

impact of our recession on NPCA members and their families and the possible resultant affect on reunion participation is unknown and difficult to estimate without some input. Because of these unusual, tenuous times, it is requested that NPCA members please inform our President as soon as possible by telephone, email, or letter whether or not they now think they will attend the reunion and whether or not their spouse will accompany them; and keep our President informed of any changes as time goes by. Send to: Mike Bertalan, 2063 West 103 St., Cleveland, OH 44102
Cell: 216-299-6732 e-mail: Navy-Postal-Clerk-Association@roadrunner.com

Thank you

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The following was provided by a shipmate who did not want to reveal his Name. This and other stories of Mr. Van B. Bean inspired us to do a short story on his Navy Postal career (see below):

"Van's many years of consistent hard work, infinite knowledge, and his devotion to duty to the United States Navy and the Navy Postal Service are well known by all of us. Van always had a way about him--a calm, easy-going, confident, respectful way; an understanding and supportive way, and a humble way in which he never sought personal credit or accolades. He always gave and gave of himself in a very selfless manner"

Mr. Van B. Bean

A short feature story about our second Honorary Member, none other than Van B. Bean. Van was always there for us and kept most of us out of trouble, jail or both. His career was started in an unusual way with the help and assistance from his great wife Yvonne who worked for the United States Navy too; he had no contacts at OPNAV and was precluded from Military Service because of health issues. She found a job announcement for a GS-7 Postal Specialist at the Navy Postal Affairs Branch (OP-09B23); changed over the years. He had the requisite requirements for the job after serving the U.S. Postal Service as a carrier and clerk for nearly 15 years. PCCM Red Lail was the first selectee but by the time the Navy notified him of the job he was already hired by the U.S. Postal Service Headquarters. Thus, began the career of our great friend and confidant who was the number two selectee. He started as a GS-7 Postal Specialist. His position description changed many times during the war in Vietnam. Van's duties and responsibilities increased dramatically over the years and he was advanced to General Manager (GM-13). There were two Officers assigned to Postal Affairs, one PCC, one PC1, and 1 YN1 when he started. We all know that a PCCM was assigned later on during his career.

The position required the detailed knowledge, skills, and abilities of the Navy Postal Clerk rating. He was quick on his feet and was able to fully understand the wide range of our unique operational mail routing requirements/capabilities ashore and afloat! He was responsible for responding to Congressional mail complaints (there were many during the war), served as the liaison/pivotal point (continuity) between the Chief Postal Inspector, Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV), the respective services, State Department, and all other Government Agencies.

His very first Congressional Complaint was from an Admiral's wife who stood in line at the

Navy Postal Office (CINCPACFLT) where the Navy Postal Clerk abruptly closed the window At 1700 hours. He was instructed that in the future all patrons in line would be served before the window was closed. I am very surprised that the Admiral did not rip his head off! Van made many official visits to the various Fleet Post Offices, European and Pacific Postal facilities. In 1979 he even visited Gil Hough's old house in Pearl City, Hawaii with two Postal Inspectors before they departed on a fact finding mission of the various military postal facilities in the Pacific. In June 1980, he drafted the NAVOP that disestablished CNO Postal Affairs because Postal Operations were being transferred to a Joint DOD activity known as the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) under the control and management of the United States Army. He received numerous personal commendations for his superior service to the Navy over his illustrious career. Van was ultimately transferred to MPSA and worked in the operational branch doing mostly what he did at OPNAV. He continued operating as the direct liaison to the United States Navy with regards to changes in policy/procedure that may affect the Naval Service. Such action required him to write responses for the Navy which were forwarded to MPSA either agreeing or disagreeing with their proposed changes.

In June 1982, Van was selected to become the Navy's (CNO) Official Mail Manager at the grade of GM-13. He set up the new office, wrote a job description that only our late friend PCCM William G. Spillman, USN, Ret qualified for. They worked together as a team and wrote supplemental Navy Official Mail instructions and converted the Navy's Postal and Fees Paid Indicia system to the Official Mail Stamps/Metered Mail Postage program.

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A short story from one of our new members (PC1 Mike Hogan):

“First off it was good to talk shop for a bit. My e-mail is katiehogan@embarqmail.com. I'm using the wife's address because I'm still new at this computer stuff. I'm sending a list of duty stations. USS Hector(AR 7)9/68-2/70. NavAirFac Cam Rahn Bay 3/70-11/71. VA 122 NAS Lemoore 12/71-12/72. Was discharged and bummed around for awhile. When I came back in I had to lose a stripe. Was discharged as a PC2 and came back in as a PC3. USS Stribling (DD 867) 4/74-4/76. Precom Unit FTC Norva 4/76-7/77. USS Peterson (DD 969) 7/77-9/78. FPO New York 11/78-10/80. NavSuppAct Souda Bay Crete 11/80-12/81. USS Concord (AFS 5) 1/82-5/84. FltMailUnit Norva 5/84-6/86. NAS Keflavik 7/86-6/87. USS Forrestal (CV 59) 6/87-7/89. Retired as PC1. The only address I had for Cruzen was: A.W. Cruzen, 920 Flower Box Lane, Neosho, Missouri. That was some time ago. I have been unable to make contact with him” Do any of you know how to contact PC1 A.W. Cruzen?

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The latest information regarding the conversion of the PC rating to the Logistics Support Specialist rating (LS): Answers were provided by PCCM Ron Guyton who is the Enlisted Community Manager for the current and future rating:

Will there be another advancement test for E-4, E-5, and E-6?
- Last advancement exam for PC3/2/1 will be September 2009 for Active component and February 2010 for Reserve component.

Will there be another selection board for E-7, E-8, and E-9?

- FY-10 Selection boards (Spring/Summer 2009) will be the last active duty selection boards for PCC/CS/CM.

Has the last PC gone though PC "A" School? If not when will the last one go?

- PC's will continue to attend the PC "A" school until the stand up of the combined LS "A" school in Meridian on 1 Oct 2009.

What is the last day we will have a PC in the Navy?

- On 1 October 2009 all active PC's and reserve E6 and above will convert to LS. On 1 April 2010 Reserve E-5 and below will convert.

Will they be going to SK or is the LS rate now set up?

- The LS Rating will be stood up on 1 Oct 2009 and all PC's and SK's will shift into the LS rating as described in the above timeline.

Is the new LS rating badge out yet?

- The SK rating badge will be used for LS.



..Over the land of the Free and the home of the Brave"

Navy Postal Clerk Association

Join the winners circle.

Plan now for the May 2010

NPCA Reunion in Vegas.



 **NAVY POSTAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION**

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