



# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

"KEEPERS of the DRAGON"®™

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## NNWA BULLETIN

JUNE 2003

SUMMER ISSUE

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<b>President:</b> Jim Hambley (757) 340-6909 jghambley@cox.net	<b>Chaplain:</b> Don Fullbright (505)764-0234 nicki6199@aol.com
<b>Vice President:</b>	<b>Historian:</b> Michael D. Snyder (301)570-0242 Michael.d.snyder@lmco.com
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The Navy Nuclear Weapons Bulletin is produced by the Association's Board of Directors and is distributed free to NNWA members. Edited by: E.S.Weaver

### The Presidents Message

Shipments and Ladies,

**Sid Hart** our Vice President tendered his resignation as of May 21, 2003 due to health reasons. On behalf of the membership, I want to thank him for his service on the Board of Directors for the past 3 1/2 years. We wish you and Jody the best of health with fair winds and following seas in the years to come.

We are fast approaching our 19<sup>th</sup> annual reunion to be held in Branson, Mo. You will find all the information in this Bulletin. We are charting new waters with this reunion by utilizing a professional planner so please read the information closely.

**I would like to point out your ability to select only those activities that you wish to attend even though it is considered a package deal. If you make changes you will need to call Susan or Tami at 1-888-776-8060 to find out your final cost. Get your reservation and final payment in prior to 1 Sept 2003 and let's all meet in Branson for a great reunion.**

Now to our 2004 reunion, I'm still looking for volunteer(s) to host the reunion in the Eastern region. Several locations have been mentioned but are not all-inclusive. They are: Atlanta, Ga., Savannah, Ga., Williamsburg, Va., Fredericksburg, Va., Washington, DC and Philadelphia, Pa. The board is willing to consider any location within the Eastern region where a host can be found.

With the adoption of our new operational by-laws at the last reunion there will be an **election to fill five (5) Director positions**. I would encourage all those who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors to make their desires known to one of the Board of Directors or Member who would put your name in nomination.

**I hope to see everyone in Branson 9-12 October.**

Jim Hambley

### GIFT EXCHANGE AT REUNION

**Everyone attending the reunion is encouraged to bring a small gift (\$5.00 to \$10.00) that is reflective of the area that they live in. These gifts, in turn, will be given out at the Dinner Dance as door prizes. Remember though, if you don't bring a gift, then you don't get a gift.**

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**Navy Nuclear Weapons Association  
Service Officer's Report  
May, 2003**

Fellow Dragon Keepers,

In this report I would like to focus on legislation that has been introduced on matters pertaining to military retirees, since such a large portion of our membership is in this category. I encourage you to contact your U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to express your position on these matters.

Chuck Weber  
Service Officer

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(Note "S" means a Senate Bill and "HR" means a House Resolution)

S 56 – Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act – to restore health care coverage to retired members of all uniformed services.

S 392- Retired Pay Restoration Act of 2003 – to allow concurrent receipt of military retired pay earned by law for years of active service and VA disability compensation for awards based on service connected disabilities.

S 451 – Military Survivors Benefits Improvement Act of 2003 – to increase the minimum SBP basic annuity for spouses aged 62 and older, and to establish a one year open season for that plan.

S 585 – Military Retiree Survivors Relief Act of 2003, and  
HR 1726 – Military Surviving Spouses Equity Act, both to repeal the requirement of offset of SBP benefits for surviving spouses who also receive VA award of Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

HR 1111 – Uniformed Services Divorce Equity Act of 2003 – to revise the rules relating to court-ordered apportionment of the retired pay of military retirees to former spouses.

HR 1653 – to amend the effective date for paid-up coverage under SBP from 10/1/08 to 10/1/03.

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**UPDATE ON THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE VA**

Despite rumors and news reports to the contrary, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi has refuted that Congress had slashed funding to the VA for next fiscal year. In fact the Bush Administration has submitted a record budget for 2004 of \$63.6B. This represents an 8% increase over the 2003 budget, and an overall increase of 32% since 2001. The Budget Conference Report issued by both houses of Congress on April 11<sup>th</sup> raised the discretionary level of funding for veterans by an additional \$1.8B.

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## Historian Report---Mike Snyder

Shipmates, I have to say your response to the NNWA appeal for stories, anecdotes, tidbits, and memorabilia has been rewarding. I receive something new by snail-mail and e-mail almost every day. Our plaque collection has been enhanced with four new pieces. USS Saratoga is now represented by W-division patches from several different cruises, photos of the SASS spaces, and a sweatshirt. There are many new photographs of weapons, and I've received copies of cruise book photos, group orders, and muster lists with which to initiate our extended record of Navy Nuclear Weapons Program

participants. Congratulations and thank you. Don't stop now, though. Everyone of you has a story to tell. Your experiences are unique and your memories are important. Please tell us about what you did, where you went, and who was there with you. Here's a couple of questions for you. Does anyone have first near-experience of the catapult explosion aboard Bennington? Were any of you present for the first and only ASROC RTDC detonation? Keep the cards, letters, and memorabilia coming, and I'll See you in Branson.

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## WELCOME

### *New Members, Reinstatements, Associates*

Gary L. (Andy) Anderson  
Robert J. Barnett  
William J. Beard  
Ballard C. Brown  
Dillard H. Currin  
Robert K. (Ken) Curtis

Jerry L. Gillum  
Swede Jorgensen  
Gerald E. Kernagis  
Roy A. King  
Charles L. Lepine  
John W. Martin, Jr.

Charles G. Pinder  
Michael R. Romond  
Kerry P. Shiparski  
Keith S. Speegle  
Gary J. Spevak  
Albert A. Stockley

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## SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT. Ellamae Weaver

NNWA membership has increased to 472 TOTAL members. Of that number there are 428 Regular members; 11 Associate members; and 33 Life members. If you are wondering if your dues are paid up to date, please check your mailing address on this newsletter. The date behind your name shows the month and year your dues are paid through. (If the year is 00, 01, or 02, your dues are delinquent.) If you are receiving this newsletter electronically and wish to know when your dues are due, e-mail [leonly@ktc.com](mailto:leonly@ktc.com).

## MASTER AT ARMS. Frank Cantrell

Hi Shipmates, i am looking forward to seeing many of you in Branson. For those of you who have not been there, Branson is a great place, with something for every one to do.

We are looking to have a few new logo items for sale this year.

A note about our logo items: We (The board) sell the items with a very modest

profit to keep the "kitty" up for the initial expense.

Our main goal for logo items is: To get the word out there to the many shipmates who are not aware of our existence.

We all know there are thousands who are eligible.

## Logo items available now are:

- (1) the 5" vinyl decal suitable for a car window: it depicts the official logo with the website URL (It sells for \$3.25 including shipping);
- (2) The embroidered patch (5" diameter) with the original NNWA logo; and
- (3) The yellow embroidered patch (5" diameter) "Keepers of the Dragon"

The embroidered patches are \$5.00 each (mix and match) plus \$1.50 shipping for up to 5 patches.

Contact the Master at Arms to place your order: Frank Cantrell  
2772 Greenville Highway  
Liberty, SC 29657  
(864)859-3056

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## WEBMASTER AND BOARD MEMBER RAY C. MARGESON

Our website continues on in a pretty good fashion. At the last reunion, we had about 7380 hits, current we have (as of 5/26) 14,400 hits and we should have about 18,200 hits during our reunion in October. These aren't bad numbers at all.

Today I had an e-mail message from a sailor who, in 1953, left boot camp and went to unit 1233 - had a Q clearance (although AEC [DNA] says that military never had them) and was involved with JTF-7 and

Operation Redwing. He didn't know that we existed and found our website on the Internet. This is one of two main reasons for the website. The other is for us to share information on the Internet.

I must thank Stephen Harris for the great graphics on the home and Memorial pages. Mike Snyder gave us a new page -- past officers and reunions (you can get there from the home page). And we have added a new sections for unit

patches/badges and plaques.

As you look at our website, keep in mind that we all have bits of knowledge that we need to share. If you find an error or you have additional information obviously missing on the website -- please share it. We all will benefit.

Mary and I look forward to seeing our old and new friends in Branson - gonna be a great time for all of us.

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### *Chaplain's Corner - Don Fullbright*

Chaplain, Don Fullbright, will conduct the Two Bell Ceremony at the beginning of the Business Meeting at Branson. This is a very impressive service honoring our comrades who have joined the Supreme Commander's Staff since our last reunion. Those known are:

**Jack R. Hale, CWO4 (11-16-02)**  
**Bobby J. Holden, CPO (01-31-03)**  
**Richard Eisenhower, GMTC (05-18-03)**  
**Sheldon Grindstad, GMTC (0702)**  
**Terry Hoder, GMT2 (01-03)**

As you become aware of any sickness or death, please let the Chaplain know as soon as possible. This will give him the opportunity to send either a get well card or a sympathy card. This will also keep our information current, so that each year as the report is made it will be up to date. Write, call, or e-mail: Don Fullbright, (505)764-0234, [nicki6199@aol.com](mailto:nicki6199@aol.com), 619 High Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102-2517

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*creating memories...*  
1-888-776-8060

**Navy Nuclear Weapons Association**  
**Branson Oct. 9-12, 2003**

Lodging:	The Settle Inn
10-9 am →	Knights of the Round Table - Hospitality Room - Registration
3:45pm	Depart for The Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show
10-10 9:15am	Depart for Mike Radford's Remember When Show
12:30pm	Lunch at McFarlain's Restaurant in the IMAX Complex
2:15pm	Depart for The American Jukebox Show
5:25pm	Return to Hotel
6:45pm	Depart for Showboat Branson Belle Dinner, Cruise & Show
10-11 9:00am	Crew Members meeting - Stonehenge Room
11:30am	Depart for Lunch
2:00pm	Veteran's Memorial Museum
4:30pm	Begin photo shoot - Stonehenge Room
5:30pm	Social Hour & Cash Bar - Stonehenge Room
7:00pm	Dinner in the Stonehenge Room followed by dancing

Your Reunion package includes all items on the schedule (except for photos) which includes 3 nights (9th, 10th, 11th) lodging, 3 breakfasts, lunch on the 10th & 11th, Final Dinner & Dancing, and tickets to Dixie Stampede, Remember When Show, The American Jukebox Show, Showboat Branson Belle, Veteran's Museum and motorcoach transportation. The Hospitality room will be available to you all day from 10/9 - 10/12 at noon. Pitchers with water and all the ice you need will be provided by the hotel. You will have your own bar in the Hospitality room. A cash bar will be available in the Stonehenge Room during your social hour, banquet and dancing. The hotel restaurant and lounge is open everyday for those who would like to eat or have a cocktail on site. A complimentary extended continental breakfast is available to all guests from 6am-10am. Coffee is available 24 hours on each floor.

Special prices for rooms extend 3 days prior and after the reunion and can also be added to a reservation. If anyone will be arriving late or does not want to participate in all the activities in the package, those things can be deducted from your package price. If you want tickets to any other shows before, during or after the reunion dates, we will be happy to take care of your reservations for those things as well. **If you are making any additions or changes to your package, please contact Susan or Tami by phone at 1-888-776-8060 so we can give you the correct cost.**

For those coming by RV we would suggest Shenanigan's RV Park which is 2 blocks off "The Strip" and near the hotel. Their website is [www.bransoncampgrounds.com](http://www.bransoncampgrounds.com). If you need assistance with airline tickets or car rentals you can call Nancy at Admiral Travel, 1-800-888-8114.

Motor coach transportation will be provided for Thursday through Saturday. The coaches can return anyone to the hotel between scheduled activities (or at any other time) if anyone needs to return. Your Step-on Guide will handle all the details for your group and take all the worries and hassles out of your tour and work with your driver to ensure you arrive at your destinations on time.

Your Association representatives and I have worked very hard in putting this together and have selected some wonderful shows and activities for you. The following is brief descriptions of the activities we have planned and more info is available on the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association website at [www.navy Nucweps.com](http://www.navy Nucweps.com).

### **The Dixie Stampede**

Enjoy a four-course feast as you watch North and South "duke it out" in a giant 35,000-square-foot arena. Laugh as you watch people from the audience participate in the competition. Marvel at the trick riders. Re-live the charm and splendor of the Old South. As Dolly Parton says "It's the most fun place to eat in Branson. I guarantee it!"

### **The Mike Radford's Remember When Show**

The Remember When Show, selected among the top shows by the Springfield News-Leader. Take a rollicking trip down memory lane to celebrate grandparents, patriotism and the best of the 20th century in the intimate and nostalgic Remember When Theatre. A hilarious comedy and the best tribute to veterans. Over 600 donated antiques create the most unique stage in America.

### **The American Jukebox Show**

"Your Best Friend in Branson's" pick for "Best New Show of 2002." This fast paced variety show is just what you would expect from Jimmy Osmond. It includes the harmonies of Babetter Young, the magic of The Hamners, the comedy of Jim Barber, and celebrates America's greatest music from the 40's through today. It is an all around great show for all ages.

### **The Showboat Branson Belle**

Award-winning lunch and dinner cruises on Table Rock Lake. The largest land locked river boat in the world, the Showboat Branson Belle features the Steppin' Out Orchestra, the spectacular Russian Adagio dance team that will leave you breathless, talented singers and dancers and the nationally acclaimed ventriloquist Todd Oliver and his talking dogs Irving & Lucy. You will fall in love with the Showboat Branson Belle.

### **The Veterans Memorial Museum - "Honoring Those Who Served"**

Greeting you out front is a full-size World War II P-51 Mustang fighter plane. Inside you will find exhibits from all the wars of the 20th century. The museum has over 2000 rare military artifacts and filled with hundreds of exhibits and murals honoring all branches of military services, campaigns, major battlefields, industrial defense and the enduring support of the American people. The hallmark of the museum is the world's largest war memorial which is a 70 foot long, 15 ton bronze sculpture, consisting of 50 life-size soldiers storming a beach. Each figure is modeled after an actual WWII combat veteran, one from each of the 50 states. Names of the men and women who died during the wars line each of the 5 great halls including the names of the over 500,000 U.S. soldiers who were killed in action in WWII. Touring the museum is a powerful, emotional experience.

**Reservations can be made at any time and we encourage you to register early. \$50.00 per person is required as a deposit or you may pay in full. Once we receive your reservation request and have confirmed it with you by phone, we will mail your confirmation information along with a map and directions to your hotel.**

**Reservations and final payment are due prior to Sept. 1, 2003. Reservations after Sept. 1 will be as available.**

**Cancellations:** Reservations held only by deposit will be completely refunded.

Cancellations of fully paid reservations received 15 days prior to arrival will be minus a \$25.00 fee.

Cancellations received 3-14 days prior will be determined by venue policies.

Less than 3 days notice there may be no refund.

# Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Reunion - Branson Oct. 9-12, 2003

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: 10/ After 3:00pm, Departure Date: 10/ By 11:00am, Total # Nights \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Adults: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Room Type: **Select One**  
 2 Queen Beds \_\_\_\_\_ Jacuzzi Theme Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Smoking? \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Smoking? \_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped Room Needed? \_\_\_\_\_  
**We will do our best to see you have the room type you request but cannot guarantee it. Jacuzzi theme room are limited in number so if you want one, please reserve early!**

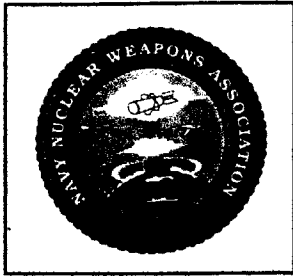
**Total Package Price:**

\$499.00 Single, 2 queen beds.	\$ _____
\$782.00 per couple, 2 queen beds. <span style="margin-left: 20px;"><del>782</del> -93</span>	\$ _____
\$284.00 per extra person in room	\$ _____
\$888.00 per couple for theme jacuzzi room.	\$ _____
<b>Extra nights, standard room (tax inclusive) \$86.00 x # nites _____ =</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>Extra nights, jacuzzi room (tax inclusive) \$115.00 x # nites _____ =</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>No lodging:</b>	
\$264.00 per person, shows and meals only	\$ _____
\$30.00 per person, Banquet & Dance only	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Choose one of the following for your entree at the closing banquet:  
 Please write in the number of people per entree:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Slow Roasted Prime Rib  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Orange Roughy (Fish)  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Roasted Cornish Hen

Special Requests: (extra shows, requests to be rooming near someone, special dietary or handicapped needs, etc.):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<p><b>Mail reservation form and check to:</b>  <b>Your Best Friend in Branson</b>                  P.O. Box 1764                  Hollister, MO 65673</p>	<p><b>or call 1-888-776-8060</b>  <b>for more information or questions</b>                  Mon. - Fri. 10am-6pm, Sue or Tami  <b>Or go online at: <a href="http://www.navy Nucweps.com">www.navy Nucweps.com</a>.</b></p>
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**  
**PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO A SHIPMATE**

**NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION**  
**www.navy Nuc weps.com**  
**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

Navy, Marine Corps, Civil Service and Support Contractors for the Department of the Navy who have either:

- \* Been attached to the Navy Administrative Units;
  - Been attached to the Navy Special Weapons Units # 471; #802 or #1233;
  - Received basic or advanced training in Nuclear Weapons operational use; assembly; disassembly; repair; maintenance; calibration of specialized test equipment; inspection; loading or delivery from the following U.S. Navy activities:
    - Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP)
    - Defense Atomic Support Agency (DASA)
    - Special Weapons Unit Atlantic/Pacific (SWULANT/SWUPAC)
    - Nuclear Weapons Training Command, Pacific (NWTCP) or Nuclear Weapons Training Command, Atlantic (NWTCL)
    - Nuclear Weapons Training Group, Pacific (NWTGPAC) or Nuclear Weapons Training Group, Atlantic (NWTGLANT)
    - Weapons Training Group, Pacific (WTGPAC) or Weapons Training Group, Atlantic (WTGLANT)
- Been attached to a naval command with primary responsibility for Nuclear Weapons capability to include:
- Depot level Maintenance, Repair and Storage
  - Intermediate Level Maintenance, Repair and Storage
  - Nuclear Safety
  - Nuclear Security
  - Personnel Reliability Program Management

**NOTE:** Membership is available to surviving spouses of personnel with the above qualifications.

**Associate membership** is that person who does not qualify under the above eligibility requirements, but desires to associate with those members that have helped shape this free world of ours, "The Keepers of the Dragons"

\_\_\_\_\_ Enroll me as a member. \$10.00 entry fee plus \$10.00 annual membership fee (\$20.00 total) and \$10.00 annually.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enroll me as an Associate member. \$15.00 entry fee plus \$10.00 annual membership fee (\$25.00 total) and \$10.00 annually.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please reinstate my past due membership which expired in \_\_\_\_\_. \$10.00 reinstatement fee plus \$10.00 annually.

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	////	Spouse First Name		
Street Address	City	State	Zip Code	Area Code Phone Number	e-mail address	fax number

**ORGANIZATIONS ATTACHED TO**

Please list those US Navy organizations you have been attached to for the above qualification requirements:

We value your privacy. We will publish your name on our website, but will only publish other information with your permission. Please indicate the information you permit us to publish and sign this application prior to submission.

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here is you would like to receive bulletins, etc., by e-mail  
You may publish: My address \_\_\_\_\_ My phone number \_\_\_\_\_ My e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **NNWA Treasurer**

Send checks to: **Ellamae S. Weaver**  
**170 Saint Andrews Loop**  
**Kerrville, TX. 78028-6441**

**Voice: (830)257-3744**  
**FAX: (830)257-3744**  
**e-mail: [leonly@ktc.com](mailto:leonly@ktc.com)**

