



# MECMOAA CHAPTER NEWS



*Never Stop Serving*

## Current Officers

President: John Rice  
1st VP: Jack Woolley  
2d VP: Stan Gedelman  
Secretary: Mary Shaw Van  
Treasurer: Tom Shafer  
Legislative: Jim DuBose  
Surviving Spouses: Mary Ward  
Membership: Mark Tipton

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## Bitter Sweet News

This month's newsletter brings the joy of new members, the story and celebration of a key Chapter servant, anticipation of each others' company at future gatherings, and news of the passing of one of our nation's Greatest Generation. As with everything else in life, the Mountain Empire Chapter is always changing, and it's up to all of us to carry our tradition of service forward. No matter your role in our communities or our Chapter, each of you plays a vital part in our story.

If we *Never Stop Serving* each other and our communities, we'll ensure MECMOAA continues to share our combined legacy through countless years, members, and events to come.

## Welcome, New Members!

At our last membership brunch in March, Chapter President John Rice and his wife Janet received our newest members.



Left to right: Mrs. Janet Rice and Chapter President LCDR (Ret.) John Rice; new MECMOAA spouse Mrs. Joan Brown and new member Maj (Ret.) George Brown; new MECMOAA spouse Mrs. Ann Woods and new member LT (Ret.) Bill Woods.

***We're glad to have you aboard,  
George, Joan, Bill and Ann!***

## Member Spotlight

### Stan Gedelman, LT, USN (Ret.)



*“Y'know, I seen me a mermaid once. I even seen me a shark eat an octopus. But I ain't never seen no phantom Russian submarine.”*

Those were the last words Chief of the Boat said to Lieutenant Gedelman before things really got hairy. While we speculate that Stan swore to never again speak of those events, it's highly likely that he and Marko Ramius share a few secrets unknown to Hollywood.

What's really true is that Stan Gedelman single-handedly keeps MECMOAA's electronic presence up-to-date and running smoothly. As our Webmaster, he's responsible for our website and anything interfacing with it, but he contributes even more to the operations of the Chapter as a vital member of our board. If we're doing it, Stan is probably involved. You'll also find him at Mountain Home National Cemetery each year before Christmas, laying wreaths and passing along the tradition to anyone willing to join him.

Let's take a look at Stan's years in uniform:

Stan joined the Navy in 1972 after a couple of attempts at college, including a basketball scholarship to a small junior college in Nashville, TN. During boot camp in Orlando, FL, he was given the opportunity to “volunteer” for submarine duty which took him to Basic Submarine School in Groton, CT. After Submarine School, his first duty station was back south to Charleston, SC, on the USS ANDREW JACKSON (SSBN 619) (Gold). As a junior member of the crew, he spent part of his first patrol as a mess cook helping with food preparation and serving meals to the crew. Other duties included working in the ship’s office updating personnel records and other administrative tasks. Most importantly, he worked towards earning his submarine qualification by learning basic information on all systems on the submarine. There were two crews (Blue and Gold) that would swap out every three months on the boat and make 60-plus day patrols in the Mediterranean from Rota, Spain. The crew off of the ship would return to Charleston to train and spend time with their families.

The ANDREW JACKSON was part of the “41 for Freedom” nuclear-powered submarines—armed with sixteen intermediate range missiles to create a deterrent force against the threat of nuclear war with any foreign power threatening the United States during the Cold War. In mid 1973, the ANDREW JACKSON left Rota Spain, changed its home port to Groton, CT, and entered Electric Boat shipyard for a major overhaul including upgraded missile systems. By this time, Stan was involved in all functions of the ship’s office including personnel records, pay procedures and other administrative tasks. He really didn’t want to go back north to Groton, but that soon changed when he met Cathy in late 1973, and they married in May 1974.

In mid 1975, the ANDREW JACKSON was out of the shipyard and testing their new missile systems in Port Canaveral, FL. By the end of

1975, Stan's enlistment was up and he left the Navy. In early 1977, Stan went from inactive reserves to active reserves, and that led to reenlisting in the Navy in September 1977. He missed the camaraderie of the Submarine Force and returned knowing he was going to make the Navy a career. He was assigned to Commander Submarine Squadron Ten embarked on the USS FULTON (AS 11) in New London, CT. He was responsible for the personnel manning for the "fast attack" submarines assigned to the Squadron. He embarked on assigned submarines with other Squadron Staff for short underway periods to provide training and work ups in preparation for deployments.

Stan's next assignment in mid 1980 took him across the river to Groton, CT, on the PreCommissioning Unit BALTIMORE (SSN 704). His duties included setting up the ship's office for the eventual move onboard the new submarine. During the construction period, he was part of the crew that took the boat to sea for initial sea trials which included testing all systems. Additional sea trials were conducted over the next few months prior to the commissioning ceremony in July 1982. Stan and his family moved to Virginia Beach, VA, when the BALTIMORE changed home ports to Norfolk, VA.

In March 1983, Stan transferred to the USS HAMMERHEAD (SSN 663)—a "fast attack" nuclear submarine stationed in Norfolk, VA. The HAMMERHEAD was in the early stages of preparing for a Mediterranean Sea deployment which included numerous short underway periods locally and to the Caribbean for systems testing and crew training. Shortly after reporting onboard the HAMMERHEAD, he was selected for Chief Petty Officer, the highlight of his enlisted career. Stan worked with the Executive Officer to make sure all administrative and personnel preparations were in place prior to deployment. The HAMMERHEAD deployed in the fall of 1983 and spent many days underway completing surveillance operations

throughout the Mediterranean Sea prior to returning to Norfolk in the spring 1984.

After returning from deployment on the HAMMERHEAD, Stan was selected for assignment to the Pentagon as the Administrative Assistant to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Submarine Warfare) (OP-02). Although he was intrigued by being at the Pentagon, it was a challenging tour of duty because of being in the Washington, DC area. Fortunately, his time in the Pentagon was cut short as he was selected for an enlisted-to-officer program and commissioned in April 1985!

As a new Ensign, Stan left the Pentagon for the Officer Indoctrination Course (“knife and fork school”) in Pensacola, FL. After the training in Pensacola, FL, he returned to the Washington area to pack up Cathy and family for the overseas move to LaMaddalena, Sardinia, Italy, a small island in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. Stan was assigned as the Administrative and Personnel Department Head on the USS ORION (AS-18) a forward deployed submarine tender. The ship’s mission was to support emergent, complex repairs in support of high priority operational commitments of SIXTH FLEET submarines and surface ships. Stan led a department that included the administrative office, personnel office, post office, closed circuit televisions, and a weekly newspaper. After his tour in Italy, Stan returned to Norfolk in July 1987 and was assigned to Commander Submarine Squadron Six, embarked on the USS L.Y. SPEAR (AS 36) as Squadron Secretary. The Squadron provided logistical and administrative support to ten nuclear submarines, two submarine tenders, one submarine rescue vessels and one torpedo retriever in support of the Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. He also served as Public Affairs Officer and Command Security Manager and Squadron Duty Officer for the Squadron.

Stan's last duty station was also in Norfolk, at Commander Explosive Ordnance Disposal Group Two. His first real "shore duty" was far removed from the submarine community but he learned quickly that the EOD community shared the same level of camaraderie. He served as the Administrative Department Head. His duties included Public Affairs Officer, Educational Services Officer, Command Duty Officer and TEMADD Coordinator responsible for a large temporary travel budget for EOD personnel to support the U.S. Secret Service operations. He completed his Associate of Arts Degree and really enjoyed having more time to spend with his family. He completed his twenty years during this tour and realized it was time to retire and start a new chapter.

Stan retired in December 1993. He and his family moved to Kingsport with no job or reason to move there. It seemed like a nice place to start their post military life. He worked short termed jobs while attending Tusculum University and graduated in December 1995. After a short job search, he began working for a national insurance service company doing audits and surveys. In early 1999, he transferred to the Florida Panhandle and worked in that area until early 2006. Although they enjoyed Florida, the hurricanes in 2005 led to their return to the mountains of Tennessee. Now, he's an invaluable member of MECMOAA, and we're sure glad to have him and Cathy on permanent shore duty with us.

To this day, LT Gedelman denies any knowledge of either RED OCTOBER or mermaids.

*Stan, thanks for all you have done for our Nation,  
the Navy, and MECMOAA!*

## 2021 Chapter Meetings

We continue our social meetings over Sunday brunch at Blackthorn Club. We typically meet on the third Sunday of every other month, beginning in January. To allow enough transit time after church services, we begin gathering at 1230 with brunch at 1300.

As you see the email notifications prior to each meeting, please RSVP by replying to the email. Note: Club policy is to bill us for each individual reservation, so if you RSVP and don't attend, we are still billed for your meal(s). The cost is \$25 for members in good standing (current on dues payment) and their guest(s), and \$30 for non-current members and their guest(s).

Please mark your calendars now:

**16 May**

**18 July**

Annual picnic—see the respective email to share your thoughts

**19 September**

**21 November**

Annual Business Meeting

***We have a great speaker for  
our May meeting—new member  
Dr. Margaret Scarlett!***

(See email invitation for more info)

## ***Final Salute***



We're sharing Herb's official obituary rather than our words, as this is what was most important at this time from his family's perspective.

**Captain Herbert Vern Ladley, USN (Ret.), of Kingsport, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 30th, 2021. He was 102 years old.**

**Herb was born in Seattle, Washington on January 17, 1919, to Herbert D. Ladley and Pearl Alley Ladley. He lived his long and memorable life in humble service to his country, his family, community and treasured friends. Herb grew up in Seattle and briefly attended Whitman College where he met his future wife, Amy Jane Reichert. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1940 with a BA in economics. In 1946 he earned his master's degree from the University of Washington in**

**business and finance and became a CPA. He later went on to earn a Doctorate of Business Administration from George Washington University in 1970. While education was the hallmark of his life, enjoying a lifetime of learning himself and instilling its value in his family, it was his love of America and love of flying that further defined this member of “The Greatest Generation.”**

**Herb’s career in the US Navy spanned three decades and found him serving through three wars. He entered Naval Flight Training in Jacksonville, FL in 1942. He was deployed to the Pacific arena of WWII as a member of a fighter squadron aboard the aircraft carriers USS Langley and USS Cabot. After the war, he attended Naval Line School in Newport, Rhode Island until the outbreak of the Korean War at which time he was assigned to the Tactical Air Control Squadron to provide close air support for the ground troops. His squadron served aboard the USS Eldorado in the Pacific near the Korean Peninsula.**

**After the war, Herb returned to Navy Line School, assumed command of VF-84 squadron in Virginia Beach, VA. This was followed by being assigned as the Air Officer on the USS Kearsarge in San Diego, CA. He returned to Korea in 1958 as comptroller of the Headquarters of UN/US Peacekeeping Forces Korea. In the 1960s, Herb was posted to the Joints Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon where he was responsible for strategic communications for the President in the event of an attack on our country’s capital. After attending the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, Herb’s final assignment was with the Defense Intelligence Agency, again serving as comptroller. Herb retired from the Navy in 1969 as a Captain, having received the Legion of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Crosses, seven Air Medals, the Navy Commendation Medal and numerous other awards and decorations.**

**Herb served our country well and proudly, yet rarely spoke of his accomplishments. He preferred to focus on the people and lifelong friends he met in the Navy. He was a catalyst and at the core of his squadron's and USS Langley reunions for many years. In 1996, he served as president of the USS Langley association and started the Tailhook Educational Foundation scholarship program by sponsoring their first scholarship that bears the USS Langley name. He volunteered his services as the financial advisor to the National League of Families of America's POW/MIA in SE Asia following the Vietnam war. His notable community interests in Kingsport included Membership on the Veterans Memorial Board plus fundraising for the memorial including, but not limited to, the original sentinel statue. He was involved in the support of the refurbishing of the Kingsport Carousel. Herb provided annual cash awards to Naval JROTC cadets at several area high schools, held membership in the Quiet Birdmen, Mountain Empire Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, the Kingsport Kiwanis Club and was a major benefactor to the Oasis of Kingsport Women's Ministry.**

**Personally, Herb loved the game of golf, playing pool, travel of all kinds, reading, gardening, astronomy with his own personal telescope, expanding his mind through study of the Great Courses, weekly lunches with his ROMEO group and spending time with his family. He offered support, encouragement, wisdom and steadfast love to each of his children, grandchildren and great-granddaughters. He was their proud, involved and beloved "Joepa."**

**Herb was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Amy Jane. He leaves behind to cherish his memory two daughters, Jane Stentzel of Wilmington, NC and Amy Anne Bebout of Bixby, OK; one son, Dr. Herbert Ladley and wife Kathy of Kingsport;**

five grandchildren, Amy Bebout Cromer and husband Paul-Andrew, Molly Bebout Little and husband TJ, Herbert V. Ladley, Ross L. Ladley, Dave Butt and wife Stacey Ostis: and 4 great granddaughters, Annabella, Chloe, Amy Elizabeth and Ruth.

The family of Herbert Ladley wishes to thank all his devoted and loving caregivers from Comfort Keepers. A special thank you to Mr. James Bond for maintaining the Captain's home, yard and his much loved "Secret Garden". They all provided a safe environment for him to enjoy himself while entertaining family and friends for many years, right up until his death.



***Bravo Zulu, Herb!***

We hope you enjoyed this newsletter. Please send any comments or suggestions to [mecmoaa@gmail.com](mailto:mecmoaa@gmail.com).

***Never Stop Serving.***