

OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL IV No I ★★★★★ **Five Star Chapter - 2002, 03 & 04** ★★★★★ January 2006
Winner 2003 Newsletter Contest–Print & Electronic Media & Web Site !!



Installation Dinner at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Make your plans now! Sign up for the January 20 installation dinner at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. A special group of top MOAA officials will be on hand to let you pick their brains. One of them, Col. Ron Buchert, USAF (Ret) Chairman of national MOAA's Councils and Chapters Committee, will present two awards - one for our chapter's 45th anniversary, the other an award for excellence, represented by a five-star battle streamer for the chapter's flag.

All inclusive cost of dinner – \$25 & Cash Bar

Watercress & Spinach Salad with Chardonnay dressing
Breast of Chicken, Breaded & Stuffed with Broccoli and Cheddar with Tarragon Sauce
Chef's Selection of Starch & Vegetable
Warm Rolls & Pecan Rolls
White Chocolate Cheesecake with Raspberries
Coffee, Tea, Decaf

After the presentations, Col. Chris Giaimo, USAF (Ret), who is the Director of the Councils and Chapters Department at MOAA headquarters, will install our president-elect, Capt. Don Freese, USNR (Ret). After the installation, Chris will give us an update on what MOAA is doing today, where it's going, and why it's important for your chapter, and for you.

It's on January 20 at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club, on the second floor ball room. The social hour starts at 5 pm followed by dinner at 6, then the awards and speech.

Members with uniforms are invited to wear them. Men not in uniform should wear dinner jackets or dark suits, and ladies not in uniform should wear appropriate equivalent attire.

President's Message

This is my last "Message", and it is with mixed emotions that I compose it. I feel so honored to have been chosen to represent our Chapter in this honorable and dignified association. On the other hand, I realize these turbulent times require younger, more aggressive, leadership. I think our elected leaders will provide this, and I wish them great success.



We were designated a Five-Star Chapter in 2004, and I want to thank those who made it happen: the Executive Committee and Committee Chairs. I feel sure we will receive the same rating again in 2005, because of the outstanding performance of our present Directors and Committee Chairpersons.

There are several members who, I feel ESPECIALLY deserve our respect and admiration for their long, dedicated and dependable service. We all are aware of what they have done for our Chapter. Those I have in mind are: LTC Fred Edwards, LTC Carroll Andrews, Major Peter Dawson and Colonel Roger Shields. I don't mean to imply there aren't others equally as deserving. **Paul Finley**

We will drop 2005 members who have not renewed by 31 January 2006

Your \$25 covers all costs – dinner, tax, and gratuities (servers and valet parking). Valet parking for non-Yacht Club members is the parking garage entrance off Central Avenue. Please use that entrance and identify yourself as attending the MOAA event. Yacht Club members, and members of other yacht clubs, should use the "Members Entrance" off Beach Drive.



Officers Call

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P.O. Box 7054 St Petersburg Fl 33734

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS

- President- Paul Finley** LCDR, USNR (Ret) ... 391-5908
1st VP- Pat Tamalis, Maj USAF (Ret) 392-1066
2nd VP- Basil Burrell CWO4 USCG (Ret) 821-7365
Secretary- TBD -
Treasurer- Peter Dawson, Maj USAF (Ret) 894-3761

EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

- 2005—
Col Al Neville, USAF (Ret) 522-5685
TBD xxx-xxxx
TBD xxx-xxxx
—2005 & 2006—
CAPT Bob Eynatten, USN (Ret) 360-4637
Mrs. Violet Smith, SpMbr - Army 595-5543
MAJ Mike Tomasulo, USA (Ret) 546-0130

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

- CAPT Tom Harrow, USNR (Ret) 367-9050

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|
| Advertising | Lt Col Gary Gilchrist, USAF | 787-3447 |
| Chaplain: | COL George Brown, USA | 866-6859 |
| Data Base | Col Al Neville, USAF | 522-5685 |
| Electronic Info | MAJ Jim Hughes, USA | 517-1119 |
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| Master at Arms | MAJ Mike Tomasulo, USA | 546-0130 |
| Membership | CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG | 821-7365 |
| Memorial | Mrs Violet Smith, SpMbr-A | 595-5543 |
| Newsletter | COL Roger Shields, USA | 392-4323 |
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| ROWC Liaison | Mrs Violet Smith, SpMbr-A | 595-5543 |
| Scholarships: | CAPT Tom Harrow, USNR | 367-9050 |
| TOPS | TBD | |
| VA Vol Svc | LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN | 545-3884 |
| Vet Liaison | LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC | 360-2936 |
| Visitation | LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN | 545-3884 |

AND: Life Members Emeritus and Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 341
General Members - 248
Special Members - 93

Military Services:

Army - 92	USMC - 13
USAF - 83	USCG - 9
Navy - 52	

Meet your Chapter officers for 2006

President, CAPT Don Freese, USNR (Ret)

Captain Donald R. Freese, USNR (Ret) was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois the son of Fritz and Pearl Freese. Don graduated from Rock Island High School in 1959 and immediately left for the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland graduating in June 1963 with a BS Degree.



Don spent four years on active duty primarily aboard the USS New DD 818 as Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Destroyer Anti Submarine Helicopter (DASH) Officer serving with the Second Fleet in the Atlantic and Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean with two tours to the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

Don left active duty in 1967 and joined the Naval Reserve advancing to Captain with eight Naval Reserve Unit commands including the reserve crews of the USS Virginia CGN 38 and USS Wainwright (CG 28) before retiring in 1993.

In civilian life Don had a variety of corporate engineering and management positions advancing to Vice President of Universal Instrument Corporation. In 1991 Don realized a life long ambition to become a lawyer and took the opportunity to go to Law School graduating from the Salmon P Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 1994. Don is licensed to practice Law in Ohio and Kentucky where he practiced full time until moving to Florida in 1998 and part time until 2004.

Don married Sherry Ann Gray in 1964 and is the proud father of Major Marc Daniel Freese, USMCR and Michelle Lynn Star and three grandsons Jackson Paul Star (3), Sawyer Johnathon Star (2) and Alexander Daniel Freese (six months). Marc is married to Melody Jones and Michelle to former Marine Corps Captain Jason Star.

1st Vice President, COL Ron Merritt, USA (Ret)

Ron's military career interrupted his shortlived professional baseball aspirations in the Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York baseball league June 1953. Commissioned Corp of Engineers, followed by flight training including both fixed and rotary wing qualifacaton. Ron has over 6000 hours of pilot time in 46 aircraft, and holds FAA licence for instruments, and fixed and rotary aircraft.



Highlights of his career are reflected in leadership positions held at all levels from platoon to battalion level commands. He commanded the largest Army Aviation Battalion (4400 soldiers and 300 aircraft at Camp Holloway, Pleiku, RVN) with the primary mission to support Special Operations Group Missions in and outside Vietnam. In addition to his battalion's regular mission in the Central Highlands he was responsible to train and transition RVN pilots and crews to take over the the missions of three companies in the Flying Dragons Battalion.

His military awards include the Legion of Merit, three Distinguished Flying Cross awards, three Bronze Stars (two with valor), 26 Air Medals (5 with valor), two Vietnamese Cross Of Gallantry Medals, US Army Commendation medal, and other normal service awards.

Ron's education achievements include; BS Business, University Nebraska 1965, MS Aerospace Engineering 1970.

He is a Gideon, active in his church as a council member, former

Recruit a new member

**Continued–COL Ron Merritt**

Rotarian, Promise Keeper Ambassador, former President of the Pea River Historical and Genealogy Society, and active in American Heart Association, Royal Family Kids Camp.

He is married to the former Gunvor Johanson. They have seven children, and twelve grandchildren.

2nd Vice President, Col Al Neville, USAF (Ret)

Johnnie and I have been married fifty six years. We've lived in St Petersburg almost thirty of those years. Our five children and ten grandchildren all call Florida home. During our stay here, we had our own real estate office and have been quite active in Kiwanis - club, division and Florida Foundation.



I started out as a GI in the 3rd Engineer Regiment at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii. On December 7th. I saw the first Japanese dive bomber drop its bomb on nearby Wheeler AAF. I then won an army appointment to West Point; graduating in 1945 in one of the three year classes whose A/C members graduated with pilot wings.

I served thirty years in the army air corps/USAF. Most of my career was in tactical reconnaissance units, human factors R&D and personnel planning. As a 45 year old colonel, I joined a fighter wing as DC Operations, then checked out in its F-4D fighter. I flew a combat tour out of Ubon RTAF, Thailand. I then was assigned to Kunsan AFB, Korea to establish a F-4D fighter wing. I ended my military service as commander of a Logistics Command repair center, Newark, Ohio. It repaired inertial guidance and navigation systems for SAC missiles, TAC fighters and Navy attack submarines.

I joined TROA/MOAA in 1976; however, I have only been involved in chapter operations since 2001. That is when I took over our database, our annual dues renewal drive and the preparing of our annual member directory. I also help produce *Officers Call*. As 2nd Vice President, I will be responsible for member recruiting and retention — and, please get involved!

Secretary, Vacant

Our elected Secretary, Special Member Marjorie Fox, has found it necessary to withdraw her name. She has a personal problem requiring her presence elsewhere. See **THE BUZZ**

Treasurer, Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)

Pete joined TROA in 1976 while still on active duty. He joined the St Pete Chapter in 1979. In 1983 he served as Special Project Officer and collected \$5,600 to buy TV sets for Bay Pines VA Hospital. Served as Treasurer in 1984 and reconstructed 5 past years of financial statements to help successfully apply for tax exempt status from IRS and State of Florida. In 1985 elected to 2nd VP and Program Chairman. In 1986 elected to 1st VP and served as Membership Chairman.



Elected President in 1987 and 1988.

From the Editor**COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)****• SBP Improvements Scuttled -**

Apparently our MOAA members and members of the Military Coalition didn't make enough noise when Survivor Benefits improvements were considered by the House of Representatives. Here is an example of "Let George Do It" in action (or inaction!) Did you write, email, call or visit your Congressman to show a convincing interest in improving SBP? Numbers of contacts by veterans and others who show interest are counted by the staff of each Congressman and Senator. The contacts are regarded as potential voters. We can only hope that every reader of our newsletter and others will overwhelm the members of Congress with contacts when SBP is brought to the floor for a vote in the near future. This means you!



• Chapter Name Change – Our Executive Committee noted that three or more Florida chapters of MOAA have changed names to include the word, "Area" in their titles. Those chapters claim an increase in recruiting new members who live in the vicinity of the chapter but not in the town named in the former chapter title. As an example, we have a significant number of members who do not have St. Petersburg addresses so may have thought they couldn't join us. To erase all doubt the Executive Committee has proposed that the name of our chapter be changed as follows: "The St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA." More later.

• Installation Dinner – Please read Fred Edward's article in this newsletter with information on our Installation Dinner. The new slate of Chapter officers will be installed, entertainment will be provided, members honored and an excellent meal will be provided. Please support your chapter.

• Convention 2006 – The St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA is reputed to have presented the best ever Convention in 1999. Some of the heroes and heroines include **Earl Peck** who was the Chairman, **John Callicotte**, **Anne Isely**, **June Vernon**, **D Kay Benson** and many others. You, the reader, and I attended and had a great time. It appears that the 2006 Convention will also be outstanding. The Clearwater Chapter is also assisting in several areas under the leadership of Victor Wood while the overall Chairperson is **Pat Tamalis**.

In 1990 appointed 1st VP in July when elected VP moved from area. Finished term as Acting President when President became incapacitated due to illness.

Elected President in 1994 & 1995 and 2nd VP in 1996.

Chairman of Budget/Finance Committee in 2000.

Elected as Treasurer for 2003, 2004 and 2005.

Has been selected as a Distinguished Member and Life Member Emeritus. Helps old ladies (whom he now views as peers) across the street on rainy days; is kind to children and dumb animals.

Bring a member to Lunch



Chapter Luncheon, 16 December 2005

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

73 Attended – 36 Mbrs, 15 Wives, 10 SpMbrs; 9 Guests, 4 Walk-ins, 4 No shows

The choir from Faith Presbyterian Church entertained us with some very nice Christmas (not holiday) music after our lunch at Banquet Masters. This is a very talented group and those of you who were not there missed a good program.

A very entertaining part of the program was when we were all asked to join in and help the choir sing the “Twelve Days of Christmas.” We were divided in groups by table and asked to act out or play the parts of the song such as “partridge in a pear tree, etc. You have never heard such squawking of birds and lords leaping and maids milking. It makes you wonder how this sorts of gifts could make a nice Christmas! Anyway it was fun and we didn’t have to put up with the real things. One of the choir members is a real talented soloist and everyone appreciated his singing and generally the whole group delivered an outstanding program. I hope we can welcome them back again.

We were pleased to see a lot of folks who are not frequent attendees at our luncheons and we really hope we can arrange some programs that will persuade them to return more often. LCOL Janice Mogan and LCOL Luisa Menyhert are doing a great job of recruiting new members. Two of their prospects were at today’s luncheon.

In response to a request to Bay Pines VA Hospital for suggestions of deserving programs for us to support, our speaker discussed sexual problems in the armed forces. We were told more than I want to pass on to our sensitive members so I will drop the subject. Our Chapter has donated \$1,134.00 to Bay Pines VA Hospital for use in the Physical Rehabilitation Program and in the Sexual Rehabilitation Program. I confess I haven’t enquired about how the money is divided and don’t really wish to know.



Top right clockwise:

- 1. Faith Presbyterian Church Choir
- 2. Same
- 3. Judy Connelly, PhD Bay Pines VA Psychologist
- 4. New member Louisa Menyhert, LTC Army (Ret)
- 5. Willie Foster with new member, Ernestine Rembert, LTC Army (Ret)
- 6. Fred Edwards with new member, Bill Bolin CDR Navy (Ret)



Recruit a new member



CONVENTION 2006

Now is the time to make your reservations: convention and hotel!! Your November *Officers Call* had a Convention insert with the essential forms. If it is misplaced, contact Pat Tamalis 392-1066 or any chapter officer. (see page 2)



- From upper center, clockwise:
1. SSGT Solomon & PFC Wilson USMC
 2. Jacque D’Louhy
 3. El & Basil Burrell
 4. Bert & Dolly Couture
 5. Katherine Burdette



THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

Help Desperately Wanted – Our chapter needs a secretary whose major function would be to take notes at our Business Meetings and report on our luncheons. The person nominated for the position is not available because of a personal problem requiring her presence elsewhere. **Basil Burrell** did a superior job when he filled in for the position on a temporary basis and we are most grateful. Basil’s particular (peculiar?) talents will be used elsewhere. If you are interested in being the chapter secretary, please call **Don Freese**, our incoming President at 727-360-3102. or email at: donfreese@aol.com.

(Any member or spouse of a member may hold this office. An applicant must have a computer and be literate on the internet.)

Welcome a Visitor – **John Callicotte** and **Martha Callicotte** propose to attend our February luncheon, according to their recent phone call. John did a particularly outstanding job of organizing an essential part of our 1999 Convention.

Convention 2006 – Please support our chapter, the Clearwater chapter and the Florida Council of Chapters by attending our Convention 2006 at St Pete Beach. It promises to be an outstanding

event. The Tradewinds Island Grand has undergone a major renovation and it is most impressive. We hope to see you there!

Recruiting and Retention – A projection of dropped members forecast by **Al Neville**, our incoming 2nd VP and guru of Recruiting and Retention shows a high potential for a chapter strength of under 300 members by early 2006. As most of us know, our chapter and all chapters of MOAA represent the power of the vote to the members of Congress.

If our power is diminished by a diminishing membership, then Congress will know that the military can be ignored if there are relatively few military voters. Did you write, email, phone or visit your Congressman when the Survivor Benefits Program adjustments failed to be enacted? Please plan to contact them when Congress reconvenes in 2006.

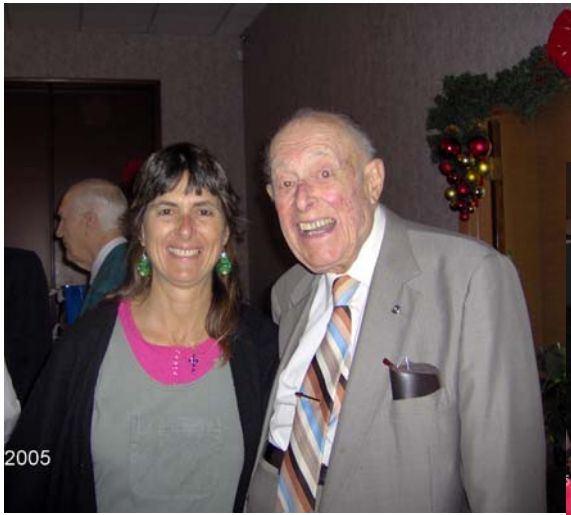
Fred Edwards Web Site – Yes, Fred has a new web site, “Crosshairs – Military Matters in Review”. Your editor can recommend that you take a look. Having spent over three years in Iran as a military officer and as a civilian, I ordered a book from Fred’s site entitled, “The Sword of the Prophet”, billed as the politically incorrect guide to Islam. Some gurus have predicted that Iran will be the scene of our next war. No, your editor does not give Farsi language lessons. Check out Fred’s site: www.frededwards.net.

Bring a member to Lunch



Right: Marie Coates

Below: Alicia & Franklin Bonnet



Above: Judy & Bert Connelly

Left: Frances Pynn

Thanks to all our contributors.

A new annual fund drive starts in February 2006

MOAA Scholarship Fund \$2,320; *Officers Call* Booster Fund \$1,085.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND - 2005

\$2,320 — Through — 16 December 2005

Alderson, John, Lt Col USAF
 Alvarez, Robert, 1LT USMC
 Andrews, Carroll, Lt Col USAF
 Arnim, R., Mrs. SpMbr-A
 Balke, Dale, COL USA
 Baney, Eleanor, Mrs. SpMbr-N
 Barton, Ann, Mrs. SpMbr-A
 Bonnet, Franklyn, LTC USA
 Borrowes, Marja, Mrs. SpMbr-CG
 Burrell, Basil, CW4 USCG
 Caton, Edward, Col USAF
 Clark, Bill, Col USAF
 Cravens, Martha, SpMbr-N
 Dabney, Tom, CAPT USN
 Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF
 Diedo, Ec, LTC USA
 D'Louhy, Jacqueline, SpMbr-A
 Edwards, Fred, LtCol USMC
 Edwards, Richard, CAPT USN
 Eisenhart, Bill, Col USAF
 Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN
 Finley, Paul, LCDR USN
 Flint, John, Col USAF
 Gilchrist, Gary, Lt Col USAF
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Hassin, Donald, COL USA
 Hetherington, Charles, Col USAF
 Hughes, Jim, MAJ USA
 Heilman, John, COL USA
 Isley, Anne, Mrs. SpMbr-A
 Jessup, John, COL USA
 Kaiser, Martin, CDR USCG
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Kelly, Jacob, LT USNR
 King, Monroe, CAPT USN
 Koch, Dick, Lt Col USAF
 Kottich, Charles, COL USA
 Lofgren, Wm., Col USAF
 Lorence, Marie, LTC ISA
 Love, H.B., COL USA

Maratos, Stan, Col USAF
 March, Charles, Col USAF
 Martin, Barbara, Mrs. SpMbr-A
 McGrath, Hazel, LCDR USN
 Middlemas, John, MAJ USA
 Mogan, Janice, LTC USA
 Murphy, Hazel, 1LT USANC
 Nelson, Landy, COL USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF
 Nolan, Richard, Col USAF
 Palmer, Samuel, Col USAF
 Parsons, Charles, Col USAF
 Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF
 Reischmann, Maj USAF
 Rowe, E. B., MAJ USA
 Shields, Roger COL USA
 Sipole, Eva, Mrs. SpMbr - A
 Stafford, Margaret, COL USA
 Seinhilber, Marion, LTC USA
 Sims, Robert, Maj USMC

National MOAA 2005 donations

Burrell, Basil, CW4 USCG
 Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN
 Hassin, Donald, COL USA
 Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF
 Smith, Violet, SpMbr - A

Memorial \$30 - Deceased Members —

Vernon, Eugene, CDR USN 1/16/05
 Cooning, Leon, Lt Col USAF 1/31/05
 D'Louhy, George, LTC USA 2/13/05
 Neuer, Arthur, CPT USA 2/25/05
 Myers, Henry, LTC USA 3/02/05
 Waugh, Wm, COL USA 5/18/05
 McCarthy, Fred. C., Lt Col USAF 08/21/05
 Fenstermaker, Roy. E., CWO USN 10/7/05

2005 *Officers Call* BOOSTER

\$1,085 – Through — 16 December 2005

Apter, Barbara, SpMbr-A
 Arnim, Rosemary, SpMbr-A
 Alvarez, Robert, 1LT USMC
 Balke, Dale, COL USA
 Baney, Eleanor, Mrs. SpMbr-N
 Blatt, Doald, LTC USA
 Bonnet, Franklyn, LTC USA
 Borrowes, Marja, Mrs. SpMbr-CG
 Boutwell, Susana, SpMbr - A
 Bowley, Carl, Col USAF
 Burrell, Basil, CW4 USCG
 Butler, Gene, Col USAF
 Caton, Edward, Col USAF
 Cormier, Emery, Man USAF
 Cravens, Martha, SpMbr-N
 Dabney, Tom, CAPT USN
 De Arment, Hal, COL USA
 Dawson, Pete, Maj USAF
 D'Louhy, Jacqueline, SpMbr-A
 Diedo, Ed, LTC USA
 Dyson, Alfred, LCDR USN
 Edwards, Fred, LtCol USMC
 Edwards, Richard, CAPT USN
 Eisenhart, Bill, Col USAF
 Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN
 Fine, A. K., MAJ AUSA
 Fratarangelo, MajGen USMC
 Fratarangelo, MajGen USMC
 Freese, Donald, CAPT USNR
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN
 Hassin, Donald, COL USA
 Heilman, John, COL USA
 Hetherington, Charles, Col USAF
 Hoffman, Eliz., Capt USAF
 Isley, Anne, Mrs. SpMbr-A

Kaiser, Martin, CDR USCG
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Kelly, Jacob, LT USNR
 King, Monroe, CAPT USN
 Koch, Dick, Lt Col USAF
 Lofgren, Wm., Col USAF
 Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
 Love, H.B., COL USA
 Maratos, Stan, Col USAF
 March, Charles, Col USAF
 Martin, Barbara, Mrs. SpMbr-A
 McGrath, Hazel, LCDR USN
 Misuraca, Angelo, 1Lt USAF
 Middlemas, John, MAJ USA
 Milford, John, Lt Col USAF
 Miller, Kay, SpMbr-A
 Misuraca, Angelo, 1Lt USAF
 Mogan, Janice, LTC USA
 Nelson, Landy, COL USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF
 Nichols, Wm Col USAF
 Palmer, Samuel, Col USAF
 Peck, Earl, Maj Gen USAF
 Reischmann, Maj USAF
 Rowe, E. B., MAJ USA
 Shutt, Richard, CAPT USN
 Shields, Roger, COL USA
 Sipole, Eva, SpMbr - A
 Smith, Paul, BG USA0
 Smith, Violet, SpMbr - A
 Stafford, Margaret, COL USA
 Seinhilber, Marion, LTC USA
 Sims, Robert, Maj USMC
 Tondreau, Herbert, CWO4 USA
 Williams, Frances, SpMbr - N

Recruit a new member



Project Helping Hand

Post Office Box 7054
St. Petersburg, FL 33734-7054
December 21, 2005
Tampa Chapter MOAA
Project Helping Hand
Post Office Box 6383
MacDill AFB, FL 33608-0383

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a check for \$304 representing donations from our members to Project Helping Hand. We applaud you for your continued support for this very worthy cause. We appreciated the presentation from Captain Silah and Lt. Colonel Bob Sawallesh at our October luncheon meeting and encourage your continued success.

We look forward to seeing them and many of your members at the Florida Council of Chapters 2006 Convention to be held at the Tradewinds Island Resort on St. Pete Beach next May.

Sincerely,

Major Peter Dawson, USAF (retired)



Welcome our new Members

COL Carol Barnes, USA (Ret)
1101 79th St, S
St Petersburg, FL 33707 727 3812334
<carol.barnes@hcahealthcare.com>

LTC Ernestine J. Rembert, USA (Ret)
828 56th Ave, S.
St Petersburg, FL 33707 727 866-6226

1Lt Kathleen L. Klein, USAF (Fmr)
2245 Willowbrook Dr
Clearwater, FL 33764 727 530-1985

More on Operation “Helping Hand”

We have received two very nice letters from CAPT Silah and Col Sawallesh of the Tampa Chapter of MOAA thanking us for our Chapter’s donations of \$300.00 and \$1,000.00 to Operation Helping Hand.

For those of our Chapter who may not know, Operation Helping Hand was formed by members of the Tampa Chapter of MOAA to provide assistance to wounded veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan and their families while the veterans are hospitalized at the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa. It is a sad fact that many families lack the financial ability to be with their loved ones while they are at the Hospital. Operation Helping Hand assists families to visit their wounded veterans with lodging expenses and food while in Tampa. Helping Hand also provides the veterans with phone cards and other necessary help. CAPT Silah and Col Sawallesh were instrumental in organizing Operation Helping Hand. **Basil**



George Brown, Al Neville, Brent Gudmundson

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (25 NOVEMBER 2005)

OPERATING ACCOUNT:

Income: \$1,840.00 (\$1,135.00)
Expenses: \$1,746.01 (\$1,146.90)
Cash Flow in: \$93.99 (out \$11.90)
Operating cash on hand: \$7,693.00 (\$5,771.00)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND:

\$3,145.41 was disbursed to MOAA prior Dec 31. Balance \$0.

Scholarship fund amount does not include amounts donated directly by members to MOAA national.

PROJECT HELPING HAND:

December 1 balance: \$170.00 (\$58.00)
Equity Distribution: \$54.00 (\$38.00)
Donations: \$80.00 (\$ 74.00)

\$304.00 was disbursed to Helping Hand prior Dec 31. Balance \$0.

BASEBALL FUND:

In December the Fund donated \$1,134.00 to Bay Pines VA Hospital and \$400.00 to the MOAA Scholarship Fund. Final check of \$302.21 received Dec 15.

Balance: \$589.21.

Maj Pete Dawson, USAF(Ret)
Treasurer



Minutes: Executive Committee Mtg St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA; 12 December 2005

President LCDR Paul Finley USN (Ret) called meeting to order at 1130 hours.

Invocation was given by MG Earl Peck USAF(Ret).

President Finley led us in Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag which was in absentia at this meeting having been replaced by Christmas Angel figurines.

It was decided to donate \$150.00 to Faith Presbyterian Church for their Choir which would sing at our luncheon.

Maj Pat Tamalis reported that we have 17 advance tickets sold for our May 2006 convention. These advance purchasers saved themselves \$5.00 by signing up before 31 December 2005.

President Finley moved to approve minutes of 7 November 2005 board meeting as printed in Officers Call. Seconded and passed.

Maj Pete Dawson gave the Treasurer's Report which appears elsewhere in January Officers Call. He is moving \$400.00 to the Scholarship fund from our Baseball account.

CAPT Tom Harrow USNR(Ret) reports that we will have two Marines at our 16 Dec luncheon for the Toys for Tots collection. They are PFC Wilson and SSgt Solomon. They will have lunch with us.

Basil has nothing new on Membership. Col Al Neville USAF(Ret) will host a brief meeting after today's board meeting to brainstorm recruiting and retention solutions.

Col Roger Shields USA (Ret) reports some problems have occurred with delivery of Officers Call. Post Office says problems are result of a new computer or mail sorter machine. Al Neville says the newsletter can be sent "first class" if delivery problem is persistent. Roger continues with his comments by saying that photos and brief bios of incoming officers for 2006 are required for our Jan. 2006 OC. Roger goes on to comment on changing our chapter name to "St. Petersburg AREA Chapter" in lieu of just St. Petersburg Chapter. Al Neville says he is firmly convinced that the suggested new name would improve our recruiting efforts. MG Peck moved to adopt new name "St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA. Col Shields seconded the motion and the motion to adopt the new name was passed by voice vote. LCOL Edwards will write the by-laws change to effect this new name.

Ms Violet Smith MOAA Special Member representative reports that the latest issue of "Military Officer" has a pull-out section concerning the TriCare for Life pharmacy benefits. Violet gave me the web site to links of interest to the military community. Go to <http://public.macdill.amc.af.mil/rao/index.html> and it will connect you to the following: Space Available, My Pay, Mail in Pharmacy, MacDill Pharmacy, SSI, IRS, Tri Care, Deers, Medicare, U.S. Congress and National Personnel Records. If these aren't enough links I can't imagine what else one could want. Roger says the bill to hit

The Major Generals PECK



In a ceremony at Shaw AFB, SC, MajGen Earl G. Peck, USAF(Ret), past Chapter President, administered the oath of office and assisted in the pinning as son Allen assumed two-star Air Force rank. Lt. General Walter Buchanan, Ninth Air Force Commander, presided and Mrs Earl G. Peck and Mrs. Allen G. Peck also had a hand in the pinning. Many friends, well-wishers, and local dignitaries were in attendance and enjoyed a bountiful reception at the Shaw Officers' Club following the ceremony. After a few days' respite, newly annointed MajGen Allen G. Peck returned to his post running the Combined Air Operations Center in Qatar where he is responsible for all air operations in the theater from Iraq to Afghanistan and the full Centcom Area of Responsibility.

our SBP will be allowed to die a slow death.

LCDR Hazel McGrath USN(Ret) attended a quarterly meeting at Bay Pines VA Center. She wants to know if we want to make a donation and a motion to donate \$50.00 was made.

A fish fry will be held at American Legion Post #273 on 28 January 2006. Tickets are \$5.00 each and can be purchased at Bay Pines Voluntary Services Office.

Maj Pete Dawson made motion to recognize the long service to our Chapter by LCOL Carroll Andrews USAF(Ret). It was decided to buy a MOAA Jacket and present it at our January Installation dinner.

CAPT Don Freese USN(Ret) reports that our cost for the Installation Dinner will be \$26.25. He suggests a \$25.00 charge to members and anything in excess of that, including parking, to be paid by the Chapter. Don Freese put that in a motion before the board and it was seconded and passed.

At 1240 hours MG Peck delivered the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Basil Burrell, CWO USCG (Ret)

Recruit a new member



MOAA Legislative Update

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

Congress Decides Key Military Benefit Issues

The decisions are in, and the legislative glass is half full, at best, regarding the final FY2006 Defense Authorization Act. **Bad news first:** The House refused to go along with either of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) fixes that Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) persuaded the Senate to pass, primarily for cost reasons. So SBP widows will still have VA payments deducted from their SBP benefits if the member's death was service-connected, and "Greatest Generation" retirees who already have paid more than 30 years of SBP premiums will have to wait at least another year to win the same paid-up SBP coverage that post-1978 retirees enjoy. We plan to be carrying the fight on these issues again next year. We made some modest gains on some other key issues, but fell well short of what we had hoped for:

***Concurrent Receipt for Unemployables:** Congress agreed to accelerate the timetable (from Oct. 1, 2013 to Oct. 1, 2009) for eliminating the disability offset, but rejected Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) Senate-passed plan to make it happen immediately.

***Guard and Reserve Health Care:** Congress agreed to make nearly all members of the Selected Reserve eligible for military TRICARE coverage, but the price will be steep for those who haven't been mobilized since 9/11. Unmobilized members who don't have access to health care through a civilian employer will have to pay almost twice the premiums paid by those previously mobilized — about \$145/mo vs. \$81 for single and \$452/mo vs. \$253 for family coverage respectively. TRICARE premiums for unmobilized members with access to employer-sponsored coverage will be set even higher, at \$246/mo and \$768/mo for single and family coverage. MOAA thinks these high fees undercut the purpose of the coverage, and we'll reengage on this front in 2006, as well. **Military Pay Raise:** All active duty, Guard and Reserve members will receive a 3.1% pay raise - one-half percentage point higher than private sector pay growth effective Jan. 1, 2006.

Reserve Housing Allowance: Guard and Reserve members mobilized for more than 30 days will be eligible for full locality-based housing allowances, rather than having to wait 140 days under current law.

Military Manpower Changes: Army strength is increased by 10,000 and the Marines by 1,000.

Active Duty Death Benefits: The military death gratuity is increased to \$100,000 for all deaths in the line of duty (rather than combat deaths alone covered in current law), including all deaths since Oct. 7, 2001. In addition, survivors of all members who died in the line of duty (rather than combat deaths alone) since Oct. 7, 2001 will be eligible for the recent \$150,000 increase in the maximum Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI).

Commissary Privatization Protection: The new law bars any further studies of commissary privatization for the next three years.

Combat Pay During Hospitalization: Service members hospitalized with combat wounds will be eligible to receive a

special pay of \$430 per month for the duration of their hospitalization or until they start receiving the new SGLI traumatic injury benefits.

Guard/Reserve Pay Differential: Federal civilian employees who are mobilized as Guard/Reserve members will be eligible to receive a monthly pay differential equal to their monthly civilian pay loss, once they have been on active duty for at least 18 months, or for at least 24 of the last 60 months, or if remobilized involuntarily within six months of their last active duty tour.

Medicare/TRICARE Payments Frozen MOAA pushed hard this year, teaming with the American Medical Association, to get Congress to change the law requiring a 4.4% reduction in Medicare and TRICARE payments to doctors, effective January 1. We worried that such payment cuts would discourage more doctors from seeing TRICARE and TRICARE For Life patients. Virtually everyone acknowledges that the statutory payment-setting formula is broken, but congressional budget hawks also balk at the cost of payment increases. Congress's compromise budget savings package (S. 1932) – approved earlier this week by the House struck a compromise that doesn't make anyone happy. It repeals the 4.4% payment cut requirement, but freezes 2006 Medicare and TRICARE payment rates at 2005 levels. .

On the positive side, the budget package requires a Medicare Payment Advisory Commission to report to Congress on ways to fix the statutory payment-setting formula, which sets reimbursement rates for physicians. MOAA believes it's vital to make that fix as soon as humanly possible. TRICARE and Medicare already are two of the lowest-paying programs in the country. We have to do better than a rate freeze to keep providers interested in accepting military patients.

***Long-Term Care Coverage Under Medicaid:** The package tightens rules concerning transfer of assets to qualify for long-term care, and applicants will be required to disclose annuities as assets. People with more than \$500,000 equity in a home will not be eligible.

More Drugs Proposed for \$22 Co-Pay On December 19th, the Defense Department convened the Beneficiary Advisory Panel (BAP) to review recommendations to move certain Alzheimer's medications, nasal steroids, antidepressants, and antibiotics to the third (\$22-copayment) tier of the TRICARE formulary. The full range of medications should be made available to active duty members if deemed medically necessary by the doctor.

Let's Call It a Year This will be the last legislative update until Friday, January 6. Visit: www.moaa.org for late info. © Copyright 2005 Military Officers Association of America. (Edited for brevity. RJS) (800) 234-6622 (MOAA) <http://www.moaa.org>

(Edited for brevity. See full discussion on MOAA website.)

CONVENTION 2006

Make your reservations for the Convention and the hotel!! Your November *Officers Call* had a Convention insert with the essential forms. If it is misplaced, contact Pat Tamalis 392-1066 or any chapter officer. (see page 2)

Bring a member to Lunch



TAPS

NONE !!

Sick List

(Contact LCDR Hazel McGrath, 545-3884)

- * Col Mildred (Gene) Butler, USAF (Ret)
13780 89th Ave, N, Seminole, 33776
- * COL John E. Jessup, USA (Ret)
3701 42nd Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33711.
- * 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

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome.

USCGC Resolute (WMCE 620)

CDR "Chuck" Michel, Commanding Officer
St Petersburg, December 12, 2005



CDR Michel invited Don Freese to visit his ship. Don invited retired Coastie Basil Burrell and former Sea Scout Al Neville to accompany him.

As to our visit, Basil said it all in a thank you note to Don— Thank you Don for inviting Al and me to go with you. I couldn't have enjoyed it more unless we were treated with a cruise on the Resolute!

I also appreciate CDR Michel's courtesy and very extensive tour of his ship.

I do have to tell you that I believe the ladders have gotten steeper and more difficult to climb and that the passageways are much narrower than they used to be.

On the bridge & in the engine room



Grant Culverhouse
Sales & Leasing Consultant



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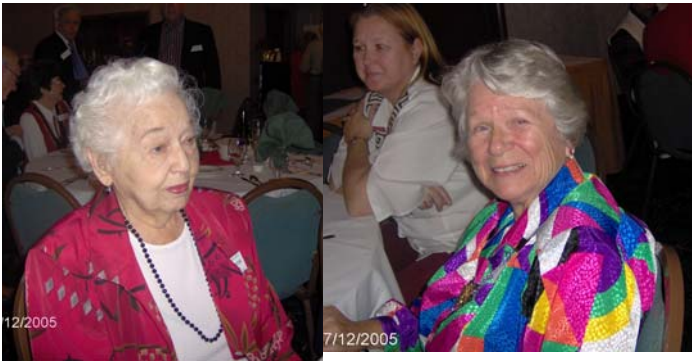
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January Birthdays (From 58 - 86 years)

Day	L NAME	F NAME	RANK	SVC
28	Ashley, Robert	CWO		USA (Ret)
21	Batcheldor, Rose	Mrs.		SpMbr - AF
08	Cease, F. William	1LT		USA (Fr)
21	Chappell, Leah	LTC		USA (Ret)
31	Clark, Anna	Mrs.		SpMbr - AF
17	Conforti, Thomas	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
06	Cravens, Martha	Mrs.		SpMbr - N
25	Eisenhart, William	Col		USAF (Ret)
29	Gills, James	CAPT		USN (Ret)
31	Harrison, Christa	Mrs.		SpMbr - A
26	Hassin, Donald	COL		USA (Ret)
28	Kottich, Charles	COL		USA (Ret)
14	Lakey, Pearl	Mrs.		SpMbr - AF
26	Lee, Richard	Col		USAF (Ret)
30	Martin, Barbara	Mrs.		SpMbr - A
12	Niblack, Sarah	LTC		USA (Ret)
16	Palmer, Samuel	Col		USAF (Ret)
18	Ponder, Elza	CPT		USA (Ret)
26	Rimby, William	LCDR		USN (Ret)
30	Varn, Fred	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
09	Wetherby, Shirley	Lt Col		USAF (Ret)
05	Willard, Charles	LTC		USA (Ret)
01	Zurbrick, William	Capt		USAF (Ret)

LUNCHEON MEETING
5 PM - 9:30 PM, Friday, January 20th
St Petersburg Yacht Club, 1 Central Ave,
• Reservations by Wednesday January 16th

Your name _____

Each reservations \$25:
Number: _____

*** **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
LCDR Paul Finley 391-5908

Bring a member to Lunch

Calendar of Events

Luncheon Meetings are on the 3rd Friday of each month—mixer 1100 - 1145; luncheon and program 1145 - 1315; at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

January 20th, Friday, 5:00 pm
Installation DINNER at The St. Petersburg Yacht Club; Mixer at 1700, dinner and program at 1800

February 17th, Friday, 1100,
Metro Crime Prevention of Florida, will discuss personal security issues.

March 17th, Friday, 1100, TBD

April 21st, Friday, 1100, TBD

May 17th, Wednesday, 5:45 - 1100 P.M., Our Chapter's monthly meeting is in conjunction with our Convention's **Military Ball** at The TradeWinds Resort, St. Pete Beach.

June 16th, Friday, 1100, TBD

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month 1130 - 1230 at Perkins Family Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. and Park Blvd. in Seminole.

January 9th Monday (Note: 2nd Monday)

February 6th Monday

March 6th Monday

April 3rd Monday

May 1st Monday

June 5th Monday

ROWC

Luncheon—(2nd Tuesday) meet 11:30 AM, lunch 12:30 PM

•**Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146

•**Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

•**January 10th**, Banquet Master, Pinellas Park

•**February 14th**, Isla Del Sol Yacht & Country Club

•**March 14th**, Dolphin Beach Resort, St Pete Beach

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

2006 Convention (May 14-18, 2006) MOAA 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention in St. Pete Beach, Trade Winds Island Grand Resort.

More information: MAJ Pat Tamalis, phone: 392-1066 or by e-mail: ptamalis@tampabay.rr.com

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CONVENTION 2006 (May 14 - 18)

Members—Attend Our Convention

Members—Help with Our Convention

contact:

Maj PAT TAMALIS

727 392-1066

ptamalis@tampabay.rr.com