

Leger Lines

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President's Message

My Friends,

I'm worried about the possible reduction in force of military bands and our Navy Music Program in particular. I have received many links from friends concerning this issue and with my computer skills (about a 2 on a scale of 1 to 100), have decided to speak from my heart, in this forum, to you, the members of the NMA.

We all know about budget cuts that are coming which will affect all branches of government including the military. What I am concerned about is what this coming austerity will do to Navy Music.

Forty-nine years experience in Navy Music has shown me time and again that one of the first things on the chopping block are bands and the number of sailors who work in them. When I led my own Navy bands, we wasted nothing. Need practice room? Build them yourselves. Need a recording studio in your band room? Build it yourself. Transportation resources? Ride one of those third-hand former school buses to your gig, no matter what the distance. We wasted nothing, and scrounged materials to get the job done with band members or cumshawed work from local Seabees. Still, our product continued to improve.

As the Navy Music Program shrank in size, the standards for hiring Navy musicians has reached very high levels. Those of you who have attended some of the reunions where we have had the honor of having as our guests a Navy band performing a patriotic opener at our banquet and sit in with our reunion bands have been thrilled and amazed at the level of musicianship, professionalism, and incredible attitude of the young men and women who have performed for us. Navy Music Program leaders past and present have worked tirelessly to raise the standard of our instrumentalist, equipment, and band spaces. Our Navy bands now work harder than ever with fewer bands and requests for their services increasingly growing. All of this work is done with the budget axe a constant for them.

Why are we members of the NMA? I believe that we have served or are currently serving as Navy Musicians around the world and have pride in what we do or have done. We are friends and veterans with experiences that only Navy musicians, or for that matter other service musicians, have shared. We believe, check that, we know how our services have contributed to our service and indeed, our country.

Perhaps this editorial is based more on emotion than facts and figures but you can see for yourself online, in news periodicals, and news programs that cuts are coming. You can write or call your congressman, senator, or even the DOD supporting Navy Music. We are relatively small but do have a voice. I ask that you let your voices be heard whenever you can and show support for what is unquestionably the best Music Program in the armed forces—our Navy Music Program. I appreciate the opportunity to vent.

On to other things. Remember my asking all who attended our reunion in San Antonio (a great reunion) to recruit a new member? I thank those who have sent new members our way and ask all our members to help us increase our ranks and enjoy the NMA as we do.

(Continued on Page 2)

President's Message *(Continued from Page 1)*

Reunion 2011 is in Virginia Beach June 22-26, 2011, so make your plans early. It will be a good one. It is election time for NMA officers and I plan to ask you to let me serve one more two-year term as your president. However, we need volunteers to pick up the torch for the future growth of the Navy Musicians Association.

I thank you all for your support this past year and welcome your comments and suggestions as always. My e-mail address and telephone numbers are on the masthead so let me know what you feel or make suggestions for what we can do to make this the finest military organization in the country.

I wish you each a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Terry Chesson

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

IT IS TIME TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES FOR 2011. I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU VOLUNTARILY PAY YOUR DUES BEFORE THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. THIS WILL SAVE YOUR ASSOCIATION THE EXPENSE OF SENDING OUT INVOICES.

THE DUES ARE \$30 AND CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE NMA AND MAILED TO THE TREASURER OF THE NMA; P O BOX 2294; PLANT CITY, FLORIDA 33565.

FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT HEED THIS REQUEST, THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE FORCED TO START MAILING OUT INVOICES AFTER JANUARY 1, 2011. YOUR ASSOCIATION IS IN SOUND FINANCIAL CONDITION, AND YOUR PAYMENT OF DUES CONTRIBUTES TO ITS CONTINUING SUCCESS.

I WISH EACH OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. MAY WE ALL HAVE A SUCCESSFUL 2011.

CECIL STRANGE

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Board of Directors has recently approved a lifetime membership for certain members. To qualify, you must be 75 years old on 31 December 2011, and a dues-paying member for the last five years. This means dues were paid from 2006 through 2011. There will be no exceptions to these requirements. If you qualify, you must complete the form below (or write the information on paper) and mail to:

Cecil Strange, Treasurer
Navy Musicians Association
P O Box 2294
Plant City, FL 33564

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE(_____) _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

Sammy Nestico

Sammy Nestico, music arranger, former leader of White House Marine Band, Count Basie collaborator, producer of ten albums (four of which won Grammys), U S Air Force music arranger for its concert band and jazz ensemble (the Air Force still gives an annual award "The Sammy Nestico Arranging Award" in his honor) recently turned 85. He lives in La Costa, California. Nestico has worked with artists such as Paul Anka, Natalie Cole, Phil Collins, Toni Tennille, Pia Zadora and Ronnie Milsap. His TV work includes "Mission Impossible", "Hawaii Five-O", "Streets of San Francisco", "Gomer Pyle", and "Charlie's Angels"

U S Navy Musicians have played his arrangements for years

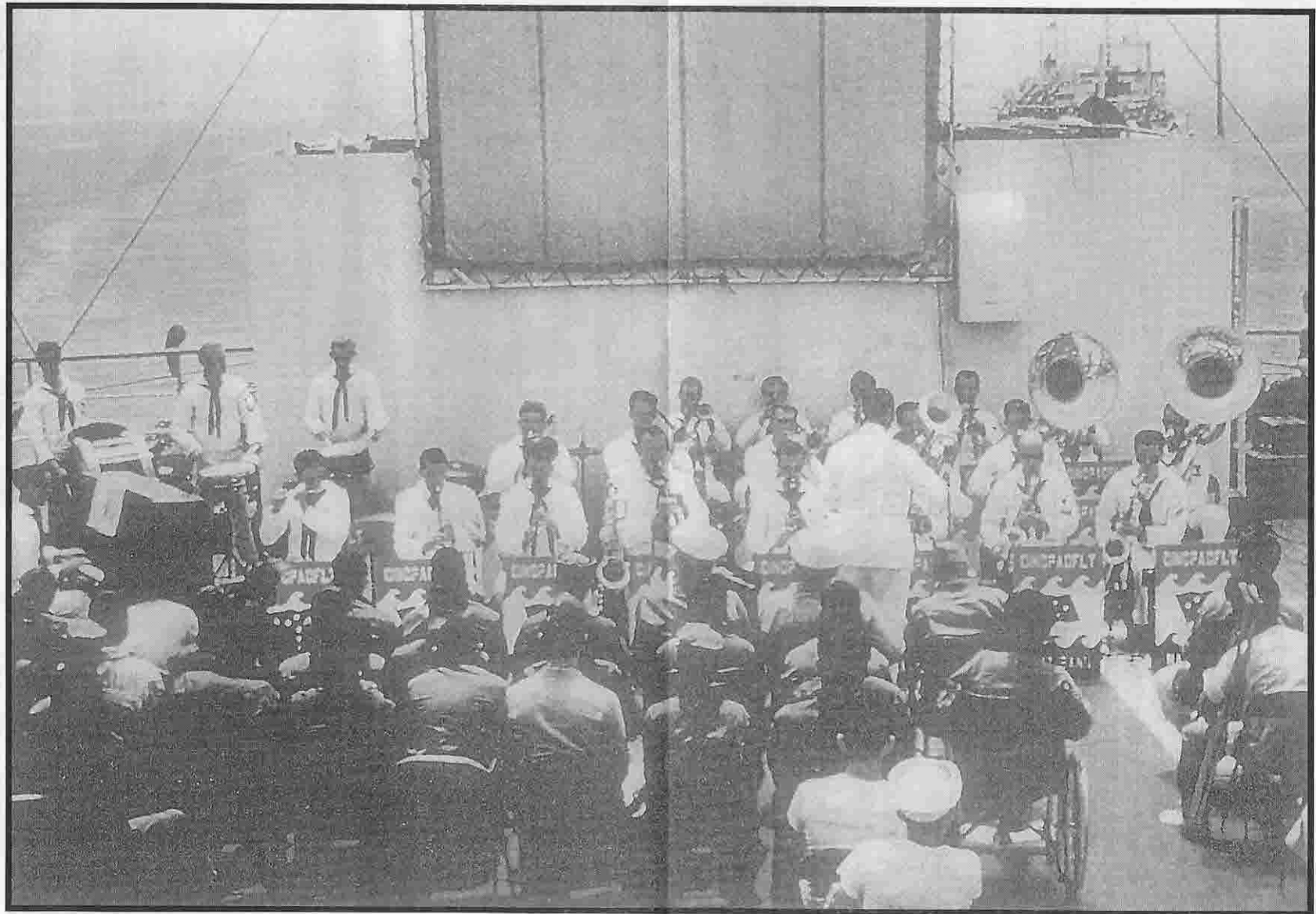


DIXIE BAND (NTC San Diego) 1983 NAS NI Armed Forces Day

Tuba: C Johnson

L to R: Bottomly, Brockmeier/Vasco, Leader Kemp

(Photo courtesy of Kemp)



**CINCPAC FLT NAVY BAND, Sid Zeramby, Conductor Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
Inchon Harbor, Korea , Hospital Ship USS Haven, Korean War 1953**

Front Row: Reeves, Holmgren, Slanks, Peichl, Harris, Ogden, Bilodeau, Oviatt
Second Row: Weishaupt, McDivitt, Coggins, Opsahl, Rotenberry, Goodman
Third Row: Montanus, Schultz, Burd, Ramsdell, DeFrance
Piano: Tanguay, **Percussion:** Blum, Rudoll, Lentz

(Picture courtesy of Ervin Rotenberry)



Top Two Pictures
The C J Landry family

Bottom Picture
Ralph Aurillo and wife
Mary

