



# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION

## NNWA BULLETIN

WINTER ISSUE      JANUARY 2000

"KEEPERS of the DRAGON"

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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#### Historian

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**From the President:** Shipmates; As you read this it is apparent that we have survived the Holidays and the entrance celebrations into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Congratulations to all of us, our loved ones, and our families. Also Congratulations to Roy Osborne and his Board of Governors; and to the Norfolk and Las Vegas reunion hosts and their spouses. Thank you all for a job well done. Bravo Zulu! Now I want to introduce the incoming Board. VP: Frank Kelly; Sec/Treas: Tom Best; Chaplain: Henry Stephens; and new board members; Historian: Mike Snyder; Member: Bob Sibley; Member: Sid Hart; Member: Bill Montfort; and Member Chuck Weber. We have a challenge and commitment shipmates. Chuck Weber will be acting as the Association Service Officer, a position he has held in other organizations and as such; his experience will benefit us all. The Historian leadership has changed. Don Micco has done a job above and beyond all expectations and I believe the Association's collection may fill a very large truck. Don, we can never thank you enough for all the work you have done over the years, so, Thank You and we are looking forward to seeing you and Dorothy in New Orleans. Well, I've let the cat out of the bag. We are going to New Orleans. Tom will have more later on. Now let us remember our shipmates that have passed on, our shipmates and families whose health could be better, and to all our shipmates; spouses; friends that we hold so dear because of our common bond. The Navy Nuclear Weapons Association. Thank you all. I look forward to serving you for the next two years. Dee

**From the Secretary/Treasurer:** For those of you who did not make it to the Las Vegas reunion, you miss another great reunion. Many thanks go out to Eldon and Sharon Irby for their outstanding efforts in setting up and hosting this reunion. Also to the ladies who helped Kathy decorate the hall for the Dinner/Dance. We could not have done it without all your help. I know that Sharon is really glad to get her house and garage back from all the stuff Eldon had stored there waiting for the reunion. One of our members even left Las Vegas \$19,000.00 richer! You can't beat that. I know that Kathy and I left some of our retirement money there trying to enrich our investments; but a good time was had by all. See y'all in New Orleans.

**Reunion 2000:** As Dee stated above; we are going to New Orleans for the next reunion. The reunion dates are 26 September to 1 October, 2000. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn, Westbank in Gretna, LA. just across the river from downtown New Orleans. There will be shuttle boat transportation available to/from downtown. Just like the good old days of standing at Fleet Landing waiting on the liberty launch. The hotel costs will be \$75.00 per night. We will have our usual Hospitality and Artifacts Rooms set up. Sometime in the May/June time frame we will send out a complete information mailing to all members that will include tours; golf; itineraries; and reservation 1-800#. Hudson Bulluck will be our host for this reunion and as soon as

he gets all the necessary contracts in order, we will send out the information package. Till then, let your shipmates that are not members know of the reunion and get them to sign up for membership. I have included a NNWA membership form in this newsletter. Please feel free to duplicate it and use it to sign up your shipmates. *This Years reunion must be pre-paid!*

**Lost Shipmates:** It is my sad duty to inform you of the loss of several shipmates this last year. They have pass to their last duty station with the Supreme Commander. John Apodaca, James Buchans, Joe Bussey, Joe C`de Baca, R. V. Chrane, Kirby Hunt, Gerry Lesson, Wayne Ulshafer and Raymond Zielinski. Also we have heard of the following non-members who have passed. Sam Eden, Fredrick (Ted) Irvine and Paul Minkler. They dedicated their lives to defending this great country and now have paid the supreme sacrifice defending their country and bringing us out of the "Cold War". They truly are "**Keepers Of The Dragon**". Our NNWA members names will be forever etched into our NNWA Plaque and we welcome their spouses into our ranks as Life Members of the NNWA. Thank you Shipmates from all of us. May you rest in peace knowing that we will keep your charge.

**Service Officer:** Chuck Weber has included information in this newsletter concerning benefits and health issues. He also reports that the government is recognizing and improving the lot for those exposed to radiation. A "New Presumptive Disease" added to the recently passed "Veterans Millenium Health Care and Benefits Act (H.R. 2116)" adds "Bronchiolo-alveolar Carcinoma" a rare lung cancer not associated with tobacco use, to the list of diseases presumed to be service connected for certain radiation exposed veterans. Be sure to read Chucks enclosures to this newsletter and if you have any questions as to your Veterans benefits contact Chuck at (215) 698-2237 or e-mail [charles\\_j\\_weber@fmc.com](mailto:charles_j_weber@fmc.com).

**Historian:** As Dee stated above, Mike Snyder was appointed NNWA Historian at the Las Vegas business meeting relieving Don Micco. Don has ably filled the role of NNWA Historian since the start of the association. Over the years he expanded our files of personal histories; cared for, stored and transported the growing stock of memorabilia; and amassed a library of related documentation, books and papers. His personal contribution of early NW program records and the "Hand-Made" weapons model collection enriched the experience of every reunion. Don, Please accept this "Thank You" from all of us. Your efforts were sincerely appreciated. Mike Snyder continues to seek specific and general information about the NW program as material for a complete written history of both the NNWA and the Navy NW program. He's looking for interesting anecdotes, insight into program management at the highest levels; information about day to day operations and anything else you think might be worth recording for posterity. Attached is a new NNWA history form and this is the media we plan on using. In the past many of us submitted an unadorned linear history of assignments upon join the NNWA, looking upon it as a qualifier for acceptance into the association. Now we ask you to again fill out the Personal History form and expand your personal roles in the NW program and discuss the many events surrounding you work. Your "personal histories" with emphasis on "stories" will greatly expand our body of NW program history. Also if you have any documentation, artifacts, plaques or the likes that you would be willing to donate to the association as part of your living history, please contact Mike Snyder at home: 17618 Sir Galahad Way, Ashton, MD 20861 (310) 570-0242 or work (703) 416-5716; or email [michael.d.snyder@lmco.com](mailto:michael.d.snyder@lmco.com).

**Minutes/Financial:** A synopsis of the minutes of the Las Vegas business meeting are attached as part of this newsletter. Also the annual financial report has been filed as official documentation for the association. I will include a status of the current financial report for your information. Income at end of 1998: \$8734.00. Income from new members; renewals; reinstatements and reunion income: \$14,954.00. Annual Expenses including reunion: \$15,170.00. End of year 1999 balance: \$8518.00.

**Annual Dues:** Please look at your mailing address on the front of this newsletter. At the bottom is a two figure date (95-96-97-98-99-2000). That date is your expiration of association dues date. We currently have 6 members whose dues expired in 1995, 19 members expired in 1996, 20 members expired in 1997, 21 members expired in 1997, 65 members expired in 1998. That is 131 members of our 339 members whose dues have expired. That also is \$2620.00 needed for association expenses. Another 65 members dues expired in 1999. That is another \$650.00 missing from our accounts. That is over 1/2 of or membership who are in arrears in annual dues???? How do you expect your Board of Governors to voluntarily operate this association for the benefit of **ALL** our members if you do not hold up you responsibility to pay your annual dues???? The cost of reinstatement for those whose dues expired in 1995;96;97;98 is \$20.00. The cost of those expiring in 1999 is \$10.00. Take a look at your mailing label and see where you stand. Then get out your check book **and send us a check**. Mail all dues, (renewals, reinstatement or new members) to Tom Best 1131-A Natures Walk Court, Fernandina Beach, FL. 32034-4607. If you are not sure where you stand, call me (904) 277-2476 or e-mail me at [thbestsr@net-magic.net](mailto:thbestsr@net-magic.net). Come on shipmates, **let's get on the ball**

**Information Needed:** One of our members needs some information concerning the old "Q" clearances issued by the old AEC.

now DOE to service members who worked on Nuclear Weapons. He knows that they were issued at the Secret and Top Secret level, and that they were issued to those working directly on Nuclear Weapons, however he has contacted DOE and queried them concerning this type clearance and they will not acknowledge that they were issued to military members working on NW. He also cannot find any reference to the "Q" or "L" clearances on his DD-214. He is trying to get information to include in a Newsletter to the "Association of Atomic Veterans" so that they may use that information on claims of radiation exposure to the VA. He is also looking for information on the DD-1141 form which was supposed to document your entry into radiation exposures and what those level were. The member is **James V. Hamann at PO Box 172, Dayton MN. 55327 (612) 428-2046**. He has also provided me with an application for membership into the "Association Of Atomic Veterans". I have included this form as part of this newsletter for those of you who desire to have this association provide you with information concerning exposures to radiation. Shipmate Hamann is also an officer of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). If you are interested in joining either organization, please contact him. You may also get exposure info from them. Appreciate your assistance.

**More Useful Information:** I have recently found a website for an "Association of Gunners-Mates". This is a nation wide group of former and present Gunners-Mates from all facets of the rating. The old NW rate, GMT rate and the past WT rating are all eligible for membership. The idea behind passing this information on to you is that you may be able to find some old shipmates who are members of this association, but have not heard of the NNWA. I have attached a membership application for the Association of Gunners-Mates as part of this newsletter for you use. If you desire more information on this organization, contact their Secretary/Treasurer: **Jack Photenhauer at PO Box 247, Hammond, IN 46325** or by e-mail [JPGUNSED@aol.com](mailto:JPGUNSED@aol.com). Their website can be view at [www:geocities.com/Pentagon/5397/](http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/5397/). Check them out.

**NNWA Logo's:** We now have a limited supply of both the original NNWA logo and the newer Keeper of the Dragon logo. These are embroidered patches in full color and can easily be sewn onto Ball Caps, Shirts, Jackets or Vests. They are being sold for \$5.00 each plus \$1.00 shipping and handling for as many as you want. They are expected to go fast, so get your order in today. Contact Tom Best at (904) 277-2476 or email [thbestsr@net-magic.net](mailto:thbestsr@net-magic.net). We also have a few commemorative coffee cups left from the Las Vegas reunion. These are standard white mugs with both the NNWA and Dragon logo on them and words commemorating the 15<sup>th</sup> NNWA reunion in Las Vegas NV. These are also \$5.00 each, but \$1.50 shipping and handling for up to 4 cups. Again these are in limited supply, so order yours early. Contact me at the above phone or e-mail address.

**NNWA Roster:** The newest NNWA membership roster is available through Tom Best. We now have over 340 members in our association and hopefully will grow to more than that. As each new member joins, part of his welcome package includes a new member roster. Also NNWA members rosters are always made available at each reunion, however because all members do not receive rosters, we will make them available to you. Contact Tom Best, preferably by mail. Please include your complete name, address, phone number and e-mail address (if you have one) so that I may ensure that your membership information is correct. Also we request that you include a SASE 5x9 manila envelope with 33 cents postage. These membership rosters are constantly updated as new members join or due to address, phone information changes to existing members. I would recommend that you request a new roster at least once per year, or better yet, come to the reunions and get them as part of your registration.

**Life Membership:** We receive occasional inquiries from the membership concerning a "Life Membership" to the NNWA. The Board of Governors has addressed this issue several times. The decision is: In accordance with the Constitution and by-laws of the NNWA; Life Membership is conveyed to spouses of NNWA members only upon the death of the member. There are no other plans to incorporate a life membership policy.

**Points to Ponder:** The trouble with life in the fast lane is that you get to the other end in an awful hurry.

**Thought of the Day:** A real friend is someone who walks in when the rest of the world is walking out.

**In Passing:** A friend is someone who knows the song in your heart; and can sing it back to you when you forget the words.

**Last Thoughts:** Strangers are just friends waiting to happen!

From the Board of Governors; Navy Nuclear Weapons Association, we appreciate your dedication to duty and your unselfish devotion to this country during your Naval service and as citizens of this beloved country. If you have any questions concerning the NNWA, feel free to contact any of the Board of Governors. Their phone numbers are listed at the top of this newsletter.  
T.H. Best Sr. Secretary/Treasurer NNWA

## Synopsis of General Membership Meeting/ Las Vegas, NV.

The full meeting minutes are on file with the Secretary/Treasurer. The following are the high points of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 on 2 October 1999 in the Main Ballroom of the Holiday Inn Boardwalk Casino in Las Vegas NV. Prior to calling the meeting to order, Chaplain Henry Stephens presented President Roy Osborne with a Gavel to be used in calling all future meetings to order. Using the new NNWA gavel, Roy called the 15<sup>th</sup> annual NNWA meeting to order. An opening prayer was provided by Chaplain Henry Stephens. Bob Sibby then made a presentation of ships bell to the NNWA sponsored by Mrs. Sue Whitman. The bell is inscribed in memory of shipmate Bill Whitman for use at all NNWA "Two-Bell" ceremonies remembering our departed shipmates. Bob King and Dave Cobb presented the association with two new US and Navy flags to be used at all future meetings. Using these new gifts, the membership rose and cited the "Pledge of Allegiance" to this wonderful country. While standing, shipmates Eldon Irby and Chaplain Henry Stephens conducted a "Two-Bell ceremony in remembrance of our fallen shipmate, to include: John Apodaka; James Buchans; Joe Bussey; Joe C'de Baca; Kirby Hunt; Jerry Lesson; Wayne Ulshafer and Raymond Zielinski. All association shipmates who have passed to their last duty station with the Supreme Commander will have their names inscribed on our NNWA plaque commemorating their unique duty to God and country. If you know of the passing of a shipmate, please contact one of the association officers and provide us with that information. We as a community and as a nation "Thank Them" for their unique contribution to world peace.

1. Discussion on members who are in arrears on their membership dues. See Newsletter for additional information.
2. Mike Snyder is still collecting information on the history of the NNWA. See newsletter for additional information.
3. Shipmate Don Micco has requested to be relieved as Historian. Mike Snyder elected by members to fill position.  
See newsletter for additional information.
4. Hudson Bulluck briefed on the New Orleans reunion. See newsletter for additional information.
5. Secretary/Treasurer requested that all members review the NNWA roster and verify their names; addresses, phone #'s and e-mail addresses. Inform Tom Best of any/all changes. See newsletter for additional information.
6. Discussion on the reunion dinner dance concerning the members bringing door prizes from their local area's. We still wish for all members to bring two (2) door prizes to the reunions. These will be checked in during NNWA registration and tickets given to the member. One door prize equals one ticket. Two door prizes equals two tickets. No door prizes equal no tickets. That way everyone who was kind enough to bring door prizes will also receive door prizes.
7. Secretary/Treasurer discussed revenue lost to the NNWA due to members attending the reunions, and signing up for tours or dinners; then either not coming to the reunion or deciding after arrival that they will not attend those functions. As that money in the past was not pre-paid by the member in all cases, and the association pre-paid the event contract, then the dollars pre-paid for those members not attending were lost to the association. This year we required all members to pre-pay for those events and the results were that the association lost no revenue. In all future reunions all events must be pre-paid at the time the survey form is returned to the Secretary/Treasurer. Additional information in both the newsletter and the Reunion Mailing due out later this year.
8. A discussion on the associations efforts to sign up new members was held. New members this year totaled 28. We now have around 308 members in the association. That discussion also identified a need for all members to check their mailing lists to see when their annual memberships expired, and to ensure that they pay their association dues up to date. Additional membership applications will be provided as part of the next newsletter for members use in recruiting new members.
9. The NNWA president called for nominations from the floor to slate an election for the 2000/2001 Board of Governors. After the nominations were complete, a vote from the attending members was cast. Results are noted in your newsletter.
10. It was noted from the floor that shipmate Ron Kitterman has lost his hearing and those members using e-mail are requested to converse with Ron using e-mail. You can reach Ron at [rkitterman@proaxis.com](mailto:rkitterman@proaxis.com).
11. President Roy Osborne thanked his outgoing Board of Governors for all their help and professionalism over the past two years. All members stood in appreciation and also thanked Eldon and Sharon IRBY for all their efforts making this reunion successful. With 98 members attending the reunion (169 total attending) each member stood at the meeting and introduced himself to the rest of the membership giving them an idea of past personal weapons history and their current living area.
12. The President announced that the next newsletter will be published and mailed before the end of January and include information on the next reunion along with the name of the reunion host. The Host (chairman) in turn will cause a mailing of a specific reunion information and registration package to all members in the April/June time period. Remember that all tours and dinners must be pre-paid prior to the reunion cut off date. More information in the newsletter.
13. The Secretary/Treasurer reminded all attending that we now have beautiful embroidered logo's of both the original NNWA patch and the newer Dragon patch. They are available through Tom Best at \$5.00 per patch plus a minimal shipping and handling fee. Also commemorative coffee cups from the Las Vegas reunion are available through Tom Best. They are \$5.00 each, plus a minimal shipping and handling cost. All are in limited supplies, so first come, first served. Contact Tom for details.
14. A motion from the floor and a second was received to adjourn the meeting. General membership voted to adjourn and at 11:47, President Roy Osborne adjourned the 15<sup>th</sup> annual NNWA business meeting.

Prepared by: T.H. Best Sr. Secretary/Treasurer NNWA

## SERVICE OFFICER REPORT

Hi shipmates, allow me to introduce myself. At our last business meeting I was elected to be one of the association's governors and I've also volunteered to be your service officer. I have been a registered service officer of the VFW for the past twelve years and with the American Legion for ten years before that. Most national veterans organizations (like the VFW, American Legion, DAV, Fleet Reserve, AmVets, etc.) have registered service officers (SO) who provide veterans with current information about their benefits. The SO's also help veterans with their submission of claims for entitlements to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). As the NNWA's SO, I'll provide you with some current information in our newsletters and at our annual business meetings. I encourage you to get more detailed information and assistance from any SO in your area or from a VA office if your fortunate enough to live near one. You should feel free to contact me with your questions also. I hope that you find this publication informative and I invite your comments for other items of interest.

Yours in service,



Chuck Weber

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2672 Tremont St.  
Philadelphia, PA 19152  
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**VA Registration** has been a big topic this year. All veterans are encouraged to register with the VA, and renew on an annual basis. This will help keep funding from Congress and ensure the continuance of the system. You have to be registered to get care, prescription fills, etc and you can register any time you wish. You will **not** lose your VA benefits if you have not already registered (a bad rumor that is going around). VA is setting up outreach centers to accomplish this registration. Contact the one nearest you.

**Military Honors Funerals** are now guaranteed for all veterans effective 01 JAN 2000. Have your next of kin contact the military unit closest to your home.

**Burial Flags** from the VA are now provided to deceased current or former Selected Reservists.

**Eligibility Verification Reports** (EVR's) are due 01 MAR 2000 to continue all VA pensions.

**Government Life Insurance** will now pay accelerated death benefits to terminally ill veterans.

**Medical Opinions** to support VA claims are now accepted from civilian physicians.

**Merchant Seamen** (who sailed 8/15/45 to 12/31/46) now have veterans burial benefits.

**Service Connection Protection** is given after ten years of VA compensation.

**Cold War Certificates** – fax request letter and DD214 copy to: (800) 723-9262. Wait 6 months.

**Court of Veterans Appeals** (CVA) was established 01 MAR 99 to appeal all denials for service connection for disability compensation, pension or death benefits.

**Geriatric Centers** – VA has two new ones in Pittsburgh and Cleveland for a total of 18 nationwide.

**Hepatitis C infection** is thought to be much higher among veterans. VA will test and treat.

**PTSD** – VA has amended its rules following a CVA decision. Evidence rules are less strict.

**Birth Defect Legislation** was proposed by VA for mothers exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam.

**Persian Gulf Vets** authorized VA compensation for undiagnosed PGW Syndrome (PL103-446).

**Occupational Exposure to Ionizing Radiation  
Due to U.S. Military Service**

**Source: Compensation Rating Officer  
VARO Philadelphia, PA Region**

**Date of Information: 26 Aug 1999**

**Overview:** Veterans may have been exposed to nuclear materials and accompanying ionizing radiation during their military service. Examples of such occupations are: X-ray technicians, nuclear submarine engineering personnel, nuclear weapons technicians, witnesses and participants in nuclear detonations. These exposures may have caused cancers and other diseases and conditions. The requirements for VA compensation of these conditions changed in 1999.

**Considerations:** The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) may award disability compensation to veterans exposed to nuclear radiation provided: (a) they have a disabling disease or condition, (b) they submit a claim to the VA, (c) they can prove their exposure to the radiation, and (d) the disease or condition is either on a VA pre-conceded list of qualifiers or a medical doctor (VA or private) certifies that the disease or condition is caused by the exposure to the radiation. Certain time frames between the exposure and the onset of the disease may apply.

**How to Apply:** Send a VA Form 21-526 claiming compensation for disability to the VA Regional Office nearest your home. You may either send it directly or through the Registered Service Officer of a veteran's organization (FRA, DAV, VFW, American Legion, for example). They also will have the forms that you need. If you had a previous claim and had it denied, you may re-apply if you have new information or evidence or medical statement. Submit on VA Form 21-4138.

**How it Works:** If you have any of the presumptive diseases **and** proof of any exposure you will have the disability compensation decision conceded in your favor. Again, there may be time constraints. The **presumptive diseases** are listed in Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), paragraph 3.309c and the time limits are at paragraph 3.307. (This is the easy way.)

Paragraph 3.311 has a list of **possible diseases** due to radiogenic conditions. Under this provision you will have to get a medical doctor certify that the condition was caused by the exposure to radiation and how much exposure it would take (in rems). You will then have to submit proof to the VA that you had sufficient exposure to cause the condition, which goes to the VA's Central Office in Washington for determination. (This is the hard way.)

This proof can be the DD Form 1141 which is in the medical and service records of personnel with more recent active duty service. It recorded every time they were exposed to radiation. For those with older active service, film badges (or records of them), personal dosimeters (or records of them) and other records of places of service and exposure will be needed. In getting this information be aware that classified information is no longer a barrier. On February 11, 1996 the Secretary of Defense authorized the necessary disclosure of classified information directly to the VA for support of individual compensation claims.

Some possible sources of proof could be: National Personnel Records Center, St. Louis MO where your service and medical records were sent after retirement/discharge; Navy Dosemetry Center, Environmental Health Detachment, Bethesda, MD; and, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (which replaced the Defense Nuclear Agency-formerly DASA). 38 CFR 3.307, .309 & .311 are on the internet.

**Prepared by: Chuck Weber, LCDR, USN (Ret.)  
Registered Service Officer, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.  
Governor and Service Officer, Navy Nuclear Weapons Association**



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATOMIC VETERANS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS - P. O. Box 707,  
BLDGM, MO. 65026 - (314) 392-3361

"A non-profit organization dedicated to the cause of the Atomic  
Veteran; who seeks no special favor... simply JUSTICE."

Co-founders  
Orville E. Kelly  
Wanda S. Kelly

Board of Directors  
Russell J. Jack (Hon.) - Atomic Veteran  
Bernard Durkin (MA) - Atomic Veteran  
Wanda S. Kelly (MD) - Honorary  
Thomas Statter (Lt Colonel) - Honorary  
Wm. Gene Phillips (MA) - Atomic Veteran  
Anna W. Schaefer (MA) - Widow  
O. T. Weeks (AL) - Atomic Veteran

## THE NAAV STORY

The National Association of Atomic Veterans (NAAV), a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, was founded in August, 1979 by the late atomic veteran, Orville E. Kelly, and his wife, Wanda, of Burlington, Iowa.

Kelly died from lymphoma seven months after having won 100% service-connected disability in front of the Veterans Board of Appeals.

It took seven years of Kelly's life and most of his life's savings to prove his disability as service-connected to the Veterans Administration. Being dedicated and determined, he and Wanda formed NAAV so that other veterans exposed to radiation and their families would not have to fight the same bureaucratic battle; and to establish medical research on the effects of exposure to radiation, that these veterans affected by their exposure to radiation and their families could be assured of V.A. service-connected benefits.

Atomic Veterans are those who were exposed to ionizing radiation from nuclear weapons testing during the period beginning with the Trinity Blast of July 16, 1945 - Alamogordo, New Mexico; continuing through the U.S. clean-up of Nagasaki/Hiroshima; during the 235 atmospheric nuclear weapons tests in the Pacific and Nevada test sites; until the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963.

A medical survey conducted in 1982 among 700 of these Veterans found an extremely high incidence of radiogenic cancers, carcinoma of the thyroid, other various diseases and chromosomal damage in veterans offspring, in comparison with the general population.

Approximately 250,000 U.S. Servicemen as well as civilian personnel took part in a variety of tests during this period of the "cold war" when the Department of Defense, working in conjunction with the Atomic Energy Commission, ordered troops to participate in and witness the detonations in the Pacific and at Nevada. Most detonations were larger and gave off considerably more deadly radiation than those bombs dropped on Japan. The government was interested in learning the effects of nuclear weapons on the performance of military personnel and equipment. Troops and ships, as well as a variety of equipment, were placed from two to fifteen miles from the center of each detonation. Participants were ordered to perform various maneuvers in the open, without protective clothing or respiratory devices.

Since the end of these tests, there has been no government sponsored medical surveillance of test participants, nor any effort to locate these individuals and warn them of the potential associated health risks. Those few that have been located, have been found to have an unusually high incidence of various types of cancers, other associated diseases and genetic damage in their children. A fully comprehensive independent medical study has not yet been done to determine the full nature and extent of the link between radiation exposure, these diseases and genetic damage.

The ill atomic veteran is forced to bear the full cost of expensive medical treatment, in addition to supporting a family. Many of these men have been forced to live on welfare. The purpose of the National Association of Atomic Veterans, is to assist these Veterans in obtaining government recognition and V.A. health care.

# National Association of Atomic Veterans

## • • Membership Application • •

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_
3. Telephone number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_
4. Branch of service \_\_\_\_\_ Dates \_\_\_\_\_ Service # \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ship, Marine & Army divisions & units, Air Force squadrons etc. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Place and conditions under which you were exposed to radiation \_\_\_\_\_
7. Illnesses that may have been caused by your exposure to radiation \_\_\_\_\_
8. Illnesses and birth defects of children and grandchildren, if any. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Claims filed with VA? When? \_\_\_\_\_ If denied, explain why and send copy of VA's denial letter. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Reasons for filing claims \_\_\_\_\_
11. If atomic veteran related to you is deceased: please send copy of death certificate with Date of death \_\_\_\_\_ Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_ Illnesses that preceded death \_\_\_\_\_
12. Name, address and telephone number of person who filled out this form if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_
13. I give NAAV permission to publish any of the information provided in this application. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_
14. NAAV may also publish my name, address and telephone number. Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Dues \$15.00. Life Memberships \$200.00. Payable in quarterly installments of \$25.00 or more. Do not send cash. Make check or money order payable to NAAV and send to: **NAAV, P.O. BOX 2558, VENTNOR, NJ 08406-0558**

NO AMOUNT OF IONIZING  
RADIATION IS SAFE

Thought for Today: "A man who is good enough to shed his blood for his country is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards. More than that no man is entitled to and less than that no man shall have." — President Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919).

*Recruited by*  
*Jim Hamann*

NOTE: Member of the  
NAVY NUCLEAR WORKERS ASSOCIATION  
T.H. Best Co.

INFORMATION ON BACK  
OF APPLICATION FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION



# GUNNER'S MATES - 1st GUNS of the fleet.

Association of Gunner's Mates  
P.O. Box 247, Hammond, Indiana 46325

The "ASSOCIATION of GUNNER'S MATES" was founded in the year of 1991, when our Services brought a renewed feeling of Pride and Patriotism that we had not experienced since about 50 years earlier, as we were entering WW 2. Jack Photenhauer and Bob Albinson were Shipmates in the late 50's, but served mostly on different ships. After being separated for over 30 years we decided that since we wouldn't be going to the same ship Reunions, that it would be "Ideal" to form an organization where we would have something in common. Since we both were Gunner's Mates, with the same basic background, we pursued the development of this fine ASSOCIATION group. With a group of men from WW 2, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, & all the years of the "Cold War", including the current GMs, this has grown into one of the "BEST", and we are indeed a unique organization and the "1st GUNS of the fleet".

### (GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS)

Past and present enlisted men with education, training, and experience in the Gunner's Mate rating. This can relate to (on the job-in service rate training), training schools, & enlisted rate training correspondence courses. The rates can include (prior to '46) Seaman 2/c & 1/c, (current) Seaman apprentice & Seaman GM "Strikers", all Petty Officers, including the various Chief designations, Warrant Officers, (Ordnance Technicians-Gunners), & Line Officers with prior ratings as GMs. The above may also include Coast Guard and Naval Armed Guard. All "GM" specialties are to be included, such as (GM) basic, (GMC) guns, (GMM) missiles, & (GMT) a Technician for Nuclear weapons. Prior designations such as Armorer, Turret Captain, and "CB" - Explosive Ordnance men are also included. An "Associate" membership is available to personnel who are, or have been involved with Ordnance.

### Current (MEMBERSHIP FEE SCHEDULE) Year 2000

1. In January of each year, the Annual Fee is \$15.00 \$20.00
2. As new members join in their "1st Yr" Fee is
  - a. Joining in the first 4 Months (Jan-Apr) = \$15.00 \$20.00
  - b. Joining in the 2nd 4 Months (May - Aug) = \$10.00 \$15.00
  - c. Joining in the 3rd 4 Months (Sept- Dec) = \$5.00 \$10.00

The purpose is to provide friendship and communication to shipmates; (past & present) involved in one of the Sea Services oldest ratings (2nd). As a Non-profit organization, & tax exempt, our main intent is to promote meeting/reunions and general camaraderie through our Quarterly publication "GUNS" (Gunners United in Naval Service), with access to information given as well as wanted, while individual expedencies, sea stories, and correspondence in general will help to preserve our past and current Naval Gunnery & Weapons.

Tear off and return

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) (Last) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Street) \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ NAVY \_\_\_\_\_ COAST GUARD \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rate/Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Specialties \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dates of service \_\_\_\_\_ Weapons etc \_\_\_\_\_  
 Additional info \_\_\_\_\_

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP COST IS BASED ON YOUR AGE AND IS:

29 AND BELOW	\$295	55-59	\$140
30-34	\$265	60-64	\$120
35-39	\$235	65-69	\$105
40-44	\$210	70-74	\$80
45-49	\$180	75 AND ABOVE	\$50
50-54	\$160 *		

YOU MAY PAY THE FULL LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEE IN ONE PAYMENT OR IN TEN (10) EQUAL MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS. IF YOU PREFER TO PAY MONTHLY, YOU SHOULD SEND AN INITIAL INSTALLMENT OF ONE TENTH OF THE TOTAL COST FOR YOUR AGE GROUP WITH THIS APPLICATION. WE WILL ENTER YOUR LIFE MEMBERSHIP. SEND YOU A LIFE MEMBER CARD AND BILL YOU EACH MONTH UNTIL THE FULL FEE IS PAID. YOU WILL THEN BE A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF GUNNER'S MATES FOR LIFE AT NO FURTHER COST.  
 IN THE EVENT A MEMBER PAYING ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN FINDS THAT FOR SOME REASON THEY ARE UNABLE TO COMPLETE FULL PAYMENT WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED, ALL MONIES PAID WILL BE CREDITED TOWARD PAID UP ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AT THE STANDARD ANNUAL RATE. (PRESENTLY \$15.00)

\* Member of  
 NINWA  
 TH Best So

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_

# NAVY NUCLEAR WEAPONS ASSOCIATION (NNWA)



## PERSONAL HISTORY PROFILE

Mail to: Michael D. Snyder (NNWA Historian)  
17618 Sir Galahad Way  
Ashton, MD 20861

Name: Last \_\_\_\_\_ First \_\_\_\_\_ Middle \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Rate \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address City State Zip Code

**Note:** Please list your duty stations, responsibilities, advancement paths, historical events, anecdotes, personal experiences both on and off duty that your shipmates may find interesting. I.e. Liberties, inspections, deployments, schools, overall information about the Navy special weapons program, PRP, etc., etc. Conclude with your retirement or discharge date and a brief synopsis of your subsequent endeavors in civilian life.

**Personal History Narrative:** (use back or additional pages as necessary):

Entered Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_