

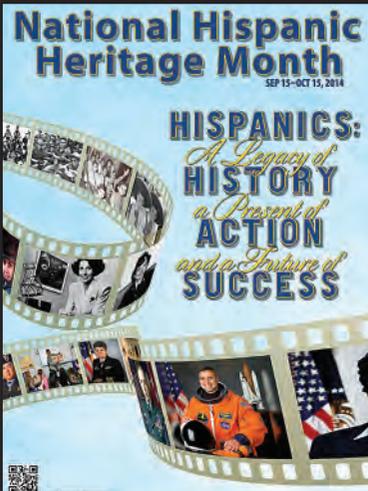
# WINGSPAN



Vol. 20, No. 19

Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas

September 18, 2014



**National Preparedness Month**

Visit the NASCC Facebook page at:  
[facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi](https://www.facebook.com/NASCorpusChristi)



**Gold Star Mothers Day  
September 28**

page 3

## Remembering 9/11

by Rod Hafemeister

Again and again, the fire bell rang at the main fire station the morning of Sept. 11, punctuating the recitation of the events 13 years earlier.

The Naval Air Station Corpus Christi Fire & Emergency Services Department continued its tradition of marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks with a chronology of the events that day, beginning at the precise time the first aircraft hit the World Trade Center.

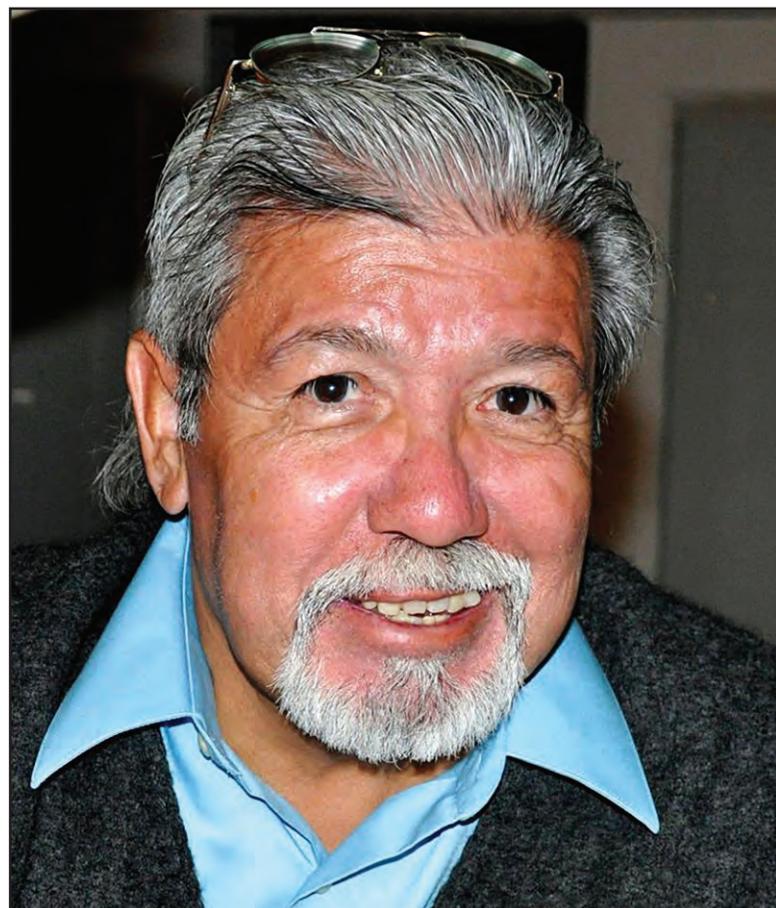
"This is a day on which we as a nation pause to pay tribute to 2,977 people who lost their lives in the horrific terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, including those on Flights 11, 175, 77, and 93, those in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, and the first responder

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Capt. Steve Banta, commanding officer of NAS Corpus Christi, speaks at the annual 9/11 Commemoration by the Air Station's Fire & Emergency Services.

Photo by Rod Hafemeister



## In Memorium, Bob Torres

Roberto D. "Bob" Torres, the long-time Public Affairs Officer for NAS Corpus Christi, passed away Sept. 10, 2014 from complications of a stroke.

Bob had been dealing with illness for months; he had gone out on extended medical leave in February and, as his condition worsened, left Federal civilian service in June. He was 62.

A Corpus Christi native, Bob graduated from Flour Bluff High School, attended Texas A&I University, Kingsville, Texas and received a B.S. degree from The University of the Incarnate Word.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1972 and served for 21 years. He was a photojournalist and had many duty stations including Washington D.C., Headquarters Marine Corps, Hawaii, Iwo Jima and the Pacific Islands, Okinawa, Korea, Albany, New York and San Antonio, Texas.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, he was editor of Petersen

Publishing's Bow and Arrow Hunting and Lone Star Bowhunting magazines before returning to Corpus Christi.

He was editor of the Naval Air Station Corpus Christi "Wingspan" in 2002-2003 and became the Air Station's Public Affairs Officer in 2004.

He is survived by one son, Kevin McCord, (Sandra) two grandsons, Kaleb and Samuel McCord, brothers, Raul (Myrtle) Torres, Reynaldo (Lucy) Torres, Rogelio (Patricia) Torres, brother-in-law Virgil Selph all of Corpus Christi and numerous nieces and nephews.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 16 at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, followed by burial at Coastal Bend State Veterans Cemetery.

The family has requested that donations in lieu of flowers be sent to St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, 2233 Waldron Road, Corpus Christi, Texas 78418.

# CMC's Column To Our Newest Chief Petty Officers

by Command Master Chief Rick Mathis



**Mathis**

This goal should be and has always been

Numerous Chief Petty Officers today started out as young Recruits, working their way through the promotional aisles, each requiring harder effort as the path became more rugged. The goal: "Be the Chief!"

a young Sailor's motivation for doing well and working so hard.

Chiefs who grew up loving their people learned it all, developing into a multi-purpose platform, skilled enough to handle any crisis.

The selfish Chiefs who were more concerned with "making the grade" denied themselves an opportunity to learn what being a shipmate is all about.

Those Chiefs who truly love their Sailors, being completely concerned with their welfare now and in the future, know the term "shipmate" means more than just wearing the same uniform.

It means being committed to each other, it means being in this thing together – having

nothing without each other.

Your only function now as a Chief Petty Officer is to attend to the Sailors who depend on you every day. Their dependence is involuntary, it's the way the Navy is.

As First Class Petty Officers, your job was to support the Chief, be a loyal follower looking up to the higher rank.

As a Chief Petty Officer, you are now required to look up and down the ranks. Both are equally important and should not be taken lightly.

Junior Sailors are adults, but that does not in any way make them mature Sailors.

It has all paid off, you've just been pinned, so now – Be the Chief!!!

## Chaplain's Message A Cross at 'Ground Zero'

by Fr. John Vidal

Last Thursday, Sept. 11, 2014, was the 13th Anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center in New York.

I was moved by the ceremony that the NASCC Fire Department held remembering those who died and honoring the first responder heroes who died that day, especially those in the New York Fire Department (FDNY).

I was especially moved by the prayer offered by NASCC FD Chaplain Otis Terrell who prayed: "Let that day which exhibited the worst in man be the catalyst also revealing the best in our human hearts to love each other."

It is often in days of pain and suffering that we experience the love that is possible because we are created in the image of God.

For Christians, the suffering of Jesus on the Cross is a stark reminder of the immense love God has for each one of us and that through that Cross we will be led to eternal life with God.

It is that hope which compels us to love each other and strive to preserve that love for each other, with God, for all eternity.

On Sept. 13, 2001, a worker named Frank Silecchia at the Ground Zero site discovered

a 20-foot cross on two steel beams in the rubble of the collapsed 6 World Trade Center building.

The cross became an immediate sign of hope for the workers of many faiths as they labored in rescue and recovery work and many used it as a rallying point, leaving messages on it and praying before it.

On Oct. 3, the cross was moved and placed on a pedestal and was blessed by a Franciscan Priest, Fr. Brian Jordan, O.F.M., on Oct. 4, promising that the Cross would be preserved as a reminder of the events of Sept. 11.

In a recent interview with the Catholic News Agency, Jordan said that, "It's a sign of consolation and comfort for those who lost loved ones," and that, "For the dead, the cross signifies the death of Jesus Christ.

"It also gave hope and support to the living, especially the rescue and recovery workers, the firefighters, police officers, construction workers and many others."

Many families, friends and mourners of those who died in the attack came to the cross and left personal effects there.

One family reportedly said, "It was as if

the cross took in the grief and loss. I never felt Jesus more."

In July 2011 the cross was moved from its temporary location back to Ground Zero and lowered into the National September 11 Memorial and Museum.

We all have the opportunity to rally behind symbols and reminders of God's love, especially in the times of pain and grief; it is God's love that allows us to grieve without hating, to hurt without losing hope.

I pray that as you read these words you will allow that Ground Zero Cross, and the Cross it represents, to give you hope when you negotiate difficult days in your life and that it may serve as a catalyst to reveal in you the love that God made you capable of expressing.



**Vidal**

## Editor's Corner

by Rod Hafemeister



**Hafemeister**

coming back to work. But those of us who worked with him, and his family, didn't really

As you saw out front, Bob Torres passed away on Sept. 10.

Bob was diagnosed with a stroke in February and had more of them, and other complications, from that point forward.

Initially, he said he would be

expect it, even early on.

What we knew, and what Bob had been slow to admit, was that he had been having health issues for a long time – months at least, probably longer.

A few weeks earlier, Bob admitted that he hadn't had a real physical in years, since before returning to Corpus Christi.

I suspect his last real physical may have been when he retired from the Marine Corps in 1993.

By fall of last year, several of us co-workers were telling Bob that he needed to see a doctor. He even agreed – but like most of us guys, he dragged his feet about actually getting an appointment.

## Don't Ignore Your Health

Less than two weeks before his diagnosed stroke, he returned from a medical appointment with a couple bags of medicine and test equipment and said they told him he was diabetic.

Turned out, talking to him and helping him go through what they gave him, that he probably had undiagnosed diabetes going back several years.

One of the bad effects of diabetes is weakening of blood vessels – which can result in strokes.

If you've paid any attention to news the last few years, you know that South Texas has a serious diabetes problem.

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# Wingspan

NAS Corpus Christi

"Exceeding Expectations Through Pride In Performance"

**Commanding Officer**

Capt. Steve Banta

**Acting Public Affairs Officer**

**Editor**

Rod Hafemeister

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Wingspan is an authorized publication for members of the military services, civilian personnel and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, Department of the Navy or the Department of the Army, and do not imply endorsement thereof.

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All news releases should be sent to the above address.

Please call (361) 961-2674 for deadline information.

## Worship Services

### CATHOLIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Catholic Chapel  
Daily Mass Wed-Fri: 11:30 a.m.  
Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.  
Religious Education: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

### PROTESTANT WORSHIP SERVICE

Base Protestant Chapel  
Sunday Service: 10:00 a.m.

### JEWISH WORSHIP SERVICE

Temple Beth El (4402 Saratoga Blvd.)  
Friday at 7:30 p.m.  
(with dinner to follow)  
For further information call  
Temple Beth El at 857-8181

### ISLAMIC WORSHIP SERVICE

Islamic Society of South Texas  
(7341 McArdle Rd.)  
Jumah Service – 1:30 p.m.  
For other worship service times, call 992-8550

## Ombudsman Appreciation Day - September 14

# Jackson Signs Navy Family Ombudsman Program Proclamation

Story and photo by Twilla Smith, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs



Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, surrounded by personnel from Navy Region Southeast Fleet and Family Support program, signs Navy Family Ombudsman Program Proclamation on Sept. 2 on board NAS Jacksonville.

Rear Adm. Mary M. Jackson, Commander, Navy Region Southeast, signed a proclamation in support of the Navy Family Ombudsman Program (NFOP) on board Naval Air Station Jacksonville Sept. 2.

The proclamation signing commemorated the 44th anniversary of the NFOP and declared Sept. 14 as Ombudsman Appreciation Day throughout the region.

The NFOP was launched Sept. 14, 1970, by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Elmo Zumwalt to assist commands in maintaining the morale, health and welfare of Navy families.

Ombudsmen are military spouses who understand the challenges that often come with the military lifestyle. Although they do not wear military uniforms, they stand firmly beside Sailors and their families to help any way they can.

According to Dianne Parker, Navy Region Southeast deployment support

program manager and ombudsman program coordinator, the importance behind the proclamation is that it acknowledges the efforts of ombudsmen not only throughout the region, but throughout the Navy.

“When Navy families are dealing with everyday life issues, it is always great to know you have someone in your corner,” Parker said.

“That is what an ombudsman does and why she or he is an important part of the command support team.

“The daily efforts in ensuring families know where to find the resources available to them is invaluable”.

For more information about the Navy Ombudsman Program, including how to contact your command ombudsman, visit [http://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/family\\_readiness/fleet\\_and\\_family\\_support\\_program/ombudsman\\_program/ombudsman\\_program\\_overview.html](http://www.cnic.navy.mil/ffr/family_readiness/fleet_and_family_support_program/ombudsman_program/ombudsman_program_overview.html)

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heroes who selflessly ran to aid those in need,” said Capt. Steve Banta, NASCC commanding officer.

Banta recalled that, on 9/11, he was on deployment onboard the USS Carl Vinson, CVN-70.

“The time was 5:46pm and we were off the coast of Pakistan enroute for yet another routine deployment to the Persian Gulf,” he said.

“Needless to say, that deployment became anything but routine.”

Banta spoke about how the Navy responded in the years that followed: The construction of the USS New York that included steel from the World Trade Center; the USS Somerset with steel from a power shovel that hoisted the flag over the crash site in Pennsylvania; and the USS Arlington, commissioned in 2013 and named for the county of Arlington, Virginia, to honor the 184 victims who died when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.

“Right now, as we gather together here this morning, your Navy, Marine Corps, and Army is protecting and defending the United States of America,” Banta said.

“For example, Navy ships,

submarines, aircraft and, most importantly, tens of thousands of America’s finest young men and women are deployed around the world doing just that.

“They are there now. They will be there when we are sleeping tonight. They will be there every Saturday, Sunday, and every holiday this year.

“They are there around the clock, far from our shores, defending America at all times.”

It’s a chain of service to the nation that began long before 9/11 and continues today, with many who donned the uniform since 9/11, Banta said.

“The next time you see one of the flight students here on the base, remember that within the next year or so, they could very well be playing a vital role overseas, flying combat missions, and landing at night on a pitching flight deck,” he said.

“President Obama’s remarks last night about airstrikes against the ISIS terrorist organization solidifies this notion. What you do here enables that process. What you do here matters.

“What you do here pays tribute to those we lost and those who survived on 9/11 in New York City, in Somerset County, and at the Pentagon.”



(above) Bunker gear and helmet representing the 343 fire fighters who gave their lives on 9/11. (below) F&ES personnel form honor guard with fire fighter’s pikes.

Photos by Ervey Martinez, CCAD PA



The United States began observing Gold Star Mothers day on the last Sunday of September dating back to 1936. Today, the nation recognizes the sacrifice that all Gold Star family members make when a father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, or other loved one dies in service to the nation.

For more information, visit: [www.Facebook.Com/navygoldstar](http://www.Facebook.Com/navygoldstar)



## CNRSE wraps up 2014 Feds Feeds Families Campaign

Story and photo by Twilla Smith, Navy Region Southeast Public Affairs

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. – Navy Region Southeast recently completed another successful year of food and non-perishable donations collected for the Feds Feeds Families campaign.

Feds Feeds Families primary goal is to help end hunger in America by offering emergency food assistance to support families across the country.

This year's campaign ran from June 1 to Aug. 31 throughout the region and the country.

All region totals Navy-wide were turned in on Sept. 5 for a grand total of 1,310,374 pounds collected throughout the nation.

Navy Region Southeast announced it collected 373,299 pounds of food and non-perishable donations, accounting for 30 percent of the nationwide total.

Each region and all of its installations collect donations and choose local area food banks to distribute the collected food items.

NAS Corpus Christi set a goal to raise 20,000 lbs. of food this summer - and raised an astounding 34,475 lbs.

This year's August issue of National Geographic mentioned the Feds Feeds Families campaign as a program that could be used to help fight the "The New Face of Hunger."

"The 2014 Feds Feed Families campaign was an overwhelming success due to the hard work of the Sailors at each installation throughout the Southeast Region," said RPC (SW/FMF) Michael A. Hawthorne, the region coordinator for the 2014 Feds Feeds Families campaign.

"It is this dedication that enables unity within the community at each of our installations."

Although the 2014 Feds Feed Families campaign is coming to an end, local food banks welcome donations year round.

The Feeding America Web site provides a locator tool that can assist you with finding local food banks in your area.

Visit <http://feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx> to find a local food bank near you because fighting hunger is a year-round effort.



AO1 Andrew Burk and ET3 James Wright gather the last round of donations from Navy Region Southeast's 2014 Feds Feeds Families campaign

## Senior Chief Richardson honored



Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley presents the Meritorious Service Medal to Senior Chief Hull Maintenance Technician (Surface Warfare/Air Warfare) Michael Richardson for outstanding meritorious service as command senior chief, Naval Health Clinic Corpus Christi, Texas from June 2011 to September 2014. Richardson, an Alabaman, was praised for distinguishing himself as an exceptional and dedicated leader whose many contributions have had a profound impact in the support of 500 staff members and over 13,000 beneficiaries at four geographically dispersed locations. Richardson's next assignment will be aboard the USS Emory S. Land (AS 39), a United States Navy submarine tender and the lead ship of her class homeported in Diego Garcia, British Indian Ocean Territory.

Photo by HM2 (FMF/SCW) Jacob L. Welch

## September is National Preparedness Month Be Disaster Aware; Take Action To Prepare.

ATLANTA – September is National Preparedness Month, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encourages everyone to make disaster preparedness a priority.

"National Preparedness Month reminds us that we all need to be ready for disasters and emergencies," said FEMA Region IV Acting Regional Administrator Andrew Velasquez III.

"September is also the height of hurricane season, so preparing now is even more critical for families and businesses in the Southeast."

Across the Nation, disasters are occurring with greater frequency, and are larger and more complex. Severe weather and other emergencies can strike with little or no warning and can have disastrous impacts.

Already this year, states across the Southeast have experienced destructive severe storms, including the winter storms that affected Alabama, Georgia and North and South Carolina.

Spring tornadoes and flooding also affected several states.

Four named tropical cyclones, Arthur, Bertha, Cristobal, and Dolly have already formed this summer, and they serve as a reminder to be ready for hurricanes.

"Take the steps necessary to make preparedness a part of your everyday life," Velasquez said.

"Prepare for the hazards that are most likely to occur where you live and

work. Talk to your family and make a family disaster plan. But don't stop there. Practice your plan. Practicing in advance of a disaster makes you better prepared to handle any emergency you may encounter."

Make disaster readiness manageable by taking one step at a time — start by learning your specific risks, then gather supplies for an emergency kit, and finally develop a family communications plan.

By taking these small, but critical steps, over time you can be prepared for disasters. A useful guide to prepare for hurricanes is located at FEMA's America's PrepareAthon! website at <http://www.community.fema.gov/connect.ti/AmericasPrepareathon>

Throughout the month, FEMA will offer tips to help you be disaster ready, including ways you can stay safe during a disaster. Follow FEMA online at [www.facebook.com/fema](http://www.facebook.com/fema), to receive the latest preparedness updates.

For detailed information about how to be ready for severe weather in your area, including a list of items you will want to have in your emergency kit, visit <http://www.ready.gov/>, or our Spanish site at [www.listo.gov](http://www.listo.gov).

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.

## HM1 Cantu awarded



Capt. Jimmy A. Bradley, NHCCC commanding officer, presents the Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (3rd Award) to Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force) John E. Cantu for professional achievement serving as a general duty hospital corpsman, Directorate for Administration from March 2012 to September 2014. Cantu was selected to attend the one-year-long Surface Independent Duty Corpsman school in San Diego, Calif.

*Photo by HM2 (FMF/SCW) Jacob L. Welch*

### Editor continued from page 2

Last year, the South Texas Health Status Review looked at health issues in the 38-county region from the border to San Antonio, including the Coastal Bend.

They found the area has higher rates of obesity and diabetes than the rest of the state and nation, with nearly one-third of South Texans classified as obese.

About one in nine has been diagnosed with diabetes. And experts estimate that for every three cases of diagnosed diabetes, there is another that has not been diagnosed.

While lifestyle and diet are factors, so is genetics; whatever the reasons, Hispanics in South Texas have a higher incidence of diabetes.

Not that it's unique to Hispanics. I had my own unpleasant surprise in 2003.

I hadn't had a real physical since being released from active duty in August 1991; I was a reservist called up during Desert Storm.

Like a lot of guys, especially those who had at one time been involved in vigorous physical activities on a regular basis, I thought I was in decent shape.

Yeah, I'd put on a few pounds and I was spending a lot more time hugging a desk instead of humping a rucksack.

Heck, that summer I covered an Air Force security forces exercise and not only out-walked the other reporters and the PAO – I'd left a couple young airmen sucking wind.

In my mind, I was still the hard-core Ranger of 20 years earlier.

But I had a funny little bulge on my stomach, about the size of the tip of my little finger.

It had been there for months – then one day I moved wrong and it felt like I'd been stabbed.

Abdominal hernia, probably lifting something wrong when we moved.

But the doctor says we need to do a full work-up before I see the surgeon – and it turns out my blood sugar is high.

Some dietary changes – no more regular soda or sugar in my coffee, to start – some meds and other changes.

And a spouse who aggressively nags me when I appear to be slipping.

I was lucky; we found out early and, 11 years later, the doctor tells me I'm considered "pre-diabetic." Monitor and continue what I'm doing – and regular check-ups – and I should avoid the complications.

Bob was not so lucky; his wasn't caught early.

In one of our last conversations before he became too ill to really talk, he told me he screwed up – he should have gone to see the doctor sooner.

I couldn't argue with him.

The common reaction when someone passes away is to send condolences, flowers or make a donation to some cause.

In this case, I'd like to suggest something else: If you really want to honor the memory of Bob Torres – go get a physical.

## MWR summer hire teen leaves behind something to keep the kids amused



Cameron Barcom, 8, and Colin Barcomb, 6, play with a magnetic play table designed and built by MWR summer hire Evan Bradley in the Information, Tickets, & Tours (ITT) office.

*Photo by Jeanie Evans*

When the NASCC MWR hired Evan Bradley for their summer Teen Hire Program, they thought they'd be getting a good worker.

They did – and they also got something else: a new entertainment for children when their parents visit the Information, Tour and Travel office.

During his eight-week job this summer, Evan came up with the idea for a play table, where kids could move things around using magnets.

"Evan planned and built the project using

his very own ideas and resources," said Jeanie Evans, ITT manager.

"His project has been a huge hit with both the parents and children that are visiting the ITT Office."

Evan, 16, is a senior at Flour Bluff High School.

He was one of eight teens selected for the summer Teen Hire Program after completing a five-panel interviewing process. MWR received more than 25 applications, making the selection process very competitive.

# Annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament

Friday, Oct. 10

Gulf Winds Golf Course

Naval Air Station

Corpus Christi

Format: This is a 4-person Florida Scramble. Golfers may sign up as individuals or as a team.

There will be prizes for Closest to the Pin as well as for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams.

Event is open to the first 36 paid teams (or 144 players).

For installation sponsorship/access details contact YN1(SW) Brian Herrera at (361) 961-2633 or by email at brian.herrera1@navy.mil.

Deadline for entry is Friday, 3 October.



Entry Fee: \$35 per person

Entry Fee Includes: Cart, Green Fees, Meal (Burger, Chips and Drink) and \$5 contribution towards the Navy Ball 2014.

Entry forms will be at the Gulf Winds Golf Course Pro Shop

For more information contact Andrea Drake, Director at 961-3250

8 a.m & 2 p.m. Shotgun starts

Rain Date Oct. 17

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### MORNING

0700: Check-In Begins Driving Range Opens

0745: Announcements Starters Briefing

0800: Shotgun Start

### AFTERNOON

1300: Check-In Begins Driving Range Opens

1345: Announcements Starters Briefing

1400: Shotgun Start



# US NAVY 239<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY BALL

Saturday, October 18, 2014

OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL  
900 North Shoreline Phone: (361) 887-6715

## 2014 Schedule of Events

Cocktails	6:00 pm
Program	7:00 pm
Dinner	8:00 pm
Dance	9:00 pm

## 2014 Ticket Prices

E1-E4, GS1-4, NF1	\$25
E5-E6, GS5-7, NF2	\$35
E7-O3, GS8-10, NF3	\$40
O4, GS11, NF4 & Up	\$45
Civilian Guest	\$50

(Non DoD Civilians)

## DRESS FOR THE EVENING:

O4 & Above: Dinner Dress White

O3 & Below: Service Dress White  
(Optional Dinner Dress White)

Civilians: Coat and Tie or equivalent

For more information or to purchase tickets contact your Command Representatives:

CSC Young - NASCC	YNC(Sel) Miller - CNATRA
YN1 Herrera - NASCC	MA1 Carpenter - Security
YN1 Chavera - TW4	HM2 Welch - NHCCC
PSSN Jones - NOSCC	

**2014 Ticket Purchase Deadline:**

**3 OCTOBER**

## FRA OMNI Room Rates+tax are as follows:

Single/Double Room—	\$109
Triple Room—	\$119
Quad Room—	\$129



"This is not an official DOD event. Neither the Navy, the Department of Defense, or the US Government endorse any non-federal entity, including the sponsors of this event."

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