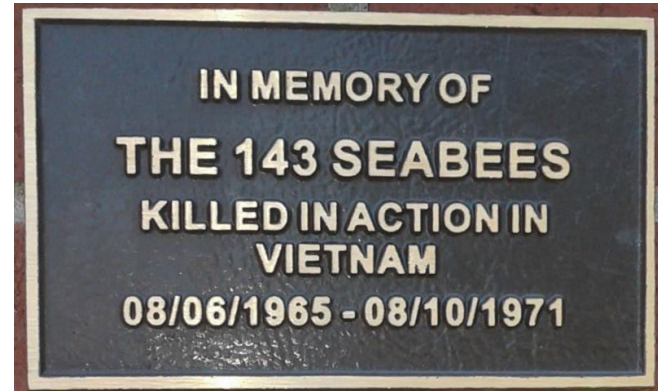


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MCB 53
Fall 2023



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Beeline Publisher "Bernie"

The older I
get, the better
I was.



[Richard Frank Feminella Obituary \(tributearchive.com\)](http://tributearchive.com)

Richard Frank Feminella

NYACK, New York
June 18, 1944 - April 22, 2021
69 tour B and H Company



Walter Kropf Obituary

<https://obits.al.com/us/obituaries/birmingham/name/walter-kropf-obituary?id=9983337>

April 4, 1927 - February 1, 2017 Born in Lowell, Michigan, April 4, 1927, Walter Bruce Kropf died on February 1, 2017, after an illness at Capital Care Hospice in Arlington, VA. He had been a resident of Sandusky, OH and Birmingham, AL before moving to live near his son in Arlington. His body will be cremated and then interred at Arlington National Cemetery. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1945 and served during the first two atomic bomb tests at Bikini Atoll in Operation Crossroads. He graduated in 1950 from Wayne State University. Mr. Kropf worked for thirty-seven years at Vulcan Materials Company and later H&R Block. He was an active sailor placing at the top of the top of the Flying Scot class national rankings in the 1950s and was an avid golfer. Mr. Kropf served as a Deacon for the First Congregational Church of Sandusky and later Treasurer of the Unitarian Church. The family will hold a private service at later date. Donations may be made in Mr. Kropf's name to the U.S. Navy Memorial at <http://shipsstore.navy Memorial.org/donate/donation> or the Lowell Area Historical Association at <http://www.lowellmuseum.org/> www.novacremate.com



September

James H.	Barber
John E.	Boyer, Jr.
Glenn A.	Aagard
Peter C.	Remsen
Donald L.	Wolfgang
Peter A.	Martin
Robert T.	De Phillip
William D.	Leppert
Edward C.	Florian
Richard A.	Gray, II
Paul M.	Weber
Gregory B.	Bernard
James H.	Schmidt
Karl L.	Schilling
William L.	Thompsen
Raymond L.	Clemmons
Lyle F.	Stark
Frederick L.	Bouchard
Gordon J.	Tyler
Cdr James R.	Smythe, Ret'd
Dennis D.	Meixsell
Edward A.	Swiski, Jr.
Sigmund J.	Horvath
Kenneth A.	Bernier
Charles W.	Gohmert
Gale V.	Pinkston
Robert E.	Neal
Bruce F.	Owens
H. Bert	Noles

Norman	Johnson
Archie D.	Byers
William L.	Adams
Lawrence L.	Lamb
Robert N.	Erbeck
Terry L.	Shaffer
Roger A.	Johnson
Vincent	Bavaro
Marlin D.	Brinkley
Marcus D.	Case
William R.	Ward
Peter A.	Turner
George R.	Kern
James E.	Hyland
Francis N.	Guyette
James A.	Pszenny
Carl N.	Adler
Chuck M.	Reynolds, Jr.
Clement A.	Michaud

October

Robert J.	Boulet
Bradford A.	Elg
Frederick	Greb, Jr.
Roger A.	Le Blanc
Whitney C.	Blauvelt
William G.	Dewispelaere
Jeffery A.	Jasukonis
Kenneth J.	Vogel
Thomas J.	Welch
William T.	Maurer

Robert A.	Graziano
Stanley A.	Walker
Michael E.	Krug
Eric V.	Dost
Elmer G.	Thuringer
Terrance L.	Baker
Fred J.	Carlson
Michael A.	Bruno
Richard A.	Oppelt
Michael D.	Westberg
James W.	Caraway
William E.	Manley
Lawrence R.	Jackson
Robert P.	Hamm
James W.	Soles
Robert R.	Teague
Raymond C.	Ballard
W. Patrick	Trevas
Brian J.	Copeland

November

Clarence E.	Harris, Jr.
Dale M.	Berg
Gilbert S.	Harrington
Donald J.	Mac Kinnon
Leonard W.	Pettitt, Jr.
Marvin	Holmgren
Nelson L.	Stants
Francis P.	Pappas
David L.	White

H. Mike	Light
Keith	Harley
Donald E.	Butler
Orin D.	Nelon
Stephen C.	Wilson
Roney J.	Steele
W. Glen	Martin
Bruce R.	Tremmel
Phillip D.	Bottenfield
Barry L.	Wren
Lawrence M.	Jessup
William E.	Johnson
John J.	Koza
Robert E.	Barnhart
Neil L.	Jensen
Michael Y.	Sandborn
Gary L.	Eberle
John A.	Haynie



Local Newspaper Article on 2023 Reunion



“Day” McCollum and his wife Irene.

Thirty-seven members of the MCB53 Alumni Association and their guests arrived in Lockport on Tuesday and will spend the week visiting the area and enjoying events planned by the McCollums.

Art McCollum, known as “Day” by family and friends, went to work at Harrison Radiator out of high school. When the Vietnam War broke out, he feared he would get drafted and followed some friends who had joined the Navy. McCollum served as a Seabee in the Navy from 1968 to 1972. His service included eight months in Vietnam, from March to November 1969.

After the war McCollum returned to Harrison’s and retired from there after 32 years. He then went to work driving motor coach for Ridge Road Express, which became Grand Tours, and retired from there after 19 years.

Seabees were trained for combat as well as construction. When they weren’t fighting, they were building. Their motto is “We build, we fight.”

A special group of veterans are in Lockport this week to renew old acquaintances and reminisce about their service to our country.

The Mobile Construction Battalion of Seabees who served in Vietnam are having their semi-annual reunion this week, organized by Seabee Art

A memorial to the Seabees has been erected in the former Fisherman’s Park, now Raymond Klimek Veterans Park, on River Road in North Tonawanda. McCollum and his brother George, both Lockport natives and Seabees, were instrumental in raising money to build the memorial, which includes a bronze statue of an infantryman, a giant bulldozer and a wall of memorial bricks.

Information on the Seabees says the government sought enlistees who had a background in construction. Such was the case with the McCollum brothers, who both had been heavy equipment operators.

Art and Irene McCollum were at the last MCB53 Alumni Association reunion two years ago in Arlington, Va. At their final get-together they asked for someone to volunteer to host the next reunion.

“They said if nobody steps up, we won’t have one,” Art said. “So I said, ‘I’ll host it.’”

Plans include a catered dinner tonight at Art and Irene’s home, a visit to Lewiston, a canal cruise, a tour of the Erie Canal Discovery Center and the Tiffany windows at First Presbyterian Church across the street, a possible visit to Medina Railroad Museum, and a catered dinner Friday night at the McCollum residence. On Saturday while the men have a meeting, Irene McCollum plans to take their significant others to the Lockport Community Farmers Market and Olcott.

Friday night’s dinner will feature a special presentation by Bill Dickman, a combat photographer in Vietnam.

Saturday night’s final event is a banquet at Cammarata’s restaurant with special guest speaker Glenn Foley, a Lockport resident who served with the Seabees in Antarctica after the Korean War ended.

The MCB53 group was based in Davisville, R.I., and the last time Art and Irene McCollum visited its site it was closed. A museum and elementary school now occupy the site.

Alumni members in Lockport this week came from across the country, including Pennsylvania, Michigan, Colorado, the Carolinas, Kentucky and Tennessee.

https://www.lockportjournal.com/news/vietnam-era-navy-seabees-reunite-in-lockport/article_0896d65e-4c45-11ee-85ed-bfea9af1a58f.html

LIFE MEMBER

-AGE 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 etc.
-DUES \$ 200 195 185 175 170 160 150 145 135 125 115 110 100 90 80 70 70 70 etc.

GOOD TIMES
SMALL FEE

2023 MCB 53 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DUES INVOICE

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

(email): _____ Dues amount enclosed: _____

Circle Tour: 1942-1945 1968 1969 \$15/annual or use Life Member Chart

Circle Company: A B C D E F G H S Team 5301

Signature: _____ Phone: (____) _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____

Make check payable to: **MCB-53 Alumni Association** and mail with this form to:
John Scheer, Treasurer
1917 Thornton Street
Leavenworth, KS. 66048

LIFE MEMBER

-AGE 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 etc.
-DUES \$ 200 195 185 175 170 160 150 145 135 125 115 110 100 90 80 70 70 70 etc.

GOOD TIMES
SMALL FEE

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