

Navy Postal Clerk Association



President: Michael Bertalan
Vice President: Gil Hough
Senior Advisor: Abel Quinones
Secretary: Grover McLaughlin
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osted by Gil Hough and Jack Spellman on December 7th, 2010
(Remember Pearl Harbor Day!

We wish you and your family the very best at Christmas/other holidays and a great and prosperous new year (2011)!

A brief sketch of our third honorary member PCCM Abel Quinones, USN (Ret):
He was instrumental in the development of our Navy Postal Clerk Association (NPCA) and who provided the leadership, guidance, counsel, assistance and funding to get the organization off the ground and running. Abel was the creator and distributor of the now famous Navy Postal Clerk Challenge Coin. He is known for his swashbuckling tales of long ago in China; he was the self appointed Mayor of Olongapo/the hut; Chief in Charge of Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet's (CINCPACFLT) Honor and Ceremonial Guard where he always carried his trusted Navy Cutlass!

In his younger years he tried to live his life to the fullest and subscribed to and abided by the following: "Everyday is a time for Wine and Rosa's" but in his later lifetime Judy Q has him on a tight leash!

During his long and illustrious thirty (30) + years in the United States Navy he served in a variety of positions to include communications centers, administrative spaces, and post offices to name a few. His assignments overseas carried him to China, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Philippines, Japan, Italy, and Greece. His shipboard and shore assignments had him providing temporary additional duty all over the world to support and enhance Postal Financial Operations, Carrier on Board Deliveries (COD'S), and Inspections.

During his retirement years he has become one of the most influential and knowledgeable Veteran advocates in the State of California. He is involved in creating legislation that is intended to create additional veterans cemeteries in Northern California. He provides assistance to veterans who need to understand the complex workings of disability claims and other critical issues that may affect them. He is a key and pivotal member of his local and State community and simply never quits giving and helping his fellow veterans!

New Members Corner/General Information

PCCM Eugene Podlenski served in the United States Navy from December 1950-July 1980. His service aboard ship, seven different ships made him quite a sailor and diligent Postal Clerk and morale builder. His major duties included: CINUSNAVEUR (London); NSA Naples; USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) and Naval Station Rota, Spain. When the Kitty Hawk came to Hong Kong around 1975, he had me (Gil) and my family out to the Chiefs Mess for steaks and lobster which we fondly remember. Ski can be reached at: www.podlenski@cox.net or (619) 466-2740. Welcome aboard shipmate!

PCC Roger Walter can be located at 607 Main St. McAlisterville, PA 17049; his wife's name is Lori. He served in the USN from 1975-1995 and was recruited by PCC Sunny Jim Marsh of Grants Pass, Oregon. Roger's phone number is (717) 463-9063 and email at: rwalter75@hotmail.com Welcome Aboard shipmate! Here is the rest of his story:

"I entered the Navy in 1975, my first duty station was the USS Sperry AS-12. I started out working in the Personnel Office when I first checked onboard. Later the Master Chief asked me if I wanted to work in the post office. I got my chance and took it; I later transferred to the USS Lynde G. McCormick DDG-8 (independent duty). I transferred to Fleet Mail Center Yokohama, Japan. Then it was off to the USS John F. Kennedy CV-67; I enjoyed being on the big carrier. From there I went too the USS Kalamazoo AOR-8, USS Hunley AS-31. Then it was off to shore duty once again, I spent 2 years at NAS Bermuda where I was selected for advancement to PCC. I was initiated on the USS Inchon LPH-12. My last command before retirement was at NAVSUBASE New London, Groton Ct"

PC1 Robert Polanowski can be located at 5996 Country Rode #16, Belfast, NY 14711. Phone: (585) 365-2316 and email at: skica130@aol.com Welcome aboard shipmate!

"I entered Naval Service just after my 17th birthday on 9 October, 1943. I was stationed at 651 Brannon St. San Francisco for about a month in "V" mail. I was transferred to Pearl Harbor and arrived in February 1944. I worked in Fleet Records forwarding mail until November 1945 at which time World War II ended. When I first arrived in Pearl Harbor there was over 500,000 pieces of mail waiting for our arrival. We worked 7 days a week and 12 hours a day. I mad 3/c in Pearl and 2/c in San Francisco in 1946. I was transferred to the USS Helena CA-75 for a three year tour and left in 1949 for shore duty at Corpus Christ, Texas. My next ship was the USS Yorktown CVA-10 was then transferred to Bainbridge, Maryland and married a young TE-2 in 1955; she completed 9 years of active duty and got out. My last assignments included a tour on Okinawa and Guam and my last three years on the USS Bremerton (CA-130). I transferred to the Fleet Reserve with 20 years service. I am a proud sailor whose entire family served in the Armed Forces of the United States"

PC2 Gloria Smith can be located at 10975 Holly Spring Road, Nanjemoy, MD 20662, Phone: (301) 246-9258 and email at: ladysamuari_76@msn.com Welcome Aboard Shipmate!

"I guess the most memorable time I spent in the Navy was after I left Yokohama, Japan and became a Company Commander at RTC Orlando, Fla. I was really surprised at some of our new recruits. They came from all walks of life and there were some whose childhood left a lot of questions. I was awarded the Master Training Specialist designation because I taught in the classrooms. I also served as a special coordinator for those who thought they were tough (smile). I loved the 2 tours I did in Japan. I made a lot of friends there. I did a lot of things that were the first for Women, for example. I was with the first women sent to NAS Miramar, the first female sent to work in the Galley on NAS Agana,Guam. Well I am very happy to join this elite group of Postal Clerks. Gloria E. Smith, PC2, USN Ret."

PCCM Ray Dorman just approached the tender age of eighty (80) on August 19th, 2010. His family (a lot of them) held a great party for him at the Navy Fleet Reserve Association, Branch 46, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii the same date; pictures are on the NPCA webpage.

PCCM Jim Collins is now retired and will continue on as a valuable member of NPCA. He can be reached at: Jim Collins, 125 West Point Dr. Carlisle, PA 17013; phone: (757) 641-7996; email at: cmcjimmyc@yahoo.com Fair Winds and Following Seas from all of us at NPCA! The below information was obtained from the Navy Supply Systems Command.

Master Chief Petty Officer of the Supply Community Naval Supply Systems Command

“A native of Moss, Tennessee, and Master Chief Collins enlisted in the Navy in June 1981. Upon completion of recruit training in Orlando, Fla., and Postal Clerk "A" school in Indianapolis, Ind., he was assigned to USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69). During his tour on IKE, he completed his Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist and advanced to Postal Clerk Second Class.

In April 1984, Master Chief Collins reported to Joint Military Postal Activity, Atlantic, N.Y. While assigned there he was assigned to the Logistics section as a special overseas mail router for mobile units. In July 1987 he was again assigned to the USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER (CVN 69), this time as Beach Detachment mail router and Leading Petty Officer.

Master Chief Collins reported to Naval Support Activity, Gaeta, Italy, in January, 1991 as Postal Officer and Services Leading Chief Petty Officer. His next assignment took him to the Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D.C., where he detailed the Postal Clerk and Lithographer ratings. In June, 1996, he moved with BUPERS to the Navy Personnel Command, in Millington, Tenn.

He returned to Italy in August, 2000 and reported to Naval Support Activity, Naples, Italy, where he was made Master Chief and was accepted into the Command Master Chief program. In April, 2002, he was assigned to Navy Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station, Naples, Italy.

In March, 2004, he reported to Precommissioning Detachment BAINBRIDGE (DDG 96). Upon commissioning and completion of initial certification and qualifications required to deploy, he transferred in January 2007 to NAVSUP, Mechanicsburg, PA.”

Veterans News

The following diseases are considered to be attributable to Agent Orange exposure. To receive a service connected disability for these diseases you must have either had your boots on the ground in Vietnam or be on a ship or small craft that entered into the brown water such as the Saigon River. There is current litigation in effect regarding those who served in the blue water adjacent to Vietnam “Haas vs. Nicholson”

[Acute and Subacute Peripheral Neuropathy](#)

A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange and resolve within 2 years after the date it began.

AL Amyloidosis

A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs.

Chloracne (or Similar Acneform Disease)

A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, chloracne (or other acneform disease similar to chloracne) must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange.

Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and Other Chronic B Cell Leukemias

A type of cancer which affects white blood cells. Currently, only chronic lymphocytic leukemia is recognized as associated with Agent Orange exposure. On August 31, 2010, VA published its final regulation establishing all chronic B-cell leukemias as related to exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides. After a 60-day Congressional review period, eligible Veterans may receive health care and disability compensation for all chronic B-cell leukemias.

Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)

A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin.

Hodgkin's Disease

A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia.

Ischemic Heart Disease

A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain. On August 31, 2010, VA published the final regulation establishing ischemic heart disease as associated with Agent Orange exposure. After a 60-day Congressional review period, eligible Veterans may receive health care and disability compensation for ischemic heart disease.

Multiple Myeloma

A disorder which causes an overproduction of certain proteins from white blood cells.

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma

A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue.

Parkinson's Disease

A motor system condition with symptoms that include a trembling of the hands, imbalance, and loss of facial expression. On August 31, 2010, VA published the final regulation establishing Parkinson's disease as associated with Agent Orange exposure. After a 60-day Congressional review period, eligible Veterans may receive health care and disability compensation for Parkinson's disease.

Porphyria Cutanea Tarda

A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10% disabling within 1 year of exposure to Agent Orange.

Prostate Cancer

Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men.

Respiratory Cancers

Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues.

