



National Museum of the American Sailor

**August 2023
Newsletter**

The U.S. Navy has several missions, but one is often overlooked. In addition to protecting American interests at sea and defending our nation, the Navy is tasked as goodwill ambassadors to nations around the world. This is accomplished by an array of actions, such as providing disaster relief, sending Seabees for nation building projects, and by deploying medical aid. In this month's newsletter, discover how Great Lakes sailors participate in community events, learn the details of the Humanitarian Service Award, and be inspired by a Navy rescue swimmer.

"America's Navy: A Global Force for Good."

U.S. NAVY SLOGAN, 2009-2015

Sailor Spotlight: Senior Chief Esmelin Villar



Senior Chief Villar was inspired to join the Navy after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 in his adopted hometown of New York City. The Dominican Republic native joined the Navy in 2002 and was thrilled to learn he could become a part of the naval aviation community as an enlisted sailor. As an Aircrewman, Villar is a member of the Search and Rescue Team, a selfless group of sailors who dive from helicopters to save the lives of individuals in dangerous waters. The motto of the rescue swimmers is "So others may live." This is a motto that Senior Chief Villar lives fully.

In an interview with Navy Outreach, Villar said, "I hope I translate to my kids what caring really means." For sailors like Villar, service in the United States Navy means saving the lives of others and promoting good wherever they may go. [Listen to Villar's whole story here.](#)

Upcoming Events

Bricks and Bluejackets: A LEGO Event

Saturday, August 26 at 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Calling all junior shipbuilders! Build a Navy ship in LEGO form and use your imagination to create your own Navy-inspired design for a chance to win a LEGO Store gift card. This event is perfect for pre-K and elementary-aged students.

Registration is encouraged, but not required. To register, [click here](#).

EDUCATION
AND EVENTS

New This Summer: Fridays at NMAS

Guided Museum Tours

Every Friday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM

Come see the museum galleries in a new light! Docent-led tours are now available every Friday at 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM. These 30-minute gallery walks include stories not shared in the exhibit panels, behind-the-scenes stories of creating these exhibits, and an opportunity to ask your burning Navy questions.



Sea Stories

August 11 and 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Sailors are known for their elaborate stories from their travels around the world. Now is your chance to hear those stories straight from the horse's (err goat's?) mouth. Every other Friday, Navy veterans and active duty sailors are on duty to share their stories with you. Ask them about their bootcamp days, their favorite ports, the food; the possibilities are endless.

Drop Anchor Programs

August 4 and 18 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM

Get hands on history with our new Drop Anchor programs. For kids, and kids at heart, these interactive activities teach sailor skills, including knot tying and the all-important hardtack recipe. Participants make and take a project each program.



Blog Post: A Local Force For Good



In addition to the sailors serving in goodwill missions aboard, there are also sailors and civilians supporting local communities too. Sailors from Naval Station Great Lakes often support schools, nonprofit organizations, and outreach events around the Midwest.

COLLECTIONS
AND
RESEARCH

End of the month, Museum Technician Kim O. shares stories of NSGL sailors in the local community.

Read the blog on [Sailor's Attic](#).

Artifact Spotlight: Humanitarian Service Medal, ca. 1980s

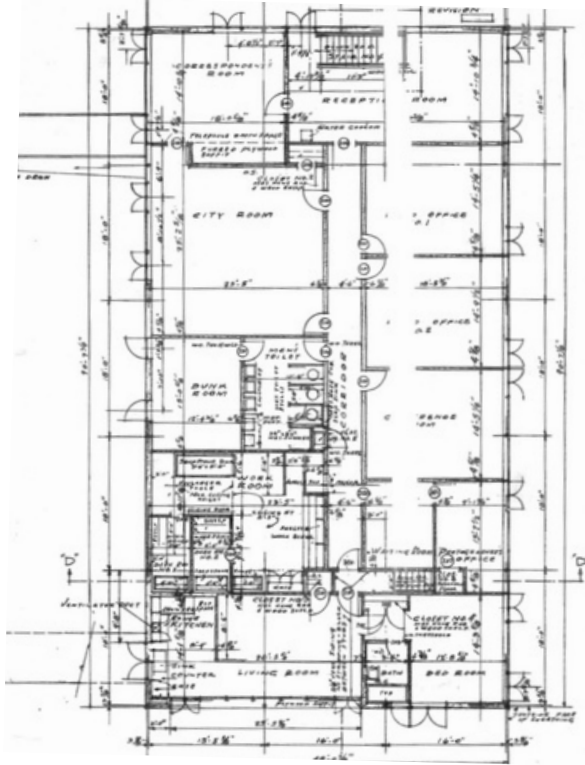
Established in 1977, the Humanitarian Service Medal is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves during humanitarian missions. It reflects the Navy's larger purpose of supporting goodwill missions for people around the world. The medal has been awarded to sailors who participated in disaster relief, refugee assistance, and much more. The medal is simply designed, with an outstretched hand on the front and an oak branch with the words "For Humanitarian Service United States Armed Forces" inscribed on the reverse. It hangs from a purple, white, light blue, and navy blue striped ribbon.

Most recently, the award was given to service members who provided relief during the Covid-19 pandemic. Dozens of sailors serving aboard hospital ships USNS *Mercy* and USNS *Comfort* received the Humanitarian Service Award for their care of Covid patients.



What's in the Rest of the Building?

Museum staff often get asked, "What's upstairs? Is there a basement?" People are always curious about what else Building 42 has in store. While the building's second floor now houses staff offices, its former role was a bit more interesting. Back in the 1940s, when the building was used as a Hostess House, the second deck was the hostess' living quarters. Staff recently came across blueprints that show the hostess' bedroom, kitchen, and bathroom.



EXHIBITS

The building's basement is similar. Today the basement is the museum's collections storage, a state-of-the-art vault where artifacts and archival documents are stored. But in earlier years, the basement held locker rooms and recreation spaces for sailors. These spaces are usually off limits to visitors, but every so often, the collections vault welcomes VIP or special tours where you can imagine the spaces in an earlier era.

NMAS at Navy Week Milwaukee

NMAS, supported by sailors from Naval Station Great Lakes, was on hand all week for Navy Week Milwaukee in mid-July. We brought historical displays, worked with students, and attended the Air and Water Show, where we interacted with more than 41,000 people!

VOLUNTEERS AND OUTREACH



**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
THE AMERICAN SAILOR**

WE ARE RECRUITING NEW VOLUNTEERS!

**SATURDAY
OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE!**

Help us tell the story of the United States Navy's enlisted sailor! The National Museum of the American Sailor has a wide variety of positions available to volunteers. There are several new and exciting volunteer opportunities. We're currently in need of volunteers to help as:

- Exhibits and Facilities Assistant
- Front Desk Greeter(s)

INTERESTED IN COMING ABOARD?

**REACH OUT TO US AT:
(847) 688-3154 X215 OR
NHHC_NMAS@US.NAVY.MIL**

