



# OFFICERS CALL

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



**VOL XII No. II ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter:2000, 2002-10 ★★★★★ February 2012  
Winner Print Media 2006; 1st Runnerup 2010; Winner 2010 Communications Award**

### President's Comments:

Thanks to everyone who shared their evening with us at the Installation Banquet. I believe it was an enjoyable evening for all. Special thanks go out to Larry for his ability to line up a new speaker when freezing rain in Baltimore forced Lt Gen Newton, USAF, to cancel at the last minute. Hopefully we will be able to have Lt Gen Newton join us for a future luncheon. Thanks also to Lt Col Darryl Smith, USAF, for stepping in on short notice and for his entertaining presentation, and to CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret) and President of the Florida Council of Chapters for installing our new Officers: LCDR Bill Lee, USN (Ret), 1st Vice-President and MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret), 2nd Vice-President. We are very grateful to outgoing EC members COL Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret), 1LT Hazel Murphy, USANC (Fmr) and Mrs. Johnnie Neville, AuxMbr-AF, for their dedicated service on the Executive Advisory Board, and to Chris Lillich and Treasurer Pete Dawson for their willingness to serve another year. Welcome to the Executive Advisory Board Mrs. Virginia Balke, AuxMbr-A, LTC Hardy Bryan, USA (Ret), and CPT Barbara Stakk, USA (Fmr).



As I said at the Installation Banquet, today we live in fiscally challenging times for our Nation. Our MOAA leaders in Wash-

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### OPEN LETTER TO VIETNAM VETERANS

Dear Hero,

I was in my twenties during the Vietnam era. I was a single mother, and, I'm sad to say, I was probably one of the most self-centered people on the planet. To be perfectly honest, I didn't care one way or the other about the war. All I cared about was me - how I looked, what I wore, and where I was going. I worked and I played.

I was never politically involved in anything, but I allowed my opinions to be formed by the media. It happened without my ever being aware. I listened to the protest songs and I watched the six o'clock news and I listened to all the people who were talking. After awhile, I began to repeat their words and, if you were to ask me, I'd have told you I was against the war. It was very popular. Everyone was doing it, and we never saw what it was doing to our men. All we were shown was what they were doing to the people of Vietnam.

My brother joined the Navy, and then he was sent to Vietnam. When he came home, I repeated the words to him. It surprised me at how angry he became. I hurt him very deeply and there were years of separation - not only of miles, but also of character. I didn't understand. In fact, I didn't understand anything until one day I opened my newspaper and saw the anguished face of a Vietnam veteran. The picture was taken at the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. His countenance revealed the terrible burden of his soul. As I looked at his picture and his tears, I finally understood a tiny portion of what you had given for us and what we had done to you.

I understood that I had been manipulated, but I also knew that I had failed to think for myself. It was like waking up out of a nightmare, except that the nightmare was real. I didn't know what to do. One day about three years ago, I went to a member of the church I attended at that time, because he had served in Vietnam. I asked him if he had been in Vietnam, and he got a look on his face and said, "Yes." Then, I took his hand, looked him square in the face, and said, "Thank you for going." His jaw dropped, he got an amazed look on his face, and then he said, "No one has ever said that to me." He hugged me and I could see that he was about to get tears in his eyes.

It gave me an idea, because there is much more that needs

**See Open Letter Pg 4**



# Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008 & 2010

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- Editor – CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG (Ret) ..... 393-4160
- Photos – Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret) ..... 528-3946

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### DIRECTORS

President- LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) ..... 392-6524

1<sup>st</sup> VP- LCDR Bill Lee, USN (Ret) ..... 266-4380

2<sup>nd</sup> VP- MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret) ..... 388-2384

Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich Spouse-A ..... 546-2246

Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) ..... 894-3761

### EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

#### 2012 & 2013 —

LTC Hardy Bryan, USA (Ret) ..... 522-0732

CPT Barbara Stakk, USA (Fmr) ..... 808-554-1419

Mrs. Virginia Balke, AuxMbr-A ..... 544-3598

#### 2011 & 2012—

Maj Gen John Schoeppner, USAF (Ret) ..... 407 694-4573

Col Charlie Parsons, USAF (Ret) ..... 522-8198

Mrs. Jean Jessup, AuxMbr-A ..... 865-6083

#### Immediate Past President

MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret) ..... 546-2246

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising ..... CDR Bill Bolin, USNR ..... 584-1595

Auxiliary Liaison Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N ... 367-9050

Awards ..... Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF ..... 525-1688

Bylaws/Policy Bk LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC ..... 360-2936

Chaplain ..... COL George Brown, USA ..... 866-6859

Chaplain Ass't ..... COL Mike Day, USA ..... 394-9151

Data Base ..... Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF ..... 522-6237

Electronic Info ..... Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF ..... 522-6237

Historian: ..... CDR Maureen Conners, USN ..... 347-7976

HOT ..... Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N ... 367-9050

JROTC ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246

Law: ..... CAPT Don Freese, USN ..... 360-3102

Legislative: ..... CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160

MacDill Liaison ... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ..... 595-5543

Master at Arms .... CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG ..... 821-7365

Membership ..... LCDR Bill Lee, USN ..... 266-4380

Memorial ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ..... 595-5543

Newsletter ..... CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160

Nominating Cmte Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF ..... 522-6237

Personal Affairs ... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ..... 595-5543

Programs ..... LCDR Bill Lee, USN ..... 266-4380

Publicity: ..... Mrs. Chris Lillich ..... 546-2246

Reservations ..... CDR Bill Bolin, USNR ..... 584-1595

ROWC Liaison ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ..... 595-5543

Scholarships: ..... 1LT Hazel Murphy ..... 347-5195

TOPS ..... COL Carol Barnes, USA ..... 381-2334

VA Vol Svc ..... LT Ed Conners, USN ..... 347-7976

Vet Liaison ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246

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

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 304

Regular Members - 199

Auxiliary Members - 105

Inactive Members - 3

### Military Services:

Army - 66 USMC - 15

USAF - 63 USCG - 9

Navy - 46 NOAA - 0

1/23/2012

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

## CALENDAR

February 17<sup>th</sup> COL George Brown, USA (Ret)

March 16<sup>th</sup>

April 20<sup>th</sup>

May 18<sup>th</sup> POW/MIA

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

**Call: CDR Bill Bolin 584-1595 or  
LTC Terry Carr 392-6524**

**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.

February 6<sup>th</sup> Monday

March 5<sup>th</sup> Monday

April 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

## ROWC

### Luncheons:

- February Luncheon 14th at Banquet Masters
- March Luncheon 13th at Dolphin Inn

### Luncheon Reservations:

Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272 or  
Maureen Conners, 347-7976

### Membership Info:

- Barbara King 391-2464

**Bridge:** (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM  
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272  
or Rose Munchbach 397-4146

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## Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**  
**Installation Banquet; 21 January 2012**

**Attended – 83:** (89 reservations), 7 Member Guests, 9 Chapter Guests, 2 Walk in, 6 Cancel, 2 No Shows

In spite of some behind-the-scenes calamities, the Installation dinner was a huge success.

Outgoing President, Ed Lillich shared the early morning drama which began with a phone call around 7:30 in the morning. Our scheduled speaker, Lt Gen Dick Newton, USAF, was stuck in the Baltimore airport because of freezing rain. Gen Newton tried to find an alternative means of transportation, but was not able to get anything that would get him to the dinner at the appointed time. So Ed called Larry Fernald to tell him that we needed a speaker for the evening, which in his true fashion, Larry was able to do. Sometime early in the morning Lynn Bolin made a phone call to say that Bill had just been admitted to the hospital, and although he was resting well, he would not be at the dinner to take care of the reservation table. Thankfully Jim Patton volunteered - well he is Coast Guard after all, and their motto is "Always Prepared." Jim had plenty of help at the table, and everything worked like a well oiled wheel.



After an entertaining dissertation on the events leading up to the dinner, Ed turned the meeting over to the Master of Ceremonies, Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret).

Chaplain (COL) Mike Day, USA (Ret) gave the invocation, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Admiral Farragut Color Guard and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry Fernald.

The Master of Ceremonies then introduced the head table which included; CAPT Don Freese and Sherry, Lt Col Darryl "Egg" Smith and wife Melanie, Lt Col Larry Fernald and Barbara, LTC Terry Carr and Paulette and MAJ Ed Lillich and Chris. Distinguished Members, Life Member Emeritus and Past Presidents were then introduced.

Larry Fernald then turned the podium over to Ed Lillich to present the Distinguished Member Award to CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret), and the Life Member Emeritus Award to CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret).

Ed also presented a certificate of appreciation to Chris Lillich for all her help during the two years of his presidency, and a certificate of appreciation to Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret), for his "chef extraordinary" candy making to help the HOT program, and for serving as Chapter Photographer.

Following dinner, CAPT Don Freese, Florida Council of Chapters President, installed the following: President - LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret); 1st Vice President - LCDR Bill Lee, USN (Ret); 2nd Vice President - MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret); Secretary - Chris Lillich, AuxMbr-Spouse; and Treasurer

- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret). Executive Advisory Board Members for term ending December 31, 2012 - Jean Jessup, AuxMbr-A; Col Charlie Parsons, USAF (Ret); and Maj Gen John Schoeppner, USAF (Ret); and for term ending December 31, 2013 - Virginia Balke, AuxMbr-A; LTC Hardy Bryan, USA (Ret); and CPT Barbara Stakk, USA (Fmr). CAPT Don Freese then presented Ed Lillich with his past president's pin, and Ed presented Terry Carr with the president's pin and gavel. Terry had a few remarks, which included the necessity for all members to bring in new members.

Larry Fernald then introduced his friend and fellow Civil Air Patrol member, and our short-notice guest speaker, Lt Col Darryl "Egg" Smith, USAF. Egg is assigned to CENTCOM as the Deputy Chief, Training Division, Exercises and Training Directorate, where he oversees various CENTCOM exercises. Egg is a former F-16 pilot, and has flown the U-2/TR-1 and the C-21, as well as T-38's and F-16s in the aggressor role at Nellis AFB, NV. He has over 4,900 hours flight time, including over 300 hours combat time in F-16s and U-2/TR-1s. Egg presented an 8 minute video on Red Flag, including some crashes, which lead into a briefing on Red Flag itself and how that two week simulated combat situation prepares pilots and crews from all aircraft for actual combat missions, and helps them successfully complete the first 7 days of combat, where, statistically, they are more prone to accidents.

Following questions to "Egg," Chaplain Mike Day gave the benediction and the evening concluded.

### Executive Committee Meeting 3 January 2012

The meeting was called to order by the President, Ed Lillich, at 1130 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the president. Seventeen members were present including; Carol Barnes, Bill Bolin, George Brown, Terry Carr, Pete Dawson, Larry Fernald, Barbara Fernald, Don Freese, Jean Jessup, Bill Lee, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Hazel McGrath, Johnnie Neville, Jim Patton and Violet Smith. Ed Lillich thanked the officers and committee chairpersons for all the help that was provided to him in the past two years and said it was a pleasure to work with each and every one.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Bill Lofgren made a motion to accept the minutes as presented by e-mail to the Executive Committee, seconded by Jim Patton. Motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pete Dawson reported the balance of \$9,652.49 in the operating fund at the end of December 2012. He explained to the E.C. that the \$1,759.31 reported as miscellaneous expenses represent \$50.00 gratuity for our wait staff at the E.C. meetings and the balance was used to bring the Officers' Call Booster account to a zero balance. A detailed accounting is found elsewhere in the O.C.

**First Vice President:** Terry Carr said he would be inviting

See Minutes Pg 4



## Open Letter from Pg 1

to be said. How do we put into words all the regret of so many years? I don't know, but when I have an opportunity, I take it so here goes. Have you been to Vietnam? If so, I have something I want to say to you -Thank you for going! Thank you from the bottom of my heart. Please forgive me for my insensitivity. I don't know how I could have been so blind, but I was. When I woke up, you were wounded and the damage was done, and I don't know how to fix it. I will never stop regretting my actions, and I will never let it happen again.

Please understand that I am speaking for the general public also. We know we blew it and we don't know how to make it up to you. We wish we had been there for you when you came home from Vietnam because you were a hero and you deserved better. Inside of you there is a pain that will never completely go away and you know what? It's inside of us, too; because when we let you down, we hurt ourselves, too. We all know it and we suffer guilt and we don't know what to do so we cheer for our troops and write letters to "any soldier" and we hang out the yellow ribbons and fly the flag and we love America. We love you too, even if it doesn't feel like it to you. I know in my heart that, when we cheer wildly for our troops, part of the reason is trying to make up for Vietnam. And while it may work for us, it does nothing for you. We failed you. You didn't fail us, but we failed you, and we lost our only chance to be grateful to you at the time when you needed and deserved it. We have disgraced ourselves and brought shame to our country. We did it and we need your forgiveness.

Please say you will forgive us and please take your rightful place as heroes of our country. We have learned a terribly painful lesson at your expense and we don't know how to fix it.

From the heart,

Julie Weaver

237 East Gatewood Circle

Burleson, Texas 76028-8948

817-295-6287

julieweaver@juno.com

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## Minutes from Pg 3

each of the honorary members to be speakers in the early months of this year. A motion made to remove the MacDill Medical Group Commander from the honorary list was seconded but did not pass.

**Second Vice President:** Bill Lee gave a report of those members who have not renewed. These members will be called by other members of the Chapter who will give their findings to Bill Lee and Larry Fernald. Larry will compile the up to date membership list for the 2012 directory.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**MacDill Liaison:** Violet Smith said that due to restructuring

of commands the Medical Group Commander will no longer hold monthly meetings. George Brown said he will be going to a volunteer meeting once a month on the base and will report anything new to Violet for her reports to the Council.

**Visitation:** Hazel McGrath reported on those who are sick and shut in. Please refer to the sick list in the O.C. If you know of someone who is sick or shut in and not on the list please inform Hazel.

**Give Me Ten:** Don Freese said the Chapter is now tied with Central Ohio with 10 members. Don asked that each member start asking friends and acquaintances to join MOAA.

**Membership:** Larry Fernald said the Chapter ended the year with 310 members on the roll and currently 273 have renewed, 35 have not renewed as of this date and 2 members resigned.

**Scholarship:** A new representative has been appointed as our Chapter contact. Larry Fernald has been in contact with her.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Chris Lillich, Secretary, suggested that an old, obsolete tape recorder be taken off the list of property items since it is no longer possible to buy blank tapes for it. Larry Fernald made a motion to remove the recorder from the books. Jean Jessup seconded the motion and the motion passed. The secretary will take care of disposition.

There being no further business, Chaplain Brown gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1230 hours.

## Arden Courts... Memory Care is all we do



Did you know that there is a special financial benefit from the Veteran's Administration called Aid & Attendance that can fund a stay at a memory care community such as Arden Courts?

**Call Arden Courts today to learn about this little-known benefit for Veterans and how you can receive up to \$2,020 per month to help with your memory care needs.**

**Arden Courts**   
Memory Care Community

300 Highland Avenue NE • Largo, FL 33770

(727) 559-8411



Call (727) 559-8411 or e-mail [largo@arden-courts.com](mailto:largo@arden-courts.com) to speak to our dementia specialist.





## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

### Medicare/TRICARE Cut Looms

Legislators return to Washington, and they face a full plate in 2012.

A long term debt reduction plan remains the most divisive and elusive issue, and it will likely dominate the proceedings of the 2nd session of the 112th Congress.

If Congress can come to a debt reduction agreement this year it can stave off the automatic debt reduction trigger – sequestration – that would lead to massive cuts in defense spending, and almost certainly disproportionately whack the military community with the brunt of spending cuts.

In the more immediate future Congress will need to pass a long term “doc fix” without which Medicare/TRICARE payments to doctors would be cut by more than 27%. The current extension expires at the end of February.

Now’s the time to kick off your 2012 grass roots advocacy efforts by sending your legislators a [MOAA-suggested message](#) asking them to pass a long term “doc fix” and protect access to health care for military families and retirees.

### Grappling With DoD Healthcare Costs

The Pentagon is putting the final touches on a soon to be released report providing a new perspective on the rising cost of military medical care. Most importantly the report focuses on options to save money without shifting costs to beneficiaries through fee increases.

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates repeatedly bemoaned that “health care costs are eating the Defense Department alive.” The fact is that over the past decade, U.S. health care costs have grown substantially, and the military health system’s costs have been no exception. The Pentagon reported that health care costs have more than doubled from \$19 billion in 2001 to \$52.5 billion requested for fiscal year 2012.

After more than ten years of war and the associated costs of readiness and force health protection, some of the cost-growth is understandable.

But there are also tremendous inefficiencies and duplication in the military health care system.

According to former Maine Governor John Baldacci, who was appointed to provide the review and an independent assessment of the military health system, “We need to bring things under control and change the way we are doing business.”

He believes the design of the current military medical infrastructure has not kept pace with the rapid changes in healthcare delivery. “Instead of placing the rising costs of TRICARE and



military medicine onto the beneficiary, the system inefficiency should be addressed first,” stated Baldacci.

MOAA finds this approach refreshing, but we’ll need to see the final recommendations before we can jump on board.

### As I See It — An Extra Special Interest Group

January 12, 2012

By Col. Steve Strobbridge, USAF-Ret.

Budget critics perpetually attack the special interest groups that lobby Congress and make big political donations to protect, preserve, and enhance their own share of the budget pie at taxpayers’ expense.

The assumption is special interest groups care more about their own interests than they do about the welfare of the country as a whole.

Among those who propose significant cutbacks in defense spending, some point to the advocacy of military associations (often citing MOAA as lead example) as the cause of significant recent personnel and compensation cost growth.

In their view, the military community is a special interest group that has sought to feather its own nest with higher pay for currently serving troops, plussed-up health care benefits, expensive retirement reforms, and big benefit increases for military survivors, among others, over the past decade.

Are we a special interest group?

Absolutely. In fact, the military community should be considered an “extra special interest group.” But Congress wouldn’t have passed all those increases if it were merely a matter of self-interest for the affected individuals.

The military community is (or at least should be) of extra special interest to every American, because unless we can continue to attract top-quality people to serve for decades under conditions most Americans won’t accept, the country won’t be able to meet its most basic requirement — defending itself.

Unlike other special interest groups, MOAA and most other military associations don’t have deep pockets to make political contributions or take legislators on lavish “retreats.”

We make our case on historical experience that Congress understands better than the budget critics do.

And that experience clearly shows when the country depresses military compensation and benefits value so it no longer offsets the sacrifices of career service, people in uniform eventually vote with their feet.

That’s what happened in the 1990s, after almost two decades of constant pay, retirement, and health care cutbacks.

Congress didn’t pass the increases of the past decade out of the goodness of their hearts or to feather military families’ nests at the country’s expense. Congress adopted those changes because they were essential to preserve retention and readiness — by correcting the wrongs imposed on the military com-

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See Legislature Pg 8



The Color Guard Presenting the Colors



Guest Speaker, Lt Col Darryl "Egg" Smith



The POW Table



Left; The new board: L to R Pres Terry Carr, 1st VP Bill Lee, 2nd VP Joanne Taylor, Sec. Chris Lillich, Treas. Pete Dawson. Exec Board; Jean Jessup, Virginia Balke, Barbara Stakk, Hardy Bryan



Right, Melanie and Egg Smith



Ed Lillich presenting Don Freese with the Life Member Emeritus Award



Ed Lillich presenting Basil Burrell with the Distinguished Member Award



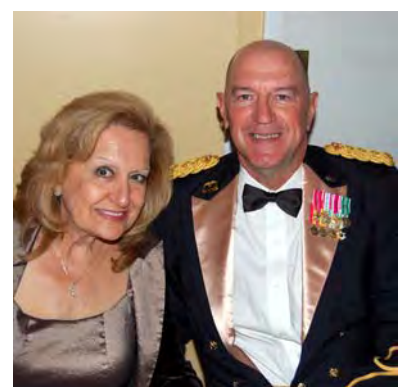
Ed Lillich presenting Secretary Chris Lillich with Certificate of Appreciation



Ed Lillich presenting Photographer and Candy Man Bill Lofgren with Certificate of Appreciation



Bill and Terry Lofgren



Paulette and President Terry Carr

Photos by Bill Lofgren and others





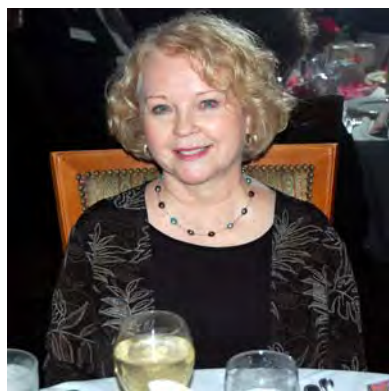
Barbara Stakk and Charles Masterson



Jane and 1st VP Bill Lee



2nd VP Joanne Taylor, Yvonne Hughes and Karen Star



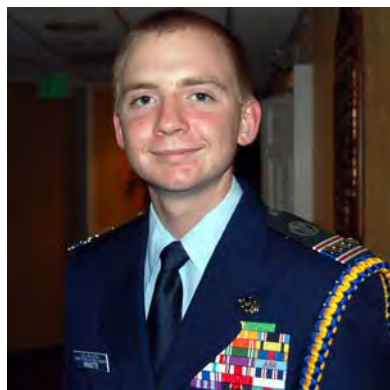
Guest Bernice Ripson



Guests Sandy and Pete Dabrowski



Kay and Area VP Skip Hartnett



Guest CAP Cadet/Capt (now Maj) Justin Niquette



Kitty Crowell and Ed Riley



Jane and Norm Belson



Left; Last Exec. Board meeting of the outgoing board. Seated L to R Chris Lillich, Terry Carr, Ed Lillich, Pete Dawson, Hazel McGrath, Standing L to R George Brown, Jim Patton, Johnnie Neville, Don Freese, Violet Smith, Jean Jessup, Larry Fernald, Carol Barnes, Bill Bolin, Bill Lee, Bill Lofgren.



Linda and Robert Summers

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify Larry Fernald of your correct email address at the following email address: [LarryFern246@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:LarryFern246@tampabay.rr.com)



### President from Page 1

-ington are working hard with representatives of both political parties to convince them to not force a disproportionate share of spending cuts on our Nations military, both past and present, as they tackle ways to reduce the national deficit. It is more important than ever to speak with one powerful voice to political offices both locally and nationally.

It is an honor to be elected and a pleasure to serve as the President of this, the best MOAA chapter in the U.S. Let us continue to build on our successes and be open to new ideas. I look forward to working with an outstanding EC and each member of this Chapter.

### Legislature from Pg 5

munity over previous decades.

They knew from hard experience that currently serving troops pay attention to the treatment accorded their predecessors in service and that military retirees are primary recruiters for the next generations in uniform.

Too often over the 1980s and 1990s, the treatment of military retirees loudly spoke, “Don’t let the door hit you on the way out.”

And the military and the country paid a price for that in retention and readiness.

Sadly, shortsighted budget critics don’t seem to learn from the retention crises of the 1970s and 1990s. All they focus on is the past decade of improvements to address the problems that caused the crises.

Every segment of America, including the military, will be called upon to make some sacrifices to put our country back on a sound economic path.

Unfortunately, history shows the tendency in tough budget times has been to whack the military community disproportionately and give inadequate weight to the sacrifices they already have rendered for our country.

Extra special interest group, indeed. At least they should be.

### 2011 Federal Income Tax Preparation Assistance

This service is available FREE OF CHARGE to retirees, spouses, widows/widowers, and active duty families of all branches of service.

#### Where Do We Provide Tax Assistance?

Tax assistance will be provided in the Retiree Activities Office (RAO) at MacDill AFB. (The RAO building is located between the BX and Commissary).

#### What can you expect?

The RAO will have specially trained volunteers to assist you with tax returns. Electronic filing will be provided and refunds can be expected within approximately two weeks from the date of filing. If the RAO did not prepare your previous year’s tax return, you should bring a copy of the return you filed for

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of December 2011

### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ (1,435.97)
..... Donations .....	\$ 105.00
..... Reimburse from Ops .....	\$ 1,709.31
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ (378.34)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 0.00

### HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 2,380.38
..... Donations .....	\$ 485.00
..... 50/50 .....	\$ 64.00
..... Memorials .....	\$ 0.00
..... Expenses .....	\$ (403.30)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 2,929.38

### Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 3,941.00
..... Donations .....	\$ 265.00
..... 50/50 Income .....	\$ 0.00
..... Expended .....	\$ 4,136.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 70.00

### Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 10,915.42
..... Monthly Luncheon .....	\$ 912.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10 .....	\$ 965.00
..... Misc Income .....	\$ 0.00
..... Interest Earned .....	\$ 1.43
..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ (900.00)
..... VA/JROTC .....	\$ (100.00)
..... Supplies .....	\$ (15.00)
..... Printing .....	\$ (135.05)
..... Post Office .....	\$ (62.00)
..... Memorial to HOT .....	\$ 0.00
..... Other Organizations .....	\$ (200.00)
..... Miscellaneous Expense .....	\$ (1,759.31)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 9,652.49

that year. The tax assistance program is sponsored by the Staff Judge Advocate and is operated under the supervision of the RAO. Tax preparers are trained under the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program and are certified by the IRS for performance at a level commensurate with most retirees’ incomes.

### When Can You Receive Our Free Tax Assistance Service?

Appointments are available starting January 17, 2012. Please call 813-828-0248 or visit our office on or after this date. Walk-in service will be available starting February 6, 2012. This service is available on a first-come-first-served basis during our operating hours. Active duty personnel in uniform will be given priority over other walk-in customers between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.





# TAPS

- ◆ Eynatten, Margaret, Mrs., AuxMbr-N, 22 December 2011

## Sick List

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

- ◆ Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ CDR Alda Haley, USN (Ret)
- ◆ Mrs. Clarada Pribble, AuxMbr-MC
- ◆ Lt Col Sky Crowell, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ Col Mildred “Gene” Butler, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ Mrs. Margaret Mattson, AuxMbr-CG
- ◆ COL Anse “Ed” Speairs, USA (Ret)

### Coast Guard City, USA

Clearwater celebrated its designation as a Coast Guard City as part of the Blast Friday event on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.

Clearwater is the only current city in Florida to have the designation and one of 14 nationally. It is given based on support to local Coast Guard stations and its members.

The city coordinates community recognition, events and programs to support the Coast Guard and its members. The city recognizes the Coast Guard Persons of the Year; participates in the annual Coast Guard birthday celebration; provides welcome aboard packages to arriving Coast Guard personnel; hosts the Coast Guard Band at Ruth Eckerd Hall; and helps the Coast Guard when needed.

The event featured the Clearwater Police and Fire Department’s Joint Honor Guard with the Coast Guard Honor Guard and the Coast Guard Quintet also performed. There were displays and information about Coast Guard careers.

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## Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ Mrs. Patti Starwyck, AuxMbr-Navy, PO Box 3954, Seminole, FL 33775, 727-392-1455
- ◆ Mrs. Patricia Spencer, AuxMbr-Army, 1976 Levine Lane, Clearwater, FL 33760, 727-535-5851
- ◆ Lt Col Wayne Atkinson, USAF (Ret), (Nona), 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd M302, Clearwater, FL 33759, 727-230-0270
- ◆ Mrs. Nona Atkinson, AuxMbr-Spouse, (Wayne), 2751 Regency Oaks Blvd M302, Clearwater, FL 33759, 727-230-0270
- ◆ Capt Jim Garvey, Jr., USAF (Ret), 106 1st Street East #213, Terra Verde, FL 33715, 727-954-6013

## February Birthdays (41 to 94 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
29	Barnum	Ralph	CDR	USN (Ret)
05	Berns	Robert	Col	USMC (Ret)
27	Brodeur	Donald	Capt	USAF (Ret)
07	Carter	Nelson	WO3	USN (Ret)
15	Darling	John	LTC	USA (Ret)
06	Day	Michael	COL	USA (Ret)
02	Fernald	Laurance	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Fratangelo	Paul	MajGen	USMC (Ret)
23	Freese	Marc	LtCol	USMC (Res)
04	Funsch	Richard	CAPT	USCG (Ret)
17	Hanson	Marlowe	CPT	USA (Fmr)
26	Holtman	Bruce	CDR	USN (Ret)
05	Kisbany	Sara	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
07	Moore	Frances	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
23	Mortensen	Marilyn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
10	O’Toole	Charles	CAPT	USN (Ret)
19	Patton	James	CWO4	USCG (Ret)
25	Shine	John	Col	USMC (Ret)
06	Star	Karen	Maj	USAF (Ret)
20	Tondreau	Herbert	CWO4	USA (Ret)
14	Vallario	Rudolph	LTC	USA (Ret)



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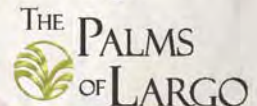
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If you wish to donate to one of our funds, please send the check to SPA-MOAA, PO Box 7054, St. Petersburg, FL, 33734 or better yet bring it to the next luncheon.

**2012 Help Our Troops Donors**

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

**••GOLD –**

- Fernald, Larry Lt Col
- Freese, Don CAPT
- Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
- Lee, Bill LCDR
- Love, H. B. COL
- Palmer, Stew Col
- Peck, Earl Maj Gen
- Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
- Spears, Thomas 2LT

Member donations ONLY:  
\$ 450 as of 1/23/2012

**2012 Scholarship Fund Donors**  
(Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

**••GOLD –**

- Fernald, Larry Lt Col
- Freese, Don CAPT
- Lee, Bill LCDR
- Love, H. B. COL
- Palmer, Stew Col
- Peck, Earl Maj Gen
- Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
- Spears, Thomas 2LT

Member donations ONLY:  
\$800 as of 1/23/2012

Scholarship donations have permitted us to complete our first \$25,000 scholarship, we began a second scholarship at the beginning of 2009 (to be completed by 2014). Each of these scholarships, managed by MOAA, will provide a \$500 grant and a \$5,000 interest free loan.

**HOT Candy**

HOT Candies will no longer be made and brought to the monthly luncheons in hopes for a sale. However, candies are still available by special order. Contact Bill Lofgren at 727-742-0181, or email lofgrenlepc@earthlink.net, giving your name and phone number and the type of assorted tin you would like to have. The tins will be specially made to your personal tastes. Orders must be received by Wednesday preceding the next Friday meeting. Price will remain the same, \$15 with all proceeds going to the HOT program.

**Valentines for Veterans**

Army & Air Force Exchange Service shoppers can show their appreciation to military servicemembers who came before them by sending free valentines through their local Exchange now through Feb. 6th. "Valentines for Veterans" is an annual Exchange campaign to send greetings to local Veterans Administration hospitals, Fisher House locations and military retirement facilities. For more information, contact your local Main Exchange and ask about "Valentines for Veterans."

**2012 Officers Call Booster Donors**

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

**••GOLD –**

- Fernald, Larry Lt Col
- Freese, Don CAPT
- Lee, Bill LCDR
- Love, H. B. COL
- Palmer, Stew Col
- Peck, Earl Maj Gen
- Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
- Spears, Thomas 2LT

**••BRONZE –**

- Lanier, Laurie Maj

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## St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA Monthly Luncheon

**Friday  
17 February 2012**

**Banquet Masters  
8100 Park Blvd  
Pinellas Park, FL**

**11:45 AM to 1:15 PM  
Social Hour from 11:00 to 11:45  
Program Begins at 11:45**

**Guest Speaker:  
COL George L. Brown, USA (Ret)**

**Space A Travel**

Colonel Brown is a Life Member of MOAA, Past President of the St. Petersburg Chapter and the current Chaplain.



An "army brat" and son of a career infantryman, Colonel Brown exemplifies the qualities associated with the quiet professional athlete, educator and soldier.

Colonel George L. Brown Jr., entered the service in January 1947, from Columbus, Georgia. Colonel Brown received his Reserve Officer Training Corps commission in May, 1952, from Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Alabama. His duties and assignments include: Platoon Leader, 3rd Armored Division, Fort Knox, Kentucky and 1st Cavalry Division, Japan; Executive Officer, 1st Cavalry Division Japan; 498th Terminal Service Company, 655th Transportation Truck Company, Headquarters Logistical Command (Reserve Training Unit), Detachment Commander 13th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), Instructor, 3rd United States Army Area Intelligence School, Area Operations Officer G-3, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Instructor, 3388th United States Army Reserve School, Tampa, Florida; Deputy Commander, 1079th Reserve Training Unit (Logistics Management), Saint Louis, Missouri. His awards include The Meritorious Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Medal, and Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Ten Year Service Device, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist and The Parachutist Rigger Badge.

Colonel Brown retired May 1984 and presently volunteers at the Space A Terminal at MacDill Air Force Base. His talk will be about the availability of Space A travel and the necessary procedures to apply.

### MONTHLY LUNCHEON

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2012

Banquet Masters

8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL

• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, February 15th**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each reservation \$12:**

**Prime Rib:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Stuffed Flounder:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cobb Salad :** \_\_\_\_\_

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LTC Terry Carr 459-4026**



### February Events:

- 2: Groundhog Day
- 12: Lincoln's Birthday
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 20: President's Day
- 22: Washington's Birthday
- 23: MOAA est 1929 formerly TROA
- 29: Leap Day

