

# THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 21

<https://www.cnmc.navy.mil/meridian> ~ [www.facebook.com/NASMeridian](https://www.facebook.com/NASMeridian) ~ Twitter: @nasmeridianms

October 31, 2024

## On Base

### MWR Turkey Week

Turkey Week will kick off in November.

There will be opportunities to win a turkey!

Various events will be hosted at the following locations. (More details to follow)

Nov. 12: McCain Rec.  
Nov. 13: Liberty Center  
Nov. 14: Golf Course  
Nov. 15: Fitness Center  
Nov. 16: Shooting Range

### Open Bowling Tournament

-McCain Recreation Center

-1st Thursday of Every Month at 1800

-\$10 sign up fee

## Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

## Meridian named "Best Galley" in Navy Region Southeast



The Roy M. Wheat Galley onboard Naval Air Station Meridian is named the Best Galley in Navy Region Southeast for their exemplary service and food. The galley also received their 15th 5-Star Accreditation and will be competing for the Captain Edward F. Ney Award. The Captain Edward F. Ney Memorial Award, named for the Navy captain who served as the head of the Subsistence Division of the Bureau of Supplies and Accounts from 1940 to 1945, is the highest honor given to U.S. Navy food service operations to recognize food service excellence. The galleys honored must achieve a five-star rating from the Navy evaluation team during an annual evaluation. The award is designed to improve food services by encouraging competition among food service operations.

Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

## Halloween Festivities onboard NAS Meridian



Photos by MC2 Molly Tice

NAS Meridian celebrates Halloween by giving out candy to children at the Child Development Center. Staff members spread spooky cheer by going to different departments to trick or treat, Oct. 31.

## Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

More Questions and Answers will return in the next edition of The Skyline on Nov. 14!



## NAS Meridian Attends Navy Day at Mississippi State University



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

MC1 Jeffrey Yale, left, and EO1 Darla Welker, right, play a flight simulator game. The simulator was provided and set up by the Navy Recruiting Command for Navy Day held at Mississippi State University, Oct. 18.



# Four Aviators Earn 'Wings of Gold' in October Winging Ceremony

## From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony October 25 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Four aviators received their "Wings of Gold" during the ceremony. The naval aviator designation ceremony is not prescribed specifically by U.S. Navy regulations, but has emerged as an honored product of the rich heritage of naval tradition. It marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training, which has prepared these officers for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations -- earning each the title of "Naval Aviator" and the right to wear the coveted "Wings of Gold."

1STLT Austin Micheal Claggett, USMC, is a 2019 graduate of

California Polytechnic State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering. 1stLt Claggett completed advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

1STLT Jacob Thomas Newman, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of Chapman University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. 1stLt Newman completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

Capt Micah Andrew Nissly, USMC, enlisted in the Marine Corps and graduated from Marine Corps Recruiting Depot Paris Island in 2012. Afterwards he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, where he completed the School of Infantry. Captain



Capt Micah Nissly



1STLT Matthew Schmidt



1STLT Austin Claggett



1STLT Jacob Newman

Nissly later transitioned to be a Supply Management Specialist and was assigned to 2D Maintenance Battalion aboard Camp Lejeune. His next duty station was the Recruiting Station Kansas City in 2014. Captain Nissly applied to and was selected for the Marine Corps Enlisted

Commissioning Program. In 2016, he completed Officer Candidates School and attended NROTC at the University of South Florida. He graduated in 2020 with Dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Captain Nissly earned the Tony Jannus Distinguished

Aviation Society Scholars Award and while at the Basic School in Quantico, VA he graduated in the top 10 percent of his company. Captain Nissly completed Primary Flight Training Squadron Three and completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven. 1STLT Matthew Peter

Schmidt, USMC, is a 2021 graduate of the University of Washington, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics with a minor in International Studies and a certificate in International Economics. 1stLt Schmidt completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

## Golden Stick Award



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Mississippi Council of the Navy League Representative Roger Burke has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to 1STLT Jacob Newman during a winging ceremony in the chapel onboard NAS Meridian, Oct. 25. The Golden Stick is awarded to the student with the highest composite score during training and sponsored by the Mississippi Council of the Navy League.

### Congratulations

Senior Sailor of the Quarter  
**MA1 Nathan Dehart**

Junior Sailor of the Quarter  
**MA2 Bret Kobes**

Blue Jacket of the Quarter  
**ACAN Blake Parker**

### Congratulations

Supervisor of the Quarter  
**David Brown**  
Morale, Welfare, & Recreation

Senior Civilian of the Quarter  
**Michael Mengarelli**  
Security

Junior Civilian of the Quarter  
**Barbara Watson**  
Triad Secretary

## Roman Catholic Service at the NAS Meridian Chapel

**Nov. 9 & 23**  
**0930: Confession**  
**1000: Mass**



## The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

### Command Staff

- Commanding Officer ~ **CAPT Luke H. Davis**
- Executive Officer ~ **CDR Mike Missler**
- Command Master Chief ~ **CMDCM Randy Griffeth**

### Editorial Staff

- Public Affairs Officer ~ **Penny Randall**
- Public Affairs Specialist ~ **Evelyn Adams**
- Photographer ~ **MC2 Molly Tice**

### Hotlines & Helpful Numbers

- SAPR Victim Assistance: 601-604-3037
- SAPR Civilian Victim Assistance: 601-486-3122
- SARC: 601-481-4274
- SAFE Helpline: 877-995-5247
- Suicide Hotline: 800-273-8255
- Military OneSource: 800-342-9647
- CEAP (DoN Civilian): 844-366-2327
- EAP (NAF Civilian): 800-932-0034
- FFSC Meridian: 601-679-2360
- Chaplain: 601-604-2015
- NMCRS Duty Cell: 601-604-2206
- EEO (NAF): 866-295-0328
- EEO (GS): 904-542-2802

This DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Skyline are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or NAS Meridian, Mississippi. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the NAS Meridian Public Affairs Office. The Skyline solicits news contributions from military and civilian sources. It reserves the right to edit material selected for dissemination. The deadline for material is 4:30 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Send submissions to: The Skyline, 255 Rosenbaum Ave., Suite 163, Public Affairs Office, Naval Air Station, Meridian, MS 39309-5003 or e-mail: penny.l.randall2.civ@us.navy.mil or evelyn.m.adams@navy.mil. For more information, call (601) 679-2318 or (601) 679-2809. The appearance of any advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or NAS Meridian of products or services advertised. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.



## LOCAL HAPPENINGS

### NOVEMBER:

**1-2: The 21st Annual Soulé Live Steam Festival, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.** The Festival gives visitors the opportunity to see how things were made and how hard people worked back in the early 20th century. These workers' efforts in the past have helped to make our standard of living possible today. This event will be hosted at Soulé Steam Feed Works, America's last intact steam engine factory. Historic Soulé Steam Museum features an impressive permanent collection of portable and stationary steam engines, which will operate using "live steam" — not compressed air. Blacksmiths will be working iron in the Soule' Forge and other industrial craftsmen will be demonstrating their trades. Molten metal pouring and mold-making will also be shown. **Located in Downtown Meridian, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**2: Earth's Bounty, 8 a.m. - Noon** - This seasonal festival features the freshest farmer's market produce, locally made products, plants, and more: kids' activities, live music, and special demonstrations throughout the season. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**7: Full Moon on 5th, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.** - Join the Arts and Community Events Society for a giant block party downtown. String lights and two giant illuminated moons set the mood for this laid back event with great food and live music. This month's featured artist is The Family Gathering. Come enjoy the arts with friends at this free event in our beautiful downtown. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**19: Jazz Ambassadors of the United States Army Field Band, 7 p.m.** - Feel the energy and majesty of a rare treat in today's world: a 19-piece big band performing live in a historic theater with superb acoustics. And tickets are free! **Located in Downtown Meridian.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**23 - Jan. 5: Winter Wonderland at the Children's Museum** - Families can delight in fun and festive activities with weekly visits by Santa, sock skating in the Snowflake Village, reindeer workshops, and other holiday merriment. **Located in Downtown Meridian.**

## AREA HAPPENINGS

### NOVEMBER:

**10: Beethoven & Blue Jeans, 2:30 p.m.** - This year's casual concert offers triple the fun! Beethoven's Triple Concerto features violinist Benjamin Baker, cellist James Baik and pianist Chaeyoung Park. Also Haydn's "Surprise" Symphony and Montgomery's Starburst. **Located in Mobile, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**16: P!nk, 7:30 p.m.** - Concert features performances by Maren Morris & KidCutUp. **Located in Birmingham, AL.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**20: WILLIS, 7 p.m.** - In concert at Woodlawn Theatre located in Birmingham, AL. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

**25: Justin Timberlake, 7:30 p.m.** - Justin Timberlake in concert at the Smoothie King Center located in New Orleans, LA. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

"This information is provided for informational purposes only. The Department of the Navy does not approve, endorse, or authorize these entities or their products/services."

## Fair Winds & Following Seas Theodore Cole



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Fair winds and following seas to Theodore Cole who has worked at the NAS Meridian Navy Exchange for 56 years. He was honored for his service by NAS Meridian NEX General Manager Merritt McKenna and Mid-South District Vice President Patrick Knowles, Oct. 22.

### COMMAND PATCH SALE

Cash, card or  
Venmo @meridiannavyball

Located in the Public Affairs Office  
Bldg 255 Ste 163

**\$10**

This is a non-federal entity. It is not a part of the Department of Defense or any of its components, and it has no governmental status. The Department of the Navy does not officially endorse any private company or sponsor their products or services.

## Sale... Or

### HOMES/APARTMENTS

**NEW! For Sale:** 3 BD/2 BA home. 1,496 square foot heated and cooled. 200 square foot utility room/pantry. Popular Springs Elementary school district. Huge fenced back yard and storage building. New roof Dec 2012. New AC April 2017 and remains under warranty until 2027. Around the corner from Northcrest church (North Hills). Asking \$150,000 but there are a few little cosmetic things that could be done so will take \$125,000 as is. Contact Jared or Felicia Monsour at (601) 938-4810 or (601) 934-0931

**NEW! For Sale:** 3 BD/4 BA home with 2965 sq ft of lake view home in beautiful, gated Lake Eddins in Pachuta. Entertainer's kitchen with huge eat at bar. Brick floors in main living areas, all new floor covering in remaining areas, total remodel. Gorgeous brick w/natural cypress home, 2 car garage w/bonus room. Asking \$299,900. Will include additional lot on water for fishing/boat

storage w/asking price. Call 601-720-1420.

**NEW! For Rent:** 3BD/2BA house offers beautiful lake views, perfect for fishing and relaxing by the water. This house has recently been remodeled. Monthly Rent: \$1,500. Deposit: \$1,000. Additional Fees: Dalewood Renter Privileges Fees. Please contact Carlos at 601-604-9986.

**For Rent:** 1 BD/1 BA. Entire House in North Hills District. Listed on AIRBNB or can book direct. Daily or Weekly rates plus cleaning fees. Contact: 601-504-5415

**For Rent:** 3 BD/2 BA, only 5 mins from main gate of NAS Meridian. Nice size private yard / garbage and water provided. Pets permitted with deposit. \$1,150 a month. Contact 601-480-1324.

**For Rent:** Water front home in Dalewood. Spacious two-story home facing the Lake; great for fishing and relaxing. Remodeled kitchen and new appliances. Rent is \$1,800; please call 813-406-9687.

**For Rent:** 3 BD/1.5 BA home 15 minutes from NAS at 4814 36th

Ave. New refrigerator and 2-year old AC & furnace. Call Terrance at 469-318-9769.

### BOATS/CAMPERS/TRAILERS

**21 foot - 2021 Jayco Travel Camper.** Like new; beige & walnut interior. Selling to upgrade to larger size - Price is \$15,000 some accessories included. To view or request pics please contact: Gary 601-575-5062.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**For Sale:** Double wall Frigidaire oven \$500; Bosch dishwasher \$500. Both three years old. Call 601-616-4242.

**Nanny or caregiver services.** Call Alice at 601-934-1866 or 601-679-8112. Has installation access; can take children to school and pick up and available days, nights and weekends.

**Event Space for Rent:** Deer Creek Banquet Hall. 6000 sq. ft. indoor with 1600 sq. ft. outdoor spaces for rent for gatherings and events. Call Reginald at 251-455-1559.

**Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free!**  
Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to production.  
Email information to [nasmeridianpao@gmail.com](mailto:nasmeridianpao@gmail.com)



# A Marine Corps legacy to be proud of

By Lance Cpl. William Horsley  
Marine Corps Recruit Depot,  
Parris Island

On Oct. 12, 2024, Pvt. Zachery Thurber, a Marine with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, stood before the Iwo Jima monument on the Peatross Parade Deck, ready to receive his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor from his senior drill instructor. The last person Zachery expected to see was his father, Sgt. Maj. William Thurber (USMC, Ret.), and was shocked beyond belief when he stepped in front of him.

"I had thought of so many things I wanted to say when I saw him," said William. "When I got in front of him, I couldn't remember a single thing."

Everyone who earns the title of Marine experiences a transformation like no other. Zachery's was no different. Both Zachery and William needed a moment to recognize each other. "They told me right where he was going to be," said William. "But still, I

seriously had to look at his name tapes, I was stunned." "I zoned out, then I blinked and my dad was in front of me," said Zachery. "I was so zoned out I didn't recognize who it was."

William presented Zachery with the Marine Corps emblem he wore on active duty. "Seeing my dad after 12 weeks, and getting his EGA, it was the most surreal feeling," said Zachery. William was so emotional in the moment he could only muster a single phrase. "Because I am retired, this is the only day we will both be in these Cammie's together at the same time," said William.

Zachery said his father was a huge inspiration growing up and is the primary reason he followed in his dad's yellow footsteps. "My whole life I have looked up to my dad," said Zachery. "Indirectly he was one of the biggest influences because he was a Marine."

Zachery was able to adjust his join date so he could be in India Company, his dad's boot camp company. William served the Marine Corps for 32 years, all over



Photo by Lance Cpl. William Horsley

**U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) William Thurber presents his son Pvt. Zachery Thurber, a Marine with India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, his Eagle, Globe, and Anchor on Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, Oct. 12. The presentation of the EGA signifies the transformation from a civilian into a U.S. Marine..**

the world, and his son traveled with him. Zachery witnessed the esprit de corps that Marines are known for.

"He lived it his whole life, he

knew nothing else except the Marine Corps," said William.

"He grew up seeing Marines and knew I enjoyed it, and I think that's why he joined."

"All the Marines my dad knew, and the Marines I grew up around, seeing the way they carried themselves just made me want to join more," said Zachery.

William said he is immensely proud of Zachery and everything he accomplished in recruit training.

"No help from parents, no last-minute phone calls," said William. "Everything he did there for the last three months he did on his own." Zachery is incredibly eager and ready to continue the family legacy, but is also ready to forge his own path. "I am really proud to grow up under this name and my dad's legacy," said Zachery. "But I want to build my own legacy, I want to be known as Zachery Thurber, and not Sgt. Maj. William Thurber's son."

On Oct. 25, 2024, William was made the parade reviewing official for his son's graduation ceremony. Just before the final dismissal, William reviewed the company as they marched he got to watch his son march across the same parade deck he did almost 36 years ago.

## Local Counselors Visit NAS Meridian



Photo by Penny Randall

**NAS Meridian School Liaison welcomed area school counselors from Clarkdale, Southeast, Northeast and West Lauderdale schools, Oct 24. The counselors met with CAPT Davis and enjoyed a tour of the installation including the flightline, military working dog program and the Youth Age Care Center to learn more about the jobs of military members to better aid them in addressing the needs of the military children in their schools.**

## HSC-26 Embraces History & Heritage Ahead of Veterans Day 2024

Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 26 hosted a former aviator from its predecessor squadron, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron (HC) 6, to walk through squadron history and heritage following the 249th birthday celebration of the U.S. Navy.

Every November, the United States takes a day to honor veterans for their service and sacrifices to their country. As Veteran's Day 2024 approaches, HSC-26 reflects on a recent and unique opportunity to do just that while hosting retired Capt. Pete Lumianski and his wife Chris for a tour of his former squadron.

The couple now reside in Phoenix, Arizona, so the trip was inspired by the opportunity to visit friends and peers from their time in service who they don't often have the option to visit, leading to a short stop in Norfolk to reminisce on Lumianski's early days of service.

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate of the class of 1965, Lumianski arrived to his first fleet command, HC-4 Detachment Norfolk, in 1967 following the conclusion of flight school and the pinning of his "Wings of Gold". Shortly after his arrival, the squadron was re-designated as HC-6, meeting various missions with multiple different helicopters.

"HC flying was a terrific start to my Navy career. There were three types of choppers on the flight line: H-



Courtesy Photo

**Retired U.S. Navy Capt. Pete Lumianski gets his "Wings of Gold" pinned by his wife, Chris Lumianski, during a ceremony in Pensacola, Florida, 1967. Lumianski, a former pilot with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 26, visited the hangar as part of a personal trip with multiple stops along east coast.**

34s, H-3s and H-46s, about 30 assigned pilots, many operational missions and lots of opportunities to head out to sea on board a variety of ships including destroyers, frigates, amphibious assault ships and aircraft carriers," Lumianski said of his first sea tour.

He was designated as an aircraft commander for both the Sikorsky RH-3A Sea King and the UH-34 Sea Horse helicopters, executing mine countermeasures and combat support missions respectively, but also logged copilot time in the Boeing CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter executing vertical replenishment and logistics missions before he received orders back to flight school as an instructor at Helicopter Training

Squadron (HT) 8 in 1970.

"I loved my first operational flying assignment in Norfolk, a squadron with many diverse and odd-ball pilots assigned. The ready room was always a 'Star Wars Bar Scene' look-alike," Lumianski expressed.

Lt. Maxwell Gray, a pilot currently assigned to HSC-26, assisted with the visit. Starting off in the ready room, he showed Lumianski and his wife various offices and work centers, maintenance spaces and projects as well as the paraloft, ending the tour with a static display of HSC-26's current helicopter platform, the MH-60S Knighthawk.

-- Lt. Julie Johnson  
Commander, Naval Air Force Atlantic

[Read more. click here](#)





# N9 Nook

Check here to see the latest news with  
**Fleet & Family, Child and Youth Programs, & MWR!**



## Kids Movie Marathon

McCain Recreation Center  
 Every 1st Sunday at 1000

October 6: Star Wars 1-3  
 November 3: Toy Story 1-3  
 December 1: Transformers 1-4






## Cosmic Bowling

McCain Recreation Center

EVERY SAT 7 PM

Get a strike with a colored headpin and receive 1 FREE game of bowling. Staff must be present when making the strike.

# DJ

AT

# MCCAIN

NOV 9 / 6 - 8 PM

JOIN US DURING COSMIC BOWLING AND ENJOY OUR LIVE DJ!

ENJOY OUR LIVE DJ!

## FFSC SCHEDULE

**OCT-DEC 2024**

**OCT** **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH**  
 Support awareness by stopping at FFSC to get a purple ribbon and write an encouraging word on our banner!

**MWR TRICK OR TRUNK** **OCT 26TH**  
 Stop by the Fleet and Family booth and get information on DV and Fleet and Family programs!

**NOV 12TH** **WELCOME ABOARD**  
 Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405. Spouses welcome to join!

**RECIPE SWAP** **NOV 19TH**  
 Get your oven mitts ready! Thanksgiving is right around the corner! Share your favorite recipe with someone else, and maybe find a new one for yourself!

**DEC 2-6** **COMMAND FINANCIAL SPECIALIST TRAINING**  
 Located at The Fleet and Family Support Center, BLDG 405

**COOKIES FOR SAILORS** **DEC**  
 Do you love to bake? Great! Sign up to bake cookies for our sailors for Christmas!

**MORE INFO:** **CALL: 601-679-2360**



Join Fleet and Family for our

# RECIPE SWAP

Do you have a favorite recipe you love to cook? Great!

Join us to meet new friends and snag a new recipe to share with your family!

Bring a copy of your recipe and submit it to Kasie at FFSC.

**Where: Fleet and Family Center, Bldg 405**  
**Day: Tuesday, Nov 19, 2024**  
**Time: 1pm-2pm**  
**Contact: 601-679-2360**  
**kasie.d.mcinnis.naf@us.navy.mil**

Recipe tips:  
 Be sure to add measurements and instructions on your recipe!  
 Include to a photo of your finished dish to show off how good it is!

**\*\*multiple submissions welcome\*\***