

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

Address

# Beeline

## MCB 53

## Summer 2020



## MCB 53 Alumni Association

### President

Jason Abell  
570-247-1020  
[JMAbell@frontiernet.net](mailto:JMAbell@frontiernet.net)



### Secretary/Publicity

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



### Treasurer

Ralph Storti  
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Willow Grove, Pa. 19090  
(215) 657-3202  
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### Historian

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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



## Officers/Directors 2020

### By-Laws

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### Contact

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(515) 256-3866



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[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"

Just remember if we get caught,  
you are deaf  
and I don't  
speak english.



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

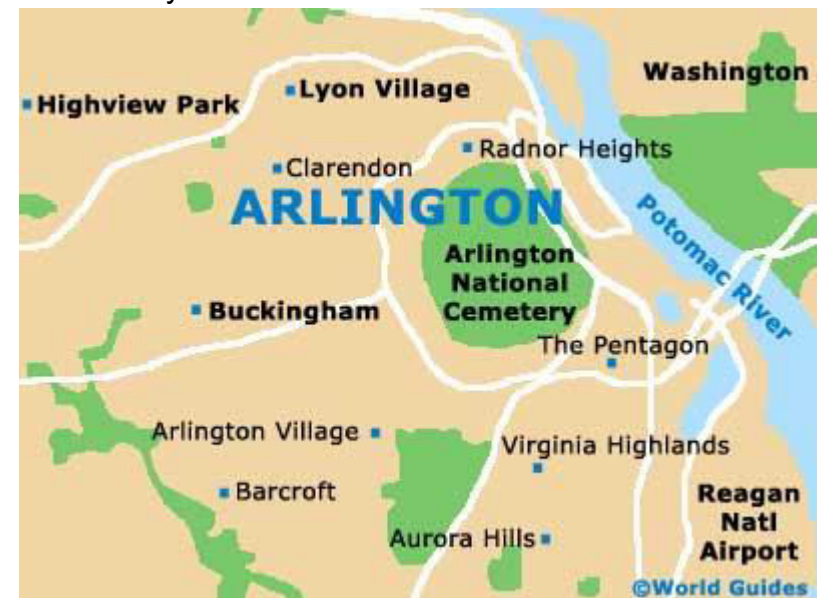
Due to the Covid restrictions everywhere the planning for next years reunion has been forced to stop. We are waiting for things to open up. On the East coast we are beginning to see a dim light at the end of the tunnel. So hopefully we can soon restart the planning and still be able to have a great time in April 2021.

We ask that you have patience as we try to put this reunion together.

We will get the information out to everyone just as soon as possible.

Thank you  
Jason Abell

Preliminary work has begun on holding the reunion in the Arlington, Virginia area. Assisting Jason and Mary will be Jim and Wendy Donohue.



If you have questions, suggestions, insights please feel free to contact Jason.

[JMAbell@frontiernet.net](mailto:JMAbell@frontiernet.net) or 570-247-1020  
<https://www.stayarlington.com/travel-planning/request-a-visitors-guide/>

April

|             |               |         |
|-------------|---------------|---------|
| Dick R.     | Slayton       | Vietnam |
| James J.    | Donohue       | Vietnam |
| Joseph B.   | Green, Jr.    | Vietnam |
| Emmett W    | Sullivan, III | Vietnam |
| Larry E.    | Lousig-Nont   | Vietnam |
| John W.     | Saale         | Vietnam |
| William T.  | Garside       | Vietnam |
| Franklin D. | Henthorn      | Vietnam |
| Charles G.  | Reiner, III   | Vietnam |
| Noel G.     | Pelletier     | Vietnam |
| Robert B.   | Kyle, Sr.     | Vietnam |
| Claude E.   | Starr         | Vietnam |
| Joseph J.   | Cerminaro     | Vietnam |
| Wayne       | Prather       | Vietnam |
| Ronald D.   | Eckert        | Vietnam |
| Richard J.  | Beresford     | Vietnam |
| Sidney T.   | Spencer       | Vietnam |
| Robert J.   | Kervin        | Vietnam |
| George E.   | Tallman       | Vietnam |
| Robert J.   | Young         | Vietnam |
| John E.     | Kellogg, Jr.  | Vietnam |
| Donald E.   | Mull          | Vietnam |
| Walter B.   | Kropf         | WW II   |

May

|             |               |         |
|-------------|---------------|---------|
| Arnold B.   | Krane         | Vietnam |
| Ronald T.   | Flockton      | Vietnam |
| Curtis W.   | Anderson      | Vietnam |
| Gerald C.   | Groon, Jr.    | Vietnam |
| Steven R.   | Palmer        | Vietnam |
| Joseph M.   | Chiaravalloti | Vietnam |
| Robert D.   | Mattlin       | Vietnam |
| Charles J.  | Maitland      | Vietnam |
| Charles W   | Manstream     | Vietnam |
| Joseph L.   | Zimmerman     | Vietnam |
| Craig T.    | Estes         | Vietnam |
| James W.    | Buehler       | Vietnam |
| Thomas E.   | Trent         | WW II   |
| David R.    | Marks         | Vietnam |
| Frederick   | Steffens, III | Vietnam |
| J. Oscar    | Chappell, Jr. | Vietnam |
| Homer J.    | Stephens      | Vietnam |
| Ralph I.    | Coleman       | Vietnam |
| William R.  | Line          | Vietnam |
| William P.  | Davis         | Vietnam |
| Mitchell L. | Dunbar        | Vietnam |
| William S.  | Sparkman      | Vietnam |
| Arnold L.   | Jensen        | Vietnam |
| Gayle K.    | Ford          | Vietnam |
| Alan R.     | Shark         | Vietnam |
| Thomas J.   | Bourke        | Vietnam |
| William K   | Derrett       | Vietnam |
| James E.    | Hardigree     | Vietnam |
| Burke R.    | Anderson      | Vietnam |
| John K.     | Brostuen      | WW II   |
| Francis A.  | Juckem, Jr.   | Vietnam |
| James E.    | Dance         | Vietnam |
| Jason A.    | Abell         | Vietnam |

June

|            |              |         |
|------------|--------------|---------|
| John P.    | Heinstadt    | Vietnam |
| Billy N.   | Van Kirk     | Vietnam |
| Paul S.    | Church       | Vietnam |
| Thomas C.  | Leonards III | Vietnam |
| Gilbert B. | Dale         | Vietnam |
| Donald G   | Peel         | Vietnam |
| Thomas L.  | Mc Giness    | Vietnam |
| Charles A. | Rowland      | Vietnam |
| William A. | Simmons      | Vietnam |
| Carl W.    | Minnozzi     | WW II   |
| Ronald E.  | Wentworth    | Vietnam |
| M. Eugene  | Swaim        | Vietnam |
| Raymond A  | Reed         | WW II   |
| James H.   | Strom        | Vietnam |
| James W.   | Mason        | Vietnam |
| Richard A. | Rasmussen    | Vietnam |
| Edward B.  | Durand       | Vietnam |
| Thomas M   | Mills        | Vietnam |
| Larry L.   | Beckett      | Vietnam |
| William P. | Smith        | Vietnam |
| Ramon E.   | Hastings     | Vietnam |
| Randy R.   | Humphrey     | Vietnam |
| Richard F. | Feminella    | Vietnam |
| William L. | Bosemer      | Vietnam |
| Scott D.   | Ross         | Vietnam |
| William S. | Humphreys    | Vietnam |
| Robert F.  | Bardecki     | Vietnam |
| Frank C.   | Hosinski     | Vietnam |
| Bruce S.   | Patterson    | Vietnam |
| John S.    | Krewsky      | Vietnam |
| Ronald L.  | De Ronde     | Vietnam |
| Larry M.   | Dennis       | Vietnam |

July

|             |             |         |
|-------------|-------------|---------|
| Robert      | Kanar       | Vietnam |
| Daniel J.   | Merklin     | Vietnam |
| Philip N.   | Saverino    | Vietnam |
| Christopher | Heidgerken  | Vietnam |
| John D.     | Johnson Jr  | Vietnam |
| Kevin       | Kelly       | Vietnam |
| Michael J.  | Craparo     | Vietnam |
| Ronald H.   | Fuerstnau   | Vietnam |
| V G (Jerry) | Wright      | WW II   |
| Paul        | Glasser Sr  | Vietnam |
| William H.  | Schuster    | Vietnam |
| Glenn       | Ruffner     | Vietnam |
| Edmond M    | Thompson    | Vietnam |
| David R.    | Bush        | Vietnam |
| David R.    | Gallop      | Vietnam |
| Larry A.    | Weber       | Vietnam |
| L.V. (Jake) | Mason       | WW II   |
| A. George   | Milton      | Vietnam |
| Robert S.   | Meyer       | Vietnam |
| Leslie R.   | Wiener      | Vietnam |
| Edward P.   | Lemons      | Vietnam |
| Victor M.   | Colon-Ortiz | Vietnam |
| Michael T.  | Fennema     | Vietnam |
| Charles A.  | Fiorello    | Vietnam |



## James A. Thompson

June 1, 1946 - January 5, 2020



73, passed away at Windber Hospice. Jim served two tours of duty in Vietnam as a member of the U.S. Navy Seabees: Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, Fifty-Three in which he was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon. He was an avid fly-fisherman, who made his own flies. He enjoyed fishing with his good friends, Bob, Stan, and his many friends. Jim traveled to Alaska and Nova Scotia to fish the waters; but his favorite place was on the Little Junita River. Jim was also a former

member of Trout Unlimited in which he helped stock streams and won awards. He was also a woodworker and designed many projects. Jim lived his life the way he wanted and ended his days listening to classical and oldies music on the porch he designed and built. At Jim's request, there will be no viewing or service. Donations may be made to the VA Hospital's Oncology Department in Altoona or Windber Hospice.

<https://hindmanfuneralhomes.com/obituary/james-a-thompson-jr/>



Gordon Browning Matthews, age 81, of White House, Tennessee passed away peacefully Wednesday, February 6, 2019. [\(Obituary link\)](#)

Gordon enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1956. He served 24 years in the U.S. Navy Seabees which included two tours of duty in Vietnam. His battalion, NMCB-53, was

issued the Presidential Unit Citation for their extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty during the Tet Offensive. He was also deployed to Naples, Italy; Sigonella, Sicily and Bermuda.

Gordon was named after Tennessee Governor Gordon Browning. His name was proposed by an influential person in his childhood, his grandfather, the late Tennessee State Senator William Jasper Matthews.

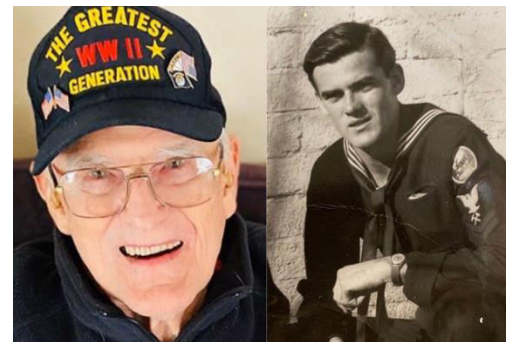
While in the Navy, Gordon mastered the Italian language in which he remained fluent in the duration of his life. He enjoyed coaching youth sports, visiting family, vacationing at the lake and spending time with his friends. Gordon was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.



Joseph J. Deren, Jr. 75, of Turners Falls, died on Monday, March 30, 2020 at Cooley Dickinson Hospital from the COVID -19 He was a retired meter reader for Western Mass Electric. Joe was born on July 15, 1944 in Springfield. He was the son of the late Joseph J. Deren, Sr. and Josephine S. (Rokosz) Deren. Joe was a graduate of West Springfield High School and Franklin Technical Institute. He was a Navy

veteran during the Vietnam War. His remains will be in the wall in Winchendon MA Military cemetery when they reopen.

[cierpialmemorialfuneralhomes.com](http://cierpialmemorialfuneralhomes.com)



Oregon veteran, 95, beats coronavirus: 'I survived Guam, I can get through this bulls--t' MCMINNVILLE, Ore. (KGW) — "We slept in foxholes," said Kelly, recalling his time in World War II serving with the 53rd Naval Construction Battalion.

Last month, Kelly fought a different kind of world war—"We're being attacked by a virus," he said—and won. "I was fortunate, really fortunate," Kelly said. "I pray a lot too!"

"I couldn't believe I had it," Kelly said, "because I was pretty much at home all the time." Kelly spent the next two weeks isolated in his room at his family's home in McMinnville, Oregon. "I had a little cabin fever," Kelly said. "I wanted to be out with the troops!" Kelly's two great-grandsons in particular. He said one of them would occasionally break the quarantine rules. "My little 5-year-old, once in a while he'd come in there and sneak me some candy and sneak back out again," Kelly said. No one was quite sure how Kelly contracted COVID-19, and no one else in his home got sick. "We are very fortunate to live in the United States, and we got everything going for us," Kelly said. "Just do what's right and do what we're told, and everything will be OK." [nypost.com](http://nypost.com)

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 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

LIFE MEMBER

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-DUES \$ 200 195 185 175 170 160 150 145 135 125 115 110 100 90 80 70 70 70 70 etc.

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