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NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor

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APRIL 28, 2017

**MAYOR SCHNEIDER ATTENDS 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT
FOR THE UNITED STATES NAVY SEABEES**



Mayor Schneider recently attended an event at the Missouri History Museum in Forest Park in honor of the 75th anniversary of the U.S. Navy Seabees. A memorial dedication ceremony was held on Tuesday, April 18 for Admiral Ben Moreell, a former St. Louisan who founded the Seabees in 1942.

The Seabees were created on March 5, 1942 after Rear Admiral Moreell, chief of the Navy's Bureau of Yards and Docks, recognized the need for a militarized construction force. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Navy approved formation of the first naval construction battalions.

The earliest Seabees were recruited from civilian construction trades and were placed under the leadership of the Navy's Civil Engineers Corps. Mayor Schneider served with Naval Construction Battalion 74 during two tours in Vietnam and then as a Seabee surveyor in Guantanamo Bay. While in the Reserves, after earning a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Rolla, EA2 Schneider received a commission as a Naval Civil Engineer Corps officer.

"For 75 years," said Mayor Schneider, "Seabees have been paving the way to victory in war and peace, serving the Navy and Marine Corps with a 'Can Do!' spirit of great pride and dedication."

Admiral Moreell born in 1892, graduated from Central High School in St. Louis in 1909 and from Washington University in St. Louis in 1913. He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1917 and President Roosevelt promoted him over numerous Captains from Commander to Rear Admiral and Chief Operations Officer of the Naval Civil Engineer Corps. He was bestowed with the President's Award by the American Society of Civil Engineers in 1975. He died in 1978.

Pictured with Mayor Schneider is Paul Patreti of NY, NY, his long-time Navy Seabee surveying team comrade during the Vietnam War.

