



NAAV NEWS

MARCH 2023

1ST QUARTER

Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER



Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander

I'm sorry to report the majority of the NAAV Board decided due to timing, resources (personnel, printing and mailing costs of the 2nd quarter 2022 newsletter) to delay the next newsletter to 2023 1st quarter (this newsletter).

Please welcome Bob Ruyle back as the newsletter editor. His full newsletter will start with the 2023 2nd quarter. We thank him for wrapping up the 2023 1st quarter newsletter.

We had a very successful 2022. We can't accomplish this without your financial support and participation in surveys and contacting your legislators.

The 2022 election results are in with all four Board members re-elected. More detailed info can be found in the follow pages.

July 16th 2022 was the start of National Atomic Veterans Day being proclaimed perpetually. More details can be found in the following pages.

September 2022, myself and other representatives of groups with common interests visited several Congressional and Senate offices soliciting support of the RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) legislation.

We hope you were able to properly celebrate National Atomic Veterans Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and any other Holidays.

Important, we have asked that children of the Atomic Veterans be encouraged by their Atomic Veteran to take the Survey of Family Adaptation to Trauma being conducted by Yael Danieli. This has the potential to provide very valuable information and is very important. To date, the survey response has been poor. Please share the information in the following pages with your children.

AMAC (Association of American Citizens) has been very supportive of our legislative efforts. The AMAC Foundation has formed FVOP (Foundation Veteran Outreach Program) to support Veterans further. They have asked our membership to prioritize areas of interest. Please look for this survey in this newsletter, complete and return.

I'm pleased to announce we will be having our convention in Tennessee near Oak Ridge Aug. 17th, 18th 19th with check out on the 20th. We need your reservation and fees as soon as possible. There is limited space and is on a first come first served basis. Also, any reservations received after July 15th may not be able to be accommodated. More details in this newsletter.

Many Veterans have received their Atomic Veteran Commemorative Service Medal and Certificates of Participation. We have had several problems. Some of our members mailed their application to Lincoln Grahls instead of DTRA Defense Threat Reduction Agency). Others put my address or Fred Schafer's address on their form. Also, some did not sign their application. Please read and fill the form out carefully.

The British Atomic Veterans have moved their government to grant a medal to them. Last I heard, an application may be available in September.

With the start of the 118th Congressional Session we have to get our legislation introduced and cosponsor's to sign on to the Bill. As of this writing our legislation has not been introduced. I'm hoping by the next Newsletter I can announce introduction and Cosponsors signed on.

We look forward to seeing you in August.

Keith (K²)

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAV VICE COMMANDER

Hope everyone is doing Great. Summer is passing into Fall. Maybe weather will start to get cooler. We are making great head way with our bills before Congress this year.

We are in need of a Newsletter Editor.

Do you or someone you know want to help NAAV out? This is a lot of work for someone, Maybe a couple of People.



Fred Schafer

National Vice Commander

Convention: Maybe next year will happen. Hopefully Air fare, hotel's everything may cost less.

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. Looks like Keith will need to make another trip to DC, in December for more support on one of the bills before Congress.

We have many Members and Spouses with health problems. We need to keep in our prayers.

Membership: We have lost several members, due to age. We have been checking on other members, who have not updated their information.

We have set up an account to pay your dues online. You can also order from the store and pay with a credit card. Call Keith, his phone # is 612-232-6596.

I will repeat this. **"Keep working with your State Legislatures 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. 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

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fred Schafer".

o Fred Schafer
National Vice Commander
derf@trcschafer.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

POLICE STATION TOILET

STOLEN...Police

have nothing to go on.



LABRATS INTERNATIONAL



On behalf of the British Nuclear Test Veterans and their families, we would like to congratulate NAAV and its members on their achievements this year. We are extremely grateful to your national Commander for his help in ensuring that we continue to keep up the pressure on the UK Government.

Following our meeting on the 8th of June, unfortunately Boris Johnson resigned from his position as Prime Minister and has subsequently been replaced by Liz Truss MP. On the day of his departure from office he released this open letter to the nuclear veterans.



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

5 September 2022

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Veterans,

For decades our country has lived in peace and security under the protective shield of our independent nuclear deterrent. But we should always remember that we only possess this vital insurance because of your achievements in a crucial period of post-War history.

At a time when the essential technology was still in its infancy – and the world was even more dangerous than it is today – you succeeded in developing and testing our deterrent in the first place. You forged and perfected our country's protective shield and then made certain that it worked.

Today 67 million people in the United Kingdom – and our NATO allies – live in the safety that you helped to provide. You can take pride in how our prosperity and security derives, in good measure, from your effort and sacrifice all those years ago.

I was privileged to be the first Prime Minister to meet some of you in person. Hearing your accounts first hand, I'm determined that your achievements will never be forgotten. So, I am commissioning an oral history to memorialise your service and later this year we will mark the 70th anniversary of the first UK nuclear test. The Government will provide funds for other schemes to remember your contribution to national security and offer support as necessary. And I have asked that we look again at the case for medallic recognition, because it is my firm belief that you all deserve such an honour, and this work is now in train.

Many of us have spent our whole lives under the formidable shield that you helped to build. On behalf of all those millions, let me offer my profound thanks for your part in keeping us safe.

Yours sincerely
Boris Johnson

Veterans of the UK's Nuclear Testing Programme

To have the support of the outgoing Prime Minister was a major step forward for the #lookmeintheeye campaign and we are now regularly meeting with the Director of Veterans Affairs, Jessie Owen and are working through the recognition package in the 70th Anniversary year of the first British test at the Montebello Islands on the 3rd of October 1952.

Continued from Page 3

Our annual re-union took place from 19th–23rd September at Pontins, Sand Bay and a great time was had by everyone who attended. Dancers from the Kiribati Tungari Association were present at the event and performed traditional dances.



KTA Dancers with our mascot Kitty at the All Tests Reunion 2022

On the 25th September, representatives of the #lookmeintheeye campaign attended an event at the Labour Party Conference where we called for the Labour Party to include the Nuclear Veterans in their election manifesto. We were joined by prominent MP's and Andy Burnham (Mayor of Greater Manchester). The event was very emotional, and John Morris (Operation Grapple veteran) received a standing ovation.



Shadow Secretary of Defence John Healey MP

We will be commemorating the 70th anniversary with wreath laying at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Thank you all for your continued support, we continue to fight for truth and justice.



LABRATS Article for NAAV – 5th December 2022

I am pleased to announce that on the 21st of November 2022 the UK Government has awarded the British and Commonwealth Nuclear Veterans who took part in the British nuclear testing program from 1952 to 1991.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said:

I am incredibly proud that we are able to mark the service and dedication of our nuclear test veterans with this new medal. Their commitment and service has preserved peace for the past 70 years, and it is only right their contribution to our safety, freedom and way of life is appropriately recognised with this honour.

This medal is an enduring symbol of our country's gratitude to each and every person who played a part in this effort and their loved ones who supported them.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Johnny Mercer said:

This medal honours those who served far from home, at a crucial time in our nation's history.

To this day the nuclear deterrent remains the cornerstone of our defence, and that is only because of the service and contribution of the brilliant veterans and civilian personnel.

It's right that we mark this contribution today, 70 years on from Britain's first nuclear test.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace said:

I am delighted that a commemorative medal can be given to our Nuclear Test Veterans, who have made an invaluable contribution to the safety and security of the UK, and who we recognise and value for their enduring service to our nation.

The Nuclear Test Medal will be a commemorative medal that can be worn by recipients.

The medal also recognises the contribution made by veterans and civilians from across Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kiribati. All service personnel and civilians under UK command, including close partners from the Commonwealth and Pacific region, who participated in, or were present at, the British or American nuclear tests at the Montebello Islands, Christmas Island, Malden Island and Maralinga & Emu Field, South Australia between 1952 and 1967 will be eligible for the medal. This also includes scientists and local employees..

It is estimated that around 22,000 veterans will be eligible for medallic recognition.

The medal can be awarded posthumously. Veterans, their families and next of kin will need to apply for the medal, which will be free of charge. It is expected that the first awards of the medals will be made in 2023.

To further recognise the contribution of veterans of Britain's nuclear tests, the government is investing £450,000 into projects which will commemorate and build further understanding of the experiences of veterans who were deployed to Australia and the Pacific.

As part of that funding, the Office for Veterans' Affairs is launching an oral history project to chronicle the voices and experiences of those who supported the UK's effort to develop a nuclear deterrent.

Due to start in April 2023 the project will run for two years, giving nuclear test veterans the opportunity to be interviewed, and contribute to an accessible digital archive of testimonies about their time working on the tests.

This is what it meant to Eric Barton, Operation Dominic Veteran:



There are so many people to thank for the success of this campaign, including Susie Boniface, Alison Phillips, Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Rachel Hopkins MP, John Healey MP, Emily Thornberry MP, Sir Keir Starmer, Stephanie Peacock MP, Charlie Rowley, Sir John Hayes MP, Johnny Mercer MP, Ben Wallace MP, Rishi Sunak MP, Jonathan Edwards MP, Carol Monaghan MP, Ian Blackford MP, Andy Burnham, Chris Thomas, Steve Rotheram, Al Murray, Heidi Thomas, Stephen McGann, Mark Steel, Rory Bremner, Jessie Owen, Ariella Combe, Maryam Duale, Hannah Dean, Jamie Sefton, Andrew Brookes, Siobhain McDonagh MP, Andrew Gwynne MP, Julian Lewis MP, Luke Pollard MP, Emma Lewell-Buck MP, Chris Evans MP and everyone who has supported us.

The #lookmeintheye working group of Steve Purse, Jacqueline Purse, John Morris, Laura Morris, Elizabeth Bacon, Susie Boniface, Rebecca Long-Bailey, Charlie Rowley and Chris Thomas have

Worked tirelessly on the campaign, giving up their time to make this campaign a success.

But finally, to the Directors of LABRATS and their families, Eric Barton, Janet Barton, Susan Musselwhite, Lucy Musselwhite, Mel Owen and Alan Owen, we did it, we ended 70 years of denial and it feels great. It is just the start, but it is a massive achievement of which everyone should be proud.

For the people who tried to stop the campaign, said 'I hope it fails because of the people involved', we promised we would never stop until formal recognition was given to the nuclear veterans, we achieved it, despite your attempts to stop us.

THIS IS FOR ALL THE NUCLEAR VETERANS, SCIENTISTS, CIVILIANS AND THE FAMILIES.

Atomic Veterans Day Starts to be Honored Perpetually Beginning July 16, 2022



Congress Woman Abigail Spanberger with Gillie Jenkins

Thanks to Gillie Jenkins, Congress Woman Abigail Spanberger and others, Joe Biden is the first President to [proclaim](#) that July 16 is National Atomic Veterans Day perpetually.

Those who are called Atomic Veterans participated in nuclear tests between 1945 and 1962, were with U.S. military forces in or around Hiroshima and Nagasaki before 1946, or were held as prisoners of war in or near those two Japanese cities.

“The stories of Atomic Veterans are important for remembering our past. They are the stories of those who served, stories of their dangerous and secret missions, and stories of a complex and veiled history as the United States rose to prominence as the most powerful nation in the world. With the proclamation of July 16, 2021 as National Atomic Veterans Day, we have a unique opportunity to honor the contributions of America’s Atomic Veterans, and we have a chance to recommit our support to these Atomic Veterans and educate ourselves about the role they played in keeping our nation safe,” said Spanberger.

“For nearly 50 years, I and many others were sworn to secrecy about the work we did for our country in the military, work which regularly exposed us to radiation. While I have been blessed with health, many of the individuals I served with suffered from the consequences of being exposed to radiation and were prevented by their oaths from seeking the proper medical care or VA disability benefits,” said Gillie Jenkins, Director of State Commanders and Director at Large of the National Association of Atomic Veterans in Chesterfield County. “It is important for our country to know about atomic veterans. We’re the forgotten group. I thank Representative Spanberger and the Biden Administration for recognizing the important role played by the atomic veterans in the defense of our nation.”

Back in 1983, then-President Ronald Reagan designated July 16 as National Atomic Veterans' Day, dedicated to Americans who helped lead the country to the front in defense technology.

**NAAV
c/o KEITH KIEFER
14944 295 th Ave. NW
Zimmerman, MN
55398**

.....
Fold here

Foundation Veteran Outreach Program (FVOP) Survey – Veteran Information

1. How many years (approximately) of your life did you dedicate to military service? [Less than 2, 2–5, 5–10, 10–15, 15–20, 20+]
2. What is / was your Status: [1, Reserves Only; 2. Both Reserves and Active Duty; 3. Active Duty only]
3. Did you retire from the service? [Y/N]
4. Please Rank 1–5 the importance of each of these topics:
 - a. VA health care accessibility [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - b. Tri-Care health care accessibility [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - c. Mental health support & care, (e.g., PTS) and suicide prevention [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - d. Service member recruitment [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - e. Wokeness negative influence on the military [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - f. Transition from military to civilian [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - g. Veteran-owned business support [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - h. Hire-a-Vet programs [1,2,3,4, 5]
 - i. Continued Patriotic Service in areas other than the military [1,2,3,4, 5]

Foundation Veteran Outreach Program (FVOP) is powered by the AMAC Foundation, feature collaborative partnerships amongst Veteran-related organizations that look to support service-members in various capacities.



Please add your return address, a stamp and mail before April 1, 2023

97355-4505
Lebanon, OR
130 Cleveland St.
C/O Fred Schater
NAAV

Convention Hotel: Holiday Inn Knoxville West Cedar Bluff, Knoxville, TN 37923, 9134 Executive Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37923 Tel +1 865 694-1011
Special code rate is: NAAV \$119.00 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 July 15, 2023 Reservations can be made online at this links:

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=tyscb&PMID=99801505&GPC=naa&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/knoxville/tyscb/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=tyscb&qGrpCd=naa&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=9134+Executive+Park+Drive%2C+Knoxville%2C+TN%2C+US&srb_u=1

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS
ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION
REGISTRATION FORM
Knoxville, TN
August 17, 18, 19h, 2023**

Attach Check here

-----fold here-----

Name (on name badge) _____

Spouse/Guest _____ Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Wheelchair Access _____ No _____ Yes Dietary Restrictions? _____

Member Required Registration Fee \$85.00

Convention costs and Activities _____ x \$190 = _____
Number of attendees

Total due _____

Check # _____

Attach check (tape in space above) payable to NAAV, fold form, tape edges, attach postage and mail by July 10th, 2023.

Note: The room and fees (\$85 + \$190.00) includes Breakfast for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning, meeting room costs, Hospitality (Thursday night), Lunch (Friday), three museum's (Friday), Docent, transportation to and from museum, Banquet and meal Saturday night. And misc. Costs.

TAPS



Micheal Cobb **Friant, CA**

Robert Bornheimer **Albany, OR**

Robert A. A. Kilthau **Honolulu, HI**

Nelson E. Stowe **Browns Valley, CA**

SAVE THE DATE

The 2023 NAAV Convention will be held August 17th to 19th. We plan to hold the Convention in or near Oak Ridge Tennessee. Look for the inset in this quarter NAAV Newsletter. Please fill the form out, send your registration fees in and make your hotel reservations. Registration fees and hotel reservations made or received after July 1, 2023 can not be guaranteed.

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

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

Follow Up



Atomic Veteran
Memorial
Highway
In
Missouri
Thank you
Bernie Crosby
et al



Dr.
Lincoln
Grahlfs

NAAV Director at Large, Lincoln Grahlfs, celebrated his **100TH** birthday in Madison WI on December 4th, 2022. Dr. Grahlfs received USA flags flown over the Capital buildings In Washington DC and Wisconsin, as well as the Wisconsin State flag flown over the later Capitol. Congratulations Lincoln!

HE'S BACK!

Bob plans to return as our NAAV newsletter editor. Please submit any articles and information to Bob until further notice.

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



Bob Ruyle

Ballot Results

Four members of the NAAV Board were up for reelection in 2022.

They are:

Fred Schafer Vice Commander

Frank Farmer Treasurer

Robert Pfeifer Director at Large

Haskell Watts Director at Large

All were voted in for another term.

Each of them will continue in the capacity they were currently serving.

Congratulations UK Veterans

As you read in the Article from LABRATS Alan Owen on page 5, the Nuclear Veterans who served the United Kingdom during Atomic Bomb testing will finally be honored with a Service Medal. The LookMeInTheEyeCampaign was a success. NAAV wishes to congratulate our fellow Atomic Veterans and their families who have struggled long and hard to get this recognition. Hoozah!

Veterans have started receiving their Atomic Veteran Service Medals



Archie Conn
of Walnut Grove, MO

We need your immediate help!

JOIN AND SHARE YOUR FAMILY'S NUCLEAR EXPERIENCE -- EXPLORING THE AFTERMATH OF TRAUMA IN FAMILIES

International Center for the study, prevention and treatment of MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma has launched a new study for children of people who experienced nuclear radiation/ fallout exposure. If you are a child of a person who was exposed to nuclear radiation/fallout, you are invited to participate in this important study by completing the questionnaire.

NAAV is a project sponsor, along with esteemed allied organizations. The questionnaire is available here:

<https://www.iglow.world/>

This is a comprehensive questionnaire that can help to better understand how families have been affected by and lived after nuclear radiation/ fallout exposure. If your parent/s/family are veterans/survivors of nuclear exposure/fallout, this opportunity is for you—the next generation. Please, complete and forward as widely and to as many people who share this experience, as possible.

Every response is welcome and valuable. For more information and to participate in this ground-breaking study please check out the weblink below—there is a consent form link and you must respond to it in order to make the second link “live.”

<https://www.iglow.world/>

Yael Danieli, PhD

[Survey of Family Adaptation to Trauma](https://www.iglow.world/)

If the hyperlink doesn't work please go to:

<https://www.iglow.world/>



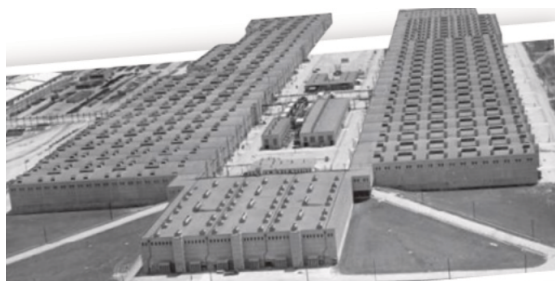
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IRB Approved at the
Protocol Level
Mar 30, 2022

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

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11	12	13	14
	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
Holiday Inn Knoxville West- Cedar Bluff Rd. Knoxville, TN	K25 history Center	Speakers 8:00 am to 5:30 pm Lunch on your own	Check out



Oak Ridge History Museum



4:00 pm to 6:00 pm Registration	Knoxville West		
Dinner on your own	lunch provided		
6:00 pm Social time with appetizers	Dinner on your own	6:30 pm Dinner	
	7:00 pm Board meeting		

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

Knoxville, TN AIRPORT (TYS)

Airport Transportation Services

From TYS Airport passengers can use the following transport options:

Bus: There aren't bus options from the Airport currently.

Taxi: Get to downtown Knoxville in just 25 minutes by taxi. Travel time to city centre is 24 minutes and fare is around 32\$. Bear in mind that fares may vary depending on the destination.

Car Rental: Renting a car at TYS Airport

Uber

Lift

Hail

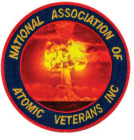
Convention Hotel: **Holiday Inn Knoxville West Cedar Bluff**

9134 Executive Park Drive Knoxville, TN 37923 Phone: 865.694-1011

Special code rate is: NAAV \$119.00 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 July 1st 2023. Reservations can be made online at this links:

https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/knoxville/tyscb/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=tyscb&qGrpCd=naa&setPMCookies=true&qSHBrC=HI&qDest=9134+Executive+Park+Drive%2C+Knoxville%2C+TN%2C+US&srb_u=1

<https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=tyscb&PMID=99801505&GPC=naa&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>



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IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!

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Have a good day!

