



THE Currents™

Vol. 26 No. 11

Serving the New Orleans Regional Military/DoD Communities

November 2015

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377th TSC Hosts Gold Star Mothers Luncheon

By Mass Communication Specialist
1st Class John Hulle
The Currents' Staff

The 377th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC) hosted a luncheon and ceremony in commemoration of Gold Star Mothers at Magnolia Terrace Community Center at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans Sept. 27.

Gold Star Mothers was formed shortly after World War I to provide support for mothers who lost sons or daughters in the war. The name came from the custom of families of service members hanging a banner in the window of their homes. The Service Flag had a star for each family member in the military. Living service members were represented by a blue star, and those who had lost their lives were represented by a gold star. Today, membership in the Gold Star Mothers is open to any American woman who has lost a son or daughter in service to the United States.



Maj. Gen. Les Carroll, 377th TSC commanding general, looks on while Bonnie Murphy speaks during the Gold Star Mothers luncheon at NAS JRB New Orleans Sept. 27. Her son, Army Sgt. Warren Murphy, lost his life in Taji, Iraq, Jan. 6, 2005.
Photo by MCI John Hulle

On the last Sunday in September, Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the U.S. in their honor.

"This is a day for celebration. This is a day for honor. We hope that you go away uplifted... to know that we are here and you are still part

of our family," said Maj. Gen. Les Carroll, commanding general of 377th TSC. "We are here to remember, to say thank you for your service right along with them."

There were nine Gold Star Mothers at the luncheon.

Each mother was invited to speak about their lost loved one and their experiences with their extended military family.

"Today is an important day to the life of the Murphy family and to all the other

Gold Star Mothers Page 16

Combined Federal Campaign Kicks Off at NAS JRB

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) key workers and guests kicked off the 2015 campaign Oct. 21 at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans.

The CFC is the only authorized solicitation of Federal employees in their workplaces on behalf of approved charitable organizations. It was created in 1961 to coordinate the fundraising efforts of various charitable organizations so that the Federal donor would only be so-

licitated once in the workplace and have the opportunity to make contributions through payroll deductions.

CFC is the largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with almost 200 CFC campaigns around the world raising millions of dollars each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal and military donors during the campaign season (Sept. 1st to Dec. 15th) support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world.

CFC Page 8



Sophie Lott, a CFC coordinator, assists Cmdr. Carina Maloney, NAS JRB New Orleans executive officer, as she completes her online CFC pledge during the CFC kickoff event at the base's Magnolia Terrace Community Center.

Photo by Tammy Prine

**2015 Navy Birthday Ball:
Celebrating 100 Years of
the Navy Reserve
Pages 10 & 11**



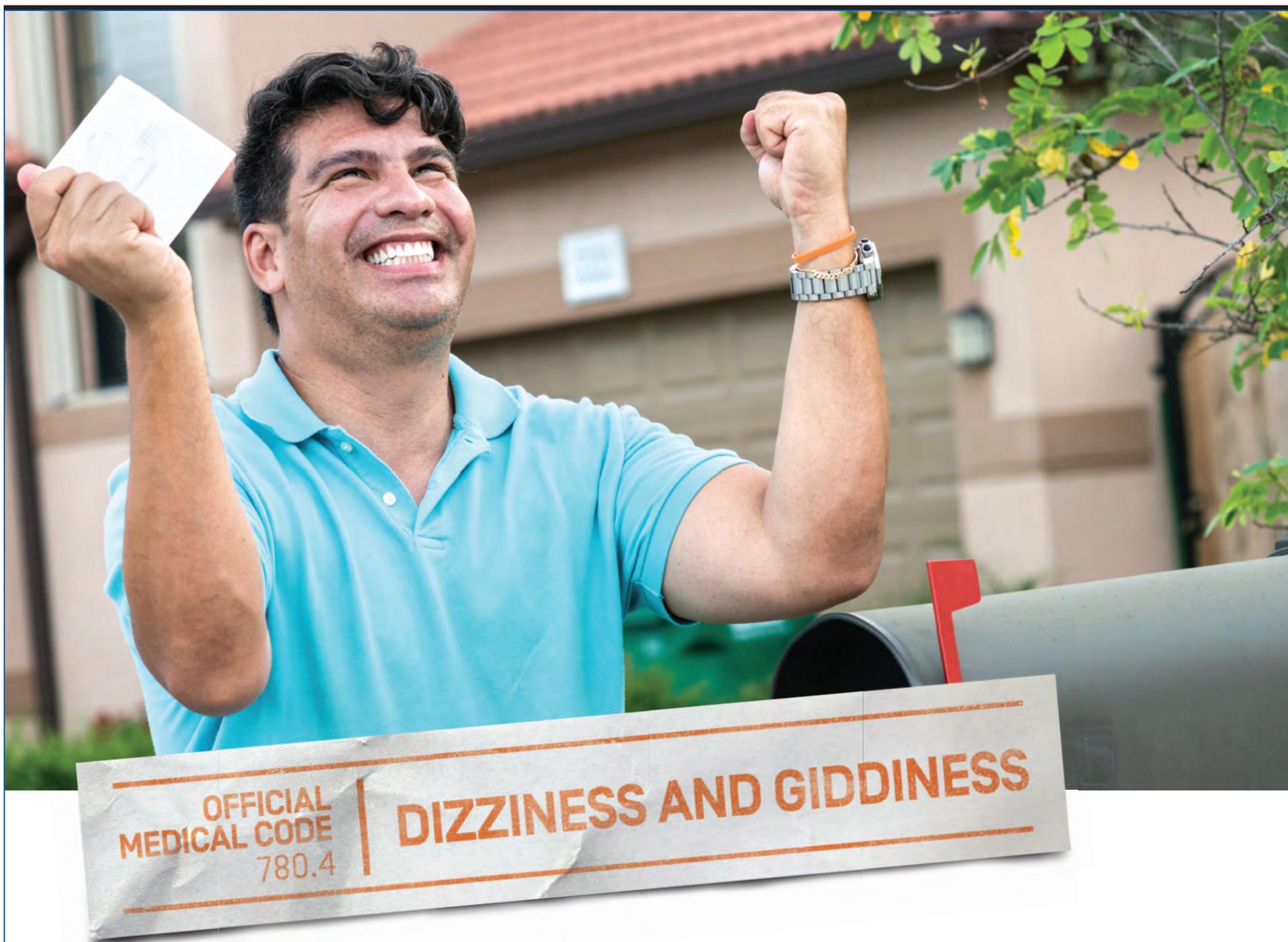
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 <p>This month in Navy & Marine History</p>	<p>November 18, 1890 USS Maine USS Maine, first American battleship, is launched.</p>	<p>November 10, 1775 Marines Congress votes to raise two battalions of Continental Marines, establishing the Marine Corps.</p>
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Open Season runs from November 9 through December 14.





By Capt. Scott Gootee
NAS JRB Commanding Officer

Men and women of NAS JRB New Orleans, I am truly humbled to have gotten to know such a great group of professional civilians and Sailors that make running this base look easy. Your efforts and contributions have been outstanding. I have learned so much from you and now possess a greater understanding of the difficulties that a work environment such as yours encounters every day.

I regret that I don't have the opportunity to personally shake hands with each of you and thank you. I am so proud of all the achievements that you have accomplished both operationally and personally during my time here.

I also want to thank everyone on the base and in the community that embraced my family and me throughout this tour. We are extremely proud to call you our friends and will always remember this tour as one of our absolute favorites.



I leave this place with great confidence in the people here, knowing that they are capable of overcoming any hurdles that will come up, singularly, and more importantly, together. We have assembled a very competent and practical group that provides excellent support to the management team. This provides me with a sense of pride and gratitude that is indescribable.

I would like to extend a special welcome to Capt. Mark Su-cato and his family. I am sure you will find this tour and base as rewarding as I did.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve with you over the past two years. Thank you!!

THE Currents

Vol. 26 No. 11 November 2015

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The next issue of The Currents will be published on Thursday, October 1, 2015. Questions concerning content for publication are heartily encouraged and must be received at the Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), 400 Russell Ave., New Orleans, LA, 70143-5012, phone (504) 678-3260, by close of business on Friday, September 18, 2015.

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Naval Air Station JRB New Orleans
Capt. Scott Gootee
Commanding Officer



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Navy Digital Library Expands its Reach

WASHINGTON (NNS) — For Sailors, families, retirees, dependents and civilians wanting 24/7 access to electronic books, audio books, reference materials, and newspapers, all free of charge, the Navy has a solution for you.

The Navy General Library

Program (NGLP) launched its new Navy Morale Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Digital Library website Oct. 1.

The NGLP is a service of the Navy Installations Command and provides library resources for Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel, their family members, retired and Reserve military

personnel, Naval Academy midshipmen, Department of the Navy (DoN) Delayed Entry Program personnel, DoN and Navy Appropriated Fund civilian employees and DoN contractors.

“Users can access the Navy MWR Digital Library from any device with Internet connectivity, including comput-

ers, tablets and phones, anytime and anywhere,” said Nellie Moffitt, Navy General Library program manager. “It’s a user-friendly website. We’re very proud that the Navy MWR Digital Library is now available for our Navy customers.”

A Common Access Card (CAC) is not required to log in

to the Digital Library. The Department of Defense Self-Service (DS) Logon is the new authentication method for those without CACs. Current CAC users can choose to set up a DS Logon account or simply log on using their CAC.

To get started, authorized users can go to the website at <http://www.NavyMWRDigitalLibrary.org>, click on “login” in the upper right corner of the screen, then click “login” under the DS logon logo, and enter their DS Logon username and password. Those who don’t already have a DS logon can register on the same page.

“The Navy MWR Digital Library provides access to valuable resources for all of our customers, many of whom lost access when Navy Knowledge Online went CAC-only in August 2013,” said Moffitt. “Our customers should find this website much easier to navigate and use. We’ll continue to provide resources through NKO, but we hope our customers will find our new access point quick and easy to use.”

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) is responsible for operations and maintenance of shore installations world-wide and quality of life programs to support the Fleet, Fighter and Family. With more than 40,000 civilian and military employees operating 70 installations under 11 Regions, the Navy’s shore enterprise ensures requirements necessary to train and operate the Navy’s Fleet are maintained and ready; that naval installations are able to facilitate the manning, training and equipping of the Navy’s fighting force; and supports Navy families through Family and Community Services programs.

Anyone aligned with the Army or Air Force, can visit digital libraries at the following websites: Army: <http://mylibraryus.army-biznet.com/>

Air Force: <http://www.myairforcelife.com/libraries/>. For more information about the Navy MWR Digital Library, email ngrp@navy.mil.



**The Currents’ staff
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From, Sam and Vicki Polo

Jerry Forstater, Norm Umholtz and Ashleigh Vasquez

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NMCRS Awards Luncheon Honors Volunteers

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

Volunteers and staff from the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans came together to honor those who provide support to the many Sailors, Marines and their families.

The NMCRS, or the Society, provides financial assistance and education, as well as other programs and services, to members of the United States Navy and Marine Corps, their eligible family members, widows, and survivors. The Society also receives and manages donated funds to administer these programs and services.

Their main goal is to help each person who asks for support for their immediate needs. The long-term mission is to help Sailors and Marines become financially self-sufficient by learning how to better man-

age their personal finances and prepare for unplanned expenses.

"So far in 2015, locally, we helped more than 240 clients with \$168,863 in loans and \$24,080 in grants," said Amy Eberle, NMCRS relief services assistant at NAS JRB New Orleans.

"But money can't alone help our clients," said Eberle. "So far this year our volunteers have donated more than 2100 hours."

The local NMCRS office has 12 volunteers; four caseworkers, two customer service assistants, one budget for baby instructor, one communications lead and four layette contributors and can always use more.

"Volunteer hours move with the people who give their time," said Alice Huffman, NMCRS director from Gulfport, Ms. "When one of our volunteers transfers or moves from the area and begins work at another NMCRS location we send all their records so their

time can continue to accumulate."

Awards for volunteers vary. The first one, given after just 25 hours of volunteering, is the NMCRS name tag. As more hours are donated awards include NMCRS polo shirts, bags, sweaters and clocks.

This year a Presidential Certificate of Merit, signed by Navy retired Adm. Steve Abbott, president and chief executive officer of NMCRS, was presented to Colette Pualino, who has given more than 600 hours to the Society.

"Colette, a retired Marine, was put in for the award because of all the many hats she has taken over in just a short time here with us," Eberle said. "She has done so much for so many people."

"Everyone is able to help our Sailors and Marines with donations and volunteering," said Eberle. "People who wish to donate money can do so by visiting the website, <http://www.nmcrs.org> or can



NMCRS volunteers and directors gather at a luncheon and awards ceremony honoring the many hours of time spent helping fellow Sailors and Marines and their families. Back row from left: Joseph Sheppard, Lt. Solomon Lloyd, Katie Jones, Mary Fisher, Claudette Green. Front row from left: Amanda Szampruch, Veronica Gutierrez, Colette Paulino, Deidra Mejia, Alice Huffman and Amy Eberle.
Photo by Tammy Prine

come by our office with cash or a check."

Volunteers honored for their service were: Colette Paulino for 600 volunteer hours; Emma Ealem for 300 hours; Saada Oalette Ibrahim for 300 hours;

Virginia Curley for 100 hours; Mary Fisher for 50 hours; Shannon Oglesby for 50 and Katie Jones for 25 hours.

For more information or to volunteer with NMCRS call 504-678-4652.

2015 Military Child of the Year® Award

The Currents' Staff

Operation Homefront is pleased to present the Military Child of the Year® Award to outstanding military children who demonstrate resiliency, leadership and achievement. Recipients representing each service branch are recognized at a Washington, DC Gala celebration in April each year.

In addition to the trip to our nation's capital, recipients are awarded a laptop computer and a \$10,000 award.

Nominations must be submitted online and will be accepted through Dec. 11, 2015, 11:45 p.m. CST.

Nominations may be made by parents, other family members, teachers, counselors, coaches, community officials, church leaders, neighbors and others. Nomi-

nees can be children of any member of the U.S. active, retired, deceased, Guard or Reserve military.

Anyone may nominate a child for this award, so long as the child meets the following eligibility requirements;

- Child must be a legal military dependent. Status confirmed by Military ID or DEERS enrollment form.

- Child must be between the ages of 8 and 18, at the time

of nomination.

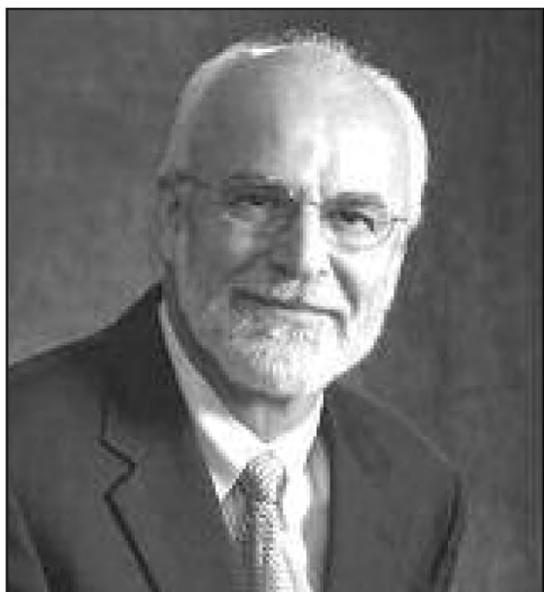
- Child and one adult guardian must be available to travel to the Washington, D.C. area for the April 14, 2016 gala award presentation.

In addition to the above eligibility requirements, nominees must provide references if selected as a finalist and must consent to a background check if selected as a recipient.

Nominations include a list-

ing of the organization the child participates in, information on the child's resiliency, leadership and their achievements along with an essay about special circumstances or unique accomplishments.

Nominators must comply with the word limits for each section and may not post websites or links in the essay portion. For details and to nominate visit: <http://militarychildoftheyear.org>.



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Haunted Hayride Provides a Scary Good Time

By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class John Hulle
The Currents' Staff

Children of all ages came out to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans Oct. 23 and 24 for a frightening scare on the haunted hayride trail.

The old airfield offered the spooky surrounding for two nights with more than nine manned terror-filled sections along the 20 minute hayrides.

Moral Welfare and Recreation (MWR) organized the free freak-fest with help from volunteers around the base. They worked more than a month to show their support of the dark side.

"It's the fourth year we've done this," said Tara Sisson, MWR special events coordinator. "It has really started with



Casey Regen scowls as killer clowns taunt riders on the haunted hayride trail at NAS JRB New Orleans Oct. 24. MWR and volunteers from commands on base spent a month turning a portion of the old airfield into a frightening place for family fun.

just the idea of doing something for the base."

Sisson said, "we also had a pumpkin patch run by Information Tickets and Travel (ITT) for children that didn't want to be scared. They were able to deco-

rate pumpkins and do crafts."

"It's a great family event," said Sisson. "I think that seeing all the creativeness that comes out of people is fun. It is not all horror and gloom. I love to see the kids in costumes. This year



A ghoul performs unspeakable acts to his victim during the haunted hayride held at NAS JRB New Orleans Oct. 24. The hayride had more than nine manned terror-filled sections during the 20 minute ride.

Photos by MCI John Hulle

topped last year."

Marine Staff Sgt. Michael Spina, assigned to Marine Aircraft Group, Detachment C, said, "I thought it was great. The amount of time they put into this to make it happen is phenome-

nal. It's amazing that it's free."

Spina's daughter, Harper, age 4, enthusiastically said she plans to come next year.

"It was good and scary," she said. "My favorite part was the clowns!"

CFC: continued from page 1

"The greater New Orleans area has set a goal of \$1 million in donations and NAS JRB New Orleans maintains a crucial piece of that objective," said Lt. j.g. Brooks Sanderson, Navy and Marine Corps CFC coordinator for NAS JRB.

Every year the contributions

do a great deal to help national and local initiatives. With more than 2700 organizations to choose from everyone has an opportunity to donate to a cause that is personal. No amount is too large or too small.

Donating is simple. People

can donate with a one-time gift of cash, check or credit card payment or through payroll deduction. Pledging online can be done by visiting: <http://www.cfcgno.org/>. Military and civilian employees and can donate through the CFC Nexus or through their

myPay account.

People can also donate by completing a CFC pledge form that can be obtained through a CFC coordinator.

Federal employees continue to make the CFC the largest and most successful workplace philanthropic fundraiser in the

world. In 2014 Federal employees raised more than \$193 million for charitable causes around the world.

For more information or assistance in donating people can call their command CFC key workers or Sanderson at 504-678-9711.

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2015 Navy Birthday Ball: Celebrating 100 Years of the Navy Reserve

By Tammy Prine
The Currents' Staff

On Oct. 17, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, civilians and guests from the New Orleans area gathered together at the World War II Museum in New Orleans to celebrate the 240th birthday of the United States Navy. Revelers ate, danced, gave heed to the wise words of guest speakers and toasted to each respective branch of the military.

The Navy Ball is an annual event meant to memorialize the birthday of the United States Navy that can trace its origins to the Continental Navy, which the Continental Congress established on Oct. 13, 1775. The celebration was held in the museum's U.S. Freedom Pavilion: The Boeing Center. Guest speaker for the evening was Vice Adm. Robin Braun, chief of Navy Reserve and Commander, Navy Reserve Force.

The theme for the 2015 ball was "Celebrating the Centennial of the Navy Reserve."

"This year we have held more than 200 events, across the country, celebrating the 100 years of the Navy Reserve," said Braun. "We have all learned so much about the Navy Reserve and have been fortunate to get the word out to everyone during segments on the Tonight Show, at the Grand Ole Opry and more."

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Purple Heart award by Braun.

"More than 70 years ago, a New Orleans native and fellow Sailor, Robert Stanley, was on board USS Luce when it sank due to damage by Japanese kamikazes. Of the 312 sailors in his crew, 126 were killed on the morning of May 4, 1945, the day after Stanley's 22nd birthday.

"When I learned that he had not received his Purple Heart and that he lived in Terrytown, La., I knew I had to get him here to give him his award in person."

Stanley has been a volunteer at the World War II Museum since it opened in 2000.

The Navy Ball was not quite



Vice Adm. Robin Braun and HN Nicholas Wyman, Naval Branch Health Clinic Belle Chasse, cut the birthday cake during the New Orleans Navy Birthday Ball.



Capt. Scott Gootee, and his wife, Vanessa Padla, arrive at the Navy Birthday Ball at the World War II Museum, Oct. 17.

complete until the second line parade began with Capt. Scott Gootee, NAS JRB commanding officer and his wife, Vanessa, leading the way. Dancers of all ages and ranks, waving their napkins through the air celebrated the Navy in accordance with New Orleans tradition.

A special thanks and certificates were presented to the sponsors of this year's ball. Those recognized were the NAS JRB Credit Union, Patriotic Military Housing, Greater New Orleans Council of the Navy League and the Greater New Orleans Chief Petty Officer Association.



Members of the 2015 Navy Ball committee receive congratulations from Vice Adm. Robin Braun and Capt. Scott Gootee for their work in planning and organizing the ball.



Vice Adm. Robin Braun pins a Purple Heart medal on Robert Stanley, a World War II Navy veteran. Stanley earned the award due to injuries he received during the Battle of Okinawa. Braun presented the long overdue award during the Navy Ball at the World War II Museum.



The US Freedom Pavilion, The Boeing Center, at the World War II Museum provides a perfect location for military ceremonies such as the New Orleans Navy Birthday Ball.



Guests dance to the music after the official ceremonies at the 2015 Navy Birthday Ball.

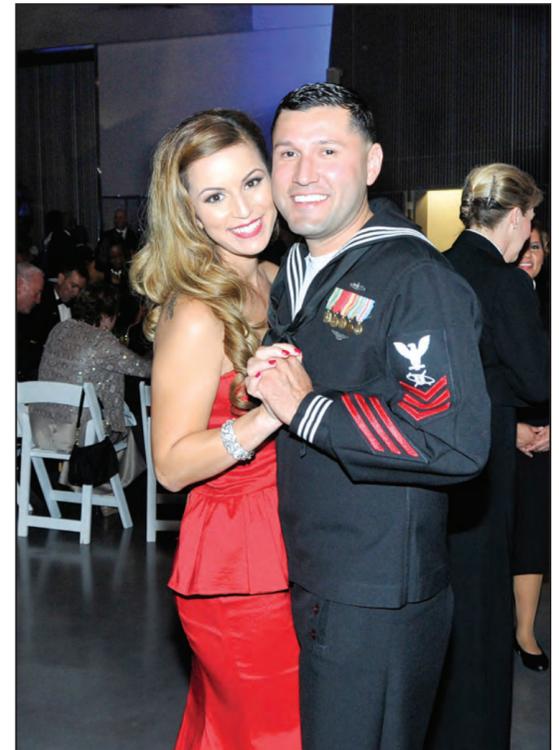


Heather Price, NAS JRB Credit Union marketing director, accepts a plaque from Vice Adm. Robin Braun and Capt. Scott Gootee. Price accepted the recognition on behalf of the credit union, one of the sponsors of the event.

Photos by Tammy Prine



LS1 Ashely Campbell performs the National Anthem to begin the evening's festivities.



MCI Richard Perez, Navy Recruiting District New Orleans, dances the night away with Mindie Renteria.



Navy Junior ROTC members from St. Amant High School, St. Amant, La., present the colors to begin the Navy Birthday Ball at the World War II Museum in New Orleans.



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Historic Washington Artillery Holds Annual Ceremonies

By Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo
**Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office**

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, 256th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, also known as the Washington Artillery, held its annual memorial wreath-laying ceremony at Lake Lawn Metairie Cemetery, Oct. 24, and its 177th annual Pass-in-Review ceremony at the battalion’s armory at Jackson Barracks, Oct. 25.

These two traditional

events reflect the long and decorated history of the 1-141st. The Washington Artillery Veterans Association (WAVA) began holding the wreath-laying ceremony in 1965 to honor the unit’s heritage and its fallen Soldiers.

Lt. Col. Kenneth T. Baillie, commander of the 1-141st, stood in front of his battalion and conveyed the significance of their presence at the memorial statue.

“We honor those who came before us, not just with a wreath of flowers, not just with a cannon salute, not just with a bugler,” he said. “But remember that we honor

those who came before us most of all with our service.”

The following day, Guardsmen of the 1-141st participated in the battalion’s 177th Pass-in-Review ceremony. The pass-in-review dates from the earliest time in military history and demonstrates the glory and strength of the assembled Troops who march in formation before their military leaders.

In his remarks, Curtis commended the 256th on the accomplishments they achieved during the year, and also announced the 1-141st was ranked number one out of the 33 field artillery battalions in



Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG, and Lt. Col. Kenneth T. Baillie, commander of the 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment, award the Continuous Fire streamer to B Battery during the 177th annual Pass-in-Review ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Oct. 25.

Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Toby Valadie



The Louisiana National Guard’s 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery Regiment fires a 13-gun salute, signifying the arrival of Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, adjutant general of the LANG, during the 177th annual Pass-in-Review ceremony at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans, Oct. 25. The pass-in-review dates from the earliest time in military history and demonstrates the glory and strength of the assembled Troops who march in formation before their military leaders.

Army National Guard photo by Spc. Tarell J. Bilbo

the U.S. Army National Guard.

“To the Soldiers standing before me, thank you for what you do, and thank you for being such a great unit,” Curtis told the battalion.

During the ceremony, various Soldier and unit awards were given to the top performers from the battalion.

Following the individual awards, the best-performing units were awarded streamers to attach to their colors. B Battery was awarded the “Continuous Fire” streamer for being the best firing battery of the year, while G Company, 199th Brigade Support Battalion received the “Try Us” streamer for superior overall unit performance.

In his remarks, Baillie conveyed his thoughts on how

honored he feels to be a part of such a celebrated unit.

“I am proud, thankful and humbled, as always, to be a part of this great organization and privileged to be able to call myself a member of the Washington Artillery,” he remarked. “I remain humbled to be a part of this organization and to be able to call myself a Washington Artilleryman.”

The 1-141st is the oldest unit in the LANG and the oldest field artillery battalion outside of the original 13 colonies. It has a storied history in the state from its involvement in emergency operations, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, to its involvement in the Civil War and recent deployments to Iraq in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn.

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Belle Chasse Academy Meetings Notices

Board of Directors

November Meeting -
2 November 2015 • 7 p.m. at BCA

December Meeting -
7 December 2015 • 7 p.m. at BCA

Please check the BCA web site for Board of Directors Committees Meetings and PTO Meeting



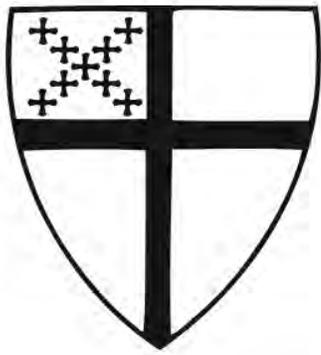
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La. Guard Jumps in National Rankings for Strength, Retention Mission

By 1st Lt. Rebekah Malone
Louisiana National Guard
Public Affairs Office

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana National Guard (LANG) ended the fiscal year with an impressive jump into the number four spot among all other states’ National Guards in overall strength of its force. The Army Guard also claimed the number one ranking in retention mission for the year.

Three years ago the LANG began a turn around after coming in at 38th in the nation at the end of September 2012 with 98.4 percent strength. In 2013, the LANG move up to 20th and last year ranked 15th.

“The Louisiana National Guard’s mission is to respond if our communities, state or federal government call on us,” said Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the LANG. “The overall-strength of the Louisiana Guard is a critical piece to the state’s All-Hazard response plan. A ranking of this level is a testament to the hard work of our Guardsmen and the value we place on each member of our organization. If our state or country call on us, we are



Airmen with the Louisiana Air National Guard’s 159th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, perform an end-of-runway inspection prior to takeoff of an F-15C Eagle, Apr. 28, at Graf Ignatievo Air Base, near Plovdiv, Bulgaria.

Air National Guard photo by Master Sgt. Toby M. Valadie, 159th public affairs



Maj. Gen. Glenn H. Curtis, the adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, welcomes home members of the 528th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, from a year-long deployment to Kuwait, April 25.

Army National Guard photo by 1st Lt. Rebekah Malone, LANG public affairs

ready.”

The Louisiana Army National Guard’s fiscal year 2015 end-strength goal of 9,554 Soldier was surpassed with a total of 9,650 Soldiers, or 101.2 percent. The Air National Guard surpassed its 2015 end-strength goal of 1,390 Airmen with 1,496 airmen, or 107 percent of its goal.

“It’s been an amazing experience to watch the Louisiana National Guard grow over the last three years,” said Col. Kenneth Donnelly, commander

of the Recruiting and Retention Command. “Today’s Louisiana National Guard members are of the highest quality and they are motivated by the expectation that they will be deployed in service to their state and country. It’s great to see patriotism as the main reason people want to join an all-volunteer force.”

According to Donnelly, a significant role in the success of the Guard’s strength comes from the support of the state, and will help with difficult

times ahead due to sequestration.

“The strength milestone of being ranked number four in the nation among 54 states and territories is the direct result of Louisiana’s investment in the Louisiana National Guard, and I truly am thankful to be part of the team,” said Donnelly. “The strength of the Louisiana National Guard will continue to rise.”

The Air Guard has also increased its overall strength over the last four years and ex-

ceeded its retention mission as well.

“The Louisiana Air National Guard has climbed from 100 percent strength in 2012 to ending fiscal year 2015 at 107 percent,” said Brig. Gen. Charles Chappuis, assistant adjutant general – Air. “I could not be more proud of each member of the Air Guard and all we have accomplished. We are excited about the future and look forward to our continued success as one of the top organizations in the nation.”

La. Guard Museum at Jackson Barracks Preparing Desert Storm Exhibit

Artifacts, Photos, Interviews from Guardsmen Sought

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana National Guard Museum – Jackson Barracks location will be opening an exhibit in February 2016 to mark the 25th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, and they need your help.

They are currently in search of items which help tell the story of the

Louisiana National Guard’s participation in Desert Storm and the follow on peacekeeping operations (i.e., no fly zones over Iraq).

They are looking for videos, photos and artifacts (that have a story behind them) that were utilized by, or belonged to, Louisiana National Guards-

men. In some cases, they are also looking for potential candidates to be interviewed about their service time, regardless of rank, during Desert Storm. If you can assist please contact one of the following:

For videos, photos and artifacts:
Beverly Boyko, Museum Archives

& Collections manager
bev.a.boyko.nfg@mail.mil or (504) 278-8024

For potential interview candidates:
Rhett Breerwood, Louisiana National Guard command historian
rhett.g.breerwood.nfg@mail.mil or (504) 278-8482.

Gold Star Mothers: *continued from page 1*

parents that are here, we have all lost a loved one who served our country,” said Bonnie Murphy, whose son, Army Sgt. Warren Murphy, lost his life from an improvised explo-

sive device in Taji, Iraq.

“They all knew the importance of service and they knew the importance of country. They were comrades in arms,” said Murphy. “It’s never an

easy task to be a parent who loses a child, but we as a military family, we truly know what sacrifice is, but we are blessed to live in a free country.”

Flag Retirement Ceremony

The Vietnam Veterans/Legacy Veterans Motorcycle Club (VNV/LV MC) A Chapter La., in association with Boy Scouts of America (BSA) Troop 378, are having a flag retirement ceremony Saturday, Nov. 21 in Belle Chasse, La.

The event will be at the Louisiana Medal of Honor Park, 1292 Barriere Road and starts at 1 p.m. The park is adjacent to Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB) New Orleans, just outside the back gate to the installation.

Anyone who may have unserviceable U.S. flags that they wish to have retired may bring them the day of the event. All flags will be retired with dignity and honor in accordance with the U. S. flag code.

NAS JRB Mini-Mart Closed

The mini-mart at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans closed Oct. 31. What was once the only Navy Exchange (NEX) on base, the mini-mart has been open extended hours with sodas, snacks and assorted items since the main NEX opened in 2012.

Now that it has closed the NEX has new extended shopping hours. The NEX is open: Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. until 8 p.m., Saturday from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

For more information call the NEX customer service office at 678-2770.



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Keep Your Dream - See Beyond it All to Be Thankful

By Lt. Solomon Lloyd
NAS JRB Chaplain



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NAS JRB Base Chapel
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Tuesday-Friday at 11:00 a.m.
Protestant Services
Sunday at 11 a.m.

In the month of November, we celebrate one of America's most treasured holidays and tradition, Thanksgiving. During this season of thanksgiving, I am reminded of the story of an old wise man that lived alone in a small village. The old man was gifted with wisdom that people travelled from far and near, and from all walks of life to present their problems and asked him questions. He always gave excellent counsel and right answers.

One day a lad thought he would catch the old wise man off guard; he had a little sparrow in his hand, holding it behind him. His plan was to ask the old man if the bird was dead or alive. If the old man said, "alive," he would crush the bird till it died; and if the old man said, "dead," he would open his hand and let the bird fly away. So this lad approached the wise old man with his plan and put forth his question. To his disappointment, the

old man said, "The life and death of the bird is in your hand." The boy was astounded with the answer and said to himself, "indeed, this is a wise man".

Day after day, life presents situations that sometimes lead us to asking if our dream is alive or dead. Regardless of life's unbearable circumstances, the life or death of our dreams lies in our hands. For, it is not the situation that defines us, but instead, what we do with the situation is what makes us who we truly are.

The God who guarded you in fashioning your dreams will see you through, so do not quit on your dreams. Do not give up on

your aspirations. In the midst of the good, bad and ugly, take time to be thankful.

There are many reasons to be thankful: Look at the wonders of the world and all the marvels of the sky. Look at all of creation: from the tiny leaf to the giant oak; from a little drop of water to ocean current; from falling pebble to the movement of the stars. The creator of our beautiful universe is with you always; God is able to help you keep your dreams alive.

As Thomas Carlyle writes, "The tragedy of life is not so much what men suffer, but rather what they miss." Do not miss the

opportunity this Thanksgiving Day to celebrate with a thankful heart. Whatever it is you are going through, I invite you to take a step back and see beyond your circumstance, to seize the opportunity to be thankful. Your Religious Ministry Team is here for you. Feel free to come and see us so we can walk with you. Our doors are open and you can reach us at any hour by calling 504-202-3456.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all on board NAS JRB and all of America.

Chaplain Lloyd

Navy COOL Website Provides Easier, Interactive Access

PENSACOLA, Fla. (NNS) — Navy Credentialing Opportunities On-line (COOL), a program providing Sailors a way to take the skills they have learned on the job and translate them into civilian credentials, introduced a new website Oct. 16.

"We've made things easier to read, easier to find, and easier to use, whether you're at your desk or on your phone," said Keith Boring, Navy COOL program manager. "We know today's Sailors look for

information in different ways, and we want to make sure that information about this very important program is accessible to them, wherever they are and however they are connected online."

Navy COOL helps Sailors find information on certifications and licenses related to their jobs and can even provide funding to pay for credential exams and maintenance fees.

The website upgrades include a responsive design that

adapts to the device a Sailor chooses to use to explore the site, whether on a desktop, tablet or phone. Interactive credential tables also give Sailors more tools when looking at credentials related to their rate, designator or collateral duty. Applying filters and sorting and searching by key words help create customized, printable lists.

"We reorganized the content, too," said Boring. "All of the supporting information on COOL, from the credentialing

steps along the top of each page to the pages you access from the top navigation bar, has been redesigned and rewritten to make it easier to understand credentialing and what it means to you. Most importantly, it makes it easier for you to understand what you need to do to get a credential."

A new site-wide search box also provides results in three tabs, showing all results, military occupations on summary pages and COOL credential snapshots pages.

The Navy COOL office is located at the Center for Information Dominance (CID) based at Corry Station, part of Naval Air Station Pensacola, Florida. CID is the Navy's learning center that leads, manages and delivers Navy and joint forces training in information operations, information warfare, information technology, cryptology and intelligence.

For more information on the Navy COOL program, visit www.cool.navy.mil/usn.



Maj. Chris Maestas, 377th Theater Sustainment Command (TSC), helps students at Belle Chasse Primary School, in Belle Chasse, La., during the school's Family Read Night, Sept. 16. Maestas is part of the 377th TSC's Adopt-A-School (AAS) Program. The AAS program was initiated in January 2015 to provide an opportunity for Soldiers to contribute military services to schools in order to nurture the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of children in the Belle Chasse area. More than 600 families attended the event and the AAS volunteers provided entertainment while staffing the Bingo booth. For more information about the AAS Program or to volunteer, contact Maestas at 504-552-5966.

MWR Events

New Hours of Operation for MWR Facilities

Boondoggles
Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 4-11 p.m.
Wednesday 4 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Friday 4 p.m. - 2 a.m.
Saturday 11 a.m. - midnight
Sunday 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

Specialty Shoppe
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Fitness Center
Monday - Friday 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday 6 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday 6 a.m. - 2 p.m.

(The jogging trail is closed until further notice. Complimentary reflective belts are available for use from the fitness center.)

Family "Turkey Bingo"
Friday, November 20, 2015
Time: 1800
Place: Mag-T, Bldg. 40

Make it a Friday night family fun outing at Mag-T for "Turkey Bingo"! \$5.00 per person for 10 games. Lots of prizes awarded. Win a turkey or ham! Concessions will be available. More info call 678-3034/3807.

Navy Community Recreation Events

- * Friday, Nov. 6 - Complimentary "Tire Changing Class" at the Auto Skills Center, Bldg. 42. Time: 4 - 5 p.m. Reserve your spot by calling 678-4528.
- * Saturday, Nov. 7 - Trip to the LA Ren Fest. Free transportation to and from base. Leaves the Liberty Center, Bldg. 410, parking area at 9 a.m. and returns by 6 p.m. Tickets available online or at the gate.
- * Wednesday, Nov. 11 - Trip to Audubon Zoo. Free transportation. For details call Kay at 504-678-4528.
- * Thursday, Nov. 12 - Scrapbooking at the Library at 6 p.m. Details in Library section of the newsletter.
- * Friday, Nov. 13 - Outdoor movie, Pixels (PG-13) behind the Youth Center, Bldg. 561 at 7 p.m. Bring your blankets, chairs and refreshments. Complimentary movie and popcorn.
- * Saturday, Nov. 14 - Arts & Crafts at Mag-T, Bldg. 40 from 10 a.m. - noon. Craft will be pinecone turkeys. Concessions available.
- * Thursday, Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving gathering at the Liberty Center for *single service members, E-6 and below only*.

MWR Holiday Hours of Operation

- Veterans Day
Wednesday, Nov. 11th
- All MWR Facilities will be closed with the following exceptions:
- Bayou Bowl 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 - Fitness Center 7 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 - Liberty Center 4 - 10 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Day
Thursday, Nov. 26th
- All MWR Facilities will be closed with the following exceptions:
- Liberty Center Noon - 10 p.m.

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