



# Navy Postal Clerk Association

**President: Michael Bertalan**  
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**osted by Gil Hough and Jack Spellman on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**(Remember Pearl Harbor)**  
**This will be the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

Getting a story is often very difficult because little if any feedback/information is provided. However, I have survived four years and am looking for someone to step up to the plate and take over; I, like many others am suffering from old man's disease. Getting old is not for sissies. It has been fun and it was a pleasure and honor to develop stories about Van Bean & others who were instrumental in our formal development as a rating. I believe between John Peters and I, we have provided stories and other useful information to our membership over the past six + years. I would also like to thank Jack Spellman and his bride "Jay" for their assistance in proofing, folding, and mailing our finished newsletters. Our rating is no more and getting new members is going to be a challenge at best; let's all become recruiters this and every year. Our "shipmates forever" list is growing and will continue to do so. I am appealing to some of our younger members to assume a leadership position and help us guide this elite group now and in the future. Camaraderie and lasting friendships have continued since I was an eighteen year old PCSN in 1960. I know it has been that way for you too. I will continue to help the Association with an administrative role. and will facilitate getting you all information that needs to be put out.

Update on our Branson Reunion: Here is a breakdown on the cost. Couple \$578.78; single \$419.97; and double non couple \$549.78. Please let them know you are with the Navy Postal Clerk Reunion Group.

The Dwyer's and Carter's did a great job of setting up our Branson reunion and I know everyone will have a great time.

We have 50 rooms blocked. Rooms not reserved by 9 April will be released from the group block. When registering by phone you may set up with Camden Hotel to budget your payments (if desired). Time frames will be handled on an individual basis. Pay fifty dollars a month or a hundred whatever works and you will have it paid for in advance.

Call 1-800-800-2019. Our last newsletter discussed the registration process and it can be viewed on the NPCA webpage at: <http://npcreunion.dreamhost.com/index.php>

[Call now to make arrangements!](#)

My Final article is on Another of Our Early Pioneers

A story on John P. Peters (JP); John was advanced to PCCM in 1967 and is our second most senior member in NPCA.

"I joined the Navy in January 1951 and after basic training in San Diego I was assigned to Guam. On Guam, I ended up at the Naval Communication Station as one of many who were used to chop weeds to keep busy. We were limited to strike for BM or GM. I was eventually assigned my first gate watch on the motor pool gate. Only official military vehicles were allowed in or out. This was my first assignment and a shipmate in dungarees driving a stolen Buick approached the gate. I let him go. The final result was an ass chewing at Captains Mast and transfer to the local Registered Publication Issuing Office (RPIO) which included Postal. I became a Teleman (TE) which was a new rating.

This laid the foundation for my Navy Career forever. TE was wide open rating back then and included the new teletype/communications & postal. All I had to do for promotion was pass a teletype test, so many words per minute, and being a typing whiz, I quickly made TE3 and TE2. I was then transferred to Navy Communications at Treasure Island. Back then, the waiting time between E-5 and E-6 exam was only a year & I made TE1 my first try. My initial tour completed, I was discharged and headed home to Utah in 1955. Missing the Navy, and the wild life in San Francisco, I re-enlisted after 2 1/2 months and was assigned to the USS Piedmont, a destroyer tender that spent a year in port, and 6 months overseas.

It was on the Piedmont I learned that the Teleman rating was being eliminated and I had to become a TE(RM)1. Had I known, I might have thought twice about re-enlisting. Now I had to learn Morse code which was not one of my stronger talents. I was assigned to the ship's post office where I was needed as the Postal Clerk. One of my more exciting times was when China started shelling the Taiwan islands of Quemoy and Matsu. An invasion was expected any day. The Piedmont while heading for Australia was diverted to Kaohsiung Harbor in Taiwan and became the Station ship. The entire 7th fleet followed. My post office became FPO Kaohsiung and The Radio shack became the CommSta. All mail and communications went through the Piedmont. Four TAD postal personnel were sent to us from Hawaii to help with the tons of mail we had to handle. Thank God most mail was for other ships and units and came in presorted mail bags. As it turned out, the Chinese changed their minds about an invasion and stopped the shelling.

I was transferred to the USS Prichett DD56 as a radioman. On the Prichett, I served as the leading radioman and with the help of an outstanding crew, I survived. I wined and dined them once a month. After being advanced to TE/RMC I was selected to become a PCC. I celebrated more over becoming a Postal Clerk than I did CPO. I did all in my power to make sure the rating was successful. Back in those days, next to mail, money orders were the big thing. Being able to send money to loved ones back home was a high priority for the crew. I created a mobile postal facility and sent one of my men to the engineering spaces and other areas of the ship because it was difficult for them to get to the post office.

I was transferred to Okinawa with my family. Two of my 4 children were born there. The beaches were outstanding and with all the Army, Air Force and Marine personnel on the Island, we were blessed with countless NCO Clubs some of which were open 24 hours on weekends. The Navy did not have a CPO club on the island so I, and a couple other CPO'S, were instrumental in creating one. We discovered an abandoned radar site, at the top of a large, high hill with a view of the Island in all directions; it took quite a struggle with the Air Force to turn it over to the Navy, but we prevailed. It was a beautiful club, excellent food and drink, and a calming atmosphere.

The Naha Navy Air Facility was located on an Air Force Station. Our Naha Post Office handled all the mail for the many ships anchored at White Beach, located on the other side of the Island. Everything from sea Tugs to Battleships anchored there at one time or another. We had daily truck mail runs to our satellite postal facility there. Okinawa proved to be an excellent rewarding tour of duty for me. The Commanding Officer received countless letters of commendation from the other ships about the excellent mail service they received. These commendations were passed on to me and my crew. Before I left Okinawa, I was promoted to PCCS. I received orders to the Naval Examining Center at Great Lakes as an Examination Writer.

At Great Lakes I was responsible for writing exams for E-4 thru E-9. Examinations/promotions were handled by civilians. In my PC exam questions I stressed service, service, SERVICE. More Professional questions for E-4 exams, more service related questions for CPO's. I was sent to the PC school where in my discussions to the different classes, I again stressed Service. I stressed mail service morale to our sailors. I was advanced to PCCM at Great Lakes and sent to Keflavik, Iceland. "Note from Gil: No good deed goes unpunished!"

I was able to convince the Commanding Officer at Keflavik that Chief Petty Officers were highly capable of standing OOD duty along with officers; they were assigned and it helped them in their future promotions. During my tour we converted an empty warehouse into a CPO Club. In my last year in Iceland, I was assigned as the Command Master Chief. (Editor's note): JP was required to put his PCC on report for misappropriation of money order funds which lead to a reduction in rate and transfer to the Fleet Reserve (He was my instructor at the Navy Postal Clerk School in San Diego in 1961; Good thing I did not learn bad habits from him (ha ha)).

I left Iceland and went to the Fleet Reserve with 19 years & 10 days and received credit for 20 with constructive time".

#### New Members Corner/ & General Information

Received the following from PC2 Gloria Smith: "Hi Gil How are you doing? I'm informing you that I will be unable to attend the Reunion. I'm in the Heroines 'of Jericho (Masonic); I should be crowned on the Saturday, October 15, 2011 as Most Ancient Grand Matron for the State of Maryland. I will be performing my duties and responsibilities for one year. Have fun and give my best to everyone." Congratulations Gloria from all of us!

We have another new member, Carl Sefrhans whose email address is: [ensignhositer@yahoo.com](mailto:ensignhositer@yahoo.com) Upon reporting to the USS Austin (LPD-4), he was snapped up by the (BM's) and spent six months in the deck division scraping paint and hauling lines. He then had an opportunity to strike for Postal Clerk and was later advanced to PC3 before leaving the Navy. He left the Navy in December 1967 and went to college where he earned a degree. His life after the Navy found him getting married and pursuing a career in insurance sales. Welcome aboard Carl!

Another new member is probably well known to those of my era. He is none other than Bill Jarrard. If you wish to contact him here is his info; welcome aboard shipmate! PCCS Bill Jarrard, 4 Nantucket Ave, Westerly, RI 02891; phone: (401) 596-9729. Email at: [billpccs@verizon.net](mailto:billpccs@verizon.net)

One of our newer members met with a tragic accident/situation as follows:  
I now have a new address, phone number, and a new email, because of wildfires at my old house. My old house burned down on September 4th, 2011.  
My new address is: Edward A. Balusek, 1900 Cameo Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78664-2216. Phone # is: (512) 913-9805 - email is: ebalusek001@yahoo.com  
Please make all changes in your address book.  
Thanks, Andy Balusek

PCCM Fritz Loeffler is back with NPCA and will be at our Branson reunion. His address is: 3353 Copperhead Circle, Pace, Florida 32571; phone: (850) 994-8982.

News flash: Ray Dorman has become our latest NPCA technologist who has purchased a new IPAD. He can now be reached at: raygdorman@gmail.com

One of our original members (plankowner) Norberto Saliscente Jr. TEM3, passed away on December 4, 2010 in Riverside, California.

PCCM Wally Faulkner passed away on October 22, 2011 in Neptune Beach, Florida. His niece is taking him home to the cemetery where his parents are buried in Curlewl, Washington.

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Sign up now for the NPCA Reunion in Branson, Missouri. To find out about the attractions go to web site:

<http://www.bransontourismcenter.com/shows/2011/category/attractions>

## Veterans Memorial Museum

The Veterans Memorial Museum in Branson, Missouri is a national tribute to the brave men and women who defended our liberties during the 20th Century. A visit to the museum is a powerful, emotional experience. As you wander the great halls of the museum you'll be captivated by the stories of these men and women who gave us so much. The museum is filled with the most incredible collection of wartime exhibits covering the heights and depths of human experience.

