

# OFFICERS CALL

## ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



**VOL IV No VIII ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter - 2002, 03 & 04 ★★★★★ August 2006**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up** 2005 Electronic Media; **Winner** 2003 Print & Electronic Media & Web Site

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

Sherry and I have been traveling since June 20 visiting friends and family from Florida to Iowa as well as attending my high school reunion and spending my 65<sup>th</sup> birthday week with our kids and grand kids in three cabins in a State Park in Iowa on the Cedar River in Iowa near my grandfather's farm. We drove over 3,700 miles with gas prices ranging from a low of \$2.69 when we left Florida to \$3.39 in Chicago but my Buick Regal got 26.9 MPG.



I wear my MOAA Lapel Pin everywhere and I had a lot of people ask me about it. I explain that it is Military Officers Association of America and the conversation always led to our Military and the Middle East.

Everyone I talked to supports our troops but all said they did not want their sons or daughters "over there" fighting. When I asked them if they would rather be fighting here or having their grand children and great grand children fighting here or there they shrugged in disbelief and did not have an answer.

Driving the country like we did it is very apparent that this country does not think that we are at war and that freedom loving people everywhere, way of life is not threatened. I wonder if this is not the same as 1930's when Neville Chamberlain said he had negotiated "peace for our time" with Adolph Hitler.

I asked Google to count the number of Terror Attacks since 1965 when the first modern day terror attack occurred in the Middle East. The Google answer is 65,200,000.

I was in the Middle East on a Navy Destroyer at the time and remember we were sent as the only Navy Ship in the Red Sea with four 5" guns to protect the Aramco Oil Port in Saudi Arabia from additional terror attacks. We were successful in the short term but even though the number 65,200,000 is probably wrong, the point is that even Google cannot accurately count the number of attacks that have occurred since 1965.

It is about time that freedom loving people around the world recognize that we are at war and that our troops and our allies' troops from Israel to Pakistan are fighting to beat terror to achieve peace for the first time in over 40 years.

May God Bless Freedom Loving People everywhere and the USA!

### PROGRAM AUGUST 18

#### HURRICANES, PRESENT & PAST

**Dick Fletcher, Chief Meteorologist**

News Chief Meteorologist Dick Fletcher – Channel 10 – has earned the American Meteorological Society's Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation. It is professional recognition of the quality of his broadcasts. He has served the Tampa Bay Area since 1980. As Chief Meteorologist, Fletcher is responsible for the overall operation of the Weather Center and anchoring the weathercasts for ten News at 4:00, 6:00 and 11:00 each weekday.



He has flown reconnaissance aircraft missions into three hurricanes and has made fifteen different penetrations into the eye of the storm.

In 1987, he was honored by The American Meteorological Society with an award for Outstanding Service by a Broadcast Meteorologist.

He was presented the distinguished service award by the national hurricane conference in 2003 for his career leadership efforts in hurricane preparedness. He also received the Media award from the Governor's Hurricane conference in 1993.

Fletcher also works closely with the Pinellas County Coalition for the Homeless, forecasting the need for cold night shelters.

Fletcher holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from the University of Nebraska at Omaha and a Certificate of Broadcast Meteorology from Mississippi State University. He has done advanced studies in College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida. He lives in the Tampa Bay area with his wife.

Meet our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Larry Fernald, Lt Col USAF (Ret)**  
 Biography and photo — Page 10



### Officers Call

Published Monthly by The St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc. P.O. Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734.

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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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- Visitation ..... **LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN** ..... 545-3884

**AND** Life Members Emeritus **AND** Past Presidents

### Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 338  
 Regular Members - 241  
 Auxillary Members - 97

#### Military Services:

Army - 90                      USMC - 13  
 USAF - 79                     USCG - 8  
 Navy - 51

## From the Editor

### COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

**Thanks, Larry** – Lt Col “Larry” Fernald deserves our applause for volunteering to fill the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of our St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA. At the last Business Meeting, he was elected by acclimation to the position and acted immediately to tell us what he has already done to line up speakers for our luncheons. He acted as President in the temporary absence of Don Freese and sounds like a real winner. He served



as a pilot in the Air Force and after his retirement, he continued to fly for a major airline. Again, thanks, Larry!  
**Benefits Website - VA Survivors Website**–The Veterans Benefits Administration has created a “Survivors” Web site [www.vba.va.gov/survivors](http://www.vba.va.gov/survivors) for spouses and dependents of military personnel who died on active duty and for the survivors and dependents of veterans who died after leaving the military. The Web site is organized into two broad categories – death in service and death after service. It provides visitors with information about a wide range of benefits for the surviving spouse, dependent children, and dependent parents of deceased veterans and active-duty personnel. The site also has information from — and links to — other federal agencies and organizations that offer benefits and services to survivors and dependents plus online download of all forms needed to apply for benefits. The Web site can be reached by clicking the “Survivors Benefits” button on the left of the [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov) page

**Serious Business** – Buried in the 19 July 06 issue of the St Pete Times is a short article of major importance to our members and to everyone who depends on Medicare and/or Tricare. This news deserves more ink than the Times cared to use. Quote: “Officials of the American Medical Association sounded the alarm in Tampa on Tuesday over upcoming cuts in Medicare reimbursements to physicians. On Jan 1, payments to doctors will decline by 5 percent; over the next nine years, reimbursements will be reduced by a total of 37 percent. An AMA survey found that 45 percent of doctors said they would either stop seeing new Medicare patients or limit the increase in their caseload as a result of the lower payments. Since Tricare, a benefit program for military and their families, ties its reimbursement rates to Medicare, the cuts could be felt by more than 685,000 Tricare patients in Florida, as well as the state’s 2.9 million Medicare beneficiaries.” (This is a further insult to non-Congress persons. Congress recently voted themselves a \$30,000 pay raise while denying an increase in the minimum wage. They also enjoy free medical treatment at Walter Reed Army Hospital.) Vote for those who vote for you! **RJS**

### 2007 Membership Renewal

This October you will receive a dues renewal letter - your 2007 dues & your database record information.

Your current dues status is on the top line of this mailing label. If it states "Pd-06", you will owe 2007 dues (Regular members - \$20; Auxiliary Members - \$15). **Advanced dues payments are welcome.**

Send payment to: **Col Al Neville, SPAMOOA,**  
 P O Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734.

## Our United States Coast Guard

**Basil Burrell, CWO4 USCG (Ret)**

A brief look at the nation's oldest maritime service  
216 years of as of 4 August 2006

The United States Coast Guard is our nation's oldest and it's premier maritime agency having been founded in 1790 as the Revenue Cutter Service under Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton. The further history of the service is complicated because of the amalgamation of five federal agencies to form what is today the U.S. Coast Guard. The agencies were the Revenue Cutter Service, the Lighthouse Service, the Steamboat Inspection Service, the Bureau of Navigation and the Lifesaving Service. In 1915 President Woodrow Wilson combined the Lifesaving Service under the Revenue Cutter Service and named the new service the U.S. Coast Guard. The Lighthouse service was the last to be included under the umbrella of the U.S. Coast Guard in 1939 in a reorganization by President Franklin Roosevelt.



**You may see this 25' runabout in our local waters – up to 45+ mph, two 250 HP Honda 4-strokes, a 50 caliber machine gun forward and a commercial radar. The boat is fiberglass covered solid foam.**

Originally founded to prevent smuggling by the free spirits of the Revolution, the organization now called the Coast Guard has evolved into many areas of responsibility including its original purpose. Navigational aids and Port Security are two of its largest areas of responsibility. With a total manpower of about 36,000 people, approximately the same as the New York City police force, the Coast Guard has world-wide responsibilities for Port Security and Maritime Safety including overseeing ship design and operation of merchant vessels using United States ports.

When directed by the President, the Coast Guard can be placed under the operational control of the U. S. Navy and such was the case in both WWI and WWII. In WWI the Coast Guard Cutter Tampa was lost with all hands to a U-Boat torpedo off the coast of England. In WWII the Coast Guard escorted North Atlantic convoys, operated troop ships and landing craft. After the U-Boat menace had subsided somewhat the Cutters assigned to the North Atlantic were shifted to escort duty in the Mediterranean area and assisted in the invasions of Sicily, Italy and southern France. The Pacific theater was probably the area that first saw the active participation of the Coast Guard in invasions of enemy territory. A Coast Guard Petty Officer was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously for his service as coxswain of a landing craft at the invasion of Guadalcanal Island in 1943.

For the last several years the Coast Guard has been heavily involved in drug interdiction on the Atlantic, Gulf and Pacific coasts. It has been necessary to develop vessels and aircraft that can cope with the drug smuggler's delivery methods which include go-fast boats and aircraft.

Some of the Coast Guard's equipment that is designed for such purposes has been found to be useful in the heightened

port security duty that is becoming more important with each passing day. A number of Coast Guard assets, such as small fast boats and small (85 and 125 foot) cutters have been deployed to the middle east to assist in port security there.

Even with the added responsibility of the increased port security and drug interdiction, the Coast Guard continues to provide life saving services, aids-to-navigation, law enforcement and their other normal peace-time services to our Nation. Like all of our military services, the Cost Guard is stretched thin in terms of people and material. It is amazing how they can function so well with the resources available.

Now let's get to some local Coast Guard news and data. On the west coast of Florida, from the Fenholloway River which empties into the gulf south-west of Perry Florida to Caxambas Pass south of Marco Island, the Sector St. Petersburg has responsibility for law enforcement, port security and maintenance of navigational aids such as bouys and channel markers and search and rescue operations. This entire area is the responsibility of Sector Commander CAPT Joseph Servidio.

CAPT Servidio, a native of New York, is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. There are several smaller stations in the area responsible for search and rescue and law enforcement that report to the Sector Commander in St. Petersburg. They are located in Yankeetown, Sand Key in Clearwater, St. Petersburg Station, Cortez near Sarasota and Ft. Myers Beach. Two ships homeported in St. Petersburg are responsible for maintaining Aids to Navigation in the entire Sector Command. They are the relatively new USCGC Joshua Appleby, a 175 foot 840 ton, coastal bouy tender that is equipped for advanced navigational and maneuvering capability in order to precisely place navigational aids. The other work ship is the USCGC Vise which is actually a 75 foot tug-type ship that pushes a barge equipped with a crane. The UCCGC Vise is an inland construction tender and is able to place and remove pilings for channel and day markers. The Vise was built in 1976 and the crew refers to themselves as) the "Vise Squad." Cutters used for work purposes have black hulls with the diagonal Coast Guard logo.

Other ships under command of the Sector include 110 foot Island Class Patrol Cutters and 87 foot Barracuda Class Patrol Cutters. The 87 foot Barracuda Class Cutters, an example berthed in St. Petersburg, is the USCGC Marlin, can launch and retrieve a boarding party boat through the transom while underway. The primary mission of these two classes are law enforcement and search and rescue. Tenant Commands at Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg include two deep water Medium endurance ships, the USCGC Resolute and the USCGC Venturous. Both are 210 foot ships capable of ex-

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## Luncheon Meeting

21 July 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

**Attended—59:** Members—28, Wives—18, Guests—7, AuxMbrs-6; Walk-ins—(1), No shows—3, Cancellations—4

At 1145 hours LtCol Larry Fernald USAF(Ret) our 1st VP opened the luncheon meeting and asked LtCol Carroll Andrews USAF(Ret) to deliver the Invocation. Larry then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. We then sang “God Bless America” to the piano played by Mrs Patricia Starwyck.



After a short break for starting lunch service Larry introduced us to Mrs Carolyn Shields who gave a report on the continuing success of the “Help Our Troops” or HOT program. Carolyn says that she has shipped 100 boxes to the troops in Afghanistan and continues to get good reports about our program. She has received donations from the St. Petersburg Bridge Club and the Society of Military Widows Club.

Donations of cash and material useful to our troops are welcome. Unfortunately for anyone seeking a tax deduction, contributions are not tax deductible. Keep in mind though the warm feeling you will experience by making a generous contribution to HOT. It will also make Carolyn happy. And if Carolyn is happy, COL Roger Shields USA (Ret) is happy!

Mrs Violet Smith said a few words about an 10 October meeting of the Retired Officers Wives Club to which spouses (usually husbands) are invited. She also has some MOAA pins left to peddle. Get 'em while they're hot!



Larry asked LtCol Dick Koch USAF(Ret) to come to the podium and Dick then did an outstanding job of introducing our guest speaker, Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney Bernie McCabe. Mr McCabe began his presentation by



proving that he has a good sense of humor. He told a lawyer joke. This evoked a lot of laughter of course and Mr McCabe appreciated that by saying that he doesn't get such a good response when he tells banker or doctor jokes. Mr McCabe is a graduate of Stetson Law School and has been States Attorney for the Pinellas-Pasco District since 1992. He has 140 lawyers and a team of investigators working for him in his office. He told us of some of the areas of his responsibility and some problems they have. His was a very interesting presentation and I for one didn't realize the extent of his responsibilities as State Attorney. State Attorney is the same as District Attorney in some jurisdictions. Mr McCabe ended his presentation with a couple of lawyer jokes. (Next month come to the luncheon and get it first hand.) Mr McCabe took some questions and got a loud round of applause for his presentation. Larry promised him a set of tumblers when our Chapter president returns from his travels.

Maj Gen Earl Peck USAF (Ret) opened our Memorial Service by asking us to sing along with Mrs Patricia Starwyck's piano the “Battle



Hymn of the Republic.” MG Peck then led us in “A Call to Remembrance.” LTC Janice Mogan USA(Ret) read the names of our members who have passed on in the past year. COL Roger Shields USA (Ret) led the Guard of Honor and Mr Al Williams played Taps with his bugle. Maj Gen Peck read the Meditation prayer and we sang God Bless America.



That concluded the ceremony and thus ended our luncheon and Memorial service. The events of the day were really rewarding to those of us present. Our Chapter officers did an outstanding job.



Guard of Honor - Fred Edwards(left edge), Mike Tomasulo, Janice Mogan, Roger Shields



Pete Dawson



CJ & Dottie Brauner

Rose Munchbach, Bobbi Walters Jeanne Hawkins

Jim & Bobbie Donovan



### THE BUZZ

#### COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

**Project HOT** – Now it can be told – 100 boxes of various items have been mailed to the unit in Afghanistan that our Chapter has sponsored. This project was started on April 10, 2006 when the first 10 boxes were filled and mailed. Thanks to Maj Gen Earl Peck, we were able to communicate with a Forward Air Controller unit which operated in about nine different locations in support of ground forces. We have received letters of thanks and photos from “our” airmen who live with the infantry soldiers, particularly of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division of the US Army. The generosity of our Chapter members, their friends and others have sustained this project and will no doubt continue to do so. We are proud of our Chapter members and their friends. We are particularly proud of Carolyn Shields, Project Coordinator who has packed each box, tracked the donations and purchased most of the goodies while bargaining for discounts from supporting merchants, particularly Walgreens of 102<sup>nd</sup> Avenue and Seminole Blvd. Let’s “Continue the march!”

**Shop at Sears?** I assume you have all seen the reports about how Sears is treating its reservist employees who are called up? By law, they are required to hold their jobs open and available, but nothing more. Usually, people take a big pay cut and lose benefits as a result of being called up... Sears is

voluntarily paying the difference in salaries and maintaining all benefits, including medical insurance and bonus programs, for all called up reservist employees for up to two years. I submit that Sears is an exemplary corporate citizen and should be recognized for its contribution. Suggest we all shop at Sears, and be sure to find a manager to tell them why we are there so the company gets the positive reinforcement it well deserves. I decided to check it out before I sent it forward. I sent the following email to the Sears Customer Service Department: I received this email and I would like to know if it is true. If it is, the Internet may have just become one very good source of advertisement for your store. I know I would go out of my way to buy products from Sears instead of another store for a like item even if it was cheaper at the other store. Here is their answer to my email.....

*DearCustomer*

*Thank you for contacting Sears. The information is factual. We appreciate your positive feedback. Sears regards service to our country as one of the greatest sacrifices our young men and women can make. We are happy to do our part to lessen the burden they bear at this time .Bill Thorn, Sears Customer*

*Care*  
[webcenter@sears.com](mailto:webcenter@sears.com) 1-800-349-4358

[It's Verified By snopes.com](http://snopes.com)



## Project HOT, 21 JUL 06

Mrs. Carolyn Shields, HOT Chairlady

On April 10, my husband Roger and I mailed 10 boxes to our adopted unit in Afghanistan. With the generous donations from our Chapter and the continued enthusiasm, we have sent 100 boxes. Let's not forget the friends of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter or MOAA. Relatives, friends, doctors have greatly contributed toward this most worthy cause of helping our troops. To paraphrase what Margaret Peck said, that it isn't just the items sent in a hundred boxes, it's that we sincerely care for and support our troops.



Let's work on the second hundred boxes. It would be nice for us to start thinking about Christmas. Small, clean Christmas decorations — nothing religious. This is a Moslem country. Cookies in boxes, tins- any packaging that prevents breakage. Magazines such as People, Newsweek, Auto Racing, crossword puzzles, books. Beanie Babies are a great item; and, thank you Chris Lillich, wife of new member Ed Lillich, for relinquishing your cute collection.

Also appreciated would be clean, unused Christmas cards

to be sent to the troops by the end of October so they in turn can send them to their loved ones. (Please put them in a sealed Freezer Bag). A more extensive list will be available in a future Officers Call and at a monthly luncheon.

The Society of Military Widows, Chapter 27, invited me to a recent luncheon as their guest speaker to talk about Help Our Troops which I did. Not only did they enthusiastically embrace HOT as their project of the year, but fifteen attendees donated snacks, toiletries and \$138. The St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA sends a heartfelt Thank You to these special ladies. Carolyn Shields, Coordinator

### HOT Donors

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Dawson, Peter, Maj USAF	Neville, Albert, Col USAF
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Edwards, Fred LtCol USMC	Parsons, Charlie, Col USAF
Eisenhart, Bill, Col USAF	Peck, Earl, Maj Gen, USAF
Eynatten, Robert, CAPT USN	Polk, Bob, Col USAF
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Isley, Anne, Mrs. AuxMbr-A	
Jessup, John, COL USA	

### From Pg 3 - U.S. Coast Guard

tended times at sea in conduct of their law enforcement and search and rescue duties. They also are capable of carrying helicopters.

The Sector has an Electronic Support Detachment or ESD in government speak and a Port Security Unit or PSU 307. All the units are subject to temporary detachment and in fact some have been sent to the middle east and other locations as needed. Sector Command offices are located at the North Moorings where the smaller vessels are also moored. The larger vessels and the work ships are moored at the South Moorings where the Exchange is also located.

A separate Coast Guard command is the Coast Guard Air Station at the St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport. It is referred to as Air Station Clearwater. The Clearwater Air Station is the largest Air Station in the Coast Guard since 1987 with the expansion of the interdiction mission "Operation Bahamas, Turks and Caicos" or OPBAT.

At present there are sixteen (16) HH130H aircraft with an operational range of 2,600 miles at low altitude assigned to Air Station Clearwater. Not all are actually located there, but some are flown from other locations in the Seventh Coast Guard District. In addition there are twelve (12) HH60J Medium range Jayhawk Helicopters. The HH60J can carry a crew of 4 plus 6 survivors. It can perform in winds of over 60 knots and has flight radius of 300 miles and can remain of station for 1.5 hours. They can be operated from the Coast



**Our Sector's 87' USCGC Marlin – 28mph, 3 day endurance, mixed gender crew of 10, underway launch & recover diesel powered water jet aluminium boat. Large very modern pilot house. Sea state 5 capability.**

Guard Cutters. The Windjammer Lounge is located at the North Moorings. There is also a large swimming pool, ward-room and barracks and messhall for the crew of the base and the smaller patrol boats.

In all, the Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg and Air Station Clearwater together with the tenant commands forms a significant part of the local economy.



## MOAA Legislative Update

21 July 2006

Edited for brevity by  
COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

### • Issue 1 MOAA Backs Draft Bill to Address VA Identity Theft

The American Legion, MOAA, The Retired Enlisted Association (TREA), and the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). The (draft) Veterans Identity and Credit Protection Act of 2006 would elevate the VA Chief Information Officer (CIO) on par with the three mission functions of the VA: Health, Benefits, and National Cemetery Administrations. The bill would also authorize and direct the VA to provide free credit reporting and fraud resolution services to veterans harmed in the event of a future illegal use of their personal information. Testifying for MOAA, COL Norton emphasized that: elevation of the CIO to an Under Secretary position would focus responsibility for information security in the VA at a high level and help restore and improve data and information collaboration with DoD; integration of the new billet in the VA's bureaucracy would be challenging but was needed to protect veterans' sensitive information, advance "seamless transition" of service member data between DoD and the VA and improve VA business processes; MOAA was appreciative of the bi-partisan approach to the legislation and the provisions that would require the government to provide fraud monitoring services to affected individuals at no cost to them; the government should begin to develop alternative personal identifiers other than the Social Security Number to reduce the risk of future ID theft.

### • Issue 2 MOAA and AMA Join Forces on Medicare/TRICARE Cuts

On July 18th, MOAA joined the American Medical Association (AMA), and other groups at a Tampa, Florida press conference to denounce the 4.7% planned cut in Medicare physician reimbursement rates. Representing MOAA at the event, former Board Member Major General Robert Lynn, USA (Ret) said, "Medicare physician payment cuts pose a health care threat to more than nine million military members and their families nationwide. Reducing payment rates even further will have a devastating effect on access to care for thousands of military beneficiaries, who already find it difficult to locate physicians who accept TRICARE. When our men and women in uniform are sent in harm's way, the last thing they need to worry about it is whether their families will be able to find a TRICARE physician. "TRICARE physician reimbursements rates are directly tied to Medicare rates by law. Medicare and TRICARE already are among the lowest-paying insurance plans in the country.

**As physician reimbursement rates lag behind actual practice costs, physicians are less likely to take on new Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries. An AMA survey of providers in early 2006 indicated that if payment cuts begin in 2007 almost half (45%) of physicians plan to either decrease or stop seeing new Medicare patients and 43% plan to either decrease or stop seeing new TRICARE patients.**

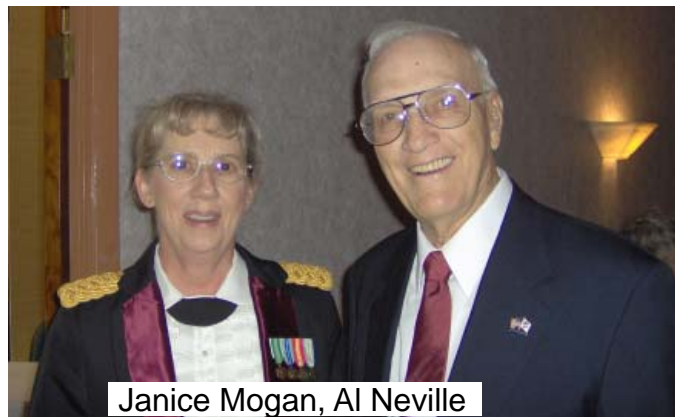
MOAA will continue to partner with the AMA and other groups to pressure Congress to enact a fix. Bills to address

the problem were introduced in 2005. Please click here, scroll down to "Health Care Issues" and click on H.R. 2356 (introduced by Reps. E. Clay Shaw, R-FL and Benjamin Cardin, D-MD), which would change the statutory reimbursement formula to reflect changes in physicians' actual practice costs and click on S. 1081 (sponsored by Sen. Jon Kyl, R-AZ), a bill that would reverse the scheduled cut for 2007 and instead provide a 2.7% increase in physician payments. In each case, a click will get you to a MOAA-suggested letter to your representative (H.R. 2356) or senators (S. 1081).

### • Issue 3 MOAA Shares Views on Electronic Medical Records

On July 20th, MOAA's CDR John Class, USN (RET) participated in a roundtable discussion concerning medical record information sharing between DoD and the VA. Representatives from DoD, VA, Humana Military Healthcare Services, and beneficiary associations were in attendance. CDR Class noted that sharing medical information between the DoD and VA will become increasingly important to physicians as injured service members are sent home to recuperate and are transferred from military health care to VA facilities. He stressed that the interaction between the DoD and VA electronic medical record systems should be transparent and seamless to patients and providers. As both systems evolve it is important to maintain a focus on the patient visit and to ensure each provider has access to all of the patient's pertinent medical information no matter where any previous medical information was stored.

• **Issue 4 COLA Watch** In mid-July, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the June 2006 monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, VA disability compensation, survivor annuities, and Social Security. The CPI continued its upward trend, rising 0.2% in June — for a total of 3.1% growth so far this fiscal year. A 0.9% decrease in energy costs contributed a smaller increase this month. Last year, the CPI had risen 3.2% through the month of June and ended up the year at 4.1%. With inflation running only slightly behind last year's pace so far, it would seem likely that we'll end this year in the same ballpark. However, it should be noted that last year a late jump in inflation resulted when energy costs skyrocketed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and significantly impacted the CPI during the last two months of fiscal year 2005. But there's plenty of CPI roller-coaster left to navigate in the next three months, and that outlook could change in a hurry. For more information, please visit MOAA's website.



Janice Mogan, Al Neville





## Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 10 July 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

In the absence of our President CAPT Don Freese USN (Ret), our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Col Al Neville USAF (Ret) called the meeting to order at 1130 hours. Maj Gen Earl Peck USAF (Ret) delivered the Invocation as requested by Al. He then led us in the salute to and pledge of allegiance to the Flag of our country.

CAPT Tom Harrow USN (Ret) presented a motion to elect Lt Col Larry Fernald to the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of our Chapter. A further motion was made by Maj Gen Peck to elect Larry by acclamation. So Larry is now our 1<sup>st</sup> VP.

Larry then took the gavel from Al and conducted the rest of the meeting. Maj Gen Peck moved to accept minutes of the 5 June 2006 meeting as published in Officers Call. Motion was seconded and passed. Larry spoke about his efforts to procure speakers for our future luncheon meetings. He also spoke about the “Toys for Tots” program that we have in November. This program is in conjunction with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mrs. Violet Smith, Aux Mbr USA, who holds a number of offices in our Chapter as well as in MOAA, said she will try to get a piano player for our luncheon meetings. A break was taken to order lunch at 1140 and at 1147 the meeting resumed. Tom Harrow reported that the Nominating Committee has nothing to report. Larry reported that he, Don Freese and possibly Al Neville will attend the Chapter Presidents Symposium in Savannah Georgia 28 - 30 September 2006.

Don Freese has proposed a joint meeting with the Navy League at the Windjammer Lounge located on the Coast Guard Base North Moorings for our October 2006 luncheon in lieu of our regular Banquet Masters location. There is a question of how many people the Windjammer Lounge can accommodate that must be resolved before a decision can be made about this. Since this would probably be an evening meeting, Violet suggested that we do this in summer so that those members who don't drive at night would be blessed with longer daylight hours.

Don would like to investigate the possibility of having the September Board Meeting at the Wardroom at the North Coast Guard Moorings. This facility is believed large enough to accommodate the Board Meeting. Larry and I, Basil, will see the Executive Officer about these venues.

In reference to the “Give me 10” program, we need to make sure that members signed up also are or become, members of MOAA. Maj Peter Dawson USAF (Ret), Treasurer, gave his report. He is waiting for the monthly statement from MacDill

FCU so he can close out the Convention account. MG Peck made motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion was seconded and passed by all present.

Lt Col Fred Edwards USMC (Ret) reports that the Awards Committee needs Chapter Directories for the past ten (10) years and has all but 2004. Several members volunteered that the 2004 Directory is available. Fred announced that the Awards Committee will meet following the Board Meeting today. Mrs. Violet Smith has MOAA pins available. She did announce that more drugs are going to be elevated to the third tier. That means basically that such drugs will not be available at Military Treatment Facilities except special cases. Third tier drugs may be obtained from retail pharmacies or from the Mail-in pharmacy (Express Scripts) at a higher price. Right now that price is \$22.00 per script. That means that drugs for my psychosis will be expensive. Just kidding!

LCDR Hazel McGrath USN is in rehab following her recent surgery. She suffered some difficulties with the surgery. Violet suggests that we send condolence letters rather than cards. A letter would express a deeper feeling than a card.

COL Roger Shields USA (Ret) gave the HOT report. Mrs Carolyn Shields was the guest speaker for the Society of Military Widows, Chapter 27, at Shells Restaurant on the Beach where she presented Project HOT. She read some of the e-mails from the troops and distributed a list of desired items to everyone. The good news is

that the Society has accepted HOT as their project for the Year. These very generous ladies contributed \$138.00, toiletries and boxes of beef jerky. Carolyn would like to collect left-over unused Christmas Cards and other unbreakable Christmas items. The cards must include envelopes. The cards will be sent to the troops so that they in turn can send them to their loved ones and friends. Of course the Christmas items can be used by the troops to decorate their quarters.

Lt Col Dick Koch USAF (Ret) informs us that States Attorney Bernie McCabe will be our speaker at the 21 July luncheon meeting before the Memorial Service. Maj Gen Earl Peck USAF (Ret) will MC the program in case COL George Brown USA (Ret) can't make the Memorial Service.

Tom Harrow suggests that we make up new membership forms in color and with nice paper for our new name of St. Petersburg Area Chapter. Roger Shields said that he can do it.

At 1240 hours 1st VP Larry Fernald asked George Brown to deliver the benediction and then adjourned the meeting.



Newly appointed 1<sup>st</sup> VP Larry Fernald (R) receives his name badge with his office pendant from 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Al Neville

### ATTENTION

**We are falling behind on our support of the Scholarship Fund & Officers Call Booster. See the boxes on Pg 9 for the status of both.**



## Welcome our new Members

No new members as of July 23, 2006

**Everyone a recruiter –  
Just ASK a qualified person!**

### 2006 Scholarship Fund \$585 – Through — 23 July 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A  
Cormier, Emery, Maj USAF  
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA  
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN  
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA

Lorence, Marie, LTC USA  
Neville, Al, Col USAF

### 2006 Officers Call BOOSTER \$195 – Through — 23 July 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A  
Brown, George, COL USA  
Cormier, Emery Maj USAF  
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN  
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA  
Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN  
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA

Lorence, Marie, LTC USA  
Neville, Al, Col USAF  
Shields, Roger, COL USA  
Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMbr-A

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**M, F at 12:30**  
**Sat at 10:30**

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(Once per person)**



# TAPS

None as of July 23, 2006

## Sick List

(Contact LCDR **Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

\* 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)  
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709

\* LTC **Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)  
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

\* Lt Col **Charles R. Hedrick**, USAF (Ret)  
12136 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 33772

\* Mrs. **Mary Eisenhart**, Spouse  
1734 72nd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33702

\* Mrs. **Marja Borrowes**, AuxMbr-CG  
1 Beach Dr, S.E., #1102, St Petersburg, FL 33701

\* LCDR. **Hazel McGrath**, USN (Ret)  
5725 80th St, N., Ivy Bldg, #102, St Petersburg, 33709

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## Larry Fernald, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Hello, I am Larry Fernald, and I volunteered to be the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA. My volunteer statement was accepted by the Executive Committee, and I assumed that position on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006.

Now, here are some of the highlights of my career as an Air Force officer and my background up to now:

I was born and raised right here in St. Petersburg, graduating from Northeast High School. I graduated from Troy State University (now Troy University) in Troy, AL, in the spring of 1969.

I entered the USAF in June, 1969, going to Officer Training School, and was commissioned in Sept 1969. I then was assigned to Webb AFB in Big Spring, TX, for pilot training. After attaining my wings (and a wife), I was assigned to the 20<sup>th</sup> Tactical Air Support Squadron, flying the OV-10 Bronco as a Forward Air Controller. A year later, after amassing 272 combat missions and 942 hours of combat time, I was sent home and assigned to the 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing flying B-52Gs at Ellsworth AFB, SD.

Four years after arriving at Ellsworth, my wife, Barb, our two year old son, Mark, and I, departed for Plattsburgh AFB, NY, and an assignment flying the FB-111A. While at Plattsburgh AFB, I earned an MBA in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY. Seven good years later, Barb, Mark, and our daughter, Juli (who was born less than a week after arriving at Plattsburgh), and I packed up and headed to Omaha, NE, where I was assigned to the Strategic Air Command as the B-1B Simulator Acquisition Manager, heading up a \$400 million dollar aircrew simulator acquisition program.

Three years later, I moved the family to Edwards AFB, where I became the B-1B Operational Test Director, working for the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Command. While at Edwards, I resumed flying my favorite airplane, the F-111, flying the A, E, and D models. Additionally, I was the Senior Flight Examiner in the F-111 for the Flight Test Center, and I was qualified to fly the B-1B, flying various test missions as both a pilot and as an instructor pilot.

All good things must come to an end, though, and with the completion of the flight test on the B-1B and the final report written, I retired from the USAF in December of 1989.

My next career took me back to the skies, this time as a commercial pilot. I was hired by Northwest Airlines and began training in October, 1989 (terminal leave is a wonderful thing). Coincidentally, I took my initial check ride from the FAA on December 1<sup>st</sup>, my official retirement date from the AF.

While at Northwest Airlines, I flew the Boeing 727 as a Flight Engineer, Co-Pilot, and Captain. I also flew the Douglas DC-9 as both a Co-Pilot and as a Captain when the 727 was retired.

The FAA ended that career with their mandate that one cannot fly past the age of 60 as a Captain or Co-Pilot. And, since I did not want to be a Flight Engineer again, I retired from NWA in January, 2006, and started a third career in construction as well as an active involvement in MOAA.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to working with the very impressive and knowledgeable chapter leadership as we navigate the challenges ahead.



Steve Starwyck, Paul Finley

Dale Koch, Margaret Peck



Laurie Lanier, Marg Christy



July 2006

Operating Account:

Income: \$710.00

Expenses: \$1,037.89

Cash Flow out: -\$327.89

Operating cash on hand: \$1,715.88

Scholarship Fund:

July 1: \$645.66

Donations: \$100.00

July 21: \$745.66

Help Our Troops Fund

July 1: \$683.52

Donations: \$202.30

Expenses: \$746.51

July 21: \$139.31

Comment: Routine summer operations in July.

Maj. Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)  
Treasurer

Fred Edwards &amp; Carroll Andrews

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## August Birthdays

(59 to 89 years)

Day	LNAME	FNAME	RANK	SVC
17	Augustine, John	Col	USAF (Ret)	
22	Borrowes, Marja	Mrs.	AuxMbr-CG	
21	Brown, Gary	Brig Gen	USMC (Ret)	
21	Colon, Pedro	Capt	USAF (Ret)	
15	Connelly, Albert	CDR	USNR (Ret)	
25	Dawson, Peter	Maj	USAF (Ret)	
05	Diedo, Edward	LTC	USA (Ret)	
28	Dunham, Kath.	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF	
28	Elliott, Marvel	LTC	USA (Ret)	
13	Fleming, William	LT	USN (Frm)	
08	Hetherington, C.	Col	USAF (Ret)	
08	Lawson, George	Col	USAF (Ret)	
22	March, Christian	Col	USAF (Ret)	
08	Monty, William	CPT	USAR (Ret)	
05	Parsons, Charles	Col	USAF (Ret)	
27	Peck, Earl	Maj Gen	USAF (Ret)	
24	Powers, Mildred	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF	
09	Purvis, Susan	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF	
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	Speairs, Thomas	2LT	USA (Ret)	
12	Terry, Frederick	COL	USA (Ret)	
26	Wisner, Charles	LCDR	USN (Ret)	

## LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, August 18<sup>th</sup>

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup>

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Each reservation \$10:

Prime Rib: \_\_\_\_\_.

Stuffed Flounder: \_\_\_\_\_.

\*\*\* CLIP and MAIL, with check to SPMOAA,

to=> **CAPT Bob Eynatten,**  
507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16  
Treasure Island, FL 33706

For late reservations, call either:

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

or

CAPT Don Freese 360-3102

**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.

**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.

## CALENDAR

**August 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Dick Fletcher, TV Chan-  
nel 10, Hurricanes Present and Past.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Jinnie Kerdi, Goodwill  
Industry, The impact of your donations.

NOTE: Possibly at the St Petersburg Coast Guard Station (by  
Albert Whitted Air Port)

**October 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00**, Ms. LeeAnn Ned, S. E.  
Regional Manager, USAA (accompanied by subject  
matter experts)

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** COL Scott Brumbaugh  
(Tentative), Election of 2007 officers.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Christmas program

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 17:00** Installation, Treasure  
Islands Yacht Club, Asd. SecDef, Reserve Affairs,  
RADM Tom Hall

**August 7<sup>th</sup>** Monday;

**September 11<sup>th</sup>** Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday) at the  
Bayboro USCG Station;

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>** Monday;

**November 6<sup>th</sup>** Monday;

**December 4<sup>th</sup>** Monday;

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday).

### ROWC

**Luncheon** – (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30

- **Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146  
Membership: Martha Willis 579-4116.

### SUMMER RECESS:

- **October 10<sup>th</sup> - LUNCHEONS RESUME**

**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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## Coast Guard Birthday



**August 4th**

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- 1. Read newsletter; usually needs a large monitor & very good eyes!**
- 2. Enlarge pages: Zoom in & out using Control & the “+” or “-” keys on your numerical key pad; not the keyboard’s “+” & “-” keys above the alpha keys!**
- 3. Move around the enlarged pages using the mouse pointer (a “Hand”) while holding down the left mouse button.**
- 4. Print all or individual pages.**