



The ANCHOR

Nebraska Admirals Association

A 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization

4th Quarter 2010

December, 2010

Visit your Website
www.nebraskaadmirals.org

~ 2010 NAA OPERATION ORNAMENT ~

OVER 1,200 ORNAMENTS

The 2010 Operation Ornament Project, held by the Kearney Port of the NAA, was again, a very worthwhile project. Ornaments were made by Ne-

braskans passing through the Hilltop Mall, in Kearney, NE on November 13, 2010. (See pictures on page 3.)

In addition, second grade students from the Axtell Elementary School and the Park Elementary School in Kearney, filled a big need for ornaments. (See the news story written by Sara Giboney, and published in the "Kearney Hub", on Page 2)

Early in December, the ornaments for the Blue and Gold crews of the USS NEBRASKA submarine and for Troop A 1-134 Cav. were shipped.

Commander gifts were purchased and sent separately (as they did not fit in the boxes!) to the Blue & Gold crew commanders. These gifts were magnetic dartboard games with

"NEBRASKA" written on them. A letter was included in each of the three boxes (See text of typical letter to the right)

Arrangements were made for Fleet Admiral Jack, Chief of Staff Gloria, and Scholarship Officer Dan to deliver the balance of the ornaments to the Veterans Hospital in Grand Is-

land, on the following Friday.

Thanks to everyone who worked on Operation Ornament and helped accomplish over 1,200 ornaments!

For your information and enjoyment, we are sharing the following series of correspondence which took place between NAA Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney and *First Sergeant Douglas Schultz, Trp 1-134th CAV*:

Typical Letter

To Troop A 1-134 Cav:

December 6, 2010

Enclosed in this box are ornaments hand-made for you by the people of Nebraska. Each year the Admirals Association holds "Operation Ornament". Local people and schoolchildren ramp up their creativity to send you a very special ornament, a token of their thanks, respect and support for all that you and your families do.

We have also enclosed pre-addressed envelopes for you to respond to them. They would be so ecstatic to hear from you!

Please know that we all appreciate your service to our great country!

GO BIG RED!

Mr. McSweeney,

I just received the box with Nebraska Christmas Ornaments. How thoughtful of those kids. I will send each of the schools a letter and photos to show their ornaments are in Afghanistan in the envelopes

See: Series of Correspondence on page 4.

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RECOGNITION IN THE "KEARNEY HUB"

The following story recognized second grade students in Kearney, NE, and appeared on the FRONT PAGE of the "Kearney Hub". The NAA thanks the author, Sara Giboney, and the Kearney Hub.

1,200 Ornaments

Second-Graders Brighten Holiday For Military

By SARA GIBONEY Hub

KEARNEY — Second-graders want to bring a little holiday cheer to deployed members of the military and to veterans.

Students and community members made 1,200 Christmas tree ornaments as part of the Nebraska Admirals Association's Operation Ornament.

"It makes the kids appreciate what our military does for us," said Jack McSweeney, fleet admiral for the Admiral's Association.

The association provided cutout silhouettes of the state of Nebraska, and students decorated them with crayons, glue, and glitter, McSweeney said.

Each student wrote his or her first name and age on the back of the ornament.

The ornaments will be sent to military members from Nebraska in Afghanistan and Iraq. Ornaments are also distributed at the veteran's home in Grand Island.

Community members were also invited to make ornaments when the Admiral's Association had a booth at Hilltop Mall in November,

"It's really hit home for some of these kids because

they have parents and aunts and uncles that are serving right now," Park Elementary School second-grade teacher Susan Jasnoch said.

Jasnoch's class, along with Lynette Wiltgen's second-grade class, made between 200 and 300 ornaments.

"We just honored veterans for Veterans Day, and they are quite aware of what's going on in the world, *believe it or not*, for *second-graders*," Jasnoch said.

Jasnoch said the classes discussed the importance of those who serve the

country and that they probably won't be able to come home for Christmas.

"We talked about how this might put a little cheer in their lives", Jasnoch said.

A craft station at the class' reading table was set up, and students decorated ornaments at their desks. Christmas music also filled the classroom.

"They just really got into the spirit of it," Jasnoch said. "They really did have fun with it."

"We're proud to do it. We feel a connection to the military because we are called admirals even though we are not part of the military," McSweeney said. It is a warm thing to do at the Christmas season, at the holiday season."

The Nebraska Admirals Association is a voluntary organization of those who have received an honorary commission from the governor as an admiral in the Great Navy of the state of Nebraska.

Admirals promote educational activities, tourism, and Nebraska products and work to enhance Nebraska's agricultural industry.

The Nebraska Admirals Association has been doing Operation Ornament for more than 15 years.



Park Elementary School second-graders, from left, Clay Gilg, Cameron Snider, Ella Murray, Micah Roberts and Katie Berck decorate Christmas tree ornaments for deployed members of the military and veterans. The project was part of Operation Ornament, which is organized by the Nebraska Admirals Association

~ 2010 NAA OPERATION ORNAMENT ~

HILLTOP MALL KEARNEY, NE

On Saturday, November 13, 2010, members of the Kearney Nebraska Port of the NAA, met at the Hilltop Mall to coordinate the making of Christmas Tree Ornaments for our Annual "Operation Ornament".

This photo collage is an attempt to give our NAA Newsletter readers a very small look at some of the great Nebraska citizens who took a few moments of their lives to say "Thank You" to the men and women who are far from home, giving the rest of us the opportunity to live our lives without the fears many of the world's population face every day.

The young, the old, and the in-between, stopped to say "Thank You".



11/13/2010

11/13/2010

11/13/2010

11/13/2010

11/13/2010

Series of Correspondence from page 1.

you have provided.

As a Kearney native and having both my daughters as Kenwood Alum, I feel a strong link to those kids in Kearney and Axtell.

Thank you for making "Operation Ornament" so successful. Blessings to you and your family this most joyous time of year.

Sincerely,

Doug Schultz

1SG DOUGLAS SCHULTZ — First Sergeant

A Trp 1-134th CAV

To: 1SG Schultz: "Thank You" We are so appreciative of your service to our country and the work you are doing so that we may continue to enjoy our Freedoms and Liberties. The small token of our appreciation with Christmas Ornaments seems so small compared to what you are doing for us. Please continue your mission knowing that we citizens believe in you and support your work. When you return to Kearney, please come see us so that we may say "Thank You" in person. We would like to meet your entire family. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. God's Blessings upon you and all your troops. We eagerly await your return.

Fleet Admiral Jack Mc Sweeney

ITEMS OF NOTE:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON YOUR MAILING LABEL

We would like to ask you to look at the mailing label on your newsletter. You will find a date, such as **01/01/2010** or **01/01/2011**. This date indicates when your dues are due. The NAA needs your financial support to continue the projects that support the promotion of our great State.

Your NAA Board has made a concentrated effort to update, review, and correct our membership list. But, even on a great day, we find that we can make mistakes. Therefore, if you find an error that we may have made, regarding your dues or address, please do not hesitate to contact us.

See the "**MOVING**" story to the right for ways to contact us.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

If you have thought that you would like to meet a few new people, help a lot of other folks, and have a little fun, the NAA has an opportunity for you. Please note the "VACANT" positions, noted on page 5. Your NAA Board is looking for a few good people. You will get the opportunity to travel, meet new people, and to eat at some new fine Nebraska restaurants. There is No pay, No travel allowance, some unusual and unique expenses, and sometimes, a fair amount of time commitment.

The people you meet and the projects completed, make this a very rewarding job. If interested, please contact us.

See the "**MOVING**" story to the right for ways to contact us.

MOVING???

REMEMBER

IF YOUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED OR YOU PLAN TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS, PLEASE NOTIFY THE NAA:

(By email)

naaeditor@gmail.com

Or

(By letter)

NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 83723
LINCOLN, NE 68501

Thank You

APRIL 2, 2011 IN KEARNEY
"SILVER SAILS ACROSS NEBRASKA"
NAA ANNUAL MEETING

Mark your Calendars & Be There

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Sometime or another, all of us may wonder if the NAA (Nebraska Admirals Association) is worth our hard earned dollars. Then we see some of the results of our combined efforts. This Newsletter contains, I think, two exceptionally good examples of the reason I like paying my dues, and when I can, I share a little more.

The "Thank You" note from Charissa Hauge, (see the note to the right) is an example of what the members of the NAA can do as a group. Charissa is a winner of one of the NAA Scholarships, awarded in 2010.

I find that the "Operation Ornament" comments shared by First Sergeant Douglas Schultz, humble me greatly. The task that Sergeant Schultz and the other defenders of our freedom are doing on a daily 24-7 basis, is what allows an old duffer like me to go to bed at night and not worry about anything really important. They assure that. That assurance has also come from people like the Veterans at the VA Hospital, who let me go through WWII, Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, and many situations that I may never realize ever happened.

Be sure to read the stories, and check-out the pictures in this Newsletter. We here at the NAA staff hope that you recognize how important your contributions are to these endeavors.

Thank you—Guy Miller, Editor

Dear Mr. Dan and Mrs. Gloria LeDroit,

It is hard for me to find words that appropriately express my gratitude for your generous gift.

Learning that I had received the Nebraska Admirals Association Scholarship came at just the right time in my life. I am working two jobs to finance my own way through school. I know my parents would love to help me, but they are not financially able. I recently have had to take some time off work due to a family death. When I received notice of the scholarship, "relieved", doesn't even begin to describe my emotions. This scholarship means I can take out fewer loans this coming year and have less debt when I graduate collage.

The degree I am pursuing will help me ultimately become a wedding planner. I can't think of a better career for myself. I get to be a part of someone's "Happily Ever After".

You have helped play a part in mine. While I don't think "Thank you", is enough, it will have to suffice. Thank you from the Bottom of my heart.

- Charissa Hauge

United States Navy Veteran Weldon Hake is pictured receiving an "Operation Ornament" tree decoration from NAA Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney and Chief of Staff Gloria LeDroit. Mr. Hake served in the Navy during Korea and is currently residing at the Grand Island Veterans home.



Current Nebraska Admirals Association (NAA)

Board Members

Fleet Admiral

☺ Jack McSweeney
Kearney, NE

Chief of Staff

☺ Gloria LeDroit
Kearney, NE

Finance Officer

☺ Gerald Decker
Lincoln, NE

Quarter Master

☺ Eddie Biwer
Omaha, NE

Scholarship Officer

☺ Dan LeDroit
Kearney, NE

Chief Yeoman

☺ Janice Wiebusch
Kearney, NE

Historian

☺ VACANT

Public Affairs & Operations Officer

☺ Vaughn Wiebusch
Omaha, NE

Editor & Membership Coordinator

☺ Guy Miller
Kearney, NE

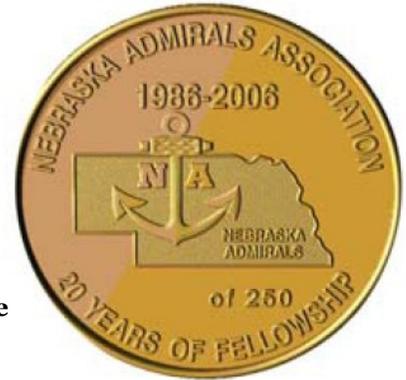
Non-Board Member Positions

Webmaster

☺ VACANT



**ALL HAIL HER ADMIRALTY!
SHOW YOUR PRIDE IN THE NEBRASKA
ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION**



**Numbered
Commemorative
Coin
\$15.00**



**Blank cards and envelopes fea-
turing 3 each of: U.S.S. Centen-
nial; U.S.S. Nebraska U.S.S. Ne-
braska submarine; and the
Victoria. 12 total
\$3.00**



**License Plate Holder
\$20.00
(Silver frame with Blue
plaques and white lettering)**



**Golden Lapel Pin
\$4.00
Anniversary Golden
Lapel Pin
With Faux Diamond Accent
\$7.50**



**Ball Cap with Screen
printing
\$8.00**



**Nebraska Admirals
Patch
\$5.00**



**Nebraska Admirals
Association Flag
(12" x 18")
\$20.00**



**Plank Walk Patches
\$5.00**



**Scrambled Eggs
\$3.00**



**Polo Shirts
\$25.00**



SALE - Clean out the Old Stuff so we can bring in some New Stuff—Call Eddie for sizes - **SALE \$10.00** - Woman's Crew Neck Dress Shirt—Red Polo—White Polo with NAA logo - **\$10.00**

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eddie Biver at 402-289-2807.

To Order any of the items above, please fill out this form and send along with your check made out to **NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION to EDDIE BIWER, PO BOX 540484, OMAHA, NE 68154**

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT	TOTAL
Mail this form to:		Subtotal:	
Quartermaster Eddie Biwer		Shipping & Handling:	\$5.00
PO BOX 540484, Omaha, NE 68154		TOTAL ORDER AMOUNT:	

THANK YOU for your Dues & for the Scholarship Donations!

Our membership dues support all the great programs the Association does through the year, including supplementing the Scholarships donations, showing the visiting sailors from the USS Nebraska the best of the real heart of America, funding Operation Ornament and of course, printing and distributing your Newsletter directly to you!

Our Scholarships GOAL is \$4,000 each year. That's four students every year in Nebraska (2 at UNK and 2 at UNL) who find it possible to finish their senior year with fewer loans. We depend on all of our members to supplement the Scholarship donations. Donations will help reach the necessary amounts needed for the Scholarships.

The membership year is the same as the calendar year, so go ahead now and mail in your \$20 check to:

Nebraska Admirals Association
 PO Box 83723
 Lincoln, NE 68501

You can pay more than one year at a time, if you prefer, and you can add extra amounts specifically for the Scholarship fund. Just be sure to specify what amount is for what! That way, our finance officer will know what's what on your check! And if you are affiliated with a company that will match scholarship donations, the Nebraska Admirals Association is a 501(c)3 organization; it will double your donation's impact!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMBERSHIP!



NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION

(A 501(c)3 non-profit organization)

PO BOX 83723

Lincoln, NE 68501

www.nebraskaadmirals.org

Happy New Year fellow Admirals!

Another Christmas has past and now looking forward to 2011. We have had an exciting year. Operation Ornament was a huge success. All the 2nd graders of the Kearney Public Schools decorated Nebraska ornaments for our deployed Husker military and our heroes in the Grand Island Veterans Home and the sailors aboard the USS Nebraska. Also, we spent one Saturday at the Hilltop Mall of Kearney, courtesy of Jill Shannon, decorating ornaments. We have two exciting stories to relate.

While at the mall, a lady approached and told us her son was in Iraq last year and received a Nebraska Admirals Association Christmas Ornament from us. She told of his warm and elated feeling of home when he received it. I have received an email from ISG Douglas Schulz deployed to Afghanistan thanking the Kearney and Axtell 2nd graders and us for their Admirals Christmas Ornaments along with his picture and a colleague in the Afghanistan Army. So to all those who took the time to assist in decorating, your time was well spent, and a BIG "THANK YOU" from our freedom protectors.

Chief of Staff Gloria LeDroit and I delivered ornaments to the veterans at the Grand Island Home. This was heartwarming to see the joy and appreciation that such a small token of our appreciation to them could evoke. Admirals, it's the small things in life that bring the biggest rewards. Chief Yeoman Janice Wiebusch and I attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln scholarship luncheon at the Lied Center. We had lunch with our 2 UNL recipients and were introduced along with all the other sponsors. One of their professors also at our table wants to help with the planning of our 25th Anniversary celebration "Silver Sails Across Nebraska" planned for April 2, 2011 in Kearney.

We had a wonderful annual meeting in Hastings, Nebraska April 2010. Well planned and full of exciting tours and outstanding food. We awarded 3 scholarships, 2 at UNL and 1 at UNK. We had sufficient funds for 2 and "Bob & Janice Batt" awarded by the Nebraska Admirals Association, the 3rd.

Please remember that the New Year is also time for new dues. We can only continue our mission with contributions from your \$20.00 annual dues and your extra scholarship donations. Each year we try to raise enough funds to purchase the elements for the Ornaments, Scholarships, Newsletters (printing & postage), and banking fees. NAA officers are strictly volunteers with no expense to the association. We also want to remind you that we have apparel and regalia "for sale" in our newsletter. Don't be afraid to purchase hats with scrambled eggs, tee shirts, polo shirts, sweatshirts, pins, coins etc. This revenue also helps carry out our mission.

Once again, I hope each and every one of you has a wonderful, healthy, and safe 2011.

Sincerely,

Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney

Fleet Admiral, Jack Mc Sweeney



Left to right at the Lied Center: NAA Chief Yeoman Janice Wiebusch, Robert Branting and Charissa Hauge from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln, and NAA Fleet Admiral Jack McSweeney

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A NEBRASKA ADMIRAL

By Dan LeDroit NAA Scholarship Officer

What does it mean to be a Nebraska Admiral? There are probably as many answers to this question as there are admirals. If you were born and bred in Nebraska, it is surely a very important part of your identity.

The Nebraska Admirals has received some bad publicity lately for a controversial awarding of an admiralship to an African president. Should this diminish how you feel about your admiralship? Not at all! You know why you received your award. That's all that matters.

So, being a Nebraska Admiral is really a personal thing. What you

do with your admiralship is entirely up to you!

The admirals who have decided to join the Nebraska Admirals Association (NAA) have determined that they want to do more after they receive a nice certificate from the Governor. They have banded together and decided that they are going to use this special designation for a greater purpose. They give tax-deductible donations so our association can fund scholarships through the University of Nebraska foundation for deserving young men and women whose goals are to promote the State of Nebraska to the rest of the world! The NAA support the sailors from the USS Nebraska on their trips to

the State twice a year! The NAA coordinates making and delivering of handmade Christmas Ornaments for Nebraska soldiers, sailors, and veterans.

If the media reported this to the public, do you think anyone would consider the Nebraska Admirals as controversial? Doubt it!

So, why shouldn't every admiral shout this fact from on top of the highest mast and let everyone know that they can certainly help us do this good work. Let us all tell fellow admirals we know and even friends who are not admirals that they can send tax deductible gifts to the association to help fund these wonderful scholarships.

Remember, the Nebraska Admirals Association is a 501(c)3 organization and all donations are tax deductible.

For a **\$15 donation**, your thank-you gift will be a set of the Nebraska Admirals Association flagship note card collection. (3 of each card design)

For a **\$25 donation**, your thank-you gift will be a Nebraska Admirals Association's Anniversary limited edition coin.

For a **\$50 donation**, your thank-you gift will be a copy of *I Christen thee, Nebraska* signed by the author, Nebraska Native Monty McCord.

For a **\$100 donation**, your thank-you gift will be a Scholarship Donor Medal.

For a donation of **\$500 or more**, your thank-you gift will be a wooden and brass plaque with your name and the Nebraska Admirals Association logo engraved on it. The plaque will read: "(your name), Nebraska Admirals Association Travel and Tourism Scholarship Program Sponsor for the year of 2010-2011."

DO NOT FORGET — You can use the PayPal link on the NAA Website to make a donation. Thanks!

The Letter to the right contains the text of the "Thank You" letter sent to the Kenwood Elementary School Second Graders, by First Sergeant Douglas Schultz. We have taken the liberty of moving some of the pictures, so that we could share all of the pictures with the NAA Membership.

The picture immediately below was sent to us with some of the first correspondence from 1SG Schultz.



1SG Doug Schultz with an Afghan Army first sergeant

The remainder of the pictures came with the letter to the right.



REPLY TO ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
NEBRASKA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
A Troop, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron (R&S)
Camp Dubs, Kabul, Afghanistan APO AE 09320

TF-KABUL-A

23 December 2010

Kenwood Elementary School
2nd Grade
1511 5th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Kenwood School Second Graders,

On behalf of Alpha Troop, 1-134th Cavalry Squadron, I would like to thank you second grade students for your awesome Christmas ornaments. Your commitment to sending Soldiers some Holiday Cheer is sincerely appreciated.

This deployment will be greatly enhanced by you giving so much. Not only will our Soldiers benefit from your blessing, but we will share the Spirit of Christmas with the Afghans as well. I have enclosed some photographs of your ornaments that have been proudly displayed on the Soldiers trees, doors, and stockings. There are also some pictures of your ornaments in far away places of Afghanistan, like the village of Katasang in the district of Musahi, pronounced MUS A HE.

My goal was to ensure every Soldier received your ornaments and we did! Thank you for your time and effort. You all have great talent and I love your artwork. I must tell your teachers that you all received an "A" in the classroom of giving.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Merry Christmas and have a wonderful New Year

DOUGLAS A. SCHULTZ
1SG, USA
First Sergeant



Nebraska Admirals Association—Operation Ornament



~ MISSION ~

NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION's primary purpose is to organize the Admirals in the Nebraska Navy into a force for the promotion and enhancement of the "Good Life of the State of Nebraska," specifically:

- ⇒ To promote education and educational activities throughout the state
- ⇒ To promote tourism in the state
- ⇒ To promote Nebraska products
- ⇒ To enhance Nebraska's agricultural industry
- ⇒ To seek and save Nebraska's sea
- ⇒ To develop and maintain ports throughout the state
- ⇒ To enjoy fun activities such as "walking the plank"
- ⇒ To build Nebraska pride and esprit de corps
- ⇒ To recycle Nebraska's assets
- ⇒ To increase the fleet of flagships of the Nebraska Navy
- ⇒ To continue efforts to have U.S. Naval ships named after Nebraska, its people and places.

~ WHO ARE WE? ~

The Nebraska Admirals Association is a voluntary organization of those who, over the years, have received a commission as an Admiral in the Great Navy of the State of Nebraska.

No governor has ever mobilized this vast storehouse of talent and ability for the good of Nebraska; it is estimated that over one hundred thousand Admirals have been appointed. Many Nebraskans and visitors to our state have not heard of our navy; they have not heard of the waves of prairie schooners that at one time plied our plains under which lies our real wealth---Nebraska's under-ground sea.

After receiving their commissions, many have asked, "Now that I am an Admiral, what are my duties, what can I do for Nebraska?" The NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION has the answer to that question, and perhaps much more. Nebraskans who have earned an Admiral's commission are more serious about the coveted appointment.

NEBRASKA ADMIRALS ASSOCIATION members are enthusiastic about working for Nebraska and contributing in his or her own unique way.

RETURN SERVICE REQUEST

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Nebraska Admirals Association
PO BOX 83723
Lincoln NE 68501

