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BLACK MARINE NEWSLETTER

We Served, We Endured, We Perservered

*We don't gossip, we don't pass on Bum Scoop,
We sometime Bulls- -t,
We Tell Sea Stories
But, you always get
"The Word"!
"That's what we Do!"*

Purpose:

This Newsletter provides information about Black Marines, to Black Marines as Black Marines see it.

Topics are:

- ***"Muster"*** To give account for all persons on the Mailing List!
 - *Illness, Deaths, etc.*
 - ***"Events"***, Provide notice of scheduled events relative to Marines!
 - *Reunions, Meetings, Conventions, etc.*
 - ***"Notes from the members"***
 - ***"Mailing List Additions"*** To list new Marines added to the Mailing List or other changes affecting the lists.
 - ***"Sea Stories and down right Marine Lies"***
No jokes, because we just don't know any! (Smile)
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Muster: All present and counted for, Sir/ Mam!



Sick Bay

1. Captain, Acie Bone is currently home recuperating from his battle with heart disease. Keep Acie and Bertha in your prayers for a speedy recovery. If you like you may call Bertha and check on Acie's progress. 714-545-7200
2. MGYSGT. Ed Carter is back home after a slight setback and is making a slow recovery from his battle with heart disease. Ed sound strong when I spoke with him in the hospital and is in good spirits. If you like to speak with him he can be reached at 949-586-1259.
3. Ernie Butler reported that "he had both knees replaced in February and he is up and about and doing a lot better". He's looking forward to being able to travel soon to witness his great-grandson get married. Those of you who know Ernie you can wish him luck by contacting him at 919-662-3867.

Health News Flash:

I was contacted by Dr. Janell G. Schartel of the Boston VA Healthcare System and Boston University School of Medicine regarding a study they



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are conducting that explores veterans' knowledge, behaviors and attitudes about prostate cancer screening. After discussing this with Bill Woods and other members we agreed to pass this on to members of Black Marine Reunion. We are in support of research that will help inform United States veterans & African –American males who were exposed to Agent Orange and are at a higher risk of developing prostate cancer.

We have posted a link on Black Marine Reunion website www.blackmarinereunion.com to the Prostate Cancer Screening Survey at <https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=131118> .

We hope that you decide to participate in the data gathering effort to help researchers better understand effect of mood symptoms on prostate cancer among United States Veterans.

I took the survey and found it to be very good.

Bobby Wallace
The Gator

News From The Membership and Other Sources:

**House Armed Services
Committee Marks NDAA**

On Wednesday, the full House Armed Services Committee completed its markup of H.R. 3561, the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act.

There are many good things included in the bill. Highlights include:

Across the board 1.9 percent pay raise, a half-percentage point higher than President's request.

Maintains President's budget request for full funding of TRICARE.

TRICARE-26, Extends health care to adult dependent children, requires premium for their coverage.

TRICARE, clarifies that the Secretary of Defense has sole jurisdiction over the administration of military health care under Obama-care



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no other department or agency involved.

- Mental Health, TBI, PTSD - 25 percent increase in mental healthcare providers.
- Authorizes combat benefits for service members and their survivors of those killed or wounded at Fort Hood shooting rampage.
- Directs DoD to pay retired annuities on the first day of the month, thus eliminating delayed payments when paydays fall on weekends.

Unfortunately the Committee was unable to find funding for either the Chapter 61 concurrent receipt as called for in President Obama's Budget request or for the SBP/DIC Offset eliminations despite 330 House cosponsors and a discharge petition which, if successful, would bring the measure before the full House for consideration.

House Majority Leader Steney Hoyer (D-MD) said he will bring the NDAA up for full House consideration next week.

Source:

NAUS Weekly

Military Pay Raise of 1.9% Likely in 2011

A little more detail on proposed pay raise.

WASHINGTON -- Lawmakers are poised to give servicemembers an extra

boost in pay next year despite objections from the Defense Department over the long-term cost of the raise.

On Wednesday, the House Armed Services personnel subcommittee announced plans for a 1.9 percent pay raise next January, 0.5 percent above the target set by Pentagon planners in January. Defense officials had asked for a 1.4 percent raise based on anticipated private sector raises for 2011.

[Check out Military.com's Pay Calculator](#)

But Rep. Susan Davis, D-Calif., said the extra money is needed to help close the ongoing gap between civilian paychecks and military wages. Congress has approved higher-than-civilian pay increases each of the last 12 years.

Lawmakers have said repeatedly that the additional pay raise is also needed to reward servicemembers and their families for the sacrifices during nine years of war and because of the strain placed on the force.

“I would challenge anyone to find a civilian job that has the same set of requirements and risks as those experienced by our military personnel,” said Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C. “For me, the assertion that personnel costs are crowding out the ability to fund other defense priorities should not be solved by asking military personnel to take less.”

Even with the extra boost, a 1.9 percent pay raise in 2011 would be the lowest since the start of the all-volunteer military in 1973. In 1988, Congress approved a 2.0 percent raise for service



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members. This year, troops received a 3.4 percent bump in their pay.

May 12, 2010
[Stars and Stripes](#)
|by Leo Shane I

Source: [Military.com](#)

Another Temporary "Doc Fix" in the Works

Congress voted several times over the past 6 months to avoid a scheduled 21.2 percent cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors and push it down the road. The most recent reprieve expires June 1, and there is a growing sense of urgency among lawmakers to get another fix in place prior to the upcoming Memorial Day recess.

Earlier this week, House and Senate leaders drafted a three-year proposal that prevents the steep cut from occurring. The measure would provide a 1.3 percent raise this year and an additional 1 percent in 2011. In 2012 and 2013, rates would not be reduced and extra increases would be allowed for primary care and preventive services doctors. Congress hopes this change in reimbursement policy will help steer more doctors toward the field of general practice—an area where significant shortfalls in the number of practicing physicians exists.

This plan will be included in the much larger Tax Extender Bill (H.R. 4213) slated for floor action in the House early next week. This could pose a problem because of the extremely large price tag the legislation carries. Although the

Congressional Budget Office has yet to complete its scoring of the bill, experts say it could top \$150 billion. And while there is broad agreement on fixing the doctors Medicare reimbursement, members of Congress remain unsettled on how to pay for this change let alone many of the other programs contained in the tax bill. Unless these concerns are addressed, Congress will be hard-pressed to have a solution in place prior to June 1 deadline.

There is still time to weigh in on the issue if you wish to do so. You can use our [CapWiz](#) system to send your elected representatives a message stressing the importance of fixing this problem before the end of the month.

Source:
[NAUS Weekly Report](#)

Chapter 61 Retiree Concurrent Receipt

On Thursday, a provision extending Concurrent Receipt of both VA Disability Pay and Retired pay for years served to some Chapter 61 Medically Retired military personnel was added to the Tax Extenders Bill (H.R. 4213). However, because sufficient offsets were not found, the provisions would only be funded for two years. In FY 2011, individuals who are 90 to 100 percent disabled will be covered and in FY 2012, those who are 70 and 80 percent will be added. Further funding will have to be found in order to extend this plan beyond 2012. NAUS views this as a good first step and encourages Congress to



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find the necessary funding to extend Concurrent Receipt to all Chapter 61 retirees as well as 20 year military retirees with under 50 percent disabilities.

Source:
NAUS Weekly Report

VA Healthcare Protective Measure Clears Congress

On Tuesday, the Senate passed H.R. 5014, which specifies that VA health care programs meet the minimum coverage standard required by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148). This includes the CHAMPVA program for survivors and the health care VA provides to children with spina bifida born to veterans of the Vietnam War, to some veterans who served in Korea during specified times, and to children of women Vietnam veterans with certain birth defects. H.R. 5014 passed the House of Representatives last week and now awaits the President's signature.

Source:
NAUS Weekly Report

Heart Health Information Helps Beneficiaries

TMA Press Release – TRICARE is helping beneficiaries stay healthy by providing them with educational materials on how they can reduce their chances of developing heart disease, the leading causes of death in America. The term heart disease includes several specific heart conditions, the most common being congestive heart failure

or a heart attack. Although heart disease is typically perceived as a disease that mainly affects men, it is the leading cause of death among women. Two-thirds of women who die suddenly from coronary heart disease show no previous symptoms. Many women that do not show symptoms are at-risk.

To educate beneficiaries, TRICARE and the regional health care contractors have posted a range of educational materials online. One area that each website focuses on is the risk factors associated with developing heart disease. Several risk factors for heart disease include smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, excessive alcohol use, high cholesterol and glucose levels and a diet low in fruits and vegetables. The Military Health System and regional websites also include information relating to the symptoms and stages of heart disease, prognoses for a chronic condition, treatment options and tips for healthy living.

Only a medical professional can properly determine the risk for developing heart disease. Once beneficiaries have read through the information online, he or she can schedule a doctor's appointment to discuss possible risk factors, and, if necessary, a course of treatment. To learn more about heart health, beneficiaries can visit the [Military Health System](#) or their regional contractor's website which are listed below. Another helpful resource is the CDC at [Centers for Disease Control. Health Net Federal Services](#) (North Region) [Humana Military Healthcare Services](#) (South Region) [TriWest Healthcare Alliance](#) (West Region)



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Source:
NAUS Weekly Report

Caregivers Bill Signed Into Law

Surrounded by members of the House and Senate Veterans Committees and members of several veterans organizations, President Obama on Wednesday signed S. 1963, The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act.

The bill creates a caregiver support program, improves health care services for America's women veterans, and expands the mental health services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), among other things.

Highlights of the bill include:

Provides Caregiver Support

Immediate support for veteran caregivers by creating a program to offer caregiver training, access to mental health counseling, and 24-hour respite care in the veteran's home. This allows caregivers temporary relief without having to leave the veteran at a medical facility. Veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) are eligible to select a caregiver to receive a financial stipend along with travel and lodging expenses associated with the veteran's care.

Welcomes Home Women Veterans

Expands and improves VA services for the 1.8 million women veterans currently receiving VA health care – AND goes one step further by anticipating the expected increase of women warriors over the next five years. This bill seeks to build a VA health care system respectful of the unique medical needs of women veterans. For the first time, VA will be authorized to provide health care for newborn infants of women veterans.

Veteran Homelessness

Expands the number of places where homeless veterans may receive supportive services. For veterans struggling without a roof over their heads, this small change in the law will make a big difference in their lives.

Rural Health Care

Improves the health care provided to our rural veterans by authorizing stronger partnerships with community providers and the Department of Health and Human Services. These collaborations will allow VA to offer health care options to service members living far from the nearest VA medical facility. S. 1963 also requires the VA to establish a grant program for veteran service organizations to provide transportation options to veterans living in highly rural areas.



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Increases Mental Health Care Access

Addresses the troubling reality of post-traumatic stress and troubling incidents of suicide among the veteran population. This bill requires a much-needed and long-awaited study on veterans' suicide and requires the VA to provide counseling referrals for members of the Armed Forces who are not otherwise eligible for readjustment counseling.

Additionally, the bill included NAUS supported provisions to name the VA Health Clinic in Alexandria, Minnesota, after long-time NAUS employee, Max Beilke, who was killed in the terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Source: NAUS Weekly Report

Fry Scholarships

The Department of Veterans Affairs has begun taking applications for The Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship, which Congress passed and was signed into law last year, federal officials announced Monday. The scholarship, which honors a deceased Iraq vet, expands the New GI Bill education benefits to cover the full cost of a college education for all of the children of service members who have died on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. The VA estimates

1,500 military children will be eligible for the Fry scholarship in 2010.

Source: NAUS Weekly Report

2010 Benefits Guide Now Available

The VA 2010 guide to "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents, and Survivors" is now available online. This is the all-in-one place to learn about the benefits to which you or a family member might be entitled. Click [here](#) to view the guide

Source: NAUS Weekly Report

Benefit Alert for Marines:

Both the Montgomery and Post 9/11 GI Bills are worth over \$49,000. This money is not a loan and will help you cover the costs of getting a degree. Full-time students receive up to \$1,368 a month no matter how much tuition costs. The Post 9/11 GI Bill may even give you a monthly housing stipend of \$1,200.

Now is the time to use your benefits. Take the first step and find [Military Friendly Schools](#).

Source:
Military.com



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TRICARE Plus for Dependent Parents

Your dependent parents may be able to receive primary care at military treatment facilities (MTFs) on a space-available basis through TRICARE Plus. This program allows your dependent parents or parents-in-law to enroll at the MTF to receive primary care services.

Eligibility for TRICARE Plus is decided by the uniformed services and updated in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). If you would like more information about the program, you should contact your MTF's Point of Contact for TRICARE Plus.

Under TRICARE Plus, your dependent parents or parents-in-law are assigned primary care managers (PCMs) at the MTF. They have access to primary care appointments with similar access standards to TRICARE Prime enrollees, which guarantees routine appointments within one week.

However, they are not eligible to participate in TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Standard and TRICARE Extra, or TRICARE for Life. TRICARE Plus does not guarantee access to specialty care at the MTF, but enrollees may receive specialty care on a space-available basis. Note: The MTF does not pay for any care received outside of the MTF. Another TRICARE benefit for dependent parents or parents-in-law is the ability to fill prescriptions at MTF pharmacies.

Pharmacy services are available at MTFs even if the facilities have no TRICARE Plus enrollment available. Note: In order to fill a prescription, the medication must be stocked at the MTF as part of the formulary of available drugs.

TRICARE Plus is not available at all MTFs. Commanders review enrollment in TRICARE Plus annually and determine the number of TRICARE Plus enrollees their MTFs can handle. Enrollees may then be continued or disenrolled from the program. Additionally, TRICARE Plus is not a portable benefit, meaning that enrollment at one MTF does not guarantee access at another.

For more information about TRICARE coverage for dependent parents, including TRICARE Plus and pharmacy services, call Humana Military Healthcare Services, Inc. at 1-800-444-5445 or visit www.hurnana-military.com .•

*Source:
Military.com*

VA Updates Online Application for Health Benefits

As we reported in mid March, NAUS Veterans Benefits Advisor Mike Plumer attended a House Veterans' Affairs Committee to offer suggestions on how the VA can reduce the log-jam of claims for benefits. One suggestion Mike made was that the VA needs to design and implement a much easier to fill out and understand application for benefits.

On Wednesday the VA announced that it has revised and made easier the online



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benefits claim form called the Form 10-10EZ, "Application for Health Benefits." This revised online application provides enhanced navigation features that make it easier and faster for Veterans to apply for their health care benefits. This new version also allows Veterans to save a copy of the completed form for their personal records.

The most significant enhancement allows Veterans to save their application to their local desktop and return to the application at any time without having to start over. Previously, Veterans had to complete the form in a single session.

This updated online form, along with the revised VA Form 10-10EZ, reduces the collection of information from Veterans by eliminating some questions.

In addition, there are minor changes to simplify the wording of questions and provide clarity in the instructions. Further enhancements to the online application are expected to be added in increments throughout 2010.

Veterans may complete or download the 10-10EZ form at the VA health eligibility [website](#). For more information call VA at 1-877-222-8387 or visit the VA health eligibility [website](#).

Along with the new three-page form there are three pages of instructions. It is a government form after all!

Source: NAUS Weekly

Military Spouse Appreciation Day

President Barack Obama issued a proclamation declaring today – May 7th – as Military Spouse Appreciation Day.

The [proclamation](#) reads, in part: "*At the heart of our Armed Forces, servicemembers' spouses keep our military families on track. They balance family life, military life, and their careers -- all while supporting other military families and giving back to their communities. Many have served in uniform themselves and, understanding the obligations involved, can provide unparalleled support. They are pillars of strength in their families, often celebrating their children's life milestones while the other parent is away. Military spouses also care for our wounded warriors and honor the memory of our Nation's fallen heroes, including their own loved ones. They impact countless lives on military bases and in schools, places of worship, and neighborhoods across our Nation. Their contributions help protect our freedom by strengthening our communities and our servicemembers.*"

NAUS joins our Commander-in-Chief in saluting our military spouses.

Source: NAUS Weekly

Veteran Foils Terrorist

You may or may not have heard, but the attempted bombing in Times Square last week was thwarted by the actions of a Vietnam veteran. Duane Jackson, a vendor who works in the area, noted the suspicious action of a man and reported it to the police.

When his role in preventing the bomb from exploding became known, Mr. Jackson said that there are other veterans who work in the area and they all are vigilant and watch for unusual activities.

NAUS thanks Mr. Jackson for taking immediate and positive action when



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others may not have. Doing the right thing saved many lives. Well done!

Source: NAUS Weekly

The Television Remote Control

There was a time when you actually had to get up off of the couch and walk to the television to change the channel. Of course there were only three. Yes, that's right you young *(\$)#\$, there were only three channels. And television started at about mid-morning and ended at midnight. Yes, television ended at midnight. You read it correctly, and if you don't stop laughing I will stop what I am doing and, . . . don't make me visit you!

Anyway, as I was saying, television stopped at midnight and they played the National Anthem, showed the American flag flying, and signed off. Oh, yeah, it was all in black and white. Yes, black and white. You had to imagine what Lucy's red hair looked like. (Oh come on, you know Lucy, of "I Love Lucy" fame.)

As time and technology progressed and about the time that color televisions were being produced, a new and innovative technological implement came on the scene: a remote control. Now, you have to understand that, . . . but wait, I am getting a little ahead of myself. As color television was coming into homes, there was also a proliferation--get that word--proliferation, of channels. Yes, by now we had our choice of over thirteen channels. I mean there were so many that it was indeed hard to make a choice.

You know what you young *(\$)#\$, you are going to make me slap you so hard your relatives will hurt. It was a lot to us, okay? We went from three to thirteen in just over twenty years. You are laughing again. Not only did we go from three to thirteen channels in twenty years, but we went from black and white to color. And, now, wonder of wonders, we no longer had to get up to change the channel. We could watch any one of our thirteen channels and never get off of the couch. There was one small challenge with that remote thing; you could only go forward. I mean, let's say you are watching channel 9 and you wanted to watch channel 5, well you had to go forward through 10, 11, 12 and 13 and then start over with channel 2 and then to channel 5. Hey, you did not have to get off of the couch. You know as I think about it, the remote may not have been that great of an idea, because getting up to change the channels was the only exercise some people got. But I digress.

For some reason there wasn't a channel 1. I am still not certain why. Of course, now we use channel 1 and, yet, it is not used as a regular channel. It is a specialty channel for use by the cable providers. Cable providers . . . that is another story in and of itself that we will get into at another time.

On to the remote control. . . in case you are not aware of it, ladies, the remote control is the personal domain of the men. Of course most of them don't have a clue about how to operate it and yet they hang on to it for dear life.

More divorces have been over **control** of the remote control than over money. I understand that there was a case where the man gave up the house and all he asked for was the television and the remote control. I understand that there is a gene in a man's DNA called the **Control The Remote**



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Control At All Costs gene. No really, look it up.

I don't believe this, but my wife swears it happened. We were watching television and I was controlling the television remote control, as is appropriate. And, according to my wife, I fell asleep. But, wait, I'll let her tell it.

This is what really happened: Billy had fallen asleep on the couch with the remote clenched tightly in his hand. Suddenly, he awoke himself with a start—due to his **thunderous** snoring. With a gut-instinct, reflex action, he quickly woke up and changed the channel. Then—*naturally*—he fell asleep again. I then advantageously, and naturally, seized control of the remote. If control of the remote is not in the men's genes, I don't know what is. And I didn't really say that. **Kari Woods, Mrs. Gunny.**

I don't believe her; I think she just wanted the remote control, which I did *reluctantly* relinquish.

What was I writing about again? Oh, that's right the television remote control. Is there anyone out there over the age of fifty who actually knows how to operate one of those things? They are more complicated than a computer. In fact some of them even have their own TV screen. What I really like about them is that you can go backwards or you can even go directly to the channel you want just by pressing the number of the channel. I don't know how many channels they have now, but I think it is in the thousands, or something like that. I still watch about three or four channels. I am afraid to watch anything other than the two number channels. I might punch one of those three button channels and get sucked into a black hole or something. Laugh if you want to, but think about some of your buddies who really like to watch television and would watch some of those three

number channels. Are all of them still around? Haven't seen a couple of them for a few days have you? Oh, I notice you aren't laughing now, are you? Just be careful with that television remote control. Heck, go ahead, let the wife control it tonight. You never know?????

Billy Woods
The Gunny



Words Mean So Much

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said:

"I am blind, please help." There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning?"

What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it."



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Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind.

Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story:

Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively.

When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile Face your past without regret.

Handle your present with confidence.

Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear..

Just think God is Near! God Bless you and your family. Have a wonderful week!

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling?

And even more beautiful is knowing that you are the reason behind it!!!

If you like this, share it.

By:

Jimmy Richardson



Websites of Interest to Visit

ACES Museum honoring Black and minority veterans of World War II and their families

<http://www.acesmuseum.org/main.html?src=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.acesmuseum.org%2Findex2.html>

Montford Point Marine Association:

<http://www.montfordpointmarines.com>

Veterans Benefits, News and Information:

Visit this website for information regarding veterans!

<http://www.veteransnetwork.org> or <http://www.veteransnetwork.net>

Dave Culmer is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Veterans Foundation.

Support These Internet Sites

www.16centsaday.org

www.shoptoearn.net/jarheadenterprises

- www.ytbnet.com/6721*

WWW.JACKIESTRAVELSTORE.COM

JUST ONE CLICK FOR ALL YOUR TRAVEL NEEDS

BRENDA MITCHELL HAS A NEW TRAVEL BUSINESS AND YOU CAN VISIT HER WEBSITE AT

<http://www.ytb.com/travelwbreez>

Bill Dozier has a new website that promotes electronic smokeless cigarettes. Go to

www.nationalsmokeless.com

Distribution Request:

We ask that you provide a copy of this Newsletter to fellow Marines who do not have access to e-mail. Also, if they have



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access to a Fax machine we will fax a copy of the Newsletter and other information to them. Tell them to send their fax number to 352-259-2435 or 949-364-4300.



Bill Woods

“The Gunny”

949-364-4318



Bobby Wallace

“The Gator”
