

THE SKYLINE



Volume 62, Number 16

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August 22, 2024

On Base

Run for the Fallen 5K
September 5 • 1700
Liberty Center

Staff Nights
Every Thursday Night
Rudders • 1700-2100

SEWING CLASS
September 12 • 1800
Andrew Triplett Library

Open Mic Night
Every Friday in August
Rudders • 1900-2100

Captain's Cup
Doubles Tennis League

Registration:
August 18-September 13

Team Meeting:
September 12 at 1500

Games Begin:
September 16 at 1730

Get Connected



SCAN for NAS Meridian App



SCAN for the Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box



Follow us!

NTTC, TW-1 Welcome Admirals



Photo by Evelyn Adams

Rear Adm. Stu Satterwhite, left, Commander, MyNavy Career Center, congratulates YNSN Shicari Cook during a ceremony at Naval Technical Training Center (NTTC) on board Naval Air Station Meridian, (NAS) Miss., August 9. YNSN Cook was the honor graduate of her "A" School Class with the highest grade point average. Satterwhite was the guest speaker at the ceremony.



Photo by Penny Randall

Rear Adm. Rich Brophy, Chief of Naval Air Training (CNATRA) was the guest speaker at the Training Air Wing One winging ceremony on board Naval Air Station Meridian, August 16. The winging class of six Navy and two Marine Corps aviators also includes RADM Brophy's son, LTJG Richard "Tommy" Brophy III.

Coastal Bend Community Welcomes USS Kingsville

By Lidia Herrera
KIII-TV

The Coastal Bend community welcomed the arrival of the USS Kingsville on Sunday afternoon. President/CEO of Kingsville Chamber of Commerce Manny Salazar has worked tirelessly with multiple agencies to make this a reality. As a Kingsville native he is proud to finally see this ship arrive to the Coastal Bend.

"This is a great day for Kingsville. We have a long tradition of partnering with the Navy and now to see a battleship with our city's name on it," Salazar said. "It's a once a life opportunity, it's something I will never forget."

Kingsville Mayor Sam Fugate said this is an honor the city doesn't take lightly. The ship's name recognizes the long history the city has with the Navy, especially since many pilots have learned how to fly out of the Coastal Bend.

"But it's also important for the Coastal Bend. Big Navy



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Huynh

The crew of the U.S. Navy's newest littoral combat ship, Independence-variant littoral combat ship USS Kingsville arrives in the city of Corpus Christi through Corpus Christi Bay ahead of her commissioning ceremony on August 24. LCS 36 is the first U.S. Navy warship to honor the city of Kingsville, Texas

recognizes how important NAS Corpus Christi and NAS Kingsville are to our defense and national security," Fugate said.

Salazar said this ship is an incredible piece of technology that will always carry a bit of Kingsville wherever it goes.

"The pieces of South Texas that we put on the ship," Salazar said. "We have a Javelina on there, we have our bull head, we have a number of things. We have street signs from bearing Kingsville streets on there."

Graciela Cuellar is visiting for

the weekend and was surprised to learn a ship was named after her hometown. Although she no longer lives there, she is glad this ship will bring some recognition to her beloved city.

"I feel so much pride for my hometown and it puts us on the map. And I think it's awesome. It says a lot about all the right choice that they made naming it after Kingsville," Cuellar said. Salazar said he's proud to be part of this significant history for the city of Kingsville but he's even prouder to know there will be a battleship carrying the name of his hometown.

"It's just cool though. It can be Singapore, South China sea, anywhere in the world and folks will see that it's the USS Kingsville and they may not know where that is but we'll have pride knowing she's out there," Salazar said.

The USS Kingsville will be commissioned on August 24 and will be docked at the Port of Corpus Christi until August 26.

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Q & A

UPDATE: Commissary Expired Items

If you find any expired items at the commissary, please notify the staff immediately. If you notice the expiration after leaving, you can return the item for a full refund or exchange it for a similar product.

UPDATE: Food Options

We have received several similar questions regarding food variety and availability on base.

A. As we continue to navigate our geographic and administrative limitations including vendor insurance requirements, availability, and willingness, we are actively working with our MWR and NEX to bring more variety of food and beverage options throughout the installation. In the next Skyline, there will

be a survey link regarding preferred food options (specials), locations, and times. There will be a NEX survey as well.

Q. Is there a timeline for the gas station being usable again?

A. We anticipate that the gas station will be operational no later than 15 October. Due to the condition of the canopy structure, we need specialized demolition services, which are being contracted with an anticipated award date of 30 August. Once awarded, we will provide a more precise timeline. Thank you for your patience and understanding

Q. Good morning, - The command recognition board in Bldg. 255 is missing a slot for Civilian Supervisor of the Year.

A. We are exploring options to acquire a new board that will include the additional recognition slots.

**Statements concerning individual employees will be directed to the appropriate Chain of Command.

● Suggestions, page 4



8 Aviators Earn 'Wings of Gold' in August Pinning Ceremony

From Staff Reports

There was a naval aviator designation ceremony August 16 onboard Naval Air Station Meridian.

Eight 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."

Captain Zachary Thuan Anderson, USMC, is a 2020 graduate of the Virginia Military Institute, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. Captain Anderson completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG James Edward Anthony, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Robotics Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training, LTJG Anthony earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Anthony completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Richard Thomas Brophy III, USN, is a 2021 graduate of the United States Naval Academy,

where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training, he earned four Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Brophy completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Dylan Wilson Horan, USN, is a 2020 graduate of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering. During Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Horan completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Thomas Jack Lerette, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Virginia Tech, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. During Primary Flight Training, LTJG LeRette was named to the Commodore's List. While in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned three Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG LeRette completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

LTJG Samuel Joseph Pappalardo, USN, is a 2021 graduate of Norwich University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering with minors Mathematics and Naval Studies. LTJG Pappalardo completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.

LTJG Kyle Daniel Wagner, USN, is a 2021



1STLT Zachary Anderson



LTJG James Anthony



LTJG Richard Brophy III



LTJG Dylan Horan



LTJG Thomas Lerette



LTJG Samuel Pappalardo



LTJG Kyle Wagner



1STLT William Weston

graduate of the United States Naval Academy, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in History. While he was in Advanced Jet Flight Training he earned two Navy "E's" for bombing accuracy. LTJG Wagner completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Nine.

1STLT William Alexander Weston, USMC, is a 2020 graduate Penn State University, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. 1stLt Weston completed Advanced Jet Flight Training with Training Squadron Seven.



Mississippi Council of the Navy League Representative, Roger Burke, has the honor of presenting the Golden Stick award to Lieutenant Junior Grade Kyle Wagner during a winging ceremony in the Chapel onboard NAS Meridian, August 16. 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.

Photo by Penny Randall

HEAT EXHAUSTION
Heat exhaustion is an illness that can happen when your body gets too hot and can't cool itself. It's a response to losing too much water and salt, usually because of too much sweating.

HEAT STROKE
Heat stroke is when the body overheats, usually due to prolonged exposure to high temperatures, and the core body temperature rises to more than 104°F

A body temperature over 100°F. Other symptoms include:

- Blurred vision
- Dizziness or faintness
- Headache
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Fatigue
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Rapid heartbeat
- Cool, moist skin with goosebumps
- Heavy sweating
- Swollen ankles, feet, or hands
- A drop in blood pressure when the person stands.

Treatment:

- Drink water or sports drinks -- take small sips
- Remove any tight or unnecessary clothing
- Take a cool shower, bath, or sponge bath
- Apply other cooling measures: fans or ice towels

Body temperature of 104° F or higher is the main sign. Other signs include:

- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness
- Headache
- Rapid, shallow breathing
- Nausea
- Fast pulse or racing heart
- Vomiting
- Flushed or red skin
- Hot and dry skin (when not exercising)

Treatment:

- Seek immediate medical help -- Call 911
- Get person into shade or indoors
- Remove excess clothing
- Cool the person with whatever means available; such as water, ice packs or cool wet towels.

Photo by Jessica Kendziorek

Graphic that explains heat exhaustion and heat stroke, to include symptoms and treatment.

Summer Sun Safety

As the temperature rises in the summer months, service members should be aware of becoming overheated when exercising outdoors.

"Members need to be safe when it comes to spending periods of time in direct sunlight," Master Sgt. Frank Strong, 403rd Wing occupational safety manager said, "There is an app from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration-National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health called OSHA-NIOSH Heat Safety Tool. It tracks real-time heat index, hourly forecasts, location specifics, contains symptom information, and first aid information."

Strong suggests that everyone follow these hot weather precautions:

Timing is key: It's best to avoid the outdoors in the early afternoon (about noon to 3 p.m.) because the sun is usually at its

strongest, putting you at higher risk for heat-related illnesses. Stay in the shade when possible

Dress for the heat: Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing in breathable fabrics such as cotton, or a newer fabric that repels sweat. Add a hat and sunglasses. Before getting started, apply a water-resistant sunscreen with at least SPF 15, and reapply it every two hours.

Drink up: Stay hydrated by drinking a few cups of water before, during and after going outside or exercising. Avoid caffeinated or alcoholic beverages.

Listen to your body: Take regular breaks and find some shade or a cool place, stop for a few minutes to adapt to the heat, hydrate and start again.

-- Jessica Kendziorek
403rd Wing

[Read more, click here](#)

The Skyline ~ Naval Air Station Meridian, Miss.

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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

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LOCAL HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER

6: FULL MOON ON 5TH - 6-9 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 theme is "80's Night" with music by Bouncing Betty. Come enjoy the arts with friends at this free events in our beautiful downtown. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

8: CHILI COOKOFF - NOON-2 P.M. Bring your best chili and see if it's a winner! Entries accepted at 12 p.m. Judging will be at 2 p.m. Costs \$10 to compete. Chili is \$5 a bowl and \$10 for all you can eat chili. **Located at the Fleet Reserve Association 264 on Hwy 39 N Meridian, MS.**

14: Habitat for Humanity 5K - 8 a.m. Entry Fee \$25 for 5k/ \$15 for fun walk/ \$10 for 1 Mile Kids Run. There will be no refund of Registration Fees. Register by August 26, 2024 to get a commemorative t-shirt for the event. All proceeds benefit the Lauderdale County Chapter of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families in Lauderdale County build and improve places to call home. We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. **Located in Meridian, MS at the Bonita Lakes Park.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

19-20: Whynot Motorsports Park: 2nd Annual Street Stock World Championship. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

28: Lean on Me Jubilee 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. A family-friendly festival with food and craft vendors, small business booths, and entertainment in downtown Meridian. The children's area will feature a petting zoo, bounce house & slide, and face painting. Music by Grayson Culpepper, Callaway Keller, Kayleigh Clark, Emily White, and Jax Moore Band. [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

AREA HAPPENINGS

SEPTEMBER:

1- Tom Segura - 5 P.M. - Show features Tom Segura, actor, comedian, writer, and one of the biggest names in comedy! **Located in Memphis, TN at the Orpheum Theatre.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

12 - Hardy in Concert - 6:15 P.M. - Concert features special guests Randy Houser, Travis Denning, & Ella Langley. **Located in Starkville, MS at the Dudy Noble Field.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

14 - Jelly Roll - 7 P.M. - Concert features special guests Warren Zeiders and Alexandra Kay. **Located in New Orleans, LA at the Smoothie King Center.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)

22 - Thunder Over Columbus Air Show. **Located in Columbus, MS.** [Click here for tickets, entries, & info.](#)



Local Officials Visit NAS Meridian



Photo by MC2 Molly Tice

Lauderdale Emergency Management Association (LEMA) Director Odie Barrett and Meridian Deputy Fire Chief Eric Hardy visit Naval Air Station Meridian to discuss collaborating with the installation on various emergency management exercises and other mutual aid partnerships. Attending the meeting were NAS Meridian Commanding Officer CAPT Luke Davis, NAS EOC Director Jeremy Kelley, and several other members of the command staff.



Sale... Or

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.

HOMES/APARTMENTS

NEW! For Rent: Studio Appartment located on North Hills Street. \$825 a month. Call 601-504-5415.

For Rent: 2 BD/1 BA home located in Dalewood community on the water. \$900 a month. Call 601-683-6038.

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: Fully furnished home in Dalewood. \$1,500 a month; \$50 application fee; \$900 Dalewood membership fee. Trailer, washer and dryer included. Call Jim 601-480-4865.

For Rent: 4 BD/2.5 BA home 3632 sq ft, just over 6 acres with workshop attached to 2-car carport. Owners will consider a lease of 12-36 months, and rent is negotiable the longer the term. Call (601) 517-1707.

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.

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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Listings in the "Sale...Or" column are free! Submission deadline is the Wednesday prior to production. Email information to nasmeridianpao@gmail.com

Captain's Virtual Suggestion Box: Questions & Answers



• Suggestions

Q. Good Morning, I really hope this can become something other than just a suggestion, I feel that a different breakfast and coffee option on base would really do well within the community and the military environment. I have been doing research and I have different ideas and companies we could look into.

A. Thank you for taking the time to research this. We would like to hear your ideas. Please contact CMDCM Griffeth, Randy.c.griffeth.mil@us.navy.mil

Q. Is there any way to get the family housing gate open? It would allow for more convenient access to housing, especially now with the gas station out of service and a gas station right outside the gate.

A. Due to mission and staffing

requirements, we are unable to open this gate at the moment. We will continue to evaluate our staffing needs and hope to resume operations at this gate in the future. Meanwhile, the NAS Meridian Main Gate remains open 24/7 for all personnel.

Q. Concerning ASF and Funeral Ceremonial Detail duty, I have noticed that every rate onboard NAS Meridian is subject to being placed on ASF duty, including the schoolhouse instructors and medical, however for Funeral Ceremonial Detail, we only have Air Ops personnel as well as an RP and an MC. Is there a reason that we do not have any Medical or schoolhouse personnel to support Funeral Detail manning? If not, is it possible we can use those Sailors not already assigned to ASF to strength Funeral Detail manning? I understand the clinic and the schoolhouse are separate from NAS, but they are still expected to support NAS Security and it would help tremendously if they could support NAS Funeral Detail.

A. We are reviewing our alignment with existing CNIC policies and procedures to allow for inclusion of supplemental personnel when needed.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY Galley Meal

ROY M. WHEAT GALLEY

AUGUST 28, 2024 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$7.00 (Cards only)

**NEW ENGLAND CLAM CHOWDER
SHRIMP & LOBSTER ALFREDO
HONEY GLAZED CONISH GAME HENS
GRILLED HAMBURGER STEAK
FETTUCCINE PASTA
BAKED POTATOES
BROWN GRAVY
SIMMERED CORN
HERBED BROCCOLI
GARLIC BREAD**

**NAS MERIDIAN BEVERAGE BAR, BREAD BAR,
DESSERT BAR, & SALAD BAR**

Sailor's Positivity Fuels Success

**By Petty Officer 1st Class
Natalia Murillo**

Navy Talent Acquisition Group Miami

PERRINE, Florida - Managing the roles of a single parent, a sole provider, head of household, full-time professional and supervisor, is demanding for one person. These are the roles that Engineman 1st Class Clarisa Morel fulfills successfully and with a smile, earning her the title of Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Miami Sailor in the Spotlight, August 19, 2024.

"We value Sailors, like Petty Officer Morel, who lead from the front," said Cmdr. Johnny R. Lykins, Jr., commanding officer, NTAG Miami. "She is a prime example of the correlation between attitude and success. You can achieve anything you set out to do with the right mindset. NTAG Miami and its leadership recognize hard work from recruiters like her tasked with finding the next generation of quality Sailors to man the fleet."

Morel has been a successful recruiter for the past two years but it's her demeanor that makes her unique. Her immediate supervisor, Chief Navy Counselor (Recruiter) Patricia Arteagatirado, division leading chief petty officer, Division ONE, NTAG Miami, is moved by her Sailor's consistent positivity.

"No matter how much she has going on, she still comes into the office with a smile every day and crushes it," said Arteagatirado. "She is like a superhero."

EN1 Morel is a 2015 graduate of Passaic High School in Passaic, New Jersey, where she was born and raised, along with her two brothers, by her parents who migrated from



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Natalia Murillo

Engineman 1st Class Clarisa Morel, attached to Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) Miami, poses for a photo in front of Navy Recruiting Station (NRS) Perrine, where she serves as the recruiter in charge, June 6, 2024. NTAG Miami has 38 recruiting locations throughout South Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with the combined mission to recruit the highest caliber Sailors to meet the needs of the fleet.

the Dominican Republic. The family remains together and has since relocated to Miami-Dade County.

Her brother, Felix Morel, was also an engineman in the Navy and served on active duty from 2013 to 2017.

"I come from a low-income family," said Morel. "I wanted the benefits the Navy offers but also to follow in my brother's footsteps so in August of 2015 I shipped off to boot camp."

A Navy career offers benefits such as competitive pay, healthcare, training and retirement. Sailors are

provided the opportunity to support themselves, their families, and their ambitions.

Dependable health care and pay are important for Morel who takes care of her parents and her three-year-old daughter with special needs.

In her personal life, Morel says her daughter is her focus but as the recruiter-in-charge at Navy Recruiting Station Perrine, she focuses on her team's and recruits' success.

"I wanted to recruit because I love

helping people," said Morel. "I'm most proud of becoming a mentor and being able to be an example to others. I share my wisdom with my Sailors and recruits so that they may find their own success. It's about seeing a smile on applicants' faces and impacting lives."

EN1 Morel leads by example. Since her arrival at NTAG Miami in 2022, she has earned a Navy Commendation Medal, two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, and most recently, was promoted to the E6 pay grade via the Meritorious Advancement Program (MAP). MAP authorizes commanding officers the opportunity to recognize their best personnel in paygrades E5 and below by advancing them when they are ready for the next level of responsibility.

"It was so humbling because for the first time I felt like I was being seen for who I am and for my work ethic," said Morel about her promotion. "I owe it all to my chief, Chief Arteagatirado."

Arteagatirado shares her sentiment about Morel in one brief statement.

"She is a testament to the phrase that says, 'not all heroes wear capes.'"

NTAG Miami has 38 recruiting locations throughout South Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, with the combined mission to recruit the highest caliber Sailors to meet the needs of the fleet.

Do you think you have superhero characteristics? Want to learn more about opportunities with America's Navy?

Check us out online at navy.com/careers-benefits/careers or for a recruiter near you, visit us at <https://www.navy.com/contact-us/find-a-recruiter>.

Marine and Sailors Awarded for Saving Marine's Life

By 2nd Lt. Brian Goss
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA. – One Marine and three Sailors were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals for their meritorious achievements during a ceremony aboard Camp Wilson, California, on August 11, 2024.

The Marine and Sailors acted swiftly when an incident occurred on a live-fire range during Service Level Training Exercise (SLTE) 5-24, in July 2024. Their actions directly aided in saving the life of a Marine while awaiting a helicopter evacuation to a nearby hospital. The Marine was treated and subsequently released to recover alongside his family. The Marine and his family video-called with the command during the award ceremony.

Maj. Gen. David L.

Odom, Commanding General of 2d Marine Division (MARDIV), awarded the service members during his visit to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms.

Lt. Col. Ted Driscoll, Commanding Officer of 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d MARDIV, demonstrated his gratitude toward the awardees by saying, "The immediate and responsive actions of our Marine and Sailors exemplify the professionalism and readiness that we value as a unit. Because of their swift actions, along with the additional support of other Marines, Sailors, and civilians from the battalion, Tactical Training and Exercise Control Group, and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, a Marine is still alive and on the road to recovery."

The recipients of the awards were:

Cpl. Cullen Potter of Dripping Springs, Texas, an Anti-Tank missileman and Section Leader with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d MARDIV.

Hospital Corpsman Third Class Carlos Calvillo of Banning, California, a Field Medical Technician and Company Line Corpsman with 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d MARDIV.

Hospital Corpsman Second Class Jonathan Wegner of St. Louis, Missouri, a Field Medical Technician with 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d MARDIV.

Hospital Corpsman First Class Efrain Barrera of Coalinga, California, a Field Medical Technician and Battalion Leading Chief Petty Officer with 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d MARDIV.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Weston Lindstrom

A U.S. Marine and Sailors with 1st Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, stand-by to be awarded a Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal on Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, California, Aug. 11. Servicemembers were awarded for rendering aid to a Marine during a live fire exercise, ultimately saving his life.

Retired U.S. Navy Special Warfare Commander Reflects on National Purple Heart Day

By Kyler Hood
Commander Navy Region Hawaii

The Purple Heart isn't a medal that service members strive to earn.

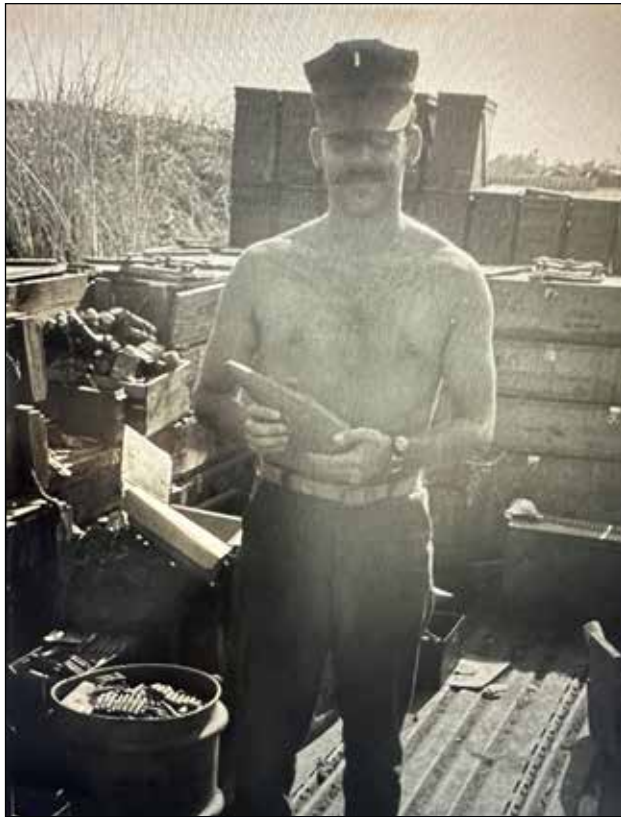
The award was originally created on Aug. 7, 1782, as the Badge of Military Merit by Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War to recognize troops for a tremendous act of courage or for doing something essential to the success of the Continental Army. On Feb. 22, 1932, the Badge of Military Merit became known as the Purple Heart and was designed to commemorate bravery and recognize soldiers with wounds sustained during combat.

The award criteria have changed over time to include different types of injuries and different types of combat.

More than 1.8 million Purple Heart medals have been presented to military service members since the award was created in 1792, according to the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor.

"The Purple Heart Medal means a hell of a lot to me and almost every flag officer that I have met in the last 30 years. You don't ask for it. You don't aspire to it. You don't run towards it. It's just, you got it because you bled for the country," explained Irwin Joel Brilliant, 80, who retired from the U.S. Navy after 30 years of service.

Brilliant is a Vietnam



Courtesy Photo

A photo of retired Capt. Irwin Joel Brilliant, a Purple Heart award recipient, taken in Vietnam when Brilliant was a Lt. In the photo, Brilliant holds an explosive from a cache of captured enemy explosives. This photo is part of a feature story honoring Purple Heart Day on Aug. 7. Brilliant is currently the state commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

War veteran who, as a lieutenant, commanded roughly 60 sailors under the Mobile Support Team 2 (MST 2) as part of a Special Warfare Combatant Craft Crewman (SWCC) team responsible for reconnaissance and boat operations for Sea, Air, and Land (SEAL) team night

operations.

Brilliant graduated from the University of North Carolina with a naval reserve officer training corps scholarship and commissioned as a naval officer in 1966. Two years later, he was sent to Vietnam.

[Read more. click here](#)

Roman Catholic Service at the NAS Meridian Chapel

Aug. 31 & Sept. 14
0930: Confession
1000: Mass

Harry S. Truman Maintenance

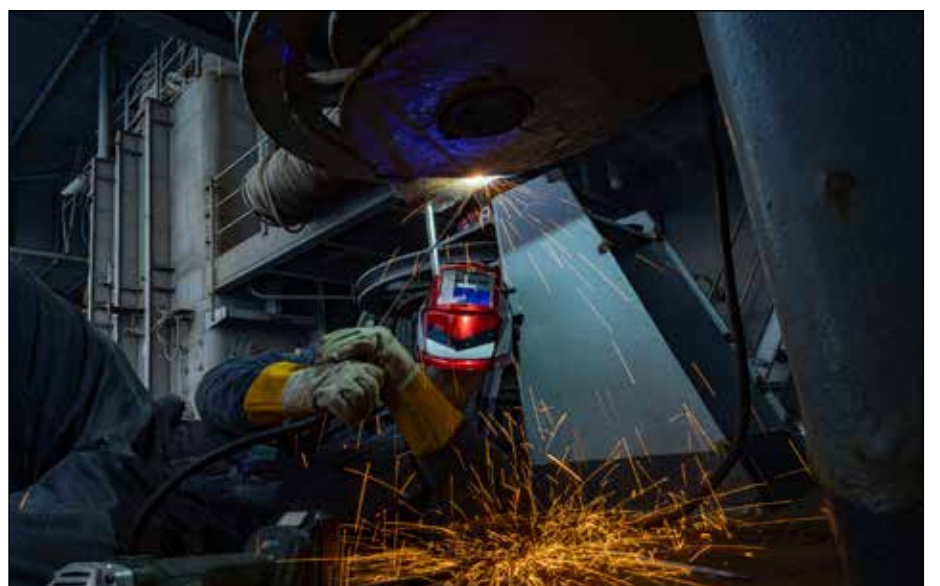


Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Logan Mcguire

Hull Maintenance Technician 2nd Class Dillon Brinegar, from Medford, Oregon, welds a deck sheave on the fantail aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) in the Atlantic Ocean, Aug. 15, 2024. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group is underway in the Atlantic Ocean completing integrated naval warfighting training. Composite Unit Training Exercises are an intense, multi-week exercise designed to fully integrate a carrier strike group as a cohesive, multi-mission fighting force, to assess their ability to carry out sustained combat operations from the sea, and drive future warfighting development.