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Vol. 70, No. 12 | Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas | www.cnic.navy.mil/kingsville | June 15, 2012

Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer and Simeona and Rogelio Santiago Jr., unveil a photo of their son and a plaque dedicating the new Fitness Center to their son's memory. MS3 Ronchester Santiago, a Kingsville native, lost his life when USS Cole was attacked by terrorists in Aden Harbor, Yemen, on Oct. 12, 2000.

Fitness Center formally dedicated to memory of fallen Kingsville Sailor Ronchester Santiago

Story & Photos by Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Naval Air Station (NAS) Kingsville held a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the command's new Fitness Center on June 7. The ceremony dedicated the facility to the memory and service of Petty Officer 3rd Class Ronchester Santiago, U.S. Navy, a Kingsville native who died in the October 2000 terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Aden Harbor, Yemen.

Santiago graduated from H.M. King High School in June 1996, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He attended recruit training in Great Lakes, Ill., then was assigned to USS Constitution for his first duty station. Santiago received orders to USS Cole in 1998 and was two months shy of completing his enlistment when the Cole was attacked on Oct. 12, 2000, in Aden Harbor, Yemen.

"Cole made it home; MS3 Santiago did not," said Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer.

"To make sure his legacy lives on forever, we are naming this facility in honor of Petty Officer Santiago," McLaughlin added. "He paid the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country.

"We know you will always carry a heavy heart for the rest of your life," McLaughlin said to Ronchester's parents, "but we hope, that on behalf of the U.S. Navy, you will accept having your son's name on the front of this building forever."

Following the brief remarks, a ribbon cutting and plaque unveiling in the Fitness Center's vestibule was held.

Capt. (Sel) James Ginder flew in from Washington, D.C., to attend the dedication. Ginder was the NAS Kingsville administrative officer from December 1998 to June 2001 and the Casualty Assistance Calls Officer (CACO) for the Santiago family beginning in October 2000.

Although his official CACO duties had concluded more than 11 years ago, Ginder said he has never forgotten the Santiagos.

"They have always held a special place in my heart and I wanted to be here for them in recognition of their son's sacrifice,"

Roadside sign announcing the official name of the NAS Kingsville Fitness Center.

Ginder said. "I think a special bond exists between CACOs and the families they support."

For several months in late 2000, then-Lt. Ginder was the Santiago's official liaison to the Navy beginning with a knock on their front door with initial notification, through a memorial service in Norfolk with President Clinton, followed by a funeral mass and

see Santiago on page 6

Navy League to host Navy Ball Golf Tournament June 29

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The Kingsville Chapter of the Navy League will host their annual Navy Ball Golf Tournament at the L.E. Ramey Golf Course in Kingsville on Friday, June 29. The event is open to teams from all commands throughout the air station and the local community. A maximum of 20 teams will participate, and registration will be closed once the 20-team cap has been reached. Tournament volunteers are always welcome.

The Kingsville Navy League hosts this tournament each year as their sponsorship of the NAS Kingsville Navy Birthday Ball in October. All proceeds from sponsorship for this tournament are donated to the Navy Ball Committee to help with the costs of hosting the annual Navy Ball and offset admission to the Navy Ball for junior enlisted personnel.

Teams will be made up of four golfers playing a scramble format. Entry fee is $40 per person, and includes green fees, cart, ditty bag, BBQ, and tickets for door prize drawings. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams, with additional prizes for closet-to-the-pin on all par 3 holes, and the longest drive on a selected hole. Mulligan's (do-over's) will be available for purchase.

The competition in this annual tournament has been pretty close over the years, and over the past three years the difference between first and second place has been no more than two strokes. Last year's championship team, Absolute Trucking Solutions of Corpus Christi, which finished second in 2010 and first in 2009, turned in a 21-under-par score of 51. Team Crisman, the 2010 champs, finished second, and the City of Kingsville led by Mayor Sam Fugate, finished third at 18-under-par. Team NAS Kingsville, led by Capt. Mark McLaughlin, Cmdr. Scott Wilmot and Master Chief Charlie Ratliff, came in fourth place at 15-under

see Golf on page 5

Deckplate Leadership

CSCM (SW/AW)
Fidel Medina
Command Master Chief

Team Kingsville,

We celebrate Father's Day and the beginning of summer during the month of June.

Father's day is annually observed on the third Sunday every June. It's a day set aside for all of us to take time to honor our fathers, establishing more intimate relations between our fathers and children.

Additionally, it is also a time to impress upon fathers the full measure of our parental obligations. In the Department of Defense, many fathers will be deployed defending freedom and democracy around the world on this important day. Many other fathers will be working throughout society to make a positive impact on daily operations and families throughout the world. Please take a moment to think about the difference our fathers have made, and will continue to make in our lives.

Many of us may wonder where Father's Day observance derived from. Some scholars believe the day of observance dates back more than 4,000 years, from a clay card, carved by a young boy named Elmesu, wishing his father good health and a long life, was found in the runs of Babylon.

There are other theories as well. One of the most modern beliefs is that Sonora Louise Smart Dodd was responsible. She had listened to a Mother's Day religious sermon in 1909. She then pushed the idea to friends and family, and received support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), resulting in the first known Father's Day celebration on June 19, 1910. This celebration was later supported by our 28th President, Woodrow Wilson, which he approved in 1916.

The idea of a national Father's Day was later supported by President Calvin Coolidge, and President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day in 1966. In 1972, President Richard Nixon established a permanent national observance for the day, and Dodd was later honored for her contributions to the holiday development at the 1974 World's Fair in Spokane.

Although the weather here in South Texas seems to be already "post-Spring," June 21 will actually mark the first day of summer. With the big Texas skies, the warm weather is perfect for family outings such as going to the beach, or visiting water parks, theme parks, and various other attractions. Texas has numerous summertime activities to take advantage of, so ensure you get out there and enjoy your time.

The summer months are also the choice time for many of us to take leave. Some of us travel throughout the globe to visit family or see the sights. The summer weather in Texas can range in the 100s for several days in a row. And, we can tell already that this summer will be a hot one.

With that said, please take into consideration safety when working or enjoying your leisure time outdoors. Sunburn and dehydration can occur quickly with little warning. All of us need to be sure to drink plenty of water, be smart when outside, and enjoy all of our off-duty time. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.

v/r,
CMC

Briefly

Household goods goes "social"

NAVSUP Global Logistics Support (GLS) Household Goods (HHG) services initiated social media campaign June 4 to reach out to customers and further reduce confusion and make a household move easier on families.

HHG is now employing the public web, YouTube and Facebook to unravel some of remaining mystery associated with moving, shipping and storing household goods.

"Our number one goal is easing the whole moving process for families moving across the country or around the world," said Deborah McGlennon, program manager, Household Goods and Global Distance Support Center in San Diego. "We're choosing new mediums to reach out and social media will help us reach our audiences with a message that we know how hard a move is, and here's how we can be there to help you.

"We believe our web presence, plus YouTube and Facebook Fan Page will provide relevant and interesting information to Navy service members and civilians initiating a household goods move. In addition, the YouTube Channel provides customers with instructions to set up their household goods move using the Defense Personal Property System (DPS)," McGlennon said.

The idea is to use YouTube as a source for education. According to McGlennon, even as the process incorporated www.move.mil and the Defense Personal Property System (DPS), the process can still be a bit daunting. The YouTube and Facebook sites are designed to ease families into the move.mil and DPS process.

"It will be like 'pre-learning' designed to familiarize families with how these systems operate and integrate," McGlennon said.

You can subscribe now to the HHG YouTube Channel at http://www.youtube.com/user/NavyHHG and for tips, updates and additional information, make sure to like its Facebook Fan Page at http://www.facebook.com/pages/NAVY-Household-Goods/294799990565426. In addition, the Navy Household Goods webpage also provides customers with information on getting started with their move, entitlements and contact information. Check out https://www.navsup.navy.mil/navsup/ourteam/navsupgls/prod_serv/household.

McGlennon said, "We value your feedback and suggestions on how we can further help you to have a successful move."

Finally, In addition to leaving comments on social media pages, you can email householdgoods@navy.mil.

USPS prohibits lithium battery mailing

Naval Supply Systems Command (NAVSUP), which oversees Navy postal operations, announced recently, it is providing guidance to the fleet about new United States Postal Service (USPS) prohibitions regarding lithium batteries.

According to the USPS announcement, beginning May 16, mail to or from APOs/FPOs are prohibited from containing lithium or products containing lithium. The prohibition also applies to international mail. The prohibition is in effect pending further USPS review of investigations for safety.

"Customers should understand that postal clerks at these locations have been instructed to question patrons and check customs labels for any declarations of lithium batteries or electronic equipment to determine whether lithium batteries are in the shipment," said NAVSUP Navy Postal Subject Matter Expert Tom Rittle. "Upon identification of packages containing lithium batteries, customers will have the option to remove the batteries or not mail the package."

The prohibition applies regardless of quantity, size, watt-hours, and whether the cells or batteries are packed in equipment, with equipment, or without equipment.

For more information about the prohibition, see USPS Postal Bulletin 22336 at http://about.usps.com/postal-bulletin/2012/pb22336/pdf/pb22336.pdf.

Bravo Zulu

Congratulations to the following Public Works employees for their achievements.

Employee of the Quarter: Tish Knerr, Environmental Services.

Supervisor of the Year: Russell Messer, PW Transportation

Employee of the Year: Derek Sorensen

Great Place to Work Awards: Volunteers for the Multicultural Awareness Project (Platinum Award)

Bravo zulu to the following NAS Kingsville Sailors who were recently promoted to their current rank: ET1(SW) Lauren Hosey, EN1(SW) Charles Roberts, FC1(SW) John Sessions, ABF2 Michael Barnes, AC2 Shauna Johnson, ABH2(AW) John Zapata, CS2(SW) Michael White, ABH2(AW) Kevin Mitchell, and CS2(SW) James Merritt.

Flying K

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To advertise in the *Flying K*, call DJ Young Publishing at (361) 814-0866.

Capt. Mark McLaughlin
Commanding Officer

Cmdr. Scott Wilmot
Executive Officer

Jon Gagné
Public Affairs Officer
Managing Editor

Fifi Kieschnick
Public Affairs Specialist / Editor

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This paper is published for people like Cynthia Garza, who recently transferred to VT-22. Garza lives in Kingsville and had been an emergency dispatcher aboard NAS Kingsville for the past 10 years, prior to her transfer.

T-45 Goshawk crash near Encino investigation continues

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

The investigation into the cause of the crash of a T-45 Goshawk from Training Air Wing TWO May 30, near Encino, Texas, continued this week as investigators finalized their work at the crash site. The Aircraft Mishap Board (AMB) team had been looking over the crash site and examining wreckage debris on a remote section of a private ranch west of Encino, gathering data that would help determine the cause of the crash.

Two pilots, an instructor and student, safely ejected from the aircraft. They were airlifted from the site back to the air station by an HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from the U.S. Army Reserve's 11th Aviation Command MEDEVAC Squadron based at NAS Kingsville.

Lt. John Supple, public affairs officer for the Naval Air Training Command, stated that the pilots ejected safely from the aircraft and suffered only minor injuries. "The pilots were taken to Christus Spohn Hospital-Kleberg for further evaluation," Supple added, "and they were released shortly afterwards listed in good condition. They are now assisting with the crash investigation."

Firefighters from the NAS Kingsville Fire and Emergency Rescue Department were the first to arrive on scene after the crash. Due to the remote location, the Firefighters had to ask for assistance in locating the site from the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, which dispatched a helicopter to guide the NAS Kingsville team.

Once at the site, the firefighters extinguished a few minor fires and inspected the wreckage. The team remained at the site for several hours before declaring the site secure and returning to Kingsville. The NAS Kingsville Security Department then took control of the area to preserve the integrity of the crash site. The team manned the site around-the-clock despite temperatures during the day that reached nearly 100 degrees.

"We placed our remote command post at site and provided a rotating scheduled for our people to allow the staff to stay hydrated and rested," said NAS Kingsville Security Officer David Taylor. "Our main concerns out there were the safety of our people and the protection of our assets."

The AMB team completed their work at the crash site last week and turned the site over to environmental specialists from NAS Kingsville and Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Southeast. The environmental team will now begin the process of cleaning up the site and remediating any environmental contamination, working closely with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality which governs environmental remediation procedures for the state of Texas.

It could take several months before the official cause of the crash is determined. It is Naval Air Training Command policy to not release the names of injured personnel due to privacy issues.

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SOAR, don't 'slide,' this summer

With military children having access to SOAR (Student Online Achievement Resources), students can use the summer to review or learn the standards for their grade level or a particular course.

This online program focuses on math, reading, and language arts for students in grades 3-12. It allows parents to manage their children's education with cutting edge technology.

Students initially take a test on any of the state learning standards, receive immediate feedback, and then are directed to a tutorial, which will improve their skills, where needed.

Parents can then monitor their progress from anywhere in the world. In addition, parents will be provided with resource materials to assist their children in areas of deficiency.

SOAR is not a placement program. It is a program designed to help students and parents:

* identify strengths and areas where students may need improvement;

* address the specific needs of a student;

* gain practice with remediation and enrichment resources;

* examine curriculum standards in any U.S. school district; and

* use free ACT and SAT prep programs.

Go to http://www.soarathome.org to register your child and explore the parent resources. The tutorials are short, entertaining, and kid-friendly. Even if your child did not fail a grade or a course this year and just did poorly in a particular course, he can use the program to either avoid the summer "slide" or to accelerate his skills for the next grade in school.

Once vacation is over and your child returns to school next year, SOAR can continue to be used for enrichment resources or for remediation, if your child has to stay home due to an illness.

SOAR can provide engaging online activities to supplement the work sent home from school. Students can search the Skill Resources from their home page to find activities on a specific math or reading topic they might be studying at the time.

Even if you don't need this article for summer remediation, save it for Winter or Spring Break! You just don't know when you'll need help to keep them SOARing in school rather than "sliding."

For more information, go to the Military Impacted Schools Association website, http://militaryimpactedschoolsassociation.org/.

Jeanie Alexander is the NAS Kingsville school liaison officer. If you have questions about this article or concerns about an educational issue impacting your child, contact her via email at carolyn.alexander@navy.mil or by cell phone at (361) 675-0112 or office phone at (361) 516-4366. Or, schedule a meeting with her in her office located in Building 2740, Room 110.

New web-based housing early application tool available

Commander, Navy Installations Command (CNIC) announced the phased Navywide release of the Housing Early Application Tool (HEAT) that was implemented last month. This web-based tool will allow Sailors and their families to apply for housing online from any computer.

"HEAT makes the Navy house hunting process smoother and less stressful for our Sailors and their families. By providing the early housing application online, Sailors and their spouses can use HEAT to review housing and community information, and make an informed decision on a home before receiving their permanent change of station (PCS) orders," said Vice Adm. William French, Commander, Navy Installations Command.

HEAT uses authoritative systems to reduce the amount of personal information and to streamline the online process. HEAT can be securely accessed from any computer with an internet connection.

Service members or their spouses can use HEAT prior to receiving permanent change of station (PCS) orders, to request information about community housing or check on their eligibility for military and privatized housing. They may also submit HEAT requests to multiple installations, if they are not sure where they may be stationed next.

"Our goal with HEAT is to reach out to Sailors early in the PCS process to reduce stress and provide proactive support when moving from one duty station to another," said Corky Vazquez, CNIC housing program manager.

"With HEAT, Sailors and their families are able to make contact with our Navy Housing Service Centers and Privatization Partners to discuss their housing needs and learn about their housing options at any time. HEAT makes it easy to connect with our housing professionals and make informed decisions before even having orders."

HEAT is being deployed Navywide by Navy Regions. It should be implemented Navywide by June 30.

In May, the following regions went online: Naval District Washington, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Navy Region Midwest, Navy Region Southwest, Navy Region Southeast, Navy Region Europe, Africa, Asia and Navy Region Hawaii.

This month, the following regions are going online: Navy Region Japan, Navy Region Korea and Singapore Area Coordinator, and Joint Region Marianas.

To access HEAT and for more information about when your base will have HEAT, please visit http://www.cnic.navy.mil/HEAT. *(From Commander, Navy Installations Command Public Affairs)*

Family members' records may now be digitally verified

RAPIDS Self Service (RSS) (https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/self_service/) is now available for Common Access Card (CAC) holders.

The RSS website allows CAC-holders to update their information and verify family members for DoD ID card reissuance. In order to use the RSS website, you must be a sponsor with a DoD CAC and have a CAC enabled personal computer.

Prior to RSS, the process of verifying family member's records in RAPIDS for card reissuance required the physical presence of the sponsor or a DD Form 1172-2, Application for Identification Card-DEERS Enrollment, with the sponsor's original signature.

Now with RSS, CAC-holders do not have to accompany eligible family members to verify eligibility for issuance of DoD benefits, including the DoD ID card.

Sponsors can now verify family members, digitally sign and save the DD Form 1172-2 through RSS to the family member's record. The family member may print and bring along a copy of the digitally signed form for card issuance. The digitally signed DD Form 1172-2 serves as the sponsor's electronic verification. The family members just need to inform the ID card facility that the sponsor has verified them and that the DD Form 1172-2 is available in their DEERS record.

For more information about RAPIDS Self Service (RSS), contact Personnel Support Activity Detachment Corpus Christi at (361) 961-3558.

Golf from page 1

par.

Since 2010, the City of Kingsville team and the NAS Kingsville team have competed in a "Blind Skins Challenge." While NAS Kingsville won the first match between the two leadership teams in 2010, the City of Kingsville turned in a lop-sided victory last year. This year, the NAS Kingsville team hopes to regain control of the traveling cup.

But they'll have to do it with some new team members. Former Command Master Chief (CMC) Charlie Ratliff has retired from the Navy and will probably be playing on the Celanese team this year. Acting CMC Fidel Medina will take Ratliff's spot on the team this year. The team will also be replacing their PAO representative this year, but the replacement is still being negotiated.

Hole, tee box and general sponsorships are available. Businesses interested in supporting the event should contact the Kingsville Navy League or the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce. Interested teams or golfers may sign up at the L.E. Ramey Course through June 25, or by submitting a paid entry form to the Navy Ball Committee. For additional information, contact ETC (SW) Eric Smith, tournament chair person at 516-6388 or by e-mail at matthew.e.smith3@navy.mil.

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Grand opening -- The ribbon was cut on the new Navy Gateway Inn & Suites (NGIS) on June 7. The NGIS project was awarded in September 2010 to TJC Engineering, of Louisville, Ky. The $14 million contract included refurbishment of the Bachelors' Quarters as well as the NGIS. Cutting the ribbon are, from left, Rosalio Moreno, executive housekeeper; CSCM(SW/AW) Fidel Medina; Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer; Jim Culp, president, TJC Engineering; Gilbert Roque, NGIS director; and Wesley Neill, maintenance supervisor. (Photo by Fifi Kieschnick)

Cutting the ribbon to officially open the Ronchester Santiago Fitness Center were, from left, Capt. (Sel) James Ginder, who was the NAS Kingsville Casualty Assistance Calls Officer when a terrorist attack was made on USS Cole on Oct. 12, 2000; Rogelio Santiago Sr.; Simeona Santiago; and Capt. Mark McLaughlin, NAS Kingsville commanding officer.

Santiago from page 1

burial in Kingsville, and ending with completion of a large amount of required paperwork.

"Throughout the entire process," Ginder added, "the family was appreciative of the Navy's efforts to answer their questions and meet their needs during that extraordinarily difficult time. Today, it is certainly fitting that NAS Kingsville permanently memorialize Petty Officer Santiago and his sacrifice as a Kingsville native, and I'm happy to have the opportunity to attend and support the family once again."

"It is really unbelievable that the Captain could make this a reality and dedicate this (facility) to my son," said Rogelio Santiago Sr., Ronchester's father, after the ceremony. "… (this) is a great honor for me and my family."

Santiago hopes the community will continue to remember his son, and that the younger generation will continue to serve our country to help keep our freedoms. He added that the naming of the facility in his son's honor will help him and his family give closure.

"We are deeply honored," Santiago said. "There is nothing better to honor the duty of our son."

The $12.5 million, 28,000 square foot facility, includes a basketball court, volleyball court, free-weight area, group exercise rooms and racquetball courts. Outdoor features include a 25-meter/6-lane swimming pool with zero-depth entry, 6-lane 400-meter track, synthetic turf football field and jogging trail.

The Ronchester Santiago Fitness Center includes a 25-meter, 6-lane swimming pool with zero-depth entry.

Ceremony closes out 22-year career for NAS Kingsville Senior Chief

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

Senior Chief Electronics Technician Kirk D. Hurst, a native of Port Isabel, Texas, closed out his 22-year active duty career June 8, with an official retirement ceremony at the NAS Kingsville Captain's Club. More than 100 friends, family and shipmates turned out to help send Hurst and his family ashore as they embark on a new and challenging career in the civilian sector.

Retired Master Chief and former NAS Kingsville Command Master Chief Charlie Ratliff served as guest speaker for the ceremony.

"As his former boss, I can tell you that Senior Chief Kirk Hurst will find challenging employment in the civilian sector and he will succeed," Ratliff said. "I can say that because I've seen his competition. You don't just be advanced to Chief Petty Officer simply by taking a written test like other E-7's in other branches of the military. The Navy looks for the Sailor who has taken the tough assignments – like service at sea – and excelled in them. They look for the Sailor who has demonstrated sustained, superior performance in challenging leadership positions. They look for people like Senior Chief Kirk Hurst."

Ratliff added that only the most qualified and tested Sailors are chosen for advancement into the Chief Petty Officer Community.

"Only 10 percent of eligible enlisted Sailors are selected for Chief Petty Officer, and only 5 percent make Senior Chief during their career," Ratliff stated. "So, you see, Senior Chief Hurst has accomplished what few Sailors have during his career. And after working with him, I can tell you that no matter what he chooses to do in his civilian career he will succeed."

Hurst enlisted in the Navy in 1989, and after completing Electronics Technician 'A' School in Orlando, Fla., and UHF Technician 'C' School in San Diego, he reported to USS Walter S. Diehl (TAO 193), forward-deployed to Subic Bay, Republic of the Philippines. Aboard Diel, he served as a UHF communications system technician and underway replenishment team leader, and completed a deployment to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Desert Storm.

During his career Hurst would serve on four Navy ships and complete two deployments to the Persian Gulf, three deployments to the Western Pacific, and participate in three Mine Countermeasures (MCM) crew swaps. He also completed an assignment with the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center, and an eight-month deployment to Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa, where he served as Electronic Materials Officer and Tactical Communications Division leading chief in support of Operation of Enduring Freedom.

Hurst was also fortunate to spend 16 years in South Texas, bouncing from four ships homeported at Naval Station Ingleside, to NAS Kingsville, NAS Corpus Christi and back to NAS Kingsville for his final tour of duty.

During his final remarks during the ceremony, Hurst praised those who pushed him in the right direction to succeed.

"I am a very lucky and blessed man to be standing here today," he said. "I am a firm believer that as long as humans remain imperfect life has never been – and never will be -- fair.

"I believe that all suffer hardships and disadvantages," Hurst added, "but we all have God-given gifts and we are born with a distinct desire to succeed. It is through hard work, personal responsibility and what you do with the gifts you are given that makes a difference. I was lucky enough to have some exceptional people in my life, and this day, for me, is all about them."

Hurst became emotional when he spoke about his family – from his grandparents to his wife Kathy and sons Kirk and Trevor. "I cannot thank you enough for your support," he said as he pushed back tears.

When it came time for Hurst to address the Sailors he has led for the past three years at Ground Electronics, Hurst praised them for being professional, loyal and dedicated.

"Some of the finest technicians in the Navy walk through the doors of Bldg. 4973 every day before, during and after the planes are flying. Thank you for your work ethic and remember: teamwork, teamwork, teamwork. Keep your standards high, and always remember rule number one: you're not underway or sucking sand, so you have nothing to complain about.

"You have it good right now," Hurst added. "It has been an honor and a pleasure to have served with all of you. I thank the Navy for the great people that I have met during my career, the lessons I have learned, and the opportunity and experiences I have gained."

NAS Kingsville Executive Officer Cmdr. Scott Wilmot presented Hurst with a Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal (Gold Star in lieu of third award) for his performance as Leading Chief of the Ground Electronics Division over the past three years. Wilmot also presented a letter of proclamation from Texas Governor Rick Perry declaring Hurst an honorary admiral in the Texas Navy.

Kathy Hurst, Kirk's wife of 19 years, was designated as an official "Yellow Rose of Texas," and sons Kirk and Trevor received letters of appreciation for their support of the father's career from NAS Kingsville Commanding Officer Capt. Mark McLaughlin.

Chief Lorenzo Perez read the CPO Retirement Creed and presented Hurst a traditional retirement shadow box on behalf of the NAS Kingsville Chief Petty Officers Association, while Senior Chief Brian Carr served as master of ceremonies; Senior

see Hurst on next page

Kathy Hurst, wife of ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst (left) is presented with a certificate proclaiming her a Yellow Rose of Texas. Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, NAS Kingsville executive officer, presented her the certificate as her husband retires from the U.S. Navy.

Cmdr. Scott Wilmot, NAS Kingsville executive officer, presents ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst with a Navy Commendation Medal for his performance as leading chief of the Ground Electronics Division over the past three years.

During the retirement ceremony, ET3 Richard Nava assumes the watch from ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst.

Hurst from page 7

Chief William Tirado presented "The Watch."

Sideboys included Senior Chief Rudy Oliva, Chief Dale Wagner, Chief Johnny Tienda, Chief Eric Smith, Chief Curtis Malone and Chief Stan Pendergrass. Chief Ronnie Murchison served as the bell ringer and Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauren Hosey served as the Honor Boatswain. Eddie Earwood, NAS Kingsville BASH manager, offered the invocation and benediction.

AOC(AW) Lorenzo Perez presents ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst with a shadow box representing Hurst's Naval career.

ETCS(SW/AW/EXW) Kirk Hurst prepares to "go ashore" with his wife Kathy and sons Kirk and Trevor, as Hurst retires from the U.S. Navy with 22 years of service. (Photos by Fifi Kieschnick)

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South Texas Navy commemorates Battle of Midway aboard USS Lexington

Story & Photo by Fifi Kieschnick
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

South Texas Navy commemorated the 70th anniversary of the turning point in the Pacific during World War II, with a Battle of Midway ceremony aboard USS Lexington Museum on the Bay on June 4.

Among the guests at the ceremony was retired Chief Bob McKinley who served on USS Enterprise's flight deck during the battle that changed history, according to Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, chief of staff for Chief of Naval Air Training who was the guest speaker at the ceremony.

"We take a few minutes to remember some of these men and some of their deeds, and we honor those who lived it," Hollingsworth said to the assembled group.

"And, young Bob McKinley here with us today was on the flight deck releasing the hooks of carrier aircraft coming aboard."

Hollingsworth tied the Battle of Midway to South Texas adding that the local Flour Bluff High School's mascot, the Hornet, was named after USS Hornet (CV 8), one of the three aircraft carriers that helped the U.S. Navy win the battle.

Also, one of NAS Corpus Christi's outlying fields was named for Lt. Cmdr. John Waldron who is best remembered for his sacrifice and courage during the battle.

Retired Chief Petty Officer Robert McKinley and Chief of Naval Air Training's Chief of Staff Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth release a memorial wreath from the hangar bay of USS Lexington Museum on the Bay during a commemoration ceremony of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Midway held June 4. An 18-year-old McKinley was on the flightdeck of USS Enterprise during the battle that changed the course of the war in the Pacific.

On June 4, 1942, under his command, 15 bombers of Torpedo Squadron 8, left USS Hornet to engage the Japanese, sacrificing themselves to help change the tide of the war.

"Cmdr. Waldron typified the core values of our Navy," Hollingsworth said.

"Today, we honor the veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice during this battle's inspirational legacy," Hollingsworth said.

"We remember that with the man behind me (retired Chief McKinley) lives a heritage that connects the past to the future and serves as a shining example of acting with honor courage and commitment.

"Chief, we offer our deepest gratitude and respect."

"In the Navy we have two traditions that we hold annually," said Lt. John Supple, master of ceremonies for the commemoration. "In October, we observe the Navy's birthday to celebrate its establishment by the Continental Congress in 1775, and then, in June, we pause to acknowledge a moment in modern history where our ancestors showed to the nation that its faith and trust in our Navy is worthwhile.

"This annual event rests a little closer to our hearts," Supple added, "because we can see behind the curtain, so to speak, and into the history that is not often glorified, or understood, by most – yet it is extremely significant to our Navy's successes at Midway."

The ceremony ended with a wreath laying from the deck of Lexington to the Gulf of Mexico.

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- *Spays and Neuters will be $10 (which will include a Rabies vaccine) for those who qualify while funding is available. To qualify, you must be 18 years or older with a picture ID or proof of address and able to demonstrate financial need by providing documentation of any one of the following: Medicaid, Current Unemployment, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI), State Disability Assistance, WIC, or LoneStar. There is a maximum of 2 cats per address.
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Morale, Welfare & Recreation

City, Air Station softball rematch slated for the 4th

By Jon Gagné
NAS Kingsville Public Affairs

It's time for round 2. That's how Jeanie "Boss Lady" Alexander is looking at this year's softball challenge with City Leadership that will take place at Dick Kleberg Park at 5 p.m. on July 4. It's the second clash between the two teams of what is hoped to become an annual prelude to Fourth of July events throughout Kleberg County. The teams are comprised of leadership officials from the air station and leadership officials from the City of Kingsville and Kleberg County.

In the inaugural clash last year NAS Kingsville jumped out to a 6-2 lead through three innings and led 9-6 after four. Momentum was riding in the Kings' favor. But everything changed in the top of the fifth.

"Oh, man," NAS Kingsville's Charlie Ratliff said, "we never expected to see anything like that happen."

The City of Kingsville sent 23 men to the plate in the top of the fifth, collecting 15 hits, three walks, and taking advantage of 7 NAS Kingsville errors to plate 17 runs. Suddenly, a 9-6 deficit turned into a 23-9 lead.

"(The rally) was like a cut that wouldn't stop bleeding," one player stated after the game.

"Losing last year was very disappointing," Coach Alexander (Boss Lady) said recently. "It really came down to that one bad inning when everything went haywire. But the city won, and we've just got to put that game behind us."

Alexander will have some roster changes for this year's rematch with the City. A few players from last year's team have departed the air station, including Ratliff, Air Boss Dave Anderson, and PW's Troy Hamilton and Tom Stock, but the team's nucleus remains intact. "I am making some roster moves this year," Alexander stated, "but I'm not going to say what they are just yet."

The City of Kingsville team's general manager, Dick Messbarger, is also keeping things quiet about his plans for this year's game. "We'll find a few bodies to throw out there," he said. "Maybe we'll get lucky like we did last year."

The game promises to be a fun time for all – both on the field and in the stands. Admission is free.

Remembering Dad --
The Muery family ran Beach-to-Bay last month in honor of their father, Cmdr. Tedd Muery, who had been stationed aboard NAS Kingsville for the past 8 years but is now serving as an Individual Augmentee. Pictured at the end of the race are, from left, Alexander, 12, Heidi, 17, wife Jan, Nicholas, 14, and Hannah, 16. Each of the children ran on different teams in different divisions. (Courtesy photo)

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Sunday
at McFall Memorial Chapel
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12:30 p.m. - Catholic Mass

Wednesday
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at Hunter's Cove Community Center

Thursday
11:30 - Luncheon Bible Study
in the Chapel
4:30 p.m. - Catholic Choir Practice
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