

LEGER LINES

SUMMER 2009 Volume 2, Issue 11

President's Letter

Greetings from Virginia Beach where we will be holding the 2009 Navy Musicians Association annual reunion beginning June 24. You knew that I would lead into this quarterly message with a welcome to all members of our very unique and special organization with an invitation to one and all to attend.

As I gaze at the early registrations, I see quite a few returnees and a growing number of first timers. I realize that money is a little tight at the moment for all of us, but we all have to put some aside for our own entertainment and I can guarantee that you will be entertained. Bring your instrument and play some concert band, swing band, rock band, or play in the combo in the lounge all with folks whom you haven't played with in years. Or don't bring your axe, just hang with these old friends and shipmates and tell some (all true!) sea stories. I enjoy these events so much that I would attend two a year if that were possible.

I joined Facebook recently (the computer networking program which my daughter talked me into joining), and BAM! 60 hits within days, mostly Navy Musician veterans and the list is growing daily. Now, I'm not advocating joining Facebook, but I'm using it as a tool to induce my friends to take a look at our website and think, perhaps, about joining the NMA and maybe coming to the reunion. I babble on so much about the NMA that people are starting to avoid me (not really), but you get the idea.

While on the website, check out some of the interviews of Music Program icons made for us by Marshall Hawkins and Mike Beegle. They're informative, historical, and very entertaining talks with people who have shaped Navy music over the years. Learn about our MUs experiences at Pearl Harbor for one thing. Fascinating! These interviews done by our archivists are first rate and can be shared by all.

While on the subject of music program legends, I would like to ask any of our members if they have a photo or two of the late MUC Sid Zeramby. I was most fortunate to have served in his band around 1964-65 and am putting together a feature story on him. Your photos accompanying the article will be credited to you and returned to you. Just give me a call.

May 25, Memorial Day 2009— A day to gather with friends, have picnics, barbecues, take a long weekend to be with family. Please take a moment to remember our fallen true American heroes with a thought, a quiet moment, a prayer for a veteran (and his family) who gave his or her all for this country of ours.

See you in June hopefully. Call me or any of the board members with your ideas and suggestions to keep the Navy Musicians Association moving forward.

Thank you, volunteers, who will again do a superb job of organizing our reunion. You know we depend on you.

Terry Chesson

NMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terry Chesson, President
1723 Willow Creek Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
E-mail: TerrySax43@aol.com
Tele: 757-495-0697
Cell Phone: 757-615-8007

Bob Leketa, Exec V-Pres
2432 Treyson Trail
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-8224
E-mail: bleketa@aol.com
Tele: 757-961-9729

Kim Holl, Vice-President
2409 Deepwater Way
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
E-mail: kimholl@cox.net
Tele: 757-416-9508

Doyle Church, Secretary
134 Delaney Circle
Summerville, SC 29485
E-mail: dchurch688@aol.com
Tele: 843-875-2121

Cecil Strange, Treasurer
P O Box 2294
Plant City, FL 33564-2294
E-mail: bandy@rapidsys.com
Tele: 813-601-3868
Fax: 813-707-9207

William K Allen, Editor of LL
1623 Farmstead Road
Rock Hill, SC 29732-8181
E-mail: tiggerwka@comporium.net
Tele: 803-324-7423

David Blakeley, Website Manager
1280 Brunson Way
The Villages, FL 32162
E-mail: admin@navymusicians.org
Tele: 352-259-7045

Bill Namack, Legal Counsel
5310 Dominica Circle
Sarasota, FL 34236
E-mail: bill@whnamack.com
Tele: 941-378-3582

Ambrose O'Donnell, Equipment Mgr
136 Treetop Lane
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
E-mail: 3hits_1miss@live.net
Tele: 609-813-2125

Wilbur Smith, Member-at-Large
130 Moyses Road
Winter Park, FL 32792
E-mail: smuffsan@yahoo.com
Tele: 407-671-7447

**NAVY MUSICIANS ASSOCIATION REUNION
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA JUNE 24-29, 2009**

Tuesday, June 23, 2009

1300-1600 **Early arrival, check in**
1900 *(Early arrivals combo in lounge—numbers permitting)*

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

0900-1630 **Registration desk open**
0900-1130 **Dance Band rehearsal**
1300-1600 **Concert Band rehearsal**
1800-? **Dance Band rehearsal**
(Combo to perform in lounge after 1300)

Thursday, June 25, 2009

0900-1630 **Registration desk open**
0900-1130 **Dance Band rehearsal**
1200 **Ladies' Luncheon at the hotel**
1300-1600 **Concert Band rehearsal**
1800-? **Dance Band rehearsal**
(Combo to perform in lounge after 1300)

Friday, June 26, 2009

0900-1630 **Registration desk open**
0900-1130 **Concert Band rehearsal**
1300-? **Rock Band rehearsal**
1400 **Set up Ballroom for Friday night bash**
1830 **NMA Bands perform in Ballroom**
(Combo to perform in the lounge after 1300)

Saturday, June 27, 2009

0830-1000 **Breakfast in the Ballroom**
1000-1200 **NMA General Membership meeting**
1200 **Set up Bands for the Banquet**
1300 **Rock Band rehearsal**
1800 **Cocktails**
1930-2330 **NMA Banquet**
(Combo will perform in the lounge after the Banquet)

Sunday, June 28, 2009

1200 **Check-out**

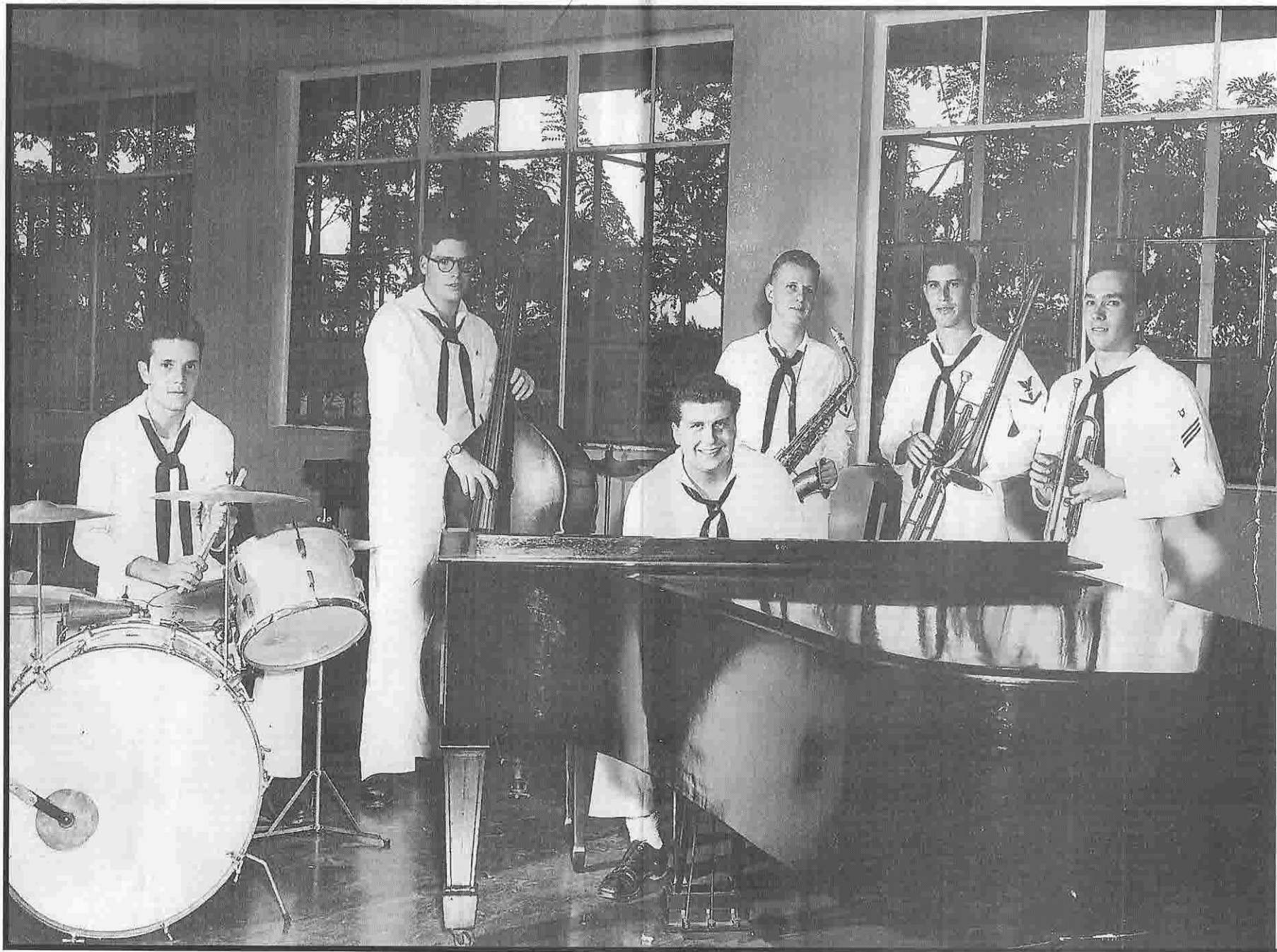
DIRECTIONS TO HOLIDAY INN EXECUTIVE CENTER

Going East on I-64, exit at 284B (Newtown Road). Follow cloverleaf around on I-264, take first exit which is S Newtown Road exit. Once on the exit ramp, go straight across to Greenwich Road. The hotel is one block on the right.

LADIES' LUNCHEON

As the event coordinator, I have found that planned trip events go better at the "away from Virginia" reunions. So, I have planned a Ladies' Luncheon on Thursday, 25 June 2009 at 1200 hours at the Holiday Inn Executive Center where we are staying to get everyone's ideas on trip events for the San Antonio reunion in 2010. Please sign up for the luncheon using your registration form to help with providing numbers to the hotel prior to the day of the luncheon. Cost of the luncheon will be \$22.50 each.

Melanie Leketa



Unit Band 87 Jazz Ensemble at Navy Base in San Juan, Puerto Rico 1951

L to R: Bill Marrera, Drums (non MU); Bert Fenner, Bass; George Kudurka, Piano; Bob Blankenburg, Alto Sax; Roy McCall, Trombone; and Bill Tobias, Trumpet
(Picture courtesy of Bill Blankenburg)

Pictures from the Naval Academy Band Alumni Concert 2001 (from Jerry Zadera)



#1



#8



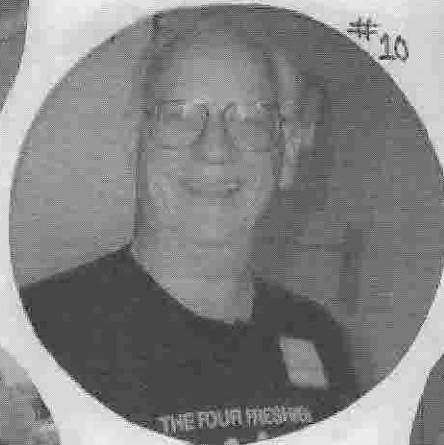
#2



#9



#3



#10



#4



#5

2001

