

### The NNOA e-Meridian 2015-16 vol. 1

## President's Message



Distinguished Members of NNOA, Happy Holidays to you all as we look forward to another great year! We have made great strides over the past year. Of note:

- Our membership has grown by 26%. Accordingly, our Chapters are continuing to make an impact in their surrounding communities and throughout the fleet mentoring youth and supporting, developing and engaging junior officers.
- Our Communications, Recruiting, and Information Technology Committees have been established and are operating.
- Our e-Mentoring Study is well underway through Phase One.
- Our website has been overhauled and our social media presence is expanding.
- We have donated over \$100K in scholarship aid to our Nation's youth!

This has been a great year for NNOA! With our highly successful 2015 Annual Conference as a harbinger for the way ahead, we expect continued success. For those that were not able to join us, you should know that our conference attendance nearly doubled from the previous year with officers O-4 and below representing more than half of those in attendance. Furthermore, the diversity of the officers in attendance was especially encouraging and wholly representative of the conference theme - NNOA, Many Backgrounds, One Mission. Read full message at <a href="http://nnoa.org/presidents-message/">http://nnoa.org/presidents-message/</a>

# In Memoriam - Captain Charles Williams, Past National President 1998-2001, and Life Member





NNOA lost a great leader and NNOA Champion recently. Captain Charles Williams passed the bar on 7 December 2015. Captain Williams was a stalwart supporter of NNOA. He was a former National President from 1998-2001 and an active Life Member.

Captain Williams graduated from the Coast Guard Academy in 1972 and served for over 26 years. His personal awards included the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, and Commendation Medal with 3 gold stars. Captain Williams was an active member that rarely missed a National Conference and was a strong supporter of the organization in his retirement as an Executive at L3 Communications (one of NNOA's corporate supporters). He was always willing to share his wisdom, a good laugh, and a smile. NNOA will truly miss his presence and faithful leadership.

## **Leadership Lesson**



NNOA Life Member, Dr. Kenneth Dunn, started writing Camp Lejeune Command: Commander's Notes 1991-1995 more than 30 years ago with junior officers in mind. Through the eyes of a Commanding Officer, Dr. Dunn is "looking to train, coach and mentor more CO's. From raising a family, to seeking command, to navigating the path to leadership".

"Dunn's Rules" are career principles developed during his career, here are a few:

- Get organized
- Knowing the right thing to do is easy, the hard part is doing it.
- Give your family 1st class treatment, they are your lasting legacy.
- If you can do nothing else, set a good example...someone IS watching.

His lessons can still be learned by reading his book "<u>Camp Lejeune Command: Commander's Notes 1992-1995</u>." Dunn's notes include many of his "rules" or career principles.

## **Chapters in the Spotlight**

## NNOA Jacksonville Chapter Members Volunteer at St. Francis Soup Kitchen



NNOA Jacksonville Chapter members volunteered at the St Francis Soup Kitchen preparing food and feeding less fortunate citizens in the local area. NNOA Jacksonville Chapter members routinely volunteer their Saturday mornings to assist the St. Francis Soup Kitchen who consistently provide warm meals for over 500 members on any given Saturday. Volunteering at St. Francis Soup Kitchen is one of the many things that NNOA Jacksonville does to create, build, and maintain positive relationships between the military services and local community. **Read more here...**<a href="http://nnoa.org/project/nnoa-jacksonville-chapter-members-volunteer-at-st-francis-soup-kitchen/">http://nnoa.org/project/nnoa-jacksonville-chapter-members-volunteer-at-st-francis-soup-kitchen/</a>

#### Strong Young Leadership Lights the Way for NNOA!

Camp Pendleton Chapter's President shares insight on the value of NNOA to junior officers



Captain Singleton in the cockpit of an AHZ Cobra Helicopter preparing for flight!

Captain Zerbin Singleton, USMC, is one of NNOA's brightest young stars! He serves as the Camp Pendleton Chapter President and is an active duty AHZ Cobra Helicopter Pilot. Captain Singleton is a survivor who endured a tough upbringing, but has weathered it all to become a strong leader in the Marine Corps and within NNOA. We spoke with him at length as he shared his NNOA experiences and the value of NNOA for all. The interview follows:

#### What made you want to join NNOA?

Well, I first heard about NNOA while I was at the Naval Academy. So, I knew of the organization, but was not fully aware of what it was all about.

Years later, I learned about the annual conference and decided to attend. The conference was a great experience. I had never seen so many Flag and General Officers that looked like me! The conference, in general, was just breathtaking – and the mentoring and training that went on there blew me away! Following that experience, I decided to join. Read more at......... <a href="http://nnoa.org/project/strong-young-leadership-lights-the-way-for-nnoa/">http://nnoa.org/project/strong-young-leadership-lights-the-way-for-nnoa/</a>

### A Piece of History: Lt. General Frank Petersen



Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen, Jr. (ret.) was the first African-American Marine Corps aviator and the first African-American Marine Corps officer to be promoted to brigadier general.

He was born on March 2, 1932 in Topeka, Kansas, and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1952 after serving two years in the Navy. General Petersen served during the Korean War in 1953 and Vietnam in 1968. During his career, he flew more than 350 combat missions and more than 4,000 hours in various military aircraft.

General Petersen was promoted to Brigadier General on Feb. 23, 1979, becoming the first African-American to hold that rank in the Marine Corps.

He retired as a Lieutenant General on Aug. 1, 1988, after serving as the Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff. His commands held include Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 212, deactivated March 11, 2008, Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 314, and served as the Commanding General, Marine Corps Combat Development Command.

## Words to Live By from our National Chaplain



I love this time of the year, the holiday season. Christmas is right around the corner...enthusiasm and anticipation is in the air! However, if you are like me, this time of the year can also be some of the busiest and time consuming for us. Each one of us has an important job and with the added responsibility of life's other priorities, we can sometimes get out of whack. So, what should be my number one priority each day and how can I make sure I accomplish it? Well, start with this in mind daily!

**Be Thankful**: Give thanks for today and all that you have. It is God's Will for our lives that "a spirit of gratitude" exists within us regardless of our

circumstances. When we choose to give thanks, even if our situations don't change or improve, our perspective certainly will.

**Trust God:** Every difficult circumstance in your life is something God can use for your good and His glory. He has great blessings in store for you. Trust Him and never, never give up!

Finally, I hope and pray that this "Words To Live By" encourages you on your daily walk with our Lord.

May God bless you and yours real good!!!