



National Association of Naval Photography

NANP News

Spring 2023

President's Message - Wes Gibson

I apologize to all for the getting this newsletter out late. I was hoping to have it published early April, but due to technical difficulties, here it is May already. The email service we published the last newsletter with changed their policies, limiting us to only 500 email addresses, and the NANP sends newsletters to well over 1000 recipients.

The NANP Newsletter is now fully compatible with and readable on a cell phone. A lot of people consume information via cell phone these days, so modern newsletter publishing software accommodates multiple platforms. You can read this newsletter via, email, tablet, cell phone, or view online with a browser.

Springtime is upon us with Summer just a few weeks away. The NANP is already working hard planning the 2023 Navy Photographer's Reunion in Washington, DC. Registration and event signup is not open yet, mostly due to us still finalizing details and costs. You can, however, go ahead and book your hotel room if you wish. Lower in this newsletter, you will find a link to book your room online along with a phone number if you prefer to call the hotel.

Congratulations to Johnny Bivera and his team for reviving the NANP sponsored Shoot Off Workshop program post-COVID. The event was held in Washington, DC in March along with an online event and competition. Reading over Johnny's article (below) and seeing his photos, it looks like all had a good time and learned a great deal from mentors. Congratulations to this years competition winners: MCCA Gina Danals, Bennie Davis III, PHC(Ret) Eric Clement, and MC1 Carlos Vasquez II. A special thank you goes to all the volunteers and sponsors who helped make the Shoot Off Workshop a success.

Lastly, with Memorial Day only a few days away, I am reminded of the tremendous sacrifice made by our fellow servicemen and women who have given their lives in service to our great nation. We honor their memory and express our deepest gratitude for their unwavering commitment and selfless dedication.

As US Navy Photographers, we have all witnessed firsthand the bravery and valor displayed by our military personnel. Through the lens of our cameras, we have captured moments of triumph, camaraderie, and sacrifice that will forever be etched in our hearts and in the annals of history. Our role as visual storytellers has allowed us to preserve the legacy of those who have served, ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.

On Memorial Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of the day. It is not merely a day of barbecues and relaxation, but a day of remembrance and gratitude. Let us pay tribute to our fallen heroes by honoring their memory through acts of service and by supporting their families who continue to bear the weight of their absence.

As President of our association, I am proud of the work we have done in the past and continue to do through mentoring today's Navy Photographers in preserving the visual history of the United States Navy. Our dedication to documenting the stories of our brave men and women in uniform ensures that their legacies live on. Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to this noble mission and carry it forward with pride.

May we never forget the sacrifices made by our fallen heroes, and may their memories serve as a constant reminder of the values we hold dear as members of the US Armed Forces and the National Association of Naval Photography.

2023 Navy Photographer's Reunion

Planning for this year's reunion is well underway. The reunion will be held in Washington DC, October 5th - 8th at the DoubleTree Hotel in Pentagon City, Virginia.

Besides our normal events like the Meet & Greet, General Meeting, and Banquet, the current plans are to offer a Pentagon Tour, Smithsonian American Arts Museum Tour, WWII/Vietnam/Korea Memorial Tour, Arlington National Cemetery Tour, and Navy Yard History Museum Tour.

Event registration is not open yet.

If you want to book your hotel room for the reunion, you may call the DoubleTree Hotel at (703) 416-3865, or use the link below to book your room online. The DoubleTree Hotel's Room rates for the reunion are \$189.00 + tax per room + \$25 parking fee, per night.

[Click Here to Book Your Room Online](#)

For the latest information about the 2023 Navy Photographer's Reunion and to view the schedule of events, please visit the Reunion webpage on the Association's website.

[Click Here for Latest Reunion Information](#)

NANP Awards Chairman - Sammy Solt

(Sammy's article was submitted back in April)

Shipmates,

Spring is finally here. This morning, the first day of Spring, it is a cool 59 degrees here on the Space Coast of Florida. Our Spring Breakers spent most of their time here in pants and sweatshirts. That's OK, they left some money here and helped the local economy!

Wes Gibson is working very hard to get out this newsletter, help coordinate the reunion and generally keep us moving forward into the new year. He should receive an award just for patience. Hope that everyone is looking forward to the reunion in DC this year. This should be one of our biggest get together in a long while. We have lost a lot of old faces, but I hope to see a lot of new ones attending this year's event.

As the Associations Awards Chairman I coordinate the NANP Scholarship program. Last year the NANP awarded a \$500.00 scholarship to a lone applicant. I know that there are some deserving high school seniors and college students that could use some extra money going into the new college year. Amongst our members I am quite sure that there are children, grandchildren and possibly great-grandchildren of NANP members that could apply for the program. I am hoping for more participation this year. The program should flourish, I would hate to see it go away because of lack of interest. Please encourage qualified family members to apply.

[Click Here for
Information on NANP's
Scholarship Program](#)

Shoot Off Workshop is Back!



Story and Photos by Johnny Bivera

It was two years ago on the month of March we held the last shoot off program for still photography. We finished our program the day before the whole region shut down for Covid-19. It was on a Monday and the week prior was the most stressed out I had been since 911. An unknown future was coming and phone calls between myself, the staff, the sponsors and venue management was hourly. The spread was coming fast and the seriousness of how to react was muddled. Two days out from the workshop a decision was made between myself and program director Bob Houlihan to keep our senior citizen faculty members away and home safe. This did not go over well with Chip Maury, a founding faculty member and honored icon to many workshops. We couldn't risk him traveling from Boston to DC and back no matter how much he tried to persuade us that he was going to be fine. Fortunately, his commander in chief at home Judy, made that call for us and I was spared the Navy Chief's admonishment.

Bob and I then made the decision the morning of the workshop at zero dark early to keep our local students at home and online, while allowing faculty and participants who flew in from out

of town to be part of the reduced onsite foot print at the Dave and Busters meeting rooms. It was the most surreal workshop I had ever participated in. Here we were, unmasked as it was not yet social protocol to do so but damn if I didn't have jars of hand sanitizers around within reaching distance. While that workshop caused much tension, the team practiced what all of us had been trained to do in all our time in service, to stand fast, be professional and keep your wits about. We persevered and made the 15th DC Shoot Off Workshop a success despite everything.

And now in 2023, as if from a long Rip Van Winkle nap or repeating ground hog day we rose from slumber, with a drive to reach out and claim our time once again, to shake hands, hug and look each other in the eye and say, let's do this!



We had two months on what we normally spend half a year of preparing to get it all together. We reached out to our premiere sponsor Canon and they jumped on board. We reached out to our community and they were eager and ready, it was all a matter of going down the list of must do's. This would make the 16th year the program has been in existence, brought on by a need to provide something for our service members, something that's their own, self-supported and not part of any red tape, this that allows us to turn on a dime, to adapt and visualize where we are and what we need to do today. We all have worked or work in the service industry, service to country, our families, and our brothers and sisters in arms. That part of who we are never leaves us, it is why this program works, everyone is a volunteer.

So this year was logistically set and programmed just like the last one, why fix what's not broken? And we had a great first evening meeting old friends and making new ones, and provided portfolio reviews and career counseling to many young photographers. The next day was a full one, Brien Aho introduced a great lineup of presenters starting with legacy military photographers who made great careers and built an unbelievable body of work. I want to thank Navy veterans Kurt Lengfield, Erika Barker and Mark Kettenhofen for teaching and sharing, that success as a photographer after the military is highly possible. This day only got better as our first civilian guest is a young female photojournalist named Svet Jacqueline whom I met while working on a special book project called Relentless Courage, Ukraine and

the World at War. As I had the honor of being the photo exhibit manager of the books launch at Ukraine House in Washington, D.C., Svet was one of five photo essayists featured in collaboration with photojournalists who documented the invasion and humanitarian crisis still happening in Ukraine today. Her images titled Children on Wars Playground, was telling, emotional and real. It was a great presentation. The final presenter is an iconic 30-year veteran staff photographer for National Geographic and dear friend, the only photographer I know whose image now journeys beyond the solar system on board NASA's Voyager Spacecraft. His presentation not only went back in time but he shared current projects like returning to find people he photographed for an assignment on Gypsies 53 years ago. He found them or their surviving families, and here he captured again their lives but this time on video as well, sharing their stories from the time Dale first started to take their picture to how their lives currently are. There was a lot to learn from his life as a photographer but also from the people whose lives he documented.

As the keynote speaker Dale had the honor of pulling a one-word subject written on a piece of paper out of a hat, which would be the theme or photo story subject the students would have to go out and produce into a 3 to 5 image picture story. This is when the workshop gets energized, as they are provided a volunteer editor and mentor to help them with their story concept and production. They'll have 24 hours to deadline and for this year's picked theme was "Charm". Most subjects that are picked sound easy at first, but then once you get a moment to think about it, coming up with those images in creating a story suddenly becomes a challenge.

So 24 hours later the images are turned in and accessioned by Shane McCoy, as he reads out the rules to this year's three great judges, civilian and career photo editor Linda Epstein, Marine Corps combat veteran and recent Pulitzer Prize recipient Samuel Corum and the Navy's own Jim Preston, currently with the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, he was a former photojournalist with the Blue Angels and All Hands Magazine and a 1982 Military Photographer of the Year recipient. Their feedback combined at this workshop has so far been the best in shoot off history.

This year's winners are as listed; Naval reservist Mass Communications Specialist Senior Chief Gina Danals was awarded the Chip Shot in honor of Chip Maury, the category for best overall single image. The Egnor Cup named in memory of Russ Egnor, the category for those that have attended the advanced military photojournalism workshop or a past Hackman Challenge winner went to Air Force veteran Bennie Davis III. There is also our category for our online competitors who this year went to Navy veteran Eric Clement, who competed from Texas. This category was also great for one of our participants who used this moment to bond with his grandkids by incorporating them into his photo shoot, while his fun images didn't make it to the winners circle, retired Navy Cmdr. Toby Marquez was able to bring the joy of photography to his future legacy. The final category reserved for our new and advancing photographers called the Hackman Challenge in honor of Ken Hackman, went to Mass Communications Specialist First Class Carlos Vasquez II.



So what a wonderful list of winners and Bravo Zulu to participants who traveled all the way from Seattle, Charlotte and Brooklyn to name a few. And special shout out from our friends online who participated from Japan, France and all across the nation. Thank you staff and

faculty everywhere. Thank you Canon, Visual Media One, Pro Photo DC, White House News Photographers Association, the National Press Photographers Association and to you, the membership of the National Association of Naval Photography...you guys rock! Happy shooting!

Tidewater Group April Fools Luncheon



Story by Merrilee Wilson, Photo by Johnny Bivera

Twenty-six photographers and spouses gathered in Chesapeake, Virginia on April 1st for lunch, merriment and storytelling. Among the group was Richard Shorter, an active duty MC2. We were delighted! He promised to bring another MC with him to the next lunch. We are counting on him. Following a half hour of visiting, we kicked off our gathering with Sheila Stone welcoming all followed by Greg McCreash sharing the benefits of NANP membership.

An (at times hilarious) informal survey was conducted about our experiences as

photographers. Yes! MCs are photographers! We learned (by a raise of hands) which of us served on independent duty, in Vietnam, as detailers (no bodily harm was done), as ship's company, kissed the moose, donated blood, lost equipment overboard aircraft or floating vessels, who went to Captain's Mast and much more. Lots of wise guy comments were contributed by the attendees which kept us all in stitches. We had a blast visiting and recounting memories of our escapades!

Unbelievably, our lunch which started at 11:00 with early arrivers, didn't break up till nearly 4:00. Some folks joined us from as far away as DC metro area and Pennsylvania. We truly had a blast!

Sheila Stone and Merrilee Wilson, with Bud Stinson advising, are planning our next gathering; date to be determined. We are looking for an outside pavilion for a picnic at the beginning of June and will post the info as soon as it is firmed up. We can say this....wear boots (need I explain?) and any old name tag from back in the day if planning to attend.

Attendees pictured above (in no particular order) include: Bud Stinson, Sheila Stone, Merrilee Wilson, Steve Grzezdinski, Johnny Bivera, Ken Brown, Tim Timmerman, Judy Timmerman, Bert Wendell, Frank Palmitesso, Greg McCreash, Peggy Becker, David Goldberg, Brian McFadden, Todd Beveridge, Dave Graver, Georgia Graver, Laurie Hefner, Harry Gerwin, Kevin Farmer, Danny Powell, Tim Ahlgrim, Rick Kerns, Terry Mitchell, and MC2 Richard Shorter.

Attendees not in picture include: Edward Dunne, Omar Osborne, and Kevin Graves.

San Diego Lunch Group



Story and photo courtesy of Mickey Strand

The San Diego group has a meetup over lunch, typically the second Saturday of the odd number months. We usually meet at the Studio Dinner.

The meetups are posted on the NANP Facebook page as an event. Please share that group on your Facebook page with anyone you know in the San Diego area.

Spotlight: Gerry Pulley (Mr. Naval Photography)

Story by Todd Beveridge

Gerry Pulley was a true Navy leader and transformative photographic officer who faithfully served and cared for Navy Photography, its people and its history. He's known for his key involvement in numerous important missions spanning World War II, the Korean War and the

Vietnam conflict.



Born October 25, 1922 in King City, Missouri, Gerry Pulley enlisted as a Seaman Apprentice in

November 1940. He was later one of the first photographers selected for the LDO program (Photo), and was commissioned as an Ensign on July 22, 1952.

His naval career highlights include:

-Service under Rear Admiral Richard E. Byrd during his classified survey of the Southeastern Pacific Islands aboard the USS Concord (CL-10) in 1943.

-Served in China aboard the USS Princeton (CV-37), part of the task force closing out the area's military activities at the end of World War II.

-Served as the military White House Photographer to President Harry S. Truman following the death of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Pulley documented Truman's famous "Whistle-stop" train tour of 1948, covering 32,000 miles in 33 days. One evening there was a knock on the door and Pulley thought it was the cook bringing him dinner. "Come on in" he called out. It was the President! Pulley had to clear flash bulbs off his bunk so the President could sit down. This tour was right in the middle of Truman's historic actions desegregating the U.S. military. After the President asked, Pulley told Truman he was thrilled with that decision. Truman told him he was glad to hear Pulley's opinion.

-After Gerry Pulley left his position with the White House, he was pulled back in January 1952 to document the meeting between President Truman and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill aboard the presidential yacht, USS Williamsburg (AGC-369).

-Served as Officer in Charge of the Fleet Air Photographic Laboratory in Jacksonville Florida, during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Pulley's group was responsible for the processing & development of the aerial reconnaissance surveillance film taken over Cuba as part of "Operation Blue Moon"



Gerry Pulley has been given the title, "Mr. Naval Photographer" by his peers and was the first president and founder of the "National Association of Naval Photography." He was also an active member of the Masonic Lodge for over 60 years and often gave presentations to

various Masonic Lodges on his days at the White House with fellow Mason, President Truman. After retiring from the Navy in 1971, he spent an additional 11 years of service working for the Department of Defense and Goddard Space Flight Center.

The Theater at the Naval Imaging Command, Bldg. 168, NAS Anacostia, Washington, D.C. was designated, "The Gerry Pulley Theater" on January 30th, 1987.

Gerry Pulley passed away on March 31, 2011 at age 88. He was survived by his wife of 67 years, Mary Virginia Pulley. They had three children and four grandchildren.

Welcome Aboard New NANP Members

PH2 Patrick McGinnis

MC1 Ruben Perez

PH1 Bob Turner

PH3 Gary Hollis

MSgt Nick Mertes

PH3 David Stutz

PH3 Rich Bryant

PH1 Thomas Tolliver

PH2 David Powell

MSgt Vince Ignizio

PHCM Terry Mitchell

PH1 Harry Gerwien

Reminder: Life Membership in the NANP is only \$95. Those joining receive a Welcome Aboard pack containing a patch and certificate. For those not wanting to join the NANP, you can still add your name and information to our Photographers Past and Present list for free.

Click the button below to join NANP, add your name to the free Photographers Past and Present list, or to update your information.

NANP Membership
Application and Update
Form

Taps

Shipmates embarking on their last cruise

PHC Jay Berryman
PH3 David E. Kukor
PHC Donald C. Graaf
PH1 Michael McCabe
PHC Harry Kulu
PH1 Keith Dolar

NANP Newsletters are for all personnel, military and civilian, who have been closely associated with any Military Photographic unit or organization ashore or afloat.

It also serves as an important supplement to the [NANP website](#).

Both the newsletter and the website provide members and non-members information about NANP activities and events.

NANP Newsletter Editor: Wes Gibson

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