

Navy Postal Clerk Association



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osted by Gil Hough and Jack Spellman on July 28, 2011

PCCM Paul Kauffman, USN (Ret)

A brief sketch of our second most senior Postal Clerk who was in the United States Navy (adjusted dates) from 30 July 1944 until 30 July 1974 and was advanced to Master Chief Petty Officer in the Postal Clerk rating in November 1965.

Before many of us were born, he went to Radioman Class (A) school in November 1944 and transferred and reported to the USS West Virginia (BB-48) around April 1945 as a 18 year old communicator. He spent a lot of time dodging Japanese enemy aircraft/ Kamikaze's while his ship was under constant attack. The ship returned salvo's from their massive 16 inch guns while being assisted by their 5 inch and other antiaircraft guns. The ships motto was "Wee-Vee" and had 1407 officers and men embarked. Fortunately for him he went to Tokyo Bay, Japan in September 1945 for the surrender ceremonies and the war was finally over!

His extraordinary duty assignments took him from destroyer duty, assignments in Tokyo Bay, Okinawa and Tsingtao China for specialized duty. In November 52 he was promoted to Teleman Second Class (TE2) and went to Yokosuka, Japan. In November 1954 he was advanced to TE1 and then went to another destroyer (USS Kidd DD-661) and then to the Naval Communication Station, Washington D.C.

In October 1957 he was assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group in Taiwan, Republic of China (ROC) where he was once again involved in armed conflict with the enemy during the shelling of Quemoy/Matsu Islands by the Chinese Communists. He actually assisted his ROC counterparts aboard their ships operating with the U.S. Navy.

In November 1959 he was promoted to RMCA; in those day the CA meant acting Chief and one had to wait three years until they became a permanent Chief Petty Officer. He was selected for the newly established Postal Clerk rating around November 1960 and became a PCCA.

He then transferred to the Seventh Fleet Flag Ship (USS Oklahoma City CLG-5). In September 1961 he was assigned to Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan and then to Commander Service Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet . He was promoted to PCCS in April 1963.

He was called again to participate in war and reported to the Naval Support Activity, DaNang, RVN in August 1965. He was promoted again to PCCM and spent the next year traveling extensively throughout Vietnam troubleshooting problem areas, conducting postal inspections and developing mail routing procedures. Always aware of the importance of mail service to morale, he worked unceasingly to ensure his shipmates received the best possible mail service in a war zone!

In November 1966 he was transferred to the Fleet Post Office, San Francisco. During his assignment there he was on continued temporary duty assignments to Hawaii and FPO Seattle to set up mail routing and handling operations.

In October 1968, he reported to the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Postal Affairs Branch where he helped develop and implement programs that developed our professionalism. He transferred to the Fleet Reserve on 2 November 1970 and became fully retired in 1974.

During his long and illustrious career, he played a pivotal role in the development and success of our new General Service Rating of Postal Clerk (PC)! Bravo Zulu Master Chief!

Navy Postal Clerk Reunion in May 6-10, 2012 (Branson Missouri)

Mike and Liz Dwyer along with Ed and Verna Carter located a great place for our reunion and were able to hammer out a deal that included a planned schedule of events in the famous Veteran friendly city of Branson. Many ships reunions are held here and our feedback from various associations indicates our choices are superb! "See attached registration form and schedule of events." More details and information will be sent Via email at a later date and in our December NPCA newsletter. Call me if you have questions at (808) 623-9343 or hough@hawaii.rr.com

Branson Missouri is located 40+ miles South of Springfield and nestled in the heart of the Ozark Mountains. Southwest Missouri is home of some of the most picturesque and breathtaking Natural views in the country. Branson is the crown jewel of Missouri with its bright lights, live entertainment, scenic views, and affordable family fun.

Camden Hotel and Conference Center is located in the heart of Branson and surrounded by hundreds of attractions (shows, shops, and restaurants). It is located only minutes from Historic downtown Branson and the new Branson landing. This Branson hotel is within walking distance to the Andy Williams Theatre, Branson Variety Theater, Grand Palace, and many other theaters. Over 60 outlet stores are just steps away. In addition, the best access roads of the area right at their back door. The Camden Hotel is also within a short distance of Silver Dollar City and Table Rock Lake. The hotel offers discounted tickets for other events in case you are interested.

If you are flying to Branson you will either arrive at Springfield-Branson National Airport which is about 43 miles North of Branson or Branson Airport which is 8 miles South of Branson. Consult your travel agent for the best travel arrangements for you.

If you are not renting a car, ground transportation can be arranged through GrayLine Airport Shuttle (1-800) 237-4466 as follows: From Springfield-Branson to the hotel it will be \$95 for the first two passengers and \$10 for each additional. From Branson Airport to the hotel it will be \$27 for the first two passengers and \$10 for each additional.

- An additional treat if you are driving from Springfield would be to stop at Lamberts Café at 1800 W. State Hwy J in Ozark, Missouri. It is fun and suitable for everyone and reasonable. They do not take credit cards. See: www.throwedrolls.com

New members corner/general information

PCCM Joe Raun moved from Philadelphia after retiring from the United States Postal Service. He and Pat moved to 110 Biel Lane, New Bern, NC 28562-8998, phone # (215) 824-0131 (same as before), email: jraun12@msn.com (same). He is looking forward to seeing new & old friends in New Bern a half-way stopping point to Florida! We are only a hour drive off I-95 on the way to Florida, he indicates the price is right.

PCC Norman Woodbury (Woody) indicates he has moved from the Sierra Vista area to 10622 E. Cerulean Way Tucson, AZ 85747; his phone is now: (H) 520-298-9893, (Cell) 520-266-2981.

PCCM William L. Bussey passed away on January 11th 2011. His funeral was held on January 19th, 2011 at the National Cemetery in Jacksonville, Florida. The following members of our association attended the funeral; PCCM Mike Dwyer, PCCM Marlin Kirby and PCCM Jim Masters and their Brides! Thanks guys!

PCCM Alvin J. (Pat) Ryon passed away on July 2, 2010 and was buried at Newport Richey, Florida. He was another of the original 644 and converted to Postal Clerk from TERMC. He served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

We were notified by LNCM Steve Hill (our esteemed treasurer) that his good friend "PC1 Stephen Landreth, USN" passed away on March 2, 2011. We did know that Steve served on the USS Frank Cable (AS-40) in Charleston, South Carolina and that he had prior duty with the Sea Bee's in Gulfport, Mississippi.

The USS Ernest G. Small ships association reported that PCC Ronald M. Palinkas, USN, passed away April 11, 2011 at Pomona, California. Gil met him at the Naval Support Force Antarctica Det Christchurch, New Zealand. He later served at FPO San Francisco.

We are looking for donations for a raffle which could even include Abel Q's swashbuckling cutlass! Let us know. This will be in addition to our normal 50/50 cash raffles.

Veterans' News

In your last newsletter we had a story about war time diseases (Agent Orange) from service in Vietnam etc. We now want all our members to be aware of another important Veterans benefit that can assist your spouse if you pass away from a service connected disability. It is currently \$1,154.00 monthly tax free. Please read the following and keep it for your family. I am not trying to waste space but Abel Q. and I have been able to assist several of our NPCA members survivors with this great benefit!



What Is DIC?

DIC is a monthly benefit paid to eligible survivors of a

- Military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease, OR
- veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling
 - for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR
 - since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR
 - for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Who Is Eligible?

The **surviving spouse** if he or she:

- validly married the veteran before January 1, 1957, OR
- was married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training, OR
- married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated, OR
- was married to the veteran for at least one year, OR
- had a child with the veteran, AND
- cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, AND
- is not currently remarried.*

Note: *A surviving spouse who remarries on or after December 16, 2003, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.*

The **surviving child(ren)**, if he/she is:

- not included on the surviving spouse's DIC
- unmarried AND
- under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school.

Note: *Certain helpless adult children are entitled to DIC. Call the toll-free number below for the eligibility requirements.*

The **surviving parent(s)** may be eligible for an income-based benefit. See our fact sheet, *Parents' DIC*.

How Much Does VA Pay?

The basic monthly rate of DIC is \$1,154 for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance. VA also adds a transitional benefit of \$286 to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. The amount is based on a family unit, not individual children. Benefit rate tables, including those for children alone and parents, can be found on the Internet at <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates> or call the toll-free number below.

How Should a Claimant Apply?

Claimants should complete VA Form 21-534 *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child*.

What Are Some Related Benefits?

Health Care (CHAMPVA)
Home Loan Guaranty

Federal Employment Preference
Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance

For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000