



OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XV No.IV

April 2015

President's Comments:

I promised myself that I would lay off the recruiting pitch for a while. So, y'all get a breather this month.

As I look through the chapter roster, I am amazed at the talent in our chapter and can't help but wonder about the things that you do in your lives to occupy your free time and to better the lives of others. With that in mind, I'd like to ask you to mail/email or call me and tell me what you do. We'll put a listing of "volunteer opportunities" in the OC each month, with or without your name, as you prefer. By doing that, perhaps we can open a door for someone looking for something to do, and, if someone decides to jump in on an opportunity, he or she will know someone already involved--another SPA-MOAA member.

So, let me know about your volunteer activities. Perhaps we'll highlight those in various editions of the Officers Call. (I'll let you know about mine later.)

As I type this, I am reminded of the new Free Lunch program. I am also kinda disappointed that we have had only three folks who have taken us up on that offer. So, let's get busy, and I am saying that to myself as well.



See President Pg 4

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CONGRATULATIONS

"Propeller Club of Tampa Bay President Pamela Baylor presented on February 18th at the Annual Leadership Awards Dinner, the Propeller Club Member of the Year Award to Colonel William (Bill) W. Lofgren, Jr., USAF (Ret) for his untiring efforts over the past several years. His hard work, support and dedi-



cation landed him this coveted award this year. Bill's commitment to this organization is second to none. The Propeller Club is a non-profit organization of almost 500 people dedicated to the success and welfare of the Ports of Tampa Bay, their maritime communities, and their customers, for the benefit of the Tampa Bay community. Bill served as Board member and assumed the position of Club Secretary in 2011. Bill also serves on our: Bylaws committee; the Tampa Port Authority Port Commissioner Nominating Committee; the Propeller Club Nominating Committee; the Program and Hospitality Committee; and, the Compensation Committee. He is a huge asset to this organization and we are very glad he's on our team."

Free Lunch Winners

(With respect to Robert Heinlein and Milton Friedman, there really is a FREE lunch)

New Member: MAJ Bill Dillon, USA (Ret)

Sponsor:

FREE LUNCH ANY ONE?

Bring a new member to our monthly luncheon and you both get a Free Lunch



Officers Call

**Print Media Winner- 2006****Print Media 1st Runner-Up-2008 & 2010-11**

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**DIRECTORS**

President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
1st VP- CDR Glen Crabb, USN (Ret) 561-0697
2nd Mrs Betty Finley AuxMbr-N 391-5908
Secretary- Mrs. Ginni Eichholz AuxMbr Spouse 347-9538
Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) 894-3761

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 LTC William Eichholz, USA (Ret) 347-9538
 Mrs Evelyn Hamilton, AuxMbr-A 399-1272

2014 & 2015—

LTC Duane "Ozzie" Osborn, USA (Ret) 570-8817
 COL Roger Popham, USA (Ret) 498-6860
 Capt Frances "Fran" Shivers, USAFR (Fmr) ... 347-9538

Immediate Past President

LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) 459-4026

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising	Vacant
Auxiliary Liaison .	Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050
Awards	Vacant
Chaplain	COL George Brown, USA 866-6859
Chaplain Ass't	COL Mike Day, USA 394-9151
Database Manager	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
Help Our Troops	Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050
Honor Guard Coord	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Historian:	CDR Maureen Conners, USN .. 954-0482
Hospitality	CDR Glen Crabb, USN 561-0697
Installation Cerem	Vacant
JROTC	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Law:	Vacant
Legislative:	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
MacDill Ret Actv	Lt Col Bill Lewis, USAF 480-6766
Master at Arms	Vacant
Membership	Mrs Betty Finley AuxMbr-N ... 391-5908
MOWC Liaison ...	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543
Newsletter	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
Nominating Cmte	Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
Parliamentary	Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
Personal Affairs ...	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543
Pinellas Co Vet Lia	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Programs	CDR Glen Crabb, USN 561-0697
Publicity:	Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936
Reservations	Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936
Scholarships:	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
TOPS	Vacant
VAMC Vol Svcs ...	Vacant
Vet Liaison	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Visitation	Mrs Virginia Balke AuxMbr-A . 544-3598
Webmaster	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237

Did you know that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily enlarge the pages and even selectively print out a page or more? Or, just read or print it all out in color!

To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and save valuable funds for your Chapter, call Larry-- 727-522-6237.

Luncheon Meetings The 3rd Friday — mixer
 11:00 - 11:45; luncheon program 11:45 - 13:15;
 Banquet Masters, 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater

CALENDAR

April 17th Elliott Steele
May 15th Memorial Service
June 19th Ms. Andrea Rand, MOAA

July 17th

**** Need a ride to the luncheon?
 Call: Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237**

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month 11:30-12:30 at Perkins Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. & Park Blvd., Seminole.

April 6th Monday
May 4th Monday
June 1st Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be
 Tuesday April 14th Tampa Yacht and Tennis Club
 1130 hours 5320 Interbay Blvd
 Tampa

Luncheon Reservations:

Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146 or
 Barbara Walters, 727-595-4619

Membership Info:

- Barbara King 391-2564

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) **10:30 AM**

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 222
 Regular Members - 147
 Auxiliary Members - 53
 AuxMbr-Spouse - 22
 Inactive Members - 0

Military Services:

Army - 61 USMC - 10
 USAF - 39 USCG - 6
 Navy - 31 NOAA - 0

3/23/2015



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>





Minutes

Reported by **Ginni Eichholz**

Monthly Luncheon; 20 March 2015

Attended – 44: (47 reservations), 0 Member Guest, 3 Chapter Guests, 1 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 4 No Shows

The luncheon meeting was called to order at 11:30 by Pres. Larry Fernald.

Invocation was led by Glen Crabb. Pledge of allegiance was led by Larry Fernald.

New members Peter Gunderson and Bill Dillon were introduced.

Jim Patton won the door prize. Bill Eichholz and Paulette Carr won the 50/50 drawing.

President Larry Fernald and Past President Terry Carr, presented Chris Lillich with an award for serving as secretary from 2009 thru 2014 .

Sherry Freese read a thank you note from Melissa a resident of Heaven on Earth for Vets thanking MOAA and MOWC for giving a baby shower for her son Bowen.

Sherry also gave information about the MOAA convention in St Augustine in May and a MOAA cruise in December.

Member Rose Munchbach fell and broke her shoulder. She is recovering at her brother's home in Plant City.

Bobbie Walters son BG Robert Walters is being inducted into OCS Hall of Fame at FT Bennington ,Ga. His father was inducted in 1985.

After a break for lunch, Glen Crabb introduced The Honorable Leslie Waters, Mayor Of Seminole, who gave a very interesting talk on the history of Doolittle's Raiders over Tokoyo.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50pm

Executive Committee Meeting 2 March 2015

The MOAA executive board meeting on March 2, 2015 was held at Perkins restaurant Seminole Fl.

Meeting was called to order by president Larry Fernald 11:30am.

Glenn Crabb discussed need for improved speaker system at luncheons, the system at Banquet Masters is not reliable. Bill Lofgren suggested cutting down on chatter would also help. Larry will remind members to refrain from chatting when the group is being addressed.

Larry reported that Barry Wright had expressed an interest in speaking to our group.

Since we already have speakers lined up for this year. Barry would be a good choice for installation in January 2016.



Betty Finley reported that she has given membership applications to two people in her community. Larry has new applications available. The board encourages everyone to try to recruit new members. MOAA will send us a list of potential new members in the area.

Larry reported that our chapter received \$175.00 from MOAA for 7 new members in 2014, there is \$675.00 in the scholarship fund. The FI Corp Fund renewal was filed. The financial statement was approved subject to audit, motion made by Betty Finley 2nd by Fran Shivers.

Bill Lofgren will do the audit of financial records after tax season. Pete's job keeps him busy.

Violet Smith reported on death of former member Meredith Crook.

Pauline Edwards has sent regular news releases out.

Anita reported that she has 21 boxes for troops on hand and only 2 units to send boxes to. Post Office now requires that 5 copies of customs forms to be printed out online before mailing packages. Furniture, clothing, and welcome baskets were given to Heaven on Earth for Vets. Men's clothing is always needed.

Terry Carr is still gathering information on alternate luncheon locations. Asked if valet parking was necessary. Decision was if possible yes. Bill Lofgren stated that he has a wheel chair that can be used at luncheons if needed. Someone needs to volunteer to help as Bill will be taking pictures. Motion was made to try luncheons at Bayou Club, if they can accommodate us, for April, May and June by Betty Finley 2nd by Glenn Crabb.

Jim Patton stated that Officers Call is at printers.

Bill asked for policy book to be approved . Anita made motion, Pauline 2nd. Motion approved.

Bill asked for new flag casing to replace one that is missing . Ginni made motion Jim Patton 2nd . Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11: 45.

Stepping up to the Plate

As noted in the Executive Board minutes above, we need a new flag casing to replace one that is missing.

Our 2nd Vice President, Betty Finley, volunteered to take on this project. Finding the correct material and someone to fabricate the casing got a few very expensive estimates. Betty continued to pound the pavement and approach many vendors. She finally came to Captain Richard Moyses of Discount Boat Tops who when told of MOAA's outreach to veterans not only took on the project to fabricate a new casing, but at no cost to the chapter.

A big thanks to Betty and especially to Captain Moyses for his generosity.

Well Done Betty.



President from Page 1

Our luncheon will continue to be at Banquet Masters. We are still evaluating other options. There are some good ones, but we are trying to keep the cost in line with what we are paying now. So, stayed tuned and watch the Officers Call for any changes.

Upcoming events of interest include the Florida Council of Chapters (FCOC) annual convention, 22-24 May, in St Augustine. Registration is available on the FCOC website at www.MOAAFL.org. If you do not have access to a computer and wish a registration package, please let me know and I will get one to you.

Also on the calendar is the FCOC cruise. That is a 5-night roundtrip western Caribbean cruise, departing Ft Lauderdale on 5 December. One can register for the cruise on the FCOC website as well.

In closing, I would like to comment on the luncheons. The vast majority of you do not attend the monthly luncheons. All I'll say about that is that you are missing a great opportunity to socialize and to hear great speakers. If you can, please try to make it to a few luncheons.

HOT! New Pilot Program Allows Veterans to Directly Schedule Audiology and Optometry Appointments Starting March 30!

A national performance improvement team has been working with VA medical centers across the country to identify performance improvement opportunities and pilot programs that can positively impact the Veteran and employee experience. One opportunity, identified during sites visits, is the direct scheduling of patients in need of Audiology (hearing) and Optometry (eye) services.

The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System (VAHCS), along with two other sites (White River Junction, VT and Mountain Home, TN), was selected to implement a 120-day pilot program which will give Veterans (including traveling Veterans and those unassigned to a Primary Care provider) the option to directly schedule Optometry and Audiology appointments without the need for a Primary Care referral. This pilot program will be available across the entire Bay Pines VAHCS starting March 30, 2015.

Veterans can schedule Audiology or Optometry appointments directly by calling 727-398-6661 extension 15525 or by speaking with staff at Bay Pines VAHCS facilities where these services are provided. Audiology services are available at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center, Lee County Healthcare Center and VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Bradenton, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte and Sarasota. Optometry services are available at the C.W. Bill Young VA Medical Center, Lee County Healthcare Center and at VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located in Bradenton and Port Charlotte. For more information about this locations and services available, please visit www.baypines.va.gov.

For questions about this new program, please contact your Patient Aligned Care Team (PACT) or call the phone number listed above.

Military Officer Association of America

Formerly called The Retired Officers Association

The Military Officers Association of America is a professional association of United States military officers. It is a nonprofit organization that advocates for a strong national defense, but is politically nonpartisan.[citation needed] The association supports government policies that benefit military members and their families. Its membership is made up of active duty, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers from the uniformed services of the United States.

History

Originally called The Retired Officers Association, the organization that is now the Military Officers Association of America was founded in 1929. The association's first headquarters in Los Angeles, California. The association's goal was to provide advice and assistance to fellow military officers throughout United States. The organization also promoted fraternal relations among America's uniformed services.

The association moved its headquarters to the Washington area in 1944. At that time, the organization had approximately 2,600 members. In 2002, the association changed its name to the Military Officers Association of America. The change took effect on 1 January 2003.

Today, the Military Officers Association of America has over 380,000 members. It is the fourth largest military officers' organization in the United States. In addition to supporting a strong national defense program, the association provides military benefits counseling, career transition assistance, and educational assistance for children of military families (including families of enlisted personnel).

Organization

Membership in the association is open to active duty, retired, and former commissioned officers and warrant officers from the uniformed services of the United States including the National Guard and Reserve components. The seven uniformed services are the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Coast Guard, the United States Public Health Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Surviving spouses of deceased officers are eligible for auxiliary membership.

The association is governed by a board of directors. The board is composed of 36 members from all seven uniformed services. Board members also represent six geographic regions. The board elects its chairman and three vice chairmen. It also elects the association's president, chief financial officer, and secretary. The president oversees the association's day-to-day operations. The association's headquarters is located in Alexandria, Virginia.

See MOAA Pg 8





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

SecDef Warns of Pay Cuts

March 20, 2015

On Mar. 18, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter issued a dire warning to Congress if it fails to repeal sequestration: the military may start cutting pay.

The services have already begun to cap pay, providing nominal pay raises that fail to match private sector wage growth, but this is the first time the Department of Defense has talked of actually reducing base pay for servicemembers.

“Everything ... is on the table,” said Carter. “We could be forced to consider pay cuts, not just cuts in the growth of compensation.”

“No portion of our budget can remain inviolate.”

Defense hawks on both sides of the aisle are seeking relief from sequestration budget cuts.

For FY 2016, the administration asked for a \$561 billion base defense budget —\$38 billion over the mandatory sequestration caps. According to Carter, a proposed defense budget that keeps sequester level funding in place will be met with a presidential veto.

That statement drew immediate criticism from republicans, many of whom have pushed for ways to boost military spending in 2016 while leaving budget caps in place for non-defense spending.

On Mar. 19, the House Budget Committee passed its FY 2016 budget. The proposed budget boosts defense spending by adding money to a wartime funding account to make up for caps on the Pentagon’s base budget. The plan would keep defense spending under caps mandated by the 2011 Budget Control Act and provide \$90 billion to the Pentagon’s overseas contingency operations (OCO) account, which is not subject to sequestration caps.

Deficit hawks have complained about using budget gimmicks to exceed sequester caps.

“The defense department shouldn’t have to operate in this kind of uncertain budget environment,” said MOAA’s Deputy Director of Government Relations, Col. Phil Odom, USAF (Ret). “Defense planners need predictability and a repeal of sequestration. Failure to repeal sequestration puts national security at risk.”

Doc Fix Debate Heats Up

March 20, 2015

For the last few weeks, Congress has been discussing a resolution to prevent a 21% payment cut to doctors who see Medicare and TRICARE patients, known as the “doc fix.”

According to sources, Congress has never been this close to repealing the current Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula,



a legislative mechanism used to pay medical providers who see Medicare and TRICARE patients.

Congress has been trying to fix the flawed formula for the past 13 years, often with short-term patches. Talks of permanent repeal have previously fallen apart at the last minute due to a lack of consensus on how to finance the deal.

Permanently repealing the doc fix will remove a great source of concern from both providers and TRICARE beneficiaries. Because TRICARE reimbursement rates are tied to Medicare’s, the doc fix affects TRICARE beneficiaries of all ages. Additionally a permanent deal is needed to sustain Medicare and TRICARE for Life benefits.

The current payment patch expires March 31, and lawmakers are trying to create a permanent solution instead of passing what would be the 18th temporary fix since 2003.

Congressional leaders from both parties have hammered out a deal that would partially pay for replacing the flawed doc fix formula. For beneficiaries, the deal could involve charging wealthier seniors higher premiums for Medicare Part B and Part D. Providers might see a shift of when payments are made to Medicare Advantage plans.

Details are scarce at this time, but the proposed legislation is rumored to consist of a new pay system for physicians, a consolidation of programs, and paying providers based on performance. Pay will be based partly on how well physicians coordinate care by introducing clinical care guidelines.

It’s official, DD-214’s are NOW Online.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following website for veterans to gain access to their DD-214’s online: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/>

This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files. Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents. Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the online web site. 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 centers mailroom and processing time.

Discover The Benefits Of Life Membership In MOAA.



Glen Crabb delivering the invocation



President Larry Fernald, guest speaker Leslie Waters and 1st VP Glen Crabb



Guest speaker Leslie Waters about to accept chapter gift from Larry Fernald



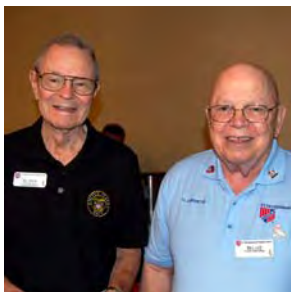
Sherry Freese reading a thank you card from the Baby Shower held in conjunction with the Heaven on Earth for Veterans



Past President Terry Carr presented an Appreciation Award to former Secretary Chris Lillich



Returning member Giles Bax



Bill Bolin and Bill Lee



New member Peter Gunderson



Fran Chancey and Fran Shivers



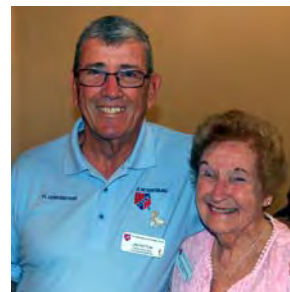
1st VP Glen Crabb and new member Bill Dillon



Secretary Ginni Eichholz



Ticket sales team Evey Hamilton and Bill Lewis



Door prize winner Jim Patton and Pauline Edwards



50/50 winner Paulette Carr and Bill Lewis



EAB board member Ozzie Osborn and returning member Hank Marois



50/50 winner Bill Eichholz and Bill Lewis



Bill Lofgren and Herb Tondreau





Violet Smith



Glen and Katie Crabb



Tony Quattromani



Peter Hermann



Bill and Ginni Eichholz



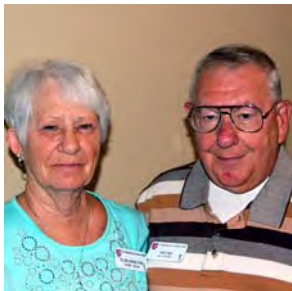
Betty and Paul Finley



Richard Green



Margaret and Earl Peck



Mary Ellen and Ken Fine



Anne Isley



Bobbie Walters



Ed and Chris Lillich



Sherry Freese and Mick Vision



Ed Lillich, Anita Harrow and Jim Patton



Paulette and Terry Carr

Photos by Bill Lofgren

Photos

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify him of your correct email address at the following email address: lofgrenlepc@earthlink.net



Julia and Bruce Love



Joanne Taylor



MOAA from Page 4

Advocacy

The association promotes military professionals and encourages government policies that support military members and their families. The association staff identifies important national defense issues and provides association members with regular updates on key issues and pending legislation. The association advocates for a strong national defense, but does not get involved in military strategy debates or support specific weapons systems.

Bottom Line - It's the Same Old Song

March 13, 2015

We all regularly read headlines about the need to reform the military retirement system. Over the past several years, more — than I'd prefer to count — commissions, think tanks, and talking heads crow about how “unsustainable” military compensation is.

One thing I've learned is how repetitive these calls for fundamental changes to military compensation sound. For instance:

“[We] cannot disregard the already heavy costs involved in military retirement of the substantial added costs, which would result if re-computation were to be retained as part of the military retirement system.”

Congress wrote those words in 1963, believing an annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) was too expensive for the government and ultimately would threaten national security.

These remarks seem strange now, considering annual COLAs are locked in statute. Military retirees today have the peace of mind of an inflation-protected benefit, something increasingly rare in the private sector. Yet it is one of the incentives that keeps someone in the service for 20 or 30 arduous years.

“During the past two decades, the uniformed services retirement system has come under increasing scrutiny and attack. By recommending the [current] changes ..., [we] are attempting to put the issue of structural reform in the uniformed services retirement system to rest for the foreseeable future. ... As a result of these changes, the criticism of the uniformed services retirement system will subside and the concerns of servicemembers regarding the uncertainty of retirement benefits can be assuaged.”

That sounds like something you would expect from the recent Military Compensation Reform and Modernization Commission (MCRMC) report, right?

Wrong.

See Bottom Line Pg 11

2015 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

••GOLD –

Bartlett, Bill CAPT
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Flint, John Col
Isley, Anne Mrs
Landers, Joan Mrs.
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Milford, John Lt Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Patton, Kathi Mrs.
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
Smith, Violet Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,385 as of 3/23/2015

••SILVER –

Augustine, June Lt Col
Bolin, Bill CDR
Hetherington, Chuck Col
Lewis, Bill Lt Col
Phillips, Bettye Mrs.
Sims, Bob Maj

••BRONZE –

Edwards, Richard CAPT
Eichholz, Bill LTC
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Hermann, Peter Col
Kirkland, Doug CDR
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Reed, Bob CDR
Sartorio, Sal Maj
Schlager, Fred CWO4
Tondreau, Herb CWO4
Warren, David LTC

2015 Help Our Troops 2015 Heaven on Earth Donors

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

••GOLD –

Augustine, June Lt Col
Bartlett, Bill CAPT
Bolin, Bill CDR
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Carr, Terry LTC
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Holmes, Lee LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs
Johnson, Mardi Mrs.
Kottich, Chuck COL
Landers, Joan Mrs.
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Milford, John Lt Col
Misuraca, A. J. 1st Lt
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Patton, Kathi Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:
\$ 2,135 as of 3/23/2015

Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Phillips, Bettye Mrs.
Quattromani, Tony LTC
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Burch, Jo Ann, LTC
Hansen, Gidge CPT
Hermann, Peter Col
Hetherington, Chuck Col
Lewis, Margaret Mrs.
Reed, Bob CDR
Sartorio, Sal Maj
Taylor, Joanne MAJ
Terry, Frederick COL
Tondreau, Herb CWO4
Warren, David LTC

••BRONZE –

Edwards, Richard CAPT
Hamilton, Rosemary Mrs.
Schlager, Fred CWO4





TAPS

- ◆ **Parsons, Charles, Col, USAF (Ret)**
22 February 2015
- ◆ **Flint, John, Col, USAF (Ret)**
6 March 2015

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.



Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ **Dillon, William “Bill”, MAJ, USA (Ret)**
wife' name to be added
9250 140th Way, Seminole, FL 33776, 540-460-0360

**Every member get a new member
and get a free lunch!**

April Birthdays (62 to 94 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
10	Barber	Jon	LTC	USA (Ret)
25	Beal	William	CAPT	USCG (Ret)
17	Dawson	Linda	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
15	DeWitt	Paul	MAJ	USAR
22	Gaugh	Jane	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
01	Green	Richard	CWO4	USA (Ret)
21	Hermann	Peter	Col	USAF (Ret)
28	Holecek	John	LTC	USA (Ret)
16	Johnson	Marjorie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
07	Koch	Richard	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Langston	Susan	Capt	USAF (Fmr)
16	McCormick	James	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
18	Newton	Richard	Col	USAF (Ret)
23	Olson	Frederick	COL	USA (Ret)
17	Piercy	James	COL	USA (Ret)
19	Reilly	Anne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
07	Shields	Roger	COL	USA (Ret)
10	Vecchio	Joseph	MAJ	USAR (Ret)

Landing at a hidden military base

You've all heard of the Air Force's ultra-high-security, super-secret base in Nevada, known simply as "Area 51?"

Well, late one afternoon, the Air Force folks out at Area 51 were very surprised to see a Cessna landing at their "secret" base. They immediately impounded the aircraft and hauled the pilot into an interrogation room.

See Landing Pg 11

Financial Report Summary for the Month of February

HOT Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 5,025.51
.... Donations	\$ 350.00
.... 50/50	\$ 39.00
.... Memorials	\$ 0.00
.... Expenses	\$ 0.00
.... HOT Balance, End of Month	\$ 5,414.51

Scholarship Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 75.00
.... Donations	\$ 650.00
.... Expended	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 675.00

Operating Account

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 6,610.53
.... Luncheon Income	\$ 620.00
.... Dues	\$ 145.00
.... Misc Income	\$ 175.00
.... Interest Earned	\$ 1.05
.... Luncheon Expense	\$ (614.00)
.... Supplies	\$ (88.00)
.... Post Office	\$ 0.00
.... Honraria/donations	\$ 0.00
.... Other Organizations	\$ (61.25)
.... Memorial to HOT	\$ 0.00
.... Printing/mailing	\$ 0.00
.... Newsletter Costs	\$ (359.21)
.... VA/JROTC	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 6,429.12

Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.
(Contact **Mrs. Virginia Balke, 544-3598**)

- ◆ **Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)**
- ◆ **Col Mildred “Gene” Butler, USAF Ret)**
- ◆ **CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret)**
- ◆ **LTC Rose Munchbach, USA (Ret)**
- ◆ **Mrs. Jane Gaugh, AuxMbr-N**

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Bottom Line Pg 8

That lofty statement came from Congress in 1985, the last time they tried to seriously tinker with military pay and benefits. What was the result of that experiment? REDUX, the system that ended up crippling retention by the late 1990s that the service chiefs begged Congress to abandon it in 1999.

The MCRMC recommends moving retirees into a blended retirement system and lowering the defined benefit by 20 percent while establishing a government match into a contributory retirement plan, similar to a 401(k). The idea is servicemembers put some “skin in the game” and fund part of their own retirement like their civilian counterparts. Servicemembers could take their benefit with them if they leave before 20 years of service. Who could object to that?

“A noncontributory plan of retirement is traditional with the military and particularly suited to a government agency. Private industry, lacking the taxing power and the security of perpetual assistance, wisely accumulates in advance the funds from which to pay retirement benefits, even though the employer’s corporate existence should end. The government has no need to accumulate such a fund as long as the power to tax exists.”

The Hook Commission of 1948 said those words, which highlight the importance of the current system.

While the workforce has changed considerably over the past 70 years, the premise remains the same: The government has the ability to pay for military benefits in ways that private enterprise simply cannot. It is the responsibility of Congress to find a way to pay for national defense.

But that hasn’t stopped studies since then from seeking savings by cutting back on the defined benefit for retirees.

“Some of the proposals offer an opportunity for substantial budget savings, which guarantees them some popularity during this difficult budget season. But changes in military compensation must also be assessed in light of their effects on recruiting and retention, lest we revisit in the next few years the major manning problems of recent years.”

That line sounds remarkably like what MOAA members have been telling Congress when these proposals surface. But those wise words actually were said in 1983 by then-Assistant Director for National Security and International Affairs Robert Hale. They were true then, and they are just as true today.

By looking at the past 13 years of conflict, it is clear the current retirement system works. We’ve been in the longest sustained military engagement in American history, and we’ve only been able to maintain retention levels because of the value of the current system.


Any changes to military retirement would have to provide the same results. In today’s environment, a transportable ca-

reer device only provides a greater incentive to leave when times get tough.


The bottom line: Commissions, think tanks, and recommendations on retirement reform tend to sing the same tune. You need an advocate like MOAA that cuts through the noise to make sure you hear the real message. What’s most important is that the retirement system of the future retains top quality, mid-grade NCOs and officers for a career.

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Landing from Pg 9

The pilot’s story was that he took off from Vegas, got lost, and spotted the Base just as he was about to run out of fuel. The Air Force started a full FBI background check on the pilot and held him overnight during the investigation.

By the next day, they were finally convinced that the pilot really was lost and wasn’t a spy. They gassed up his airplane, gave him a terrifying “you-did-not-see-a-base” briefing, complete with threats of spending the rest of his life in prison, told him Vegas was that-a-way on such-and-such a heading, and sent him on his way.

The day after that though, to the total disbelief of the Air Force, the same Cessna showed up again. Once again, the MP’s surrounded the plane...only this time there were two people in the plane.

The same pilot jumped out and said, “Do anything you want to me, but my wife is in the plane and you have to tell her where I was last night!”



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

Monthly Luncheon

Friday
17 April 2015

Banquet Masters
13355 49th St. N.
Clearwater. FL

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

Guest Speakers:

Elliott Steele

Subject: Vincent House

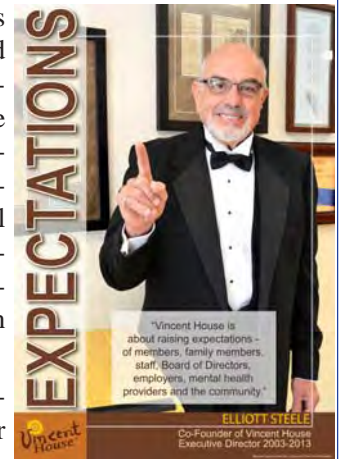
Twenty two years ago Elliott's life was dramatically changed with his younger daughter's diagnosis of schizophrenia. He became acutely aware of the discrimination and the misunderstanding of mental illness as well as the inequities in both the public and private mental health systems. He therefore became an active advocate.

After completing a 16-year career as Administrative Director at University Community Hospital, he made a career change for the sole purpose of working to improve the services for persons living with mental illnesses in Florida. Elliott recognized that one particular aspect of the service delivery system in Florida that was lacking was meaningful daytime activities. He therefore incorporated Van Gogh's Palette, Inc. and trained in the Fountain House Model. He then worked to establish Vincent House, a restorative community for people recovering from mental illnesses.

After several years of advocating, Elliott was able to convince the state of Florida to invest in Vincent House. In January 2003, Vincent House opened its doors. Vincent House participated in an ICCD certification review in December 2004 that resulted in a three-year certification with no recommendations. Vincent House became Florida's first internationally accredited Clubhouse.

Vincent House has been the recipient of the NAMI-Pinellas County Iris Award and the Beverly Chapman Award for Outstanding Employment from the Able Trust. In addition to numerous newspaper articles, Vincent House was featured in Reintegration Today Magazine and a member was featured in the January 2005 edition of Reader's Digest.

Elliott received his bachelor's degree in economics and political science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee and a law degree from Drake University.



11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, April 17th 2015
Banquet Masters
13355 49th N., Clearwater, FL
• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, April 15th**

Name: _____

Each reservation \$15:

Ham: _____

Tilapia Piccata: _____

Cobb Salad: _____

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(If no answer please leave message) or
Evelyn Hamilton 727-399-1272

To expedite entry, please have checks prepared before arrival.

For a RIDE call:

Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237



April

- 3: Good Friday
- 3: Passover begins at sundown
- 5: Easter Sunday
- 6: Persian Gulf War Ends

