

# SEABEE COURIER

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## NCBC honors ombudsman with certificate of appreciation, lunch

**By Brian Lamar**  
NCBC Public Affairs

More than a dozen volunteer ombudsmen who represent commands throughout the Naval Construction Battalion Center and Stennis were treated to an ombudsman appreciation lunch at the Colmer Dining Facility, Sept. 22.

The purpose of the luncheon was to give commanders an opportunity to recognize the ombudsman's efforts and present them with a certificate of appreciation. This luncheon was held to celebrate a national annual Ombudsman Appreciation Day, Sept. 14.

"It's a chance for commanders to stop and really honor ombudsman with a lunch and some time together for a sincere thank you," said Paula Ingram, the ombudsman appreciation luncheon event coordinator for Fleet and Family Support Center.

As each ombudsman was called up one-by-one, the commanders told an audience of more than 100 diners of the importance that their ombudsman has played in the success of their command and how vital their actions have been to assist them in their ability to reach out to families during deployments and times of crisis.

Although all the installation ombudsmen could not attend the lunch, some participants appreciated the gesture.



**Nineteen volunteer ombudsmen who represent units from across Naval Construction Battalion Center and Stennis pose for their annual group photo outside Colmer Dining Facility after an ombudsman appreciation lunch hosted by installation leadership and Fleet and Family Support Center, Sept. 22. (U.S. Navy Photo by Brian Lamar)**

"This event made me feel appreciated and confirms for me that what I am doing is worthwhile because they took time out of their

schedules to recognize us and our efforts," said Leta Young, the ombudsman for Naval Oceanography Operations Command, Stennis.

## NCBC intramural flag football is heating up



**Service members assigned to units throughout the Naval Construction Battalion Center began this year's Commander's Cup intramural football season Sept. 21. The teams will play throughout the season and the winner of the base will eventually play Keesler Air Force Base in a friendly base rivalry game. (U.S. Navy Photos by Brian Lamar)**

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# NCBC honors Gold Star families with ceremony

By Brian Lamar  
NCBC Public Affairs

Leadership and staff assigned to the Naval Construction Battalion Center honored family members of fallen service members during a Navy Gold Star Mother's and Families Remembrance Ceremony in the Seabee Memorial Chapel, Sept. 22.

In a somber moment, Capt. Cheryl Hansen, NCBC commanding officer, read the names of 46 Sailors who have lost their lives through various causes. After each name was read to the silent crowd, a bell chimed and tear began to fill the eyes of the attendees.

"The purpose of the ceremony was to honor and commemorate the lives and service of local fallen sailors and Seabees as a remembrance," said Jean Sammons, Fleet and Family Support Center, Navy Gold Star liaison.

The Navy Gold Star Program serves as the advocate for the Survivor and provides support, information and services closest to where the family lives, said Sammons.

One family member who attended the event lost her husband five years ago and the reality of losing her service member is still hurtful.

"We were grateful to be invited and included. It is hard for families to attend, but I brought a crew here to hold my hand and help me get through it," said Jennifer Eckman, the widow of Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Eckman.

This was the first remembrance held on base and staff plan to repeat the ceremony each year to honor fallen service members.



**Above: Janice Thibodeaux sings the National Anthem during a Navy Gold Star mother's and families remembrance ceremony in the Seabee Memorial Chapel at the Naval Construction Battalion Center, Sept. 22. Bottom Left: Construction Electrician 3rd Class Heather Denney rings a bell while 46 names of fallen Naval personell are called. Bottom Right: A a color guard presents the colors to begin the ceremony. (U.S. Navy Photo by Brian Lamar)**



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