

OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

Technology changes over the last 100 years have dramatically changed the way we live. When my mother was born in 1905 most of the things we take for granted today were never dreamed of. When she eloped with my father in 1924 they took a horse and buggy to Muscatine, Iowa to get married. They did not have electricity and a phone was only available in the country store. In 1905 the only way west was by railroad or by stagecoach and it took weeks.



Now I am flying back from a week long visit with our daughter's family in Arizona. It will take us four hours to get back to Florida and I am typing this message on my lap top computer while flying at 500 mph. I also was able to stay connected stay connected with everybody back home using my cell phone and lap top computer connected by free wireless networks at airports in Tampa, Atlanta, Phoenix, and a motel in Phoenix. I don't think this would even have been science fiction in 1905 and was not possible until the last 10 years or so? Now we take it for granted!

So what is my point? In my opinion none of this would have happened if it was not for the brave military men and women of the United States and our allies around the world who keep us and the free world free! As a boy my mom and dad told me about the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when all activity stop to remember the end of WWI, today we know it as Veteran's Day and just another long weekend for most Americans. I remember Memorial Day and the 4th of July used to be times of remembrances, picnics and celebrations with parades in honor of the United States and our military men and women. Now there are many parades, such as April 8th, protesting against the United States and our military with American Flags often flown upside down which is an international sign of distress.

Let's us remember and honor our men and women in the military this Memorial Day and never forget their sacrifices and the sacrifices of those who went before them! We may take for granted the rewards of their sacrifice but not them!

Don

CONVENTION 2006

All Hands Breakfast Keynote Speaker
Lieutenant General Paul G Cerjan, USA (Ret)

LTG Cerjan was President of the National Defense University from August 1992 until July 1994 when he retired from the U. S. Army after 34 years of distinguished service. He spent the majority of his military career in command and senior staff positions in seven different divisions in the US Army. Other assignments included serving as the Deputy Commander in Chief, US Army, Europe and Seventh Army; Commander, 21st Theater Army Area Command in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and Commandant of the Army War College, and two tours in Vietnam. From July 2004 until July 2005 he was the Vice President and Program Manager for the KBR LOGCAP Program in nine countries in the Mid East, principally Iraq and Afghanistan. After military retirement he became the Director of Land Operations for Loral Corporation and subsequently the Director of Intelligent Transportation Systems for Lockheed Martin Corporation. He was also the President of Regent University and the CEO of the National Defense University Foundation. He is currently the Vice Chairman of the NDU Foundation Board and has also served as the Chairman of the Board. He has a Master of Science degree in Construction Management from Oklahoma State University and a Bachelor of Science in Engineering from the United States Military Academy, West Point. He has attended the U. S. Army War College and the U.S. Command and General Staff College as well as the Senior Government Leaders Program at Harvard University. General Cerjan is the recipient of the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Army Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal; Legion of Merit with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Distinguished Flying Cross; Bronze Star w/3 Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Medals; Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and Army Staff Identification Badge. He earned the Parachutist Badge and Ranger Tab. He is a Registered Professional Engineer, Commonwealth of Virginia (Current); a member of the Board of Directors, Army Engineers Association; Advisory Board, NATO Political/Military Workshop and the Council of Foreign Relations; Advisory Board, JINSA.





Officers Call

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 2nd VP- **Al Neville** Col USAF (Ret) 522-5685
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 Treasurer- **Peter Dawson**, Maj USAF (Ret) 894-3761

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 ROTC **MAJ Mike Tomasulo**, USA (Ret) 546-130
 ROWC Liaison **Mrs Violet Smith**, AuxMbr-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 - 334
 Regular Members - 242
 Auxillary Members - 92

Military Services:

Army - 90 USMC - 13
 USAF - 80 USCG - 8
 Navy - 51

From the Editor

COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

Convention 2006 – When your friends talk about what a good time they had at the Convention won't you feel left out? When they mention the very moving Memorial Service, will you have any regrets at not having attended? When the ladies discuss who wore what at the Military Ball which you did not attend, will you have to sleep on the couch? Time grows short before the Convention. Many of your friends and fellow members have worked hard to ensure that the attendees have an enjoyable Convention. Please support your Chapter, the Florida Council of Chapters, MOAA and your friends. Make your hotel reservations and send your application with check to our Chapter address which is on the last page of this Officer's Call. See you there!



HelpOurTroops HOT – Thanks to Maj Gen Earl Peck, we are in direct email communication with the commander of the Forward Air Controller Squadron which we have “adopted” in Afghanistan. At this writing in mid-April, twenty boxes have been mailed to them with more being packed. We need your generous contribution to continue the program. Please send your check to our Chapter address and annotated with, “HOT.” The troops really appreciate what we do.

Military Records DD 214 – For a survivor of a military person, the DD 214 is a most important document. Earned entitlements depend on the recipient's ability to produce and show this document. You don't know where it is or even what it is? Don't panic. See the article in this issue of Officer's Call which explains how to get a copy. Talk to Violet Smith, our Chapter's Survivor Assistance Officer for help. (This is one of four titles she holds in the Chapter and in MOAA.) **RJS**

HOT News

Carolyn Shields, Committee Chair
Help Our Troops

Twenty boxes were mailed in mid April to our adopted troops in Afghanistan. The address problem has been solved and seven more addresses have been added. Now our Chapter has eight posts, all part of the same squadron, so please keep those donations coming in. The troops need to know that we care.

Listed in the above communications exchange are some of the requested items from the troops in the field. If someone knows where to get “atomic fireballs” or “lemon heads” please send me an email. Are they similar to “belly bombs”? Also requested are DVDs and paper back books – appropriate for 20 – 40 year olds in a Moslem country. Please make sure that the DVDs and books are clean and in good condition.

Specially designed cards with the MOAA logo were distributed at each table for luncheon attendees to write messages of support and encouragement. The card will then be placed in each box to let our troops how much we all care about them. Please come to the luncheon every third Friday of the month (except this May). Experience the enthusiasm generated by our chapter members in support of HOT (Help Our Troops).
Carolyn Shields, Coordinator



Memorial Day

Above – West Point, right – Annapolis, below Memorial Day activities



The HOT ladies: Asa Myers, Carolyn Shields, Violet Smith, Sherry Freese, Peg Cowarden

HOT (Help our Troops) \$1,384s+(Stuff) – Through — 21 April 2006

Andrews, Carroll, Lt Col USAF
 Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Barton, Ann, Mrs. AuxMbr-A
 Burrell, Basil, CWO4
 Christy, Marjorie, Mrs. AuxMbr-A
 Couture, Bertrand, COL USA
 Cowardin, Peg, AuxMbr-AF
 Dawson, Peter, Maj USAF
 Diedo, Edward, LTC USA
 Eynatten, Robert, CAPT USN
 Fenstermaker, Beth, Mrs. AuxMbr-N
 Fernald, Larry, Lt Col USAF
 Finley, Paul, LCDR USN
 Freese, Donald, CAPT USN
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Harrow, Tom, CAPT USN
 Isley, Anne, Mrs. AuxMbr-A
 Jessup, John, COL USA

Kaniss, Charles, BG, USA
 Kottich, Charles, COL USA
 Lanier, Laurie, Maj USAF
 Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
 McGrath, Hazel, LCDR USN
 Mogan, Janice, LTC USA
 Myers, Ralph, Lt Col USAF
 Neville, Albert, Col USAF
 Oliver, Richard, LT USN
 Peck, Earl, Maj Gen, USAF
 Polk, Bob, Col USAF
 Potter, Charles, Col USAF
 Shields, Roger, COL USA
 Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMbr-A
 Stenehjem, George, COL USA
 Tondreau, Herbert, CW4 USA
 Trudell, Bob, Lt Col USAF



Luncheon Meeting

21 April 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended—76: Members—35, Wives—19, Guests—9, AuxMbrs—7; Walk-ins—6, No shows—0, Cancellations—0

Our President CAPT Don Freese USN(Ret) opened our meeting and requested that our Chaplain COL George Brown USA (Ret) give the Invocation. Don then led us in the Salute to our Flag. Don then made several comments about Chapter business and the Convention that starts next month, taking place at the Tradewinds Resort on St. Pete Beach starting 14 May. Early arrivals may want to enjoy the beach and the very nice facilities that the Tradewinds offers.

Don introduced Mrs Carolyn Shields who is the coordinator of our Help Our Troops or for you acronym lovers, the HOT program. Carolyn explained to us the need for both material donations and cash donations. Cash is needed for postage. Purchasing items yourself generates enthusiasm and a warm feeling one gets from selecting something to give to the troops. Carolyn informed us of the progression of the HOT project by reading an exchange of e-mails between her and LtCol Greg Sellers, the CO of some of the troops in Afghanistan.

Mrs Violet Smith, our representative and the co-chair of the Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee of MOAA spoke to us of her experience “Storming the Hill”, in company with LtCol Fred Edwards USMC (Ret) and CAPT Bill Knehans USN (Ret). Bill Knehans is the Florida Council President and I’m sure everyone knows Fred Edwards. A large MOAA contingent from all over the country was there for the event to remind Congress and the Senate of our concerns.

The marketing folks at MOAA designed a new pin for Auxiliary Members and the Auxiliary Member Committee was presented with the new pins. The new pins are available for the paltry sum of only \$3.00 and can be purchased on line if you are wired. Violet will be going back to MOAA National in July and can bring pins back for anyone interested. Recently a letter from Admiral Ryan was sent to each Chapter requesting the president of each Chapter to select an Auxiliary Member to act as liaison to the Auxiliary Advisory Committee. Our president, Don Freese, selected Mrs Jane Gaugh as our liaison. Violet presented Jane with one of the new pins. Violet also presented Mrs Martha Willis who was selected by our president Don Freese to be the Hostess Chairperson with a pin. And finally, in recognition of long and faithful service Violet presented Mrs Peggy Cowardin with a pin. Next week Peggy will be 90, that’s right 90, years young. Violet has a few MOAA pins available for anyone interested. Don announced that LtCol Larry Fernald USAF (Ret) has agreed to be our Program Chairman. If anyone has someone in mind who would be a good speaker let Larry know. His phone and e-mail numbers are in the Directory.

Don asked MajGen Earl Peck to introduce our speaker CDR El Ahlwardt USN (Ret). CDR Ahlwardt is Director of External Relations at the Joint Military Science Leadership Center, University of South Florida. The 87Joint Military Science Leadership Center is a new idea and is meant to provide our



Above - Speaker El Ahlwardt & Dick Newton
Below - Earl Peck & Bill Clark
Bottom - Maxine & Fred Terr



nation with military leadership excellence in the future. There are over 43,000 students at four USF campuses located in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Lakeland and the Sarasota-Manatee county area. 320 of the students, of whom 40% are women, are in ROTC programs at USF. CDR Ahlwardt is trying to interest people and clubs in the USF Joint Military Leadership Center. Cdr Ahlwardt says that he would like to see military people, retired and former salute the flag with the hand salute rather than the handoverheart salute. This idea has been recently proposed elsewhere and I think is a good idea.



Above-Chapter officers: 2nd VP Al Neville,
President Don Freese & Treasurer Pete Dawson
Below-Prospective member Tom Piazza, Ann Isley



Above-Roger Shields, Betty Finley, Earl Peck
Below-Prospective member Tom Young, Hazel Mc Grath



THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

Retired Officers Wives Club - It appears that the ROWC is enjoying a renaissance of late. While it takes many people to run a smooth functioning operation, the President, Barbara King has earned kudos for her leadership in doing things correctly. It is said that the luncheons have improved and the entertainment has been interesting and enjoyable. Congratulations to Barbara and to her many officers and members.

Chapter Chairpersons – For some of our members it appears that being the chairperson of a favorite committee is their major interest and a reason to get out of bed in the morning. It is inevitable that illness and advancing age may eventually impact their performance of the job. They probably know when it is time to defer to a replacement but they may wish to stay on the committee, performing with lesser responsibilities. Doing so is advantageous to the Chapter and to themselves since they have the experience and knowledge to prevent the “reinvention of the wheel.” Staying active and interested is most important to a person’s well being while being

shunted aside leads to depression and an early death. As our mothers used to say, “Be nice.”

Help What Troops? – Why are we supporting the Air Force with Project HOT? The people who receive the necessities and goodies from our chapter live in the field and support Marines, Special Forces, US Army and Afghani Military in their fight against the Taliban and others. They are USAF Air Controllers who direct air strikes, re-supply flights and other aviation missions. They have been known as, “FACS” Forward Air Controllers, since WWII. They are exposed to the same enemy fire as our own soldiers, marines and others in a combat environment. They give us the battlefield advantage of air support on call. Our Project HOT supports our military located at seven different sites in Afghanistan, all in support of ground forces. We can be sure that what we send will be shared by all military people located at each site. The letters we have received from our “adopted” units express their sincere gratitude to the members of our Chapters for our time, money, goodies and efforts expended to Help Our Troops!

Thank You, one and all! RJS



MOAA March Legislative Update

16 April 2006

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

Issue 1 Armed Services Panel Praises MOAA

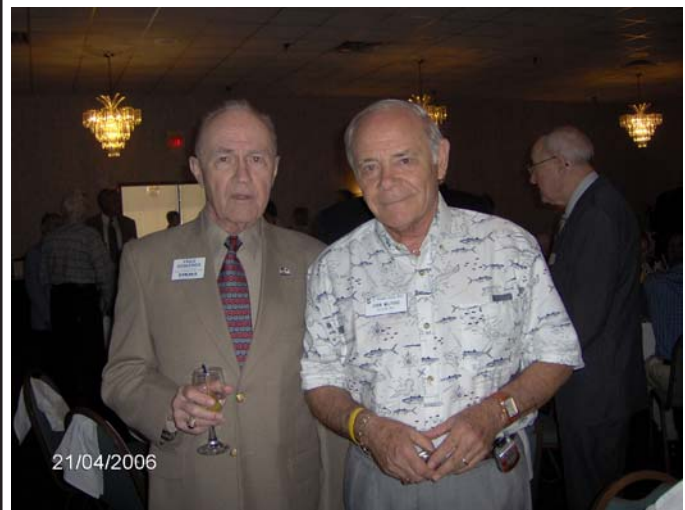
Invited to testify at an April 6 hearing before the House Armed Services Military Personnel Subcommittee, MOAA presented recommendations on behalf of the 36 associations of The Military Coalition. Because an earlier hearing had addressed health care issues, this one was held to cover other personnel and compensation issues. MOAA Director of Government Relations Col. Steve Strobbridge (USAF-Ret) thanked the subcommittee for its efforts in recent years to upgrade an extensive range of manpower and benefit programs for every segment of the uniformed services community, but stressed that much still remains to be done. Among other priorities, he highlighted the need for Increased manpower levels to ease strains on active duty, Guard and Reserve members and families.

Continued progress to reduce the gap between military and private sector pay, especially for senior and mid-career warrant officers and enlisted members; Ensuring the availability of family support programs at gaining U.S. installations for the thousands of military families being relocated from Europe and elsewhere; GI Bill improvements, particularly for Guard and Reserve personnel who now often find those benefits unusable; Fixes for Survivor Benefit Plan inequities that affect "Greatest Generation" retirees and survivors of members who die of service-connected causes;

Elimination of the disability offset to retired pay, particularly for "unemployables" and members forced into retirement by combat wounds before they can attain 20 years of service; and implementation of the same Flexible Spending Accounts for military personnel that the government already offers all other federal employees so they can deduct out-of-pocket health- and child-care expenses from their federal income taxes. Subcommittee Chairman John McHugh asked Strobbridge's opinion of a concept that would change the military retirement system for new service entrants to allow vesting of retired pay at 10 years of service but delay eligibility for military retired pay until age 60. Strobbridge noted that, in 1999, Congress had to repeal previous legislation that had reduced 20-year retired pay because it hurt retention. He expressed concern about what would happen if today's members facing a third tour in Iraq had a choice between taking their vested retired pay and leaving service vs. having to wait until age 60 for retired pay if they continue serving. "I have trouble seeing that as a positive retention scenario," he said. Chairman McHugh concluded the hearing with a compliment to MOAA. "MOAA has been such an important part of helping this Congress, this subcommittee and committee deal with those issues that are so important to those who have served to whom we owe so much and those who continue to serve to this day", he said. "So thank you for that as well.

Issue 2 Lautenberg and Hagel Sponsor TRICARE Fee-Hike Bill On April 7, Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Chuck Hagel (R-NE) joined with four other cosponsors to introduce S.2617, the Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act. The bill would limit the Secretary of Defense's authority to raise some TRICARE fees and co-payments and prohibit certain other increases entirely. Under current law, the Secretary of Defense has discretion to increase TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and pharmacy co-pays. The new bill would significantly limit that authority, barring an increase in any year that exceeds the percentage of the previous year's retired pay increase. In a negative reaction to the Secretary's recent 8.5% increase in TRICARE Reserve Select premiums for Guard and Reserve families, the bill would specify that any future TRS premium increases could not exceed the military basic pay raise percentage. In addition, it would bar establishment of any enrollment fee for TRICARE Standard, and prevent any further increases in the inpatient copay for retirees using TRICARE Standard. "Especially in a time of war, it is unthinkable that the Administration would even consider dramatically increasing healthcare costs for those who have sacrificed for our country," said Senator Lautenberg at a press conference introducing the bill. "Our bill assures today's military retirees and their families that, just as they protected us, we will take care of them when their service ends." MOAA strongly supports this important legislation. With the Lautenberg-Hagel S. 2617 in the Senate and Reps. Chet Edwards' (D-TX) and Walter Jones' (R-NC) HR 4949 in the House, we now have bipartisan efforts in both chambers aimed at preventing the kind of disproportional and inappropriate health fee increases proposed by Pentagon leaders in the FY2007 defense budget.

Military Officers Association of America
201 N. Washington St., Alexandria, Va. 22314
(800) 234-6622 (MOAA) **RJS**



Fred Edwards & John Milford



MILITARY RECORDS/DD-214

All retirees and veterans need copies of their Report of Separation (DD Form 214 or equivalent) available and stored in a secure place known by their next of kin. The retained documents should be either the original or government certified true copies. If you do not have these they can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) using a Request Pertaining to Military Records Standard Form 180 (Rev-2/02) which can be downloaded at www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html The mailing address is listed on the form. Your family will need at least three copies in the event of your demise to pursue their requests for benefits. To expedite the process NPRC has made it easier for military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents through their website vetrecs.archives.gov. The next of kin can be a surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center's mailroom processing time. Users will be guided through a four step process and then will be required to print, sign and date the signature verification area of their customized form. This is necessary because the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires that all requests for records and information be submitted in writing and each request must be signed and dated by the veteran or next of kin.

If you don't have a printer, have a pen and paper handy and NPRC will guide you through the process. Upon completion the signature verification form must be mailed or faxed to NPRC for processing within the first 20 days of entering the data, or the request will be removed from their system. [Source: e-Florida News Apr 06 ++] **RJS**



Charles Hundley



Currie Patton is back in the chapter



Welcome our new Members

LTC **C. C. "Currie" Patton**, USA (Ret) (Claudia)
 7302 1st Ave N, St Petersburg, FL 33710
 727 343-7664 ccpatton@aol.com
 Mrs. **Jeanne Hawkins**, Auxiliary Member - AF
 Page 28, 2006 Directory

2006 Scholarship Fund

\$360 – Through — 20 April 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF

2006 Officers Call BOOSTER

\$120 – Through — 20 April 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Brown, George, COL USA
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF
 Shields, Roger, COL USA
 Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMbr-A

Monthly St Petersburg Area Chapter Financial Report April 2006

INCOME	BASEBALL
Dues \$75.00	April 23 \$363.72
Luncheon \$700.00	Income \$0.00
Boosters \$20.00	Disbursed \$0.00
Miscellaneous \$78.00	Balance \$363.72
Total Income \$873.00	
EXPENSES	HELP OUR TROOPS
Luncheon \$693.75	April 01 \$433.53
Newsletter \$338.06	Donations \$668.30
Supplies \$376.52	Income \$1,101.83
Post Office \$10.20	Disbursed \$499.31
Memorials \$30.00 Hawkins	April 23 \$602.52
Total Expenses \$1,448.53	
Cash Flow (\$575.53)	
Operating Funds Available: \$3,813.81	
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	
Start of Month \$315.66	
Donations \$250.00	
Memorials \$30.00	
Interest \$0.00	
Disbursements \$0.00	
End of Month \$595.66	

Peter J. Dawson, Major, USAF (Retired)
 Treasurer
 4/23/2006



Minutes: Executive Committee Mtg St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA; 3 April 2006 Reported by Basil Burrell

At 1135 hours our Presidente CAPT Don Freese USNR (Ret) opened the meeting with a request to MajGen Earl Peck USAF(Ret) to deliver the invocation. President Freese then led us in our Pledge of Allegiance to our Nation's Flag, Old Glory.

President Freese then called on LtCol Dick Koch USAF (Ret) to speak about his efforts recruiting speakers for our luncheons. He is trying to get Dick Fletcher, TV Channel 10 Meteorologist, to speak at our 16 June 2006. He is working on getting Mark Wilson, son of TV Anchorman John Wilson, to speak to us on 21 July. Mrs Violet Smith objected to a line in a news release by Dick that states that our luncheon meetings are "open to the public." Col Roger Shields USA (Ret) says that our meetings have never been open to the public. In any case, reservations are required by all attendees at our meetings. Dick says he will delete the line from future news releases. Don passed around high-ball glasses from MOAA's on-line store that we will use as gifts to speakers. Very nice with our Chapter logo as well as MOAA logo. The set of 4 glasses will be made available for sale to our members if members wish to buy some. The price is said to be very reasonable.

LtCol Larry Fernald USAF (Ret) passed the news that we have 102 persons registered for the Convention starting 14 May 2006. Don has called 44 presidents of other Florida Chapters regarding the Convention. Sadly, all the Chapters did not get the Convention registration forms and notices. COL Ron Merritt USA (Ret) has sold 3 ads for the Convention Program booklet. The TRADEWINDS RESORT has purchased a full-page ad and have given permission to use their logo on our Convention Program booklet.

Col Al Neville USAF (Ret) and Don have been working on designing a cover for the Convention Program. A question was raised about color or b & w for the cover and the general desire is for color. Don says that we need a first vice president badly and also a secretary. The need for a secretary should be obvious to anyone reading this! MOAA's "Give me 10" program is basically the same as last year. The recruitment of new members was discussed ad infinitum-ad nauseam. Sorry, but I couldn't resist that comment.

The annual "Air Fest" will be held at Albert Whitted Air Port in sparkling down town St. Petersburg 21 - 22 October 2006. A possibility of us having a booth there is to be considered. We have decided to NOT join the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce at this time. There is some degree of chaos because they are breaking in a new president. Al Neville reminded us that Convention Program cover and ads being passed around are "works in progress." Al reminded us that he is leaving the area between 25 April and 6 May to visit his old home in Hawaii. Consequently, the material for May Officers Call will have to be sent in to him promptly so that he and Roger can get it to the printer before he leaves.

Maj Pete Dawson, while not present due to pressing busi-

ness, sent the treasurer's report via e-mail. The report was amended to show that the Sound System cost was \$113.07 in lieu of \$193.07. MG Peck made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as amended. Motion was seconded and passed.

A question was raised about our "Person of the Year" selection. MG Peck says that his understanding is that the person selected may be a Chapter member or not. The criteria is to be formalized. Mrs Violet Smith tells us the the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater is to get a new Operations Officer this summer. He is CDR Richard E. Lorenze USCG. He is to be aggressively recruited as a new member. See Violet for details on his arrival date and family. While in Washington "Storming the Hill" with other MOAA delegates Violet attended the Arthur T. Marix Congressional Leadership Award ceremonies sponsored by MOAA. Sears Corporation received the Marix Award this year for their service to veterans and to our military personnel. VADM Norb Ryan, Jr. USN(Ret) of MOAA introduced the celebrants. Violet informed us that the Auxiliary Advisory now has two co-chairs rather than a single chairperson. Violet is one of the co-chairs. MOAA now has a pin available for Auxiliary members. The health care outlook is not good. There is a possibility that no coverage will be available for a few medications and veterans requiring such medications will have to pay full retail price at a civilian pharmacy. MG Peck has nominated Violet for the St Petersburg Hall of Fame. The son of Maj Robert Sims USMC (Ret) has passed away and LCDR Hazel McGrath sent a card.

Roger Shields says that Carolyn asked him to give a status report on the HOT program. Their former living room is now a ware house for HOT packages waiting to be mailed. Six boxes have been returned for address problems. Roger reports that his computer keyboard is kaput. He will buy a new keyboard.

MAJ Mike Tomasulo USA (Ret) is going to the Convention meeting at the Tradewinds Thursday 6 April 2006. MG Peck wants a "Staff Organization Chart" so that he can study it. MOAA will pay for three people from the Chapter to attend the National Presidents Meeting in Savannah, Georgia.

At 1259 COL George Brown USA (Ret) gave the benediction and the meeting was closed.



Martha Willis & Margaret Peck



Military Retirees Health Care

Protection Act, HR 4949 and S 2617

Senators Lautenberg and Hagel are working with the military associations in a sincere effort to limit what they agree is an abuse of the current DoD authority. That abuse demeans the service that has demanded that military men and women, with their families, give up their own freedom for twenty to thirty years to insure the total freedom of the people of the United States. That service, with its demands, has been voluntary. Without these people, and the families that serve with them, there would be no United States of America...To sit idly by and dismiss the hardships these patriots have undergone by comparing the costs of their medical care to that of civilians is in my mind unconscionable. We must do our part and bombard our members of Congress to sign on to the respective bills. To not do so in my opinion, which takes only a few minutes out of our lives, is to leave our fellow warriors, families, and survivors helpless on the battle field....

Senators Lautenberg and Hagel want to change the law in a way that would: **A.** Bar these big catch-up raises **B.** Bar any establishment of a TRICARE Standard enrollment fee or any further increases in TRICARE Standard inpatient copays for retirees, which are already pretty high....

C. Severely restrict the Secretary of Defense's current broad statutory authority to increase TRICARE Prime enrollment fees and pharmacy co pays (e.g., if their proposal had been in place this year with a 4.1% retired pay COLA, there would have been no increase in pharmacy co pays and the maximum the TRICARE Prime fee could have been increased would have been from \$460 to \$479....vs. the \$1400 (plus 8-10% annual increases in future years) proposed by the Secretary of Defense).

Is that the same as zero increases that I am a strong advocate for? No, but when compared to what the Secretary of Defense is proposing, it would be pretty

darn close. The bottom line is that it's essential to have bills in both the House and the Senate that significantly limit the Secretary of Defense's authority so that we can (hopefully) narrow the range of possible outcomes. We can't let the good be the enemy of the perfect. That is, we don't want to bash Lautenberg for being willing to do 95% of what Edwards is willing to do. They're both on our side, and the Lautenberg bill would be vastly preferable to current law. If you asked your dad for a dollar when you were a kid and he gave you 95 cents, would you have thrown it back in his face? I think not.

Won't you please lobby your Senators or Members of Congress for our family by going to the following URLs and sending a message to your representatives in Congress:

Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act, S 2617 asking your Senators to sign: <http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=867766>

Military Retiree's Health Care Protection Act

H.R. 4949 asking your Representatives to sign:<http://capwiz.com/moaa/issues/bills/?bill=858706>

Make it a point to keep these two URLs and send a message every day. You can even create a shortcut on your desktop for each of the sites for easy access. Remember Tricare for Life and the impression all those messages made on the Congress? It was the turning point and likewise this battle can be won also by cranking the mission....

"If It Weren't For the United States Military"

"There Would Be NO United States of America"

BGen Bob Clements, USAF, (Ret), "P-38 Bob"

Editor's note: Enough is enough. Send Congress a message every day if possible. This is an election year. A march on Washington is planned. Please do your part - send a message every day. **RJS**



George & Dorothy Brown



Terry Trudell & daughter Jeanne McCollough



TAPS

Col **John W. Hawkins**, USAF (Ret)
April 11, 2006
Page 28, 2006 Directory

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. **Jane Gaugh**, AuxMbr-N
427 39th Ave, N.E., St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome.

May Birthdays (62 to 87 years)

Day	L NAME	F NAME	RANK	SVC
12	Alvarez, Robert		1Lt	USMC (Ret)
26	Barton, Ann		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
07	Bennett, Willard		COL	USA (Ret)
01	Boyden, Harry		LtCol	USMC (Ret)
29	Coates, Marie		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
11	Comeau, Ronald		MAJ	USA (Ret)
01	Criss, George		Col	USAF (Ret)
02	Crowell, Schuyler		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
06	Donovan, James		Capt	USMC (Ret)
30	Dvorak, Howard		LCDR	USNR (Ret)
07	Griffiths, William		COL	USA (Ret)
31	Humphrey, Marguerite		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
17	Jones, John		Maj	USAF (Ret)
08	Landers, Joan		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
04	McDonough, Michael		LtCol	USMC (Ret)
03	Musselwhite, Charlie		CWO4	USA (Ret)
27	Myers, Ralph		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
17	Pav, Peter		COL	USA (Ret)
03	Schramm, Wayne		Brig Gen	USAF(Ret)
02	Smith, Violet		Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
23	Trudell, Robert		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Warren, Judith		Lt Col	USAF (Ret)

John Truman Callicotte COL. USA (Ret), born January 13, 1918 passed away quietly at 7:15 p.m. last night (April 21, 2006) in the North Carolina Rehabilitation Center of the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Salisbury, N.C. following a short illness. My mother was with him when it happened. We thank the Hospice organization for the wonderful care during his last days. My mother based on dad's wishes is arranging a small graveside service (tentatively we are looking at May 5th at 11:00 a.m.) in the National Cemetery located on the V.A. grounds. Chaplain Tom Clemmens who spent quite a bit of time with dad the last days will preside at the service. Following dad's wishes he will be cremated and have a military funeral. As the amount of flowers allowed are very minimal, mother has asked that in lieu of flowers donations may be made to Hospice in his memory. We have been told that you can contact Audrey Belk the Hospice representative at 704-637-7645. The family thanks all of those who have given prayers for my father and we are sure he is happy now in his new life.

My friend, John Callicotte

John Callicotte and Martha were dedicated members of what was the St Petersburg Club, TROA. John was one of the few who had a computer at the time of Convention 1999. Unfortunately he was losing his eyesight but compensated by the use of a large screen and magnification. His convention job was to coordinate the many tasks to be done to insure success. He gathered his group members in his home frequently to see how we were doing. He was always firm but fair and usually had a big smile as he invited each member to report on the progress we were making toward what turned into probably the best convention the Florida Council had in many years.

We became good friends in our many trips to the Tradewinds Resort to check out progress. He had a few stories to tell as we drove back and forth - his life growing up on a farm and later his flying lessons and his airplane that he flew to Alaska where he was stationed. By coincidence, his airplane was parked in a hangar adjacent to one of my CH-21C hangars when I commanded the 80th Light Cargo Helicopter Company in 1965.

John was a leader who worked hard in spite of his failing vision. He was an inspiration to all of us and we will miss him. RJS

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Clockwise from above:
 John & Jean Jessup
 Janice Mogan & Mike Mathews
 Bob & Bronnie Polk
 Bert & Dolly Couture

Space A Travel Phase-Out?

'Patriot Express' Reengineering on Track by
 Tech. Sgt Mark Diamond

Air Mobility Command Public Affairs SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, Ill. (AFPN) — The reengineering process to significantly scale down Patriot Express is on track, said experts in Air Mobility Command's Air Transportation Division. Patriot Express is an AMC-managed, military-chartered commercial air service for transporting Department of Defense customers to and from overseas locations. Members of the retiree community also use the service for space available travel. Since the 1960s, Patriot Express or a similar program has provided regular passenger service from the United States to 27 locations in the European Command, Central Command and Pacific Command areas of operation. At one time, the system handled more than 340,000 passengers a year with more than two-thirds of the seats on the contracted aircraft filled by passengers on permanent change-of-station orders.

Command officials said that in December 2001 the AMC commander saw the need to recapture passenger movement to avert substantial financial losses. This was based on data that showed more DOD passengers were choosing commercial flights rather than Patriot Express. Division chief Col. Tonja

Brickhouse said the command made many improvements in an effort to attract DOD passengers back to Patriot Express. These included price reductions, free headphones, meal upgrades and reconfigured aircraft that offer passengers more leg room, she said. In spite of significant improvements, DOD customers continued to book commercial flights, leaving empty seats on Patriot Express flights, she said. With commercial flights the preferred mode of travel, the AMC commander directed reengineering of Patriot Express. As part of that process, Colonel Brickhouse said all Patriot Express routes — except for those into locations with no commercial airline service or those with force protection considerations — would be **phased out over a three-year period**. By fiscal 2008, the command will eliminate all but a handful of Patriot Express missions.

"We understand there are other concerns, including those of passengers who have previously enjoyed space-available travel on Patriot Express flights," she said. "However, we can't continue to operate missions with low duty ridership simply to support Space A travel. "We have to have balance. We have to meet the war fighters' requirements, but we also have to be good stewards of the taxpayers' money," she said. Unless usage picks up significantly in the coming months, AMC experts said the Patriot Express reengineering will continue as planned with the elimination of all Pacific routes on Sept. 30, 2006.(Edited for brevity) - RJS

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.

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, 11:00 TBD

July 21st, Friday, 11:00 Annual Memorial service; plus a weather briefing for the hurricane season.

August 18th, Friday, 11:00 Weatherman Dick Fletcher, hurricanes present and past.

September 15th, Friday, 11:00, TBD

October 20th, Friday, 11:00, 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.

May 1st Monday

June 5th Monday

July 10rd Monday (2nd Monday)

August 7th Monday

September 11th Monday (2nd Monday)

October 2nd Monday

ROWC

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

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

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

•**May 9th**, Alfano's 1720 Clw Largo Rd

Summer recess:—

•**October-Luncheons** resume

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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