

The Rogue



December 2020

Desk of Our Chairman

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"The day the soldiers stop bringing you their problems is the day you stopped leading them. They have either lost confidence that you can help them or concluded that you do not care. Either case is a failure of leadership."

—Gen. Colin Powell

December is upon us and we barely have had time to recover from Thanksgiving and now we find the official start of winter and a Christmas that has COVID pressing in from all sides. Each of us has a decision to make. The start of December marks the 79th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. Our nation was hurt and hurt badly by that event but we persevered. As Admiral Yamamoto is reported to have said, "I fear that we have awakened a sleeping giant." Today the attack was not with bombs and bullets; it came from an invisible virus. Our resolve is being challenged and the fight which took place 79 years ago is now hitting us in communities from one side of this country to the other.

Christmas marks the birth of our Lord and Savior and a focus on that positive reality is a much needed diversion from the fear and hysteria being pushed upon us daily by the news cycle. Let us start by celebrating the fact that December 13th is the birthday of the National Guard. Many of the members of the Non Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA) are members of the National Guard so if you know of one, wish them Happy Birthday and thank them for

their service. We can also be thankful that one of the most forgettable years in US History, if not world history, will come to an end and we have the hope for a brighter and better year ahead.

I have always tried to live my life from the perspective that the glass is half full rather than half empty. While the difference may seem small, it boils down to whether you look at things from a positive perspective or a negative one. I am sure that you have heard the saying "when stuck with a bag of lemons, make lemonade."



Important Dates in December

- Dec. 7** – Pearl Harbor Day
- Dec. 13** – National Guard Birthday
- Dec. 21** – First Day of Winter
- Dec. 25** – Christmas Day
- Dec. 31** – New Year's Eve

The year 2020 has had an overabundance of lemons, but that just sets us up to make a lot of refreshing lemonade with the start of the New Year. My fellow NCOA members reach out to that long lost buddy with whom you served. Offer to help an elderly neighbor and generate a smile. If you are one of our older members, perhaps contact a family member and share some of your buried treasure of experiences with them. It may seem hard and maybe even hurt a bit, but releasing those pent up experiences will help give someone a perspective that they probably need to hear about. In the end, you will feel better and your family or friends will learn something that may help change how they view life. For Christmas, instead of buying a present, share an experience and make a difference in our little world.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, either contact headquarters or contact me at chairman@ncoausa.org and I can assure you that your leadership will take note.

Strength in Unity & Leadership by Example,

Terry M. Haines

**Chairman, Rogue Chapter & International Board of Directors
MCPO (SCW), United States Navy, Retired**

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 25** – Merry Christmas

Warrior's Pipeline

Updates for Veterans and Service Members

Articles from [VA.gov/opa/pressrel](https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel)

The **NCOA Rogue Chapter Scholarship Fund** is one of the newest and most important benefits within the Chapter.

Established in 2019, its sole purpose is to help dependents of NCOA members continue their education beyond high school.

Consider donating by visiting www.ncoarogue.org/donate

All donations received are used for scholarships and grants. No administrative or overhead expenses are deducted from the donations received.

Your donation will help enable the NCOA Rogue Chapter Scholarship Fund continue to be a valuable resource for NCOA members and their dependents!



What are the signs that someone may be considering suicide?

Many Veterans don't show signs of an urge to harm themselves before doing so. But some may show signs of depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, or hopelessness, like:

- Seeming sad, depressed, anxious, or agitated most of the time.
- Sleeping either all the time or not much at all.

- Not caring about what they look like or what happens to them.

- Pulling away from friends, family, & society.

- Losing interest in hobbies, work, school, or other things that they used to care about.

- Expressing feelings of

excessive guilt or shame. Failure, lack of purpose in life, or being trapped.

They may also change the way they act, & start to:

- Perform poorly at work or school.
- Act violently or take risks.
- Do things to prepare for a suicide (like giving away special personal items or seeking guns or pills).

VA recognized for impact on lives of Blue Water Navy Veterans

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals has awarded the veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Blue Water Navy (BWN) communications and outreach campaign with a 2020 MarCom Platinum Award.

The campaign increased awareness about the BWN Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 which extended the presumption

of exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam during the Vietnam War.

"VA supports BWN Veterans, their families and survivors around the country," said VA Secretary Robert Wilke. "Ensuring Veterans and their families are aware of the benefits available to them is a priority and this campaign demonstrates our commitment to serving

our Vietnam era Veterans."

As of October 31, VA processed 36,820 of 72,969 claims received of which 25,918 were granted – awarding more than \$696M in retroactive benefits to eligible Veterans and their families. The most common claims granted included conditions such as type 2 diabetes, malignant growth of the lung, coronary bypass surgery, malignant growths of genitourinary system and coronary artery disease.

Rogue Chapter Happenings

COVID-19 has had a significant impact of your chapter. A lot has been done, but we just needed to find creative ways to accomplish things.

2020 Accomplishments:

- VeteRUN went virtual but we still raised \$10,000 which will be split between Mighty Oaks Foundation to fight Veteran Suicides and the Local Vietnam Wall project which will install a 360' replica of the Wall in Washington DC with all 58K+ names on it here in southern Oregon. In 4 years, we have raised & given away over \$46,000.
- We shipped almost 200 are packages to troops in Afghanistan & our N/G troops in Africa.
- We issued two \$500 scholarships to local high school students.
- We helped several members who lost their homes to the fires in September.
- We had numerous chapter members support the Vietnam Wall project raising money through a car raffle.
- We participated with several other veteran groups on Veteran's Day to pray for our country and honor our Flag.
- Selected 2019 Western Region Large Chapter of the Year.
- **A letter was recently mailed to almost members to confirm address & contact info. If you have not yet responded to verify your info, please email me at veteran89@msn.com to do so.**

Prevention Corner: Tips and Tactics to Avoid Scams

Shop Smart this Holiday Season

December 2020

It is hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner, but it is the season to start practicing your shopping safety skills for this month's Black Friday and Cyber Monday shopping. Whether you plan to browse online or visit a local shopping center, prepare yourself ahead of time by familiarizing yourself with these commonsense security tips:

SHOPPING ONLINE

- **Never use your debit card when shopping online.** Your bank account could be wiped out in seconds should your number fall into the wrong hands. Instead, use a credit card to avoid this potential disaster.
- **Be on the lookout for fake websites selling fraudulent products made to look like the real deal.** Before making your purchase, do your research to ensure the site and the products are legitimate. Read reviews and check the sites security status by making sure the browser's address bar displays a green padlock icon to the left of the web sites URL. You can click on the padlock icon to verify the details of the website.
- **Avoid public Wi-Fi** when logging into a website, checking your bank account, or entering your personal information or credit card number. Transactions on an unsecured Wi-Fi network can lead to identity theft or the interception of your credit card number.

SHOPPING IN STORE

- **Be aware of your surroundings** while entering and exiting stores, particularly during the evening. Stay off your cell phone, scan the area with your eyes, and look confident.
- **Avoid a smash and grab.** Do not leave anything in plain view in your car. Nothing. Nada. Zero. Period.
- **Do not flash your cash** as this attracts unwanted attention (as do, many shopping bags).

Prepare a safety plan for you and those shopping with you. Determine a specific meeting place should an emergency arise. If you hear or see something suspicious, leave the premises immediately.

Let me know if I can help or if you have specific questions by contacting me at 541-500-1274 or cpspecialistinfo@aol.com

Thought to Consider:

Judge people not by how many times they get knocked down, but by how many times they get back up!

Do you have an interesting military story or joke? Consider sharing it in writing (in 150-250 words) for possible publication in our next newsletter. Send your text and/or picture (keep it rated PG-13) to rogue.newsletter@gmail.com



Members of Rogue Chapter salute the flag on Veteran's Day. We joined other veteran groups to pray for our nation..

Meet your Rogue Chapter Board

CONTACT INFORMATION

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“Strength in Unity!”



NCOA Creed

“It is with the conception and full understanding that many things of great need and importance can be accomplished in unity and cooperation. Thus, do the members of the Non-commissioned Officers Association of the United States of America agree to join their efforts and strength to work together for the well-being of the individual, the group, and for the greatest benefit of our beloved nation.”



(On behalf of Southern Oregon Veteran Benefit, Ron Kohl congratulates the winner of the 1965 Ford Fairlane 500 for the SOVB Memorial Wall raffle)

Terry Haines, Chairman: Terry enlisted in the US Navy for active duty between 1971-1977, honorably discharging as an E5. He then served in the US Naval Reserves between 1982-2006, retiring as a Master Chief Petty Officer (E-9), and he deployed twice for Iraqi Freedom between 2002-2003 and 2005-2006.

Ron Kohl, Treasurer/Trustee: Ron served in both the Air Force as a Tech Sergeant, and the Army as a Staff Sergeant before he retired. He also served in law enforcement and is committed to helping locals avoid fraud and scams.

Bud Cordes, Knight Advisor: Bud Cordes was a USAF Tech Sergeant who retired after 20 years of service in 1978. He served in Vietnam between 1968-1969.

Bill Parks, Trustee: Bill spent 3 years active and deployed on two, 9-month, west Pac Cruises while aboard the USS Enterprise. He then served 21 years in the Naval Reserve with NMCB-18, achieving 1st Class Petty Officer (E-6), acting as the NMCB-18 Battalion Career Counselor for his last 6 years.

Ken Wilson, Trustee: Ken served in the United States Navy for 4 years and was honorably discharged as an E-5 Boiler Tech. He served on four ships during his time. The first three he was part of the decommissioning party and he ended his career on board the USS Camden (AOE-2).

Rachael Watters, Trustee: Rachael is a proud Veteran of the U.S. Army who achieved the rank of E-5 before ETS. Serving from 2001-2006 she deployed twice with the 101st ABN Division in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

NCOA Membership

Today the NCOA remains a vital fraternal, benevolent non-profit organization and acts as a conduit between the military and civilian communities in local areas and promotes positive community relations. The Association is proud of its efforts in three primary areas: Legislative Representation; Social and Fraternal Programs; and Member Benefits in the area of specialized services and discount programs. NCOA has much to offer its members and you too can join our numbers. Membership in NCOA is open to all, however, you must meet certain criteria to be a voting member of the Association, but this does not prevent you from being an Associate member and supporting our organization and reaping the benefits of being a member.

If you are already a member, please promote this fantastic and beneficial membership to fellow service members and Veterans looking for a supportive military community. If they are interested or have questions have them contact us or visit www.ncoa.org/membership.