



NAAV NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023 3RD QUARTER

Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

As you read this newsletter, you'll find it's been a very busy three months. Atomic Veterans Day; keeping on top of moving our legislative Bills; planning, implementing, travel and wrap up of the NAAV Convention; preparation, travel, attendance of the AVCSM Award Ceremony; and writing articles for and preparation of the newsletter. (This is not all of the list.)

I believe all those that attended really enjoyed this years Convention and AVCSM Ceremony.

At the convention, we launched a new look and feel to the NAAV Website, as well as, a DNA Testing program at a significantly reduced price. I encourage members to check the website out and you and your family participating in the DNA Testing. (Page 7) & (Pages 5 and 6)

Please support the legislative efforts by calling your Federal Senators and House member to support our Bills. (Page 6)

Unfortunately, with the increased costs of postage, printing and other supplies, we have had to raise the annual and lifetime membership rates. It has been well over a decade since we last raised these rates. (Page 11)

If you have had the VA deny a claim for Prostate Cancer or other form of Cancer, please contact Steve Johnson. We believe there is a pattern of blanket denial. If this proves to be the case, then we may be able to cause an investigation into this practice. (Page 9)

Thank you to all of the individuals that donated items to NAAV for the auction. Your generous donations helped offset convention costs and NAAV operational costs. (Page 9)

Five individuals were acknowledged for significant achievements, contributions and outstanding dedication to Atomic Veterans at the NAAV 2023 Convention. Unfortunately, due to errors, the plaques were not available to be presented and will be forthcoming. (Page 9)

Please keep in mind the following dates:

- | | |
|--|------------|
| Coast Guard's Birthday | August 4th |
| Final Capping of Ruint Dome | Sept. 6th |
| US Air Force's Birthday | Sept. 18th |
| International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | Sept. 26th |
| Navy's Birthday | Oct. 13th |
| Daylight Savings | Nov. 6th |
| Election Day | Nov. 8th |
| Marine's Birthday | Nov. 10th |
| Veteran's Day (observed) | Nov. 10th |
| Veteran's Day (traditional) | Nov. 11th |
| Space Force's Birthday | Dec. 10th |

Don't forget all of the Veteran's discounts available and the many companies that provide free meals on and around Veteran's Day.

Thank you to those supporting the organization and your fellow Veterans.

Keith (K²)

Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander



FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAV VICE COMMANDER

Now we have Labor Day Let's work together and keep getting things done. Convention is over, and what a great time we had.

We have updated our website. Check it out NAAV.com

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. Keith & Mary Ann are doing the Newsletter, but we need someone to help with it. They'll learn the ins and outs of putting the newsletter together, then off to the printing.

Convention: We toured the city of Oak Ridge, TN, a very secret City in the late 30's and 40's

We have new prices on some of our NAAV items in the store. I will get a new list out on the web page, soon. The jackets are \$75.00, T-shirts are \$35.00. and caps are \$30.00. Also, the board has raised the annual dues to \$35.00 and the life membership to \$350.00.

VA is offering Veterans a fall alert free of any charges. It is called the "Liberty Honor Alert." Ask your doctor about this.

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.

We have many members and spouses with health problems. We need to keep them in our prayers.

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



Fred Schafer

National Vice Commander

updated their information. **If your dues are not up to date, you will not receive the next Newsletter.**

Keith has set up an account to pay your dues online, or should you order from the store and want to pay online call Keith. His phone # is 612-232-6596.

I will repeat this. **"Keep working with your state's 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. Until Dec. 31, 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. **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. Many of our life members have passed away and we were not notified.

Please stay safe and be careful

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Schafer". The signature is written in a cursive style.

o Fred Schafer
National Vice Commander
derf@trcschafer.com

We were honoured to attend the NAAV Annual Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. Susan Musselwhite, Joseph Owen and I attended a brilliant conference. We had not travelled since the Covid pandemic and we all were looking forward to meeting up with old colleagues and meeting new ones.

As well as the serious nature of the conference, we added some humour with specially made t-shirts for the occasion. (Some people said Joseph and I were brave to wear them!)



International collaboration is key to ensuring that the world never forgets the impact of Nuclear testing across the world and to be able to update the audience on our achievements and the challenges that we still face in the UK was one which we could not miss.

Susan provided an emotional speech on what it means to be a descendant and together with Lilly Adams of Nuclear Voices and Kathy Sinai of iGLOW.WORLD, we presented our global collaboration projects.

The trip to Oakridge and the museums was extremely interesting, to see the scale of the project and the amount of time, effort and money that went into the production of the Atomic bomb was incredible. However, despite a lot of searching, no mention of the UK scientists could be found at any of the museums, a point I raised with the museum staff!

We have achieved a lot by working together, but there is still more to be done. Together we are stronger, together we are making a difference. Thank you to Keith and the board for their continued support. We are privileged to be in such great company.



A big thank you to everyone who made us so welcome and allowed Joseph to take pictures, but special thanks to Jill and Mike who ensured the conference ran smoothly.

Alan Owen
LABRATS Founder

Greetings from over the pond!

For those that don't know me my name is Susan Musselwhite, I am a descendant of the Atomic tests, my Father was at operation Grapple. I am also co-founder of LABRATS, www.fallout.uk.net as well as Admin for the Children of Atomic Veterans page, <https://childrenofatomicveterans.org> When at the NAAV convention, we were talking about inclusion and looking forward and we hope that with me writing a little bit for the NAAV News this will help with bringing us more together.

As a descendant, life has been rather hard for me and for so many others and what we hope is with the Children of Atomic Veterans group that you have other descendants to talk to and share: Share the good and bad, have that group that can be there always for you. The outside world just doesn't understand what we as a community go through, but we do, we understand and can and will be there for you. We share and help when and if needed.

Within the group setting it is a safe place to talk, safe in the knowledge that you have like minded people who suffer and share the loss that you do as well.

Together we can battle and be stronger.

I look forward to speaking with you and I would also just like to say that I thank you for having LABRATS and myself attend the NAAV convention, I'm still getting over it! Was the best time though and I have made some wonderful friendships. I would also like to say I apologise for mucking my speech up, but thank you all for making me feel that I didn't. The emotion got me and I didn't realise till after that I had turned three pages over at once, the tears got me!

I always say that If I can help just one, then I feel like I have accomplished something, and that it did feel that as a lovely wife came to me and thanked me for speaking and said that she felt that she understood her husband now. That meant so much to hear that. Take care and please remember that there is always someone here for you all, we are and we aren't going anywhere.



DNA Testing

You may recall we wanted to conduct a study to test the hypothesis that veterans exposed to ionization radiation had damaged DNA and that damaged DNA is being passed onto future generations. To date we have not been able to raise the funds to conduct this study.

Good news in the interim we have a organization that will conduct a complete DNA sequencing at a substantially reduced rate.

What does it involve?

A quick, painless 2-minute mouth swab is all it takes—no prescription, appointment, or needles. Suitable for all ages, including newborns.

Security

Your genetic data remains secure and private, never shared or sold.

What do you get out of it?

- You will receive a full report of your entire genome, with a health care report and full reports which will help identify any potential issues related to your exposure and provide personalized health care driven by genetics.
- The reports will provide insight into what you can do right now to decrease the likelihood you'll get a particular disease or to limit its impact on you.
- Our Rare Disease Screen includes an assessment of your genetic risk for more than 10,000 diseases, conditions and traits.
- Our enhanced wellness reports include guidance on personalized nutrition, genetically-tailored fitness, sleep optimization, and ways to improve brain health. Learn to make healthy decisions for you and your family. The comprehensiveness of our whole genome sequencing service and the quality of our next-gen reports will let you know if you are carrying genes for diseases or conditions you might pass on to your children even if they do not manifest in you.
- Connect to your past. Get enhanced reports about your ethnicity, heritage, and lineage, and learn how your genetics have evolved over time.

What does iglow.world get out of it?

- We receive anonymous data which allows us to analyze the full for instances of rare diseases compared to the normal population occurrences.
- We can analyze the data by country, nuclear test, location and year of the veterans exposure.
- Analysis of the families for generations, identifying any patterns or mutations.
- A database which is unique to our radiation-exposed community, embracing everyone who has been exposed to radiation. Allowing full detailed analysis of the genetic changes from the exposure.

HOW DO I SIGN UP AND RECEIVE MY KIT?

In partnership with sequencing.com we have put together a unique kit bundle at an affordable price \$379 which can be shipped across the world. You will receive a kit, instructions for the swab and details of how to send the kit back to sequencing.com for processing. Just enter the url below, without the spaces, to purchase your kit today.

https://www.iglow.world/?fbclid=IwAR2FXmg_xEvRzGEWkO87sJqWPUCGLrKP_FeljwG7BOK68c_896bt6KWpvY_aem_AXzeXpibBUTeT1hDjpMG-wrco5XH8IUzLOKSNmvrI3sdIY7Rqpf1InjF9iAoH5S88c&mibextid=Zxz2cZ

We need your help to build the database

For many years, DNA sequencing has been out of reach for our communities due to the cost of analyzing the samples, but our unique partnership with sequencing.com has removed the barrier of cost and will allow us to not only provide individual reports on the whole genome, but collate anonymous information across our community. Many people have died who have not been able to leave a legacy for our community, now is your chance to have your DNA stored for eternity.

Legislative Update

Presently, we are working to get the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) expanded and extended. Under the current law RECA will sunset June of 2024. We are working on two methods to accomplish this. At this time we have the language included in the Senate version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that passed, however, the language was not in the House version that passed. The two Bills are going into conference or reconciliation committee. Generally, during this process the portions of the Bills that match are included in a new Bill and some of the provisions not included maybe in the new Bill, depending on the authors and outside pressure/influence. **This is where you can help! Call today your Federal Senators and House Congress-member to include the Hawley, Crapo, Lujan Senate NDAA Amendment and inclusion of Cleanup Veterans as follows:**

- 1. Include and expand Part I (Sec. 1099aa) of Subtitle I of Title X of the Senate-passed S.2226 to include veterans affected by the clean-up at the Enewetak Atoll; Polomares, Spain; and Thule, Greenland.**
- 2. Include Part II of Subtitle I of Title X of the Senate-passed S.2226 to extend and strengthen the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA), which provides restitution to people exposed to radiation from U.S. nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining, including the Atomic Veterans who participated in above-ground nuclear tests.**

The NDAA Bill that will come out of committee has to be voted on and pass prior to the end of this year.

We also have the RECA extension and expansion as stand alone Bills in the Senate and House, S1751 and HR4426 respectively, for which we are working to get more cosponsors committed.

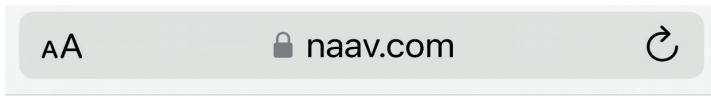
Additionally, we are supporting "The Presume Act" or "Providing Radiation Exposed Service-members Undisputed Medical Eligibility Act" HR4566 introduced by Congresswoman Dina Titus (NV-01). This bill, if passed, prohibits the requirement to have evidence of a certain dose of radiation in an Atomic Veteran's service history to qualify for benefits related to radiation exposure; thus ensuring the presumptive element of their illnesses is represented, and respected, in their application for needed health benefits. We are also working to get this introduced in the Senate.

Please call your representatives.

The **2023 NAAV Convention** took place in Knoxville, TN. On Friday, August 18, we visited sites in Oak Ridge: The American Museum of Science and Energy, The Oak Ridge History Museum (favorite of most,) The Friendship Bell Commemorative Walk, and The K-25 History Museum. Saturday was a line up of interesting and informative speakers. That evening was the banquet and Auction. General consensus is that it was a great time. It was delightful to connect with so many after the pandemic hiatus. We shared the hotel with many tornado victims who showed an interest in the Atomic Veteran story.

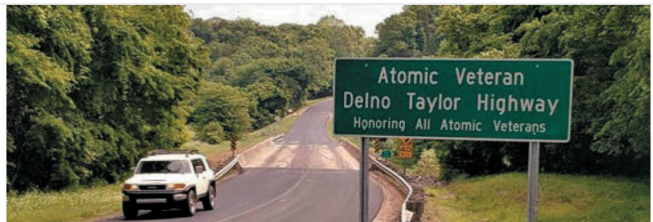


NAAV Website Update



National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV)

Supporting Atomic Veterans and their Families



Thanks to the generous donation of funds and time by Karen Cobb (wife of the late Micheal Cobb) in memory of her husband, we now have the NAAV Website modernized and updated. The previous website was developed and maintained by a past member who, prior to his passing, asked his brother and niece to continue the maintenance of the website. We are grateful for that families past support.

The new look and feel of the website was launched at the 2023 NAAV Convention.

7 Please thank the Cobb family for this generous donation and Lila Godel and the Godel family for their past support.

Atomic Veteran Commemorative Service Medal (AVCSM) Award Ceremony

To date, less than two thousand Atomic Veterans have applied for and received the AVCSM. According to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA,) approximately 550,000 individuals, or a representative of the family, are eligible to be awarded the Medal. A small number of individuals were invited to attend an Award Ceremony on September 13th, 2024 at Fort Belvoir, VA just outside the DC beltway. The hosts of the ceremony were DTRA, Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR), Congressman McGovern (MA-02) and Ms. Rebecca Hersman, Director of DTRA. All in attendance were grateful for the recognition and ability to attend. Some of the qualifications to be invited were having been vetted and received the Medal, availability, ability and willingness to attend at one's own travel, accommodations, meals and incidental expense. Unfortunately, approximately twenty five percent of those invited had to cancel last minute mainly due to health problems. The ceremony can be viewed at (if you don't want to watch all of the names scrolling by, fast forward to about 28 minutes in):

<https://youtu.be/IBCGbho5C2E>

If you have not applied for the medal please go to (to download the form):

<https://www.dtra.mil/Portals/125/Documents/avsc/8-DTRA-Form-150-F-AVSR-Application-11-09-2022.pdf>

or

Call Fred Schafer and ask him to mail you a copy of the form.



A Big Thank You To All Who Donated Items For The Auction At Our 2023 Convention



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Legacy Study

The hypothesis for this study (see page 10) is to produce evidence to prove children of atomic veterans have health issues from their parent's exposure to radiation. The study is of a psycho-social nature, covering many facets. There have been only 179 responses as of August, 30 to 40 having come from the US. A minimum of 1,000 responses from the UK and 4,000 from the US are needed to make a statistical case. Please ask your children to go to the website and fill out the questionnaire.

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

Attention Veterans with Denied Prostate Cancer Claims, etc

Steve Johnson, Claims/Legal Researcher, attended the NAAV convention to request veteran participation to make a case against the VA for negligence and not following the law in case determinations. He needs at least 50 veterans who have prostate cancer and have been denied by the VA. Their medical reports would be sanitized of personal information for the case. If you can help, please contact Steve at:

(916) 616-4926

Haskell Watts, NAAV Historian and Director At Large, highly recommends Steve as an advocate and VA Licensed Claims Agent.

Congratulations!

The following individuals were recognized with an award for achievement, contribution and dedication to Atomic Veterans at the NAAV 2023 Convention:

Lila Godel - past NAAV Web Page oversight

Alan Owen - founder of Labrats

Susan Musselwhite - cofounder of Labrats

Lilly Adams - Union of Concerned Scientists Advocate

Bob Ruyle - past newsletter editor and NAAV Secretary

Veterans are Receiving Their Atomic Veteran Commemorative Service Medal



Without my knowledge, my family had the medal, attendance certificate, photo of the ship, and a photo of me in uniform, professionally framed and presented to me as a Father's Day gift.

Paul Roberts
Fruita, Colorado

SKG 3rd Class aboard
the USS Curtiss AV4
Operation Redwing,
Eniwetok 1956

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.”

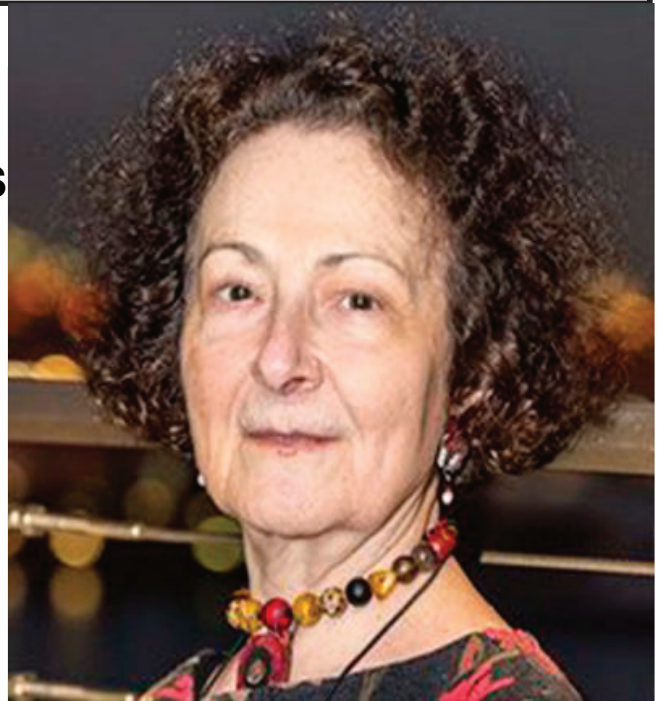
<https://www.iglow.world/>

Yael Danieli, PhD

[Survey of Family Adaptation to Trauma](#)

If the hyperlink doesn't work please go to:

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

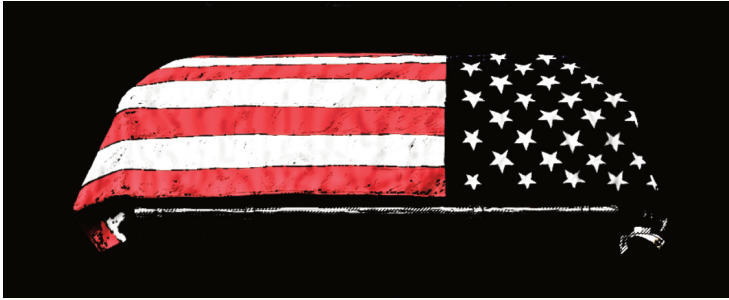


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IRB Approved at the
Protocol Level
Mar 30, 2022

TAPS



Charles Evans - Marrero, LA
Adolf J. Wesselhoeft - Ruston, LA
Lorris L. White - Ringgold, LA
Lee R. Jensen - Mitchellville, MD
James B. Humphreys - Edgely, PA
Paul W. Cathey - Mesquite, TX
Ken M. Shimabukuro - Phoenix, AZ
Tom L. McLaren - Chanute, KS
Frank E. Potts - Madison, WI
Donald W. Dietz - WaKeeney, KS
Frank A. Fanciullo - Everett, MA
Nelson Stowe - Browns Valley, CA
Harold A. Rumzek - Yellville, AR
Doug Hern - UK

Liberty Honor Alert from the VA is Free to all Vets, free in all ways. Check it out on the Web or ask your doctor for it. It is for falls and aid if needed.

www.honoralert.com
sales@honoralert.com
Toll-Free: 888-581-4440
Fax: 888-202-1875

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

Fred Schafer
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Attention Membership Dues Going Up!

At the annual board meeting, the board voted to raise the annual membership to \$35.00 per year and Lifetime to \$350.00. This will be effective January 1, 2024. Even if your membership is not due we will honor prepaid membership donations. Example: you can prepay two, three or even four years at \$25 per year and extend your membership by that number of years. Payment, if mailed, must be postmarked prior to January 1, 2024.

FOR NOTIFICATIONS

Please use the following email address to submit articles for the newsletter and to notify NAAV of members who pass so we can include them in taps. (Fred Schafer is the other option for taps.)

Pictures of Atomic Veteran events and Atomic Memorial Highways are also welcome.



NAAV
130 Cleveland Street
Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

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IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!

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Have a good day! 