

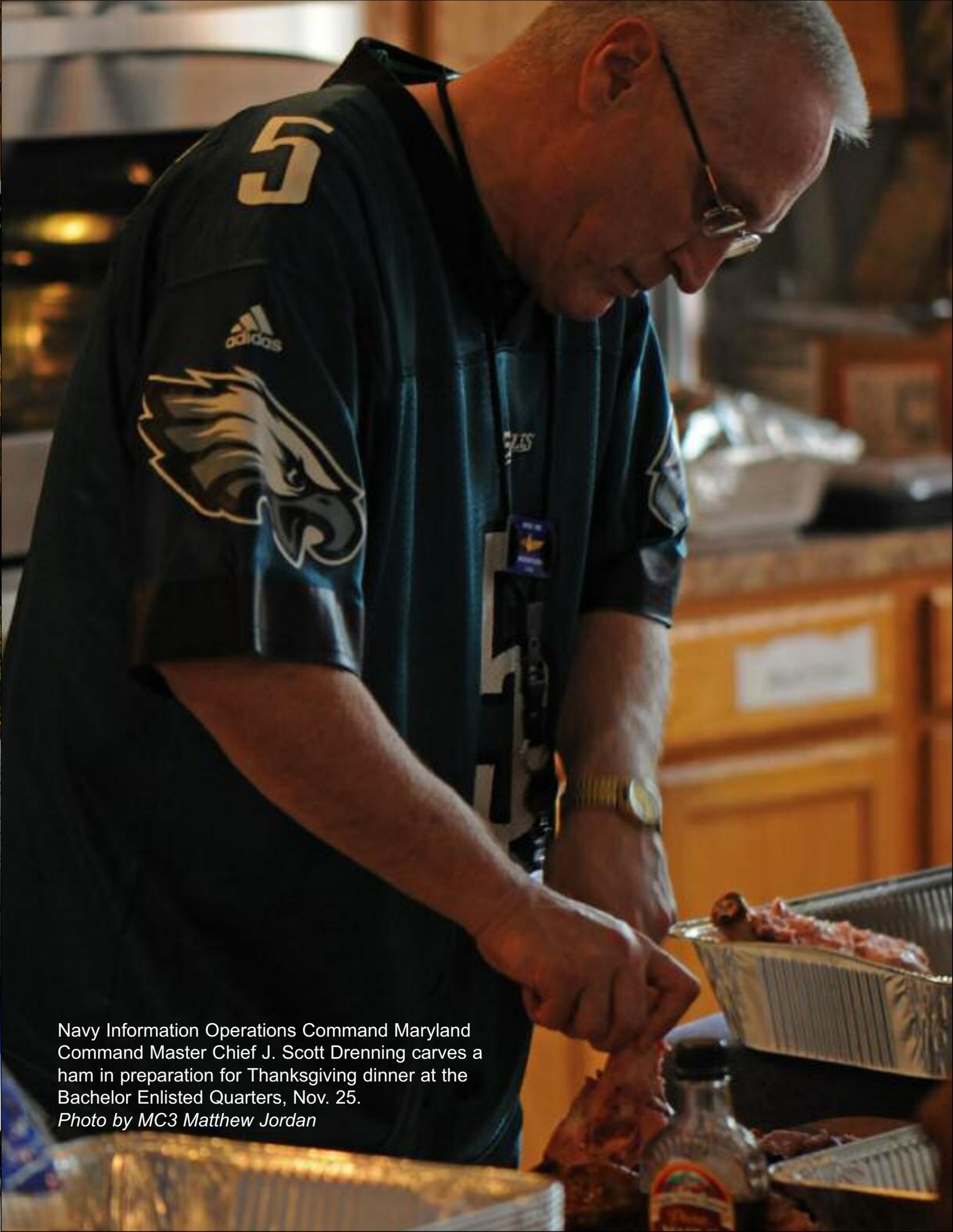
Navy Information Operations Command
Maryland, Fort Meade
December 2010

Anchor Watch

*Our children -
Investing in a legacy*



World War II veterans, guests from an Honor Flight Network visit, pay tribute to fallen comrades at World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., Nov. 18.
Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class James Lacy



Navy Information Operations Command Maryland Command Master Chief J. Scott Drenning carves a ham in preparation for Thanksgiving dinner at the Bachelor Enlisted Quarters, Nov. 25.

Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan

Anchor Watch

ANCHOR WATCH

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Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Grym receives his Good Conduct Medal from Cmdr. John Myers during an awards ceremony, Nov. 16.
Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan

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On the cover

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Sailors take the lead tutoring local public school students.

Kaitlyn Montoya, 3, daughter of Petty Officer 2nd Class Kevin Montoya and Alison Montoya, stands on a chair at the Manor View Elementary School cafeteria to support her sister, Alenya Montoya, 5, a kindergartener at Manor View, during Veterans Day activities there Nov. 11.

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NIOC MD Sailors volunteer to make elementary school a brighter place.

12 What's 11,147 miles?

Love has no limits for the Steagall family.

*Photo By
MC3 Matthew Jordan*

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Has Santa worked among us?

From the files of
Seaman Smuckatelly

The recent rounds of Physical Readiness Testing (PRT) prompted me to check archived results to see if I could track down more information about famed NIOC Maryland Multi-Sportsman Shamus Jenkins.

Although readily available PRT results only dated back six years, my contacts within the Bureau of Naval Personnel were able to provide microfiche resources.

My research of Jenkins' PRT scores yielded slightly surprising but expected results for a Multi-Sportsman of his caliber. With the exception of the 1975 fall PRT, in which he scored a 290 with a broken wrist, leg, and pelvis, Shamus consistently scored 300 during testing cycles from 1974-1980.

Having found nothing of significant interest during the Jenkins' inquiry, I decided to check other archived scores, and that is when my skeptical eye caught something of interest.

During the 1995 fall PRT, CW04 Tasan Siris Sclau had a documented BCA of 72 percent, which is 50 percentage points higher than the published acceptable limits.

As puzzling as Sclau's BCA report was, his perfect 300 PRT score presented problems on two fronts. First, even though prior to this past physical assessment testing cycle, commanding officers were allowed to grant waivers to BCA failures, it seemed highly implausible that a standing CO would grant one to a person who exceeded it by 50 percentage points. Second, and a seemingly more puzzling notion, is how a Sailor could achieve a 300 PRT score while carrying an extra 50 per-

centage points of body composition.

CW04 Sclau's PRT score became my primary focus, and with the help of my Kimbrough medical sources I was able to learn a few curious facts about the mysterious warrant.

During his tour, CW04 Sclau, whose name I discovered is of Scandinavian origin, was admitted to Kimbrough each year during his tour on the Monday after the Thanksgiving holiday for what medical professionals diagnosed as acute weight gain due to excessive levels of tryptophan and corn syrup.

CW04 Sclau was also assigned a no-shave chit after doctors determined that he would need to shave an estimated 30 times per day in order to be within normal military standards during the work day.

Administrative records for CW04 Sclau offered puzzling facts as well. Per leave documents obtained through semi-reliable sources, I learned that our abnormally physically fit warrant only took leave to the same address once a year from Dec. 24 through Dec 26th; 90 N. Pole Street.

Having been unable to obtain CW04 Sclau's current whereabouts or even a photograph of this apparent medical marvel, I decided to see if I could track down the department head who bottom lined his yearly leave request. As luck would have it, the same rest home where Caleb "1 ½ Finger" Brown recited his final version of "The Watch" currently housed retired Navy Captain Rick Cringle.

For a glass of milk and a couple of chocolate chip cookies, retired Captain Cringle offered a few descriptions of CW04 Sclau. He explained that Sclau was one of the most jolly Sailors he ever knew and that his checking-a-list-twice method of mentoring set a benchmark of excellence within the commands Sailorization efforts. When I inquired about his excessive BCA percentage Captain Cringle laughed and as he recalled how Sclau, despite his hefty size, could run faster than anyone he had ever seen; almost as if he were floating on air. As Cringle moved out of sight from our meeting he offered a Merry Christmas salutation and wished me a good night.



November Awards



**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
COMMENDATION MEDAL**

Lt. Daniel Krowe

**JOINT SERVICE ACHIEVEMENT
MEDAL**

Chief Petty Officer Olga Levkovich

**NAVY AND MARINE CORPS
ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL**

Petty Officer 1st Class Sannita Boughter

Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Vidal

Petty Officer 2nd Class Beau Broussard

Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Kane

**SENIOR SAILOR OF THE
QUARTER**

Petty Officer 1st Class Robin Vargo

**JUNIOR DEPLOYER OF THE
QUARTER**

Seaman Lucas Roberts

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL

Petty Officer 2nd Class Krista Harlan

Petty Officer 2nd Class Devin Carroll

Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Twitty

Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Jones

GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL Cont.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Kyle Smith

Petty Officer 2nd Class James McDonald

Petty Officer 3rd Class Andrew Foster

Petty Officer 3rd Class Paul Grym

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jeffrey Whitney

Saturday Scholars

Story by
Seaman John Gillespie

‘Put your heart in to it’



Petty Officer 1st Class Jamie DeJesus addresses the crowd during the Saturday Scholars graduation ceremony Nov. 20 at Fort Meade’s Child, Youth and School Services center.

Saturday Scholars is a tutoring program for Fort Meade-area elementary and middle school students.

It provides one-on-one interaction with the students to help strengthen their skills in the subjects of math and reading.

The program was started in 2004, and most of the volunteer tutors are from Navy Information Operations Command Maryland.

During the autumn session for 2010, there were 57 students enrolled and 48 tutors. The students participating in the cycle were from the Fort Meade cluster schools ranging from grades 3 to 5.

Along with being tutored in the subjects of math and reading, they also participate in activities which promoted trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

Depending on the amount of kids

participating in the tutoring programs, sessions could be one-on-one, or one tutor for two or three children.

Petty Officer 1st Class William Hardy has enjoyed being a tutor.

“With all of the cutbacks and school classrooms growing, this is a great opportunity to help out your community,” said Hardy. “For a few hours a week a student gets the attention that he or she needs to improve their reading and math skills.

“By helping them with the areas that they are having some trouble with helps build their self confidence, and change their attitude about going to school.”

There are two six-week sessions offered each school year. The fall session concluded Nov. 20; the spring session will run from Feb. 12 to March 19.



Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher McGowan receives a certificate of thanks from Capt. Steven J. Ashworth; Fourth-grader, Michael Townsend, receives his graduation certificate from Fort Meade Installation Commander Col. Daniel Thomas at the Saturday Scholars graduation Nov. 20. McGowan was Townsend’s tutor for the fall session.

Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan

The Origins of Veterans Day

Senior Chief Hankins & Troop 874

Story by
Seaman John Gillespie

As Veterans Day fell on their regularly scheduled troop meeting, the leaders of Boy Scout Troop 874 in Ellicott City thought it would be a perfect opportunity to teach the boys about the history of the holiday.

They spent the evening with NIOC MD's Senior Chief Petty Officer Jeremiah "Jay" Hankins of 60 Department, who gave the special presentation on Veterans Day.

Hankins said that it was an excellent opportunity to reach out to an organization that has the concepts of service and citizenship as its core tenets.

"I also talked about the role one person can play in making a difference for those who served," said Hankins. "I told a story of a small town shoe salesman who got his local Chamber of Commerce and School Board to agree to close on Armistice Day; however he wanted to remember all Veterans who served, not just commemorate the end of World War I."

Hankins said that the shoe salesman got the attention of a Congressman from the same hometown, and the concept of honoring all Veterans on Nov. 11 became law and a national holiday.

"Conversely, though, I also talked about the power of simply saying "thank you" to those who have served and how meaningful that can be," said Hankins. "That it doesn't have to be a grand gesture."

Hankins also explained to the scouts the origins of Veterans Day.

World War I officially ended on June

28, 1919, with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles.

The actual fighting between the Allies and Germany, however, had ended seven months earlier with the armistice, which went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918.

"Armistice Day, as Nov. 11 became known, officially became a holiday in the United States in 1926, and a national holiday 12 years later," said Hankins. "On June 1, 1954, the name was changed to Veterans Day to honor all U.S. veterans. In 1968, new legislation changed the national commemoration of Veterans Day to the fourth Monday in October. It soon became apparent, however, that November 11 was a date of historic significance to many Americans. Therefore, in 1978 Congress returned the observance to its traditional date."

Kevin McGovern, Scoutmaster of Troop 874 wanted to reiterate to his scouts what Senior Chief Hankins had already said.

"On Veterans Day, we need to take just a minute and say thanks to our Veterans," said McGovern. "They have given so much for us. Some served because they had to, while others served out of a sense of duty, either way they impacted America by their service. During peacetime and in times of war, our service men and women stand ready to do our nation's bidding. They stand vigilantly on the wall of America to ensure we remain the land of the free. Without them our nation would not be the same."

Troop 874 is one of the biggest troops in the National Pike District. They meet at Glen Mar United Methodist Church every Thursday and camp out one weekend a month.



Senior Chief Petty Officer Jay Hankins speaks to Boy Scout Troop 874 about the history of Veterans Day.

Photo provided by Troop

N56: Uniting for a new division

Story by
Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Oehrtman

Funeral Honors Support Division

Since May of 1997, a core of Sailors here have provided comfort and solace for Navy family members in a jurisdiction that has expanded to cover six Maryland counties.

Until recently, the command relied entirely upon volunteers to fulfill this vital mission.

Recognizing the importance of the mission, and the operational tempo involved, NIOC Maryland established a new division within N5 Support Department -- N56 Funeral Honors Support Division.

N56 serves as a knowledge base and administrative hub for military funeral honors. The 12 dedicated Sailors who compose the division help ensure that the command is ready and able to execute the more than 400 funerals that are assigned to her annually.

"Our goal is not to take away a command level collateral duty," said Chief Petty Officer Eddie Rodriguez, CPO of N56.

"We want to make sure that we are compliant with Navy Policy, are able to dispatch qualified details, and represent the Navy in the most honorable fashion possible as we lay shipmates to rest."

The establishment of N56 brings many changes to the Funeral Detail. One of the most noticeable will be the new watchbill that went into effect on Nov. 1.

Every day, three two-man teams are on duty to cover any funerals that are assigned to NIOC Maryland. While on a duty day, members of the detail are required to be available to render hon-

ors, but will only be contacted should a funeral be scheduled.

Another major change for the detail is the level of training that members undergo. The Navy recently implemented a standardized SOP for Funeral Honors, and N56 has sent members to the Ceremonial Guard's Headquarters in Washington D.C. to train as Certified Instructors for the Funeral Honors Support Job Qualification Requirements (JQR). These six trainers will conduct training five days a week, with morning sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and afternoon sessions Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Additional practice sessions can be organized by calling the N56 office.

With all of the changes, both in Navy policy, and command organization, all existing members of the detail are required to re-submit request chits, re-qualify on the new JQR, and begin attending at least one training session per week.

Members who do not attend weekly training will be removed from active status on the detail and will be required to demonstrate their proficiency before being re-instated to active status.



Ramon “Ray” Marcelo Barredo III

Farewell to a Patriot

Story by
Gideon Rogers

Longtime NIOC Maryland contracting officer, Ramon “Ray” Marcelo Barredo III, 65, passed away peacefully at his home in Fairfax, Va., Nov. 11, after a courageous four-year battle with cancer.

He was born Aug. 15, 1945 in Caloocan City, Philippines to Ramon R. Barredo Jr. and Flora M. Barredo.

He graduated from the University of the East, Manila, Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration with a marketing major.

Barredo served in the United States Navy until his retirement in July 1994, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Commander.

He was the beloved husband of Zenaida O. Bernabe of Quezon City, Philippines. They met and were married in Baltimore, Md., May 15, 1971.

His naval career spanned 3 decades, including tours of duty aboard the U.S.S. Stribling, U.S.S. Nimitz, and U.S.S. Niagara Falls.

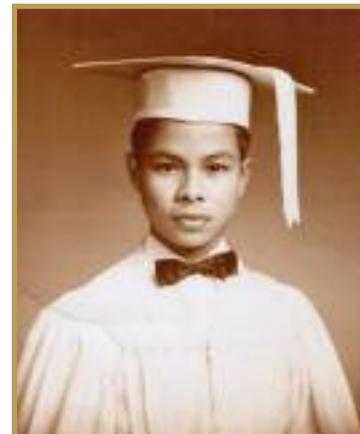
His assignments included Andrews AFB, the Pentagon, and the Naval Security Station in Washington D.C., where he remained until his retirement.

Ramon will be especially remembered for his fierce devotion to his family, his honesty in his friendships, and his passion for cooking. He delighted in annual visits to the Philippines, playing with his grandkids, and watching anything with John Wayne.

Kelly Ayres, N4 Division Head, had the privilege of being Barredo’s supervisor at NIOC Maryland for the past 6 years.

“In all, I’ve known Ray for over 18 years. We first met when he was finishing up his career with Naval Security Station and I was with the headquarters,” said Ayres.

“Over the years, I came to rely on Ray for many things and most times I asked



him to do the impossible.”

Ayres said that Barredo contributed heavily to making N4 a family.

“I say family, because we were just that in every sense of the word,” said Ayres. “In many ways, he was our father figure. He was a trainer, a supervisor, co-worker and mentor, guiding us all in some way.”

Survivors include his wife Zenaida of Fairfax, Va.; his sons, Ronald of Simpsonville, S.C., and Rodney of South Riding, Va.; daughter-in-law Jennifer; granddaughters Isabella & Vivian of Simpsonville, S.C.; brother Rosauo and sister-in-law Lading of Caloocan City, Philippines.

A private interment with full military honors is scheduled for April 4, 2011, at Arlington National Cemetery.



“He truly personified the Navy’s core values of Honor, Courage and Commitment,” said Ayres. “More than that, he gave of himself to others more than he ever received in return.”



Manor View gets *a new library*

Story by
Christopher McGowan
Photos by
MC3 Matthew Jordan

Sailors volunteering their time is nothing new.

NIOC Maryland supports 29 different programs with volunteers including, Saturday Scholars and Partners in Education.

So, when help to renovate the library at Manor View Elementary School was requested, NIOC MD was all over it.

As part of the Target School Library Makeover program, hundreds of volunteers from Target Brands, Inc., the Heart of America Foundation, the Mission Continues, and LF Jennings Contractors joined Sailors from NIOC Maryland.

The squads of humanitarians worked around the clock for three weeks to transform the school library

with new carpet, inspirational artwork, fresh paint, upgraded technology and furniture, 2,000 new books, and 50 audio books.

Navy volunteers ensured students and their siblings also received seven books to take home to add to their personal libraries.

The more than 600 families and school staff members who make up the Manor View Elementary School community were treated to a full day of festivities, including the unveiling of the school's brand new library.

Special guests like U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and his wife and children, were among the many dignitaries who visited the school to reveal the new library.

HGTV's Sabrina Soto surprised the

school's reading teachers with a custom-designed Literacy Room, equipped with magnetic walls that also function as whiteboards.

Each reading teacher also received an iPad. The festivities culminated in a school-wide assembly in which the audience of more than 1,200 were treated to a video montage of celebrities and dignitaries like U.S. Senator Ben Cardin, Jay Leno, and players from the Baltimore Ravens.

The author of the popular children's book "NERDS" also answered some of the students questions live via Skype.

To top it all off, deployed parents of some of the students were able to communicate to their children through a live video feed.



Left: Seaman Holly Kyler and husband Michael Kyler listen to instructions on how to sort the books that will be given to the students after the library unveiling, Nov. 11.

Below: Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher McGowan hands out books to kids of Manor View Elementary to take home with them, Nov. 11.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Kate Griefzu sorts books in the new Manor View Elementary library as last minute preps before its unveiling, Nov. 11.



Right: Petty Officer 1st Class Joaquin Cadena, gives a speech at his retirement ceremony at Fort McHenry, Nov. 4.



*Photos by
MC3 Matthew Jordan*

Middle: Spike Mendelsohn, a contestant on the TV show 'Top Chef', judges the Fort Meade base chili cook-off, Nov. 13.



Petty Officer 1st Class Gonzalez presents his son, Esteban D. Gonzalez with the Ensign used during the passing of Old Glory, Nov. 5.



Left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Jordan Clark throws around the football to get warmed up for the flag football game.

Middle: NIOC MD Sailors, Family and Friends line up for a Thanksgiving meal together in the day room of bldg. 9803, Nov. 25.



Command Master Chief J. Scott Drenning renders a salute during a wreath-laying ceremony in honor of the 33 German servicemembers laid to rest at the Fort Meade post cemetery, Nov. 14.



No Distance is too far

Story by
Seaman John Gillespie



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Chief Petty Officer Larry Steagall and his family arrived at the Shanghai Social Welfare Institute in Shanghai, China, on Sep. 16, ready to meet their newly adopted daughter, Jessie MeiLing Steagall.

Jessie would be their second adopted child from China. Their first child, Nathanael, was adopted from a Christian-run foster home outside of Beijing called Harmony House, in September of 2008.

Larry and Kelly Steagall were married in June of 1996, and had always considered adoption as a way to expand their family.

In 2006, they decided adoption was their best choice. They had talked with friends from their church in Jacksonville, Fla., who had previously adopted from China, and had recommended that they consider China as a place from which to adopt a child.

The United States currently leads the

world as the number one adopter of children from China, so the process that a family has to undergo to adopt children is a fairly smooth process.

The Steagalls chose to use America World Adoption, a charitable Christian-based organization that assists in the adoption process from many countries around the world, including China, Brazil and certain African Nations.

Steagall likes to joke that “you can tell it’s a government run agency

• • •

*ew addition
the Steagall
Family*

Chief Petty Officer Larry Steagall, his wife Kelly Steagall, and their son Nathanael Steagall sit on the beach for a family photo.

because it's a lot of hurry up and wait," meaning that you rush as fast as you can to get all your paperwork mailed in, then you sit and wait for it to come back, just to rush to send it out again. But there is a positive side to all the paperwork.

Because of the rigorous amount of paperwork and background checks that you have to undergo, it makes the trip to China a relatively simple process. Since the Chinese government knows



Jessie

who you are and why you are coming, you never really run into any problems getting into the country.

Once you've landed in China, there is a waiting period. The Steagall family arrived on Sept. 13, but did not see their daughter Jessie until Sept. 16.

The Steagall family had plans for those days though, since they know there is a waiting period there are activities and tours set up for the families who arrive and are involved in the adoption process. Larry and Kelly Steagall wanted to take their son Nathanael back to his orphanage, the Harmony House, so he could get a better idea of where he was adopted from. The nurses who had taken care of Nathanael said he was the first child to return to the orphanage. After that they took a tour of different sites through-

out Beijing, including the Summer Palace, and different sites from the 2008 Olympics that were hosted in Beijing, such as the Watercube and Birds Nest. They were also able to visit The Great Wall of China, some parks in Shanghai, and the Shanghai Zoo.

Steagall emphasized that China is completely different from what most people think. He said his interaction with China's people has always been positive. Everyone is polite, a good portion of them speak English, and the ones who don't speak English have no problem taking their time and working with you. "Most of them have better cell phones than I do," Chief Steagall jokingly said while he pointed out that you would never be able to tell it was a communist state just by looking at its people.

'Mom, I got to see the White House!'

N4 makes retirement pretty special



Left to Right: Petty Officer 3rd Class Cory Glover, Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard McAllister, Seaman Kylie Gibson, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ron Pecoraro, Chief Petty Officer Cheryl Joseph, Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Benton, Chief Petty Officer George Keene, Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph Robinson, Petty Officer 2nd Class Marcella Rodriguez, Petty Officer 1st Class Jonathan Jack.

Photo by Chief Petty Officer Shawn McDowell

Story By
Seaman Kylie Gibson

Nine Sailors from the N4 Department traveled to Washington, D.C., to perform at a retirement ceremony Nov. 11.

But this was not just any retirement ceremony -- no, this retirement ceremony was an experience not many people get to do.

Dressed in our service dress blues, we found ourselves walking through the streets of downtown D.C.

We carried the "ceremonial bullets" and the red carpet through the gates and up the stairs to the Eisenhower Executive Office Building adjacent to the White House.

Walking through this historic building built in the 1790s, our eyes were amazed with the gold-covered ceilings and the beautifully designed stairwells.

We finally reached the room where the ceremony was to be held. We were shocked to find out we were standing in the old War Department's office.

We set up and practiced for the ceremony.

We finally conducted the ceremony. It was so exciting being a side boy for a Commander's retirement after 33 years of service.

We watched and listened to Cmdr. Mark Friermood give his speech, and everyone felt the emotion in his words.

I could tell in his eyes and in the tone of his voice that he was thrilled to see some Sailors before him.

You see, Cmdr. Friermood didn't see too many of his shipmates where he worked -- he was part of the White House situation support staff.

He worked as hard as anyone could to get where he is today. He started as a Seaman and worked his way to Chief. After he made Chief, he went to OCS, and from there worked his way up to the rank of Commander as a supply officer.

And, just a few years back, he served in Baghdad. I could see his sadness as he talked about it, especially when he said that two of his close friends were killed and 16 others injured.

After the ceremony we were able to tour around the building and even into the White House. As we stepped out-



side the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, we immediately saw the Vice President's limosine and security vehicles.

Then, we were within steps of the oval office. Even though we didn't get to see the oval office, we were able to see the press briefing room. It was very exciting being in the same room, at the same podium that the president gives all of his speeches.

After the tour, we gathered our belongings and went home. After a long day full of excitement, we walked away with some Presidential M&M's, a special coin to add to our collections, and a smile on our faces knowing we were there to assist a fellow shipmate moving on to another stage of his life.

Holiday Season Safety

Compiled by
Chuck Graham

Winterize Your Car

- Preparing for the winter season can help avoid potential problems. Get a tune up for vehicles at the beginning of the winter season. Start long distance travel with a full tank of gas, and make sure anti-freeze is fresh. Always travel with a properly inflated spare tire, wheel wrench and jack; jumper cables; and a tool kit.

- Other essential supplies include: a working flashlight with extra batteries; a first aid kit; an ice scraper; non-perishable, high-energy foods and water; and a blanket.

Holiday Stress

- Stress is an inevitable part of the holidays, and it's also a human factor that increases the potential for mishaps.

- Keep expectations reasonable during the holidays and try not to over-schedule yourself.

- Get plenty of rest and exercise throughout the holiday season. This will help the body and mind cope with stressful situations.

Holiday Road Travel

- Last year, three Sailors were killed on the road during the winter holidays. Personal motor vehicle mishaps continue to be the leading off-duty risk for Sailors and their families.

- There are four factors that lead to the vast majority of traffic fatalities: fatigue, speed, alcohol, and not wearing seatbelts. These factors are all within one's control.

- The Travel Risk Planning System (TRiPS) is a valuable resource to plan driving trips and manage risk. This online self-assessment helps drivers recognize their own risky behaviors and offers ways to reduce risk. The system also gets first-line supervisors involved by encouraging one-on-one counseling before a Sailor begins a trip. TRiPS is located at Navy Knowledge Online, www.nko.navy.mil, and includes detailed route maps and a link where Sailors can print their leave chits all in one step.

- Traffic jams are common during the holidays when more people are on the roads. Build extra time into travel schedules to account for traffic, and consider beginning the trip early in the day. Accidents are statistically less likely to happen during daylight hours. Fatigue is also a greater factor when driving at night or after a long day at work. Coffee is no substitute for sleep! Take breaks every two hours to stretch the legs and rest the eyes.

- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Petty Officer 2nd Class John Rucker
Seaman Stephen Hill
Seaman Keenan Locher

Editor's note: This is the first game review of a series, written by our very own Sailors. This Month's games are Fable III and Call of Duty: Black Ops. If you have a game review, submit it to the Public Affairs Office and get it published.

Fable III

The long awaited next chapter in the innovative series, Fable, has arrived. Here is the scuttlebutt. The World of Albion has changed, new technology, new woes, and the best part you're the King (or Queen pending your choice). The games mechanics haven't seen much of a change this time around. The story line leaves much to be desired, and you might feel as if you didn't get the epicness deserved for how short it is. One thing positive that can be said about Fable III however, is the multiplayer, which has vastly improved in the most crucial area, mechanics. Other than that nothing much can be said about this game, but is still a must have for those Fable fans.

Call of Duty: Black Ops

The next installment of the best selling game in history has arrived and it hasn't disappointed. It's a fun, fast paced, action packed, Die Hard meets Band of Brothers game. The game is well made. Graphics have a gritty look, and the developers paid close attention to detail. So, for you Russian linguists out there, you may just find yourself listening in on conversations and not at the task at hand.

Unfortunately, all the praise in the world can't save a game from a few glitches and mistakes. Matches in multiplayer can take a while to load, the servers are a bit slow, and you still have to deal with teammates who don't want to help the team. That being said, it is my opinion that this is the best game of the year, and I think its sales will agree with me.

Marksmanship Team hits black!

Story by
Petty Officer 1st Class
Stephen Lee

Members of NIOC Maryland's Marksmanship Team performed well during the last regional rifle matches of the year in Bridgeville, Del., the first weekend of November.

The seasonable weather conditions of Saturday deteriorated by Sunday. Gusting winds and chilly temperatures may have kept the mercury low but enthusiasm ran high all around.

I, as Team Captain, and Lt. Cmdr. Matthew Bartel, Team Coach, were very pleased with those that were able to attend and that everyone lived up to the motto: "SAFE - ACCURATE - FUN."

Saturday's "Across the Course" match roster included five of our Sailors, three of whom competed for their first time. Lt. jg. Miles Bozarth, Petty Officer 2nd Class James Lacy, and Seaman Amanda Fears did really well considering their respective experience levels.

The "Across the Course" match consists of 22 shots in each position: slow-fire standing (offhand) and rapid-fire sitting positions at 200 yards, rapid-fire prone at 300 yards, and slow-fire prone at 600 yards. Each position starts with two shots to verify sight corrections, followed by 20 shots for record.

Slow-fire is conducted by firing one shot at a time. The target is pulled down, scored, and put back in the air by hand. It

can be a little discomfoting for the newer shooters when they realize that bullets are flying literally a few feet over their heads, but there is very little real danger. Rapid-fire shots for record are done by firing two rounds, changing magazines, and then firing eight more rounds in about a minute total time. Each rapid-fire string is scored, then the targets are "cleaned up", and then another 10 shots are fired.

Sunday's "3 x 600" match consisted of three sets of 22 shots slow-fired from the prone position. Most people don't truly understand how far 600 yards is until they see the tiny little black target dot that in reality is 36 inches across.

The field grew considerably as our original five were joined by Petty Officer 2nd Class Jeremy Turner and Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy Allmon, 16 Naval Academy Midshipmen, their coaches, and others from around Naval District Washington.

Over half the shooters on the range were in a Navy uniform.



While rifle matches may be done for the year, the pistol side of the house will continue to run strong over the winter. Practices will intensify in late January and continue until the annual Fleet Forces Command and All-Navy rifle and pistol matches in April. Sailors interested in participating should contact Petty Officer 1st Class Stephen Lee in the Safety Office at (301) 677-0299.

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Left to right: Among those newly advanced, Petty Officer 2nd Class William Androsko, Petty Officer 2nd Class Tiffany Barnes, Petty Officer 3rd Class William Achenbach, and Petty Officer 3rd Class Timothy Adams, listen as Capt. Steven J. Ashworth congratulates all who were frocked Dec. 2.

Photo by MC3 Matthew Jordan