

Quantico

NATIONAL NAVAL OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

2009 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

President's Message

Greetings,

I sincerely hope that you and your family had the best of holidays and I wish you a happy New Year. Thank you for your tireless effort, communal spirit, sustained participation, and commitment to our 'Mighty' Quantico Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA). Your sustained involvement, motivation, enthusiasm towards our fundraising efforts, core programs, and related activities were crucial in moving our organization in the desired direction.

Our ambitious agenda for the next few months will require all hands and unity of effort in order for our goals to be accomplished.

If you are a perspective member, we encourage you to join our NNOA chapter. We are confident that you will be a valuable addition to our team, and you can meaningfully contribute to our scholarship, mentorship, and community-centered programs. We look forward to meeting you, learning from and collaborating with you.

In closing, please remember that we are the keepers of a sacred trust, and only our full effort is sufficient for its preservation and advancement. We have refined our scholarship application process, enhanced the quality of our core and related programs, expanded the scope of our mentorship, and poised our-

selves to increase the number of scholarships we award. Your active membership and servant-leadership are essential for us to accomplish our commitment to the community. We are confident that you will return from the holidays with renewed commitment to our core and related community-centered programs, and if you are not a member then please seriously consider joining our team.

We looking forward to seeing you in the year.

Strength and Honor,

Neville Welch
Capt, USMC
President



Toys for Tots

Major Nadrian McGill, Site Commander, I & I Washington, DC was busy during December coordinating the Toys For Tots program for the local area. Her unit was responsible for providing toys for children in the DC metro area, which consists of the beltway and as far north as Rockville, MD and Franconia, VA on the south end. Each child received three toys (a toy, a stuffed animal and a book). In 2008, the I & I Washington DC provided toys for 85,000 children in the DC metro area.

In recent years, the T4T Tot's sponsors ranged from the Washington Nationals to various private organizations. This year, support for

T4T came from the White House. Major McGill and her Marines joined First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House December 2, 2009 for the announcement of support for both T4T and local food banks for the holiday season. The Washington DC I & I managed about 975 distribution points throughout the metro area which is expansive considering the dedicated Toys for Tots staff was three Marines.

From July to just after the New Years, the Marines participated in between 150 to 200 T4T related events with the majority of those events starting in November.



Major Nadrian McGill, Site Commander, I&I Washington and First Lady Michelle Obama .

2009-2010 Board

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LtGen Coleman Retires



After more than 37 years of service, LtGen Ronald Coleman bid farewell to the Marine Corps at his retirement ceremony on October 30, 2009 at Little Hall. Those in attendance included his family; General James Amos, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps who served as the retiring official; LtGen Frank Petersen, USMC (Ret) the first African American Marine aviator and three star general; original Montford Point Marines, an original Tuskegee Airman; and a

host of friends and well wishers.

General Coleman's service began in 1968 when he enlisted in the Navy and served in Da Nang in the Republic of Vietnam. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in December 1973 after graduation from Cheyney State University in 1974. In addition to his last assignment as Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, his other notable assignments included J-4, Joint Task

Force Shining Hope; Commanding General, Special Purpose MAGTF in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; and Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force Haiti.

General Coleman was appointed to lieutenant general in September 2006 while he was still frocked to major general. He was the second African American to attain the rank of lieutenant general in the Marine Corps.

Gravelly Elementary School Seadogs

On June 4, 2009 a dedication was held for Gravelly Elementary School in Haymarket, VA. The school was named for Vice Admiral Samuel L. Gravelly, Jr who was the first African-American to command a major naval warship, the first African-American to rise to the rank of Vice Admiral, and the first African-American to command a U.S. Fleet. The day was special not only because of the school's dedication but also because it would have been Admiral Gravelly's 87th birthday. Students donned Gravelly ES school t-shirts emblazoned with Admiral Gravelly's philosophy that success equals education plus motivation plus perseverance

It was apparent that the students (known as Seadogs) understood the importance of

the occasion. They displayed great discipline as they silently filed into the gymnasium and sat cross legged on the floor. Members of the U.S. Navy band performed and the Battlefield High School Air Force JROTC color guard presented the colors. Instead of the usual practice of having a staff member serve as the master of ceremonies, students from all grade levels took turns doing introductions.

The guest speakers were Mrs. Alma Gravelly, Admiral Gravelly's widow and Commander Douglas Kunzman, U.S. Navy, Commanding Officer of the USS *Gravelly* DDG 107. Also in attendance were family and friends of the Gravelly family, to include the Admiral's son and brother, and then RDML (sel) Sinclair Harris, former NNOA Eastern

Region Vice President. In addition to musical selections from the students, there were remarks from the Superintendent of Prince William County Schools, Dr. Steven Walts; the Chairman At-large of the Prince William County School Board, Milt Johns; and Gainesville District School Board member Don Richardson.

Mrs. Gravelly visits the school often and is actively involved in school activities. Mr. Richardson commented that the school was lucky to have their own adopted grandmother and that every new school should have their own grandmother. The ceremony concluded with the unveiling of an oil portrait of Admiral Gravelly. The portrait will be displayed in the school.



Above from left to right: CDR Douglas Kunzman, CO , USS Gravelly; Mrs. Alma Gravelly; Mrs. Michele Salzano, Principal and, RDML Sinclair Harris



Above: Gravelly Elementary School students wearing t-shirts that display the philosophy of the school's namesake.

The 2009 Professional Development Conference



The 2009 NNOA National Conference was held in July in Houston, TX. The “Mighty” Quantico Chapter was well represented. Both current and recently transferred members, including previous past president Col Grover Lewis, were on hand to receive the Outstanding Chapter Award. For the third year in a row, the Chapter received the Outstanding



Chapter Newsletter. Kudos to Maj Nadrian McGill for all her hard work and diligence in publishing the quarterly newsletter. And former Chapter member Maj Melissa Chestnut received the Membership Recruiting Award for her outstanding performance as the chapter’s membership chairperson. Col Lewis accepted the award on her behalf.

Get Ready for the 2010 National Professional Development Conference

Planning is already underway for the first ever joint Association of Naval Service Officers (ANSO) /National Naval Officers Association Conference which will be held in Portsmouth VA at the Renaissance Hotel, July 25-31, 2010. ANSO’s mission is to assist the Sea Service Chiefs' efforts in Hispanic officer recruitment and retention; foster the professional growth and development of Hispanic Sea Service personnel through mentoring, networking, training, and education programs; and support and nurture our junior enlisted personnel desiring to apply for Officer Programs. Record attendance is expected for this conference. During March, look for the MARADMIN announcing the conference details. Make plans now to attend this historic event.





Pictured left to right: Col Ray (Recipient of the Navy Cross), Mrs. Green, MajGen General Stanley, USMC (ret), Mr. Green (First African American Marine to teach at the Naval Academy), LtCol Martin, Maj Mike Williams, and Louis Tutt at Major General Stanley's Senate Confirmation hearing for his nomination by President Obama as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. His confirmation is still pending. Photos courtesy of Maj Mike Williams.

*NNOA
Members while
deployed.*

Right: LtCol Pat Johnson, one of the Chapter's former Vice Presidents, during a helo flight in Iraq.



Right: LtCol Stacey Taylor's, promotion ceremony in Afghanistan. LtCol Taylor previously served as the Chapter's Parliamentarian and Adopt-a-School coordinator.





'Tis The Season

