

NAVY POSTAL CLERKS



30 May 2006

NPC Officers: President, Mike Berialan. VIP, Harland Kirkendall, Special Advisor, Abel Quinones, Secretary, Grover "Mac" McLaughlin Treasurer, Steven Hill, Newsletter Editor, John. Peters.

Mail Call: Greetings members. This is the first in a series of semi-annual newsletters, since Dick Baber's outstanding letter after the 2004 reunion, to promulgate news of interest to our members.. Our newsletter's name, Mail Call is based on that announcement that made the command Postal Clerk either the most popular man aboard ship, or disliked if the letter was a Dear John. Because of the expense in postage & printing this newsletter, future mailing will reluctantly go to paid members only. All others can view the newsletter on the NPCA website, listed in the Presidents comments.

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The Navy Postal clerk Association consists of past and present Navy members of the postal clerk rate, (established in 1960) and their families. Also welcome is anyone who had an association with the Navy Postal Service; Marine PC's, officers, or any civilian employee who served in a Navy postal billet. Our purpose is:

- A. To promote & enhance the social welfare of the Navy Postal Clerk community..
- B. To conduct programs for charitable and educational purposes.
- C. To sponsor or participate in activities of a patriotic nature.
- D. To provide social and recreational activities for it's members.
- E. To renew friendships with old and new shipmates through reunions. currently to be held every 2 years

In addition, we also have the Goal & Obligation of keeping alive the hard work, dedication, and memories of the men & women of the Navy Postal Service , and all who handled Navy mail before them.

MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT: Mike Bertalan

First I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for electing me as your President.

Secondly, I'd like to eliminate the myth that the association is made up, and consist only of old Chief Postal Clerks. This association is for EVERYONE that was ever a Navy Postal Clerk from a PC Striker to a Master Chief including Postal Officers, Marine Postal Clerks and anyone who ever handled Navy Mail regardless of their primary rating. We also welcome family members of departed NPC shipmates

It is my sad duty to inform you that the Navy plans to slowly eliminate the Postal Clerk rating. Obviously that makes our association even more important in keeping the heritage and history of the Navy Postal Clerk Rating's contribution the Navy Mail system alive. I have always felt the PC rating was one of the most close knit groups in the Navy. This close association was due to several factors. On smaller ships, the PC's would arrange mail delivery and pickup at base post offices, terminal NPO's, fleet mail centers, or delivery at dockside. There, business with other postal clerks was an event. This close association was always in connection with your work, including career assignments on the varied assortment of ships and shore installations in the great network of the Navy Postal System. Postal Clerks whether serving together or in close proximity or association, became shipmates. As shipmates, we learned each others personality, character, and traits. This great friendship has resulted in a sense of brotherhood and bonding we cherish to this day. We relate to our navy postal career, no matter how brief, as an experience we'll always remember and cherish as a path of decisions with trials and desperate times, on one side, and youthful or foolish pleasures of love and emotions on the other. Most say it was an adventure to remember and cherish. It goes without saying that most postal clerks/personnel came off with mostly good and eventful times & memories. I invite everyone, who hasn't done so, to pay their annual dues so we can maintain our association. Annual dues are \$20.00 per year, payable to Navy Postal clerk Association, due by 31 January, and mailed to:

Steven Hill,
32265 Via Arias
Temecula, CA 92592

Also feel free to send any personal information, comments, thoughts, or happenings of interest to John Peters, at the return address on this newsletter You can also e-mail it to him at sportsfanzz@sisna.com . The association also has a website at:

<http://www.npcreunion.dreamhost.com/index.php> or
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/navypostalclerks/join>

We keep adding photos and stories to these websites so please make use of it.
OUR FUTURE PLANS: We hope to have our next reunion in the Tidewater, Virginia area in the spring or summer of 2008. We hope to have the date established in plenty of time so all can make plans to attend.

Your Shipmate now and Always,
Mike Bertalan, President

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I consider the 2006 NPCA reunion a huge success along with everyone who attended and give great credit to Grover, "Mac", McLaughlin and Maynard Howard. They did an outstanding job and not a single complaint from any attendees was received or indicated

The morning of the 15th, we received an outstanding speech from Mil.com representatives. . Mil.com is a civilian organization, (& Website), consisting of former military personnel sending updated military information to active and retired military personnel. In addition to an outstanding speech about their organization, they handed out caps, sweatshirts, and other gifts with their logo on them

The City of San Antonio and Fredricksburg gave us historical settings which everyone enjoyed and will be hard to equal. In addition, we experienced great accommodations at the hotel, and economical entertainment and a variety of fare around the City. It had something for everyone, from the River Walk, lined with countless restaurants, The Alamo, to the outstanding Nimitz World War II Museum in Fredricksburg filled with original pictures and articles that most of us read in following the island by island war in the Pacific in our youth..

It was a moving experience to see shipmates from past reunions and several new faces who either missed the Las Vegas reunion or we had not seen for many years or ever. We laughed, argued, and resolved the many connections & differences of the past with old friends or new ones.

The ladies of our members need to be recognized and their names should appear on our rosters along side their husbands or companion and we know we need them for our association to be successful. Saying this, I would ask Maynard to thank Pauline Enderlin for her valuable help on making our San Antonio reunion so successful. Thank you Pauline from all of us.

The Reunion banquet was superb in service and food, and our speaker provided by "Mac" was just Great! I told "Mac," he couldn't have picked a better speaker for our Associations than Robert Larios, the Postmaster of San Antonio. He is a Marine reservist and in addition to an excellent speech, he mingled among us relating well to what our rate and association were all about. Finally, he presented us with a fabulous USPS Challenge Coin that many of us will treasure along with our NPCA challenge coin Shown on page 4.

The feeling are just hard to explain when shipmates get together and claim bragging rights to issues some of us had long forgotten. Anyhow, we decided to publish this semi-annual newsletter that will give us a chance to share these memories, update any news of interest within our ranks with you, and hopefully give us more bonding in the future.

In closing, we hated to have this reunion come to an end. It was very special, and we are looking forward to our next REUNION in 2008 to be handled by "Mike & Mike" - Iron Mike Petras and Mike Dwyer

Best Wishes from California,
Abel & Judy Quinones

San Antonio Reunion and other NPCA News

From downtown San Antonio, to Fredricksburg, the order of the day was enjoying ourselves. . It could be the River Walk, Alamo, or the trip to Fredricksburg and the Nimitz World II Museum, a good time was had by all.

Along the River Walk, you would have found Mike Beletan, John Devlin, and some Irish Wana-Be's, celebrating St Patricks day on the patio of a local Pub. All shipmates, passing bye, were invited to join them.

Then there was the two couples, George and Iris Burke, and a couple who will remain nameless, that forgot where to get off the bus for the hotel on the way back from the RiverWalk. Needless to say, they ended at the end of the bus line, miles from the hotel, had to switch buses, and finally call the hotel to come and get them.

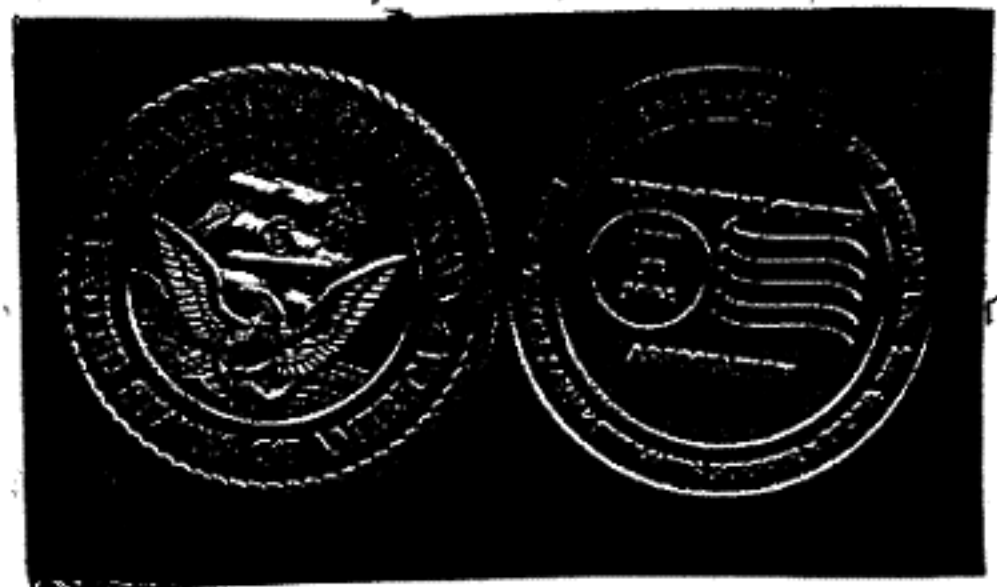
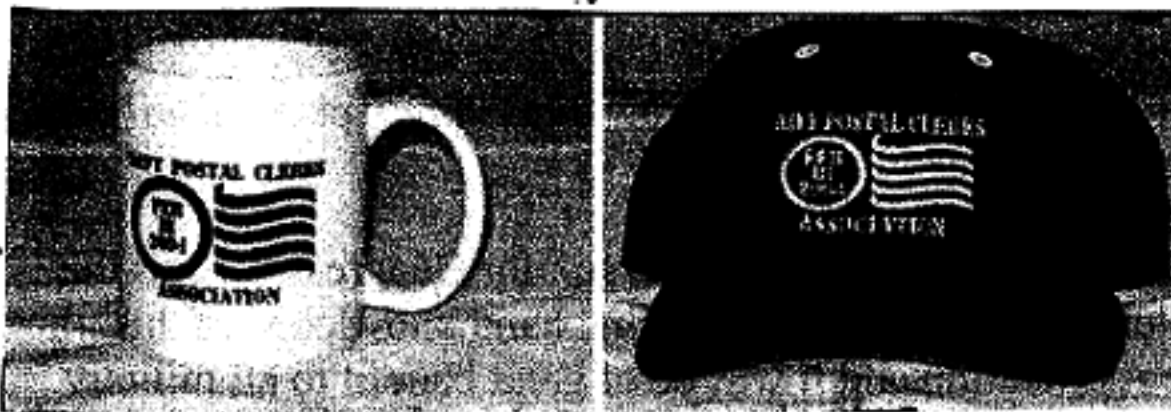
Gary and Aikio Lybarger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year. We wish them well & many happy returns. Gary says he gave up golf years ago for something better.

Mac McLaughlin writes to say what a pleasure it was for Maynard and he to host the 2006 reunion. We would like to thank all who attended, glad they enjoyed themselves, and someday will return to visit our city of San Antonio.

NPCA MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Cups: \$10.00, S&H \$4.00
Caps: \$15.00, S&H \$4.00
Bolo Coin Necklace: \$20.00 -S&H \$1.00

Coins, Soft, \$7.00. S&H \$1.00
Coins, Hard \$8.00 (in a case)



Send your orders, with check made out to the Navy Postal clerk Association, to:
Grover McLaughlin, 13079 Feather Ridge Dr., San Antonio, TX 78233

In closing, AGAIN it was a great reunion. We laughed, we argued, reminiced, ate, drank, and at the banquet, we danced the night away. We are sorry if you could not join us; YOU were missed. We hope to see you at 2008 Reunion, wherever in the tidewater area Mike Petras and Mike Dwyer, pick to have it. . Your Shipmate: .John T. Peters, PCCM, USN (ret)