

# SEABEE COURIER

www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport  
**QUICK EDITION**

Vol. 2 No. 32

Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, Mississippi

Sept 20 2019

## Navy Gold Star Program: NCBC offers chance to honor fallen Thursday

**By Brian Lamar**  
NCBC Public Affairs

Eighty names will be read Sept. 26, 10 a.m. at the Naval Construction Battalion Center's Training Hall to honor fallen servicemembers during the annual Bells Across America Ceremony.

The ceremony is held this time each year to coincide with the national Gold Star Mother's and Families day. 13 sites throughout region Southeast will be participating.

The guest speaker will be Senior Chief Wesley Jones, the leading chief petty officer of the operations section of the U.S.S. Fitzgerald.

As an initiative of the program, ceremonies will be held concurrently throughout the United States on this

date to remember and celebrate the lives of fallen service members from all branches of the military, regardless of their cause of death. The Navy Gold Star Program serves as the advocate for the families and provides support, information and services such as reserved Gold Star family parking. Base Commanders have designated parking in various locations such as the Commissary, Exchanges, FFSC and Military Treatment Facilities (MTF) to promote awareness, educate the military community on the sacrifices of families of deceased active duty and to honor their loss.

Emily Kolenda of the Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) is the NCBC Gold Star liaison and coordinator of the ceremony. "This is a way of keeping our servicemember's

legacy alive by remembering their service and sacrifice," said Kolenda.

Multiple Gold Star families will be in attendance to remember their loved ones, while Pass Christian Mayor, Chipper McDermott and Long Beach Mayor George Bass will read the names of the fallen. Four bell ringers, one from each service, will chime after each name read.

Kolenda's goal for the NCBC Navy Gold Star program is to continue the remembrance through the year.

"I don't want to just have a day for remembrance, but to remember the names and have conversations throughout the year about their sacrifice. For our busy schedules, the remembrance gets pushed aside, but for the families, it doesn't," Kolenda said.

# BELLS

## ACROSS AMERICA

FOR FALLEN SERVICE MEMBERS



**Forever Loved, Never Forgotten**  
Join us as we pay tribute to the brave men and women who died in service to our nation and recognize the sacrifices of those who have been left behind as we toll a bell in remembrance.

For more information, please call  
**228-871-3000 or 228-871-4569**

Naval Construction Battalion  
Center  
Thursday, Sept. 26th at 10 a.m.  
Training Hall (Bldg. 446)



**CNIC** [www.NavyGoldStar.com](http://www.NavyGoldStar.com)  
more facts and stories at NavyGoldStar.com • 1 800 520 9700

**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. William Whitmire

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Brian Lamar

**Assistant PAO**  
Ryan Labadens

**Courier Staff**  
MCC Rosalie Chang  
BU2 Mercedes Brotski  
MC3 Kohen Gillis

The Seabee Courier content does not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the DoD or the U.S. Navy and does not imply endorsement thereof. All content in this publication shall be made available for

use without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. Phone, 228-871-3662.

# Emergency Preparedness: The importance of planning for disaster

**By MC3 Kohen Gillis**  
NCBC Public Affairs

Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport's emergency operations center springs into action to enact the tried and true disaster plan at the first sign of a potentially harmful storm that may impact the base.

"The most important part of planning for an emergency is having a written plan that covers all the hazards you may be vulnerable to," said Lewis Fountain, NCBC

Gulfport's emergency manager. "Another very important step is ensuring that the entire family is familiar with the plan and it can be executed as it's written."

Fountain stressed the importance of planning for absolutely everything that may cause trouble during an emergency.

"You have to be sure to cover all hazards your family is vulnerable to," said Fountain. "Many people forget to include a fire plan."

With sustained winds

of 185 mph and gusts over 200 mph, Hurricane Dorian was the strongest hurricane to have ever hit the Bahamas since recording began in 1851. More than 50,000 homes have been left without power in the Caribbean, more than 250,000 buildings in the United States experienced a power outage and more than 400,000 people in Nova Scotia went without power during the storm.

After disaster scenarios, the rebuilding process can take weeks, even some-

times months to bring the local infrastructure back up to good working order. In the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017, the United States suffered the worst electrical blackout in recorded history. Even nine months after Maria, thousands of homes and businesses were still without power.

"You need to ensure your emergency plan includes family readiness," said Fountain. "You need to consider planning for scenarios if you have family members

with special needs or medications. If the family has school aged children, you need to determine what the school's plan is. Ensure the plan has contact numbers and multiple copies in case one is lost."

Disaster can strike at any moment. Preparing your family now can help mitigate the negative effects that may be caused in the process. For further information about creating an emergency plan for you and your family, visit [www.ready.navy.mil](http://www.ready.navy.mil)

## NCTC builder class receives coveted CO's pennant

**By Ryan Labadens**  
NCBC Public Affairs

One group of Seabee students at the Naval Construction Training Center (NCTC) onboard the Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) accomplished a rare goal recently, becoming one of the few classes to earn the Commanding Officer Pennant for Excellence, also known as the "CO's pennant."

Cmdr. Russell Bates, NCTC commanding officer, presented the CO's pennant to Builder A-school class 19430 Sept. 16, 2019, recognizing them for all the effort they put forth for nearly three months to earn this achievement.

To receive the CO's pennant, the 10-student class also had to earn five other command pennants during their time at NCTC: the academic, physical fitness, volunteer, safety, and good conduct pennants.

For the academic pennant, all the students in class 19430 needed to have a grade point average of at least 90 percent; the physical fitness pennant required all of them to pass the Navy's physical test; the volunteer pennant required the class as a whole to perform at least 15 community service hours; to earn the safety pennant, the class couldn't have any major safety infractions against them either on- or off-duty; and for the good conduct pennant, all of the class members had to earn Phase Three Liberty, take a test, pass inspections, and have no major infractions against them. The red, white and blue CO's pennant attaches to the class's guidon staff that they march with to class along with the other five pennants.

Builder Constructionman Apprentice Jennifer Hill, Builder A-school class 19430 company commander, emphasized that teamwork was the key factor in her class earning the pennant.

"I'm proud that we were able to all do it together. We became a team and were really close, and we were able to encourage each other," said Hill. "We'd do study sessions together almost nightly, so it was a lot of work, and it made us really strong together as a group."

Leadership also played a major role in helping them earn the CO's pennant, especially the three lanes of leadership outlined in the Chief of Naval Operations Navy Leader Development Framework version 3.0: character, competence and connection.

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Logan Carlos, NCTC



Sept 20, 2019

## Congrats NCTC BU Class 19430

Echo Company navy military training instructor, praised the leadership skills that Hill brought to the table to help her class earn the pennant.

"Her leadership techniques and how she drives her team and her class to accomplish these goals, you couldn't ask for anything better," said Carlos, who noted that character, competence, connection, as well as integrity, are values NCTC seeks to instill in all of its students.

Bates added his praise for Builder A-school class 19430 and well as for the staff at NCTC for their job in teaching the future generation of Seabees.

"I'm especially proud of BU class #19430 to achieve this level of award and subsequent recognition," said Bates. "During my 16 months in command, I've only awarded three CO's pennants and I can tell you we've graduated over 60 classes in that time. This group of Sailors will now be the newest Seabees to join our ranks and I couldn't be happier with their commitment, motivation and desire for excellence. Of course these accomplishments are not possible without the great school house staff, instructors and Navy Military Trainers who instruct and mentor them day and night in school and at the barracks. There is no doubt that NCTC's staff is deeply invested in developing Seabees who are ready to join the Naval Construction Force."

Seabee Courier



# NCBC selects new crop of senior enlisted leaders



**LEFT:** Chief Construction Electrician James Bryant is pinned to chief petty officer (CPO) by his son and wife during the fiscal year 2020 CPO pinning ceremony onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. The rank of CPO is that of a senior noncommissioned officer and was established on April 1, 1893.

**BELOW:** Chief Construction Mechanic Michael Castaldi has his chief petty officer (CPO) anchors pinned on by his daughter during the CPO pinning ceremony onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. The rank of CPO is that of a senior noncommissioned officer and was established on April 1, 1893.

**BOTTOM:** The fiscal year 2020 chief petty officers (CPO) stand at attention at the reading of the CPO Creed during the CPO pinning ceremony onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport. The CPO pinning ceremony was the culmination of an intense six-week training period where senior leaders introduced the selectees to a set of challenges designed to strengthen their leadership and mentorship capabilities. (U.S. Navy photos by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Rosalie Chang)



**CONGRATS TO  
ALL THE NEW  
CHIEFS -  
BACKBONE OF  
THE NAVY!**



**Fleet & Family Support Center  
Military to Civilian and Spouse**

# Career Job Fair



**When: Tuesday, September 24, 2019**  
**Where: Fleet & Family Support Center**  
**Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm**

## Companies in attendance:

Goodyear Commercial Tire & Service  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
 NextOp  
 Nextaff Gulf Coast  
 Hancock Whitney Bank  
 Fugro, Inc.  
 Harrison County Sheriffs Office

Ocean Springs Police Department  
 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)  
 Architect of the Capitol  
 Ingalls Shipbuilding  
 Broussard Mechanical, LLC  
 EXIT Magnolia Coast Realty  
 CenterPoint Energy

FFSC Gulfport  
5381 Sessall Street, Bldg. 30  
(228) 871-3000 / (800) 342-3525

Hours:  
Mon-Thu 0700-1630 / Fri 0700-1530  
After-hour appts. available upon request

**More companies are registering every day  
so bring your resume and come prepared  
to interview!**

FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER  
NCBC GULFPORT

## Spouse Career & Education Support



**October – December 2019**

### Civilian & Federal Resume Writing and Federal Hiring Process

Tuesday, October 15 9am-3:30pm	Tuesday, November 12 9am-3:30pm	Thursday, December 12 9am-3:30pm
-----------------------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

### Spouse Career, Education, Resources, Training (CERT)

Tuesday, October 22 9am-11am	Tuesday, November 19 9am-11am
---------------------------------	----------------------------------

### Preparing for Education (FAFSA and MyCAA)

Thursday, October 24 9am-11am	Thursday, November 21 9am-11am
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------

### Interviewing and Job Fair Prep

Tuesday, October 29 9am-11am	Tuesday, November 26 9am-11am
---------------------------------	----------------------------------

### Fall Job Fair

Thursday, November 14  
10am-1pm

**All classes held at FFSC, Bldg. 30**  
Hours: Mon-Thu 0700-1630 / Fri 0700-1530



**Contact us! (228) 871-3000 or connect with us!**



**Chief (Select) Logistics Specialist Jessica Freeman, left, and Chief (Select) Construction Electrician Sergio Quiros fold the national ensign during the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony onboard Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC) Gulfport, commemorating the 18th anniversary of the terrorist attacks. (U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist Rosalie Chang)**





# Legal Roundup

Region Legal Service Office Southeast  
Branch Office Gulfport, MS Newsletter  
Volume I, Issue 3 – September & October 2019



## Military Attorney:

LT Baxter, Robert, L.

## Paralegals:

LN1 Cameron, James

## Clerks:

UT3 Strader, Kaitlin  
SWCN Valdes, Audrey  
Ms. Neely Harris

## Hours:

0800-1500

## Phone Number:

(228) 871-2626

## Address:

5301 Snead Street,  
Bldg. 30, Room 161,  
Gulfport, MS 39501

## Notary Walk-ins:

0800-1500

## Attorney Services:

Call to schedule an  
appointment.

## Walk in Attorney

## Services:

Wednesdays ONLY  
0800-1130

## Estate Planning

- A Will is a written document that allows you to determine how certain assets and property will be distributed upon your death. It also allows you to determine who will be responsible for distributing your property and paying your debts after your death.
- Will Intake Contents - Will, Springing Durable General Power of Attorney, Springing Durable Healthcare Power of Attorney, Living Will, and Disposition of Remains.
- Key indicators you should ask about getting a Will or updating your current Will are:
  - Marriage, divorce, an annulment, separation, birth, death, or any significant event in your life that could affect how your property would be disposed of when you expire. If you are not sure, ask Legal Assistance.
- [Estate Planning](#) packets are available in the Legal Assistance Office. Once the packet is complete, schedule an appointment with Legal Assistance to draft and execute your documents.

## Survivor Benefit Plan

Military retired pay stops upon death of the retiree. The Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) allows a retiree to ensure, after death, a continuous lifetime annuity for their dependents. The annuity which is based on a percentage of retired pay is called SBP and is paid to an eligible beneficiary.

<https://militarypay.defense.gov/Benefits/Survivor-Benefit-Program/Overview/>

## **Timing is everything!**

If you think your in a legal predicament come make appointment today!

Time management is the key, don't delay on seeking legal assistance before it is to late.