

# BEE NEWS



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

seabee.org



**New Leadership takes the Helm**  
*at the Navy Seabee Foundation*

PAGE 8

**The Story of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum**  
*from WWII to Today*

PAGE 4

**Seabee Support for FRGs**

PAGE 8

SEABEES CELEBRATE 84TH BIRTHDAY

TWO NEW FALLEN SEABEE SCHOLARSHIPS

MEET THE COMBS & STETHEM AWARD WINNERS

TURN SEABEE SKILLS INTO CIVILIAN SUCCESS



**RDML LOU CARIELLO,  
CEC, USN, RET.  
NSF CHAIRMAN  
OF THE BOARD**

OohRahh Seabees! It is a privilege to serve as the Navy Seabee Foundation's second Chairman, having received the gavel from RADM Kevin Slates at the Navy Seabee Foundation's annual Board meeting last month. I couldn't be more excited about the opportunity to continue to serve with such a strong and talented team of volunteers and staff, committed to supporting our Seabee community.

Last month, the Navy Seabee Foundation's Board voted unanimously to approve four significant measures to increase support to Seabees and Seabee families. For the 2026-27 academic year, NSF will fund over \$820,000 in scholarships (serving over 240 students) which represents an almost \$100,000 increase over last year's record total! Honoring our fallen Seabees, NSF also approved fully funding two \$60,000 scholarships in memory of BUC Joel Baldwin and CS1 Regina Clark who made the ultimate

sacrifice in Iraq in 2004 and 2005 respectively. Additionally, the Foundation approved another \$60,000 proffer through the Navy History and Heritage Command to support the Navy Seabee Museum in Port Hueneme. That brings the total support to the museum by NSF since its inception in 2024 to over \$550,000.

Finally last month, the Foundation approved establishing an ad hoc committee charged to work with currently serving Seabee leadership and staff to determine the best ways that the Foundation can further support Seabees and their families in a manner appropriate to the Foundation's charter and within available resources. This is a very promising expansion of the impact we can make for our Seabee community, and we look forward to reporting on this initiative later this year.

~Lou

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There are more ways than ever to get involved with the Navy Seabee Foundation in 2026. Whether you want to support events, connect with fellow Seabees, or give back to the Seabee community, we have a place for you.

### Golf Tournaments:

We host four golf tournaments each year in key Seabee communities—Gulfport, Washington, DC, San Diego, and Virginia Beach. Each event is powered by a local volunteer committee that helps secure sponsors, recruit golfers, and coordinate event details. Interested in getting involved? Email [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org).

Volunteers are essential to making these events successful. You can help by:

- Securing raffle prizes
- Assembling golfer gift bags
- Supporting event operations on tournament day

### OktoBEEfest:

In 2026, we expect to host approximately 30 OktoBEEfest gatherings around the world. These events bring Seabees together to reconnect, strengthen community ties, and celebrate our shared service. Interested in getting involved? Email [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org).

Each event relies on local volunteers to help plan and execute the

experience. Join an OktoBEEfest planning team near you or take the lead and host an event in your area.

### Seabee Museum Volunteer Opportunities (Port Hueneme, CA)

The Seabee Foundation supports the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum and they are currently recruiting Guest Services volunteers. These volunteers are the first point of contact for visitors and play a key role in creating a welcoming and engaging experience.

Responsibilities include:

- Greeting and assisting visitors
- Answering questions and providing basic orientation
- Directing guests to exhibits, programs, and events

Requirements:

- Age 16 or older
- Ability to pass a background check
- Strong communication skills
- Availability for one 3-hour shift per week

Training is provided, and flexible shifts are available throughout the week and on Saturdays. Questions: [NHHC\\_USNSMVisit@us.navy.mil](mailto:NHHC_USNSMVisit@us.navy.mil).

Thank you for your support!

~Dan

**NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION**  
*board members & staff as of March 2026*



**OFFICERS:**

**Chairman**  
 RDML Louis Cariello,  
 USN, CEC, Ret.

**Vice Chairman**  
 RADM Bret Muilenburg, USN,  
 CEC, Ret.

**Vice Chair-Senior Enlisted Leader**  
 CMDM Douglas Heiner,  
 USN, Ret.

**General Counsel**  
 CDR Greg Philips, CEC,  
 USN, Ret.

**Secretary**  
 CAPT Mike Conaway, CEC, USN,  
 Ret.

**Finance Committee Chair**  
 Mrs. Barbara Rusinko

**Treasurer**  
 CUCM Gerald Schmuck,  
 USN, Ret.

**Scholarship Chair**  
 FORCM Percy Trent Jr.,  
 USN, Ret.

**DIRECTORS:**

RDML Chris Asselta,  
 CEC, USNR, Ret.

Mr. Jeremy Bardin

CDR Emmanuel Bautista,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT Michael Blount,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

EQCM Patrick Brennan,  
 USN, Ret.

RDML Lou Cariello,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CMDCM(SCW) Thomas Cyr,  
 USN, Ret.

CAPT Jennifer Donahue,  
 CEC, USNR, Ret.

CAPT Tony Edmonds,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT William Finn,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT David Fleisch,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CMDCM Douglas Heiner,  
 USN, Ret.

Mr. Tom Kolongowski

CDR John Kucinski,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT Christopher Kurgan,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT Clifford Maurer,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CAPT Doug McVicar,  
 CEC, USNR, Ret.

Mr. Dan Miller,  
 CNE, CDE (EX OFFICIO)

RDML Doug Morton,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

RADM Bret Muilenburg,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

Gina Nichols, MA, MLIS,  
 CA (EX OFFICIO)

CAPT William Rudich,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

Mrs. Barbara Rusinko

CM3 Tomas Santos, USN

CUCM Gerald Schmuck,  
 USN, Ret.

CAPT Jim Schroeder,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

FORCM Larry Sharpe, USN, Ret.

FLTMC Del Terrell, USN, Ret.

CM1(Eric M. Treece, USN, Ret.  
 (EX OFFICIO)

FORCM Percy Trent Jr., USN, Ret.

CAPT Heather Walton,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

CMDCM Bill Warren, USNR, Ret.

CAPT Mike Williamson,  
 CEC, USN, Ret.

**STAFF:**

Dan Miller, CNE, CDE  
 Executive Director

Beth Reuning  
 Scholarship Manager

Heather Deviney  
 Marketing & Development

Catherine Jung  
 Database Administrator

UTCS Bob Smith, USN, Ret.  
 Database/Special Projects

**BEE NEWS**

**CONTENTS**

- 04 The Story of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum
- 07 A Seabee Volunteer's Story
- 08 New Foundation Leadership Seabee Support Update
- 09 A Sign Worth Remembering Can Do Career Connection Winter Graduates
- 10 Two New Endowed Fallen Seabee Scholarships Understanding Donor Advised Funds
- 11 84th Seabee Birthday Photos
- 13 Ways to Make a Difference. Seabee Bricks & Merch
- 14 Thank You Corporate Partners
- 15 Seabee Events Calendar Seabee Golf

**EXTRA**

**BEE NEWS**

PUBLICATION OF THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

Want More? Check out our digital **BEE NEWS** published electronically each month. Go to [seabee.org](http://seabee.org) for more Seabee stories and news!



(above) Inside "Theater C" the first Seabee Museum, 1950 (today this building is known as the NBVC Beehive Gym).



# The U.S. Navy Seabee Museum Story

FROM A WWII FOUNDATION TO THE FUTURE

The story of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum is, in many ways, the story of the Seabees themselves: resourceful, evolving, and always building forward. What began as a simple effort to preserve wartime artifacts has grown into one of the Navy's premier museums, ensuring the Seabee legacy continues to educate and inspire.

Established in 1947, the museum is the second oldest in the Naval History and Heritage Command system. Its mission is to collect, preserve, and display the history of the Naval Construction Force, known as the Seabees, and the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps (CEC), safeguarding their contributions for future generations.

Seabees themselves have long supported naval operations around the world, building and maintaining critical infrastructure, supporting expeditionary missions, and providing humanitarian assistance in times of need. Their enduring "Can Do" spirit continues to define the force today.

## A LEGACY BUILT BY SEABEES

From its earliest days, Seabees themselves have played a direct role in building and expanding the museum that tells their story.

### The First Home: "Theater C" (1947)

In the years following World War II, Port Hueneme, California became an unexpected repository of Seabee history. Nearly 250,000 Seabees passed through Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Port Hueneme on their way to and from the Pacific. Eager to return home, many left behind equipment, memorabilia, and captured items rather than navigate the process of shipping them. By 1946, "Theater C" was overflowing with these artifacts.

Recognizing their historical significance, Commander Neil Kingsley, Officer in Charge of the Training and Distribution Center at NCBC, saw an opportunity to preserve the Seabee story. With the support of Commodore Beauford W. Fink, he began organizing the growing collection and



(left) Some of the collection from "Theater C" displayed at local events like the Ventura County Fair.



This transition marked a turning point. The museum became more organized, more accessible, and more intentional in how it shared the Seabee story with both the Navy community and the public.



"Theater C" the first Seabee Museum, 1950

expanding it with photographs, uniforms, cruise books, and other materials that reflected the full scope of Seabee service.

In October 1947, Rear Admiral John J. Manning, Chief of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, formally dedicated the first Seabee Museum inside "Theater C." It was modest in scale, but deeply meaningful, built on the passion of Seabees, Civil Engineer Corps officers, and veterans committed to preserving their shared history.

By the mid-1960s, the museum once again faced a familiar challenge: growth. As the collection expanded, leaders considered whether to relocate or enlarge the existing facility.

The decision to expand came when Admiral Ben Moreell (Ret.), widely regarded as the father of the Seabees, donated his personal collection, prompting the addition of a new wing.



**Expansion and Access: The Quonset Hut Era (1950s to 1960s)**

As the collection grew, so did the need for space and accessibility. By the early 1950s, the museum had outgrown "Theater C," functioning more as a storage space than a true exhibit area, while its location on base limited public access.

Completed in 1967, the 4,500 square foot Moreell Wing was dedicated in his honor. Admiral and Mrs. Moreell attended the ceremony alongside Felix DeWeldon, sculptor of both the Marine Corps Memorial and the Seabee Memorial. A significant portion of the space was devoted to the Moreell Collection, adding depth and historical significance to the museum's exhibits.

True to Seabee tradition, the expansion was built by Seabees using modular construction methods, with materials funded through proceeds from the museum's gift shop.



Construction of the Moreell Wing

In 1954, Captain William Church, Commanding Officer of NCBC Port Hueneme, and Miss Helen Fairbanks, historian for the Bureau of Yards and Docks, led efforts to relocate the museum. Between 1955 and 1956, it was moved into two large Quonset huts, known as "Elephant Huts," and rededicated in October 1956 by new base CO, Captain Eugene Peltier.

**Growth Through the Decades (1980s to 1990s)**

As Seabees continued to serve around the world, from Cold War operations to humanitarian missions, the Seabee Museum's collection expanded to reflect their evolving role.

By the 1980s, enhancements included expanded archival storage, new office and research space, a growing Museum Store, and the Civil Engineer Corps Gallery. These updates ensured the museum was not only preserving history, but actively documenting an ongoing legacy.

### A Modern Museum for a Modern Audience

By the late 1990s, it had become clear that the museum had once again outgrown its space. Limited exhibit areas, aging infrastructure, and restricted public access highlighted the need for a new facility that could properly preserve the collection and share the Seabee story more broadly.

What followed was more than a decade of planning, fundraising, and coordination between the Navy and dedicated supporters who recognized the importance of preserving Seabee history. The vision was clear: create a modern museum that could both protect the growing collection and make it accessible to the public.

That vision became reality in 2011 with the opening of a 38,338 square foot, state-of-the-art facility located just outside the gates of Naval Base Ventura County.

For the first time, the museum was fully accessible without base entry, welcoming families, students, veterans, and the broader community. Purpose-built exhibit galleries, research spaces, and educational areas allowed the museum to tell the Seabee story in a more immersive and comprehensive way than ever before.

Today, the museum operates under the Naval History and Heritage Command, the Navy's institutional memory, which preserves, analyzes, and interprets naval history to support today's fleet.

The museum is no longer just a place to observe history. It is a place to experience it.

Recent exhibits and partnerships continue to expand its reach, while upgrades to the lobby, Grand Hall, and Bee Fun Zone have created more interactive and engaging experiences for visitors of all ages.



**MORE THAN A MUSEUM**  
Today, the Seabee Museum serves as a bridge between past and present, connecting today's Navy with generations of Seabee history.



SWC Albert Tejada from NCTC and BUC Thomas Huber from CSFE are just a few of the many Seabees who volunteer their time at the museum.

These efforts reflect the enduring Seabee spirit, rooted in innovation, adaptability, and community.

### Looking Ahead: Building the Next Chapter

The future of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum continues to evolve, with plans for new exhibits, expanded interactive storytelling, and innovative ways to connect Seabee history to today's Navy and a global audience.

These efforts are made possible in large part through the support of the Navy Seabee Foundation and our donors. Your generosity helps bring Seabee history to life through enhanced exhibits, educational programs,

and outreach that ensures the legacy remains accessible, relevant, and inspiring.

The continued growth of the museum reflects a strong partnership between the Navy and the Navy Seabee Foundation. Together, we are preserving the history of the Naval Construction Force while creating meaningful opportunities for future generations to engage with the Seabee story.

From its humble beginnings in a warehouse of wartime artifacts to its role today as a world-class museum, the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum stands as a testament to the Seabee spirit: adaptable, resilient, and always building forward.

And like the Seabees themselves, the story is still being written.

## IN HER OWN WORDS...

*Our volunteers are at the heart of the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum, welcoming visitors, sharing stories, and preserving Seabee history for future generations. In this **In Her Own Words** feature, volunteer Helen Matter reflects on a lifetime shaped by Seabee service and the pride she carries forward today.*

# SEABEE MUSEUM VOLUNTEER LIVES THE “CAN DO” SPIRIT



I began volunteering at the museum in 2022 after 50 years in the “work world”. I had just retired and wanted to keep busy and give back and since my dad was a Seabee and I grew up in the military it was a natural fit.

My dad enlisted in 1944 like many others during WWII. His older brother was a Seabee and he wanted to be just like him. When the war was over he returned to his hometown in Pennsylvania, but was restless and enlisted in the Army. While in the Army he met my mom and married her then re-enlisted in the Navy and began a career as a Seabee with a family in tow, I was two at the time.

Living in a variety of places, Port Hueneme, Davisville RI, Trinidad BWI and Dallas, TX prepared my sister and I for life. We learned about diversity of cultures, people and traditions and how to navigate making friends every few years. Living quarters were always interesting, Quonset huts and former barracks were the norm in the 1950s. I learned

to ride a bike on the Port Hueneme Seabee base, walk to school with friends and dress myself. Mom kept the home fire burning while dad deployed to Guam, Okinawa, Bermuda, Antarctica and South Vietnam (twice) before he retired in 1966.

I enjoy welcoming visitors to our museum, be they Seabees and their families or just curious folks wandering into our lobby. I always ask, “So what do you know about the Seabees?” Once I hear the answer I either give them a brief history or send them on their way to explore the many interesting exhibits within the museum. You never know what you might find in the museum: a large vehicle used in the field, a listening device discovered in an embassy wall, a traveling exhibit showcasing the Lowrider community and culture or penguins just hanging out.

Some of my favorite visitors are the kids who come to explore the Bee Zone’s books, legos and giant magnetic wall, their laughter brings a simple joy to our place and a reminder that our Seabee families are important to the community.

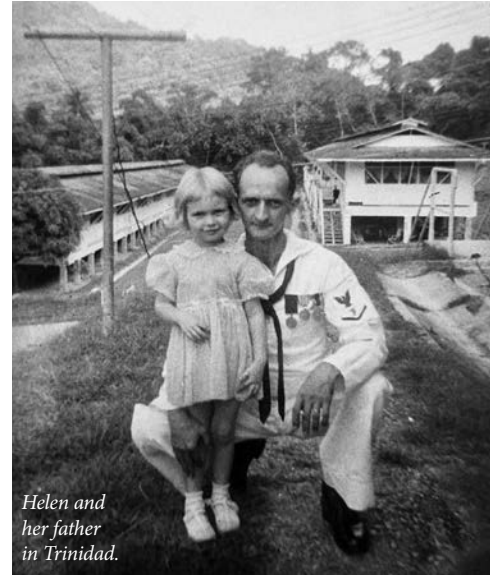
Having grown up as a dependent I know firsthand how important family support is to their Seabee. We are there to send them off and again to welcome them home. I am proud to represent my Seabee at the museum that tells their history in wartime, peacetime and their humanitarian endeavors throughout the world.

“Can Do” was the motto in our house, can’t was not an option!

*Helen in front of their Port Hueneme, CA house wearing some of her father’s Seabee combat gear after his return from a Vietnam deployment.*



*Helen with her parents*



*Helen and her father in Trinidad.*



*Helen on her bike in front of the Quonset Hut post office, CBC Port Hueneme, CA.*





# New Leadership Takes the Helm



The Navy Seabee Foundation Board of Directors convened in person in March 2026 in Virginia Beach, marking the transition in board leadership and composition.

During the meeting, RADM Kevin Slates, USN, CEC, Ret., formally passed the gavel to RDML Lou Cariello, USN, CEC, Ret., who now serves as Chairman. RADM Bret Mulenburg, CEC, USN, Ret., stepped into the role of Vice Chairman, helping guide the Foundation's continued growth and mission impact. The Foundation also extends its sincere appreciation to RADM Kevin Slates for his dedicated leadership and service as Chairman.

The Foundation recognized the contributions of departing board members CAPT Kathryn (Kathy) Donovan, CEC, USN (Ret.), CAPT Robert (Bert) Ramsay, CEC, USN (Ret.), and Trudy Hoff, whose longstanding service helped strengthen the organization and its support to the Seabee community. Special thanks to Kathy—and her husband Derek—whose hard work and dedication were instrumental in the Foundation's success. Bert will be remembered for his creativity and vision, especially for his role in shaping OktoBEEfest, which continues to grow and thrive each year.

Joining the board are FORCM Larry Sharpe, USN, Ret., FLTMC Del Terrell, USN, Ret., CAPT Doug McVicar, CEC, USN, Ret., and Tom Kolongowski, former Navy Supply Corps officer who served with NMCB THREE. Their addition brings a wealth of experience and fresh perspective as the Foundation continues to expand its efforts in scholarships, Seabee support, and heritage preservation.

This transition reflects both continuity in leadership and a renewed commitment to serving Seabees and their families.

## FOUNDATION SEABEE SUPPORT UPDATES



NMCB-1 FRG accepts their spring grant from the Navy Seabee Foundation at the Seabee Heritage Center in Gulfport. Pictured (l-r): Dan Miller (Seabee Foundation Executive Director), Samara McLeish (President), Megan Cochrane (Treasurer), Heather Stewart (Advisor), Chris Peeters (FRO: Family Readiness Officer), and Laura Hagan (Advisor)



NMCB-11 FRG accepts their spring grant from the Navy Seabee Foundation at the All-Seabee Reunion in Gulfport. Pictured (l-r): DeAnn Williams (Advisor), Dan Miller (Seabee Foundation Executive Director), Darian Nelson (FRG Secretary), and Jesse Guardado (FRO: Family Readiness Officer)



NMCB-133 FRG accepts their spring grant from the Navy Seabee Foundation at the All-Seabee Reunion in Gulfport. Pictured are (l-r): CMC Nyron DeGannes, Amanda Stitt (Advisor), Meghan Cassatt (Secretary), Dan Miller (Seabee Foundation Executive Director), Maddie Evaristo (Treasurer), Keisha Cagle (President), and XO Andrew Stitt.

# A Sign Worth Remembering: One Seabee's Story Comes Full Circle



EO1 (SCW) John Cuddy USN-Retired submitted this photo and story via our website, [seabee.org/support/submit-a-photo](http://seabee.org/support/submit-a-photo).

## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

“Thirty years ago, my LT wanted a project sign for our Water Well Drilling Team in El Salvador. I argued with him and my Chief, lost. Since no one had any artistic talent that they would admit to? I paid a local Salvadoran street artist \$20 to paint our project sign.

We flew down and back on C-5's, and when we unloaded, gave the sign to the Port Hueneme Supply team, and then most of us, went on leave, I retired from the Navy, and forgot all about the sign.

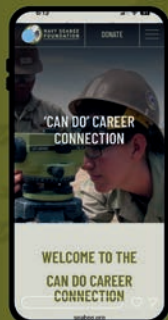
This Christmas, I took my grandchildren to Disneyland, Nixon Library, Reagan Library, and Seabee Museum. Was surprised and honored to see the sign in the Seabee Museum.

Two men that served with me in El Salvador, they were Second Classes at the time, both retired as Master Chiefs years later. Proud to have served with them.”

To submit your photo and story, go to [seabee.org](http://seabee.org).

## Turn Seabee Skills into Civilian Success

A free career platform connecting Seabees, veterans, and employers who value real-world skills.



NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION  
**CAN DO**  
Career Connection  
[seabee.org/careers](http://seabee.org/careers)



POWERED BY THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION

**Congratulations!**  
2025  
SEABEE SCHOLAR WINTER GRADUATES!

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <br>Ryleigh Lusk<br>Texas Tech University                    | <br>Mattie Pogue<br>Oklahoma Baptist University | <br>Anabelle Silvas<br>Mississippi State University |
| <br>Kadance VanDeVelle<br>University of Southern Mississippi | <br>Jessica Walker<br>Kutztown University       | <br>Maddalynn Zellen<br>Eastern Michigan University |

**Not Pictured:**  
Emily Beerens - Oakland University  
Preston Edmonds - Liberty University  
Jake Montgomery - The University of Toledo

[seabee.org/scholarships](http://seabee.org/scholarships)

## Navy Seabee Foundation Adds Two New Endowed Fallen Seabee Scholarships

At its most recent meeting, the Board of Directors of the Navy Seabee Foundation approved the establishment of two new endowed scholarships to honor Fallen Seabees. These scholarships will recognize the service and sacrifice of BUC Joel E. Baldwin and CS1 Regina R. Clark.

The Board also reaffirmed its long-term commitment to honoring all Seabees lost during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom by creating endowed scholarships in their names. Two additional scholarships will be announced in the near future.

With the addition of these new endowments, the Foundation has seven scholarships honoring Fallen Seabees:

- BU2 Michael C. Anderson
- BUC Joel E. Baldwin
- CS1 Regina R. Clark

- EO3 Christopher Dickerson
- SW3 Eric L. Knott
- LTJG Frankie Toner
- CDR Duane G. Wolfe

Each of these scholarships is available to children and grandchildren of anyone who served in the Naval Construction Force and ensures that the legacy of these Seabees lives on by supporting the education of future generations.

To learn more about the Navy Seabee Foundation's endowed scholarships, visit: [www.seabee.org/scholarships/endowed-scholarships/](http://www.seabee.org/scholarships/endowed-scholarships/)

To contribute to a scholarship in honor of a Fallen Seabee, visit: [seabee.org/donate](http://seabee.org/donate).



## Understanding Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) & How You Can Support the Navy Seabee Foundation

Many donors today are looking for flexible, tax-efficient ways to support the causes they care about most. One increasingly popular option is a donor-advised fund (DAF). If you already have a DAF—or are considering establishing one—it can be a powerful tool to make a meaningful impact for Seabees and their families.

**What Is a Donor-Advised Fund?** - A donor-advised fund is a charitable giving account established through a financial institution or community foundation. Donors contribute cash, stocks, or other assets to the fund, receive an immediate tax deduction, and then recommend grants from the fund to qualified nonprofits over time. Think of a DAF as a “charitable savings account.” You set aside funds for philanthropy now and decide later which organizations to support.

**Why Donors Choose DAFs** - DAFs have grown in popularity because they offer several key advantages:

- Immediate tax benefits – You receive a charitable deduction in the year you contribute to the fund.
- Flexibility – You can recommend grants to nonprofits whenever it's convenient.
- Simplicity – The sponsoring organization handles record keeping, receipts, and due diligence.

- Strategic giving – You can plan your philanthropy thoughtfully, rather than making rushed year-end decisions.

### How to Use Your DAF to Support the Navy Seabee Foundation

1. Recommend a Grant – Log in to your DAF provider's platform and search for the Navy Seabee Foundation.
2. Designate Your Gift (Optional) – Direct your support toward scholarships, Seabee support programs, or The US Navy Seabee Museum initiatives.
3. Consider Recurring Grants – Set up ongoing support for consistent impact.

**Timing Your Giving** - You can make a grant from your DAF anytime during the year.

**Your Support Matters** - Every gift to the Navy Seabee Foundation helps provide scholarships, preserve Seabee history, and support active-duty Seabees and their families. Donor-advised funds offer a smart and flexible way to extend that impact.

*Call or email Dan Miller if you have any questions. 859-327-1830 or [danmiller@seabee.org](mailto:danmiller@seabee.org).*

# SEABEES CELEBRATE THEIR 84TH BIRTHDAY



Guam



Port Hueneme, CA



NCHB



Mayport, FL



San Diego, CA



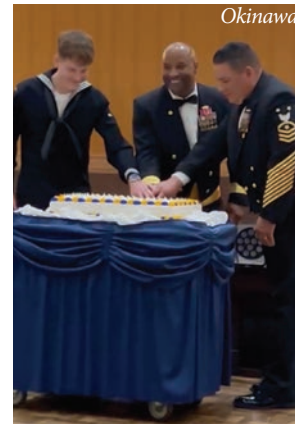
Italy



Norfolk, VA



Key West, FL



Okinawa



Gulfport, MS



Virginia

# Honoring Excellence: 2025 Combs & Stethem Award Recipients Lead with Courage and Legacy

The Navy Seabee Foundation is proud to recognize the 2025 recipients of two of its most distinguished honors: the Rear Admiral Lewis B. Combs Award and the Steelworker Second Class Robert D. Stethem Award. These annual awards celebrate individuals whose exceptional service reflects not only outstanding contributions to the Navy and the nation, but also a deep commitment to preserving the legacy and traditions of the Civil Engineer Corps (CEC) and the Seabees.

**The Rear Admiral Lewis B. Combs Award**, named for Lewis B. Combs, honors those who have made significant contributions to advancing and preserving Seabee and CEC heritage. This year's recipient, CE1 (SCW/EXW) Priscilla Alvarez, exemplified extraordinary leadership and technical expertise while serving at U.S. Embassy Berlin. Acting as the sole technical authority during a critical staffing gap, she ensured uninterrupted diplomatic security operations during a time of heightened geopolitical tension. Her innovative work—including implementing AI-assisted security systems and modernizing surveillance infrastructure across Europe—demonstrated both forward-thinking ingenuity and unwavering dedication to mission success.

**The Steelworker Second Class Robert D. Stethem Award**, named in honor of Robert D. Stethem, recognizes exceptional moral courage in support of Seabee traditions. UT1 (SCW/EXW) Mason Rumble, serving at U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv, is this year's recipient. His actions under fire—particularly during missile attacks—directly safeguarded American personnel and preserved mission integrity. From leading critical security system upgrades to improvising real-time solutions in high-risk situations, Petty Officer Rumble demonstrated remarkable courage, composure, and technical mastery in one of the most challenging operational environments.

Through their leadership, courage, and devotion to duty, both Petty Officer Alvarez and Petty Officer Rumble embody the enduring spirit of Rear Admiral Combs and Petty Officer Stethem. Their achievements not only strengthen today's mission but also ensure the continued legacy and proud heritage of the Seabees for generations to come. Congratulations to both on a job exceptionally well done.

View these and past recipients at [seabee.org/awards](https://seabee.org/awards).



# One Foundation. Many Ways to Make a Difference.



In 2026, there are more opportunities than ever to connect, contribute, and make a lasting impact through the Navy Seabee Foundation.

Businesses, corporations, and individuals all play a vital role in supporting the Seabee community, and in return, gain meaningful engagement, visibility, and connection to a proud legacy of service.

By partnering with the Navy Seabee Foundation, you help fund scholarships, strengthen Seabee families, preserve history, and support programs that honor and uplift those who serve.



### Seabee Golf Tournaments [SeabeeGolf.org](http://SeabeeGolf.org)

- Gulf Coast - April 29, 2026
- Washington, DC - June 8, 2026
- San Diego - August 10, 2026
- Virginia Beach - October 8, 2026

Support these events as a sponsor, or get hands-on by helping at the local level through volunteer committees, event-day support, and community outreach.



### Seabee Virtual 5k - July 1-14 [Seabee5K.org](http://Seabee5K.org)

Coming back for a second year! Rally your network. Organize a team or group in your community and participate together. Watch for more details coming out soon on our social media and Seabee.org webpage.

### OktoBEEfest [OktoBEEfest.org](http://OktoBEEfest.org)

Celebrated worldwide with dozens of local gatherings each year. Host an event in your area or join a planning team near you. Now seeking Sponsors!

### Become a Sustaining Partner

Gain visibility and recognition across all 2026 events and initiatives.

### Support the U.S. Navy Seabee Museum

Help fund new exhibits, and locally, volunteer opportunities are available to welcome and engage museum visitors.

### Fund a Scholarship

Support the next generation of the Seabee community through expanded scholarship opportunities. Contact us at [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)

### Pre-Order a Seabee Calendar

Securing your annual Seabee Calendar is another way to support the Foundation. Watch for details on social media and in the next Bee News.

However you choose to get involved, whether sponsoring, volunteering, participating, or giving, you are helping build something that lasts.

Join us in supporting Seabees and their families. Start today at [seabee.org](http://seabee.org). To learn more, email [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org) or visit [Seabee.org](http://Seabee.org).

## Seabee Bricks

A memorial brick is the perfect way to honor that special Seabee family member or friend in your life - a thoughtful gift that will permanently display their name and honor their service to their country.

Customize your brick with your own special message. It can be a tribute to a former or current Seabee, a Seabee unit, your own service.

**\$125**

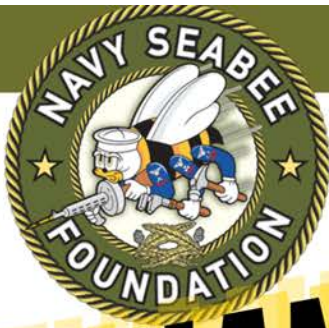
PORT HUENEME, CA

GULFPORT, MS

Check Out the Navy Seabee Foundation Online Seabee Shop

## Every Purchase Supports Seabees and Their Families

[seabee.org/shop](http://seabee.org/shop)



# THANK YOU!

SUSTAINING PARTNER:



**moffatt & nichol**  
Creative People, Practical Solutions.®

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS:



70E Solutions / AFG / Allan Myers / Alliant Insurance Services Inc. / Associated General Contractors-San Diego / Balfour Beatty / Belcastro Construction Management / Bergelectric Corp / BMK Ventures / Boeing / Broaddus & Associates / Brown Strauss Steel / C.J. Management Group Inc. / CAVU Construction / Cellon & Associates, Inc. / Crest Steel / Cross Country / Cuts, Inc / Darley Defense / ECS Mid Atlantic, LLC / Electricore, Inc. / ELEN Consulting Inc. / FA Design Build / Gannett Fleming / GCR, Inc. / GET Solutions/Terracon / GovGig / Harkins Builders, Inc. / Harkins / Harrison County Development Commission / Herman Construction / Hess Brewing / Incredible Supply and Logistics / J. L. Davis Electrical Contractor, Inc. / JWF Industries / Karpinski Engineering / Kubic Engineering / McParlane & Associates / MPC Computer Products / Pucket Cat / RE/MAX Alliance / RLM Government Services / Rock Spring Contracting / Salem Five / SAME- Hampton Roads / Savvy Builders / SDI / Steel Fab / Stranix & Associates / Superior Cleaning Equipment Inc. / Tetra Tech / Trestle Construction / The Whiting-Turner Contracting Company / Tinkle Town / United States Marine / VOC Associates, LLC /

# CAN DO!

[seabee.org](http://seabee.org)

To find out how your company can become a Navy Seabee Foundation corporate partner, email us at [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org)



# 2026 SEABEE EVENTS

## APRIL 2026

- 29 2026 Gulf Coast Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Wednesday, April 29 - The Club at Diamondhead, MS. SeabeeGolf.org
- 30-31 NMCB 24 Reunion**  
April 30-May 3 - Chattanooga, TN

## MAY 2026

- 1-3 NMCB 74 Desert Storm/Desert Shield Reunion**  
May 1-3 - Long Beach, MS
- 12-18 MCB58 Reunion**  
May 12-18 - San Antonio, TX

## JUNE 2026

- 8 2026 DC Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Monday, June 8 - Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, VA • SeabeeGolf.org
- 15 Northeast Seabee Golf Tournament Davisville**  
Monday, June 15 - North Kingstown, RI
- 23-26 MCB-12 Vietnam Reunion 1968-1969**  
June 23-26 - Bath, ME

## JULY 2026

- 1-7 2026 Seabee Virtual 5K**  
July 1-7 - Watch for more details to come!

## AUGUST 2026

- 10 2026 San Diego Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Monday, August 10 - Fairbanks Ranch Country Club, Rancho Santa Fe, CA.  
Registration open now for Golfers and Sponsors: SeabeeGolf.org

## SEPTEMBER 2026

- 15-17 CBMU 302 Reunion Association 2026**  
September 15-17 - Bloomington, MN
- 19 OktoBEEfest - Harrisonburg, VA**  
Saturday, September 19 - Harrisonburg, VA • OktoBEEfest.org
- 21-24 MCB11 & NMCB 8 Associations Joint Reunion**  
September 21-24 - Colorado Springs, CO
- 26 NMCB 14 Association Reunion**  
Saturday, September 26 - Orlando, FL



*If you'd like to host or sponsor, go to [OktoBEEfest.org](http://OktoBEEfest.org)*

## OCTOBER 2026

- 1-30 2026 OktoBEEfest**  
More info at [seabee.org/events/oktobeeffests/](http://seabee.org/events/oktobeeffests/)
- 8 2026 Virginia Beach Seabee Golf Tournament**  
Thursday, Oct 8 - Virginia Beach Ntl Golf Club, VA • Register at SeabeeGolf.org
- 13 OktoBEEfest - Arizona**  
Tuesday, October 13 - Surprise, AZ • OktoBEEfest.org
- 18-22 MCB1 – MCB9 Reunion**  
September 18-22 - Virginia Beach, VA
- 22 OktoBEEfest - Gulfport, MS**  
Thursday, October 22 - Gulfport, MS • OktoBEEfest.org

**LIKE & FOLLOW THE NAVY SEABEE FOUNDATION TO STAY IN THE KNOW!**

facebook  
linkedin  
Instagram @SeabeeFoundation

@NavySeabeeFoundation

**Last Call for DC Sponsors & Golfers!**  
SeabeeGolf.org

**D.C. Seabee Golf Tournament**  
**MONDAY, JUNE 8**

**HURRY! THIS EVENT WILL SELL OUT!**

# BEE NEWS

P.O. BOX 657 • GULFPORT, MS 39502-0657

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SPRINGFIELD, VA  
PERMIT NO. 209



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



MOVING? Email your new mailing address to [info@seabee.org](mailto:info@seabee.org).

Want More News?  
Check out digital  
**BEE NEWS** published  
electronically each month.  
Go to  
**seabee.org**  
for more Seabee  
stories and news!

## SEABEE SPOTLIGHT



SAN DIEGO, California (April 2026) - U.S. Navy Seabees assigned to Amphibious Construction Battalion ONE (ACB 1) get a group photo following CM2 (SCWS/EXW) Romero reenlistment. ACB 1 provided specialized maritime support to NASA's Artemis II.