

**GMTC JOHN N CUMMINGS
USN (RET)**

**THE NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS
ASSOCIATION
GRAY DRAGON**



22 September 2012

**PRESENTED AT FREDERICKA MANOR,
CHULA VISTA, CA**

26 JANUARY 2013

**LCDR MIKE SNYDER USN (RET)
PRESIDENT & HISTORIAN**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association:

Following a 2012 in-depth record search, e-mail inquiries and a number of telephone interviews, The Navy Nuclear Weapons Association identified GMTC John N. Cummings USN (RET) as the active member who entered the Navy nuclear weapons program the earliest, that being 31 December, 1948. Though absent from the 2012 reunion in Rapid City, SD, Chief Cummings was recognized by President Jim Hambley and the NNWA Board of Directors as our second Gray Dragon.

I travelled to Chula Vista, CA near San Diego on 25, 26, and 27 January 2013 from my home in San Rafael, CA to make the presentation on behalf of the NNWA. GMTC Cummings lives at Fredericka Manor, Chula Vista, CA, a senior citizens residence.

In cooperation with Chief Cummings and his son Ian, who resides in San Diego, I developed a biography of our Gray Dragon. That document was presented to the NNWA in our website and to the local community via the administrators of Fredericka Manor in early January, 2012.

On Saturday, 26 January 2012 at 1000 I made a formal presentation of the Gray Dragon Certificate to GMTC Cummings in a concert hall at Fredericka Manor. There were approximately 65 people in attendance.

Using Chief Cummings biography as a starting point I interjected key elements of the history of the nuclear weapons program as they related to our Gray Dragon and to place events in perspective for the audience. Many of the attendees were Navy veterans or wives of Navy veterans. Altogether, it was a very rewarding experience.

GMTC Cummings biography is printed below in full text. My spoken words and the photographs I used during the presentation are shown indented and in italics.

LCDR Mike Snyder USN (RET)
NNWA President and Historian

