



NAAV NEWS

March 2025

1ST QUARTER

Publication of the National Association of Atomic Veterans

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NATIONAL COMMANDER

Wow!, it's hard to believe we are one fourth through the year. Where does the time go? This article will leave you with more questions than answers. I had hoped to have a report that RECA (Radiation Exposure Compensation Act) was passed. However, the Federal legislators decided to kick the can down the road again. Instead of passing the appropriation budget bills, they chose to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) to fund through September. All I can say at this point is sometime between now and September we will have opportunities to pass RECA, unless they kick the can down the road again.

Concerning a NAAV 2025 Convention, a final decision to cancel or go forward has not occurred. Cancelling this year's convention is being considered due to a lack of funding. Thank you to those that have made donations.

You can read more about some of NAAV's efforts to educate others about Atomic Veterans and advocate for them in this issue.

Please verify all of your contact information is up to-date. A lot of resources are wasted attempting to connect with Veterans who are no longer able to be reached with the contact information available.

Often reporters want to contact Veterans with specific backgrounds and we aren't able to reach them.

Thank you for your support.

Keith (K²)



Keith Kiefer
NAAV - Commander

At the United Nations:

Right -

Keith with Dr. Danieli

Below - L to R

Alan Owen

Kathy Sinai

Rev. Ernest Davis



Republic of the Marshall Islands Ambassador to the U.N.

John Silk (far left)

FROM THE DESK OF OUR NAAV VICE COMMANDER

February 1, 2024

This new year started with a lot of confusion. Now I hope things settle down.

WE ARE still IN NEED OF A Newsletter Editor. Do you know someone who might want to help NAAV out? This is a lot of work for someone, maybe a couple of people.

Mary Ann is still getting it done. She is keeping Keith on his toes.

The board has raised the annual dues to \$35.00 and the life membership to \$ 350.00.

We have removed the prices of store items. You will have to call and ask for prices. The Caps and Decal prices are staying at \$35.00 for caps and \$10.00 for Decals. Also, the 4" patches of Atomic Veterans, NAAV Patch, Children of Atomic Veterans and Guinea Pig Patches for \$15.00. I am trying to stay on top of this. 541-258-7453

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

Keith is keeping busy with a lot of projects. He is a very busy person. He has had a couple of surgeries and is on the mend. 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.



Fred Schafer

National Vice Commander

Membership: We have lost several members due to age. On the front of the newsletter, you will find the date your annual dues are due.

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

I am working on a 4" Coin or Medallion to be epoxied to a head stone. It will be for Atomic veterans. Not sure of the cost yet. How many family members would be wanting to order one for their loved one? Only two people have shown any interest in these.

I will repeat this. **"Keep working with your State's Legislature 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 ask members to get current in dues and information. **Just \$35.00** 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 the members that send in extra dues earmarked for helping someone, who 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 database.**

A big **Thank you** to the state commanders who are getting info on members in their states and updating their info. 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".

Fred Schafer

National Vice Commander
derf@trcschafer.com



As many of you are aware, we achieved one of our goals and the NTV Medal was awarded in November 2022, since then, we have now surpassed 5,000 medals being awarded worldwide to Veterans and Descendants.

Veterans Medal Update

Latest application numbers (as of 29th November 2024)

5361	5061	5	195	99	3
Applications received	Medals have been dispatched.	Approved	Rejected	Under Assessment	No response from applicant



If you haven't yet applied, please visit our website www.labrats.international/medal for the application form.

We held a special Christmas meal in my hometown, Llanddarog in Wales where 62 veterans and descendants enjoyed a very special Christmas service and meal at the White Hart Inn (www.coles.wales)



This year is critical for the future of our world, it is critical for the future of our Nuclear Test Veterans and we hope that we can work with our government to secure the future of the veterans and their families.

Stay safe and healthy.

Alan Owen
LABRATS Founder



Unlike veterans, I don't know what it is like to be on the battlefield. I have never been on the ground in a situation of armed conflict, I have never had a commander giving me orders, I have never even held a gun before. While I did not grow up in a war zone, however, I did not grow up in peace. As a child survivor of gender-based violence, the "war" was not raging outside between nations or armed groups, but between my parents within my very home. My childhood experience has directly influenced my development as a peace activist with a very unique definition of what "violence" really means — violence is not just something we need to eliminate in its traditional sense during armed conflict, but also in our communities, on our streets, and in our homes. This is something we all can contribute to whether we are actively wearing a uniform or not. In my own case, I look forward to learning how to use international law and United Nations human rights mechanisms to advance peace and global justice when I begin law school at Harvard this upcoming fall.

I find immense value in identifying the connections and commonalities between groups of people that typically would not get along. I won't lie, as a peace and anti-war activist, I used to distance myself from military personnel. So many so-called "progressives" place the blame on everyday people for the global policy-decisions and foreign interventions made by our government at-large, notwithstanding the reality that so many people who join the military do so merely to ensure the financial viability of themselves and their families. I have come to realize that this blame is misdirected, and that some of the most ardent peace and anti-war activists I have ever had the privilege of meeting are those who served their country. My conversations with NAAV's National Commander, Keith Kiefer, and National Vice Commander and Co-Treasurer, Fred Schafer, have further highlighted the lack of transparency provided to military personnel by the government, both during and after service. Like so many innocent communities around the world, I now understand that hundreds of thousands of U.S. military personnel are also victims of the U.S. government's irresponsible and borderline malicious use of nuclear weapons and other radioactive exposure-causing events.

I am still young, and I have so much more to learn. It is okay to let go of biased perspectives that we have been taught, and to change our opinions over time. Listening to the stories of Keith and Fred, I was eerily reminded of my time in Hiroshima as a U.S. Youth Delegate to the [International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons's G7 Youth Summit](#) in 2023. Hibakusha, Japanese survivors and victims of the atomic bombs dropped by the U.S. in 1945, expressed the same messages to youth delegates as Keith and Fred expressed to me — nuclear weapons are incredibly dangerous, radiation exposure has severe humanitarian and health consequences, and everyone hoped to never witness a nuclear weapon in their backyard ever again. Instead of fueling animosity and division based on nationality, there is so much more power in uniting based on collective experience. As a [Youth4TPNW](#) delegate at the [Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons'](#) Third Meeting of States Parties held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City from March 3-7, 2025, I will use my voice to advocate for all victims of radioactive exposure, including Hibakusha as well as U.S. atomic veterans, particularly in conversations surrounding [Articles 6 and 7](#) on Victim Assistance, Environmental Remediation and International Cooperation. We are all so much more similar than we have come to believe, and international treaties must reflect this reality.



Larissa Truchan | she/her/hers

Larissa is a U.S. American human rights advocate, intersectional feminist, and peace activist. She graduated from Boston College in 2021 and will begin her studies at Harvard Law School this upcoming fall. Larissa currently serves as the United Nations Youth Representative for Human Rights Now, an NGO based in Japan, and the International Engagement Directorate for the Migration Youth and Children Platform (NYC), representing thousands of migrant youth positions at the UNHQ.

AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On March 3rd, Keith Kiefer joined the team at the United Nations in New York for the 3rd meeting of State Parties for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Dr. Yael Danieli of the International Center for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma, Alan Owen of Labrats, Kathy Sinai of iGlow.com and StillGlowing.org, and Commander Keith Kiefer of NAAV organized a breakout session presenting to a standing room only audience about the legacy of radiation exposure and the need for data to prove the lasting effects of said exposure. With a strong lineup of speakers representing the timeline of various exposure incidents, they made the call to global victims and their offspring, asking them to have their DNA tested and analyzed via iGLOW.world, and to fill out the questionnaire from www.ICMGLT.org/inventory/. You can listen to the presentation at:

<https://youtu.be/uefSeirgu2g>



Toward Investigating and Redressing Lifelong and Intergenerational Impacts of Nuclear Bombing, Radiation Exposure and Fallout

Date: Monday, March 3, 2025, 1:15 - 2:45PM

Place: United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room A

This side event will take place on the occasion of the third Meeting of States Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TNPW). It will begin with a report of key international intergenerational findings garnered utilizing the Danieli Inventory for Multigenerational Legacies of Trauma – the gold measure for comparatively assessing psychosocial intergenerational impacts of trauma (www.ICMGLT.org/inventory/). This Inventory has been respectfully and sensitively adjusted to exploring direct and indirect effects in offspring of victim/survivors of nuclear bombing and nuclear radiation exposure and fallout in multiple related languages (English version at iglow.world). Following the original study presentation, discussants – veterans and descendants of nuclear-exposed communities who, in addition to honoring the memories of survivor parents, would report of their own legacies and highlight the urgency of studying and redressing these legacies to inform global policy and reparative justice work. This four-day looking forward aims to advance TNPW's mission by integrating victim/survivor and descendant experiences. Age 16+ age appropriate. Missionary leadership to chart a path towards a nuclear-free and equitable future.

Welcome:

John M. Silk

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations (1946-1958)

Voices:

Kathleen Burkinshaw

Daughter of Toshiko Ishikawa, Hibakusha (6 August, 1945)

Sara Miyako Burkinshaw

Granddaughter of Toshiko Ishikawa, Hibakusha (6 August, 1945)

Keith Kiefer

1977-1980 Eniwetok Atoll Radiological Cleanup Veteran/survivor; Commander, (United States) National Association of Atomic Veterans; In Memoriam for F. Lincoln Grahls, Operation Crossroads (1-25 July, 1946) survivor, and his children

Kathy Sinai

Daughter of a 17-years old United States Navy Operation Hardtack 1 (28 April-8 August, 1958); Founder, iGlow and StillGlowing

Alan Owen, MBA, FLPI

Son of James Ronald Owen, UK Royal Navy, Operation Dominic (25 April-30 October, 1962); Founder of LABRATS

Oksana Yakushko

Child survivor of Chernobyl (26 April, 1986)

Convenor and Study Presenter:

Dr. Yael Danieli

Traumatologist, victimologist and psychohistorian; Founder, Executive Director, Senior Representative to the United Nations, International Center for MultiGenerational Legacies of Trauma (ICMGLT); Director, Group Project for Holocaust Survivors and their Children

Food and beverages courtesy of Victoria Moore Fine Art (near the Vienna Cafe)

After the event, Kiefer was asked to repeat his portion of the presentation to three other groups attending the TPNW. He also had the opportunity to meet Larissa Truchan (see page 5) in person. In a letter to the NAAV secretary, she wrote: “The presentation Keith gave was incredibly moving, and many of my colleagues said he was the highlight of the whole event!!! It was an honor to meet in person and to discuss more nuclear issues.”



Left to Right:

Alan Owen

Oksana Yakushko

Dr. Yael Danieli

Kathy Sinai

Kathleen Burkinshaw

Shay Kun

Sara Miyako Burkinshaw

6

At Left: Keith Kiefer

Larissa Truchan



Supreme Court Upholds VA Court Decision Not to Review 'Benefit-of-the-Doubt' Evidence in Veterans' Claims

Military.com | By **Patricia Kime**

Published March 10, 2025 at 2:30 pm

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against two veterans who argued that [their disability claims were unfairly denied because they did not receive favorable decisions](#) when the evidence presented in their cases was equal. In a 7-2 decision, the court ruled that the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is not required to review the [Department of Veterans Affairs'](#) application of the "benefit-of-the-doubt" rule in most decisions. The standard requires the VA to approve veterans' claims when the supporting evidence, either for or against approval, is close.

Writing for the majority, Justice Clarence Thomas said the VA claims court and the Federal Circuit Court, which upheld the lower court's decision, weren't legally bound, in the specific cases, to conduct a benefit-of-the-doubt review. Instead, the claims court was required only to review the cases for any errors by the claims adjudicators or the Board of Veterans Appeals, [Thomas wrote in a decision published March 5](#). "We hold that the Veterans Court must review the VA's application of the rule the same way it would any other determination -- by reviewing legal issues [from the beginning] and factual issues for clear error," Thomas wrote.

The case, *Bufkin v. Collins*, included the arguments of two veterans: Joshua Bufkin, who served in the [Air Force](#) from 2005 to 2006, and former [Army](#) soldier Norman Thornton, who served from 1988 to 1991. Bufkin filed a disability claim for post-traumatic stress disorder roughly seven years after he left the service. As an airman, he was unable to pass the training needed to become a military policeman, citing marital stress as a contributing factor. According to court records, Bufkin said his wife threatened suicide if he stayed in the military. He ultimately was granted a hardship discharge at his own request. When he applied for VA health care and benefits, Bufkin said his issues were service-related. VA doctors disagreed over his diagnosis of PTSD as well as his service connection, and his claim was rejected.

Thornton served in the 1990-1991 Persian Gulf War and received a 10% disability rating for PTSD that later was increased to 50%. He appealed the decision, arguing that the rating should have been higher.

In both cases, the Veterans Board of Appeals weighed the evidence, which, in Bufkin's case, conflicted, and in Thornton's case, did not support a higher disability rating, according to the board. The Veterans Court of Appeals later determined that no errors were made by the claims adjudicators or the board, but it did not conduct a benefit-of-the-doubt review. On appeal, the Federal Circuit Court of Appeals agreed that the review was not necessary.

In their petition to the Supreme Court, the plaintiffs argued that the law clearly indicates that veterans should receive the benefit of the doubt. Thomas said, however, that they failed to make their legal argument, adding that the veterans court can overturn a decision only when there is clear error. "After closely examining the way in which the VA conducts the approximate balance inquiry [of benefit-of-the-doubt evidence], we conclude it is a predominantly factual question and thus subject to clear-error review," Thomas wrote. **Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson and Justice Neil Gorsuch disagreed. Jackson, writing a dissenting opinion, said veterans are entitled to have "any reasonable doubt on a material issue" resolved in their favor as, she argued, Congress intended.** "The court today concludes that Congress meant nothing when it inserted [into law,] in response to concerns that the Veterans Court was improperly rubberstamping the VA's benefit-of-the-doubt determinations and also that the Veterans Court is not obliged to do anything more than defer to those agency decisions," Brown wrote. "I respectfully dissent."

Eli McNeal Stationed at The Savannah River Site (SRS)

NAAV member Eli J. McNeal, from Macon, Georgia recently brought it to Commander Kiefer's attention that there is a group of Atomic Veterans who needed to be included in the PACT Act for a presumptive exposure location. These veterans, along with McNeal, were stationed at the Savannah River Nuclear Site in the mid 1950s as part of the Army's 11th AAA Group under the command of H.R. Greenlee, Jr. (Eli related that Greenlee died of cancer in his sixties.) The 11th was stationed at the Savannah River Defense Area to protect the site from air attack during the years spanning 1955 through 1960. This location, a 300 square mile site in South Carolina, housed five nuclear reactors and two chemical separations operations, along with numerous laboratories and support facilities.

Between 1955 and 1964, the Savannah River Plant produced approximately half of the nation's plutonium and the majority of its tritium. When the Savannah River reactors were built in the early 1950s, there was no containment or confinement system designed for production reactors. The large buffer area allowed for each reactor was considered adequate protection, and there was a certain willingness to tolerate low levels of radiation. As a result, the original reactor ventilation systems had no real filtration devices. As production increased, problems persisted in the release of radioactive materials from the reactors into the surrounding environment. The greatest operational hazard was the problem with tritium gas, inadvertently produced when deuterium molecules in the moderator captured stray neutrons. Whenever the heavy water system had to be opened for maintenance, the tritiated heavy water created a radioactive water vapor that could be absorbed by the body through the lungs and skin. Adding to these radionuclides, chemicals were disposed of into the ground or released into surface waters and into the air. These releases resulted in radioactive and chemical exposure to persons living near the site. McNeal estimates between 300 to 600 military personnel, specifically the single enlisted men, were housed in barracks on the SRS grounds during their service protecting the Savannah River Nuclear Site.

In 1999, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that the SRS plant released 57,000 curies of iodine and 16 curies of plutonium. This estimate was far greater than previous Department of Energy Reports. Eighty-four percent of the contaminating releases occurred between 1955 to 1959. The year of maximum release was 1956. By 1992, the production reactors had all ceased operation.

While it is no longer possible to get the SRS listed in the PACT Act, this area should be brought to the attention of our legislators for consideration in future Veteran bills. Aside from contacting your legislators and senators about this issue, members could write to the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs, **Doug Collins**, making him aware of the need for medical care and compensation for veterans like Eli McNeal, who lived in barracks on site for 27 months, inclusive of 1956. McNeal knows of only one individual who won a claim, on appeal, with the VA concerning health issues from service at SRS.

Below are excerpts from that ruling.

1. The Veteran was exposed to ionizing radiation while stationed at and near the Savannah River Site (SRS) in 1955 and 1956.

2. Currently diagnosed cancerous and precancerous skin growths, variously diagnosed as basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas, and actinic/solar keratoses, are at least as likely as not related to the in-service exposure to ionizing radiation.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

The criteria for service connection of cancerous and pre-cancerous skin disabilities are met. 38 U.S.C.A. §§ 1110, 1112, 1113, 1131, 1137, 5107 (West 2014); 38 C.F.R. §§ 3.102, 3.303, 3.307, 3.309, 3.311 (2014).

In order to establish service connection on a direct basis, the record must contain competent evidence of: (1) the existence of a present disability; (2) in-service incurrence or aggravation of a disease or injury; and (3) a causal relationship between the present disability and the disease or injury incurred or aggravated during service. *Shedden v. Principi*, 381 F.3d 1163, 1167 (Fed. Cir. 2004).

Post-service medical records document diagnosis of and treatment for variously diagnosed skin lesions. While the Veteran initially referred to lipomas, subsequent records show diagnoses of basal cell carcinomas, squamous cell carcinomas, and actinic/solar keratoses. There is a current disability.

The Veteran was stationed on the grounds of the SRS, where nuclear waste materials were regularly vented into the ground, water, and air. He was exposed, establishing an in-service injury. The question on appeal is whether a nexus between the current diagnoses and that exposure exists.

Disagreement has arisen over how much radiation he was exposed to. Multiple remands have been required to obtain or seek confirmation of various radiation dose estimates, in compliance with 38 C.F.R. § 3.311. These have ranged from reports of no exposure, to exposure of 5.2 rem. Estimates varied based on time of exposure, his exact location, assumptions regarding dissipation, and other factors.

There remains no agreement or clear answer regarding his exposure. However, for purposes of the adjudication, the Veteran and his representative have submitted a memorandum by an eminently qualified medical doctor, radiation expert, and retired

This matter comes before the Board of Veterans' Appeals (Board) on appeal from a March 1997 rating decision by the Waco, Texas, Regional Office (RO) of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

The Board initially denied the claim, characterized as service connection for lipomas, in a January 2005 decision, which the Veteran appealed to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC or the Court). In September 2005, on the basis of a Joint Motion for Remand, the Court vacated the denial and remanded the claim for further consideration. The Board has in turn considered and remanded the claim in December 2005, February 2009, April 2011, April 2012, and March 2014. During the appellate process, the claim has been recharacterized as service connection for a skin disability, to reflect that the Veteran's claims involve the occurrence of multiple skin growths, and not a specifically diagnosed lipoma.

Since the most recent September 2104 supplemental statement of the case (mislabelled as a statement of the case), the Veteran has submitted additional relevant evidence, along with a waiver of initial RO consideration of such. 38 C.F.R. § 20.1304(c); *Disabled American Veterans v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs*, 327 F.3d 1339 (Fed. Cir. 2003). He is not prejudiced by proceeding with adjudication at this time.

The Board has reviewed the Veteran's physical claims file and the electronic records maintained in Virtual VA and Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) to ensure consideration of the totality of the evidence.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Savannah

River

Nuclear Site

Home of five

Nuclear
Reactors

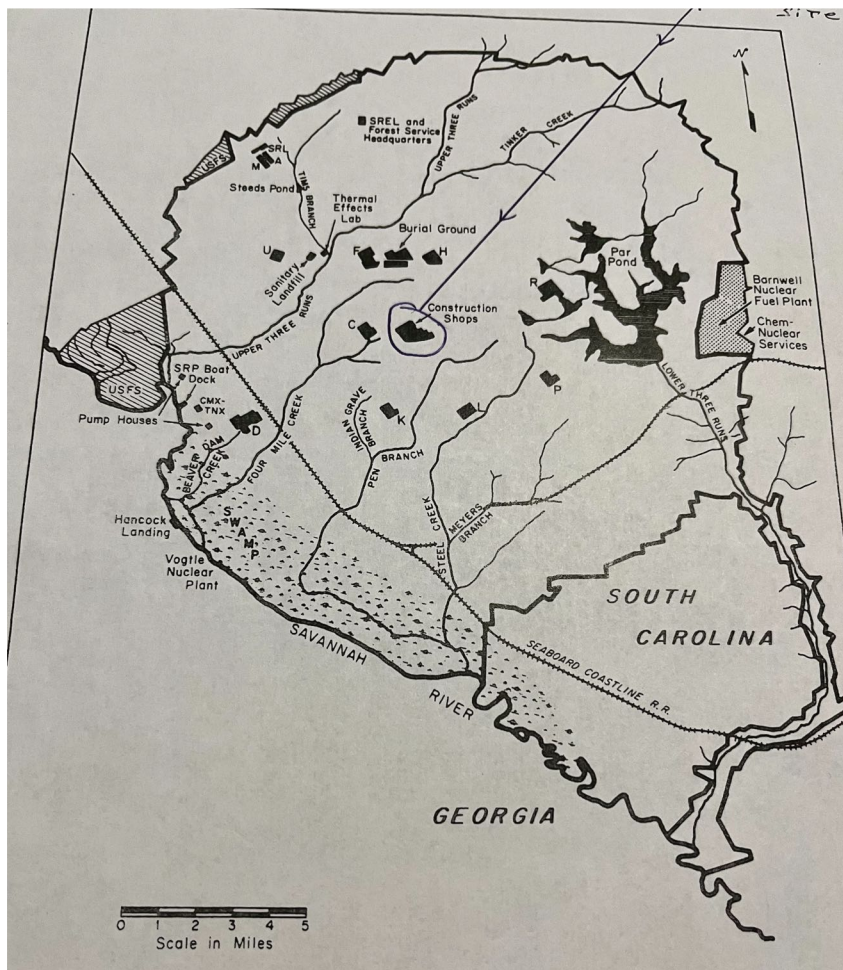
and cause of

radionuclides
and chemicals

being released

Into the ground,
surface water
and air of its

environs.



Eli McNeal lived in
barracks housed in
the former
construction shop for
27 months during the
height of the
releases:

Iodine-131 & 129

Tritium

Argon -41

Plutonium-238, 239
& 240

Cesium-137

Strontium-90

Supreme Court Decision

In a summary, the justices said they accepted the case to determine whether the Veterans Court was required to consider the VA's use of the benefit-of-the-doubt in claims decisions beyond a review for error. The majority decided that, in most cases, it wasn't.

"[The law] does not establish a new standard of review for challenges to the VA's application of the benefit-of-the-doubt rule," Thomas

About Patricia Kime

Patricia Kime focuses on military personnel and veterans' issues for Military.com, reporting on health care, military families, benefits and military justice. She has covered defense issues for more than three decades, reporting on combat-related illnesses and injuries, veterans' health care and benefits, the Defense Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs, Congress and the executive branch.

Continued from Page 7



Members of the Supreme Court sit for a group portrait at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022. Bottom row, from left, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice of the United States John Roberts, Justice Samuel Alito and Justice Elena Kagan. Top row, from left, Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. (J. Scott Applewhite/AP Photo)

LETTER TO NAAV

January 14, 2025

Dear Keith, Fred, Frank, Fr. Rohen, Bob, Haskel and Lincoln,

I hope you are well and had a very happy New Year!

As you may recall, I had reached out to NAAV this summer regarding finding surviving WW2 veterans for a potential documentary. I am writing with the exciting news that the documentary **Atomic Veterans** is fully underway! We have a [website](#), and you can see a clip of the film there. We are focusing specifically on WW2 atomic veterans in Japan (but I am hopeful that we can leverage this film to bring public attention to all atomic veterans).

I am also writing to ask for some advice, if you have any. We have received funding for the film from the U.S. Japan Foundation, but we still need to explore other avenues to fully fund it. I am reaching out in the hope that some of you may have recommendations for organizations, grants or individuals that may be interested in the film. (We have a nonprofit fiscal sponsor, so all funding is fully tax deductible.)

Thank you again for any advice you may have and all the good work you do. I know my grandfather would be proud that something like NAAV exists today.

Very sincerely,
Victoria Kelly

atomicveteransfilm.com

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In war, everyone loses



Several of our Oregon Members of NAAV. With our sign on the I-5 Freeway. This was done in 2018 if I remember Correctly
Fred Schafer

RECOMMENDED BY

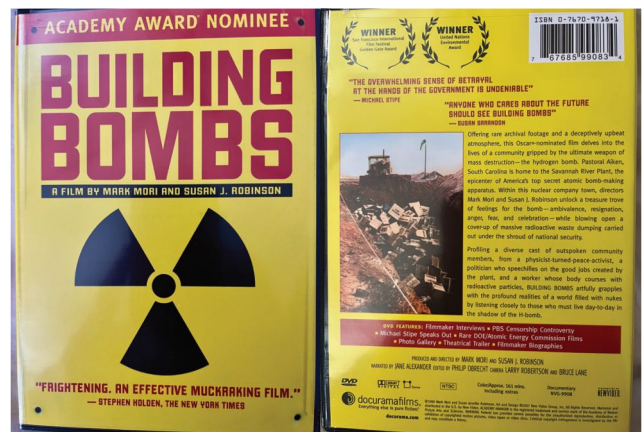
KATHY COBB

I'm listening to Step inside the secret lab where America tests its nukes from on my Valley Public Radio app!
<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/29/nx-s1-5276315/atomic-bomb-nuclear-weapons-lab-nevada>

Brought to you by Valley Public Radio

RECOMMENDED VIEWING BY

ELI MCNEAL



RECOMMENDED LISTENING

NAAV Commander Keith Kiefer speaking to the Eisenhower Presidential Library's 2025 Saluting our Veterans Lunch and Learn Series on February 27, 2025. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uaupJPMWLQ>

Earlier Podcast through the Eisenhower Library: Keith Kiefer with Dr. Todd Arrington https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-club-eisenhower-268966648/episode/atomic-veterans-269205528?cmp=ios_share&sc=ios_social_share&pr=false

RECOMMENDED READING

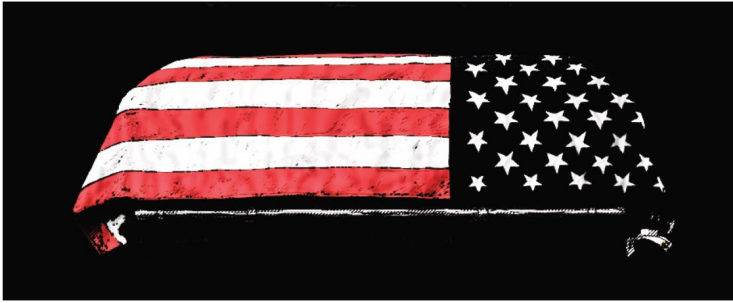
The Last Cherry Blossom

By Kathleen Burkenshaw

Speaker at the United Nations event

(See pages 3 and 6.)

TAPS



Harry A Zibo.....Twas City, MI
Charles R Caton.....Terre Haute, IN
F Lee Whipple.....Wellsburg, NY
Frank A Fancieullo.....Everett, MA

Fr. Patrick Rohen is back!

NAAV Chaplain, Patrick Rohen has been dealing with health issues the last few months and has moved as well. He is concerned that he has lost contact information for several members whom he was in correspondence with. If you were expecting to hear back from Fr. Rohen, please reach out to him again at his new phone number or address:

4 1 9-2 6 0-9 5 9 2

1501 Pray Blvd. Apartment E 112
Waterville, OH 43566

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

Remembrance Day Marshall Islands

Remembrance Day, formally known as Nuclear Victims' Day and Nuclear Survivors' Day, occurs on March 1 and is a national holiday in the Marshall Islands. The day honors the victims and survivors of nuclear testing done in the area in the 1950s. Castle Bravo was the code name given to the first U.S. test of a dry fuel thermonuclear hydrogen bomb device, detonated on March 1, 1954 at Bikini Atoll, Marshall Islands, as the first test of Operation Castle. Fallout from the detonation affected the islanders who had previously inhabited the atoll. Due to the this radiation exposure, the descendants are experiencing generational trauma on many levels, as well as the invisible bullets of damaged DNA. We at NAAV wish to remember with them in 2025, and honor the unwitting sacrifice they too have made.

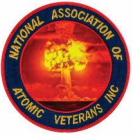
NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Larry G. Wickizer has been appointed to the position of Director At Large by Commander Kiefer to fill the vacancy created by Lincoln Grahlf's passing last fall. He lives in Eugene, Oregon and is a LIFE member of NAAV. Larry served 21 years in the NAVY. He was part of the Hardtack I test, stationed in Alamogordo at the Naval Special Weapons Facility. While on that assignment he met and married his wife of 60 years. Thank you Larry for stepping up to serve NAAV.

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.) Pics of Atomic Veteran events, new Atomic Veteran Memorial Highways, and Atomic Medal recipients are also welcome.

maryannnaav@yahoo.com



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Lebanon, OR 97355-4505

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE!

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**Have a good
day!**

