



# OFFICERS CALL

## ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

Military Officers Association of America  
P.O. Box 7054 St. Petersburg, FL 33734



**VOL. VI No. VIII ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-06 ★★★★★ August 2008**  
**Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!**

### President's Comments:

As you read this, you have probably noticed a difference, but that difference has not yet sunk in. So, let me be the first to welcome you to the "New *Officers Call*." New, because this page, the back page, and the middle two pages are now in full, living color.



So, exactly what does that mean?

First, I need a new photo to replace the one at the right. Maybe I can get Harrison Ford or someone like that to "stand in" for me.

Second, when Basil points his camera at you, the result will be a color photo suitable for printing.

And, third, the additional charge for color is minimal.

We can do all that because of a new printing company that we are trying. I would like to say that we found this company, but the truth is that they came to us and sold us on their abilities.

So, for the next several months, we will try this new company and format. And, if your feedback is favorable, we will continue with the color pages as you see them in this edition.

You will also notice that things have been moved around in this issue as compared to previous issues. The calendar of events, formerly on the back page, is now on page 2. Luncheon notes and Basil's photos are now in the middle, pages 6 and 7. Basil's notes are continued to a following page to accommodate more color photos.

Thanks to Bob Weisensee of Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc., for seeking us out, and to Al Neville for working out the technical stuff with Bob.

Some other new stuff going on that concerns us as military retirees: First, on 1 July, 2008, the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs, headed by RADM LeRoy Collins, Jr., USNR (Ret), created the Florida Veterans Foundation, Inc., (FVF) as a tax-exempt public organization to support the Dept of Veterans' Affairs and to provide "assistance and services to Florida veterans and their families." For more information on the FVF, please go to the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs website at [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org).

Another new initiative for veterans and retirees is the new online claims application for the Department of Veterans Af-

**See President's, Pg 4**

### Our August Speaker:

Lt Col Richard ("Dick") Petrucci

Dick's home of record is Westport, CT. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1961 and served in the U.S. Navy as an Aviator for twenty-five years retiring as a Captain in 1986. During his Navy career he had four squadron tours including command of Patrol Squadron 26 at NAS Brunswick, Maine.



Dick's Navy experience also includes Naval Postgraduate School, Naval War College, a tour at the U.S. Naval Academy, and three senior staff assignments in Washington, D.C.

After retirement in 1986, Dick joined Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company (LMAS) in Marietta, GA as a senior engineer. He was a member of the concept development team for the EC-5B Airborne Command Post, and flight station design teams on both the C-130J and Orion 2000 programs. He retired from Lockheed Martin in 1998 and moved to Florida. He was the first Math & Science Department Head at the Sarasota Military Academy and taught there for three years helping to establish SMA as the first military charter high school in the U.S. He is a member of



of CAP's SRQ composite squadron in Sarasota where he is the Deputy Squadron Commander and Safety Officer. Dick is a mission pilot, instructor pilot, Cadet Orientation Pilot, and Cadet Aerospace Education Officer. He has Airline Transport Pilot and flight instructor ratings with over 7,500 hours total pilot time. Dick is a volunteer FAA Safety Team Representative providing safety support to the local area pilots.

Currently, Dick is an adjunct IT instructor at Everglades University in Sarasota. Also, Dick serves as a Naval Academy Information Officer, is a member of the Naval Academy Alumni Association, is the VP for Education of the Sarasota-Manatee Council of the Navy League, and is a MOAA member.



# Officers Call

## Print media winner-2006



-*Officers Call* is published monthly by The St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc. P.O. Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734. Articles in *Officers Call* are the sole opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies or opinions of the publisher. Mailed as third class mail at the St Petersburg Post Office, Permit #1533. Printed by Sir Speedy, St Petersburg, FL.

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AND Life Members Emeritus AND Past Presidents

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership	- 323
Regular Members	- 234
Auxiliary Members	- 89
Inactive Members	- (4)

### Military Services:

Army - 83	USMC -13
USAF - 77	USCG - 8
Navy - 52	NOAA - 1

7/24/2008

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

## CALENDAR

**August 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Lt Col Dick Petrucci, Civil  
Air Patrol

**September 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Mr. Gerry De Tore,  
Panama Canal

**October 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**November 21<sup>st</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, Friday(Second Friday), 11:00** Toys  
for Tots

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

**Call: CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637**

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

**August 4<sup>th</sup> Monday**

**September 8<sup>th</sup> (Second Monday)**

**October 6<sup>th</sup> Monday**

**November 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

**December 1<sup>st</sup> Monday**

## ROWC

- **Luncheon** – (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30  
Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146 (luncheons  
resume in October)
- **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

**Bridge** – (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM  
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.  
• Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or  
Margaret Peck 525-1688

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computer?

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## For Texans in ‘Lost Battalion,’ real heroes were Japanese-American

**12:15 AM CDT on Friday, July 18, 2008**

By **DAVID McLEMORE / The Dallas Morning News**  
dmcmlemore@dallasnews.com

After more than 60 years, they remember the cold rain and the ferocity of combat in a fog-shrouded forest straight out of a fairy tale. Most of all, they remember the shared joy of survival.

In October 1944, 270 soldiers of a battalion of the 36th Division of the Texas National Guard were trapped by a much larger German force in the Vosges Mountains of France. Desperately low on food, water and ammunition, the Texans resisted for six days. On the seventh day, help came from an unexpected source.

During World War II, a Texas National Guard unit was surrounded by the German Army in France. They were rescued by the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit composed of Japanese-Americans, after six days of fighting.

Members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of Japanese-Americans, many whose families remained locked up in relocation camps in California, fought a grinding battle inch by inch up the mountains to reach the “Lost Battalion.” They did so at a terrible price, suffering as many casualties in the relief effort as they saved.

Today and Saturday, the Texas Military Forces Museum at Camp Mabry in Austin will exhibit newly found artifacts and hear talks by veterans of the battle. It is a reminder, said museum director Jeff Hunt, of how bravery and dedication to duty triumphed over intolerance on a cold, miserable battlefield 64 years ago.

“It is a story of courage, dedication and sacrifice,” Mr. Hunt said. “It shows that for soldiers in combat, skin color, religion or ethnicity doesn’t matter. Whatever residual animosity some may have held against Japanese-Americans was wiped away by the 442nd’s performance on the battlefield.”

In late 1944, the 36th Division spearheaded a drive through the forests of the Vosges as part of a planned strike into the German Rhineland. The 1st Battalion, 141st Infantry – the Alamo Battalion – was at the spear’s tip.

The battalion’s push eastward toward Colmar was supposed to be fast and well-supported. It wasn’t. When a much larger German force encircled them Oct. 24, the Texans had food and ammunition for only a few days. The only water they carried was in their canteens.

1st Lt. Martin Higgins took command, ordering his 270 soldiers to dig in and prepare to fight.

“Dad had been an accountant before the war and was an intensely modest man,” said his son, Michael Higgins. “He suddenly found himself part of something that is the stuff legends are made of.”

Spit and spirit

Erwin Blonder, then a young lieutenant serving as a forward observer, remembers that the Germans began firing tree bursts – artillery shells set to detonate in the treetops that sent steel shrapnel and needle-sharp wood fragments down on the Texans, sounding like so many angry bees.

“We dug in and then we dug some more, covering our holes with tree branches,” he said. “At 6 feet, 4 inches, I had to dig a lot longer than most.”

Lt. Blonder had the only working radio in the battalion. Its batteries normally lasted two days in combat. He made them last six days as he sent out cryptic messages for help and to coordinate targets for headquarters artillery.

“It was a matter of prayer and an old Boy Scout trick,” said Mr. Blonder, 87, of Palm Beach Garden, Fla. “I remembered that if you spit on the batteries, you could get a little more electrical charge.”

Each day, the Lost Battalion underwent probing infantry attacks and more artillery shelling. Lt. Blonder’s messages were brief: Send food. Send ammo. Send help.

“We had no idea what would happen,” he said. “We were told help was coming. So we kept waiting.”

The Army attempted to send them food and supplies packed into dummy artillery shells and fired into their position. Those that made it into their lines contained chocolate bars.

The 405th Fighter Squadron got the mission of attempting supplies by air. 1st Lt. Eziel “Arch” Archilla and other P-47 Thunderbolt pilots would have to fly through bad weather and drop spare fuel tanks filled with food, ammo and medicine to the beleaguered Texans.

“The weather was foul. We had to find them through the fog and trees, then dive-bomb the supplies at low altitude under intense German fire,” said Mr. Archilla, 84, of Dallas.

“We were thrilled to be the squadron to do the job,” he said. “We were all in our 20s and didn’t think much about the danger. That kept us going.”

Two attempts to reach the besieged Texans failed. The 36th Division commander then ordered the 442nd Regimental Combat Team to try.

‘The heroes of this story’

The Japanese-American unit had already experienced a hard war. Some were kicked out of the Army after Pearl Harbor as security risks. Many others were moved with their families to U.S. relocation camps.

When the Army accepted volunteers for a 4,000-member regiment, about 1,500 volunteered from the camps. The 442nd fought in some of the hardest combat during the invasion of Italy and had just come off months of combat when ordered to rescue the Texans.

On Oct. 25, 1944, the 442nd set off in a cold rain, encountering fierce German resistance all the way. German artillery rained down constantly, and the 442nd suffered heavy casualties.

**See Texans, Pg 11**





## President's, from Pg 1

fairs. "People can now file initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits online. VA will process applications received through its online application web site, VONAPP, without the claimant's signature."

And, within MOAA, there is a drive afoot to upgrade the life membership. Those of you who are not MOAA Life Members, should have received a letter from us telling of the benefits and costs associated with Life Membership and encouraging you to seriously consider converting to Life Membership. If you are at all interested, now is the time to convert.

Our next luncheon is on 15 August at the normal place--Banquet Masters, in Pinellas Park. Please join us. And, please bring one of your retired military friends.

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## Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 9 June 2008

Reported by **Chris Lillich, Acting Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:26 a.m. The invocation was given by First Vice President Ed Lillich. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Fernald.

The following were in attendance: Basil Burrell, Fred Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Bob Eynatten, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Anita Harrow, Ed Lillich, Chris Lillich, Marie Lorence, H. B. Love, Janice Mogan, Al Neville, Stew Palmer, Earl Peck and Violet Smith.

Violet Smith corrected an omission from the minutes of 9 June 2008. Colonel (MSC) USAF Dennis Beatty is the new hospital commander at MacDill. Colonel Beatty took Command on 3 July 2008. He replaced Colonel Michael Culhane, who has retired. A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

Larry Fernald gave the Treasurer's report in Pete Dawson's absence. By unanimous vote the Treasurer's report was accepted as published.

Ed Lillich reported that Gerry De Tore, a director on the board of the Panama Canal Museum has been asked to speak to us on September 19, 2008 about the Canal Zone. Mr. DeTore provides an extremely informative presentation that includes a video and personal family anecdotes from his grandfather, father and his involvement in building the canal and living there.

Janice Mogan thanked Pauline Edwards, the publicity chairman for the Retired Officers Wives Club for a CD for media contacts for advertising for the convention.

**MEMBERSHIP INITIATIVES:** Al Neville reported that the life membership update has been mailed out first class in order to insure that delivery has been made to all our members. Bulk

mailing requires 200 envelopes and we only had 136 members of the Chapter who are not life members. Don, Larry, and Al have decided to concentrate on MOAA members who are not affiliated.

**OFFICERS CALL:** Larry is always looking for a lead article for upcoming issues. If anyone has any experiences or war stories that they would like to put in print, please let Larry know.

**HOT:** We received an e-mail from Lt Col Gregg Stankowicz who suggested items such as **Lip balm, unscented baby wipes, beef jerky, small packets of drink mix for individual water bottles, magazines, small bottles of hand sanitizers, chewing gum, and cookies.** We have fifteen pounds of Starbuck's coffee beans to put in the packages. Anita is ready to get the boxes out in the next couple of weeks. Anita is writing thank you notes to those who have made significant contributions.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bob Eynatten reported that the Cobb Salads have been going well at the luncheons; the prices will hold for the time being.

Larry Fernald appointed Brent Gudmundson to be on the Awards Committee.

**CRUISE:** Larry has been in contact with a charter service for the trip to the cruise ship and he will have more information on it soon. There are now fourteen or sixteen signed up for the cruise.

**CONVENTION:** Lt Gen Allen Peck is tentatively lined up to speak at the All Hands Breakfast, or he could be the speaker for the Military Ball.

Violet Smith has contacted Moonyeen Everett, president of R.O.W.C. who has agreed to take on the project of providing items for convention bags.

The Installation meeting will be Friday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January at the Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

If anyone would like MOAA business cards please contact Larry Fernald as he has the boilerplate and all he has to do is change the name and personal information.

Jane Blacklin from Bay Pines V.A. Hospital will be the speaker for the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

One of the tentative programs we have lined up for the convention is Security Update. Gen Peck organized it in 2006 and it was very well accepted. We need to look into restructuring this program to meet current events. Larry needs some ideas on this program. Al Neville made some suggestions which will be followed up.

There being no further business, Ed Lillich gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Lillich, Acting Secretary

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## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by Don Freese from MOAA and other sources

### “Unveto” Impact On You and Your Doctor

On July 15, both the House and Senate flexed their “unveto” authority by voting overwhelmingly to override the President’s veto of the bill that reversed the 10.6% cut in payments to doctors for visits since July 1. Therefore:

- TRICARE payments will continue at the current rate without interruption
- Medicare and TRICARE rates will be increased 1.1% as of January 1, 2009
- Medicare coverage for physical, speech and occupational therapy is restored for medically necessary care

MOAA lobbyists worked hard to gain the “unveto” majority but it took your letters and emails to make it happen once again proving “One Powerful Makes” a difference!

But as Yogi Berra says “It aint over until it’s over” the problem will come back with a vengeance at the end of next year, when we’ll be facing a 21% cut in Medicare and TRICARE payments as of January 2010 if Congress doesn’t act in the interim to fix the current statutory payment formula that imposes these crazy annual cuts.

### Time to Act on TRICARE, Concurrent Receipt, SBP, and More

Senate leaders are planning to act on the FY2009 Defense Authorization Bill during the last week of July. Now is the time for MOAA members and others to show the same level of interest they did in getting the Medicare bill passed.

You can do that by using MOAA’s Web site to [urge your senators](#) to support selected amendments that are crucial to our members’ interests, including:

- Sen. Frank Lautenberg’s (D-NJ) and Sen. Chuck Hagel’s (R-NE) amendment to protect military beneficiaries from disproportional TRICARE fee hikes
- Sen. Harry Reid’s (D-NV) amendment to expand eligibility for concurrent receipt payments
- Sen. Bill Nelson’s (D-FL) amendment to end the DIC offset for SBP widows
- Sen. Saxby Chambliss’ (R-GA) amendment to provide fairer retirement credit for Guard and Reserve members who served in Iraq and Afghanistan

Even if you previously sent this message, send it again. Congress has a short attention span, and volume counts.

### Retro Payment Program Probed

Earlier this week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy grilled Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) officials and their contractors about problems highlighted in a 14-page report, released Tuesday, severely criticized the center’s process-

ing of retroactive pay awards for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP).

In July 2006, DFAS awarded a no-bid contract for the VA Retro program to determine eligibility for retroactive payments to over 217, 000 potential retirees. In May 2008 an investigation was initiated to determine the causes behind the delays in the VA Retro program. The investigators found, among other things, that “no retroactive pay due” letters were sent to 28,000 retirees without being checked for accuracy, and that 8,700 disabled veterans died before having their case reviews completed.

As a result of the investigation DFAS assured the Subcommittee that retirees who received the “no pay due” letters would have their cases reviewed and all “on-going” cases are expected to be completed by August 2008.

### Red Tape Cut for Military Kids – in 10 States

Thanks to Delaware’s approval last week, a commission can now be formed to help military children more easily navigate various state education systems when they move among the 10 states, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, Oklahoma and North Carolina.

Achieving the 10-state threshold to implement the compact is a great step forward, but there’s work yet to be done.

MOAA has been a supporter of the compact since the beginning, and MOAA members, chapters and councils continue to work hard to promote its adoption in their states.

### Senate Panel Invests More in Vets

The House Appropriations Committee has already increased the administration’s VA and military construction budget by almost \$30 billion. Now the Senate Appropriations Committee is set to do the same thing.

MOAA supports such efforts to continue improving a VA health care system that was chronically under-funded in past years, given increasing demand from an aging veteran population and the rising numbers of returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.



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October 2008





## Luncheon Meeting; 18 July 2008

Reported by Basil Burrell

**Attended – 50:** (48 reservations), 27 Members, 6 Auxiliaries, 12 Spouses, 2 Member Guests, 3 Chapter Guests  
[2 Walk-ins, 0 No-shows, (0) Cancellations]

Our president, Larry Fernald, got us started on time today and asked our Chaplain, George Brown, to give the Invocation. After George's inspiring delivery, Larry led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag and Nation. It seems that Larry got here today without forgetting anything. Who says that Larry is not a great leader! Larry then asked if we had new members or guests today. A prominent guest was LT Brian Clark USNR who is a Merchant Marine Officer whose ship's home-port is Tampa. Welcome Brian and we all hope to see



you often and hope you can join our Chapter of MOAA. Also noted was RADM Sid Vaughn USCG (Ret) who is a long-time member but who hasn't attended for a while. We need all the Coast Guard people we can get in order to balance out the overwhelming Air Force, Navy and Army members.

Larry reminded us that we are hosting the 2009 Convention from 5 to 7 June 2009 at the



Stanley and Amaryllis Maratos

at the Sirata Beach

Resort on St. Pete Beach. There are application and registration forms for vendors and members on the table at the front. There is also an on-line registration form on our web site where you can sign up and print it out and mail in your form. Larry asked Don Freese for some comments. Don says that Janice Mogen has already sold some ads for the Convention Book. Don asks that anyone who has a copy of the 2006 Convention Souvenir book to bring it to him or to Janice to help in selling ads. If prospective advertisers see what a nice catalog we put out they will be encouraged to buy an ad in the 2009 catalog. On 11 August at 1030 there will be a committee meeting at the Sirata for convention planning. There will be a tour of the

facilities and if anyone wishes they can have lunch. Don refuses to buy lunch, so it will be at your expense! Don says that the room registration is going well and encourages us to reserve our rooms soon in order to beat the rush. Don gave the floor back to Larry.

Larry again is trying to sell MOAA lapel pins at the unheard of low price of \$5.00 each or for a real bargain, 3 for \$18.00. Prices of everything are going up. Last month the pins could be had for 3 for \$17.00. Larry reported that at the 2008 Convention we received an award for the Military Message



Sid Vaughn

Center (MMC). He decided that our members who started the MMC should receive the award. Accordingly, he gave the credit where it was due. Fred Edwards and Brent Gudmondson were responsible for starting the MMC and Larry said they deserved all the credit. Since Brent wasn't here Fred accepted the award and credited Brent with changing the normal military thinking to produce a good MMC. Now came the part of the meeting that everyone was waiting for. Door prize and equity distribution drawings. Our guest, Brian Clark, won an equity distribution prize. The HOT program is up and running again thanks to Anita Harrow and her group. Contact has been made with an Air Force forward air control group in Afghanistan who will begin receiving our largess soon. Now to the Scholarship program. We have completed funding our first \$25,000.00 program and are now starting on our second 5 year, \$25,000.00 fund.

Larry asked Violet Smith to say a few words. Violet told surviving spouses to look carefully at the August issue of Military Officer Magazine (MOM) as it has some important information for them. Pay particular attention to the cover wrap of MOM and take the survey. You may win a cruise! MOAA web site has a new section for surviving spouses. Go to the web site and click on "families", there is new web page and your opinion is desired. Anita Harrow is the MOAA auxillary liaison for our Chapter. She can take any articles you may have



Thurm Dwyer and Nancy Vildibill

See Basil, pg 8



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>





LEFT: Our speakers,  
Jayne Blacklin and  
Jake Bauer



RIGHT: Violet  
Smith and Fred  
Edwards



Hazel McGrath and Cal Imboden



Hazel Murphy and Janice Mogan



Larry Fernald and LT Brian Clark, our  
newest member



Genevieve Poteat and Eleanor Burrell



LEFT: Marie Lorence

RIGHT: Dot Plummer





## The Buzz

### Chapter Happenings and Items of Interest

Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret)

522-6237 or Larry246MOAA@sprynet.com

■ **2006 Convention Souvenir Books Wanted:** I am sure that a lot of you are like me and never throw anything away until it is time to move to our next duty station so we are hoping that some of you will still have the 2006 or even 1999 Florida Council of Chapters Souvenir Book. Showing the high quality 2006 book will help us sell Ads for the 2009 Book. Please bring your book to our next meeting or contact Janice Mogan, 381-3997, or Don Freese, 360-3102.

■ **Congratulations:** Congratulations to our Army Spouse member, Chris Lillich, who was elected the First President of the newly formed Paradise Lutheran Church located on Treasure Island, FL. Paradise Lutheran Church was formed when The Holy Comforter and Garden of Peace Lutheran Churches merged June 29, 2008. Chris Lillich and member Ron Merritt were instrumental in getting the two churches together.

■ **Found:** Black Ralph Lauren Umbrella was left at Banquet Masters July 18, 2008. Contact Don Freese, 360-3102 to claim.

■ **LCDR Matt Poage, USN,** one of our now three active duty, guard, or reserve members is on his way home from a year deployment to Afghanistan. Matt was in Kuwait last week on the first step in his RTB to the States. Welcome Home, Matt! We hope to have you as a speaker to tell us of your deployment in the very near future.

■ **VA offers new online resource service:** SAN ANTONIO (AFRNS) – The Department of Veterans Affairs is offering a new online service, My HealtheVet, which is a gateway to veteran health benefits and services. It provides access to: trusted health information; links to federal and VA benefits and resources; the Personal Health Journal; and online VA prescription refill service.

In the future, MHV registrants will be able to view appointments, co-pay balances, and key portions of their VA medical records online. My HealtheVet is a powerful tool to help veterans better understand and manage their health, according to VA officials.

The Web site also features a section called “Learn About” which provides resources on a variety of topics such as computers, the Internet, phishing scams and telephone scams. Health information from A to Z plus medical dictionaries, an encyclopedia, journals, and more will be available soon.

To visit the My HealtheVet site, go to [www.myhealth.va.gov/](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/).

#### Basil, from Pg 6.

to share and your opinions about MOAA and its services. The MOAA web site can be found at: [www.moaa.org](http://www.moaa.org).

Larry attended a Chapter meeting in Crystal River and met Matt Pogue’s parents there. They say Matt is in Kuwait now

and will be home soon. Don Freese’s son Marc Freese who is home now from Iraq presented the Chapter with an American Flag from Camp Fallujah in Iraq. Our Board of Directors will find a way to properly display it. Don reported on the “Life Membership” program being pushed by MOAA. MOAA will give a 10% discount on the Life Membership fee to encourage more members to become Life Members. It is a good program and I know because I became a Life Member several years ago. And I did not get a 10% discount! We have had 5 members sign up already.

The Coast Guard will celebrate its 218th birthday on 4 August. The actual celebration is scheduled for 31 July at the Coast Guard Air Station at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport. The Navy League is sponsoring the cook-out and is asking for a \$5.00 donation from attendees. The affair is to start at 5:30 and last until 7:30. Larry says that our scheduled SOCOM speaker for August has had to cancel because of other commitments. So the search is on for a replacement.

Larry introduced our speakers Jayne Blacklin LCSW and Jake Bauer from the Bay Pines VA Hospital. Jayne was here last month but her colleague at that time went too far over his time limit so she didn’t get a chance to speak. Jayne is the OEF/OIF program manager. The OEF/ OIF programs are designed to help Iraq and Afghanistan veterans navigate the complex VA and DoD health care systems. Jayne’s program has improved the care that veterans receive from both the Defense Department and the VA. There have been a lot of problems in the recent past due to the system being too complex. Brain trauma seems to be a signature injury in this modern war. A new feature requiring better understanding is that there are many injured female veterans who require care that neither the VA or the DoD was set up to treat. Since female veterans are likely to have children, their care must also be considered. Because many of the National Guard and Reserve troops are aged in their 50’s or even 60’s, they also need special care in many cases. Jake Bauer spoke a few minutes. Questions were taken and answered. Larry asked Chaplain George Brown to give the benediction and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully, Basil

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## HOT – Help Our Troops

Mrs. Anita Harrow, HOT Committee Chair

Please see the list of items on page 4, second column, in bold, that we would like to send to our troops in Afghanistan. If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them with you to the luncheon on August 15th.

### Financial Report

for the  
Month of June 2008

#### Officers Call Boosters

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$1,282.02
Donations.....	\$ 72.00
Advertising Income.....	\$ 100.00
Printing Expenses.....	\$ 286.88
Postage Expenses.....	\$ 200.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 967.14

#### HOT Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$3,397.30
Donations.....	\$ 240.00
50/50 Income.....	\$ 50.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$3,687.30

#### Scholarship Fund

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$2,031.00
Donations.....	\$ 146.00
Scholarship Payoff .....	\$2,024.59
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 152.41

#### Operating Account

Balance, Beginning of Month.....	\$1,197.26
Monthly Luncheon.....	\$ 685.00
Dues/Give Me 10.....	\$ 55.00
Miscellaneous Income.....	\$ 44.00
Luncheon Expense.....	\$ 710.00
Supplies Expense.....	\$ 22.00
Postage Expense.....	\$ 000.00
Printing Expense.....	\$ 164.81
Memorials Expense.....	\$ 00.00
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	\$ 25.00
Balance, End of Month.....	\$ 1,059.45

## August Birthdays

(61 to 91 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)
15	Connelly, Albert		CDR	USNR (Ret)
25	Dawson, Peter		Maj	USAF (Ret)
05	Diedo, Edward-2		LTC	USA (Ret)
28	Elliott, Marvel		LTC	USA (Ret)
13	Fleming, William		LT	USN (Ret)
11	Hawkins, Dorothy	Mrs.		AuxMbr-AF
08	Hetherington, Charles		Col	USAF (Ret)
22	Hunt, Hattie,	Mrs.		AuxMbr-
08	Lawson, George		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)
13	Rowe, Elmer		MAJ	USA (Ret)
04	Secor, Madeline	Mrs.		AuxMbr-AF
26	Shutt, Richard		CAPT	USN (Ret)
21	Sims, Robert		Maj	USMC (Ret)
19	Spears, Thomas		2LT	USA (Ret)

## Sick List

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

- \* **LtCol Fred Edwards**, USMC (Ret)  
Page 23, 2008 Directory
- \* **CWO4 Robert E. Hodgen**, USAF (Ret)  
Page 27, 2008 Directory
- \* **LTC Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)  
Page 35, 2008 Directory
- \* **Col Rod Bricker**, USAF (Ret)  
Page 18, 2008 Directory

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### 2008 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

**Gold** (\$100 & more); **Silver** (\$50-99); **Bronze** (\$1-49)

**••GOLD –**

Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Bischofs, Henny Mrs.  
Burrell, Basil WO4  
Edwards, Fred LtCol  
Eynatten, Bob CAPT  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Freese, Don CAPT  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Harrow, Anita Mrs.  
Lorence, Maria LTC  
Love, HB COL  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Nelson, Landy, COL  
Neville, Al Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

**••SILVER –**

Nolan, Richard Col

**••BRONZE –**

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Brink, Charles LtCdr  
Eisenhart, Bill Col  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Nelson, Tony LTC  
Polk, Clif, Maj  
Simmons, Don CWO4

**Includes \$200 from the ROWC  
\$2,137 as of 6/20/2008**

### 2008 Help Our Troops Donors

**••GOLD –**

Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Freese, Don CAPT  
Finley, Paul LCDR  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Hodgen, Rober CWO4  
Jessup, John COL  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Al Col  
Nolan, Richard Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Lorence, Marie LTC  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Poteat, Genevieve Mrs.  
Secor, Madeline Mrs.  
Shine, Jack Col  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

**••BRONZE –**

Edwards, Fred LtCol  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Merritt, Ron COL  
Shields, Roger COL  
Weatherby, Shirley Lt Col

**\$448 (50/50, Non-Chaper  
members, including ROWC  
& Mil. Widows)**

**••SILVER –**

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Eisenhart, Bill Col  
Eynatten, Bob CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Harrow, Anita Mrs.

### 2008 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

**Gold** (\$50 & more); **Silver** (\$25-49); **Bronze** (\$1-24)

**••GOLD –**

Burrell, Basil WO4  
Freese, Donald CAPT  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Love, HB COL  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Al Col  
Nolan, Richard Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen

Eynatten, Bob CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Harrow, Anita Mrs.  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

**••BRONZE –**

Edwards, Fred LtCol  
Lanier, Laurie Maj

**••SILVER –**

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.

**\$667 as of 6/20/2008**

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John Wesley





## WELCOME OUR new members!

LT **Brian W.** (USNR) and **Marie Clark**, 507 Plaza  
Seville Ct, #15, Treasure Island, FL 33706  
727-465-8076



## TAPS

Col **John C. "Chuck" Reed**, USAF (Ret)  
(6/14/2008)  
See Page 38 of the 2008 Directory

2LT **Cecil B. Keene**, USA (Ret)  
(7/10/2008)  
See Page 29 of the 2008 Directory

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and  
friends of these patriots.



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Thru Feb 2009

## Texans, From Pg 3

Kenneth Inada, 85, remembers as a young sergeant the intensity of the combat.

"We fought from tree to tree. It was really hell. Afterwards, you'd just shake, wondering when it would end," he said. "But in war, you take care of the guy next to you. We couldn't leave the Texans behind."

On Oct. 30, the exhausted 442nd broke through to the Lost Battalion. Pvt. Matsuji Sakumoto approached the stunned Texans and asked, "Do you guys need any cigarettes?" The Japanese-Americans were suddenly swamped by dirty, bearded GIs who hugged them and shook their hands.

Lt. Blonder sent one last message to headquarters: "Patrol from 442 here. Tell them we love them!"

"I can't describe the feeling," Mr. Blonder said. "We owed them our lives. As bad as we had it, we didn't suffer like those guys. They're the heroes of this story."

'The price we paid'

Terry Shima, 85, a veteran of the 442nd and executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Association, recalled the prejudice and distrust the unit encountered.

"You'd think we'd be bitter," Mr. Shima said. "But we did it because we were soldiers and because we wanted to prove loyalty to a government that had disowned us."

In the five days of the rescue effort, the 442nd had 54 soldiers killed and 156 wounded. One company was reduced to 17 men, while another had only eight still standing. "That was the price we paid," Mr. Shima said.

The 36th had three killed and 66 wounded.

For the 442nd, there was a reward, too. The rescue helped change attitudes about Japanese-Americans.

"That one battle showed that Japanese-Americans were simply American soldiers, beyond bigotry and suspicion," Mr. Shima said. "It helped level the playing field for future generations."

After the war, 442nd veterans asked Martin Higgins to help obtain citizenship for their parents who had been detained. He did, lobbying Congress successfully.

"Dad never forgot the men who helped save his life and the men of his command," Michael Higgins said. "All his life, he cherished them."

When Martin Higgins died last year at age 91, he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full honors. The floral tribute at his grave was bright crimson Hawaiian anthuriums from the 442nd veterans.

"When their adventures do not succeed, however, they run away; but it was the mark of a brave man to face things that are, and seem, terrible for a man, because it is noble to do so and disgraceful not to do so."

Aristotle



## LUNCHEON MEETING

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**Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237**



## MOAA LIFE MEMBER UPGRADES

The following Chapter Members converted to MOAA Life Members.

LCDR Alfred Dyson, USN (Ret)

Mrs. Gertrude Flynt, AuxMbr - A

Capt Elizabeth Hoffman, USAF (Frm)

LT Jacob Kelly, USNR (Ret)

MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret)

COL H. B. Love, USA (Ret)

1st Lt Angelo Misuraco, USAF (Ret)

Maj Salvatore Sartorio, USAF (Ret)

COL Roger Shields, USA (Ret)

When you convert to Life Membership through the Chapter program, you save 10% and you will also receive a refund check for the prorated portion of your current annual national dues and your new Life dues can be paid in ten monthly installments.

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