

OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



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“The Good Ole Days!”

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret)

I am emailing you this message from the Oceania Cruise Line ship Regatta in the Baltic Sea having just left St. Petersburg, Russia on our way to Helsinki, Finland.

Sherry and I left Tampa July 10 and spent three days in London before boarding the Regatta in Dover July 14. We've been to Belgium, Amsterdam, transited the Kiel Canal to Germany, Denmark, Poland, Estonia, St. Petersburg before disembarking in Stockholm July 28. We will stay three days with friends before flying back to Tampa July 31.



I titled this message “The Good Ole Days” because this trip to Europe is quite different from my first Navy Cruise in 1965 aboard the Destroyer, USS New (DD 818).

First, in 1965 I got paid a whopping \$222.30 plus \$47.88 subsistence and \$100 housing per month for my first Navy cruise. Needless to say that wouldn't pay for one day on this cruise. Believe it or not, I checked my tax files; this cruise cost more than I made in four years active duty from 1963 to 1967.

Second, I have a cell phone that I can use in all of the countries and on the Regatta to call back to the home for \$0.90 per minute with free incoming calls. I do not know how much it would have cost to call in 1965 as I did not try. I remember using Western Union to wire my Dad who wired me \$200 when we ran out of money in Italy a week before my next pay day.

Third, I didn't bring my lap top computer because everywhere you go there are internet cafes (and aboard ship) that provide internet access for about the same price as a cup of coffee. I emailed this to Al from aboard ship. In 1965 we did not have a digital computer aboard the USS New as all our weapons were controlled by analog fire control systems (computers.)

Fourth, the World has changed. The Cold War is over, the Berlin Wall (just built in 1965) fell in 1989, the Vietnam War is long over and prosperity around the World is on the rise. It would be nice to say that the World is at peace but International Terrorism is the greatest threat facing the civilized world since WW II and the Cold War. I will talk more about Russia in my Sep-

CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN (Ret)

MOAA National' Scholarship Fund Officer

CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN-Ret., grew up in San Diego, Calif., as the daughter of a U. S. Navy chaplain. She was commissioned an ensign upon graduation from Officer Candidate School in 1980. She served 26 years in the U. S. Navy as a line officer/fleet support officer. Her assignments included a wide range of staff and command billets in military personnel management, manpower planning, and recruiting. CAPT Marshall retired after more than six years as the Military Personnel Division director at Headquarters, Naval Reactors, in Washington, D.C. She joined the staff of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in October 2006.



CAPT Marshall and her husband, CAPT David W. Marshall, USN-Ret., reside in Clifton, Va. They have one daughter, Stephanie, who attends The George Washington University.

MOAA Position: Scholarship Fund Development Officer

tember message but St. Petersburg today is a tribute to all who “fought and won” the Cold War.

There may be other things that have not changed since 1965 but one thing that has not is the dependence on the one percent of our population, our Military men and women (and our Allies), that are fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

I heard a joke recently where the punch line concluded that the “Scary thing about being young today, is that in forty years these will be the “Good Ole Days” for them!” I guess each generation can say the same thing because our Military has always answered the call of freedom loving people everywhere. Being a 22 year old newly wed making \$222.30 a month really was the “Good Ole Days” for us in 1965. Let's pray that the "Good Ole Days" continue for this and all future generations!

God Bless Our Military!

Don Freese, President



Officers Call

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Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 332
Regular Members - 242
Auxillary Members - 90

Military Services:

Army - 86 USMC - 16
USAF - 78 USCG - 8
Navy - 53 NOAA - 1

7/20/2007

The Buzz

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

• **Items for The Buzz:-** Members are encouraged to propose items to include in **The Buzz**. Items should be of general interest. See the July issue for the range of subjects. Contact Al Neville: (727 522-5685 or nevil45@tampabay.rr.com) or to a chapter board member (see left column).

• **She practices what she preaches:- 2nd VP:-** Membership Chair Janice Mogan recently became our Chapter's newest Life MOAA national member. Contact Janice or Don Freese if you want to join over 100 of our members who are MOAA national Life members.

• **Nominating committee reports:-** Chairman Bob Eynatten, regular member Al Neville, auxiliary member Violet Smith and spouse member Carolyn Shields report the 2007 slate of nominees to the Executive Committee:

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| President | Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret) |
| 1st VP | MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret) |
| 2nd VP | LTC Janice Mogan, USA (Ret) |
| Secretary | Mrs. D. Kay Benson, AuxMbr-AF |
| Treasurer | Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) |

Executive Advisory Board (Term expires 31 December 2009)

LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret)
Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N
COL Ron Merritt, USA (Ret)

The formal report of nominees will be presented at our meeting on October 19, nominations from the floor on November 9th and with the actual election at our December 15th meeting.

• **Fred and Maxine Terry:-** visited their 14 year old grandson outside of Denver Colorado to participate in his church confirmation service. We also helped to celebrate our grandson's 2nd birthday outside of Atlanta Georgia. We believe in the old saying that a joy of being grandparents is, you visit your grandchildren at their home and spoil them before you return to your home.

• **REMINDER - "PLEEEEEZE":-** Make your luncheon reservation, even if it is a last minute call! This assures your choice of entree, the restaurant preparing economically the correct amount of food, and it helps the poor, overworked, and underpaid Reservation Chairman (me, Bob Eynatten) to provide seating, food, and fellowship while enjoying your lunch.

Thank you for your cooperation.

• **Our Chaplain George Brown:-** reports that after an ankle fusion, Dorothy is progressing very nicely in re-learning how to walk. (Editor, three of years ago, *Officers Call* had Dorothy's photo as she completed a tandem parachute jump from 12,500 feet - higher than George ever jumped!)

• **The Lillichs attended Kiwanis International Convention:-** Ed and Chris flew to San Antonio July 2-6 for the convention. It had the usual contentious business meetings, reunions of Kiwanians from all over and the occasionally fruitful educational seminar. While it rained frequently, there was enough sun to enjoy the beauty of the River Walk, the shops, The Alamo and festivities at a dude ranch. (Chris is the president-elect of the Kiwanis Club of Sunshine City.) After returning on the 7th, they drove the nine hours to and from North Carolina for their granddaughter's wedding.

• **Mark November 16 and 17 on your calendar:-** MOAA's 2007 annual meeting is in Tampa. Events include a professional symposium presented by national military leaders, a Congressional breakfast attended by our

The Buzz, continued Pg 6





U.S. Coast Guard 217 Years Old Aug 4

CDR Martin Kaiser, USCG (Ret)

Created by Act of Congress on August 4, 1790 by request of then Secretary of Treasury Alexander Hamilton, the Revenue Marine, also known as the Revenue Cutter Service, with 10 small sailing vessels undertook to enforce the customs laws of the United States. In 1915, by merger with the Life Saving Service, The Revenue Marine became the U.S. Coast Guard and still maintains its status as the oldest continuously operating sea service of the United States. The Coast Guard operated under the Secretary of the Treasury except in time of war when control was shifted to the Chief of Naval Operations. In the mid-sixties the Coast Guard was transferred to the Department of Transportation and remained there until after 9/11 and is now under the Department of Homeland Security.

Of special importance to the Coast Guard in carrying out its missions is the helicopter. Recent research by the History Committee of The Coast Guard Aviation Association (CGAA)

This request came at a time when all the military services had decided that the helicopter was an expensive toy with little utility to justify the expense of further development. All military helicopters were ordered to be dismantled, crated and shipped to the Bone Yard. Now comes the best part. Two Coast Guard Helicopters, an HNS and an HOS at Brooklyn and Elizabeth City Air Stations were still operational. The mechanics hastily dismantled the helos which were then loaded with crews and pilots on two Air Force C-54 aircraft and flown to Gander. There after reassembly, the helicopters evacuated the survivors one by one and transferred them to PBYS at the nearby lake which then flew them in to Gander for hospitalization. All eighteen survived, in large part due to the expert medical treatment provided by Doctor Sam Martin and of course the helicopter evacuation as ordered by the Doctor.

The extensive news coverage of the very first major airliner crash and the subsequent helicopter evacuation caused the mili-



USCG HOS1 helicopter



USAAF C-54 (Commerical DC-4)

brought to light an incident that occurred on September 18, 1946, an incident which changed the course of the development of the helicopter as an instrument for the rescue of humans in distress. During the early morning hours on that date, a Belgian Sabena Airlines DC-4 enroute from Brussels to New York attempted to land in bad weather at Gander Airport to refuel and crashed in a heavily wooded area 24 miles from the airport. Of the 54 people on board only 17 passengers and one stewardess survived. Of those eighteen only two were ambulatory, the rest suffering terrible injuries including broken bones and severe burns. It took ground rescue parties the better part of two days to reach the scene. One group flown in to a lake 5 miles from the crash site by Coast Guard PBYS from Argentia, Newfoundland included a U.S. Army Doctor, CAPT Samuel Martin. After a five mile trip by raft down a stream full of rapids, the party and the Doctor reached the scene. Upon treating the survivors and evaluating the severity of their injuries, the Doctor advised the Coast Guard, by radio, that most of the injured would not survive the trek back to the lake over land. He insisted that the survivors be evacuated by helicopter.



Captain Sam Martin

tary services to rethink the decision to shelve the development of the helicopter, and look where we are today.

The CGAA History Committee discovered that Doctor Samuel Martin had never been given proper recognition by the U.S. Government, the Army or the Coast Guard for his heroic efforts in saving the lives of those severely injured survivors. As a result they recommended to the Commandant of the Coast Guard that Doctor Martin, who recently died at age 80, be posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit. The Commandant agreed and the Legion of Merit was presented to Doctor Martin's adult children, Doctor Samuel Martin IV, Doctor William Martin and Doctor Celia Martin on March 26, 2007 in ceremonies held at the Coast Guard Air Station, Clearwater.

Clearly the Men and Women of the Coast Guard are proud to be serving their country as members of a Service that keeps getting more important missions as time goes on. **Semper Paratus**, Always Ready. Happy Birthday to all Coasties serving here and overseas.

Marty Kaiser





Luncheon Meeting; 20 July 2007

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended – 50: Members– 26, AuxMbrs- 7; Wives– 11, Guests– 6

Such beautiful ladies! I'm talking about our 2nd VP Janice Mogan and the speaker from Sunken Gardens volunteer, Mary Frances Cormican.



Janice got us started by telling everyone to sit. Then she made us stand for Chaplain George Brown to deliver the Invocation. Then Janice led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. And then we had to sit again. Oh, my knees! Just kidding, Janice did a great job filling in for our absentee president who is off sailing around the Baltic Sea and our 1st VP Larry Fernald who is at a F-111 reunion in upstate NY.

Janice called for the door prize drawing and asked D. Kay Benson to draw the winning number from the box. Wouldn't you know it, D. Kay drew her own number. Well, I guess that is the luck of the draw. Then the equity distribution numbers were drawn and John Jessup's caregiver, Elaine, was one of the three lucky winners. There is justice in this world after all!

The three Speairs attend for the first time. Tom is a medically retired army 2LT with his wife, Lauri and Tom's father COL Ed Speairs. Ed, who recently moved to Seminole Square, joined our chapter. The Speairs won one of the drawings.

After a delicious lunch Janice turned the program over to Mary Frances Cormican, a volunteer from Sunken Gardens. Mary Frances had a well-planned slide presentation and took us through the over 100 year history of Sunken Gardens.

The Gardens were started as a hobby by a plumber George Turner who arrived in this area about 1900. In 1903 Mr. Turner bought 6 acres adjacent to 4th Street and 18th Ave. He drained off an ancient lake on the property with a maze of clay tiles and wound up with a bowl shaped area that was several feet below street level. This left a rich muck that was ideal for him to indulge his hobby of gardening. Neighbors enjoyed Mr. Turner's garden and loved to stroll through it. By the 1920's he was charging a nickel for tours.

George Turner's children and grandchildren continued to operate the Gardens until competition from Mickey Mouse, Sea World and other attractions made it economically impossible. After a threat of the property falling into the hands of a nudist resort, the St. Petersburg taxpayers approved a special tax to allow the city of St. Petersburg to purchase the Gardens in 1999. This is probably the best real estate deal the city has ever been involved in! The goal of the city is to continue to preserve the Gardens and they are doing a bang-up job with it. In front of the Gardens are a Carrabas Restaurant and a Great Explorations Museum. The Gardens shares the parking space with the Restaurant and the Museum. Consequently, the Gardens are not open at night. The Gardens can accommodate weddings and other special events by reservation.

Volunteers are always needed to help preserve this historic area. Garden assistants, Docents and special events volunteers do not need any special skills other than a love of nature and a willingness to learn. Seniors get a discount price for admission. Only \$6 for the few of you who are over 55.

Janice asked us to stand again for George's Benediction and thus concluded an interesting, educational and well-run meeting. **Basil**



2nd VP Janice Mogan did a great job!



Mary Frances Cormican, Sunken Gardens volunteer



Reservation chairman and his executive, Bob and Maggie Eynatten





Ron Wildes, Charles Hundly, Dottie & CJ Brauner



John Milford



The Speairs: new member Ed, Tom & Lauri



Barbara & Bob Sims, Pauline Edwards, Chris Lillich



Terry & Paulette Carr



Nicki Kometas w/son-in-law Craig Potter



Ed Lillich & Fred Edwards



Head table from left:
Mary Frances Cormican, Janice Mogan, D. Kay Benson, George Brown





The Buzz, from Pg 2

U.S. Senators and several Representatives, and a MOAA chairman's luncheon with SecDef Robert Gates the scheduled keynote speaker. Details are in the August *Military Officer* magazine. Meeting is at the InterContinental Tampa Hotel, 4860 W. Kennedy Blvd. **Fred Edwards**

• **Our ID renewal reminder program:-** Excerpts from an email between Al Neville, Database Manager, and Violet Smith, Personal Affairs Officer

Al, thanks (for an update of 2007 ID renewal dates), I usually hear good things about our ID renewal system, a few have expressed that they did not need to be reminded (so be it!!)...I have completed the calls through July...I call three months ahead so will be calling in Aug and Sep and that will get me through ID renewal dates up to 28 Dec....when you have them available I will be in need of the list for 2008, please. I am sure the lists will be shorter as time goes on with so many of the widows and dependents reaching the magical age of 75 when they will receive a permanent ID card. Regards, Violet.

(Wives and Widows ensure that the chapter has your current ID renewal date. Call Al Neville at 727 522-5685.)

• **NOAA Officer Corps Adopts New Uniform:-** The Nation's smallest Uniformed Service has announced they have received Department of Commerce and U.S. Coast Guard clearance for authority to wear the Operational Dress Uniform, or ODU. The ODU will be a general purpose NOAA Corps uniform that will replace the following NOAA Corps uniforms: Winter Blue, Tropical White, Winter Working Blue, Working Khaki, and Tropical Khaki. ODU's will become the prescribed uniform for wear onboard ships, marine centers, and designated small boat assignments effective February 1, 2008.

• **From Janice Mogan:-** Thank you all who made the July luncheon run so smoothly. Our fearless leaders (President Don & 1st VP Larry) were both away, so, as next in line, I conducted the proceedings. I needn't have worried. It ran like a clock.

A special appreciation to Secretary D. Kay Benson for her help and moral support. Her mother had surgery the same time as our meeting! Our prayers go out to her for a speedy recovery.

Don gave me with the speakers gift and Larry had put me in contact with our speaker; Bob Eynatten assisted with the guest speaker's dinner and suggestions for the head table; to Maggie and the door prize; Marie Lorence on the 50/50 raffle and beautiful flag place settings; Chaplain George Brown for the opening and closing prayers; Fred Edwards' guidance on proper protocol; and to all members for a first class experience. You're the greatest! How wonderful to have fifty come out in the "dog days" of summer. See you in August! **Janice**

• **D. Kay Benson's vacation:-** D. Kay visited her daughter and family in Lexington, SC where she thoroughly enjoyed "hands-on" with her two darling grandsons. Her second week was attending a Christian Life Conference at Black Mountain, NC. She strolled around lake Susan; sat and rocked and ate ice Her last week was with close friends in their new home at Seneca, SC. She returned home to A/C problems and her mother undergoing emergency gall

bladder surgery. (She is recovering nicely.)

• **Thunder over Michigan:-** In early July, H.B. Love went to an airshow primarily featuring the B-25 Mitchell. There were other WWII aircraft including P-51s and P-47s.



• **Sick Call Report:-** Hazel McGrath provided an update as of 07/11/07.

- OFF Sick Call

Nicki Kometas, AuxMbr, had pneumonia but is better; Mickey Blagg, Spouse, is well and visits her husband regularly;

LTC Evan Riley USA, Evan recovering from a stroke, expects to be home soon.

- ON Sick Call

1LT Robert Alverea, USMC, he'll have dialysis July 20 in hospital;

LTC Richard Natzke, USA is in an Assisted Living Nursing Facility, his daughter lives nearby and visits him often;

June Simon, has move to Virginia to be with family;

Jane Hawkins has breast cancer; is on chemotherapy;

LTC Russell Blagg had a stroke; he recognizes family and is still in hospital;

LCDR Alda Haley had three successive hip fractures and is blind. She's fair but depressed; contact Hazel for information.



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Mary Frances Cormican
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••GOLD – \$1,800

Annim, Rosemary Mrs.
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Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Donald CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Harrow, Tom CAPT.
Lorence, Marie LTC
Nelson, Landy COL
Neville, Al Col
Palmer, Samuel Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER – \$380

Bischof, Henny Mrs.
Burrell, Basil CWO4

Finley, Paul LCDR
Foutz, Delores Mrs.
Love, HB COL
Mogan, Janice LTC
Nolan, Richard Col
Shields, Roger COL

••BRONZE – \$140

Crook, Merideth, Mrs.
Dawson, Pete Maj
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Roberson, Hal Col
Vision, Michael CDR

\$2,320 as of 7/20/07
Goal 2007 - \$5,000

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Diedo, Ed LTC
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Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Donald CAPT
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Jessup, John COL
Kottich, Charles COL
Lorence, Marie LTC
Misuraca, Angelo, 1LT
Mogan, Janice LTC
Neville, Al Col
Palmer, Samuel Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Shields, Roger COL
Sims, Bob, Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.

•• SILVER – \$3000

Bischof, Henny Mrs.
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Harrow, Tom CAPT
Hodgen, Robert CWO4
Isley, Ann, Mrs.
Nelson, Landy COL
Nolan, Richard Col
Shine, Jack Col

••BRONZE – \$165

Christy, Marge Mrs.
Couture, Bert COL
Green, Richard CWO
Lanier, Laurie Maj
McGrath, Hazel LCDR
Merritt, Ron COL
Secor, Madeline Mrs.
Shine, John Col
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

\$2,305 as of 7/20/07

2007 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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••Gold – \$465

Freese, Donald CAPT
Mogan, Janice LTCS
Neville, Al Col
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj

••SILVER – \$255

Bischof, Henny Mrs.
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Gudmundson, Brent LTC
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Isley, Ann, Mrs.
Lorence, Marie LTC
Nelson, Landy COL
Nolan, Richard Col
Palmer, Stew Col
Shields, Roger COL

Sipole, Eva Mrs.

••BRONZE – \$110

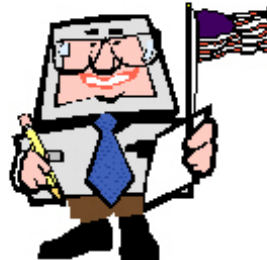
Crook, Merideth, Mrs.
Dawson, Peter Maj
Eisenhart, Bill Col
Eynatten, Bob CAPT
Harrow, Tom CAPT.
Lanier, Laurie Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.

\$830 as of 7/20/07

August Birthdays

(60 to 90 years)

| Day | L Name | F Name | Rank | SVC |
|-----|------------------|--------|---------|------------|
| 17 | Augustine, John | | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 22 | Borrowes, Marja | | Mrs. | AuxMbr-CG |
| 21 | Brown, Gary | | BrigGen | USMC (Ret) |
| 21 | Colon, Pedro | | Capt | USAF (Ret) |
| 15 | Connelly, Albert | | CDR | USNR (Ret) |
| 25 | Dawson, Peter | | Maj | USAF (Ret) |
| 05 | Diedo, Edward | | LTC | USA (Ret) |
| 28 | Elliott, Marvel | | LTC | USA (Ret) |
| 13 | Fleming, William | | LT | USN (Ret) |
| 08 | Hetherington, C. | | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 08 | Lawson, George | | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 22 | March, Christian | | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 05 | Parsons, Charles | | Col | USAF (Ret) |
| 27 | Peck, Earl | | Maj Gen | USAF (Ret) |
| 02 | Roe, Bobbie Jo | | Maj | USAF (Ret) |
| 13 | Rowe, Elmer | | MAJ | USA (Ret) |
| 04 | Secor, Madeline | | Mrs. | AuxMbr-AF |
| 26 | Shutt, Richard | | CAPT | USN (Ret) |
| 21 | Sims, Robert | | Maj | USMC (Ret) |
| 19 | Spears, Thomas | | 2LT | USA (Ret) |
| 12 | Terry, Frederick | | COL | USA (Ret) |
| 26 | Wisner, Charles | | LCDR | USN (Ret) |



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Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 9 July 2007

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

Our president Don Freese opened the meeting at 1135 hours by leading us in the pledge to our Flag. Don then gave the Invocation in the absence of our Chaplain. Don reminded us that he and Sherry will be gone for three weeks on a Baltic Cruise and should return late on 31 July. In his absence the duties of president will devolve into the capable hands of our 1st VP Larry Fernald and our 2nd VP Janice Mogan.



Thirteen were in attendance: Bob Eynatten, Carolyn Shields, Roger Shields, Al Neville, Pete Dawson, Don Freese, Larry Fernald, Basil Burrell, Violet Smith, Stew Palmer, Gary Gilchrist, Paul Finley, Hazel McGrath.

Don is trying to arrange for retired JAG officer and assistant professor of Law at Stetson University, Charles Rose, to speak to us about the legal requirements and implications related to fighting war. Don is trying to arrange for his presentation to occur on 9 November if possible. Don says that we may not like some of Professor Rose's positions – his views should be most thought-provoking to Chapter members.

As a side note, Al Neville had a ringside seat at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials in 1946. I am not aware of his function there, but I am sure that he wasn't in the dock!

Don has made a deal with The Computer Guy, Jim Mallien, to entertain us in exchange for an ad in Officers Call subject to approval by the Board. Jim is not only a computer whiz, but plays the keyboard and sounds like an orchestra. He told Don that his charge is \$15 per hour for American Legion Posts and for retired Navy Captains. Approval was given by acclamation of those present.

The January 2008 meeting of the Dadaelian Society is to be on 19 January which conflicts with our 2008 Installation Dinner. We cannot change the Installation Dinner date so it stands at 19 January 2008.

As a final note Don reported the death of spouse Jean O'Toole the wife of CAPT Charles O'Toole USN (Ret). Don expressed the sympathy of the Chapter to Jean's family.

Carolyn Shields spoke about advertising by the Largo Cultural Center in OC. She received a very nice certificate from the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan in appreciation of the goodies that Carolyn, the HOT lady, is sending to them. She also may have a new Auxiliary member lined up to join our Chapter. Way to go Carolyn!

First VP Larry Fernald had nothing to report this time. Pete Dawson, our Treasurer, gave the June report and it appears elsewhere in this edition of OC. He reports that we spent about \$200 more that we received, but we are in good shape. Don asked that Pete's report be approved as read if no one had any



Welcome our new members!

COL Anse H. "Ed" Spears, USA (Ret)
8333 Seminole Blvd, # 417, Seminole, 33772
727 803-8889 gesprs@mac.com

objections. Treasurer's Report was approved. Pete reports that he will be out of town for 2 weeks.

Al Neville reports that he is doing well with the August issue of OC. He does ask for contributions for "The "BUZZ" column.

Violet Smith gave her report on the doings in Washington. She reports that Sen Bill Nelson has filed Amendment S.2000 to H.R. 1585. Sen. Nelson was scheduled to address the Senate today (9 July). All Chapter members are urged to call Sen. Martinez's office and ask him and his fellow Senators to support this amendment by Sen. Nelson. This is very important because it covers the two SBP "fixes" in the Defense Authorization Bill. The SBP-DIC offset affects many military widows and the SBP 30 year paid up provisions affects all who have been paying SBP contributions for 30 or more years. The bill seeks to move up the effective date to 1 October 2007. So call your Senators and let them know that you want their support on the upcoming issues that affect our military families. Please call Sen. Nelson's office and thank him for his continuing support of the military families. (You may use MOAA's toll free line: 866-272-6622)

Ed Lillich couldn't make today's meeting so there was no report on JROTC.

Don thanked Carolyn for her hard work on the HOT project and called for a round of applause for her.

At 1205 Don ended the meeting with the benediction.

Basil

April 2007

Fernald

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WALGREENS

"Thank you" to the staff of **WALGREENS** at Seminole Boulevard and 102nd Avenue, Seminole, for its outstanding and generous support of our HOT program.





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited for brevity by Col Al Neville, USAF (Ret)

Medicare Plans 10% Payment Cut

In what has become an annual ritual, Medicare administrators recently announced steep cuts in Medicare payments to physicians to take effect next year. Unless the law is changed, they said the payments will be cut by 9.9% in January 2008.

The problem is the statutory formula that sets Medicare reimbursement rates is flawed. It doesn't accurately reflect the true cost of running a physician practice. It just cuts physician payment rates when the economy goes down, which has no bearing on provider costs.

Congress has stepped in for the last five years to stop the implementation of previously proposed cuts — holding reimbursement rates constant for the past few years. Today, Medicare pays doctors about the same amounts as it did in 2001.

Because TRICARE physician reimbursement rates are tied by law to Medicare's, the cuts would also apply to TRICARE payments. As physician reimbursement rates lag behind actual practice costs, physicians are less likely to take on new Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries. According to a recent AMA survey, more than 60% of doctors say they will be forced to limit the number of new Medicare patients.

The situation could be even worse for TRICARE beneficiaries. They make up a much smaller percentage of the average provider's patient base and TRICARE has some unique administrative hassles that Medicare doesn't. This will make providers less willing to see TRICARE patients in the face of even lower payments.

For the past few years MOAA has worked successfully with the AMA to avoid the proposed cuts and will continue that partnership this year. Influential legislators have already tipped their hands that they don't intend to let the 9.9% cut take effect, but the cost poses a significant budget challenge. So far, no specific bills have been introduced to stop the cut, but we expect that will happen later this summer. When it does, MOAA will send you an alert to urge your legislators to protect Medicare and TRICARE beneficiaries' access to their doctors.

Numbers on Concurrent Receipt

Last month, the Army recognized its 100,000th Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) applicant at an Army Personnel Command ceremony in Alexandria, VA, during which CRSC Division Chief COL John Sackett recognized MOAA as a partner in the Army's CRSC Affiliate program.

The CRSC program, initiated in 2003, has grown substantially over the past four years and effectively eliminates the offset for qualifying members with combat- or operations-related disabilities. Members with 50% or greater non-combat disabilities are in the fourth year of a 10-year phase-in of Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP).

Today, a little over 30% of all disabled retirees are eligible for payment under either the CRSC or CRDP programs. As of the end of FY2006, the numbers were:

Current CRSC recipients 54,000, Current CRDP recipients 199,000

Help Our Troops (HOT) Update

From Carolyn Shields

As of this date, 300 boxes of goodies have been sent to our adopted Air Force unit in Afghanistan. Kudos to the St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA and to the friends of HOT who generously continue to support our troops. Enthusiasm for this project is rippling into the community by word of mouth and also by Roger's and my telephone number inadvertently being placed in the classified section of the newspapers asking for donations of Beanie Babies. As a result, over 125 Beanie Babies (not counting our Chapter's donations) were received for HOT. Also, Henry and Erika Mundt donated 50 Ziggy dolls to HOT! In addition to delivering the delightful dolls to us the Mundts also donated over a dozen packages of note cards, toiletries, and travel sized toothpaste and toothbrushes. Our circle of "Friends of HOT" is growing well beyond the boundaries of our St Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA. It is comforting to know that so many Americans care by sending our brave young men and women some comforts of home. Please see the email below from an appreciative soldier:



Dear Carolyn,

I just want to say thank you so much for the care packages. It means so much to myself and my soldiers. Its nice to know that there are people who appreciate what we are doing. We will all keep in touch and thank you again. I have to get back to work but I just want to write to you and let you know we love the gifts.

Thank you,

SGT MELINDA ROSE FOWLER

S3 SUPPLY NCOIC

"JESUS AND I LOVE YOU"

Don't know what to donate? Please consider cookies, nuts, gum, candy, bagged snacks and a note from you to the troops? Also as you know, postage costs are up and every dollar helps. See you at the next luncheon.

Carolyn

Total Concurrent Receipt CRSC/CRDP recipients 253,000

Who's left to cover?

Retirees (20+ years) with VA rating 10-40% 432,000

Chapter 61 retirees under 20 years 138,000

Total Disabled Retirees not yet eligible 570,000

MOAA continues to engage Congress and the VA to highlight the remaining concurrent receipt inequities.

Both the House and Senate versions of the FY2008 Defense Authorization Bill contain provisions that would extend eligibility to some (House) or all (Senate) Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service who endured combat-related injuries.





June 2007

Income:

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Dues | \$25.00 |
| Boosters | \$25.00 |
| Luncheon | \$464.00 |
| Ads | \$0.00 |
| * Misc income | <u>\$55.00</u> |
| <i>Total income:</i> | \$569.00 |
| * Auction proceeds | |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Banquet Masters | \$440.00 |
| Newsletter printing | \$309.51 |
| Supplies | \$0.00 |
| Post Office | \$0.00 |
| VA/JROTC | \$0.00 |
| ** Other organizations | \$20.00 |
| Nonrecurring | \$0.00 |
| Memorials to Sch Fund | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| <i>Total expenses:</i> | \$769.51 |
| ** Dues to Pinellas Cty Vets Liaison Council | |

Operations cash flow: (\$200.51)

Scholarship Fund

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| June 1 balance | \$1,796.00 |
| Donations | \$30.00 |
| Memorials | \$0.00 |
| Expended | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| June 30 balance | \$1,826.00 |

HOT

| | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| June 1 balance | \$1,392.31 |
| Donations | \$538.00 |
| 50/50 | \$32.00 |
| Expended | <u>\$0.00</u> |
| June 30 balance | \$1,962.31 |

Operating funds balance \$1,618.60

Pete Dawson, Maj, USAF (Ret)
Treasurer



TAPS

NONE – as of publication date !!

Sick List

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

- * **CDR Alda P. Haley**, USNR (Ret)
Page 27, 2007 Directory
- * **LTC Evan F. Riley**, USA (Ret)
Page 39, 2007 Directory
- * **1Lt Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)
Page 15, 2007 Directory
- * **LTC Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)
Page 36, 2006 Directory
- * **Mrs. June Simon**, Auxiliary Member - A
(Contact Violet Smith, 727 595-5543)
- * **Mrs. Jeanne Hawkins**, Auxiliary Member - AF
Page 28, 2007 Directory
- * **LtCol Russell E. Blagg**, USMC (Ret)
Page 17, 2076 Directory



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October 2006



St. Petersburg Bridge Club

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\$750+ to HOT

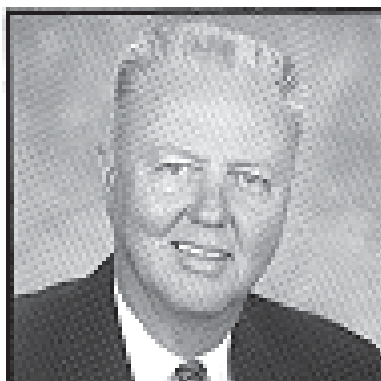
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January 2006

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, August 17th

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday August 15th

Your name: _____

Each reservation \$11:

Prime Rib: _____

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*** CLIP and MAIL, with check to SPAMOOA,

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507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16
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**For late reservations &/or a RIDE,
call either:**

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

or

CAPT Don Freese 360-3102



Luncheon Meetings The 3rd Friday — mixer
11:00 - 11:45 luncheon; program 11:45 - 13:15;
BanquetMasters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

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.

CALENDAR

August 17th, Friday, 11:00 MOAA Scholarship
Program, CAPT Shelley Marshall, USN (Ret)

September 21st, Friday, 11:00 TBA

October 19th, Friday, 11:00 Col Michael Culhane,
Commander, 6th Medical Group, MacDill AFB

November 9th, 2nd Friday, 11:00 TBA

December 14th, 2nd Friday, 11:00 HOLIDAY CAN-
TEEN with Don Juceam as Frank Sinatra

January 19th, Friday, 5:00 PM Installation banquet,
Treasure Island Tennis and Yacht Club

**** Need a ride to lunch?**

Call CAPT Bob Eynatten, 360-4637

August 6th Monday

September 10th SECOND Monday

October 1st Monday

November 5th Monday

December 3rd Monday

January 7th Monday

ROWC

• **SUMMER RECESS-JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

Luncheon – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30

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

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

- Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or
Margaret Peck 525-1688

The St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA
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