

TheRogue

NCOA®

January 2021

Desk of Our Chairman

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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| Desk of our Chairman | 1 | It is here! 2021 is here and all the issues and struggles that 2020 subjected us to can now begin to be replaced with the hope that a new year brings. January starts off with New Year's Day and many people go through the ritual of making resolutions. Let's just focus on one. 2021 will be better than 2020! January also recognizes a hero of the Civil Rights Movement on Martin Luther King Day and I suggest that as NCO's and Petty Officers that we take the lead and do something to diffuse so much of the tension thrust upon us last year. The last time I checked, God made all of us and on the battlefield of life, we all bleed red! |
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What will tomorrow be? More importantly, who will you BE in your tomorrows?

—CMSGT of the Air Force JoAnne Bass



Important Dates in January

- Jan. 1 – New Years Day
- Jan. 17 – Persian Gulf War began
- Jan. 18 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan. 20 – Inauguration Day
- Jan. 27 – Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord

NCOA is constrained by the limits of our imagination. I have been talking about doing buddy checks to stay connected to our brothers and sisters isolated by COVID. Some of you risked your lives in war to save a buddy and now in peace, isn't it worth a phone call or having a cup of coffee to do the same thing for a struggling service member? There are programs out there that have moved to doing more than raising awareness. I am hopeful that soon, we will have information available to do something that engages people in fighting this horrible trend of veteran suicide.

I challenge you to do something in 2021 to make it better than 2020. It does not have to cost you money, but it may cost you a little time, but I am willing to bet that none of you want to go through another 2020 as long as you live. So, start with a simple thing. Make up your mind that you are going to do something that will make a difference in your family, your chapter, your community, and your nation.

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

A much better year!

The 2020-2021 National Defense Authorization Act has passed

& the veto overcome.

There was much debate and a threat to veto the NDAA before it even passed. While there may have been some logical reasons to make changes, Congress dug their heels in and passed the \$740B bill anyway. The president did veto the bill and in an unprecedented session, the Senate met on New Years Eve and passed the bill following the lead of the House. What will that mean? There will be a small COLA for the troops of 1.3%. That will also impact retirees. The list of presumed diseases connected to Agent Orange exposure was expanded. There was a section authorizing the renaming of military installations named for Confederate heroes. There were provisions addressing improving childcare for active duty families. Sec 578

addresses credentialing of on-line education for our troops. There is also language that places limitations on certain troop withdrawals. This could impact any troops reductions in Afghanistan.

Warrior's Pipeline

Updates for Veterans and Service Members

Articles from 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.

The deadline to submit an application in is May 15th of each year! Don't wait until the last minute.

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!

"Leaders aren't born, they are made. And they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal."

-Vince Lombardi

VA resumes overpayment notifications....

.The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today its nationwide plan to resume mailing notification letters to Veterans for benefit overpayments placed in suspension from April 3 through Jan 1, 2021. The collection of these overpayments was deferred to provide financial relief to Veterans due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"VA recognizes Veterans and beneficiaries may still experience financial

distress from COVID-19, and it will continue to offer enhanced relief options for impacted Veterans," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "These include extending repayment plans, waivers, compromises and temporary hardship suspensions. Most importantly, the department will pause collections through October 2021 for Veterans who remain in financial hardship and request relief."

Veterans and beneficiaries with questions regarding benefit overpayments may submit requests or call 800-827-0648. Call volume is generally lower Tuesday – Friday.

For health care co-payment debts, Veterans should contact the Health Resource Center at 866-400-1238 or <https://www.pay.gov> for payments.

Rogue Chapter Happenings

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

2020 Accomplishments:

- The no-Bake /Bake sale fund raiser brought in over \$3,800. WOW!

The following members have birthdays in January:

Sal Aviles	Jeff Bedore	Richard Boyle III
Charlie Buckner	Albert Cardona	Phillip Diamon
Robert Fyfe	David Galati	Terry Goff
Darold Hutsell	Rae Ann Janz	Robert Huntington Sr.
Donald Mott	Matthew Parker	Richard Pendleton
Jesse Smith	Muriel Smith	Richard Schwegerl
Alice Thomsen	Mark Willis	William Vanderberg
Tanya Wilson		

Benjamin Brackin Sr.
Dean Federhart
Judy Haines
Johnnie Martin
Earl Poole Jr.
Russ Schweikert
Sherman Willis

May your day be special for you!

Rachael Watters won the \$100 recruiting prize from the Chairman

Prevention Corner: Tips and Tactics to Avoid Scams

January 2021

FRAUD, SCAMS AND CONS

Frauds, scams, and cons are out there and all around us, but how do we tell if they are legitimate or one of the three.

My friend sent me a text message asking for my assistance and assured me he would pay me back. The text message did not look right to me. Not that he needed assistance, but it stated that he was traveling, and it gave me directions of where to go for his assistance. The locations stated were none that he used in the past or spoke about. The signature block was different from what I receive in past text messages.

I decided to give him a call and not follow through with his request, yet. He advised me that he had been hacked and trying to advise everyone not to respond to the text. He further advised that a couple of people that received the text, did follow through with the request. They are out \$300, and the scammer requested an additional \$400 to clear it up.

The hackers are very good and have a great deal of knowledge of what they are doing. On a scale of 1 – 50, our knowledge compared to theirs, is approximately 2. Well, how can we determine good from bad if they have so much knowledge? What can we do?

When you look at text, email or internet message, check the spelling and grammar along with the characteristics you know about the person they are trying to represent. Words like immediately, urgent, my last chance and so on, are terms used to get you connected with them fast. Do your due diligence and make a call to the person they are representing and confirm it is above board. Watch if there are any type of links attached to the message. What will happen if you click on the link, you will be redirected to another location and they gotcha.

Use a credit card from your bank that has an alert placed on it. Banks can place alerts on debit and credit cards, so you have a means with which to follow up. Trust your instincts to verify your feeling something is wrong.

You feel embarrassed if you fall for their scam and then, who do I call and how can I get help? Police might take a report for you and that could be the end of it. Not anymore.

I have thirty years in Law Enforcement and helped an enormous number of people in bad situations. You need to put barricades up immediately. I can help with this and follow up with more information and assistance at no cost to you.

Contact information:

Ron Kohl 541-500-1274 Good luck and be safe.



The Vietnam Wall in storage
in southern Oregon

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

The two most important days of your life are the day that you were born and the day when you find out why!

-Mark Twain

Meet your Rogue Chapter Board

CONTACT INFORMATION

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(A drawing depicting the entrance to the Vietnam Wall scheduled for installation at US Cellular Park in Medford, Oregon)

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 NMBC-18, achieving 1st Class Petty Officer (E-6), acting as the NMBC-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 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."



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.