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NEWSLETTER / NEWS RELEASE
From the Office of the Mayor

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**2018 NAVY SEABEE BALL IN GREAT LAKES IL
CELEBRATING 76 YEARS OF “CAN DO”**



Pictured above is Keynote Speaker Mayor Thomas P. Schneider and standing in his 19th century Naval Dress uniform is Master of Ceremonies LT. JG Cory Hauptmann.

On Saturday, March 3, 2018 Mayor Schneider was welcomed by Commander Carl V. Kirar, Public Works Officer, Naval Station Great Lakes, as the Keynote Speaker to address the 2018 Navy Seabee Ball that was held near the Naval Station Great Lakes NAVFAC, the Quarterdeck of the Navy.

2018 marked the 76th anniversary that the Navy Seabees. The Navy Construction Battalions “CB” nicknamed “Seabees” were created on March 5, 1942, by an engineer from Washington University in St. Louis. Rear Admiral Ben Moreel, chief of the Navy’s Bureau of Yards and Docks, recognized the need for a militarized construction force following the Japanese attack on Hawaii. An Admiral Moreel Memorial in Bronze was dedicated in March of 2017 at the St. Louis History Museum in Forest Park and will be on permanent display at Soldier’s Memorial downtown when renovations are complete.

“For 76 years,” said Mayor Schneider, “Seabees have been paving the way to victory in war and peace, serving the Navy, Marine Corps and sister services with a “Can Do!” spirit of great pride and dedication.” Mayor Schneider served with Naval Construction Battalion 74 during two tours in Vietnam and then as a Seabee surveyor in Guantanamo Bay. The Mayor added that the Seabees boast that “The difficult we do at once! The impossible may take a bit longer!” While in the reserves he was commissioned as Ensign Schneider in the Naval Civil Engineer Corps.