

Perserving the History and Honoring the Brotherhood



For Membership Info Visit: www.combatantcraftcrewman.org

Quarterly Newsletter April/May/June 2017

Volume II No. 2

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**In Memoriam: Leo Walker (l) and Bob
Stoner (r) Page 13**



Presidents Message

Dear CCCA Members,

Thank you for all your support for our Associations success. It is with great pleasure that I can convey to you the many good works that are being carried out to our community. These past couple of months have been extremely busy for us, between rendering honors to our fallen brothers and their family members, providing casualty assistance services, funerals services, memorial wreaths, wellness baskets, living assistance, fundraising activities, volunteer recognitions, and the host of charitable and administrative activities. Our need is clearly apparent.



It is difficult to put into words the surge of emotions that are felt when you lose a loved one, but I can speak with certainty that knowing that you have an organization like us to be there to help when you are facing life's challenges is comforting and knowing that your family members are not alone is truly reassuring.



Your direct financial support through memberships, donations, and Ship Store purchases continue to be our main source of revenue to support our charitable services. However, the CCCA Board is actively working additional revenue streams that will strengthen our financial foundation.

The Ship Store is now capable of accepting a wider variety of payment methods that will meet your previous requests. Thanks to our Sales Vice President (Mike Sigsworth) the Ship Store, webpages, and merchandise are improving. New products and services are coming your way!

Our corporate solicitation and partnership drive will be launching shortly. The Board has approved our informational products and are now going into production. We will share these items through a variety of venues and will make them available for distribution to help raise awareness. These are only tools to help spread the word of the CCCA and what we are about. Each of you should become familiar with their content and be confident in your ability to articulate your enthusiasm for what we do and who we are. We want you to feel proud to be part of this association and restore that sense of camaraderie and pride. Our Historian and CCCA Vice

President Jim Gray, Chuck Chaldekis, and myself will be making this a reality.

Our Treasurers are still in transition as our taxes and financial records are in audit and review for final turnover. The process is taking a bit longer than expected. However, since this major shift of responsibility is transferring from Tom Folkesson to Pete Diegel, it is critical that we do this right. Thank you, Tom, for all that you are doing and have done to get us to where we are. I am confident that Pete will carry on the high standard of excellence in the years to come.

Memberships are our lifeblood and Tom Lyons is doing a fantastic job tracking our progress and communicating with people. Thanks Tom for taking the time as our Vice President for Memberships to getting this vital program running so smoothly.

Much of the behind scene interaction with our recipients is handled through the selfless work and compassion of Bill Redmond, Mark Jansen, Miho Brown, Shike Zemlin, Carolyn Smith, Ed Mann, and our many charitable partners.

We have major charitable activities in the works on each coast and the CCCA is contributing \$1000.00 directly to ALS Non-Profit, in support of the Twisty River Rat Pack and their support for George Sasse. This will help them towards their \$2000.00 goal and help raise awareness towards a cure for this crippling disease. We are dedicated to helping our special communities and their families.

Our mission of "Preserving the History and Honor the Brotherhood" continues to focus our resolve to achieve our vision of being a world-class charitable organization. The mission is real! The vision is clear!

Sincerely yours,

Joe Zemlin

Joseph John Zemlin, MS
CWO4 Ret., USN
CCCA CEO, President Board of Directors



President Joe Z. Presents Karolyn Smith With A Certificate of Appreciation

President Joe Z. presented Karolyn Smith with a volunteer award. Karolyn was instrumental in an intervention for a brother to help get him into the VA and Medical System correctly so he could start his recovery process. She was critical in reaching him at a level where he was willing to take the necessary steps and follow our lead and now he is getting better. He is still in tough shape but we are hopeful again for his future, and more importantly so is he!

CCCA/SBU/SBT get together. Good food and drinks and some great stories. With some brothers. Be on the watch for the next one. Tilted Kilt Takeover. I will post on all our sites when the plan comes together. With plenty of time to plan. Hope to have many more of these.

Pictured L to R: Jay Man, Richard Pottenger and Ed Mann

Photo Credit: Jay Man



Ordnance Notes

by Bob Stoner GMCM (SW) Ret.

Mk 18 Mod 0 Manual 40mm Grenade Launcher

The first attempt to build a fast-firing alternative to the single-shot M79 was the Honeywell Mk 18 Mod 0 multiple grenade launcher. The Mk 18 fired the same round as the M79 launcher, the 40x46mmSR, and not the more powerful 40x53mmSR round used by the later Mk 19 Mod 0. The Mk 18 used a split breech system and was manually operated by a hand-crank. The split breech was actually two pairs of four-lobed star wheels. The tab of its fiberglass-reinforced belt of 24 rounds was introduced into the feedway and pushed through while the hand-crank was turned to index the first round. Once indexed, the gun was set on SAFE until needed.



Mk 18 Mod 0 40mm grenade launcher ready for action aboard a PBR during the Vietnam War. Note the large ammunition box on the left, that gun feeds from left to right, and the expended cases remain in the belt after firing. The kneeling sailor has an M79 single-shot 40mm grenade launcher.

Use was simplicity itself: the safety was set to OFF and the hand-crank was turned. The star wheels drew the rounds into the firing position -- centered between the upper and lower star wheels -- then fired -- and then passed out the ejection port by the rotating star wheels. The 40mm grenades were not withdrawn from the belt like other machine guns; the fired cases remained in the belt.



A good close-up of a Mk 18 mounted on the forward, starboard weapons mount of MST-2 Detachment ALPHA's Light SEAL Support Craft or LSSC just after its return from an operation. The fabric belt was a fiberglass tape construction that resisted the climatic conditions in Southeast Asia.

(Photo: Gary Hunt)

Rate of fire depended on how fast the gunner could turn the hand-crank. The Mk 18 weighed about 8.6 kg (19 lbs.) and was 56cm (22.5 in) long. Design commenced in 1962 and nearly 1,200 were built between 1965 and 1968. This grenade launcher and its contemporary automatic equivalent, the Mk 20 Mod 0, have both been replaced in service by the more powerful Mk 19 Mod 3 40mm automatic grenade launcher in Navy Special Boat Squadrons.



**Mk 18 Mod 0 (Honeywell) 40mm grenade launcher broken down for maintenance by EN2 Ron Simpson aboard his PBR during the Vietnam War.
(Photo: Ron Simpson)**

[[Vietnam](#)]

Light SEAL Support Craft - LSSC

Light SEAL Support Craft (LSSC)

Displacement: 5 tons

Length: 24 feet

Beam: 9.5 feet

Draft: 1.5 feet

Propulsion: 2 Ford 427 gasoline engines, [350 hp](#), 2 Jacuzzi [water pumps](#)

Range:

Crew: 3 + 6 SEALs Weapons: 2 single 7.62mm mg and 1 .50 BMG.

Note: 16 built by Grafton Boatworks. In service 1968.



The LSSC Vietnam

By Bill Moreo

This boat was Rick Shepard's and my baby. What's pictured above is a MK-2 LSSC. Rick worked at Grafton Boat Company on the MK-2 after discharge from the Navy. The main difference between the MK-1 and the MK-2 is the outdrives and the 460 cu. in. engine.

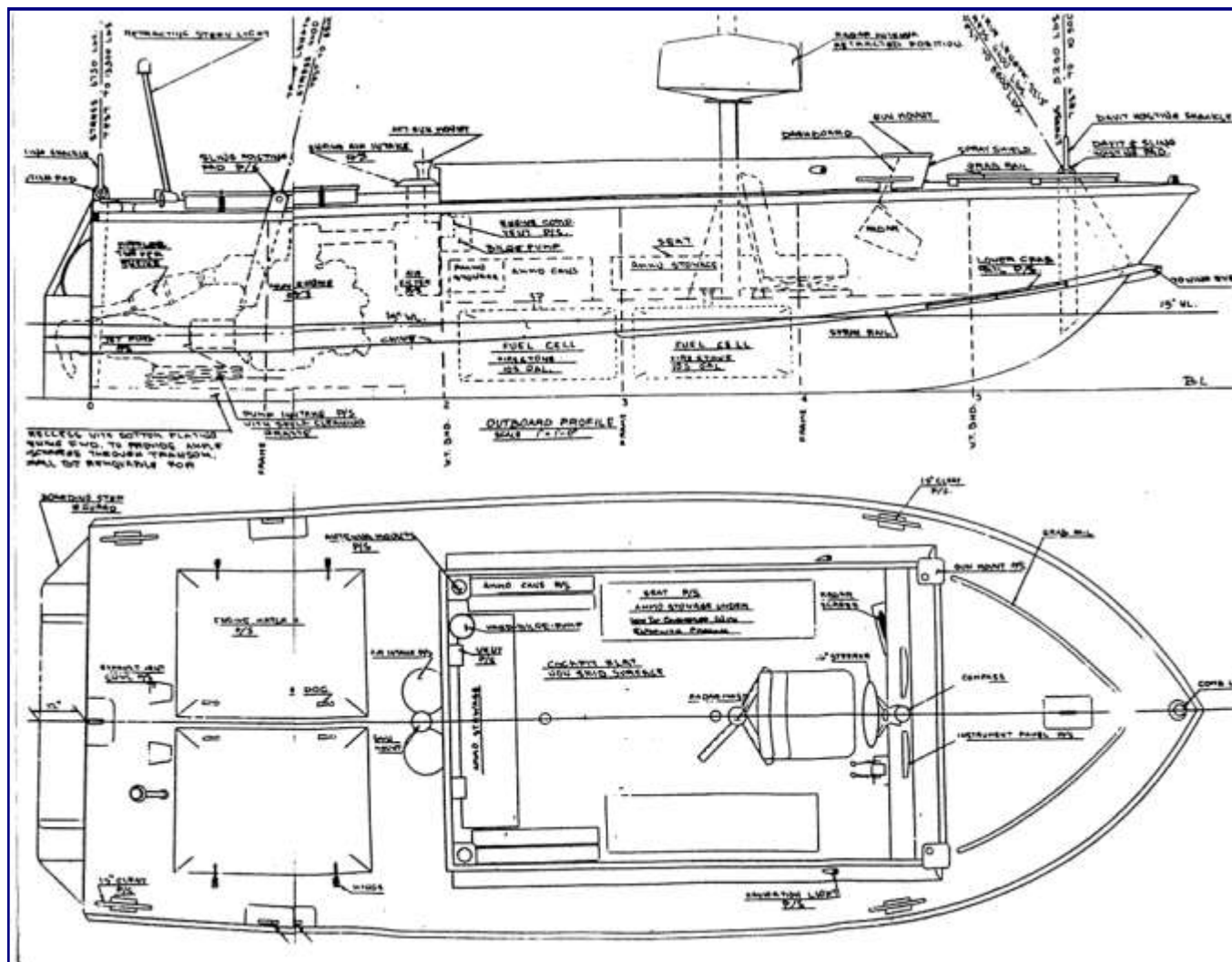
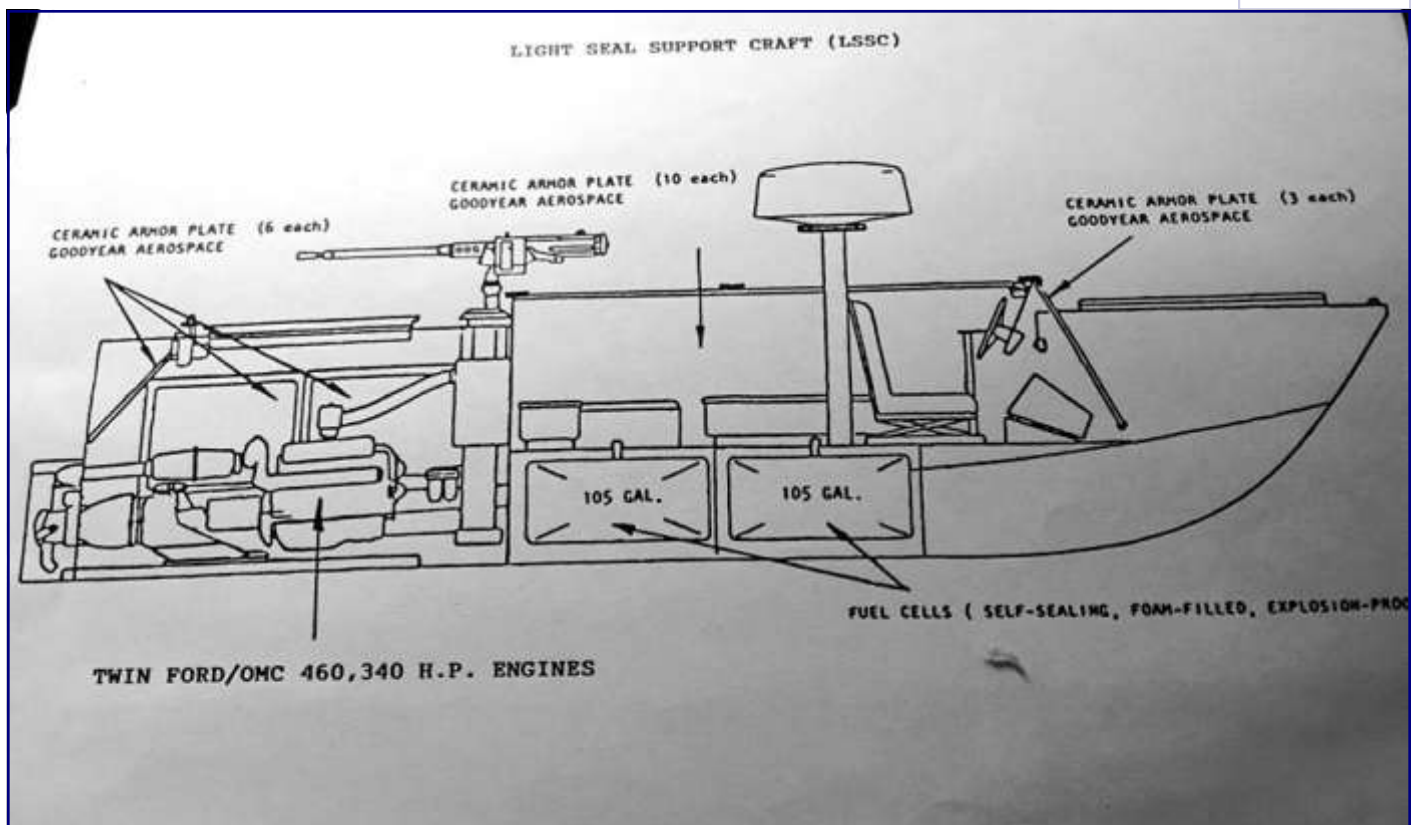
We returned from Nha-Be in the spring of '68 because of our experience in the "Rung-Sat" '67-'68 in inserting and extracting Seals on missions in whalers. We were chosen to go to Grafton Boat Company to advise and operate, from the ground up, the design of a boat capable of inserting and extracting Seal Teams on covert missions.

It was the first of its kind, so myself, Rick, an OIC, 1 ET and 2 Seals from 1/2 were off to the Mississippi River, shot up the cliffs with M-60s, dropped a boat by helo and attended Ford Motor School.

The MK-1 was fitted with 427 cu. in. Ford Interceptors and Jacuzzi water jet pumps. After testing and evaluating the boats, Rick and I flew the first two boats into Ben-Thuy in the fall of '68. After making them operational, Rick stayed behind and myself and GMG-2 Blas Mojica went overland, (a trip to remember), to My-Tho to deliver the other boat. John Rapp and I made it mission operational towards the end of 1968.

In total I logged over 50 missions in the Delta with this boat and it did the job... speed, stealth, and a feeling of safety behind the ceramic armor.













CURRENT EVENTS

Senate Confirms Shulkin: By a vote of 100-0, the Senate Monday evening confirmed Dr. David Shulkin as the new Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "Veterans are very fortunate to have Dr. Shulkin voluntarily stay in what has evolved into the most scrutinized and criticized position in the country — and it should be," said VFW National Commander Brian Duffy. "What he brings to the job is a love for veterans, for doing what's right, and for knowing what needs to be done to fix what's broken, to hold employees accountable, and to restore the faith of veterans in their VA."

Online Exchange Shopping to Open to Veterans: All honorably discharged veterans will soon be able to shop online on the websites offered by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange, the Marine Corps Exchange and the Coast Guard Exchange. The VFW has backed this proposal since it was first proposed in 2014, because it is a huge win for honorably discharged veterans and the MWR programs the exchange services support. According to an article published this week in Military Times, the new online shopping privilege will exclude from sale, however, all uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products. The exchanges will use existing Defense Department data to determine eligibility. Veterans whose records are incomplete or do not appear in the VA's database will need to register through VA, according to a letter provided to congressional oversight committees.

New Blended Retirement Training: On Tuesday, the Department of Defense released training on the new Blended Retirement System, set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2018. The new system combines a 20-year cliff vested defined benefit, similar to the legacy high-3 system, with a defined contribution and government matching benefit. Service members on or entering active duty before Dec. 31, 2017, will be required to complete the training before deciding whether to opt-in to the new system or remain in the legacy system.

* * * * *



CCCA Friends and volunteers coming together to help out Nadia Vetter! This is what it's all about! Thank you all for the great support and answering the call!

In Memoriam

WALKER, LEO

15 May 1969 – 25 January 2017



Hull Technician Leo Shane Walker USN was born in 1969 in Sacramento, CA. He was a gracious, loving and amazing father to both of his daughters and his two grandsons.

He is survived by his daughters Jacquelyn Susanne Clarke and Catherine Sophia Walker-Neilson and grandchildren Zane Hallett, 8 and Carter Johnston, 5.

Military Honors and Interment was Wednesday, February 22nd, 2017 at Miramar National Cemetery.

Leo was admired by his “Brothers” in the Naval Special Warfare community and will always be remembered as a hardworking and compassionate comrade with an enduring sense of humor and wit.
God Speed and Fast Boats, Brother! We have the Watch!

Leo served ten years in the United States Navy (1988-1998). After his Basic Training and Hull Technician Training, he attended and graduated from the elite Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewmen Course. He then accepted orders to Special Boat Team Twelve located in Coronado, CA. He eventually returned to the Naval Special Warfare Center as SWCC motivator. Following his tours in Naval Special Warfare, he transferred to the USS MIDWAY (CV-41) and a tour onboard the USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62) where he finished his military service.

Decorations/Awards: Navy and Marine Corp’s Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (x2), Good Conduct Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (x2), National Defense Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Expert Rifle, Coast Guard Meritorious Commendation, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy “E” Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/ 2 Bronze Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Donations: Are being accepted at Jacquelyn Susanne Clarke’s website: In the care of Leo Walker at www.youcaring.com. Click on the You Caring official website, then type in “**Leo Walker**” on the top right corner to search. It will help any and all occurring debts. Your donations are sincerely appreciated!

CCCA Leo Walker Funeral

by Phil Garn

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Brother Leo Craig Walker of SBU/SBT-12 died a victim of a criminal act on January 25, 2017. His sudden and tragic death was a devastating event for his family, particularly his adult daughters, son in law and two grandchildren.

Fortunately, many of our CCCA brothers stepped up to assist the family through this difficult time and honor their loved one with compassion and dignity. The old comrades of Leo's came together to pay their respects and help the family. CCCA member Mark Jansen coordinated the local Patriot Guard funeral escort and a custom Harley Davidson funeral casket for Leo (an avid Harley man). Mark also purchased a burial suit on short notice for Leo, at his expense. CCCA CACO Bill Redmond (one of Leo's SWCC instructors) and President Joe Zemlin worked their magic behind the scenes to assist the family with funeral arrangements as well as during the memorial ceremony .



Our small but significant contributions bolstered the small Navy Honor Guard, Carriage, Bugler, and Chaplain at the Miramar National Cemetery. Leo's SWCC classmate, Benny Juarez spoke eloquently about what an inspiration and tough guy Leo was in class and Teams. Bill Redmond followed with his kind words as his former SWCC instructor. CCCA Secretary, Scott Whaley provided Bill Redmond an American Flag which he arranged officially flown onboard USS Midway (CV 41) Museum. Leo served onboard the Midway before leaving the Navy many years ago. Leo's eldest daughter accepted the final tribute to honor her Fathers service to God and Country, while Mark Jansen photographed the ceremony.



Mark Jansen, who is in medical treatment himself, struggled to get great pictures of the day for the family. It pained me to watch such a vibrant man pull himself from one vantage point to the next to record the tribute to Leo and his family. Mark's warrior spirit and sincere devotion are beyond reproach. He has the heart of a lion and is someone you want as a Brother!

When I hugged his daughter and shook his son in law's hand for the last time, I knew their thanks were truly appreciated. I could see it in their eyes. It became apparent that this what the CCCA is all about and why you should be a part of this organization. It is helping our loved ones get through the most difficult of times with honor and dignity and allowing us to move forward never forgetting our rich history and those who were part of it.



Robert H. Stoner - Alive in our Hearts

September 11, 1946 - March 1, 2017



"That the men who maintained and fought with the boats are brave is a given. I hope I can preserve their contributions so that future warriors can learn from them. If you don't know your history, you don't know why your tactics and equipment are the way they are.

Because of the turn-over inherent in the Navy and its commands, the knowledge base will eventually be lost unless its core is maintained and expanded for others to benefit from. Thus I leave these documents behind for those that follow. - Bob (12-01-02)

Bob's final email, after the fact: *Gentlemen, it has been a grand time conversing with you over these many years. I enjoyed so many times with you, and I will meet you on the other side when I will get there. We'll all get there one way or another. Bob*

Biography : Robert Stoner Bob joined the Naval Reserve when he was a high school senior in 1964. He took his Boot Camp at Great Lakes, IL that summer before entering college under the delayed entry program in the fall. This program meant that for each year of active duty deferment, a year was tacked onto the original enlistment (therefore, his first enlistment was 10 years instead of six). During his college years, he advanced in rating until he was a Gunner's Mate (Guns) Second Class (GMG2) at the time of his graduation in January of 1969. He began his two-year active duty assignment in February aboard the USS Nueces (APB-40) attached to the Mobile Riverine Force (CTF-117) in the Mekong River delta of Viet Nam. While attached to the Nueces, he participated in various combat actions against the VC forces around its base at Dong Tam.

The MRF was decommissioned in October of 1969 and the Nueces was brought back for mothballing at Long Beach Naval Ship Yard. He received orders to Boat Support Unit ONE in December of 1969, and after 20 day's leave, reported aboard in January of 1970. While at BSU 1, he was stationed at the armory where he became familiar with the many weapons of the unit. During the February through April period he also received training on PTF-13 at Coronado, CA; the GAU-2B/A Mini-gun at NAF Imperial Beach, CA; and Combat Medical School at Camp Pendelton, CA.

He was posted to Mobile Support Team TWO, Detachment "Charlie" and deployed to the SEA FLOAT/SOLID ANCHOR operation at Nam Can, RVN, in May 1970 until November. The detachment rotated home at the end of November and arrived at North Island Naval Air Station on 5 December 1970. He was released from active duty on 4 February 1971.

He was advanced to GMG1 upon reporting back to his Reserve Center and in late 1972 applied (and was accepted) to the new Coastal River Division TWENTY ONE that was forming at Great Lakes, IL. The new unit received two fast patrol boats (PTF) in 1973, and one PTF and three patrol gunboats (PG) in 1974. During his time with CRD 21, he was advanced to GMGC and served aboard all three PTF's. His duties included: leading Gunner's Mate, leading petty officer, Chief of the Boat, and Officer of the Deck (under in-

struction). He earned the Surface Warfare badge for service with CRD 21. After the decommissioning of CRD 21 on 30 June 1976, he returned to the Naval Reserve Center at Great Lakes where he served with various units until assignment to the NR detachment of Mobile Technical Unit TWO (the parent command is home-based at Norfolk, VA).

During his ten-year tenure with the Great Lakes detachment of MOTU 2, he was advanced to GMCS and later to GMCM. During drill weekends he was an instructor at the Gunnery School on the Naval Base and eventually became senior instructor there. He performed his active duty for training at the parent command in Norfolk, VA. Collateral duties while attached to MOTU 2 included unit Command Master Chief and later NR Center CMC. He retired from the Naval Reserve on 30 September 1987.

In his civilian employment, he has worked in the aerospace industry as a technical writer since 1973.

Robert H. Stoner, 70, of Rockford, passed away on March 1, 2017. He was born on September 11, 1946 in Rockford, Illinois, the son of Harold R. and Agnes (Berg) Stoner. Bob was a technical writer for Woodward and Sundstrand. He served in the United States Navy. He loved scuba diving, international travel and enjoyed music.

Survivors include his love and close companion for more than 20 years, Joan Whitmer, cousins, and many local and military friends.





Please join us in
honoring, supporting, & celebrating
George Sasse

TWISTY RIVER RAT PACK



On Saturday, April 9th at 3PM, please join us at 905 Lym Drive for
a party in celebration of George's 55th Birthday

In lieu of gifts, George requests that donations be made to the "Twisty River Rat Pack" fundraising goal in support of the Walk to Defeat ALS

- Donations can be made [HERE](http://als.org) (als.org)

On Saturday, April 16th at 10AM, the Walk to Defeat ALS will take place at
the 17th Street Park along the Virginia Beach boardwalk

Please join George's Team, "Twisty River Rat Pack" [HERE](http://als.org) (als.org)

If you are unable to attend the Walk to Defeat ALS, you can still join the
team as a "Virtual Walker" at the above link

We also have "Twisty River Rat Pack" shirts that are available for sale in
support of our team fundraising goal

All funds raised in the Walk to Defeat ALS are used to...

- Fund innovative, collaborative ALS research around the world
- Provide resources and support for people living with ALS today while guaranteeing that they receive the best care available
- Advance legislative priorities that increase federal funding of ALS research and care

We understand that everyone is busy, but George would love to see you all, so please
attend and support as you are able. Thank you.

You can also look for updates on "George Sasse ALS Ruck March" Facebook page.



George served in the US Navy for 23 years and has been battling ALS for 5 years.

Our Vision

"Is to be a world-class charitable organization dedicated to preserving the Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman history by honoring each generation's contributions with integrity and compassion through charitable services and educational awareness."

How we help

- ★ Casualty Care Services
- ★ Funerals & Honors
- ★ Medical Equipment
- ★ Holiday Cheer Campaign
- ★ Dwelling Assistance
- ★ Educational Awareness



Our Mission

"Preserving the History and Honoring the Brotherhood"



Celebrating over five generations of Special Warfare Combatant Crewman history and their accomplishments



The CCCA is a 501C3 charitable organization

EIN# 46-3934554

For membership, donation, and request for services information visit

www.combatantcraftcrewman.org

COMBATANT
CRAFT
CREWMAN
ASSOCIATION



Preserving the History
and Honoring the
Brotherhood



*Giving back to those who
have given everything*



*Providing mobility
Independence and
improving the quality of life*



Our Culture

We promote patriotism, good citizenship, compassion, and the sense of "Brotherhood" for all those who have operated, supported and sacrificed towards the Naval Special Warfare missions.

Respect and Trust

We trust the abilities of our members and understand that everyone involved is giving of themselves freely, without expectation of compensation.



*Honoring those who have
made the ultimate sacrifice
with dignity and compassion*



Making a Difference

We are making a positive difference towards the quality of life, peace of mind, and happiness of our special community and their families.

Core Values

- ★ Honor
- ★ Integrity
- ★ Service



*The CCCA is a 501C3 charitable
organization*

EIN# 46-3934554

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and request for services
information visit**

www.combatantcraftcrewman.org

From The Ship's Store



Hats are just 10.00 each



Mugs are 12.00 Ea

6 for 54.00 or

12 for 96.00



Cards are 11.99 each or
2 for 19.64 (The year it all began)



CCCA Mission Statement:

“Preserving the History and Honoring the Brotherhood”

CCCA Vision Statement:

“To be a world-class charitable organization dedicated to preserving the Naval Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman history by honoring each generation’s contributions with integrity and compassion through educational and charitable services.”

CCCA Core Values

- **Honor**
- **Integrity**
- **Service**

CCCA Workforce Expectations:

- **Commitment**
- **Accountability**
- **Professionalism**

CCCA Services Provided:

Educational:

- **Historical Archives**
- **Biographies**
- **Pictures**
- **Actions**
- **Informational Posts**
- **Mentorship/Networking**
- **Resources Portal**
- **Recruitment**
- **Employment Opportunities**
- **Events**

Charitable:

- **Casualty Assistance**
- **Memorials**
- **Recognition of Milestones**
- **Health/Wellness**
- **Medical Equipment Support**
- **Sustainment Assistance**
- **Family Support**
- **Fundraising/Donations**
- **Events**

We hope you enjoyed this edition.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please e-mail us at:
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