



THE BUZZZZZZZZ OF THE MOUNTAINS

NSVA ISLAND X-3 NEWS

Quarterly: April-June 2026

Wayne Arnold: From the Commander

As we near the 250th Birthday of the greatest nation on the planet, let's take a few moments to reflect on the sacrifices that were made to establish our Constitution and the Bill of Rights that guarantee us the right to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. Freedom isn't free unless we fight for it relentlessly.

Brian Parker: From the Sr. Vice Commander

Hello once again fellow Seabees! I hope all enjoying this beautiful weather God has provided for us. We are getting deep into the planning for the 12th Annual Seabee (All Military) Ball and we welcome your assistance. We have many tasks to complete. Some are very small and require very little time and other are not so small and require more time. Being retired we have the time especially if we get involved this far out and select the task we wish to take on. Some are unable to directly assist and we treasure your prayers and thoughts.

One way to help out if you are unable or unwilling to take on a task is financially. This event is not inexpensive and any monetary donations to the Ball will be greatly appreciated. Basically, we all can do something to make this the best Ball yet.

The committee is open to any and all suggestions on where to have the Ball, what to have and or do, and how we might get the word out better than we have in the past. This is OUR Ball and we want to make it memorable for all so mark your calendars for March 6, 2027 and we will see you there. We miss many of you at our monthly meeting and if you need assistance getting to the meeting please let us know and we will make it happen for you.

Ed Crenshaw: Secretary NSVA Island X-3 Georgia

Wow, this old year of 2026 is flying by, we are now in June and half over. Since the last Quarter we have been involved in quite a few things. A Seabee/All Military Ball committee was established and Brian Parker from X-3 and Ingrid Engle from the NSVSA taking over the reigns for this next year. Work is already going on behind the scenes with looking at new venues and format. I want to thank Brian and Ingrid for stepping up to take on this project and looking forward to March 6, 2027 for the next Seabee/Military Ball.

We were able to assist with a Pancake Breakfast for the Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park that helped them raise funds for the park.

The Island and NSVSA was represented at the American Legion sponsored Veterans Service Clinic. The Island voted to give local High School Students that are planning on attending Trade School two 1,000 scholarships.

It was decided that the Island should have a set of Bylaws and become incorporated. Secretary Crenshaw is pursuing this for the Island.

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X-3 2026

Meetings:

Second Friday of each
month at 1400

(unless otherwise specified)



Chaplain's Corner

As we prepare for elections and the 250th celebration of America, let's All take time to reflect on the cost of freedom and our commitment to God and Country. The world is in turmoil as we move forward and we need to seriously consider our future generations and responsible actions as citizens. Please never forget 🙏 and also remember to share the joy of life with family and friends. Amen

We have a need for prayers for many of our members and their families that are facing health issues and recognize that as we age this is a truth of life. It is great that we are able to support each other in our times of need. In the book of Hebrews 10:23-25, 23, Let us hold unswerving to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds not giving up meeting together. Stay strong, remain committed and serve with strength and conviction. Let us prepare for the future and move forward as a team.

In God's Grace Peace, Rev Richard Hoibraten, Chaplain

NSVSA News

Navy Seabee Veterans Support Alliance Celebrates 4 Years

On June 12th the Blairsville Chapter of the Navy Seabee Veterans Support Alliance (NSVSA) celebrated their 4th Birthday as an Auxiliary of the local Seabee Island.



It was noted that there was a need for a Veterans Support Organization that didn't require strict national rules for membership , like most of your recognized VSO's. We had a large number of folks that wanted to serve our Veteran Community, help students, and assist with Civic projects but may not have served in the military or had a close relative who did thus prohibiting them from joining other VSO Auxiliaries. The NSVSA has limited restrictions basically be 18 or older and want to serve our Veterans, have good fun and fellowship, give student scholarships and assist with local projects like the Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park. We are a 501c3 non profit incorporated in Georgia and are always looking for men and women to join us in our endeavors. We meet on the 2nd Friday each month at 1pm at the Major Leon Davenport Veterans Building (look for the Tank and Flags out Front) and we offer a Free annual membership to all New Members, come join with us and help us build our fun organization.

Notes from the NSVSA VP: Pauline Crenshaw

Well, we are half done with this year, where has it gone? We have had a good quarter with a new member added. Mr. Richard Domanski who was in the Navy and also Merchant Marines. Richard we are glad to have you aboard. Thanks for those who helped with the Yard Sale at the Veterans Building and the Salute to Veterans at Andrews Airport we had a good turn out and both days were beneficial to our organizations. Thanks to those always willing to help. Continue to remember our NSVSA President Maggie in your thoughts and prayers as she recoups from serious back surgery: Get Well Soon!

We have set dates for the rest of 2026:

June: Ice Cream Social celebrating the Birthday of the Navy Seabee Veterans support Alliance. 12 June. Happy Birthday NSVSA.

We will have a booth in the Union County Farmers Market in August.

In September we will have our annual Island /NSVSA Picnic at the Hunters Farm.

In November we will have our annual Pot Luck Thanksgiving Brunch

In December we will have our annual Christmas Dinner and White Elephant Gift Exchange.

Please continue to help us recruit new members, invite your relatives, friends, coworkers, other veterans, remember we offer a FREE annual membership for new members and unlike most other Veteran Auxiliary units we don't have the restrictions these other groups require, come check us out we have a great group of guys and gals. We have a fun time and support our Seabees and all veterans and students and civic projects.

Thanks, Pauline



Navy Seabee Veterans Support Alliance (NSVSA) Contacts

Maggie Guerrier : President mg719uc911@gmail.com

Pauline Crenshaw: VP 706-897-4240 cardsbypauline@windstream.net

Ingrid Engle : Secretary 561-358-6199 winter1502@icloud.com

Ed Crenshaw: Treasurer 707-897-2649 CE1Crenshaw@outlook.com

Jim/Linda Gorman: Chaplain(s) 706-781-5064 quiltersquest@windstream.net gormanj@windstream.net

Kenny Engle: Historian 954-803-1569 englek@regan.com

Member Spotlight



My Life Story – Donna Dillard-Lee

My name is Donna Dillard-Lee, and I am a proud native mountain girl raised in McCaysville and Blue Ridge, Georgia. After graduating from West Fannin High School in 1968, I left the mountains and moved to Atlanta, where I built both a successful career and a wonderful life. After many years living and working in Midtown Atlanta, I returned to my mountain roots and now enjoy helping buyers and sellers throughout North Georgia, Tennessee, and Western North Carolina. My mother was honored to work as Director Of Nurses under Administrator Major Leon Davenport.

I am blessed with two wonderful children, my son Jeremy and my daughter Melannie, along with three amazing grandchildren who bring tremendous joy to my life. Jeremy serves as a firefighter in Cherokee County and is married to Jenn, who owns and manages her own law firm in Canton, Georgia. Their children are Emory and Reagan. Emory has nearly completed all of his solo flights and continues pursuing his dream of becoming a pilot. Reagan keeps our family smiling with her bright personality and energy.

My daughter, Melannie, is a successful Realtor serving the North Metro Atlanta area. She is married to Eric, a Major with the City of Cartersville Police Department. Together they have a daughter, Addison, who made our family incredibly proud by becoming Georgia's first Miss Teen Rodeo Queen in 2025.

Since 1977, I have enjoyed a rewarding career as a Real Estate Broker, spanning nearly five decades. Throughout the years, I have specialized in land sales, development properties, commercial real estate, and new home communities throughout the Atlanta metropolitan area and Charlotte, North Carolina. Today, I remain licensed in Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina and continue serving clients throughout the mountain communities I love.

Much of my work ethic, patriotism, and determination came from my parents. I am the proud daughter of Arnold Wiggins, who served our nation during World War II as a United States Marine and later in the United States Navy during the Korean War. My mother, Jean Wiggins, was equally inspiring. With only an eighth-grade education, she returned to school while I was in high school, earned her nursing degree, and helped train the first nursing class at Union General Hospital.

One of the greatest blessings of my life came seven years ago when I met and married Charles "Charlie" Lee from Sour Lake, Texas. Charlie proudly served our country during the Vietnam War as an Army MedEvac crewman and was sometimes called upon to fly the helicopter himself. Today, we are blessed to live on beautiful Lake Nottely in the last home my father built. I treasure the memories that surround us there and am thankful every day for the life we share together.

Charlie and I share a deep love for Jesus Christ and a passion for serving others through our jail ministry. Our faith has been a guiding force in our lives, and we are grateful for every opportunity to encourage others and share God's love with those who need hope and support.

I am proud of my country and deeply grateful to all the men and women who have served and sacrificed to keep us safe and preserve our freedoms. Thank you for inviting me into the Seabees. It is both an honor and a privilege to join you in celebrating our nation, our military, and the countless Americans who have answered the call to serve.

Thank You, and God Bless America.

Facebook Presence

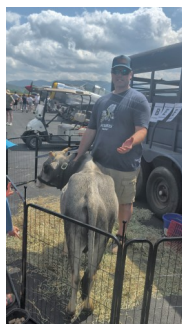
The Island and the NSVSA has their own Face Book Page. Seabee stuff, Meeting Information, Veterans Needs, etc. can be put on the Face Book Page. Go to [NSVA Island X-3 Georgia](#) and [NAVY SEABEE VETERANS SUPPORT ALLIANCE](#) and give your input by uploading your own information or photos.

If you do not have a Facebook account - its easy! Just go to 'apps' on your phone and follow the steps or on your computer go to: facebook.com and click on Log In or Sign Up. Enter the name you go by, Enter your email or mobile phone number, select your gender and date of birth and choose a password. Tap sign up, confirm your email or mobile phone numberIts Free and easy! Just click [here](#) to get started: <https://www.facebook.com/>

Our Facebook Links: [NSVA Island X-3 Georgia | Facebook](#) or [Navy SeabeeVeterans Support Alliance | Facebook](#)



Island Events



The Island and NSVSA had two good days for recruiting and donations, we had representatives at the Andrews Airport Salute to Veterans and our Island Mascot "Seabee" again was the hit of the celebration. Thanks, Holloways, for your support.



We also had representation from both Island and NSVSA at the Yard Sale at the Veterans Building and had a good day of donations even with rainy weather. Thanks to all who participated.



A big Memorial Day Parade was planned with a number of the Island and NSVSA to participate, however mother nature didn't agree and was canceled due to rain. However, a 4th of July parade is in the works.

To represent the Island and NSVSA in the Brick Memorial Wall Bricks detailing both organizations were purchased and will go on the Memorial Brick wall within the Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park.

Sadly, we lost a Charter Member of X-3 when our fellow Seabee Joe Castronovo passed away. Joe was one of the first members to help us establish the Island and he will be missed. Keep Margo and family in your prayers.



New Officers were elected to serve in FY-26, Commander: Wayne Arnold, Sr. Vice Commander: Brian Parker, Jr. Vice Commander: Paul Brown, Secretary: Ed Crenshaw, Treasurer: Chuck Chandonett, Chaplain: Richard Hoibraten, MAA/OOD: Keith Hunter, Historian: Mike Gardner, Newsletter Editor: Dr. Tammy Holloway ... Thanks to all who stepped up to serve.

We need to really start pushing for new members for both organizations, as well as getting some of our old members to return to be with us. The Island and NSVSA are only as good as its membership and we should always strive to try and recruit at all time. Try and wear some type of Seabee clothing when out and about and always carry an Island/NSVSA Business Card to hand out to potential members. Looking forward to an eventful summer quarter, CAN DO!

Other News

The Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park Project Update



100 Octane Coffee has partnered with the Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park and will graciously donate \$1.00 for each purchase made. This is an easy way to get great coffee, tea, individual cups and really cool merchandise. 100octanecoffee.com make your purchase and use code: SALUTE10 for a 10% Discount plus the Park gets \$1.00, it's a win win, great coffee and help build the beautiful Veterans Park. Also thanks to Chance and Sally Chenoweth the owners of 100 Octane Coffee Company for what they are doing to help us build the Appalachian Veterans Memorial Park. Very much appreciated!



A lot has happened since the last newsletter. We have the Memorial Brick Wall up and the first two orders of Bricks installed. We will be ordering the 3rd order soon so if you have not purchased a Brick go to the web page: TheVeteransPark.org and follow the link and get it ordered in this next order. We also have completed the walkway that meanders throughout the park and ties into the Memorial Brick Wall. This now permits anyone that may have had problems getting to the Brick Wall now an easy path all around the park. We will soon be placing some benches throughout the park. Our next Phase we need help raising funds for are the Granite Military Branch Monuments that will go on the circle in front of the Branch Flag Poles. We have had a local Veteran step up and purchase the NAVY and MARINE CORP monuments so we need help on the ARMY, AIR FORCE, SPACE FORCE and COAST GUARD. If you know an individual or business who would like to purchase a monument and be recognized on it, please let a AVMP committee member know, or if you would like to contribute to any of the Branch Monuments that would be appreciated.

Seabee History

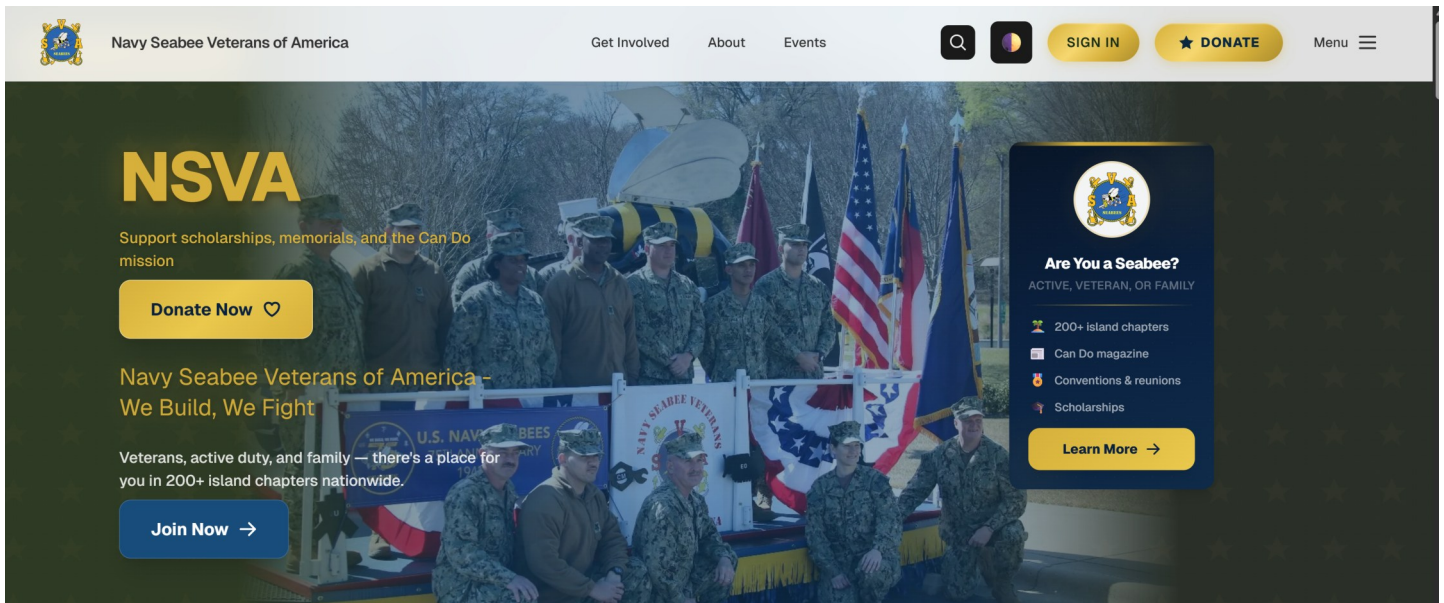


1st Battalion

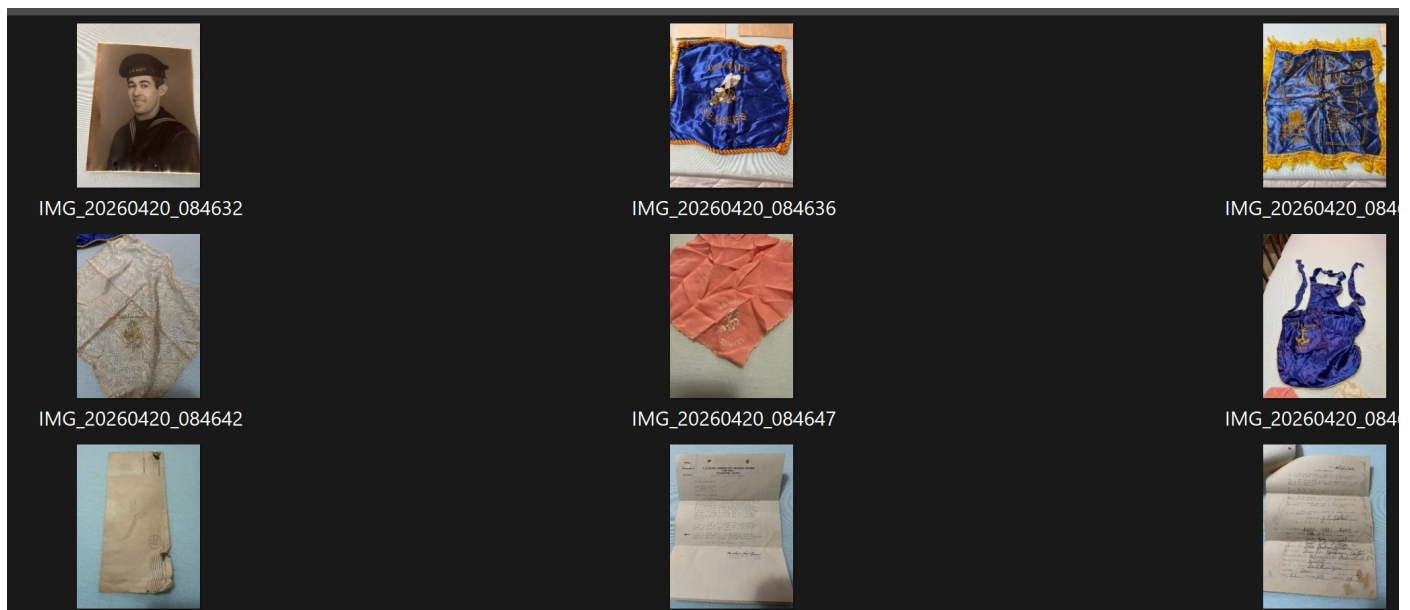
The First Battalion was commissioned at Camp Allen Virginia, on March 15, 1942. Three weeks later, the first half of the Battalion designated as the Second Construction Detachment, embarked for Tongatabu, just below the Samoa group. The other half of the First Battalion designated as the Third Construction Detachment, sailed four days later for Efate, New Hebrides. In April, 1943, the Second and Third detachments merged at Efate. In August of 1943, a detachment of 4 Officers and 125 Enlisted men which had been left behind at Tongatabu, sailed for Wallis Island, but rejoined the main body four months later. The First Battalion remained at Efate until they returned to the States in March of 1944. They were then inactivated June 3, 1944. In 1949 the Battalion was re-established as the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1, taking on the name "The First and Finest" Now, as Paul Harvey would say "you know the rest of the story".

NEW NSVA WEBSITE

The National Navy Seabee Veterans Of America have redone completely the nsva.org web page.



Some really cool 1943 Seabee Memorabilia items were donated to the Island by Joseph (JR) Fowler. His name was John E. Norton—Camp Peary



We would like to recognize local veteran owned businesses

We would like to recognize businesses that support the Seabees and Veterans or are a Veteran owned business. If you would like to run an add in the newsletter contact Editor Tammy Holloway PhD at email: tammyholloway70@gmail.com

Prentice Heating and Air
1538 Blue Ridge Hwy
Blairsville, GA 30512
706-745-9665

Old Salt Coffee Company, Inc.
57-091 Lalo Kuilima Place Kahuku,
Hawaii 96731
(808) 404-9867
co@oldsaltcoffee.com

Family Bargain Bazar
307 Cleveland Street
Suite D and E
Blairsville, Ga 30512

Holloway Zebu Farm
IMZA Registered Micro Mini Cattle
706-851-0997
hollowayzebufarm.com

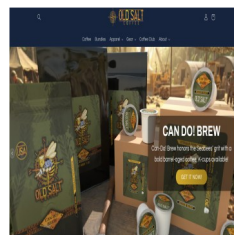
Barry J Herold
Custom Ink Pens with LOGO's
706-745-5665
Barry398@cs.com



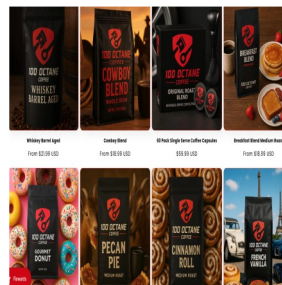
North Georgia Garage Door Man
<https://northgeorgiagaragedoorman.com>
New Install Residential/Commercial
Nathan Holloway
706-633-7697

Veterans Fly Fishing Inc
www.veteransflyfishing.org
Billy Ray Smith

[Old Salt Coffee : Seabee Can Do Brew](#)
(Annual Sponsor of the Ball)



[100 Octane Coffee](#)
(100 Octane was a sponsor of the Ball)



NSVA Island X-3 Contacts

Commander: Wayne Arnold, 828-226-5802 waynesgunshop@frontier.com
Sr. Vice Commander: Brian Parker, 727-251-2511 handybmp372@gmail.com
Jr. Vice Commander: Paul Brown, 334-441-7894 heneryemac@yahoo.com
Secretary: Ed Crenshaw, 706-897-2649 cecbret@windstream.net
Treasurer: Chuck Chandonnet
Chaplain: Richard Hoibraten, 404-683-2834 Cj_20207947@outlook.com
MAA/OOD: Keith Hunter 904-733-8698 wkhunter@yahoo.com
Historian: Mike Gardner 828-361-1566 mikeandme30@gmail.com
Newsletter: Tammy Holloway, 706-851-0997 tammyholloway70@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP: Island X-3 Blairsville Georgia

We are always looking for new members for the Island. If you know of a Seabee (current or prior), or "ANYONE" who has served with the Seabees they are eligible for membership in a NSVA Island and we would be glad to have them join with us in Island X-3 Georgia. We still offer the first year of an annual membership FREE to new members, so if you know of a potential member have them drop into one of our meetings. Be sure to always wear a SEABEE hat or shirt or some type of Seabee clothing when you are out and about and have some of the Island business cards available as you never know when you will run into a SEABEE.



The Navy Seabees Island X-3 Blairsville, Georgia



*Meeting the Second Friday
Of Each Month at 1400 Hours
At the Major Leon Davenport
Veterans Center
78 Blue Ridge Highway
Blairsville, GA*

Come Volunteer With Us!
All are welcome

