



## National Capital Area Chapter

### 41<sup>st</sup> Crab Feast

Alexandria, VA

**History:** The first Crab Feast was held in the fall of 1978 in the yard of past NCAC President, Jim Edmundson. Paul Farmer, aka Head Crab, organized the first event. At that time, Paul Farmer was serving as the President of the NCAC. The amount in the treasury was \$237 so it was required to provide the upfront money for the start. The event began in the days before computer assistance so the announcements were hand addressed on the mailings and Mr. Farmer was required to develop his own mailing list. At the outset, the Crab Feast was designed to be 100% self-catered, meaning volunteers would obtain and prepare all the entrees including the awesome labor intensity endeavor of cooking the Crabs. As the popularity of the event increased requiring more and more labor to cook the crabs, in 1983, the National Capitol Area chapter brought in a crab man to cook the crabs. After the first Crab Feast in Jim Edmundson's backyard, it was apparent that the chapter would need a larger accommodation to handle the expected gathering. In response, the event was moved to Cameron Station, a military facility in Alexandria, Va. Crab Feast was located there until the base closed in 1997. The event then moved to Bolling Airforce base, located across the Potomac River from Reagan National Airport. Most recently, Crab Feast moved to its current location, Fort Hunt Park in Alexandria VA in 2003.

**Purpose:** The National Capital Area chapter continues to hold this event for a number of reasons. It is a WVU Alumni signatory event. First time attendees note the event is a family affair with the age range running to a few months old into the 80's. There now are several generations of families who are regular attendees. The chapter works to schedule the date as early as possible so families can make their plans and extend invites to the "out of towners". Ticket admission to the event covers the cost of the meal and additional proceeds are dedicated to WVU.

**Planning:** The plan for the Crab Feast each year is initiated by the designated Head Crab. As noted, the Crab Feast started in 1978 and there has only been one Head Crab. At present time, he works with the Senior Management Team consisting of Deputy Head Crab, Holly Metz, The Chapter Treasurer and CFO, Lionel Taylor, and our Marketing Director, Stacy Adrian. The planning and associated logistics is coordinated by the Management Committee. The Crab Feast is founded on the premise of maintaining an informal atmosphere and keeping the event self-catered so the quality product can be delivered for a very reasonable price. In this regard, two factors are essential: one, many persons devote a great amount of effort during the preparation stages, and two, the day of the event requires the work of the volunteer crew in set-up, cooking, clean-up as well as making sure our visiting dignitaries enjoy themselves.



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