April 26, 2023

Re: SB23-212 (SeaBees Licenese)

I am a 76 year old, U.S. Naval – Seabee Veteran. I served in the U.S. Navy and had the previledge of serving our country some 55 years ago, havingf served 2 tours in The Republic of Viet Nam (1967-1969). We preformed mant construction task to support the other branches of service as well defending troops while doing these construction task.
It was during this time as a young man serving with others that I have made “Life Long Friendships” with many of them. I still keep in constant contact with many of them, as they are my closest friends today. Although we are starting to loose some of them, we get together for reunions bi-yearly.
I learned my profession of being a surveyor from the training I received there and to this day, I am still doing land survreying.
So as you can see, I am proud and thankful that I was a “Seabee”. Even today when I wear my hat with my Seabee on it, people thank me and tell me how thankful they were of having the Seabee's as support for doing things for them in the service. Or they had a family member who was in the Seabee's or knows someone how was one.
Over the years the Seabee's have been a very integeral part of ALL our military services. With this being said, I would encourgage that we honor this Unit with issuing and authorizing a Seabee License Plate. For those who are and have served as a “Proud Navy Seabee”.
Thank you and with graet expectations for this to happen.

Dennis K. Craig -EAS2
Colorado Springs, CO

U.S. NAVY SEABEES

License Plate Proposal Art

House Finance

05/01/2023 Upon Adjournment

SB23-212 US Navy Seabees License Plate

Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Richard Meehan MD For themself	Senate House Committee Testimony statements of Richard Meehan CAPT MC USN (ret)04.27.2023 . Good afternoon and thank you Senator Danielson for sponsorship of Colorado Senate Bill 23-212 and Committee members for your time and allowing me to address this committee. My name Richard Meehan MD, a Colorado physician since 1989, currently I am a Professor of Medicine at National Jewish Health and Co-chair of our Deployment lung Health Center (8 blocks down the road) and a retired "Dirt Navy" Medical Officer. I drilled at Buckley Navy and Marine Corps support Center for most of my 20 year Navy career that is the largest USN/USMC reserve support center in US between the coasts. I had the privilege of serving with the Seabees during the Gulf War where they constructed a fully operational 500 bed Combat support Field hospital allowing us to begin receiving combat casualties within 10 days. Then in 2008, I deployed as the battalion surgeon with 542 US Navy Reserve Seabees of NMCB 17 out of Ft Carson, where they would routinely construct Combat outposts in the middle of the Iraq desert, essentially a fully functioning small city for US Marines. The Goal of having a Colorado Seabee License plate would be to educate, inspire and encourage young Coloradans to learn more about the proud legacy of the USN Construction Force formed during WWII and also consider serving in the military and pursuing a very productive and vital career in the building trades (builder, welder, utilities, electricians, engineering aide, heavy construction equipment operators and maintenance etc.). These are important skills, with good paying salaries, which cannot be outsourced and are vital to our growing Colorado economy, which desperately needs if we are to remain a global competitor in construction and advanced industries sectors. When a young man or women sees a Seabee licenses plate from one of the hundreds, or thousands of active duty, reserve or retired Coloradan Seabees, we hope they will heed the plea of WWII Navy Veteran and President John F Kennedy. "Ask not what your country can do for you but ask what you can do for your country". We desperately need young Colradans to live the Seabee motto of "Can Do".

House Finance Committee Testimony statements in favor of SB23-212

Gerald Kissinger, United States Navy, Steelworker Chief Petty Officer, Retired (1985-2006 (20Y, 9M, 5D))

Good afternoon and thank you to Senator Danielson, Representative Parenti, Representative McCormick and Mister James Garinger (US Navy Steelworker Second Class) for sponsorship of Colorado Senate Bill 23-212 and to the Committee members for your time. My name is Gerald Kissinger, and I work for the State of Colorado Department of Transportation in Platteville and am proud to have served in the Seabees or "dirt Sailors", as we affectionately refer to ourselves. I "drilled" at Buckley Naval and Marine Corps Support Center in Aurora and on Fort Carson Army Post in Colorado Springs, with the Reserve Component for most of my 20 plus year Navy career.

I am privileged to have served with the United States Navy Seabees, our militaries best construction and fighting force. I joined the U.S. Navy as an alternative to attending formal education and college. Through my years in the Seabees, I have made friendships with individuals in the 50 United States, its territories and with other individuals in foreign countries. I have constructed buildings and facilities for Operational, Training and for educational needs. I would say that the United States Navy Seabees are much like Colleges and Universities, in that the Unit(s) have a specific overall stated mission as set by the President, Congress and Military leaders. The Battalions are similar in nature to Fraternities and Sororities (Cappa Beta Gamma, Omega Moo or Tri Lambda's) in that you build a lifelong bond to your Unit and with fellow service members. Our group of Navy Seabee Veterans of America, in Longmont, have adopted and twice a year perform a Day of Service to cleanup a two-mile section of Colorado Highway 66, West of Interstate 25 for over 7 years. We are accused of having "Helium-hands", to helping others and our community.

The United States Naval Construction Battalions, better known as the Navy Seabees, form the U.S. Naval Construction Force, were established over 81 years ago, on March 5, 1942. The Seabees have been an integral Expeditionary Force conducting Military Engineering while providing response to war time construction and peacetime humanitarian needs throughout the world. From the Island hopping in World War II, to Korea, to Vietnam, to Bosnia, to Iraq and Afghanistan, the Seabees have built entire bases, paved thousands of miles of roadways and constructed airstrips. A Naval Mobile Construction Battalion is composed of 800 self-contained personnel, skilled in the construction trades and many critical Navy Shipboard rates, trained in military skills and prepared to move anywhere as needed, hence Mobile.

The United States Navy has Eight Active-Duty Battalions which are based in California, Mississippi, and Virginia. There are Five Reserve Component Battalions that are located throughout the United States, in Detachments, where they perform once a month drills and a two-week period of active-duty training, once a year. Currently, 10,000 Active and Reserve Component Seabees are voluntarily serving in Defense of our Country.

In Colorado, Eighty Reserve Component Seabees perform their weekend drills at the Naval Reserve Centers located on Buckley AFS and at Fort Carson Army Post, in Colorado. Colorado Seabees have performed construction projects at Rocky Mountain National Park in Estes Park, at Jefferson County Schools Mount Evans Outdoor Lab School in Evergreen, at the Georgetown/Silverplume Loop Railroad https://www.highonadventure.com/hoa10aug/sylvia/georgetownrr.htm , on the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve parapet roofing and entry stairs, at Buckley AFS and on Fort Carson Army Post.

Our Seabee motto tells our story "With Compassion for Others, We Build - We Fight, for Peace with Freedom". You can often hear us BRAGGING, "With Willing Hearts and Skillful Hands, the Difficult We Do at Once, the Impossible Takes a Bit Longer".

The State of Mississippi is the only state, at this time, that has approved their own Seabee License tag and are working with the CEC and Seabee Historical Foundation in the sales and issuing of these personalized plates. The addition of a Colorado Seabee License tag would honor mine and the service of those brave men and women who have served in the Seabees and live in the State of Colorado.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gerald (Jerry) Kissinger
United States Navy, Steelworker Chief Petty Officer, Retired
Material Handler II, CDOT Platteville
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NAVY SEABEE HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions known as Seabees for the letters CB were established on March 5, 1942. For over 81 years in response to war time construction and humanitarian needs throughout the world. The Navy Seabees motto tell their story We Build, We Fight". From the Island hopping in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Seabees have built entire bases, paved thousands of miles of roadways and airstrips.

A Seabee Battalion is composed of 800 personnel skilled in the construction trades, trained in military skills and self-contained to move anywhere as needed. There are 10,000 Active and Reserve Seabees.

Eight Active Battalions are based in California, Mississippi, and Virginia. Five Reserve Battalions are located throughout the United States where they perform weekend drills once a month and a two week period of active duty.

In Colorado, eighty Reserve Seabees perform their weekend drills at the Naval Reserve Center located on Buckley AFB and at Fort Carson. Seabees in Colorado had performed construction projects at Rocky Mountain National Park, Evergreen, Georgetown, Buckley, and Fort Carson.

The addition of a Seabee License plate would honor the service of these brave men and women who have served in the Seabees.

The Origin of the SEABEES Insignia & Name

by Frank J. Iafrate
Originator

Early in January of 1942, while working as a plan file clerk at the Naval Air Station, Quonset Point, Rhode Island. Civilian and Naval engineers would come in and out of my office to study naval installation drawings. As they studied these drawings, I studied them and sketched their caricatures.

One day a Navy Lieutenant came in. He was the officer-in-charge of some 250 recruits who had been brought in to the newly established "Construction Battalions." This Lieutenant had heard of my cartooning, and asked me if I could produce a "Disney Type" Insignia that would identify and represent this new Battalion. These men would undergo military and construction training, and follow the marines ashore. They would not be an offensive group but could defend themselves if they had to.

I first thought of a beaver, the builder. But some research at the library told me that a beaver in trouble will turn tail and run. So the Beaver was out. Then I thought of a bee... the busy worker, who doesn't bother you... unless you bother him, at which point he comes back with a sharp sting. This was the way of the Construction Battalions.

After the idea was established, the rest came easy. I animated the bee: gave him a white hat to make him "Navy" tools to show his construction talents, and a tommy gun to show his fighting ability. I made him third class petty officer with the appropriate insignia on each arm, such as machinist's mate, a carpenter's mate, and a gunner's mate. On each wrist, the C.E.C insignia showed that he was part of the Navy Civil Engineer's Corps. Finally, on the outer circle of the insignia, I put the letter Q for Quonset.

Now, what would this group be called? "Men of the Construction Battalions" was a little awkward. I already had the "bee" for these men who worked at sea. Putting the two ideas together, the name... SEABEES was born.

The insignia drawing took about three hours on a Sunday afternoon. The next morning I showed it to the officer in charge, who showed it to the Captain, who sent it off to Washington. Admiral Ben Moreell, Chief, Bureau of Yards & Docks, Chief of Civil Engineers was about to start a nationwide campaign - and he saw in my sketch recruiting appeal. He requested only one revision in the insignia: that the Q be changed to a hawser rope, for national recognition. And today, this is how we recognize that tough and talented group known as the SEABEES