

WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 4

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

February 20, 2014



**Black History Month
Celebration**
1 p.m. Feb. 24
Catalina club



Military Saves Week
Feb. 24 - March 1
page 5



**Training Air Wing Four
Presents WW II Medals
to Family of
Deceased Sailor**

Navy Region Southeast prepares for Force Protection Exercise Solid Curtain/Citadel Shield 2014



Security personnel in Navy Region Southeast participate in an active shooter training exercise during last year's Solid Curtain – Citadel Shield exercise.

U.S. Navy photo

by Twilla Smith, Navy Region SE PA

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Force Protection and Anti-Terrorism exercise Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield (SC/CS 14) 2014 will impact installations in the Southeast Region from Feb. 18-28.

Personnel can expect to see increased security measures and elevation of Force Protection Conditions (FPCONS) during this period.

SC-CS 14 is a Force Protection exercise conducted by Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command (USFF) and Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) on all Navy installations in the Continental United States to allow Navy security personnel to sharpen training skills and situational readiness through real life training scenarios.

“Solid Curtain Citadel 2014 is an annual training exercise that tests and challenges our leadership,

Exercise continued on page 13

CCAD wins big for defense maintenance

by Brigitte Rox, Corpus Christi Army Depot Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot members travelled to the Pentagon this month to receive the Secretary of Defense's top award for maintenance.

With more than 2,000 UH-60 Black Hawks in the Army fleet, CCAD plays a critical role in equipping the Soldier with the most powerful and versatile helicopter in the Department of Defense.

CCAD's vital recapitalization program extends the life of each helicopter and maxes out its capabilities for the Soldier in the field.

In 2012, depot artisans made strides to churn Black Hawks out better and faster than ever before when they produced a record-breaking 50 recapitalized Black Hawks at an uncompromising value to DoD and to the American taxpayer.

This feat earned the depot two major awards this year: the Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME), given by the Army Chief of Staff; and the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence, the highest award for depot-level maintenance, given by the Secretary of Defense.

“The entire CCAD team is humbled and honored with this recognition,” said Kresten Cook, Deputy to the Commander for Support at CCAD.

Depot leaders say that the success of the recap line was a result of a number of significant innovations and strategic maintenance moves that lowered program costs, but the CCAD workforce credits a superior commander and unfaltering teamwork as the forces that kept them motivated to deliver.

CCAD continued on page 13



CCAD employees with the Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence, accepted at the Pentagon Feb. 5. From left: Roy Hollins, Director of Aircraft Production; Paul Perez, Award Specialist; Kresten Cook, Deputy to the Commander for Support; Sgt. Maj. Martin Dickinson, Depot Sergeant Major; Richard Caballero, Quality Control Branch Chief; Javier Garcia, RECAP Assembly; Jahna Fulton, Lead Logistics Management Specialist.

Department of Defense photo

Skipper's Column

Bravo Zulu, Fire Department

by Capt. Dave Edgecomb



Edgecomb

Last week, I had another chance to do one of the best jobs that comes with being a commanding officer: Handing out awards.

Each and every awardee deserved his or her award, and each deserves recognition – see elsewhere in this

issue.

But I'd like to make special mention of the outstanding achievements of the Air Station's Fire Department – which for the second time in three years has been recognized as the Navy Region Southeast Fire Department of the Year (Medium Category).

The department was also recognized for the Fire Prevention Program of the Year.

And Fire Inspector Otis Terrell was named Region Civilian Fire Fighter of the Year in the same announcement, following his selection as NAS Corpus Christi Fire Fighter of the Year.

Sometimes it's easy to forget how good a job our Fire and Emergency Services Department does; we don't have very many fires on the Air Station and the ones we do have are handled quickly and efficiently.

But these are some of the facts that impressed Region:

- In 2013, F&ES responded to 1,183 incidents, including 22 fires (eight on station/14 automatic aid off-station fires), 223 EMS (28 percent Advanced Life Support), eight vehicle accidents, 28 HazMat incidents, 517 airfield incidents, and 385 other incidents.
- Provided an exceptional response to out-of-control release of Nitric Acid,

threatening 1,500 people in a major industrial area, including four entries in fully encapsulated suits to successfully mitigate the spill in less than five hours.

- Received accolades for innovative tactics at multi-alarm storage facility fire, where deployment of specialized Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting apparatus was pivotal in controlling an "out of control" fire, resulting in a savings of over \$17 million of property.
- "First Preventers" completed 465 comprehensive inspections with proactive follow-up to eliminate or mitigate 131 identified fire hazards, including seven classified as Critical or Serious.

The bottom line is, only .78 fires per 1,000 population compared to a national average of 5.2 fires per 1,000 population - resulting in only \$3,720 in losses due to fire for the year.

Skipper continued on page 8

Chaplain's Message

by Fr. John Vidal

I'm beginning to think that Texans are liars.

My Texan friends told me that if I moved here from Maryland I'd never be cold again!

I guess that Texans are indeed liars. However, it's not because of the weather prediction; that is my poor attempt at humor.

Texans are liars just like all the rest of us. We are ALL liars! Every single one of us has told a lie at one time or another in our lifetime. Our mothers taught us this is wrong, but we do it anyway.

Our parents and the adults that formed us taught us all a moral compass, but the reality is that we often stray from it.

In a couple of weeks, hundreds of millions of Christians will begin the Lenten season, where we work on improving our lives and building good spiritual, moral and physical habits.

But it is hard to know what to work on if we don't take stock of our lives and compare them to that moral compass that we were given.

Whether or not we are Christian, this spring is a perfect opportunity to take a look at our lives and examine how well we are aligned with our Faith and its tenants and how closely we are following those important lessons that we were taught in our youth.

There are many ways to do this. I would suggest that it would be advantageous for each of us to take a bit of time each morning or evening to review our day and look at what we've done right and wrong as measured against our values and faith.

Where can we improve? Some questions you might ask yourself are:

Am I putting my best and honest efforts into my work?

Are Texans Liars?

Am I spending the right amount of time with my spouse and children? Is it quality time?

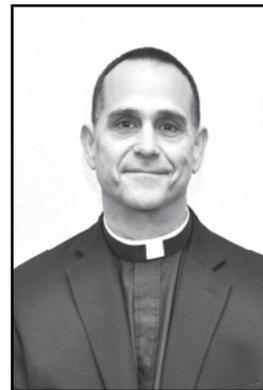
Am I honoring my mother and father?

Am I teaching my children good moral values? Am I doing it by example as well as by word?

Are there people with whom I need to reconcile? Family? Friends? Co-workers?

Where can I spend more time helping others around me?

Chaplain continued on page 15



Vidal

Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



Hafemeister

During more than two decades of working in newspapers, I've had a fairly hard and fast rule: Don't jump a story unless you have no other option.

In publishing lingo, a "jump" is when you continue a story on another page.

Most editors and newspaper gurus will tell you that jumps are a good way to lose a reader – study after study has found that a significant percentage of readers do not

follow a jump.

Instead, they read as far as the jump and move on to another story.

We ink-stained wretches use all kinds of tricks to either avoid a jump or increase the likelihood the reader will follow.

If possible, I prefer to jump to a facing page – all you do is move your eyes from the left page to the right to continue the story.

An extreme example for some newspapers is to sacrifice the valuable color advertising space on the back page and jump front page stories to the back page.

All the reader has to do is turn the paper over to follow the jump.

But in the normal course of things, I try not to be too clever in laying out the Wingspan. If a story is a little too long for the

Breaking the Rules

available space, I use my editorial scissors to nip and tuck until it fits.

In my early newspaper days, I was trained by a master – he could trim close to a third of a story and the person who wrote it would have trouble telling you what was cut.

But the old saying is, "Rules are made to be broken."

And I certainly broke them this issue – almost every story jumps to another page.

I have my reasons, involving too much good stuff to cut and fitting things around the extra inside color pages.

(You get extra color, you don't want to waste it on just text.)

So please, give jumping a chance.

There's some pretty good stuff after the jump in most of these pieces.

Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

Commanding Officer

Capt. D.M. Edgecomb

Public Affairs Officer

Robert D. Torres
Robert.Torres1@navy.mil

Editor

Rod Hafemeister
rodney.hafemeister@navy.mil

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Around the Fleet

ATLANTIC OCEAN (Feb. 11, 2014) Flight deck personnel prepare to land an HS-60 Sea Hawk helicopter on the flight deck of the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51). Oak Hill is underway training off the Atlantic coast.

U.S. Navy photo by Lt. j.g. Christopher J. Mikell

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Motorcycle Safety - Staying alive to enjoy the ride

by MCC David Rush, Navy Public Affairs Support Element West, Detachment Hawaii

PEARL HARBOR (NNS) -- Although great strides have been made in motorcycle safety gear and training programs in recent years, Sailors and Marines continue to incur injuries and, in extreme cases, lose their lives while riding motorcycles.

According to the Navy Safety Center, motorcycle injuries and deaths have decreased in the last five years, but there is still room for improvement.

In 2013, there were 17 Sailor motorcycle fatalities, a dramatic decrease from the 33 fatalities in 2008. Nonetheless, one fatality is too many according to Cmdr. Leo Murphy, Commander, Pacific Fleet safety officer.

"Even when riders wear the proper safety equipment and complete the mandatory training and refresher courses, motorcycle riding remains an inherently dangerous mode of transportation," said Murphy.

"Riding motorcycles is a high risk activity. The risks are inherent to riding and cannot be feasibly eliminated. The best preventative measure that a rider can take is to increase their riding skill level. That is best accomplished through training provided by professional instructors. Statistically, there is a direct correlation with the training the Navy provides and a reduction in motorcycle mishaps."

He emphasized the importance of maintaining a high level of alertness and

proficiency in order to avoid becoming a statistic.

"Riding a motorcycle is not like riding a bike, it is better to learn the necessary skills to safely handle a motorcycle on a designated road course, than learning through "trial by fire" on public streets," Murphy said.

"Preventive training pays, especially for inexperienced riders who are most at risk during the first year of riding. Rider skills training is the best tool we have in preventing motorcycle mishaps"

In addition to increasing the necessary skills needed to get safely to and from your destination, being in positive control regardless of level of experience and type of motorcycle is vital, according to Murphy.

"First those who choose to ride must understand the risks they are assuming. Once that fact is acknowledged, a rider can then develop effective risk management practices. Risk management is an essential part of safe riding and lessons learned from motorcycle mishaps highlight this fact. Riders must recognize their skill level and develop a ride plan that limits themselves to within their safe operating limits."

All Sailors know how to implement Operational Risk Management, or O.R.M, to their jobs at sea and shore. The same applies to risk management when riding a motorcycle.

"This limit might be daytime group rides



Motorcycle safety training not only is a good way to improve your riding skills, it's mandatory for riding on Navy bases.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

only or not riding on highways, or some other self-imposed limitation on when, where, and how a rider will ride," said Murphy.

"Understanding your limitations and determining the risks you are willing to accept will define safe riding and should be done before you get on a motorcycle. The use of sound risk management practices, rider vigilance, and training reduces the probability of motorcycle mishaps."

Although military personnel receive

training, obey the rules of the road, and wear PPE, that doesn't necessarily mean that others on the road will have the same level of alertness.

According to Murphy, when we're behind the wheel of motor vehicles, everyone needs to pay attention to what's around them.

"In Hawaii we call that "Aloha Spirit." It means for other four wheel vehicles to be careful and look out for motorcycles to help

Ride continued on page 12

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CNRSE Rear Adm. Williamson signs 'Military Saves Week' Proclamation

Story and photo by MC1 Greg Johnson, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. - Rear Adm. Rick Williamson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, signed a proclamation in support of Military Saves Week on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Feb. 6.

Military Saves Week runs from Feb. 24 through March 1 and is intended to encourage service members to make responsible financial decisions to build wealth and reduce debt.

The proclamation officially recognizes the week and calls on all service members throughout the Southeast Region to take action to improve their individual and household financial situations.

"Personal financial stability is an important issue for all of our Sailors," Williamson said.

"It's very difficult for Sailors and families who are experiencing financial difficulties to focus on the mission.

"Our goal with Military Saves Week is to encourage everyone to assess their financial situation and ask themselves what they can be doing to improve it.

"We have financial advisors and resources available through the Fleet and Family Support Centers for those who could use a little help."

Military Saves is a social marketing campaign to persuade, motivate and encourage military families to save money every month and to convince leaders to be aggressive in

promoting automatic savings.

It is a part of the Department of Defense Financial Readiness Campaign and has been a partner with DoD since 2003.

"The campaign has been a success for more than 10 years now," said Carol Lucius, Southeast Region work and family life coordinator.

"If a Sailor has a certain financial goal, whether it's setting up an emergency cash fund, getting out of debt or saving for retirement, Military Saves can help them develop those goals and take action."

The program focuses on helping service members achieve their financial goals by providing savings advice, financial tools and resources, and motivation.

According to Lucius, the program has a tremendous impact on service members because they routinely face extraordinary circumstances.

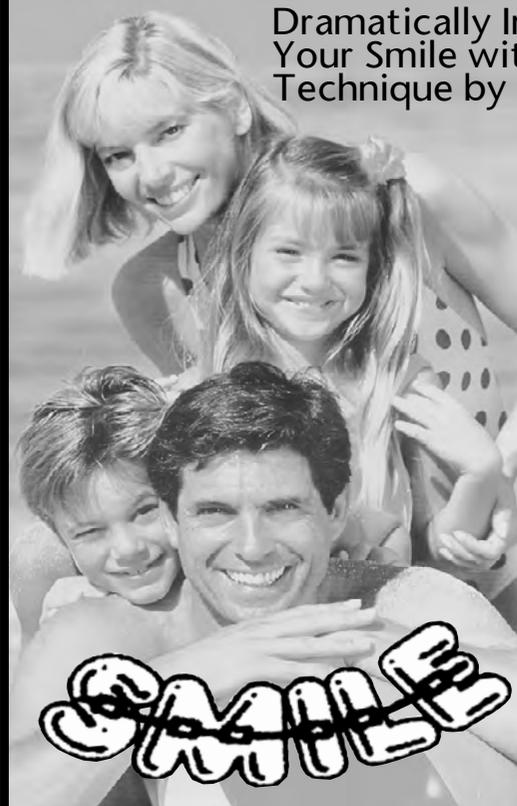
"Deployments and frequent moves can be big financial strains on military households and good financial planning for both events is essential for success," Lucius said.

"FFSC personal financial managers, who are accredited financial counselors, will sit down with a family and help them execute a comprehensive financial planning worksheet to illustrate their current financial situation and to help them plan for the future.

Saves continued on page 9



Rear Adm. Rick Williamson signs a proclamation recognizing Military Saves Week in front of members of the Commander, Navy Region Southeast Family Readiness Program. Military Saves Week runs from Feb. 24 through March 1 and is intended to encourage service members and their families to build wealth and reduce debt. Learn more at <http://www.militarysaves.org/>



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Buyout incentive too good to pass up for many who called CCAD home

by Brigitte Rox, Corpus Christi Army Depot Public Affairs

Corpus Christi Army Depot said farewell recently to 65 CCAD employees who took advantage of an early retirement option under the Voluntary Early Retirement Authority/Voluntary Separation Incentive Pay (VERA/VSIP).

The target date for separation of depot employees receiving VSIP was on or before Jan. 18; that's when they would need to be off the CCAD rolls.

The optional retirement incentive was available to employees who were either 55 years old with 30 years of service, 60 years old with 20 years of service, or 62 years old with 5 years of service.

Early retirements were also offered for those aged 50 years with 20 years of service, or to employees of any age claiming 25 years of service.

Due to the Department of Army divestitures and the potential for further manpower reductions, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) began actively pursuing avenues to reduce the size of the AMCOM workforce without involuntary separations.

"We were able to make the adjustments with minimal effect to the workforce because we were prudent in the hiring of permanent civilians and we've used contractors where appropriate," said Annette Cross, CCAD's Director of Human Capital Management.

The general reception of these early retirements was very positive, said Linda Castellanos, Workforce Management Division Chief.

"It is typical that, at the end of any year, employees make the decision to retire," she

said.

"For some, this was just a bonus and they were very excited to receive the incentive."

That was the case for Oscar Recio, a master scheduler who had been at the depot for 32 years.

"I was planning to retire in 20 months," he said.

"So the VERA/VSIP just expedited the process."

Oscar and his wife, Bernadette (Bernie), retired together on Jan. 17.

"When the VERA/VSIP came into play, Bernie and I sat down and went through our finances, the cost of our son's college tuition and the potential growth of our family business.

"After crunching the numbers, we knew we could do it and be comfortable with our decision of both of us retiring."

According to the Office of Personnel Management, the buyout authority allows agencies that are downsizing or restructuring to offer employees lump-sum payments up to \$25,000 as an incentive to voluntarily separate.

Despite the incentive, early retirement meant a lot of mixed emotions for CCADers who considered their co-workers family.

That was the case for Oscar and Bernie. "We met at CCAD while I was working in the Safety Office in 1983," Bernie said.

"Oscar was on the Safety Council and I was a clerk typist. We would talk while he waited for the safety specialists."

The two were married a year later.

Once they were married and settled

Retire continued on page 8



Husband and wife, Oscar and Bernadette Recio, who met at CCAD retire together in a January ceremony.

Photo by Ervey Martinez

Seven decades late, a Sailor is awarded his medals, thanks to TRAWING 4

Story & photo by Rod Hafemeister



The wife and son of the late Hector Solis receive his World War II medals from Capt. Rex Curtin (left) and Cmdr. Brian Hamlin during a Feb. 7 ceremony.

Hector Solis served honorably in World War II, returned to South Texas and raised a family.

But he knew he had never received the Navy Occupation Service Medal he knew he had earned.

On Feb. 7, Capt. Rex Curtin, commodore of Training Air Wing Four, corrected that mistake, presenting the medal and three others to the his wife, Carolina Solis, and his family in a ceremony that preceded the Winging ceremony that day.

Unfortunately, it came too late for Hector, who passed away May 6, 2013.

But his family said he knew the medals were coming – at long last.

Hector Solis was born on April 22, 1927 in Alice, Texas, one of two sons and four daughters. He enlisted in the Navy on Dec. 14, 1942 at age 15, telling a little white lie about his age in order to enlist.

He became an Aviation Metalsmith Coxswain, serving at USNTS, San Diego, Calif.; aboard the USS Doyen, USNAB Guadalcanal; USNAB Tulagi, aboard the USS War Hawk and finally aboard the USS PGM-27.

PGM-27 was a part of the team escorting Japanese Mine Sweepers who were clearing the harbors for the U.S. occupation shortly after the war ended.

On Oct. 9, 1945, during a violent typhoon, the USS PGM-27 was grounded on a reef off the northwestern coast of Tsuken Shima, Buckner Bay, Okinawa.

Solis survived the typhoon, came home, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 10, 1945 at Camp Wallace, Texas.

After his service, he went on to work as a farmer in the Rio Grande Valley; in 1960, he moved his family to Corpus Christi, where he worked at Crocker Transfer & Storage.

After that, he went to work at the Corpus Christi Army Depot in 1965 and retired in 1985.

He is survived by his wife, two daughters, four sons, 13 grandchildren, and 19 great-grand children.

During his illness, the family spent more

and more time with him and learned more about his naval service, his final days aboard PGM-27, and a medal that was awarded to the ship which Solis, as qualifying ship's company, never received.

The Navy's Board of Decorations and Medals Department was contacted and they quickly conducted research to determine if Solis was awarded the medal in question.

They confirmed that he was entitled to the medal – and three others he never received, as well as two lapel pins.

Although final notice came on May 9 – during a Rosary Service three days after Solis' death – he knew before he passed away that the Navy was likely to approve the medals.

The staff of Training Air Wing Four worked to get the medals, placed them in a display case, and invited the family to a special presentation.

The awards are as follows:

Navy Occupation Service Medal

Awarded to personnel in the Naval Service who participated in the occupation of the territories of the enemies of the United States during World War II and subsequent to the surrender of these enemies. Occupation duty in the Asiatic-Pacific area may be credited to organizations for duty performed between Sept. 2, 1945 and April 27, 1952.

World War II Victory Medal

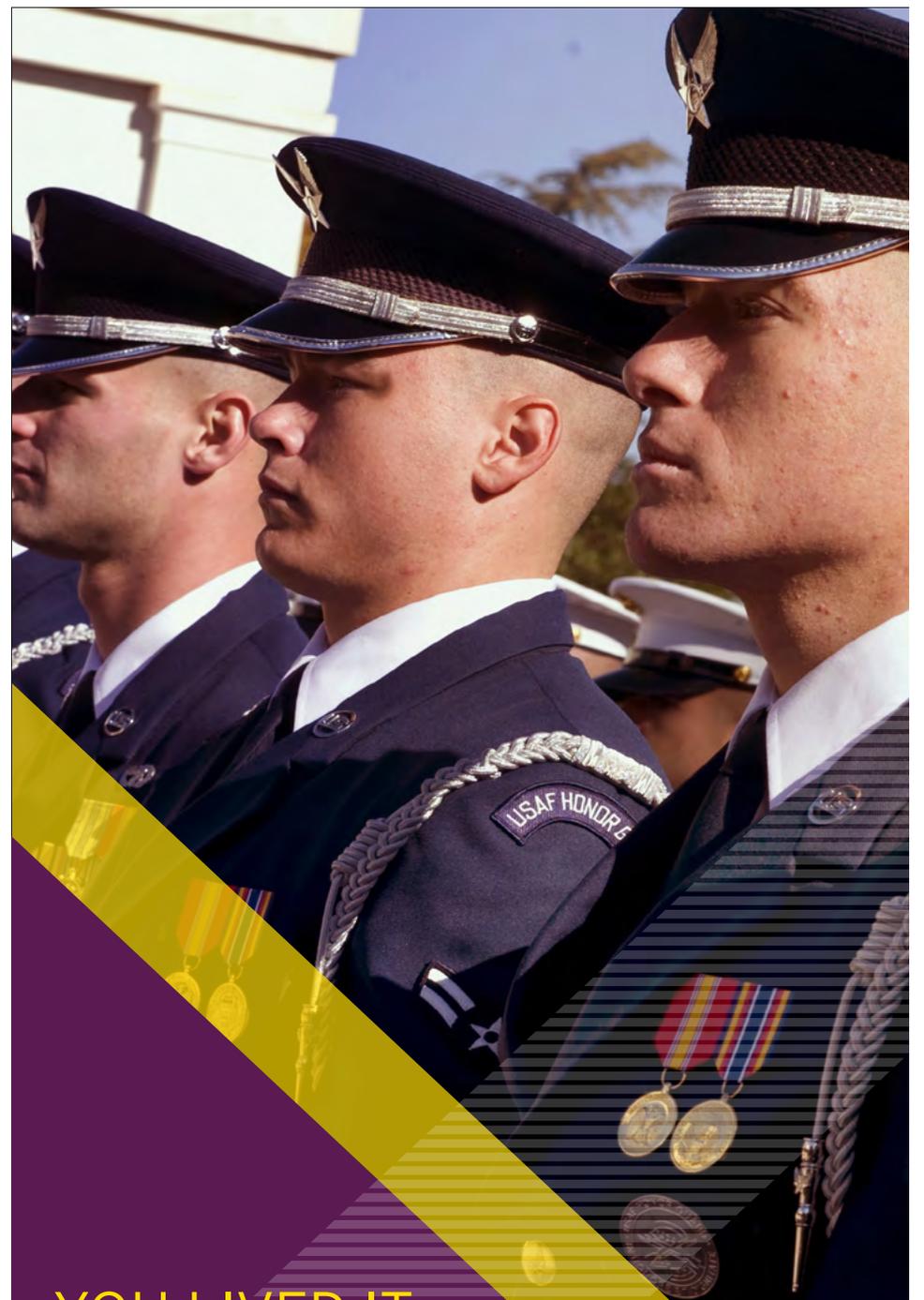
Authorized by Congress on July 6, 1945, the World War II Victory Medal was awarded to any member of the Armed Forces who served at least one day of active federal service between Dec. 7, 1941 and Dec. 31, 1946.

American Campaign Medal

Established on Nov. 6, 1942, the American Campaign Medal was awarded for service in the American Theater as a regularly assigned member of a unit or vessel between Dec. 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946.

Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal was authorized on Nov. 6, 1942 for service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater as a regularly assigned member of a unit or vessel between Dec. 7, 1941 and March 2, 1946.



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Skipper continued from page 2

As for Otis Terrell, here are some highlights of his year:

- Achieved an astonishing 100 percent completion rate of 155 inspections, to include critical follow-up to ensure hazard abatement in facilities predominately characterized as moderate to high risk industrial occupancies with a replacement value of \$572 million involving 2,100,000 square feet of facilities.
- Flawlessly executed 163 mission-critical hazardous operations permits which resulted in no hot-works related fires in permitted area of issuance, which are a leading cause of major fires in industrial environments.
- Provided fire prevention services to the Naval Operational Support Center (NOSC), providing critical focus on life safety for more than 1,500 drilling reserve Sailors, Marines and Airmen serving 275 miles “over the horizon” at the Houston NOSC.
- Key team member for an unprecedented a \$5.2 million NAVFAC Fire Protection Systems project supporting Naval Aviation and the National Air Security

Operations Center, which ensured a safe operational environment for more than 137,712 square feet of critical operational hangars for both command missions.

- Conducted an exceptional design review and construction oversight on 100,000 square feet of current projects totaling \$11 million and the design phase of 80 acre, ten-year \$334 million Corpus Christi Army Depot recapitalization effort, ensuring that fire safety always remained at the forefront.
- Served as lead investigator on one critical fire cause and origin investigations, and assisted on two additional investigations, providing valuable insight and lessons learned to reduce chances of similar occurrences.

Last week, our awards ceremony included honoring Otis Terrell as NAS Corpus Christi Fire Fighter of the Year, F&ES Administrative Assistant Elizabeth “Libby” Atkinson as Civilian of the Year and Fire Chief John Morris as Manager of the Year.

Bravo Zulu to all of Fire and Emergency Services and to all other awardees.



Some of the CCAD employees who retired in January; left to right and Years of Service: Nelda Labbe – 32 years, Jocelyn Heimbigner – 29 years, Deborah Owens – 27 years, Robert Gomez – 36 years, Kyong Comparini – 32 years, Vickie Garcia – 31 years, Ruth Herrera – 9 years.
Photo by Ervey Martinez

Retire continued from page 6

down, Bernie Recio’s itch to try new things compelled her to leave the Blade Shop after more than 18 years.

She began working with Quality, where she was exposed to all the far-reaching corners of CCAD.

Her husband, Oscar, went to work to make the depot a place where he and his co-workers could excel professionally while fostering friendships that would last a lifetime.

It was Oscar Recio who started a cherished CCAD tradition known as Night at the Ballpark, a special day when CCAD employees and their families could meet outside of work at a special baseball game with the Corpus Christi Hooks team.

It was he and his wife who would throw highly-anticipated Halloween parties where Oscar would dress like a member of the rock band, KISS.

It was Oscar who helped start the Army

Aviation Association of America (AAAA) Scholarship Golf Tournament for AAAA’s local chapter. So far, the local chapter has awarded more than \$75,000 in scholarships to CCADers and their families.

Bernie Recio wasn’t as ready as her husband to leave CCAD. She was originally planning to leave some time in 2015.

“There is still so much that I have not participated in,” she said.

“I still haven’t learned how to metal spray, use the laser, or build a transmission or engine.”

Still, she doesn’t regret leaving earlier than planned.

“I have been talking about retiring for about three years now and hoping for an early out,” she said.

“I became a grandmother four years ago. I can now take care of my granddaughter and pick up my grandson from school.”

Saves continued from page 5

Whether a family is in good financial shape or not, PFM's will work with them to improve their financial situation."

The Military Saves campaign is not only targeted at service members, but at the entire family, because spouses and children also play a huge role in overall financial stability, Lucius said.

"The personal financial readiness of our service members and their families directly supports mission readiness, and engaging our military spouses is important, as they play a vital role in maintaining financial discipline and stability within a military family," she said.

"Another important aspect of the campaign is helping kids develop financial skills. The Military Youth Saves program is specifically designed to encourage kids and teens to develop good savings habits at a young age."

According to Williamson, raising awareness about Military Saves and promoting effective financial planning and decision making is the responsibility of all leaders throughout the region, not only during Military Saves Week, but year round.

"I think it's important for leaders at all levels of the chain of command to spread awareness about the Military Saves program and the resources available to our Sailors," Williamson said.

"While we look to observe Military Saves Week later on this month, responsible financial planning is a year-round effort and there is always somewhere to turn for Sailors in need of assistance.

"I encourage leaders throughout the region to make sure that message is heard."

Service members or dependents that would like more information about resources and services offered through Military Saves, or organizations who would like to find out how they can support the program, should contact their local FFSC.

In addition, more information is available at <http://www.militarysaves.org/>

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NASCC Awards - Feb. 13

Sailors of the Quarter



From left, MA1 John Day, Senior Sailor of the Quarter; MA2 Michael Contrera, Sailor of the Quarter; and ACAA Matthew Sherwood, Blue Jacket of the Quarter.

Civilians of the Quarter



From left, James Baker, Senior Civilian of the Quarter; Jerri Matthews, Civilian of the Quarter.

Sailors of the Year



NASCC Senior Sailor of the Year AC1 Stephen Howard (left) and Blue Jacket of the Year MASN Jarrett Covington.

Fire Officer of the Year



Along with other Fire and Emergency Services honorees Feb. 13, Jose Flores was named NASCC Fire Officer of the Year.

Photos by Rod Hafemeister

Awards and Achievements

Winging — February 7



Photo by Hugh Lieck Event Photography

Winging officials, from left: Nancy Allen, USO South Texas, Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce; Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Warne, Chaplain; Cmdr. Jason L. Wood, Executive Officer, VT-35; Cmdr. Todd Copeland, Commanding Officer, VT-31; Col. David Krebs, USMC, Commanding Officer, MATSG-22; Cmdr. R. Scott Kramarik, Commanding Officer, VT-35; Capt. Rex Curtin, Commodore, Training Air Wing Four.

Wingees, in alphabetical order: Ensign Sean Thomas Buckley; 1st Lt. Christopher Thomas Conklin, USMC; Ensign Sean Thomas Coomey; 1st Lt. William Christian Cunningham, USMC; Ensign Ryan Michael Duffy; 1st Lt. Zachary Michael Eldridge, USMC; Ensign John Antranig Kashmanian; Ensign Nathan Andrew Kren; Ensign Mark Tyler Lascara; Ensign Casey Evan McMurry; 1st Lt. Michael Patrick Sweaney, USMC.



Fire & Emergency Services Personnel Honored

Besides being recognized by Navy Region Southeast as the Fire Department of the Year (Medium Category) and Fire Prevention Program of the Year, the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire and Emergency Services garnered some individual honors, presented at the Feb. 13 awards ceremony. From left, Fire Inspector Otis Terrell, NASCC Fire Fighter of the Year; F&ES Administrative Assistant Elizabeth 'Libby' Atkinson, NASCC Civilian of the Year, and Fire Chief John Morris, NASCC Manager of the Year.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister

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Ride continued from page 4

keep the roads safer for them. It's sharing the road, slowing down, and not falling into lazy habits like not using turn signals. Recognize that mirrors in a car still allow for blind spots and to ensure a space is clear best practice is to turn your head and look into the blind spot."

Unfortunately, that doesn't always happen and it leads to life ending consequences.

"Tragically, two fatal motorcycle mishaps occurred when the drivers failed to see and turned into the rider.

"Changing the driving habits of motorists and motorcyclists alike will help decrease the number of motorcycle accidents.

"Motorcyclists are reminded to make sure that they are visible to motorists, and that they strictly follow the rules of the road," said Murphy.

As for Sailors and Marines who intend on riding "two up," training isn't just recommended, it's mandatory.

"Motorcycle riders must complete the two mandatory courses within 60 days after declaring intent to ride and then complete refresher training every three years," said Murphy.

CMDCM (SW/AW) Paul Kingsbury, Command Master Chief of the Naval Safety Center, echoes Murphy's sentiments.

"As a non-rider, I would offer that each mishap has an impact on the Sailor, their command and their peers. When a Sailor is involved in a serious crash resulting in injury or fatality their parents, siblings, spouse, children and other relatives are affected," said Kingsbury.

"A deceased Sailor will never have to deal with the personal repercussions of their death.

"A Sailor who sustains life altering injuries may put additional burdens of health

care and financial loss onto those same family members.

"Additionally, the Sailor's command loses an asset, a piece of the team, a watchstander, a subject matter expert, an influential leader. In some cases, this gap cannot be filled by the command and can result in the department or command unable to be fully mission capable.

"The loss of a Sailor also means other Sailors have to fill that void. Someone has to pick up the duties and responsibilities; someone has to stand the extra watch.

"The death or loss of a Sailor also has a psychological and emotional impact on the Sailors at the command."

In order to help minimize the possibility of injury, Kingsbury emphasizes the need for both beginning and experienced riders to take the risks seriously.

"Riding a motorcycle has unique risks. Although PPE does provide some amount of protection, the high speeds, instability and exposure to the open environment motorcycle riders are exposed to makes the impacts of any crash much more severe."

Bottom line according to Kingsbury, there's nothing better than consistently applying proper techniques and lessons learned to enjoy the road safely.

"Training and experience are the best methods of preventing mishaps," Kingsbury said.

"Command leadership should ensure that a proactive and healthy Motorcycle Safety Program is in place and that Sailors who ride are taking advantage of the training provided on our installations world-wide.

"I would also encourage newer riders to ride with more experienced Sailors until they have gained the experience they need to reduce the hazards of riding."

Motorcycle Safety/Driver Improvement Course Schedule

The following courses have been scheduled for Corpus Christi by the Cape Fox Contract Instructor:

22/23 February - Basic Rider Course	25 March - Driver Improvement Course
25 February - Advanced Rider Course	03/04 April - Basic Rider Course
06/07 March - Basic Rider Course	05/06 April - Basic Rider Course
08/09 March - Basic Rider Course	08 April - Advanced Rider Course
11 March - Driver Improvement Course	16 April - Advanced Rider Course
12 March - Advanced Rider Course	19/20 April - Basic Rider Course
20/21 March - Basic Rider Course	21 April - Driver Improvement Course
22/23 March - Basic Rider Course	22 April - Advanced Rider Course
24 March - Advanced Rider Course	

To enroll in a course:

For NAS Corpus Christi and Wing/Squadron Personnel who have access to ESAMS, you may log into ESAMS, go to Class Schedule Link under My Links and enroll.

For Tenant Commands, Dependents, and Retirees who do not have access to ESAMS log into www.navymotorcyclerider.com and enroll.

If you have questions, please call the instructor, Mr. Norm White at 817-845-6174.



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Exercise continued from page 1

watch standers and first responders to identify processes and procedures that require corrective actions, additional training, planning and other resources to improve mission capability," said Capt. Brett Calkins, Navy Region Southeast Training and Operations Officer.

The Solid Curtain portion of the exercise will focus on command, control, and communication (C3) between all echelons Navy wide.

Citadel Shield emphasizes installation-level training exercises to test the ability of installation security forces during an emergency.

Military personnel, civilian employees, retirees, and family members should be prepared to encounter traffic delays on roads

near installations, as well as at installation gates.

It's recommended that you add time to your travel plans to avoid being late for appointments on board installations.

No closures of facilities such as the Navy Exchange, Commissary, Pharmacy, and Navy medical facilities are planned. Ensure you have the proper identification for entry onto installations and follow all directions from installation security personnel.

The assistance of everyone will ensure smooth access to facilities while allowing military and civilian personnel who are actively involved in exercise events to get the most out of their training.

"We appreciate everyone's cooperation," said Calkins, "and look forward to a safe and successful exercise."



Robert. T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence, awarded to Corpus Christi Army Depot for 2013. *Department of Defense photo*

CCAD continued from page 1

Former Depot Commander, Col. Christopher B. Carlile, made CCAD's situation clear to his team:

"When it comes down to it, the U.S. government can't afford to purchase new aircraft each time one is damaged," he said.

"They rely on [CCAD] to take those damaged aircraft and components and get them flying again."

CCAD's recap program reduces the costs of replacing aging helicopters with new ones, saving taxpayers approximately \$12 million with each rebuild.

Since 2003, CCAD has saved the taxpayer more than \$20 billion through a number of programs designed to cut time and costs while making smarter choices in workload.

These savings are critical to Army Aviation as budget cuts in the Department of Defense loom over the next 10 years.

The Army Chief of Staff awards the AAME Award to recognize Army units and activities that have demonstrated excellence in maintenance operations.

Recipients must embody logistics mastery by making a significant contribution to maintenance readiness that better equips the Army, improves efficiency and reduces waste.

Each year 12 winners and 12 runners-up are awarded for their superior maintenance operations.

The Robert T. Mason Award for Depot Maintenance Excellence is presented to an outstanding Defense program from a major organic depot-level maintenance facility that exemplifies responsive, transformed, depot-level maintenance support to DoD operating units.

The plaque and Robert T. Mason Trophy are courtesy of the Society of Automotive Engineers International (SAE).

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NOSC Awards - February 8



Cmdr. Reinaldo Morillo, presented awards to, from left: Advancement to HM2 Adeola Adleya, AC2 Jamie Smith Reserve Blue Jacket of the Year and Navy Achievement Medal, HM3 Sean Notaro Staff Blue Jacket Sailor of the Year, and Certificates of Achievement for outstanding PFA to AECS Thomas Jones, AT1 Philip Brown and IS2 Eric Gonzalez .
Photo by MC1 Ruben Perez

NHCCC Housekeepers recognized



Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, commanding officer, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, (center) presented Letters of Appreciation Feb. 6 to staff housekeepers for consistently presenting a safe, clean and visually appealing clinic for patients, staff and visitors. From left, Vinnie Mathis, Epifania Irigoyen; Sammy Lopez; Richard Everett; Heriberto Esquivel; Daniel Cyr; Juan Aguilar, Jr.; and John Painter (not pictured).

Photo by HM2 Jacob L. Welch

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Chaplain continued from page 2

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Do I have a good relationship with God? What am I doing well that I should improve on?

What are the things that tempt me to stray from what is right?

I could go on and on with questions like these, but I'm sure by now you get the hang of what I'm suggesting.

Once you do this, if you're a Catholic or of another Christian tradition that practices a Lenten discipline, then you've got a head start on the season.

If you are not, you can still use this information to set some goals that will help you strengthen your life and align it with those moral values that you learned as a youth.

I am sure that if each one of us does this, we will not only improve our own lives, but the lives of those around us will be enriched as well.



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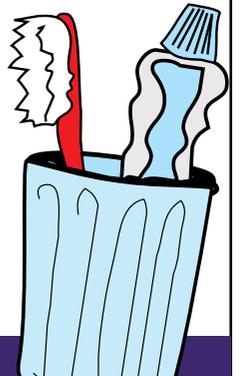
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QM2 Craig reenlists



QM2 Joseph J. Craig receives the reenlistment oath from Lt. Cmdr. Chris Carmichael on Feb. 7

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



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Awards at the NOSC - February 8



Cmdr. William Y. Pike, commanding officer Surge Maintenance Gulf Region Naval Sea System Command, presents a Letter of Commendation to I. to r., IT1 George Franco, ET1 Mark Garza, and MR1 Mark Davis, with HTCM Randolph Bowers on the far right.

Photo by MC1 Ruben Perez



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Required: Knowledge of safe procedures for working around aircraft; radio procedures related to aircraft air and ground communication; different aircraft fuels to ensure proper refueling of aircraft; safe operation of heavy and light equipment; airport facility maintenance including construction, plumbing, electrical systems, framing, heating and air conditioning systems and related repairs; and of regulations and requirements of the FAA, Environmental Protection Agency, and building, fire, electrical, heating/ventilation/air conditioning codes. High School graduation or GED req'd; some college or other training preferred.

Starting hourly rate is \$12.74 plus excellent benefits. Full job description on-line. Applications may be submitted at www.aransascounty.org or at the Aransas County Treasurer's Office, Attn: Human Resources, 301 N. Live Oak, Rockport, TX 78382. Position open until filled. E.O.E. Posted 2/1/14

For Sale: 4 Goodyear Comforted Tires, 235/45R17, less than 1000mi. on them. Asking \$400 OBO. Email goshawk56@gmail.com if interested.

Mt Olive Lutheran Church LCMS and School cordially invites you to attend our services either at 8 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. with Bible Class and Sunday School starting at 9:15 a.m. Conveniently located at 5201 Saratoga. Phone us at 361-510-5262 for further info.

Our school invites those children who desire a classroom educational experience that better prepares them for 1st grade.

We thank you for your service and always pray for your safety!

CLASSIFIED

Living room set for sale, 2 oversized sofas and a loveseat, fair condition. Asking \$400 OBO. Email goshawk56@gmail.com or call 361-455-1814 if interested.

Wanted: National Anthem Singer for Military Appreciation Night at the Buc Days Rodeo!

We are looking for that next special VOICE to sing the National Anthem at the American Bank Center on April 24, 2014 for opening Night of the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo. We will be holding a fun style karaoke competition to pick a winner. If you, or someone you know, are active or retired military, can sing the National Anthem loud and proud, and would love to sit front row to enjoy the show, please email mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com or call 361-446-9031 for date, time, and place for this fun-friendly- competition. There will be prizes!

Signups for Military Dependents to be entered into the drawing for one of two spots being reserved for the adorable **Mutton Bustin'** event at the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo! Details for qualifications can be found on www.bucdays.com.

For more information on all of the Buc Days Events and Festivities - Please go to the website and also follow us on FaceBook for special promotions as they are released. Rodeo Tickets are available now at Ticketmaster.com and will be available aboard NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville very soon!

Receiver Hitch 2 bike rack \$75. 660-620-2008

Great single story, 3/2/2 home for rent in the Flour Bluff area.

This home is not only immaculate, it is located on a huge corner lot and comes complete with boat barn & dog run. Blocks away from the water, launching ramp, and NAS Corpus Christi. \$1300/mo. Ready for move in! 3615490136.

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What's Happening

Wanted: National Anthem Singer for Military Appreciation Night at the Buc Days Rodeo!
 We are looking for that next special VOICE to sing the National Anthem at the American Bank Center on April 24, 2014 for opening Night of the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo. We will be holding a fun style karaoke competition to pick a winner. If you, or someone you know, are active or retired military, can sing the National Anthem loud and proud, and would love to sit front row to enjoy the show, please email mrsjamesbaker@yahoo.com or call 361-446-9031 for date, time, and place for this fun- friendly- competition. There will be prizes!

February 20 -22, 2014 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN MINIATURISTS at The Art Center of Corpus Christi. The organization is dedicated to to educating the public to the art, craft, and hobby of miniaturizing. The SAM will have a workshop at The Art Center on February 22 from 8am to 4pm. The public is welcome to come and view the miniaturists as they work as well as find out more about the society. In addition, The Art Center will be raffling off a Miniaturist Creation during the two day exhibit. The Art Center of Corpus Christi, 100 N. Shoreline Blvd., Corpus Christi, TX 78401

Cow Patty Bingo!! If you have never heard of a Cow Patty Bingo then come out and enjoy our free event! We will have two cows in a pen with numbers on the ground in a bingo format - and where the patty drops - two lucky people will win \$500 each!! So come out, feed the cows and lure them to your number! Tickets are only \$25 and you don't have to be present to win! Proceeds will go to our local Flour Bluff Special Olympics Booster Club to help raise money for equipment, a Sports Banquet and other events for the Special Olympics athletes throughout

the year! We will have door prizes, free food, music, games and more - it's free fun for the whole family. No ticket purchase necessary to attend. Saturday February 22, 2014 - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at Glenoak Therapeutic Riding Center 1517 Glenoak Drive in Flour Bluff. For more information call Evette Burch 361-442-8176

Signups for Military Dependents to be entered into the drawing for one of two spots being reserved for the adorable **Mutton Bustin'** event the Buc Days PRCA Rodeo! Details for qualifications can be found on www.bucdays.com. For more information on all of the Buc Days Events and Festivities- Please go to the website and also follow us on Facebook for special promotions as they are released. Rodeo Tickets are available now at Ticketmaster.com and will be available aboard NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville very soon!

Corpus Christi five-attraction partnership offers half-price reciprocal admission to their members—in FEBRUARY only! This means half-off admission to ALL these tourism spots if you're a member or become a member of one, and 10 percent off in all five gift shops—only in February! Additionally, NEW memberships at any of the five attractions may be purchased at 10 percent discount—in February. **HALF-PRICE FEBRUARY RECIPROCAL ADMISSION**
South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center 361/852-2100, 8545 S. Staples St., www.stxbot.org -- **Art Museum of South Texas**, 361/825-3500, 1902 N. Shoreline, www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org -- **Corpus Christi Museum of Science & History**, 361/826-4667, 1900 N. Chaparral, www.ccmuseum.com -- **Texas State Aquarium**, 361/881-1200, 2710 N. Shoreline, www.texasstateaquarium.org -- **USS Lexington Museum on the Bay**, 361/888-4873, 2914 N. Shoreline, www.ussexington.com Be

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by Tina Konwerski

prepared to show your current membership card and photo identification at all facilities.

Your **NON Profit Organization's fund raising event** listed **HERE** with our **COMPLIMENTS** on a space available basis. Describe the event in a short paragraph. Type exactly as you would like to see it in print (**NOT IN ALL CAPS PLEASE**) we will copy and paste. ... send three weeks before the event to cyoung@dyoungpublishing.com Please do not send flyers or pdfs.

ETHNIC FESTIVAL AT ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH - Saturday, March 1st from 11-4 p.m. MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! Enjoy the famous Filipino lumpias and pansit, or the smoked and fresh Polish sausage with sauerkraut and pierogi. From the Irish booth, warm your palate with the Irish stew or corned beef with cabbage. If you love sushi go Korean and don't forget to order Bulgogi, the marinated beef BBQ and the noodles. For dessert stop by the Sweet Shop and satisfy your sweet tooth with pies, tarts, cakes, cookies, and brownies. More selections and surprises await you from the Italian, Puerto Rican, Vietnamese, Mexican, and American booths. Food costs range from \$1.00-\$10.00. Other highlights of the festival include classic car displays, silent and live auctions, arts and crafts, country store, raffle tickets, and children's games. Admission is FREE as well as entertainment; i.e. live music and dances. Take-outs are available. Come to St. Paul Catholic Church, 2233 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi. FMI call the office at 937-3864.

The annual **Gem & Mineral Show** is educational entertainment for the young and old with many different displays of interesting science and artwork that only nature could create. Amongst

the many retail dealers, there will be mineral, gem, fossil, lapidary, and jewelry exhibits, silent auctions and raffles. The famous Rock Food Table will be there along with an informative touch table display for the kids and adults. If you have a rock and you don't know what it is, bring it by and a local geologist will help you learn its identity. There will be door prizes and a grand prize to be given away as well as demonstrations and class information. **Richard M. Borchard Regional Fairgrounds in Robstown, March 1st and 2nd, 2014, 10:00am-6:00pm on Saturday, and 10:00am-5:00pm on Sunday.** Open to the public, people of all ages are invited to come see a broad variety of unique specimens of natural history as well as jewelry. Tickets are \$5.00 and children under 12 are free if accompanied by an adult. Scouts in uniform are free as well.

"Put a Spring in Your Step" dinner, **Tuesday, March 4th, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at Miller's Bar-B-Q, 6601 Weber Rd. Special guest, Ole Marquez, manager of SAS Shoe Store will have you "Stepping Into Spring" in style and comfort! Vocalist Mandi Peebles will entertain you with a selection of "Shoe Tunes". After dinner, inspirational speaker Vickie Barry of San Antonio, former optician and personal chef, relates her story "If The Shoe Fits". Please join us! Dinner price \$13.50 per person, inclusive. Door prizes awarded. Reservations appreciated by February 28th, but walk-ins are always welcomed! FMI and dinner reservations, call Linda at 779-5038 or Dr. Yvonne at 854-2440. Sponsored by Christian Business and Professional Women's Club of Corpus Christi.



EARLY DINING
4:30 to 6:30 p.m.*
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Ownership rights are limited to eligible policyholders of United Services Automobile Association. The term "honorably served" applies to officers and enlisted personnel who served on active duty, in the Selected Reserve or National Guard and have a discharge type of "Honorable." Eligibility may change based on factors such as marital status or rank. Contact us to update your records. Adult children of USAA members are eligible to purchase auto or property insurance if their eligible parent purchases USAA auto or property insurance.

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