

OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL VII No. IV ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-07 ★★★★★ April 2009

Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!

President's Comments:

MOAA: Now More Than Ever



Recently, the new administration, indeed President Obama himself, announced an effort to scuttle the Nation's most solemn responsibility (taking care of those who fought and defended America) by transferring responsibility for medical care from the government to the veteran.

At a meeting in the White House on the 17th of March, attended by military coalition leaders and administration staffers, including General Eric Shinseke, USA (Ret), Secretary of Veterans Affairs, President Obama revealed his plans to have veteran's private insurance companies pay for all veteran medical procedures—all in an effort to generate \$540 million in savings.

Common sense (or was it the polling numbers?) prevailed, though, and after only two days, this disgusting proposal was withdrawn after being ridiculed on just about every media outlet in the country.

Does this signal a new initiative to work with veterans organizations to correct some of the existing problems? One would hope so, but it really is too early to tell.

In another disturbing action, the administration announced plans to delay the KC-135 replacement program for five years.

See President's, Pg 8

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Our April Speaker:

CAPT Paul Becker, USN

Captain Becker has served as the Commanding Officer of the Joint Intelligence Center at U. S. Central Command since September 2007.



Born in New York City, he was commissioned an Intelligence Officer upon graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1983. Significant afloat assignments include Intelligence Officer with Attack Squadron Thirty Five (A6E/INTRUDER) aboard USS NIMITZ, temporary assignment aboard the Battleship USS IOWA, the staff of the United States Sixth Fleet aboard the Cruiser USS BELKNAP, and with Carrier Strike Group Seven aboard USS JOHN C STENNIS (during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM combat operations).

Shore assignments include duty at the Office of Naval Intelligence's CNO Intelligence Plot, Flag Aide to the Director of Naval Intelligence, Intelligence Placement Officer and Detailer at the Bureau of Personnel, a Federal Executive Fellowship at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, the

See Speaker, Pg 8

News Flash!

The St Petersburg Area Chapter received the following awards from MOAA in the Category II (300-399 members) bracket for 2008:

- **UNIQUE COMMUNICATIONS AWARD: Presented for the Chapter Membership Directory, which contains just about everything you need to know. Congratulations Col Al Neville, the "father" of our Directory!**
- **PRINT NEWSLETTERS, 1st Runner-Up: *Officers Call***



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
- Consultant-- Col Al Neville, USAF..... 522-5685

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

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 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

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 Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050
 Awards Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF 525-1688
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 Legislative: CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
 MacDill Liaison ...Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ... 595-5543
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 Memorial Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ... 595-5543
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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 - 308
 Regular Members - 224
 Auxillary Members - 84
 Inactive Members - (6)

Military Services:

Army - 72 USMC -16
 USAF - 75 USCG - 10
 Navy - 51 NOAA - 0

3/21/2009

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

CALENDAR

April 17th. Friday. Speaker: CAPT Paul Becker, USN, CO of the Joint Intelligence Center, CENTCOM

May 15th, Friday. Speaker: LTC Sandy McNaughton, USA, Recently back from Afghanistan

June 19th, Friday. Speaker: MGEN Robert R. Allardice, J5 CENTCOM

July 17th, Friday. Speaker: Mr. Paul Stecewycz, Fantasy of Flight

**** 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.

April 6th Monday

May 4th Monday

June 1st Monday (No meeting due to Convention)

July 6th Monday

ROWC

- **Luncheon** – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30
 Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach, 397-4146, or Bobby Walters, 595-4619 (luncheons resume in October)
- **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

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

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 522-6237.





HOT-- HELPING OUR TROOPS

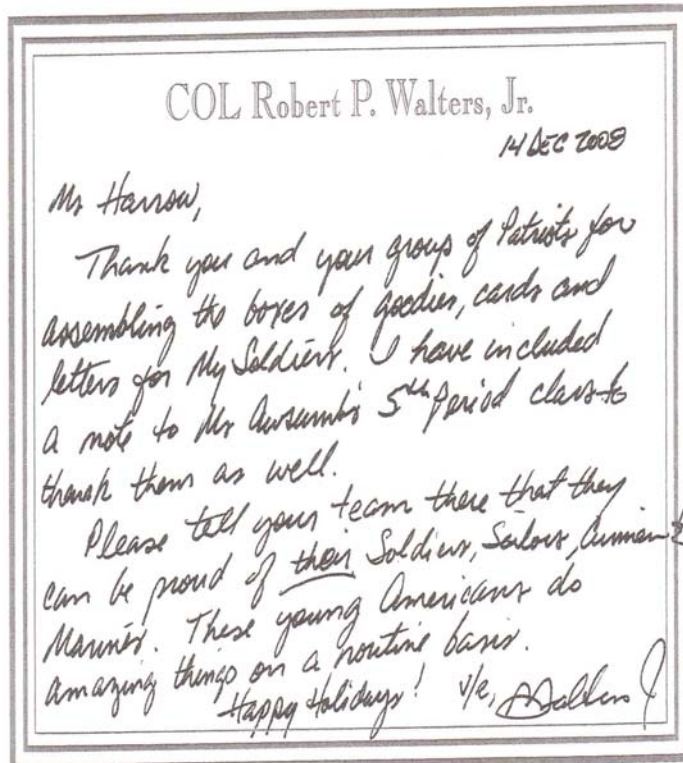
by Anita J. Harrow, Chairperson

It has always given me great satisfaction performing work that benefits others, so seven months ago, I volunteered to Chair the H.O.T. project. This involvement has proven to be a very rewarding experience requiring mental as well as physical effort which has kept me busy, but fulfilled. I have come to think of the troops we support as my personal charges hoping that they are cheered when the boxes arrive.

During these past months ninety (90) boxes have been shipped to our troops from SPA MOAA at a cost of \$ 2719.38 which includes the cost of treats-essentials and shipping. Costs vary monthly as a result of items contributed by members and friends. On average, this project is costing SPA MOAA approximately \$389/ month. "Small potatoes" compared to the sacrifices our troops are making on behalf of all Americans!

Though our troops are extremely busy fighting a war, several have taken time to write the following letters. Enjoy.....

*Ms. Harrow,
Thank you so very much for all the great care packages you sent our way - my first thank you note was returned, so I hope this one makes it to you. It's always nice to know that we have great Americans like you supporting us back home. Thank you once again and we are headed home soon. God Bless MJ*



Let your friends and neighbors know about our HOT project; they may want to help. Remember, monetary donations are always welcome.

Thank you for helping to make our H.O.T. a success by your continued generous support.

Next Convention Planning Meeting:
7 April, 1100 hours, Compass Grill, Sirata Beach Resort--Photos taken before meeting

2009 Convention Florida Council of Chapters Military Officers Association of America June 5-7, 2009 Sirata Beach Resort St. Pete Beach, FL

The 2009 FCOC Convention will begin on June 5, 2009. The "then" picture (right) of the beaches of Normandy that some of you saw first hand is quite different from what you will wake up to on the morning of 6 June 2009 (below, from the Sirata and courtesy of the Sirata Beach Resort)



How the world has changed in 65 years. There are two constants that have not changed, though, First is the numbers of brave men and women in uniform who still defend our Country just as they did 65 years ago, and, indeed, as they have done over the ages for the United States. Second are the supportive families left behind to worry and fret over their loved ones.



See Convention, Pg 5



Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 2 March 2009 Reported by Chris Lillich, Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:30 a.m. George Brown gave the Invocation and Larry Fernald led the Pledge of Allegiance. Sixteen members were present including Bill Bolin, George Brown, Basil Burrell, Fred Edwards, Bill Eisenhart, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Don Freese, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Hazel McGrath, Al Neville, Stew Palmer, Earl Peck and Violet Smith. Paul Finley made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the O.C., seconded by Anita Harrow. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was deferred until next month's meeting.



Officers Call: Letters received from the troops who received the HOT boxes will be the featured article next month. Larry is looking for someone to take over the O.C. Anyone interested is asked to contact Larry as soon as possible.

HOT: Sixteen boxes were sent for the month of March. Anita Harrow will have a display table at the June convention. Between 12 to 20 boxes a month have been sent to the troops since August.

JROTC: Ed Lillich reported that the JROTC program is doing well. The annual meet was held at Admiral Farragut Academy on February 20 and he had the pleasure of presenting 80 trophies. He thanked the Chapter for giving him the opportunity to represent SPA-MOAA in this event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personal Affairs: Violet Smith reported that there were three member deaths recently and she is staying in contact with the widows.

Awards Committee: Earl Peck requested another member on the Awards Committee. Al Neville volunteered to serve on this committee.

Nominating Committee: Bill Lofgren has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee.

Directory: Al Neville asked that any errors in the directory be reported to him or Larry. A round of applause was given to Al for all his efforts on the directory.

Convention 2009: Don Freese reported that 164 room nights have been reserved for the convention. Currently there are 10 more rooms available at the guaranteed rate and our representative at the Sirata has contacted the revenue manager to see if we can get additional rooms. One person canceled and there has been one cancellation of an ad placement. To date there are 88 people registered for the convention. The next convention planning meeting will be on March 5 at 11:00 at the Sirata. Don thought we might meet in the Com-

pass Point Restaurant in the future so we could make the meeting shorter. The souvenir book ad sales are up to \$7,000 and we are still receiving new ads, including one from Admiral Farragut Academy. Don is trying to get an ad from USAA. Calusa Chapter will be hosting the 2010 convention and Charlotte Harbor is expected to bid for the 2011 convention and has placed an ad in the souvenir book. Earl Peck asked if we were locked into a two day convention from now on and Don suggested that an e-mail be sent to Troy Scott asking for consideration to change the convention back to three days. The council is in need of someone to replace Jim Conner as council secretary as he will be chairing the 2010 convention committee. Anyone interested in this position is asked to contact Don. Larry is working on the 5 star awards for the chapter.

Membership: MOAA sent a check for \$415 for Give Me Ten and Life Members. One new life member and one chapter member have been received.

NEW BUSINESS: Hazel McGrath suggested that when our representatives go to Washington they insist that our veterans be given more consideration for jobs that are given to illegal immigrants. Larry suggested that a letter should be written to Congressman Young regarding this situation. It was noted that employers of illegal aliens should be prosecuted for not obeying the law. Don Freese will research the legal aspects and report on it at the next meeting. Hazel further said that all veterans should bind together in an endeavor to help get the word out that our veterans are not being treated fairly for job placements.

Announcements:

All speakers for the convention have been confirmed.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Alligator* will be commissioned at 10:30 a.m. on March 10th.

There being no further business, George Brown gave the Benediction and the meeting adjourned at 12:35. The next Executive Committee meeting will be April 6, 2009, at 1130 hours.

Retirees May Face “Economic Stimulus Tax”

(From www.MOAA.org)

The recently enacted stimulus plan reduces federal income taxes up to \$400 for working individuals and \$800 for couples via smaller tax withholding from their paychecks. But the need for quick-implementation is leading the IRS to apply the smaller withholding to all taxpayers – including non-working retirees who aren't eligible for the tax cut but have retired pay.

That will cause some rude awakenings early next year, when retirees discover they've been “under-withheld” and owe an unexpectedly large tax bill.

MOAA has written congressional leaders and Treasury Secretary Geithner urging exemption of taxable retired pay and pensions from the lower withholding. If this effort is unsuccessful, retirees can ask DFAS to restore the original withholding on their retired pay to avoid a bigger 2009 tax bill.



Convention, from Pg 3

I doubt that we will be quite as jubilant as the residents of Rome were on June 4th 65 years ago as the Allies liberated their city. However, this Convention is a good time to reflect on your individual experiences, meet new friends, re-connect with long time friends, and most importantly, learn and have fun.

The dress code at the Convention is Florida casual (shorts, jeans, convention shirt, polo shirt, casual clothing) except for the Military Ball, which is Military Formal Dinner Dress or equivalent civilian attire.

The convention begins with the President's Reception on Friday evening hosted by FCOC President, Troy Scott. There will be a cash bar with medium Hors d'oeuvres. All Convention attendees are invited to sign up for the reception (the name just implies that Troy is hosting.) Friday dinner is on-your-own for those still hungry. The Hospitality Suite will be open after the reception with snack food and drinks available for reasonable prices. In fact, the Suite will be open the entire convention whenever another event is not scheduled. The Sirata is allowing us to bring our own supplies, and ask only that we don't wander around the pools or bars with our drinks and snacks.

Unlike 65 years ago, Saturday morning will begin with a sit-down breakfast. VADM Norb Ryan, USN (Ret), the 9th President of MOAA, will be the Key Note Speaker at the All Hands Breakfast beginning at 0730. Admiral Ryan is a dynamic speaker who will get the Convention off to a good start.



VADM Ryan

Following breakfast and a short break, there will be a Memorial Service for our fallen FCOC officers and spouses who reported to their Ultimate Commander-in-Chief during 2008. This service will be conducted by Chapter Chaplains as well as the FCOC Chaplain.

At the completion of the Memorial Service, the Convention splits into two groups. Auxiliary Members Violet Smith and Anita Harrow will present a Spouse & Survivor Seminar for those who wish to attend, while others who wish will attend the FCOC Annual Meeting to discuss and vote on business matters critical to the Council.



Lt Gen Wooley

At 11:15, the groups rejoin to attend a seminar presented by CAPT Bud Schneeweis, USCG (Ret), MOAA's Director of Benefits Information, who will discuss just what

MOAA is doing in its fight for the military and its members, past, present, and future.

Following an on-your-own lunch break, we will reconvene for a presentation by MOAA Vacations. And, I understand that there could be a very nice door prize given away.

At 1:30, Lt Gen Mike Wooley, USAF (Ret), former Commander of the USAF Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field, FL (near Eglin AFB), will host a seminar on National Security, which promises to be an excellent update on what is going on around us.



Lt Gen Peck

The last event of the day is the signature event of the Convention, the Military Ball. There will be music for dancing, and FCOC newly elected officers will be sworn in. The Keynote Speaker will be Lt Gen Allen G. Peck, USAF, Commander of Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL. Having already met Gen Peck, and having heard him speak, I can assure you that you won't want to miss this.

Unlike the waters of the Pacific during the Battle of Midway, which occurred 67 years ago in June of 1942, the waters of the Gulf of Mexico will be warm, friendly, and inviting. So, join us on the beach for a great time. Help us remember the sacrifices that were made by so many men and women over the ages. And help us honor them for all that they have contributed to our great Country.

Convention Information: <http://www.MOAAStPeteArea.com>

Call the Sirata at 1-800-344-5999, ask for Erin. Group is MOAA.

For questions answered, Please call Don Freese, 727-360-3102

Notes on the 2009 Directory:

1. If you have not received your award-winning 2009 Directory by now, please let Larry know and he will get you one.
2. There are some bad email addresses. If yours is one of them, please notify the database manager so that our system can be updated to reflect the most current information.
3. If you find other errors, please notify the database manager.
4. Page 26, Hoddinott and Page 40, Simon: First name should be "June."





Monthly Luncheon; 20 March 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended – 58: (55 reservations), 32 Members, 17 Auxiliaries, 10 spouses, 2 Member Guests, 1 Chapter Guest
[4 Walk-in, 1 No-show, 1 Cancellations]

After a very pleasant social hour, our President Lt Col Larry Fernald, got our meeting underway by asking COL George Brown, our Chaplain, to give the invocation. Then Larry led us in the pledge and salute to our Flag.

Larry called for recognition of any first-time attendees. Bill and Lenore Binzel were introduced to our members. We were pleased to see Bernard and Trudy Cornelius today and hope they can attend more of our luncheons.

Larry Butterfield was accompanied by his beautiful bride Debbie and we also hope to see more of her. By the way Larry and Debbie brought 3 boxes of fudge from their store which Larry gave out as extra door prizes. Thanks Larry and Debbie. June Simon was



Larry and Debbie Butterfield

back after a long absence and looked well. Welcome back June. Flo Larkin was here and we hope she returns. The rest of the lunch crowd were the usual suspects and it is too bad that we can't seem to get many of our members to attend the luncheons. Don Freese, the 2009 Convention chairman, spoke about the success of his efforts. All of the block of rooms at the SIRATA resort have been taken but I checked Saturday evening the 21st and they gave me a room at the Convention rate of \$131.00 a night. So it isn't too late but it may be soon. So get on your phone to the Sirata 1-800-344-5999 and reserve your room.



Anita Harrow and the HOT table

The souvenir book is coming along good too. Don says we expect a great convention. Our Chapter leaders have done a great job with

the convention and deserve our thanks.

Larry announced that we have the position of *OFFICERS CALL* editor open and require someone to step up soon for that important job. He says that he will train anyone who volunteers. If I could learn to type with this computer keyboard I would volunteer. You can't imagine how many typographic errors I make just doing this short piece. Well, I admit that many of the errors I make are the result of ignorance and can't be blamed on the keyboard.



Sherry Freese and new Reservations Chair, Paul Finley, handle the luncheon sign-in table

Larry then announced the door prize and equity distribution drawings. Needless to say I didn't win anything.

Larry called on Anita Harrow for her report on the HOT program. I have to say that Anita has taken the HOT program to new highs. She deserves our thanks and support for the program. Violet Smith gave us a rundown on the Auxiliary Program. Stew Palmer didn't make it here today and we have nothing on the Scholarship program except Larry informed us that our scholar was in the process of selection.

After lunch Larry asked MAJ Ed Lillich to introduce Ed's friend, Judge J. Thomas McGrady of the 6th Circuit Court. Ed did his usual fine job and introduced Judge McGrady who told us of some of the workings of the Court System and his and other judges role in the system. The funding of the Courts has become a problem because of the economy and the system by which the money is allocated in Florida's justice system. He regaled us with some stories of strange and funny occurrences.



Ed Lillich introduces the Judge

After Judge McGrady took several questions from the members Larry asked MAJ Ed Lillich, our First Vice President, to give the benediction. Larry then adjourned the meeting.

Upcoming speakers include LTC Sandy McNaughton, USA, and Army nurse and midwife recently back from Afghanistan. LTC McNaughton, the daughter of Chapter members Landy and Barbara Nelson, will speak in May.

June's luncheon will feature Maj Gen Robert Allardice, USAF, who is at CENTCOM as the Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy.

July's speaker is from Fantasy of Flight, the aviation museum just off I-4, Mr. Paul Stecewycz.





Our guest speaker, Judge J. Thomas McGrady of the 6th Circuit Court



Chris Lillich, with name tags waiting to be picked up



Prospective new members, Lenore and Bill Binzel



Genevieve Poteet and Eleanor Burrell



George Brown



Bernard and Trudy Cornelius



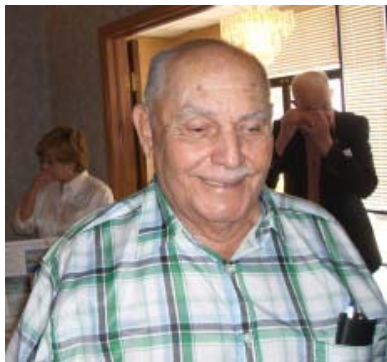
June Simon and Hazel McGrath



John Milford



Army nurses, Flo Larkin (new member) and Janice Mogan



Herb Tondreau



Fred Edwards and Earl Peck



Fran Shivers

Photos by Basil





President's, from Pg 1

The KC-135 comprises the vast majority of refueling assets that the United States possesses and refuels (inflight) assets from all branches of the U. S. military. Those aircraft are over 50 years old and very difficult and costly to maintain, not to mention inefficient compared to today's available aircraft (some even say they are approaching the point of being unsafe). Sure, we have some KC-10 aircraft, but their numbers are insignificant when it comes to the sheer numbers of inflight refuelings required to sustain a war fighting force or even a global projection force.

In an issue related to security, but not directly to the military or to MOAA, the administration has quietly stricken funding for the Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program. Know what that is? That is a program started after and as a result of, 9/11, to train and certify airline pilots to carry weapons on the flight deck and to provide a last line of defense against anyone who would want to commandeer a plane and use it as a weapon of mass destruction. Today, there are over 12,000 airline pilots who safely and effectively carry weapons to defend their plane. Those numbers will dwindle as they come up on recertification and the funds for that effort are not there.

While it is still early in this administration's life, the trend appears to be toward pork (over 8,000 pork projects costing over \$7 BILLION just in the omnibus spending bill signed by President Obama) over substance. That \$7 BILLION would have been better spent recapitalizing the military, whose assets are worn to the limits with the use they have sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan, and would have generated more real jobs than the pork projects.

Hopefully, common sense (or the polls) will prevail on issues such as the KC-135 replacement and the FFDO Program just as it did on the earlier proposal to shift financial responsibility for medical care for veterans.

To help instill common sense, though, we absolutely need MOAA, now, as the new administration "tests the waters," more than ever.

And, MOAA needs us. The more members MOAA has, the bigger the clout, and the more lawmakers listen.

We are about to start another membership drive to get new members for both the Chapter and for MOAA. In the mean time, though, bring your military friends to a Chapter meeting and encourage them to join and participate.

On a personal note, I thank the following individuals for stepping to the plate and helping out with essential Chapter duties: Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret), Chair, Nominating Committee; LCDR Paul Finley, USN (Ret), Chair, Reservations Committee; and Mrs. Chris Lillich, Chair, Publicity Committee.

Three essential positions filled, one to go.

I, on your behalf, am still looking for an able bodied person to become the editor of the Officers Call. Call me and let's chat if you are interested...or know someone who might be.

Speaker, from Pg 1

American Embassy in Paris as the Assistant U.S. Naval Attaché, temporary assignment with the American Embassy in Skopje, Macedonia as the Assistant Defense Attaché (during Operation ALLIED FORCE combat operations), temporary assignment with the U.S. Central Command's Combined Air Operation Center at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia (during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM combat operations), the Director of Operations at the Joint Intelligence Center Pacific in Hawaii and Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence with U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain. Captain Becker will assume command of the Joint Intelligence Center Central, U.S. Central Command on 28 Sep 2007.

In addition to a Bachelor of Science degree from the Naval Academy, Captain Becker holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government (2001), and diplomas from the Defense Language Institute (1991), the Naval Command and Staff College (1993), and Armed Forces Staff College (1996).

Personal honors include the Office of Naval Intelligence's Edwin Layton Award For Leadership in 2003, the National Military Intelligence Association's Rufus Taylor Award for Leadership in 2005, the U.S. Army's Knowlton Award for Military Intelligence in 2006, the Legion of Merit Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, two Defense Meritorious Service Medals, two Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, three Navy Commendation Medals and the Navy Achievement Medal. He was awarded the Naval Institute's Intelligence Essay Award for 2008 and has authored several articles on intelligence and military leadership that have been published in "Proceedings," "Naval Intelligence Professionals Quarterly" and "Jewish War Veterans" magazines.

In 1987, Paul married Kimberly Jean Williams of Chesapeake, VA. They currently reside in South Tampa

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 Sims, Robert Maj
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 Burrell, Basil CWO4
 Christie, Robert LtCol
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 Lanier, Laurie Maj
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 Lorence, Marie LTC
 McGrady, Tom Judge
 McGrath, Hazel LCDR
 Munchbach, Rose LTC
 Pelszynski, Irene Mrs.
 Tondreau, Herb CWO4
 Trahan, Creighton LTC

Member donations ONLY:
 \$1,065 as of 3/21/2009

April Birthdays

(58 to 93 years)

<u>Day</u>	<u>L Name</u>	<u>F Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>SVC</u>
05	Alderson	John	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
11	Bax	Giles	COL	USA (Ret)
09	Bowley	Carl	Col	USAF (Ret)
16	Brink	Charles	LCDR	USN (Ret)
20	Christy	Marjorie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Cushing	Arthur	WO	USCG (Ret)
22	Gaugh	Jane	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
09	Gilchrist	Gary	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
20	Gottry	Catherine	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
01	Green	Richard	CWO4	USA (Ret)
14	Gudmundson	Brent	LTC	USA (Ret)
21	Hermann	Peter	Col	USAF (Ret)
28	Holecek	John	LTC	USA (Ret)
16	Johnson	Marjorie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
29	Kelly	Jacob	LT	USNR (Ret)
07	Koch	Richard	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
29	Menyhert	Louisa	LTC	USA (Ret)
17	Nelson	Anthony	LTC	USA (Ret)
18	Newton	Richard	Col	USAF (Ret)
23	Olson	Frederick	COL	USA (Ret)
16	Oster	Evelyn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
17	Piercy	James	COL	USA (Ret)
30	Pynn	Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
19	Reilly	Anne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
20	Rubeck	Roger	Capt	USMC (Ret)
07	Sartorio	Salvatore	Maj	USAF (Ret)
07	Shields	Roger	COL	USA (Ret)

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••Gold –

Freese, Donald CAPT
 Gudmundson, Brent LTC
 Lillich, Ed MAJ
 Love, H. B. COL
 Nelson, Landy COL
 Neville, Albert Col
 Palmer, Stew Col
 Peck, Earl Maj Gen
 Sims, Robert Maj

Christie, Robert LtCol
 Eynatten, Robert CAPT
 Green, Richard CWO4

••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col
 Cormier, Emery Maj
 Lanier, Laurie Maj
 Simon, June Mrs.
 Tondreau, Herb CWO4

••SILVER –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
 Burrell, Basil CWO4

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••GOLD –

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 Burrell, Basil CWO4
 Eynatten, Robert CAPT
 Fernald, Larry Lt Col
 Freese, Donald CAPT
 Gudmundson, Brent LTC
 Landers, Joan Mrs.
 Love, H. B. COL
 Nelson, Landy COL
 Neville, Albert Col
 Palmer, Stew Col
 Parsons, Charles Col
 Peck, Earl Maj Gen
 Sims, Robert Maj
 Smith, Violet Mrs.
 Spears, Anse COL

••SILVER –

Christie, Robert LtCol

••Bronze –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col
 Baney, Eleanor Mrs.
 Cormier, Emery Maj
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AN OPEN LETTER TO VETERANS

From Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Eric K. Shinseki

WASHINGTON (AFRNS) -- Following is an open letter to Veterans from Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki:

"My name is Ric Shinseki, and I am a Veteran. For me, serving as secretary of Veterans Affairs is a noble calling. It provides me the opportunity to give back to those who served with and for me during my 38 years in uniform and those on whose shoulders we all stood as we grew up in the profession of arms.

"The Department of Veterans Affairs has a solemn responsibility to all of you, today and in the future, as more Veterans join our ranks and enroll to secure the benefits and services they have earned. I am fully committed to fulfilling President Obama's vision for transforming our department so that it will be well-positioned to perform this duty even better during the 21st century. We welcome the assistance and advice of our Veterans Service Organizations, other government departments and agencies, Congress, and all VA stakeholders as we move forward, ethically and transparently, so that Veterans and citizens can understand our efforts.

"Creating that vision for transforming the VA into a 21st-century organization requires a comprehensive review of our department. We approach that review understanding that Veterans are central to everything VA does. We know that results count, that the department will be measured by what we do, not what we promise, and that our best days as an organization supporting Veterans are ahead of us. We will fulfill President Lincoln's charge to care for ". . . him, who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan . . ." by redesigning and reengineering ourselves for the future.

"Transforming any institution is supremely challenging; I know this from my own experience in leading large, proud, complex, and high-performing organizations through change. But the best organizations must be prepared to meet the challenging times, evolving technology and, most importantly, evolving needs of clients. Historically, organizations that are unwilling or unable to change soon find themselves irrelevant. You and your needs are not irrelevant.

"Veterans are our clients, and delivering the highest quality care and services in a timely, consistent and fair manner is a VA responsibility. I take that responsibility seriously and have charged all of the department's employees for their best efforts and support every day to meet our obligations to you. Our path forward is challenging, but the president and Congress support us. They have asked us to do this well -- for you. Veterans are our sole reason for existence and our Number 1 priority -- bar none. I look forward to working together with all VA employees to transform our department into an organization that reflects the change and commitment our country expects and our Veterans deserve.

"Thank you, and God bless our military, our Veterans, and our nation."



Welcome Our New Members!

- **Seara, Oscar, Rev, Maj, USAF (Ret),**
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- **Larkin, Florence, 1LT, USA (Fmr),**
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Thank You

*for your commitment
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TAPS

- **COUTURE, BERTRAND L. COL, USA**
(Ret) 23 Feb 2009, Page 21, 2009 Directory
- **ROBERTSON, GEORGE B., Col, USAF**
(Ret) 25 Feb 2009, Page 38, 2009 Directory

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends.

February's Financial Report will be available in next month's edition of *Officers Call*. We had a computer crash, and while the data was backed up, there was insufficient time to recover the data and still have the Executive Committee approve the report prior to publishing. Thank you for your patience.

Sick List

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

- * **CWO4 Robert E. Hodgen, USAF (Ret)**
Page 26, 2009 Directory
- * **LTC Richard H. Natzke, USA (Ret)**
Page 33, 2009 Directory
- * **Lt Col Ron Wildes, USAFR (Ret)**
Page 44, 2009 Directory
- * **Louann Andrews, Spouse**
Page 15, 2009 Directory
- * **Col Jack Shine, USMC (Ret)**
Page 39, 2009 Directory
- * **LTC Sarah Niblack, USA (Ret)**
Page 34, 2009 Directory

"I don't know what use any one could find for a machine that would make copies of documents. It certainly couldn't be a feasible business by itself."
-- the head of IBM, refusing to back the idea, forcing the inventor to found Xerox.

"Airplanes are interesting toys but of no military value." -- Marechal Ferdinand Foch, Professor of Strategy, Ecole Superieure de Guerre, France.

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WHERE: **Banquet Masters,
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Park**

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

**Don't Let the Economic Stimulus Package bite
into your taxes--and it certainly could!**

See Page 4

Convention Shirts and
hats--See Pauline
Edwards to purchase



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Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday April 15th**

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$12:

Ham: _____

Tillapia Piccata: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

*** CLIP and MAIL, with check to:

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Largo, FL 33777

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Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237