

"Perpetuating the 'CAN DO' legacy of the Civil Engineer Corps and Seabees and enriching their heritage through premier museum facilities and educational programs."



# THE SEABEE QUARTERLY

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## Legacy Gala Honors Seabees

**T**he Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, Calif., was the location for the first annual Seabee Legacy Gala by the CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation. Some 200 guests, including sponsors of the event, active-duty Seabees and CEC officers, supporters of the new Seabee Museum project at the Port Hueneme, Calif., Seabee base, and Foundation Trustees gathered for the gala event.

After a reception, which enabled all the guests to mix and mingle, the evening began with a video clip by **Michael Reagan**, son of the namesake of the library. Reagan provided the clip when he unexpectedly had to cancel his plans to join the group for the evening. In his talk, Reagan welcomed all the attendees and spoke warmly of his father's deep admiration and respect for the Seabees, relating several anecdotes about the President's interactions with the Seabees at Camp David.

**Rear Adm. Benjamin F. Montoya CEC, USN (Ret.)**, Chairman, CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, introduced **Dick Butkus**, Honorary Campaign Chairman. Butkus spoke to the guests relating how he became involved in the campaign and of the great admiration he has for the Seabees.

"People think guys in the NFL take some licks, but they are nothing compared to what the Seabees go through," Butkus said.

The generous sponsors who made the evening possible were recognized for their support (see the back page for a complete list), and several key attendees were recognized. **Mr. Jerry Halpin** was asked to come forward for presentation of the first Fighting Seabee award. Mr. Halpin served during World War II with the **109th Naval Construction Battalion (NCB)** on Hawaii, Kwajalein and Guam. He is the lead donor to the new Seabee Museum campaign with contributions totaling \$1.5 million. After the war, Mr. Halpin obtained a degree from Syracuse University and settled in northern Virginia. He co-founded West Group Management Company, which created the office and retail complex at Tyson's Corner, Va., among other major developments in the area.

The Fighting Seabee sculpture presented to Mr. Halpin was created by the world-renowned sculptor **A.J. Obara**, son of World War II Seabee **Anthony Obara**, who served with **CBDs 1011 and 1022** and the **30th NCB**. Obara also donated two other sculptures, which were sold at the live auction. One was a reproduction of the head of the bald eagle sculpture presented to President Reagan, which currently is on display at the library. Obara has taken an intense interest in the new Seabee Museum project.



Courtesy

*Rear Adm. Benjamin F. Montoya CEC, USN (Ret.), Chairman, CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, presents Mr. Jerry Halpin, World War II Seabee veteran, with the first Fighting Seabee Award.*

The actions and accomplishments of an active-duty Seabee also were recognized through the presentation of a Fighting Seabee award to **Chief Equipment Operator (EOC/SCW) Glen T. Goodwin** for his actions while deployed to Afghanistan with **Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FOUR (NMCB 4)**.

Goodwin was selected from a ... continued on the back page



Courtesy

*Honorary Chairman Dick Butkus expresses his admiration for the Seabees*

## Gala Honors 'Bees ... continued from Page 1

number of nominees recommended by various units in the Naval Construction Force. Home on emergency leave for one of his children, Goodwin left the next morning to return to Afghanistan.

The evening concluded with music by the New Chordettes, who entertained attendees with songs from the 1950s and '60s.



Courtesy

*Rear Adm. Benjamin F. Montoya CEC, USN (Ret.), Chairman, CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation, presents the Fighting Seabee Award to EOC(SCW) Glen T. Goodwin as Capt. Jim Worcester, Commanding Officer, Naval Facilities Expeditionary Command (NFELC) looks on.*

*The CEC/Seabee Historical Foundation would like to thank our Sponsors for their generosity in making the 2010 Legacy Gala a success.*

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