



OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,
Military Officers Association of America
P. O Box 7054, St. Petersburg, FL 33734



VOL VII No. VIII ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-08 ★★★★★ August 2009
Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

Congratulations!

In case you did not notice, there is another 5-Star Award displayed in our banner, above. MOAA announced a few weeks ago that the St. Petersburg Area Chapter had been awarded the coveted 5-Star Award in the 2008 Levels of Excellence Awards Program.



That makes 7 years in a row for us, and 8 of the last 9 years. That's a pretty impressive record. Thanks to all of you who, through your hard work and dedication, made this possible.

Some more good news: As I reported last month albeit in general terms, the 2009 Florida Council of Chapters Convention, hosted by our Chapter, was a huge success. In fact, the convention set a new record for surplus funds. Thanks to the leadership of CAPT Don Freese, and the tireless effort of Don and his staff of absolutely super volunteers, we generated \$11,779.39 (plus some as yet not posted interest) in monies to be split between the Florida Council and our Chapter. More specifically, our Chapter's share is \$6,478.66, plus our share of the interest. That's a nice chunk of change to go into our account.

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Another benefit of the record surplus is that we more than covered the loss to the Council from the convention that we hosted in 2006. While not a requirement to "balance the books," so to speak, it was something that we were shooting for, and,

See President's, Pg 10

Our August Speaker:

COL Sharon Richie-Melvan, USA (Ret)

COL Sharon Richie-Melvan retired in 1996 as the Chief Nurse, D. D. Eisenhower Medical Center / SE Health Services Support Area, having previously served as Chief Nurse at Ft Meade and Letterman in San Francisco. Other key assignments included Chief Nurse, Recruiting Command; Asst. Director of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, DoD; and a year in President Reagan's Office of Intergovernmental Affairs as a White House Fellow. Her master's degree is in psychiatric nursing and her Ph.D. is in Organizational Behavior and Spirituality in Organizations from The George Washington University.



Following Army retirement, Dr. Richie-Melvan worked for three years in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), as the Chief Nurse of Zayed Military Hospital. Today, she is the President and CEO of SIR Consulting Services and provides testing and coaching for executives, managers, employees, soldiers and family members undergoing stressful life transitions. She is the President of the Citrus County Military Officers' Association of America (MOAA) and sits on MOAA's national Board of Directors. She is the Secretary of the Citrus County Veterans Foundation and the Florida Veteran's Foundation. She also serves on the board of directors of the national Armed Forces Veterans Homes Foundation, Excelsior College and Unity Church of Citrus County. An oral historian, she publishes a quarterly column entitled "Lean on Me" about nurses who are serving in Iraq. Her upcoming book Angel Walk: Nurses at War describes heartwarming and heart wrenching stories of Army Nurses who served in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and will be available in bookstores October 1st.

My Apology to LTC Norton Billington (27th), LTC Hardy Bryan (20th), and Mrs. Betty Burke (7th) whose names were inadvertently missing from the July Birthday list in last month's edition. Despite my error, I hope your birthday was a good one!



Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

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- Editor – Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
- Reporter/Photos – CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS

President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
 1st VP- MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 2nd VP- LTC Terry Carr, USA 392-6524
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich 546-2246
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF 894-3761

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

2009 —

COL Ron Merritt, USA 397-9809
 CDR Maureen Conners, USN 347-7976
 Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N 347-3730

2009 & 2010 —

CDR Bill Bolin, USN 584-1595
 LT Ed Conners, USN 347-7976
 Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMember-A 595-4619

Immediate Past President

CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising LTC Janice Mogan, USA 381-3997
 Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050
 Awards Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF 525-1688
 Bylaws/Policy Bk LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC 360-2936
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 Master at ArmsCWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
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 Memorial Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Newsletter Vacant
 Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
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 Programs MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Publicity: Mrs. Chris Lillich 546-2246
 Reservations LCDR Paul Finley 391-5908
 ROWC LiaisonMrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
 Scholarships: Col Stew Palmer, USAF 343-5022
 TOPS COL Ron Merritt, USA 367-9809
 VA Vol Svc LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884
 Vet Liaison MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Visitation LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN 545-3884

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 310
 Regular Members - 224
 Auxillary Members - 86
 Inactive Members - (6)

Military Services:

Army - 72 USMC - 16
 USAF - 76 USCG - 9
 Navy - 51 NOAA - 0

7/21/2009

Luncheon Meetings The 3rd Friday — mixer
 11:00 - 11:45 luncheon; program 11:45 - 13:15;
 BanquetMasters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

CALENDAR

August 21st, Friday. Speaker: COL Sharon Richie-Melvin,
 USA (Ret) Florida Veterans Affairs

September 18th, Friday. Speaker: Fantasy of Flight

October 16th, Friday. Speaker: TBD

**** Need a ride to the luncheon?**

Call: LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908

or Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the
 month 11:30-12:30 at Perkins Restaurant on the NE
 corner of Starkey Rd. & Park Blvd., Seminole.

August 3rd Monday

September 7th Monday

October 5th Monday

ROWC

Luncheons:

- 13 October--11:30, Wine Cellar, 17307 Gulf Blvd
 - 10 November--11:30, Dolphin Inn, 4900 Gulf Blvd
 - 14 December--11:30, Isla del Sol, 6000 Sun Blvd
 - January thru May--Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd
- Luncheon Reservations: Bobbie Walters, 595-4619, or Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

Having trouble reading the *Officers Call*? Have a home computer?

Did you know that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily enlarge the pages and even selectively print out a page or more? Or, just read or print it all out in color!

To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and save valuable funds for your Chapter, call me at 727-522-6237.





Janitor's Ten Lessons in Leadership

By Col. James Moschgat, 12th Operations Group Commander

William "Bill" Crawford certainly was an unimpressive figure, one you could easily overlook during a hectic day at the U.S. Air Force Academy. Mr. Crawford, as most of us referred to him back in the late 1970s, was our squadron janitor.

While we cadets busied ourselves preparing for academic exams, athletic events, Saturday morning parades and room inspections, or never-ending leadership classes, Bill quietly moved about the squadron mopping and buffing floors, emptying trash cans, cleaning toilets, or just tidying up the mess 100 college-age kids can leave in a dormitory.

Sadly, and for many years, few of us gave him much notice, rendering little more than a passing nod or throwing a curt, "G'morning!" in his direction as we hurried off to our daily duties.

Why? Perhaps it was because of the way he did his job—he always kept the squadron area spotlessly clean, even the toilets and showers gleamed. Frankly, he did his job so well, none of us had to notice or get involved. After all, cleaning toilets was his job, not ours.

Maybe it was his physical appearance that made him disappear into the background. Bill didn't move very quickly and, in fact, you could say he even shuffled a bit, as if he suffered from some sort of injury. His gray hair and wrinkled face made him appear ancient to a group of young cadets. And his crooked smile, well, it looked a little funny. Face it, Bill was an old man working in a young person's world. What did he have to offer us on a personal level?

Finally, maybe it was Mr. Crawford's personality that rendered him almost invisible to the young people around him. Bill was shy, almost painfully so. He seldom spoke to a cadet unless they addressed him first, and that didn't happen very often. Our janitor always buried himself in his work, moving about with stooped shoulders, a quiet gait, and an averted gaze. If he noticed the hustle and bustle of cadet life around him, it was hard to tell.

So, for whatever reason, Bill blended into the woodwork and became just another fixture around the squadron. The Academy, one of our nation's premier leadership laboratories, kept us busy from dawn till dusk. And Mr. Crawford...well, he was just a janitor.

That changed one fall Saturday afternoon in 1976. I was reading a book about World War II and the tough Allied ground campaign in Italy, when I stumbled across an incredible story. On Sept. 13, 1943, a Private William Crawford from Colorado, assigned to the 36th Infantry Division, had been involved in some bloody fighting on Hill 424 near Altavilla, Italy.

The words on the page leapt out at me: "in the face of intense and overwhelming hostile fire ... with no regard for personal safety ... on his own initiative, Private Crawford single-handedly attacked fortified enemy positions." It continued, "for conspicu-

ous gallantry and intrepidity at risk of life above and beyond the call of duty, the President of the United States ..."

"Holy cow," I said to my roommate, "you're not going to believe this, but I think our janitor is a Medal of Honor winner." We all knew Mr. Crawford was a WWII Army vet, but that didn't keep my friend from looking at me as if I was some sort of alien being. Nonetheless, we couldn't wait to ask Bill about the story on Monday.

We met Mr. Crawford bright and early Monday and showed him the page in question from the book, anticipation and doubt on our faces. He stared at it for a few silent moments and then quietly uttered something like, "Yep, that's me." Mouths agape, my roommate and I looked at one another, then at the book, and quickly back at our janitor. Almost at once we both stuttered, "Why didn't you ever tell us about it?" He slowly replied after some thought, "That was one day in my life and it happened a long time ago." I guess we were all at a loss for words after that. We had to hurry off to class and Bill, well, he had chores to attend to.

However, after that brief exchange, things were never again the same around our squadron. Word spread like wildfire among the cadets that we had a hero in our midst—Mr. Crawford, our janitor, had won the Medal! Cadets who had once passed by Bill with hardly a glance, now greeted him with a smile and a respectful, "Good morning, Mr. Crawford."

Those who had before left a mess for the "janitor" to clean up started taking it upon themselves to put things in order. Most cadets routinely stopped to talk to Bill throughout the day and we even began inviting him to our formal squadron functions. He'd show up dressed in a conservative dark suit and quietly talk to those who approached him, the only sign of his heroics being a simple blue, star-spangled lapel pin. Almost overnight, Bill went from being a simple fixture in our squadron to one of our teammates.

Mr. Crawford changed too, but you had to look closely to notice the difference. After that fall day in 1976, he seemed to move with more purpose, his shoulders didn't seem to be as stooped, he met our greetings with a direct gaze and a stronger "good morning" in return, and he flashed his crooked smile more often.

The squadron gleamed as always, but everyone now seemed to notice it more. Bill even got to know most of us by our first names, something that didn't happen often at the Academy. While no one ever formally acknowledged the change, I think we became Bill's cadets and his squadron.

As often happens in life, events sweep us away from those in our past. The last time I saw Bill was on graduation day in June 1977. As I walked out of the squadron for the last time, he shook my hand and simply said, "Good luck, young man."

With that, I embarked on a career that has been truly lucky and blessed. Mr. Crawford continued to work at the Academy and eventually retired in his native Colorado where he resides

See Janitor, Page 8





Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 6 July 2009 Reported by Chris Lillich, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:30 a.m. First Vice President Ed Lillich gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry. Seventeen were present including Bill Bolin, Maureen Connors, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Bill Eisenhart, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Hazel McGrath, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton, Earl Peck and Violet Smith. Paul Finley made a motion to accept the minutes of the May meeting as printed, seconded by Anita Harrow. Motion passed.



Treasurer' Report: In addition to a full report of the account, Pete Dawson said that memorials in the names of Al Neville and Wayne Fisher were transferred from the operating account to the scholarship fund. Ed Lillich moved that the Treasurers report be accepted as presented, seconded by Earl Peck. Motion passed.

Larry Fernald gave an update on the finances of the convention. Larry suggested that the Chapter pay for the remaining hats in the amount of \$119 from the convention which would bring the income from the convention to \$11,779.39. Divided up it would be \$6478.66 for the Chapter, and \$5,300.73 for the FCOC.

First Vice President: COL Sharon Richey-Melvin has agreed to give us a presentation on Veterans Affairs in August. The Fantasy of Flight organization will give us their presentation on September 18th. The MIA-POW memorial will also be done on this date. Ed is attempting to get someone to give a presentation on this hurricane season for the October 16 luncheon.

Second Vice President: Larry reported that Terry Carr will be meeting with Don Freese to work up a proposal for a membership drive and Terry will have a full report next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

H.O.T. Anita gave the good news that we have lost one unit due to its rotation back to the States.

Twenty five boxes were sent in the last mailing and she is sending separate boxes to female troops assigned to COL Walter's unit. Anita needs more names of unit commanders and Larry will help her obtain them. A gift basket was raffled off at the convention and \$140 was made for the H.O.T. program.

Scholarship: Stew Palmer reported that we should have the scholar's name in August. We have completed funding one scholarship and have \$3820 toward the \$5,000 due for 2009. For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the funding structure, our Chapter is committed to a \$25,000 scholarship, payable \$5,000 a year for five years.

Nominating: Larry introduced Bill Lofgren as Chairman of the nominating committee. Fred Edwards, Earl Peck, and Violet Smith have been approved by the President to serve on this committee.

Visitation: Hazel McGrath gave her report on those who are ill.

MacDill Liaison/ROWC: Violet Smith said that one can now make an appointment to renew I.D. cards and the number to call is 813-828-1988. The drive through is in operation and has not encountered any problems. They request an I.D. card and the yellow third party card. Violet also gave the dates for the ROWC luncheon which appear elsewhere in this O.C.

Legislative Liaison: Jim Patton will assume chairmanship from Don Freese and will work with Fred Edwards on this committee as well as providing the monthly Legislative Update for the OC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Installation Banquet: The banquet will be held on 16 January, 2010 from 1800 hours to 2200 hours at the Bayou Club. Larry presented a proposed budget for the dinner which was accepted by the board.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Larry submitted new guidelines for the O.C. deadlines. Non-Member Donations will not be listed in the O.C. Anita Harrow sends letters to all non-member donors so they can report them on their tax return.

Betty Finley thanked the Chapter for the breakfast honoring the convention volunteers. A show of appreciation was given by all the board members.

General Peck read a letter he received from VADM Ryan thanking the St. Petersburg Chapter for putting on an outstanding convention.

Larry Fernald thanked everyone for everything they contributed to the success of the convention.

A letter was received from MOAA stating that we have received the following awards: First Runner-Up for printed O.C., Special Recognition for MMC. Five star awards will be announced soon.

There being no further business, Ed Lillich gave the benediction and Larry adjourned the meeting.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be on 3 August, 1130 hours, at Perkins.

In addition to the following numbers for the **Pass and ID office** at MacDill, please note that an additional number has been added for your convenience and a new service implemented. This new number and service will allow you to reserve a time and date for ID card service--in other words, make an appointment rather than having to go and wait your turn.

DEERS/Pass & ID: 813-828-2276 or 2278

Appointments: 813-828-1988

DEERS only: 800-538-9552





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Don Freese**

From MOAA and other sources

MOAA meets Senate Finance Committee Staff on Defense Bill Amendments that affect you!

The Senate is currently considering the FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bill. A number of senators have proposed important amendments that, if passed, would significantly affect the lives and paychecks of active duty, Guard/Reserve, and retired members and survivors. MOAA met with the staff of Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) last week to discuss the potential impact of national health care reform on military and VA beneficiaries.



MOAA was advised in no uncertain terms that the Senate Finance Committee has no intention of having the national health care reform initiative affect military or VA health coverage in any way, and no intention of taxing military or VA health care benefits. The draft bill just publicized in the House of Representatives also provides similar exclusions for DOD and VA care.

MOAA's "One Powerful Voice" needs your help now to contact your legislators. Go to www.MOAA.org and click on the link provided to ask your legislators to support key amendments.

MOAA Urges Congress to Fund More Troops

MOAA took out a full-page advertisement in the July 14 edition of *The Hill* that outlined why it is important that 30,000 more soldiers be added to the Army now. Congress has approved the number, but will not provide funding until 2011 and 2012, and only if the Administration puts the increase in a future budget request. The number 30,000 is the quantity of soldiers currently not available for deployment due to the wear and tear of years of war.

The ad, placed in support of Senator Joe Lieberman's (I-CT) amendment to the FY 2010 budget that would fund the 30,000 additions next year, outlines that thousands of military people are on their third or fourth combat tour since 9/11 with no end of the War on Terror insight.

MOAA believes that a Congress that offered trillions to banks, insurance companies, and others whose bad performance sowed the seeds of the current economic crisis "has an even greater obligation to rescue the troops and families who have sacrificed so much for so long for the national welfare."

Failure to correct that situation immediately, said Ryan, "jeopardizes our troops' and families' health and welfare, and risks a retention and readiness crisis that could be catastrophic in wartime, even as other unfriendly countries pose new potential threats."

Author's Note: *I visited VADM Ryan June 30 less than a week after he returned from his most recent visit to Iraq. VADM Ryan told me that the troops are doing amazingly good things but that for the first 4 months of this year the number of suicides in the US Army was equal to the number of combat deaths in Iraq. Our*

troops require your help to obtain the relief that they need to continue to defend us!

TRICARE Contracts to Change Hands

TRICARE has announced the award of the next TRICARE contracts. Tri West will remain as the contractor in the West region, but the North and South Regions will change hands. Aetna Government Health Plans will replace Health Net Federal Services in the North region (basically from Virginia to the northeast). United Health Military & Veterans Services will take over for Humana Military Healthcare Services in the South region (from North Carolina to parts of Texas).

The new contractors will begin transitioning operations soon, with the final turnover to occur by April 1, 2010. To find out how this may affect you go to www.MOAA.org and click on the link MOAA's answers to your questions.

Senate Tackles Defense Bill

Senate sponsors have added more than 100 proposed amendments to the FY 2009 Defense Authorization Bill, including many of key interest to MOAA.

Survivor Benefits – Senator Bill Nelson's (D-FL) amendment would end the deduction of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities.

MOAA Federal Charter – Senator Nelson also offered an amendment to provide MOAA a federal charter. This will prevent discrimination against MOAA members in states that limit participation on state veterans' advisory councils to members of chartered organizations.

Concurrent Receipt – Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) is offering two concurrent receipt amendments. The first mirrors the Administration's five-year phase-in proposal to extend concurrent receipt to all medically retired service members, regardless of years of service. His second amendment would correct a calculation "glitch" for certain recipients of Combat-Related Special Compensation.

TRICARE Fees – Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) will offer an amendment expressing the sense of Congress that military health care benefits are an important offset to the arduous sacrifices inherent in a military career, that past efforts to raise beneficiary fees have failed to adequately recognize this, and that the Defense Department should be pursuing other options to reduce health care cost growth.

Reserve Retirement Age – Senators John Kerry (D-MA) and Saxby Chambliss (R-GA) will offer an amendment to reduce the Guard/Reserve retirement age by 3 months for each 90 days activated since 9/11/01.

Flexible Spending Accounts – Senator Barbara Boxer's (D-CA) amendment would require the Defense Department to implement flexible spending accounts to let currently serving military members put aside pre-tax money to pay out-of-pocket health and dependent care expenses.

Spouse Residency – Senator Richard Burr's (R-NC) amendment would authorize spouses of active duty members the option to elect the same state of domicile as their service member.





Monthly Luncheon; 17 July 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended – 64: (59 reservations), 1 Member Guest,
1 Chapter Guest
[4 Walk-in, 1 No-show]

After our meet and greet social hour our President Larry Fernald advised us to remain standing and asked Chaplain George Brown to give the Invocation. Larry then led us in the pledge to our Flag and Country. Then he graciously allowed us to take a load off and use the chairs for their intended purpose, which we willingly did.

Larry introduced and welcomed long-time member and past Chapter President Brigadier General Paul Smith USA(Ret) and his beautiful wife Connie. We really hope that they can attend more of our luncheons in the future. He also welcomed several other members that we haven't seen in a while but unfortunately the ambient noise caused me to miss their names. One name I didn't miss was CDR Alwyn Young USCG who is a relatively new member.

Anyway you know who you are and we certainly hope you can attend more often.

Larry asked if anyone was going north after this meeting. His query did not elicit a response so I suppose we will all remain here in nice warm Florida. Larry is in the process of doing the after-action report for our recent successful convention at the Sirata Beach Resort. He announced that the convention brought in a record haul of profits for the Florida Council of Chapters and thankfully for our Chapter. Don says that the preferred term for profit is "surplus." He also said that this surplus did not come from costs to attendees but was made from advertisements and the Souvenir Book. According to all reports received this was the best convention in memory. Thanks to our leaders Larry Fernald and Don Freese and the many volunteers who pitched in to help. Don Freese spoke a few words relative to the convention and welcomed COL Troy Scott President of the Florida Council. Troy congratulated us on the success of the convention.

Violet Smith still has MOAA lapel pins for sale at \$5.00 each. Anita Harrow, our HOT chairperson, couldn't make the meeting because she has family coming from out of town. Stew Palmer, our Scholarship Chairperson, reported on the Scholarship program and the second \$25,00.00 fund we are supporting. Then Larry recognized that Victor Wood just came in. Glad he made it.

Now Larry took time to introduce the head table. On the far right Col Troy Scott President of the Florida Council of Chapters; our speaker CAPT Todd Sokalzuk, USCG, Commanding Officer of



the Clearwater Air Station; COL George Brown our Chaplain and MAJ Ed Lillich our First VP and of course our President Lt Col Larry Fernald. Then Larry announced what we were all waiting for, the door prize and equity distribution drawing. Since I was not a winner I will say no more about the drawings. Larry turned over the microphone to Troy Scott. Troy praised the Chapter for the Convention. He remarked on our designation as a Five Star Chapter and for our Communications Award this year as first runner-up from MOAA. The award was for our Chapter newsletter "Officers Call" editor Lt Col Larry Fernald. We also received the award for the Military Message Center. Last from Troy was a special award to Don Freese, a set of drink glasses like those we have been presenting to our speakers every month.

After lunch Larry turned the mic over to First VP Ed Lillich who had the pleasure of introducing our guest speaker CAPT Todd Sokalzuk USCG. CAPT Sokalzuk is the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater. He is a Coast Guard Academy graduate and his first duty assignments after graduation were tours at sea before being assigned to flight school. CAPT Sokalzuk, aided by a power point presentation, gave us an overview of his and the Air Stations responsibilities in the southeastern United States, Caribbean and down to South America. Their responsibilities are not limited to those geographical areas by any means. The Air Station operates



"Coasties" Fred Schlager, CAPT Todd Sokalzuk, and Basil Burrell

a number of helicopters and C-130 fixed wing aircraft. Helicopters are used for search and rescue (SAR) operations and for medical evacuation. The C-130 aircraft are useful for large area searches, to cover an area where helicopters are working and for delivering supplies for disaster relief. CAPT Sokalzuk was backed up by CDR Alwyn Young of Sector St. Petersburg, and a Chapter member. There is naturally a lot of coordination of efforts between the Sector and the Air Station as many cases require surface response after location by aircraft. A few glitches involving the operation of the power-point machine occurred but were resolved with instructions from CAPT Sokalzuk. In order to avoid embarrassment to Larry I will not mention his name here. After a very complete presentation CAPT Sokalzuk opened the discussion for questions.

Larry presented CAPT Sokalzuk with a set of drink glasses which I believe were identical to those given to Don Freese earlier. Larry announced that our next luncheon will be on 21 August 2009 here at Banquet Masters. The speaker is to be COL Sharon Richie-Melvan USA(Ret).

The Benediction was given by Ed Lillich.

Larry the Cable Guy: "I'm on that diet where you eat vegetables and drink wine. That's a good diet. I lost 10 pounds and my drivers's license."





Our July speaker, CAPT Todd Sokalzuk, USCG, and chapter member CDR Alwyn Young, USCG



Pat Palmer and Laurie Lanier



Connie and Paul Smith and Anne Isley (Note: Gen Smith is a Chapter Past President)



Marie Lorence and Hazel McGrath



Bill Lofgren



Faye and H. B. Love



Don and Sherry Freese and COL Troy Scott, President of the Florida Council of Chapters



Ed Riley and daughter, Pat Riley



Dot Plummer and Carroll Andrews



Richard Green



Thurm Dwyer and Ed Frasso



Hattie Hunt



Bill and Penny Eisenhart



Fran Shivers



Violet Smith, Fred Edwards, and Eleanor Burrell

Photos by Basil





Janitor, from Pg 3

today, one of four Medal of Honor winners living in a small town.

A wise person once said, “It’s not life that’s important, but those you meet along the way that make the difference.” Bill was one who made a difference for me. While I haven’t seen Mr. Crawford in over twenty years, he’d probably be surprised to know I think of him often. Bill Crawford, our janitor, taught me many valuable, unforgettable leadership lessons. Here are ten I’d like to share with you.

Be Cautious of Labels. Labels you place on people may define your relationship to them and bound their potential. Sadly, and for a long time, we labeled Bill as just a janitor, but he was so much more. Therefore, be cautious of a leader who callously says, “Hey, he’s just an Airman.” Likewise, don’t tolerate the O-1, who says, “I can’t do that, I’m just a lieutenant.”

Everyone Deserves Respect. Because we hung the “janitor” label on Mr. Crawford, we often wrongly treated him with less respect than others around us. He deserved much more, and not just because he was a Medal of Honor winner. Bill deserved respect because he was a janitor, walked among us, and was a part of our team.

Courtesy Makes a Difference. Be courteous to all around you, regardless of rank or position. Military customs, as well as common courtesies, help bond a team. When our daily words to Mr. Crawford turned from perfunctory “hellos” to heartfelt greetings, his demeanor and personality outwardly changed. It made a difference for all of us.

Take Time to Know Your People. Life in the military is hectic, but that’s no excuse for not knowing the people you work for and with. For years a hero walked among us at the Academy and we never knew it. Who are the heroes that walk in your midst?

Anyone Can Be a Hero. Mr. Crawford certainly didn’t fit anyone’s standard definition of a hero. Moreover, he was just a private on the day he won his Medal. Don’t sell your people short, for any one of them may be the hero who rises to the occasion when duty calls. On the other hand, it’s easy to turn to your proven performers when the chips are down, but don’t ignore the rest of the team. Today’s rookie could and should be tomorrow’s superstar.

Leaders Should Be Humble. Most modern day heroes and some leaders are anything but humble, especially if you calibrate your “hero meter” on today’s athletic fields. End zone celebrations and self-aggrandizement are what we’ve come to expect from sports greats. Not Mr. Crawford—he was too busy working to celebrate his past heroics. Leaders would be well-served to do the same.

Life Won’t Always Hand You What You Think You Deserve. We in the military work hard and, dang it, we deserve recognition, right? However, sometimes you just have to persevere, even when accolades don’t come your way. Perhaps you weren’t nominated for junior officer or airman of the quarter as

you thought you should—don’t let that stop you. Don’t pursue glory; pursue excellence. Private Bill Crawford didn’t pursue glory; he did his duty and then swept floors for a living.

No Job is Beneath a Leader. If Bill Crawford, a Medal of Honor winner, could clean latrines and smile, is there a job beneath your dignity? Think about it.

Pursue Excellence. No matter what task life hands you, do it well. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be.” Mr. Crawford modeled that philosophy and helped make our dormitory area a home.

Life is a Leadership Laboratory. All too often we look to some school or Professional Military Education class to teach us about leadership when, in fact, life is a leadership laboratory. Those you meet every day will teach you enduring lessons if you just take time to stop, look and listen. I spent four years at the Air Force Academy, took dozens of classes, read hundreds of books, and met thousands of great people. I gleaned leadership skills from all of them, but one of the people I remember most is Mr. Bill Crawford and the lessons he unknowingly taught. Don’t miss your opportunity to learn.

Bill Crawford was a janitor. However, he was also a teacher, friend, role model and one great American hero. Thanks, Mr. Crawford, for some valuable leadership lessons.

NOTE: MSGT William Crawford died in March, 2000, at the age of 81.

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 \$2,801.00 as of 7/20/2009

And from my former career, the following:

Two flight attendants are out walking when they come across a talking frog. The frog says, "Kiss me and I will turn into a handsome pilot, marry you, and live happily ever after."

Quicker than greased lightning, one of the flight attendants picks the frog up and stuffs him into her purse.

"Aren't you going to kiss him?" the other flight attendant asks.

To which the first flight attendant replies, "Heck no! A talking frog is worth more than a pilot any day!"

August Birthdays

(57 to 92 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
17	Augustine	John	Col	USAF (Ret)
22	Borrowes	Marja	Mrs.	AuxMbr-CG
21	Brown	Gary	B Gen	USMC (Ret)
06	Christie	Robert	LtCol	USMC (Ret)
15	Connelly	Albert	CDR	USNR (Ret)
25	Dawson	Peter	Maj	USAF (Ret)
13	Fleming	William	LT	USN (Ret)
11	Hawkins	Dorothy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
08	Hetherington	Charles	Col	USAF (Ret)
23	Hunt	Hattie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-
08	Lawson	George	Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Lovfald	Peer	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
22	March	Christian	Col	USAF (Ret)
05	Parsons	Charles	Col	USAF (Ret)
27	Peck	Earl	Maj Gen	USAF (Ret)
02	Roe	Bobbie Jo	Maj	USAF (Ret)
01	Seara	Oscar	Maj	USAF (Ret)
04	Secor	Madeline	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
05	Sherman	Kathryn	Maj	USAF (Ret)
26	Shutt	Richard	CAPT	USN (Ret)
21	Sims	Robert	Maj	USMC (Ret)
19	Speairs	Thomas	2LT	USA (Ret)
03	Taylor	Joanne	MAJ	USAR (Ret)
12	Terry	Frederick	COL	USA (Ret)
03	White	James	COL	USA (Ret)
26	Wisner	Charles	LCDR	USN (Ret)

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••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col
 Balke, Dale COL
 Cormier, Emery Maj
 Dwyer, Thurm Col
 Gottry, Catharine Mrs.
 McGrath, Hazel LCDR
 Munchbach, Rose LTC
 Tomasulo, Mike Maj
 Tondreau, Herb CWO4
 Trahan, Creighton LTC

Member donations ONLY:
 \$1,702 as of 7/20/2009





President's, from Pg 1

fortunately, were able to accomplish.

Even better, the surplus did not come off the backs of those who attended the convention, but rather from the sales of ads for the Souvenir Book and monies generated from the Silent Auction and the Raffle. So, a special thanks to those who did a great job selling ads and to those who solicited items for both the auction and raffle.

(While not a record in ad revenue, even with the majority of the book in color, our printing costs were the lowest in history, making the net surplus on the book a record.)

So, what are we going to do with our share of the surplus? I will propose to the Executive Committee (EC) that we use a portion of it to fund a recruitment drive to gather in new members. This effort will not require a great deal of the funds, since we already have paid for the bulk of the items necessary. We will have some printing costs, which will be offset to a great extent by the dues collected from new members.

Beyond that effort, the EC will decide on uses for the funds.

Again, thank you to each and every member of the Chapter for making this such a special Chapter. I am honored to be a small part of such a great organization.

See you at the August luncheon.

"All you idiots fall out!" shouted the sergeant to the soldiers standing in formation. As the rest of the squad dispersed, one soldier remained at attention.

The sergeant stalked over and raised a single eyebrow.

The private grinned. "Sure was a lot of them, huh, Sir?"

George Carlin: "Have you ever noticed that anyone going slower than you is an idiot and anyone going faster is a maniac?"

Milton Berle: "Your marriage is in trouble if your wife says, 'You are only interested in one thing,' and you can't remember what it is."



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Welcome Our New Members!

- * **Mrs. Alice (Johnnie) Neville,**
AuxMbr-AF, Page 34, 2009 Directory
- * **Mrs. Alice Fisher,** AuxMbr-CG, Page 23
2009 Directory



TAPS

- **Maj Edward J. Kilroy, USAF (Ret),**
30 Jun 2009, Page 28, 2009 Directory
- **Mrs. Louann Andrews, Spouse of Lt Col Carroll T. Andrews, USAF (Ret),**
6 July 2009, Page 15, 2009 Directory

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.

Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.
(Contact **LCDR Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

- * **Lt Col Ron Wildes, USAFR (Ret)**
Page 44, 2009 Directory
- * **LTC Sarah Niblack, USA (Ret)**
Page 34, 2009 Directory
- * **COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret)**
Page 39, 2009 Directory

Financial Report Summary for the Combined Months of May-June 2009

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ (392.37)
..... Donations	\$ 382.00
..... Ad Income	\$ 374.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (676.46)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ (312.83)

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 4,045.53
..... Donations	\$ 530.31
..... Expenses	\$(1,806.79)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,769.05

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,346.41
..... Donations and 50/50	\$ 250.00
..... Memorials	\$ 120.00
..... 50/50 Income	\$
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 3,821.41

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,243.28
..... Monthly Luncheon	\$ 1,844.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 50.00
..... Miscellaneous Income	\$ 15.63
..... Luncheon Expense	\$ 1,780.00
..... Supplies & Non-recurring	\$ 160.63
..... Postage	\$ 84.00
..... Printing Expense	\$ 273.80
..... Memorials Expense	\$ 120.00
..... VA/JROTC	\$ 551.25
..... Misc Expenses	\$ 24.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,159.23

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Next Meeting

WHEN: **21 August 2009**

WHERE: **Banquet Masters,
8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas
Park**

TIME: **Social "Hour" 11:00;
Program begins at 11:45**

SPEAKER: **COL Sharon
Richie-Melvan, USA (Ret)**



August Events:

- 2nd: First Income Tax--Congress Enacted
the income tax in 1861
- 4th: Coast Guard Day (Established, 4 Aug
1790)
- 13th: International Left Handers Day
- 17th: Davy Crockett's Birthday, 1786

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, August 21st

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday August 19th

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$12:

Prime Rib: _____

Stuffed Flounder: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

*** CLIP and MAIL, with check to:

LCDR Paul Finley, USN (Ret)

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Largo, FL 33777

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call:**

**LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908 or
Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237**