### Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

### FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



Keith Kiefer NAAV - Commander

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and best wishes for whatever holiday you may celebrate. My family and I will be celebrating an Icelandic Christmas Eve, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. For those that may not be familiar with an Icelandic Christmas, sometimes referred to as "Jolabokaflod," the tradition is to gift a book to each other. Upon unwrapping the books, you curl up to the fire place with the book, hot chocolate and other chocolate treats, to indulge in reading and eating for the evening. The following (Christmas) morning is started with Pannenkoeken (a Dutch pancake, usually covered with fruit).

As you read this quarter's newsletter, you may get a glimpse into the days and hours of time invested in producing the newsletter, as well as, building relationships with individuals and other organizations to support and promote recognition and compensation for the nuclear community world wide. Please take time to thank Bob Ruyle and the other Board members for all they do to support NAAV, it's members and other nuclear community interests.

We will continue to work hard in 2022 to get RECA extended, and get Enewetak and Polomare Cleanup veterans the compensation and recognition they deserve. We can't do this alone. We need your support through phone calls and letters to your Federal Representatives (House and Senate). Don't forget editorials too.

We have made great progress, however, now is the time to double our efforts.

I would like to thank the State Commanders that took the time to contact and verify their State members, updating the database and contact information. This helps conserve resources and allows us to honor our passing members through taps.

I'm very hopeful we will be able to safely come together in June for a memorial gathering and August for our convention.

Keith (K2)

### FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAU VICE COMMANDER

Hope everyone is doing Great, with this virus all around us. This staying at home is hard to live with. This Delta Virus is very strong now and this fall and winter. Now this new variant. so please stay SAFE. I Have received the booster



Fred Schafer
NAAV
Vice Commander

on the 5th of November, Barb got her booster in C

Barb got her booster in October. Maybe we will be able to have a convention this next Aug 2022. We will still have to be careful, Wear mask. When we have a convention, this will not be like a normal convention.

Keith Is staying busy with a lot of projects. He is a very busy person. We need to thank him for the time he spends doing what he does.

Robert Ruyle has some Health issue's, so he is retiring as the Secretary and Newsletter editor. He has done a great job for NAAV. We have many Members and Spouses with health problems. We need to keep in our prayers.

Membership: Keep getting new members and the items in the store continue to sell. We are getting a new list put together of the Items we have for sale. I hope to have it ready for this next Newsletter. Keith Has set up an account to pay your dues online, or order from the store and want to pay online call Keith. His phone # is 612-232-6596

I will repeat this. "Keep working with you states and Federal Congress to Get July 16th as Atomic Veterans day annually. Also get a

section of Highway to become Atomic Veterans Memorial Highway.

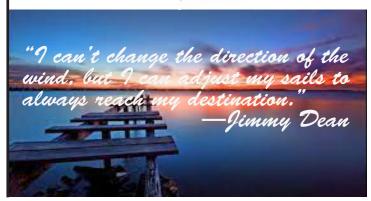
State Commanders PLEASE, Please Make contact with your members and get members to get current in dues and Information, just \$25.00 will get them current. Please update your information. If your phone numbers are not current, E-mail or call with that information. When you send in dues let us know of 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. com, Please make checks out to NAAV. Not to me.

Member when you send in a check for your annual dues please send in your phone number and e-mail address. a note on how the money is to be used. Let's help update the Data Base.

A big Thank you to the State commanders and members that have supported NAAV. We are getting our Data Base updated. Many of our Life members have passed away and we were not notified

Please stay safe and be careful!



### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF STATE COMMANDERS



Gillie Jenkins
Director of State Commanders

Gentlemen:

You need to he of aware State vour Commanders telephone number. Please, if you see a call from the number list on the right answer the call or call back at your convenience. We need your help.

We are trying to see if you are still around and have not moved and/or changed you number. We learned from our recent check that more than 150 members had moved, changed their phone and/or had died and we had not been informed. Several of the State Commanders called me and I helped them find the member they could no longer reach by phone. So please keep in touch at least once a year to allow us to keep our mailing list up to date.

### **ATTENTION!**

If not up to date in DB, this will be the last newsletter you will receive until you are updated." Send update information to ...



Fred Schafer, 130 Cleveland Street, Lebanon, OR 97355-4505 Also List your Phone # and E-mail Address!

State	Name	Phone No.
ALABAMA	Ronald H. Holmes	205-758-6823
ALASKA	Barbara J. Jordan	907-841-0493
ARIZONA	Dennis L. Miller	530-575-9544
ARKANSAS	W. C. "Jack" Lamkins	479-879-8358
CALIFORNIA	Leo "Bud" Feurt	858-748-7204
COLORADO	Paul V. Roberts	970-858-6429
CONNECTICUT	Ron T. Benoit	413-245-7819
DELEWARE	Richard L. Goetsch	410-465-7393
FLORIDA	Thomas G. Botchie	843-607-3842
GEORGIA	Kenneth P. Price	912-381-6337
GUAM	Robert N. Celestial	671-688-7277
HAWAIIII	Fred Schafer	541-258-7453
IDAHO	Bill H. Sills, III	208-920-9068
ILLINOIS	Aubry F. Biggs, Sr.	847-623-8936
INDIANA	William L. Brand	812-824-7811
IOWA	Gilbert F. Amdahl	712-362-5607
KANSAS	Dallas W. Brown	816-807-3147
KENTUCKY	Raymond E. Wilder	270-566-4343
LOUISIANA	Paul C. Sparacino	225-252-0537
MAINE	Roscoe C. Randall	207-636-3492
MARYLAND	Richard L. Goetsch	410-465-7393
MASSACHUSETTS	Ron T. Benoit	413-245-7819
MICHIGAN	Lanz Temple	248-622-0055
MINNESOTA	Paul B. Gunderson	763-571-4347
MINNESOTA	James Hammond	612-406-1041
MISSISSIPPI	George A. Blaydon	601-924-0793
MISSOURI	Clayton B. Crosby	479-270-8087
MONTANA	Peter H. Besas	360-269-7051
NEBRASKA	Robert L. Ruyle	402-488-7927
NEVADA	Albert F. Gettier	702-518-8595
NEVADA	Joe Martenez	702-884-5393
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Bernard F. Wynn	603-784-5086
NEW JERSEY	Robert De Blasi	973-627-5163
NEW MEXICO	Paul L. Griego	505-306-1902
NEW YORK	Kenneth A. Brownell	518-409-2023
NORTH CAROLINA	John C. Wills	919-339-2404
NORTH DAKOTA	Fred L. Hartleib	701-663-5854
OHIO	David J. Crawford	937-620-4085
OKLAHOMA	Clifford R. Lewis	405-341-6679
OREGON	Fred Schafer	541-258-7453
PENNSYLVANIA	Anthony B. Marceca	717-600-8668
RHODE ISLAND	Ron T. Benoit	413-245-7819
SOUTH CAROLINA	Marion L. Davis	803-788-4369
SOUTH DAKOTA	Gerald A. Johnson	605-224-9533
TENNESSEE	Thomas W. Alesi, Sr.	423-276-9430
TEXAS	Randell E. Miller	956-262-6533
UTAH	Peter H. Besas	360-269-7051
VERMONT	Ron T. Benoit	413-245-7819
VIRGINIA	Gillie Jenkins	804-334-8585
WASHINGTON	Peter H. Besas	360-269-7051
WEST VIRGINA	Haskell Watts, Jr.	304-752-5552
WISCONSIN	Jerome W. Gehl	920-759-5334
WYOMING	Robert L. Ruyle	402-488-7927



### LABRATS INTERNATIONAL



The last quarter of 2021 has been extremely busy for LABRATS, the #lookmeintheeye campaign continues to gather momentum and is gaining critical support. With further videos produced by Brian Cowden, who provides us with unbelievable material for our campaign.

### The UK Prime Minister finally bows to pressure to meet survivors of UK nuclear tests

Boris Johnson has agreed to meet survivors of Britain's nuclear tests after giving in to pressure from the #lookmeintheeye campaign, which is backed by the Daily Mirror newspaper, LABRATS and the Labour Party.

The PM told the House of Commons he would meet veterans of Cold War radiation experiments and their families to hear of the tests' horrific legacy of ill health. It will be the first time since Winston Churchill ordered the first test in 1952 that any PM has met those ordered into the front line of the nuclear arms race in an official capacity.

He agreed after Labour MP Rebecca Long-Bailey, whose constituent Laura Morris is granddaughter of John Morris, a test survivor who later lost his baby son Steven to cot death, made an impassioned appeal in Parliament.



Christmas Island
veteran John
Morris with his
granddaughter,
Laura Morris
(Image: Collect
via Susie
Boniface)



IAMAGE
IN
HOUSE
OF
COMMONS

She told MPs: "Laura told me Remembrance Sunday hurts. It hurts because there have been no medals for her grandad's service and the thousands of men involved in nuclear weapons tests between 1952 and 1991.

"So I ask the Prime Minister, will he recognise nuclear testing veterans today and agree to meet them? The leader of the Opposition has."

The PM told her: "I'm grateful to her for bringing this to my attention, and I will certainly make sure that we get a proper meeting with representatives of the nuclear veterans that she raises."

This is a breakthrough for the LABRATS team and their supporters, who have worked extremely hard to keep the pressure on the UK government.

Continued on Page 7

### TAPS





Floyd J. Gaudet	Zachary, LAMorgan City, LABreaux Bridge, LABroussard, LABossier City, LANew Iberia, LABaton Rouge, LA
Bronko Lapcevich	Aliquippa, PA
Paul I. Noel Robert N. Peacock	Coalport, PA
Gerald W. Schultz Richard J. Shell Carl H. Whipkey Thomas L. Czarnecki	Chambersburg, PA Hanover, PA New Florence, PA

### SAVE THE DATE

There are three possible weekends we are looking at for the 2022 NAAV Convention. They are August 10th to 13th 2022, August 17th to 20th and August 24th to 27th 2022. We plan to hold the Convention in or near Oak Ridge Tennessee. More to come in the first quarter NAAV Newsletter of 2022.

### Change of Address, Membership or Renewal Write or E-Mail

Fred Schafer
Vice Commander & Treasurer
NAAV
130 Cleveland Street
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

Phone: 541-258-7453 E-Mail: derf@trcschafer.com

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Please follow Lincoln Grahlfs lead. Lincoln took upon himself to write an editorial and submit it to Military Times. His editorial was then published December 2, 2021. You can read his editorial at this url:https://www.militarytimes.com/opinion/commentary/2021/12/02/veterans-of-us-atomic-age-deserve-compensation/

Thank you Lincoln!



Dr. Lincoln Grahlfs

Editorials to your local paper, National papers and organizations make a difference. Your legislators read these articles.

Contacting your two Federal Senators and Congressman is also a great step to take. Calls and personal letters are the most effective. Emails and form letters are the least effective. If you, your spouse, children, grandchildren, friends and relatives all contact your three Federal representatives it would make a tremendous difference. Inaction is the best path to failure.

# ENEWETAK ATOLL RADIOLOGICAL CLEANUP MEMORIAL GATHERING



Individuals will be gathering in or near Indianapolis, Indiana June 3, 2022 with check out on June 6th, 2022. This is a memorial gathering to honor our fallen brothers that served during the cleanup project. This gathering will include speakers, social time and a memorial service among other things. If you wish to donate funds to offset some of the expenses please send a check with a memonoting it is for the memorial gathering to Fred Schafer - 130 Cleveland Street - Lebanon, OR

### **BNTUA NEWS**

We/NAAV has extended an offer to the new BNTVA leadership in the third and fourth quarter NAAV newsletter. To date they have declined to take advantage of this platform. That being said, I'd like to share two items that may be of interest.

First, BNTVA has had some new organizational changes. A veteran, Ed McGrath, has become the new BNTVA Chairman and Ceri McDade, an Atomic Veteran descendant, has moved from the BNTVA Chairwoman to the BNTVA CEO.

Second, in recent years, the British organization awarding/recommending an award of a service medal has met for a second time to consider an Atomic Veteran Service Medal this month. It is our understanding, at least one of the standards that has to be met for an award to be considered is called "Risk and Rigger."

### On the 14th December 2021, representatives of the <u>LOOKMEINTHEEYE</u> campaign met with the Metro Mayors.

The Metro Mayors who represent a third of Britain's population have backed a medal and compensation for the country's nuclear test veterans.

The Labour heavyweights, led by Greater Manchester's Andy Burnham, Liverpool's Steve Rotheram, and South Yorkshire's Dan Jarvis, have demanded "truth and justice" for the victims of Cold War radiation experiments.

In a joint statement, the mayors said: "It is impossible to comprehend the risk taken by our nuclear test veterans. They served on the most dangerous of operations thousands of miles from home, where they were exposed to life-threatening levels of radiation."

### **World Nuclear Survivors Forum (December 2- 3 2021)**

LABRATS were privileged to take part in the World Nuclear Survivors Forum. Christmas Island Veteran Gordon Coggon provided an individual testimony to his experiences at the testing program, and I participated in a panel discussing the testing program and why the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons (TPNW) is desperately important to the world and that we must provide education to our younger generation. I also advocated for the clean-up crews and those who have been excluded from the compensation programs to be included. You can watch the forum by visiting https://nuclearsurvivors.org/.

On behalf of LABRATS and our supporters, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our LABRATS Christmas quiz will be held on the 23rd of December at 8pm UK time via our Facebook page, come and join us for some festive fun, you are all very welcome.

We will continue to fight for truth and justice for every affected community across the world and force these politicians to look us in the eye. 2022 is the 70th anniversary of the first British test and the 60th anniversary of Operation Dominic, so we are planning a number of events in conjunction with the first state meeting of partis for the TPNW in Vienna in March. We look forward to continuing our close relationship with NAAV

and hope to see you all in 2022, Omicron permitting.

In the words of Brian Cowden – <u>All Actions are Global</u>

Alan Owen – on behalf of LABRATS International

The name of this British organization is the Advisory Military Sub-Committee. Once again this Committee, although noting the "Novel and Challenging" nature of the duty, unanimously decided not to award the British Nuclear Test Veterans a medal.

### The Committee stated:

"That the Sub-committee were again conscious throughout the discussions of the novel and challenging surroundings that the Service personnel involved in the test programme have found themselves."

We hope that with the latest developments here in the USA, the British government reconsiders their position. NAAV will support the British Nuclear Veterans and all other organizations working to get these Veterans the recognition and compensation they deserve.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR

Finishing the New Year up in style, I believe we have another win.

As mentioned in the Merry Christmas article the NDAA for fiscal year 2022 passed the House and Senate, now it awaits the Presidents signature. Thanks to Congresswoman Abigail Davis Spanberger (D-VA-7) and Gillie Jenkins, NAAV Director of State Commanders, a provision in the NDAA proclaims July 16th National Atomic Veterans Day perpetually.

The language is as follows:

### SEC. 1098 OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL ATOMIC VETERANS DAY

- (1) the United states should annually observe Atomic Veterans Day to recognize American military service members who participated in nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, served with United States military forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki through mid-1946, or were held as prisoners of war in or near Hiroshima or Nagasaki:
- (2) the people of the United States should recognize and remember the contributions of America's Atomic Veterans for sacrifice and dedication to our Nation's Security and recommit themselves to supporting our Atomic Veterans and educating themselves on the role these patriouts played in our national story: and
- (3)President Reagan and President Biden took important steps to recognize Atomic Veterans by proclaiming July 16, 1983 and July 16 2021, respectively, as National Atomic Veterans Day, reflective of the fact that July 16 is the anniversary of Trinity, the world's first detonation of a nuclear device in Alamogordo, New Mexico on July 16, 1945.
- (b)NATIONAL ATOMIC VETERANS DAY. -- Chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

## RUMORS OF BOB RUYLE'S DEMISE IS GREATLY EXAGGERATED

You may have noticed in the 2021 NAAV 3rd quarter newsletter an article about Robert (Bob) Ruyle resigning as the Secretary and Newsletter editor that quarter. Bob has decided to finish 2021 newsletter duties, retiring from these duties after years of faithful service. Please join me in thanking him for providing this service. He has put in countless hours to put together and publish this newsletter. His faithful service has been appreciated and will be missed.

Bob, for the time being, will continue his duties as the NAAV Secretary. It remains to be seen whether he will continue maintaining the NAAV Database in conjunction with Fred Schafer and the State Commanders.

Should Bob decide to resign from his Secretary duties prior to his term being up, the National Commander will appoint an individual to complete his term until the position comes up for election.

I believe Bob's children are encouraging him to slow down, enjoy life and travel more. Needless to say he has more than earned and deserves this break.

# Bob Ruyle

### SPEAKING TO SCHOOLS & GROUPS TO INFORM

I'm sure some of you have been asked to speak from time to time, but did you ever think of speaking to young people especially! I got started doing this years ago and have for over ten years now have been speaking to social study group, history groups and also adult groups about the nuclear tests and how it effects each one of us, especially today. This year alone I spoke to more than ten schools mostly 8th Graders in Middle School and a few High Schools. I use pictures that have been released and get some excellent questions. So if you have never done it, think about it, because with all the countries that now have access to nuclear weapons and most are 100 times larger than the ones we seen in the past, it effects all our lives, even today, because should a war break out today and the big countries get involved it would be the end! So think about it. BOB

Continued from Page 8

### SEC. 146. National Atomic Veterans Day

"The President shall issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to --

- (1) observe such Atomic Veteans Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and
- (2) remember and honor our Nation's Atomic Veterans whose brave service and sacrifice played an important role in the defense of our Nation."
- (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT. -- The analysis for chapter 1 of title 36, United States Code is amended by adding at the end the following new item:
  - "146. National Atomic Veterans Day."

### Merry Christmas and Good Tidings

I have the pleasure to announce that it appears years, days and hours of hard work are going to finally pay off.

I believe for Christmas, NAAV and the Atomic Veterans will be receiving the long overdue recognition of an Atomic Veteran Medal Service.

Although, the (NDAA) language is not quite what we wanted, we are hopeful we can make it work. We will be making recommendations to the Secretary of Defense who should qualify for the Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

On December 15th, 2021 the Senate agreed to the House amended National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2022, passed on a vote of 88 to 11. This Bill contains language to create and issue an Atomic Veteran Service Medal. The bill now has gone to President Biden. We are very confident, since the Bill includes 25 billion dollars more than he asked for, it will be signed into law.

It isn't over until the fat lady sings. Even though the vote should be veto proof four things can happen. 1) The President could sign it into law, 2) the President could veto the Bill, 3) if congress remains in session for ten days and the President doesn't sign the Bill it becomes law, 4) if Congress adjourns prior to the ten days and the President doesn't sign the Bill it becomes a pocket veto and does not become law.

The language is as follows:

### SEC. 583 ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ATOMIC VETERANS SERVICE METAL

(a) SERVICE MEDAL REQIRED. -- The Secretary of Defense shall design and produce a commemorative military serve medal, to be known as the "Atomic Veterans Service Medal", to honor retired and former members of the Armed forces who are radiation-exposed veterans (as such term is defined in section 1112(c)(3) of title 38, United States (Code).

### (b) DISTRIBUTION OF METAL

- (1) ISSUANCE TO RETIRED AND FORMER MEMBERS. -- at the request of a radiation-exposed veteran, the secretary of Defense shall issue the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the veteran.
- (2) ISSUANCE OF NEXT-OF-KIN -- In the case of a radiation exposed veteran who is deseased the Secretary may provide for issuance of the Atomic Veterans Service Medal to the next-of-kin of the person.
- (3 APPLICATION, -- The Secretary shall prepare and disseminate as appropriate an application by whch radiation-exposed veterans and their next-of-kin may apply to receive the Atomic Veterans Service Medal.

### RECA Less than 190 days until this program sunsets

The NAAV 2021 third quarter newsletter was rushed out prior to being able to share this update. On Sept. 22nd, 2021 both the House and Senate introduced the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments of 2021. HR5338 was introduced in the House by Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-3), it presently has 63 cosponsors. S2798 was introduced by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Senator Ben Ray Lujan (D-NM), it presently has 14 cosponsors.

Unfortunately, neither bill includes cleanup veterans and some other Atomic Veterans.

On December 8th 2021, HR5338 had a hearing and markup in the House Judiciary Committee. Although we asked a number of the committee members to offer amendments to include cleanup Veterans etc., none of the members offered the amendments. The bill passed out of committee with bipartisan support on a vote of 25 yeas to 8 nays. The bill now needs to be scheduled to go to the House floor for a vote. We need Congress members to offer amendments to this bill prior to the final vote. The amendments needed to both the House and Senate Bill will be covered below.

Meanwhile, S2798 was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee awaiting scheduling for a hearing and markup. We need to contact Senators on this committee to offer the amendment discussed below.

Please contact your three Federal members asking them to offer the following amendments:

Addition or inclusion of the;

- Enewetak Atoll Radiological Clean-up Project personnel (Veterans and Civilians). Note: This group was included in the RECA House bill versions in the 115th and 116th sessions. One example of how RECA would help, is Paul Laird (featured in the American Legion.) He was part of the Enewetak clean up project. He contracted and recovered from five of six unique cancers, losing his battle to the sixth cancer. Paul never had a successful VA claim. Upon Paul's passing the family had to sell their home and move. His spouse/family is not eligible for VA DIC.
  - 1966 Palomares clean-up personnel.
  - Amchitka Island (in the Aleutian Island chain in southwest Alaska) testing personnel and downwinders.
- Correction of an administrative issue with the current and future RECA program. Currently, the RECA program sunsets on July 10, 2022. The trust fund and last date to file a claim terminates on the same day. This creates a possibility for a timely claim to be made and upon processing, no funds to pay the claim. For this reason we recommend the Trust fund terminate at least three years after last date to file a timely claim.

Additional information/rational can be provided if you need it.



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

### **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 & CO-TREASURER**

Fred Schafer • 130 Cleveland Street

Lebanon, OR 97355-4505 • Phone: 541-258-7453

E-Mail: derf@trcschafer.com

#### **SECRETARY**

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

### **NAAV CHAPLAIN**

Fr. Patrick Rohen, Chaplain (Captain), U.S.Army (Retired) Senior Statius Priest • Diocese of Toledo in America

Phone: 567-213-1652 patrickrohen1957@icloud.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: oldreliable2@live.com

#### **DIRECTOR AT LARGE • NAAV HISTORIAN**

Haskel Watts Jr. • 75 Good samaritan Street Logan, WV 25601 • Phone: 304-752-5552

E-Mail: hwatts4@frontier.com DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Lincoln Grahlfs • 333 W. Main Street Apt. 104 Madison, WI 53703 • Phone: 608-230-5870 E-Mail: flg17@caa.columbia.edu



