

MCB 53 Alumni Association  
c/o RALPH STORTI  
800 BARTRAM ROAD  
WILLOW GROVE, PA. 19090

Address

# Beeline MCB 53 Christmas 2019



## MCB 53 Alumni Association

### President

Mitch Dunbar  
[mitchell@superiorpawn.com](mailto:mitchell@superiorpawn.com)



### Secretary/Publicity

Roney Steele  
5712 Keystone St.  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19135  
(215) 535-5010



### Treasurer

Ralph Storti  
800 Bartram Road  
Willow Grove, Pa. 19090  
(215) 657-3202  
[mcb53aa@verizon.net](mailto:mcb53aa@verizon.net)



### Historian

F. Juckem Jr.  
4424 Bellgrove Lane  
Madison, WI. 53704  
608-279-4746



### Master at Arms

Skip "Mad Dog" O'Keefe  
138 Beech, 129th St, #1  
Rockaway Park, NY 11694  
718-945-2740



web site: [www.mcb53.com](http://www.mcb53.com)

## Officers/Directors 2020

### By-Laws

Gary Wells  
(570) 779-2338  
[GWElectric@aol.com](mailto:GWElectric@aol.com)



### Contact

Karl Schilling  
(515) 256-3866  
[K.Schilling@mchsi.com](mailto:K.Schilling@mchsi.com)



### Life Membership

Michael Craparo  
(914) 202-7643  
[MJChief@optonline.net](mailto:MJChief@optonline.net)



### Chaplin

C. Anderson  
763-552-1229



### Service Officer

John Scheer  
(913) 682-0422  
[ljscheerfamily@gmail.com](mailto:ljscheerfamily@gmail.com)



### Beeline Publisher "Bernie"

May you  
find  
blessings in  
unexpected  
places.



LIFE MEMBER  
-AGE 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 etc.  
-DUES \$ 200 195 185 175 170 160 150 145 135 125 115 110 100 90 80 70 70 70 etc.

GOOD TIMES  
SMALL FEE

## 2020 MCB 53 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES INVOICE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(email) : \_\_\_\_\_ Dues amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Tour: 1942-1945 1968 1969 \$15/annual or use Life Member Chart

Circle Company: A B C D E F G H S Team 5301

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: **MCB-53 Alumni Association** and mail with this form to:

Ralph Storti, Treasurer  
800 Bartram Road  
Willow Grove, Pa. 19090-2430



Robert E.	Barnhart	vietnam
Dale M.	Berg	vietnam
Phillip D.	Bottenfield	vietnam
Donald E.	Butler	vietnam
Gary L.	Eberle	vietnam
Edward J.	Gaillard	vietnam
Keith	Harley	vietnam
Gilbert S.	Harrington	vietnam
Clarence E	Harris, Jr.	vietnam
John A.	Haynie	vietnam
Neil L.	Jensen	vietnam
Lawrence	Jessup	vietnam
William E.	Johnson	vietnam
John J.	Koza	vietnam
H. Mike	Light	vietnam
Donald J.	Mac Kinnon	vietnam
W. Glen	Martin	vietnam
Orin D.	Nelon	vietnam
Francis P.	Pappas	vietnam
Leonard W	Pettitt, Jr.	vietnam
Michael Y.	Sandborn	vietnam
Paul A.	Sprayburry	vietnam
Nelson L.	Stants	vietnam
Roney J.	Steele	vietnam
Ralph J.	Storti	vietnam
Bruce R.	Tremmel	vietnam
David L.	White	vietnam
Stephen C	Wilson	vietnam
Barry L.	Wren	vietnam



Harrison P	Barton	vietnam
Joseph G.	Bilak	vietnam
Ronald J.	Bush, Sr.	vietnam
Ronald R.	Cox	vietnam
John M.	Dienst	vietnam
Donald G.	Fernandez	vietnam
Richard H.	Gallagher	vietnam
Lester W.	Garden	vietnam
Stephen W	Garrett	WW II
Gerald L.	Hayward	vietnam
Orval F.	Hoenike	vietnam
William P.	Kalbach	vietnam
Clifford W.	Keener	vietnam
Robert W.	Kinsman	vietnam
Charles R.	Markley	vietnam
David S.	Ramirez	vietnam
Cpt.Bruce	Runberg	vietnam
William G.	Rydalch	vietnam
Charles P.	Schminda	vietnam
Wayne G.	Schwetje	vietnam
Carmine M	Serapiglia	vietnam
Cary L.	Snow	vietnam
Robert D.	Tansley	vietnam
Clifford L.	Thorburn	vietnam
Howard R.	Vanscoy	vietnam
Willis L.	Walker	vietnam
Larry D.	Whitely	vietnam



## John Dale McCurdy 1917 - 2019



Des Moines - John Dale McCurdy, 102, left for his eternal home on September 24, 2019. He was born in Gibson, Iowa on February 14, 1917. In 1934 he graduated from Gibson High School. He was married to Elsie Weillbrenner (McCurdy) for 52 years, who passed away in 1992.

John was a [WWII](#) Navy Seabees veteran, serving in the South Pacific in Guadalcanal, Bougainville, and Guam with MCB 53. After returning he rejoined the construction profession - and retired in 1972. In May of this year, John was honored for 80

years of membership in the Carpenters Union Local 106. No other person in the U.S. or Canada has received such an award.

John was a servant for Christ, and built many pieces of beautiful furniture as a labor of love for his church. He was a charter member of Westover Baptist Church, served as Chairman of the Trustees, and continued to serve as an usher. Although, John did not have children of his own, he was known as "Uncle John" to several thousand students in Texas, where he gave presentations for seven years about his experiences in WWII.

He was a blessing and inspiration to all and will be truly missed.

### From bugs to bombs, little-known Seabee unit protects US embassies from threats

A military unit that helped secure U.S. diplomatic compounds for decades has seen its mission grow as security threats have escalated from bugs buried in embassy walls to car bombs driven up to embassy gates.

Perhaps the most widely known military defenders of U.S. embassies are Marines.

But a small group of Navy Seabees, known as the Naval Support Unit - State Department, has played a largely behind-the-scenes role implementing technical measures to combat threats abroad since the 1960s.

In April 1966, in the heat of Cold War spy games, the Navy first formally committed Seabees to help the State Department combat Soviet spy technology. Before the end of the decade, they'd take part in a major transformation to combat terrorist attacks. Today, about 120 Seabees belong to the security unit, with about 70 posted to over 40 embassies to support State's Diplomatic Security Service.

<https://www.stripes.com/news/from-bugs-to-bombs-little-known-seabee-unit-protects-us-embassies-from-threats-1.524076>

It was great to once again fly the MCB 53 colors as we had our reunion at San Diego this past October. Good accommodations, really good food, endless cold beer as the 53 veterans, their significant others, family and friends got caught up and regaled those storied times of yesterday year.

Frank did a superb job of arranging a bus tour to the Reagan Library. But wait, it gets better. The Reagan Library, when we arrived, was surrounded by fires of the timber and brush (an annual event celebrated in California).



Quickly transitioning to an alternate plan, we enjoyed an up-close bus tour through that fire and wind-swept cauldron.

People are paid good money to see that (firefighters). Not to worry, we made it through to our second port of call, the Seabee Museum at Port Hueneme.

A few of the local 53 Seabees (that were unable to make the trip to San Diego) met us there as we had an excellent guided tour through the museum. Then it was time to journey back to San Diego.

But wait, did I mention there were “complications” with the head on the bus? Several of the guys had flashbacks and suggested we pour diesel in there and light it off. Almost led to everyone on the bus having valid PTSD claims.

DayTwo, another bus but much shorter ride to the Midway. the USS Midway (Museum) was America’s longest-serving aircraft carrier of the 20th century. Nowadays she is privately funded and cared for by volunteers, many of whom served on Her. Everything was top notch and there was more to see than could be covered in half a day.

Lunch was at Tom Ham’s Lighthouse, great food, great views.



That afternoon and the next day were taken up with exploring the sights of San Diego.

The fairwell dinner was superb with our own Admiral Smith being the keynote speaker. All said Frank put together an awesome reunion.

Frank would like to thank all who attended and all those who attended helped in some way. A special shout out to Wendy Donohue, made blanket, stuffed tote bags mostly by herself. Jim Donohue first day shopping set up. Bob Drake, first day shopping, set up hospitality room, additional stocking trips, really helped the most with the hospitality room stocking and organizing, and close out of hospitality room and loading Frank’s car. Skip and Don Mull final final final beer run. Cindy Adams, contributed pristine items for raffle from Smiley’s stock of MCB53 items. Roger Johnson cleanup of hospitality room and loading car. Don and Chyrl Butler, helped with set up and Tote stuffing and helped with planning before the reunion. Kurt Schilling taking the portrait photos at the fairwell dinner.

Reunion photos at <http://www.mcb53.com/pagepastreunion/pastreunion.html>