership/ a biological parent?

Is this individual alive?

Would your sibling be prepared to participate in the study?

Do they have Children?

Would your siblings children be prepared to participate in the study?

How many children?

**Please provide all of your contact information and return to --
NAAV • 14944 295th Ave NW• Zimmerman, MN 55398**