



OFFICERS CALL

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



**VOL XIII No. VIII ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter:2000, 2002-11 ★★★★★ August 2013
Winner Print Media 2006; 1st Runnerup 2010-11; Winner 2010 Communications Award**

President's Comments:

It was great having Kerrie Witty, Regional VA Director as the guest speaker at our July luncheon. Some of us had previously heard her speak at the Florida Council of Chapters Convention in Sarasota. I thought she was even better at our meeting. It was also great to welcome new member LTC Bill Eichholz, US Army (Ret) as our newest Chapter member. I have also been told that Dave Wentz will be joining our Chapter as a result of the recent mailing of the Officers Call by Don Freese. Let us continue to explore all ways to bring in new members.



I would also like to announce that I have appointed Glen and Katie Crabb as Chairs of the Hospitality Committee. Thank you Glen and Katie for volunteering to serve! We still need and are looking for a Master at Arms. If you or someone you know would be willing to serve in this important position, please let either Bill Lofgren or I know.

Our speaker for the August luncheon will be Warren J. Brown, M.D. Dr. Brown is the past president and a founding member of the Florida Aviation Historical Society (FAHS). He will discuss the Tony Jannus flight from St. Petersburg to Tampa and the importance of that flight to today's aviation. I hope to see everyone there.

Bay Pines VA Highlighted in Healthcare Equality Index 2013

Healthcare System named as "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by national survey

BAY PINES, Fla. – The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System (VAHCS) has been recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, an annual survey conducted by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organization.

The healthcare system earned top marks for its commitment to equitable, inclusive care for LGBT patients and their families, who can face significant challenges in securing adequate healthcare.

"The Bay Pines VA Healthcare System is committed to serving all the men and women who served our nation with honor and distinction," said Suzanne M. Klinker, Director, Bay Pines VAHCS.

"Our participation in the 2013 national HEI survey demonstrates our commitment to health care equity for all Veterans and we are honored to be recognized as a national leader," she said.

The Bay Pines VAHCS was one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. Facilities awarded this title meet key criteria for equitable care, including non-discrimination policies for LGBT patients and employees, a guarantee of equal visitation for same-sex partners and parents, and LGBT health education for key staff members.

The healthcare system was congratulated by HRC Health & Aging Director Shane Snowdon. "LGBT patients deeply appreciate the welcoming environment provided by a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality. It makes a big difference to know that your local health care facility is fully committed to giving you the same care it gives your neighbors and co-workers."

For more information about the Healthcare Equality Index 2013, or to download a free copy of the report, visit www.hrc.org/hei.

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Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up-2008 & 2010-11

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- Photos – Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret) 528-3946

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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, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

CALENDAR

August 16th Warren J. Brown, M.D.
September 20th MAJ Ed Lillich, POW/MIA
October 18th Pam Dubov, Property Appraiser
November 15th

**** Need a ride to the luncheon?
 Call: CDR Bill Bolin 584-1595 or
 LTC Terry Carr 392-6524**

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.

August 5th Monday

September 3rd Tuesday

October 7th Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be
Tuesday October 8th

Luncheon Reservations:

Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146 or
 Norma Cox, 727-466-1652

Membership Info:

- Barbara King 391-2564

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

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

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership	- 268
Regular Members	- 171
Auxiliary Members	- 97
Inactive Members	- 5

Military Services:

Army - 65	USMC - 13
USAF - 50	USCG - 7
Navy - 34	NOAA - 0

7/25/2013



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**
Monthly Luncheon; 19 July 2013

Attended – 54: (55 reservations), 3 Member Guest, 1 Chapter Guests, 1 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 2 No Shows

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr at 1145 hours. George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

The head table was introduced. Those at the head table were George Brown, Terry Carr and Kerrie Witty, our guest speaker.



New member William Eichholz, LTC, USA (Retired) was introduced and welcomed to the Chapter.

Guests introduced were Justin Niquette from Pinellas Park and currently in his second year at the Air Force Academy. Justin was a guest of Larry and Barbara Fernald. Ernestine Rembert from the 349th Combat Support Hospital was a guest of Joanne Taylor. Cal Imboden had as his guest his wife, Joan. Welcome to all our guests.

The door prize was won by Evelyn (Evey) Hamilton. And a very surprised Evey shared the 50/50 winnings with Gary Gilchrist (our USO representative).

Anita Harrow thanked the members for their generous contributions and read excerpts from two letters she had received exclaiming on our generosity and how much they did appreciate the boxes.

Terry Carr pointed out that reservation forms were available on the back table and urged everyone to take one and register for the 2014 convention to be held at the St. Petersburg Downtown Hilton.

Following lunch Terry introduced Kerrie Witty. Kerrie is the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office in St. Petersburg. In this position she is responsible for administering non-medical benefits to nearly 1.6 million veterans and their families residing in the State of Florida. These programs include disability compensation and pension, vocational rehabilitation and employment.

Compensation covers injuries or incurred illness while serving in the military and death benefits to surviving spouses. Many of the disabilities are very complex with PTSD being very prevalent. The educational benefits are outstanding and many veterans are taking advantage of this program. The VA helps Vets find employment, many with on the job training. One in five homeless is a Veteran. The VA is working diligently to get these Vets into homes and helping them find jobs.

The VA has reduced their backlog considerably and is making the waiting time for applicants to find out what their benefits

might be a shorter period of time. Of the 1.6 million in the State of Florida only about 10% are receiving benefits. Many vets don't even know what benefits are available to them. Kerrie suggests that if you feel you have a claim you should submit a Fully Developed Claim, which means you should attach all medical reports from doctors and medical facilities when you file. This will help speed up the determination process because much of the field workers jobs are to get all this documentation. Parkinson and Leukemia are two newly added to the Agent Orange list.

For complete details on all benefits and how to file an application for benefits please go to www.dav.org/veterans_benefits or just search VA Benefits and you will have many sources to choose from.

Following a brief question and answer period Terry Carr presented Kerrie with the traditional gift of drink glasses and the meeting was adjourned with the benediction given by George Brown.

Executive Committee Meeting 1 July 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr at 1130 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all. Members present were Virginia Balke, Bill Bolin, George Brown, Terry Carr, Glen Crabb, Pete Dawson, Pauline Edwards, Don Freese, Sherry Freese, Dick Koch, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, and Jim Patton.

Secretary's Report: Bill Lofgren made a motion to accept the minutes as written in the Officers Call, seconded by Jim Patton. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Balance in the operating account at the end of June was \$10,481.85. Treasurer's report was accepted subject to annual audit. A full accountability is found elsewhere in the O.C. The HOT program actually took in more money than it spent for the past month.

1st Vice President: Dick Koch said the August speaker will be announced at the Luncheon meeting. Don Freese commended Dick on the quality of the speakers he has obtained to date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publicity: Pauline Edwards sent out releases to thirteen various newspapers in the area.

Membership: Don Freese sent out ten copies of the O.C. to potential members along with a personal invitation to attend the July luncheon.

Hospitality: Terry Carr introduced Glen Crabb and welcomed him to the board. Glen has taken over the chairmanship of the Hospitality Committee and will be assisted by his wife, Katie. Glen is a Pastor and served as a Chaplain in the Navy.

2014 Convention: Sherry Freese is looking for old convention shirts. To date she has 46 and is looking for 70. Sherry

See Minutes Pg 4



Minutes from from Page 3

recently received a 2002 shirt from the Gold Coast. Flyers are posted on the Chapter and Florida Council Websites along with reservations applications.

Don and Sherry Freese and Terry and Paulette Carr were invited to the Hilton Downtown for a menu tasting which included Caribbean Salad, Prime Rib, Chicken al Fredo and Potato Crusted Salmon. The Hilton has a new chef and all were in agreement that we will be pleased with the menu choices.

The convention committee will be looking into using Pay Pal for the registrations. Pay Pal would also be useful for the silent auctions and other sales. Don Freese has been working on possible speakers and he suggested that we move the memorial service to Sunday morning as it was a big success at the 2013 convention. John Milford will send out the dignitary letters for the 2014 convention.

MOAA News: Don Freese was the speaker at the Gold Coast Chapter, representing MOAA for the first time as a board member. Gold Coast has forty members and had three new members at this meeting.

The Officers Magazine is requesting officers to tell their story and it will be written up in the magazine. A reporter will interview you and write the article, so if you have an interesting story to tell about your experiences in the military please consider getting it published. Check out the current magazine for details.

George Brown said the terminal at MacDill has a flight scheduled to Honolulu on the third weekend of every month. Please check out these flights and other Space Available flights.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be Monday, August 5, and the September meeting will be on Tuesday the 3rd due to Labor Day falling on our regularly scheduled day.

There being no further business Chaplain Brown gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

National Aviation Day

The National Aviation Day (August 19) is a United States national observation that celebrates the development of aviation.

The holiday was established in 1939 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who issued a presidential proclamation which designated the anniversary of Orville Wright's birthday to be National Aviation Day (Mr. Wright, born in 1871, was still alive when the proclamation was first issued, and would live another nine years). The proclamation was codified (USC 36:I:A:1:118), and it allows the sitting US President to proclaim August 19 as National Aviation Day each year, if desired. His/her proclamation may direct all federal buildings and installations to fly the US flag on that day, and may encourage citizens to observe the day with activities that promote interest in aviation



SINBAD, USCG (Ret.)

K9C (Chief Petty Officer, Dog)

The crew of the Coast Guard cutter Campbell adopted a mixed-breed puppy in 1938. Little did they know that their canine companion would become a world famous Coast Guard veteran. He was, literally, a member of the crew, complete with all the necessary enlistment forms and other official paperwork, uniforms, and his own bunk. He sailed on board the combat-tested cutter through World War II and saw much action, both at sea and in port. As Life Magazine reported: "An Old Sea Dog Has Favorite Bars and Plenty of Girls in Every Port." Until recently he had the honor and distinction of being the only Coast Guardsman to be the subject of a biography! It was Sinbad of the Coast Guard, written by Chief Specialist George R. Foley, USCGR and published by Dodd, Mead and Company of New York during the war. The book made him an international celebrity.

Although he served honorably, he did run into a bit of trouble on occasion, as any sailor might during a long career at sea. He caused an international incident in Greenland, another in Casablanca, and was busted in rank a few times for minor infractions. As another author noted:

"Sinbad is a salty sailor but he's not a good sailor. He'll never rate gold hashmarks nor Good Conduct Medals. He's been on report several times and he's raised hell in a number of ports. On a few occasions, he has embarrassed the United States Government by creating disturbances in foreign zones. Perhaps that's why Coast Guardsmen love Sinbad, he's as bad as the worst and as good as the best of us."

Regardless of the fact that he liked to blow off a little steam while on liberty, he was a brave and capable sailor when he was on duty. He earned the respect and affection of his shipmates during one famous battle when the Campbell fought it out with the Nazi submarine U-606. The cutter was severely damaged during the fight and the commanding officer ordered all but essential personnel off the ship. They transferred to a nearby destroyer but a tough and hardy few stayed on board the Campbell while the cutter was towed to safety, patching her hull and ensuring that she stayed afloat during the voyage. Among that few was Sinbad.

He served faithfully on board Campbell for eleven years, garnering more sea time than most of his contemporaries, before finally retiring to the Barnegat Light Station. He passed away 30 December 1951 and was laid to rest beneath the station's flagstaff.





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

MOAA Storms the Hill for Survivors

On Wednesday, July 17th, nearly 100 surviving spouses – including members of the MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC) – MOAA staff, and various surviving spouse groups “Stormed the Hill” to ask Congress to support legislation to repeal the SBP/DIC offset.



Current law requires survivors of deceased military members to forfeit their Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity when they are awarded Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) by the VA.

The surviving spouse of an active-duty or retired member, who dies of a service-connected cause, must forfeit \$1 of the military SBP annuity for each \$1 received in DIC. DIC is presently set at \$1,215 monthly and is paid only to survivors of veterans whose death is determined to have been caused by service. This dollar for dollar offset wipes out most of the SBP payment for the vast majority of survivors.

Tasked by Congress to review the SBP/DIC offset (also known as the “widows tax”) in October 2007, the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission (VDBC) concurred with MOAA and other military and veterans associations that when military service causes the member’s death, the VA indemnity compensation should be paid in addition to the SBP annuity, not subtracted from it.

The July 17th event was sponsored by MOAA and was designed to educate members of Congress and their legislative staffs and raise awareness of the SBP/DIC offset issue.

Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC) – champion of the SBP/DIC repeal bill (H.R. 32) in the House and Chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee in the House Armed Services Committee – opened the event and spoke of the unfairness of the offset at a MOAA-hosted congressional breakfast.

Two surviving spouses, Mrs. Traci Voelke and Mrs. Suzanne Gerstner, spoke about the death of their spouses and gave very different but compelling testimonials of the struggles their families face as a result of the offset. MOAA’s government relations team outlined the issue for the congressional staffers who were present at the event.

“In order to fully understand the importance of complete elimination of the SBP/DIC offset, it is vital that [members of Congress] understand the issue and its impact on surviving spouses and families,” said MOAA President Vice Adm. Norb Ryan, USN (Ret). “The ultimate goal is complete elimination of the SBP/DIC offset, and I am proud of this group of surviving spouses for their advocacy and determination.”

After the briefings MOAA’s “Hill-stormers” set out to visit nearly every member of Congress who had not yet cosponsored the legislation to end the SBP/DIC offset. They brought with them MOAA’s new “Vow of Honor” brochure highlighting the inequities of the offset.

The storming efforts and the associated grassroots advocacy from MOAA members are already showing dividends with cosponsorship levels for both the House and Senate bills increasing.

Help this important cause by sending your legislators a MOAA-suggested message in support of H.R. 32 and S. 734.

VA Grants Going to Florida Agencies to Help End Veterans Homelessness

Initiative Targets 120,000 Homeless and At-Risk Vets and Families

BAY PINES, Fla. – Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced on July 11 the award of nearly \$5.3 million in homeless prevention grants to the Florida counties of: Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota.

The grants will serve approximately 1,260 homeless and at-risk Veteran families as part of the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program. The awards will serve Veterans families associated with the following grant recipients: Society of St. Vincent de Paul, South Pinellas, Inc.; Jewish Family and Children’s Service of Sarasota-Manatee, Inc.; American Red Cross, Lee County Chapter; Clark’s House, Inc.; and the Community Coalition on Homelessness Corporation.

These six organizations are part of the 319 community agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands who received SSVF grants. Nationally, nearly \$300,000 million was committed to help approximately 120,000 at-risk Veterans and families.

“With these grants, we are strengthening our partnership with community non-profits across the country to provide Veterans and their families with hope, a home, and a future,” said Shinseki. “The work of Supportive Services for Veteran Families program grantees has already helped us prevent and end homelessness among tens of thousands of homeless Veterans and their families, but as long as a single Veteran lives on our streets, we have work to do.”

Under the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program, VA is awarding grants to private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives that provide services to very low-income Veteran families living in – or transitioning to – permanent housing.

Those community organizations provide a range of services that promote housing stability among eligible very low income Veteran families.

See VA Pg 8



Kerrie Witty receiving chapter gift from Terry Carr



Guest Speaker Kerrie Witty



Chaplain George Brown



Guest Ernestine Rembert and 2nd VP Joanne Taylor



Anita Harrow discussing HOT program



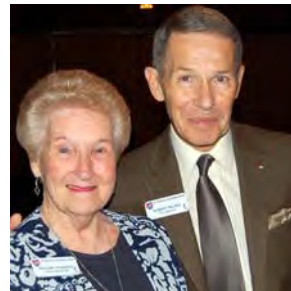
Larry and Barb Fernald with guest USAF Academy cadet Justin Niquette



Pete Dawson with new member Bill Eicholz



Guest Tracey Carson and mother Violet Smith



Pauline Edwards and Robert Palsha



Guest Mary Clauson and Ann Dollohon



Joan and Cal Imboden



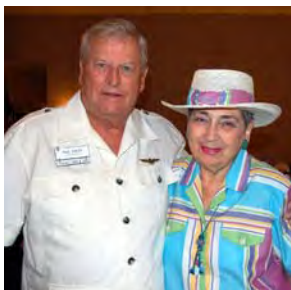
Marlene and John Talbitzer



Bobbie Walters



Gary Gilchrist 50/50 winner and Bill Lewis



Paul and Betty Finley



Lynn Bolin and Door Prize winner Evey Hamilton

Photos by Bill Lofgren



Bill Lee



Oz and Isabel Osborn

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify Larry Fernald of your correct email address at the following email address:

LarryFern246@tampabay.rr.com



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>





Roger and Jeanie Popham



Anne Isley and Earl Peck



Chris and Ed Lillich



Fran Shivers



Fred Schlager



Dot Plummer



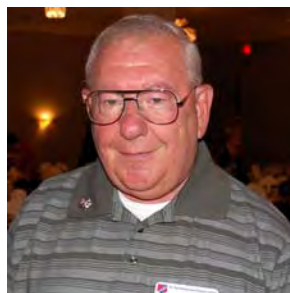
Margaret and Earl Peck



Rose Munchbach



Joan Landers



Ken Fine



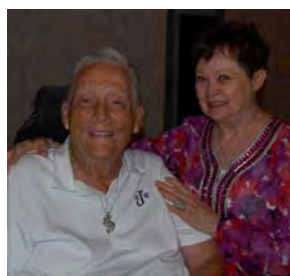
Violet Smith



Barbara Stakk and Robert Palsha



Bill and Margaret Lewis



Will and Bon Johnson



Giles Bax



Bill and Lynn Bolin



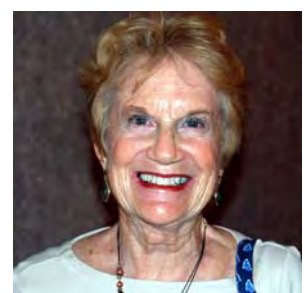
Paulette and Terry Carr



Evey Hamilton and Violet Smith's daughter Tracey Carson



Gary Gilchrist



Joanne Taylor



VA from Pg 5

Thanks to the SSVF grants, those community organizations will provide a range of services that promote housing stability and play a key role in connecting Veterans and their family members to VA services such as mental health care and other benefits.

Community-based groups can offer temporary financial assistance on behalf of Veterans for rent payments, utility payments, security deposits and moving costs.

This is the program's third year. Last year, VA provided about \$100 million to assist approximately 50,000 Veterans and family members.

In 2009, President Obama and Secretary Shinseki announced the federal government's goal to end Veteran homelessness in 2015. The grants are intended to help accomplish that goal. According to the 2012 Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness, homelessness among Veterans has declined 17.2 percent since 2009.

Through the homeless Veterans initiative, VA committed over \$1 billion in fiscal year 2013 to strengthen programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans. VA provides a range of services to homeless Veterans, including health care, housing, job training, and education.

More information about VA's homeless programs is available at www.va.gov/homeless. Details about the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program are online at www.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp. Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and their family members and friends can call VA's National Homeless Veterans Call Center at 1-877-4AID-VET.

Bay Pines from Pg 1

About the Bay Pines VA Healthcare System

The Bay Pines VAHCS is one of the nation's leading VA healthcare systems, employing more than 3,500 medical professionals and support staff dedicated to providing the very best care to Veterans residing in southwest Florida. The Bay Pines VAHCS is accredited by The Joint Commission and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities. The healthcare system is also a three-time winner of the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Award, the VA's top honor for quality achievement.

The healthcare system operates nine facilities to include the main medical center located in Bay Pines and outpatient clinics located in Bradenton, Cape Coral, Naples, Palm Harbor, Port Charlotte, Sarasota, St. Petersburg, and Sebring.

Every year Bay Pines VAHCS treats approximately 100,000 Veterans while providing a full range of high quality medical, psychiatric, and extended care services in outpatient, inpatient, nursing home, and home care settings. For more information about the Bay Pines VAHCS, please visit www.baypines.va.gov or "like" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/vabaypines.

Financial Report Summary for the Month of June

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ (374.69)
..... Donations	\$ 50.00
..... Ads	\$ 0.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (343.95)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ (668.64)

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 905.08
..... Donations	\$ 1,012.00
..... 50/50	\$ 62.00
..... Memorials	\$ 30.00
..... Expenses	\$ (736.75)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,272.33

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 2,084.00
..... Donations	\$ 100.00
..... Expended	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,184.00

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 10,621.81
..... Luncheon Income	\$ 855.00
..... Dues	\$ 0.00
..... Misc Income	\$ 0.00
..... Interest Earned	\$ 0.00
..... Luncheon Expense	\$ (756.00)
..... VA/JROTC	\$ 0.00
..... Supplies	\$ (162.96)
..... Post Office	\$ (46.00)
..... Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 0.00
..... Memorial to HOT	\$ (30.00)
..... Printing/ mailing	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 10,481.85

Wanted Old Convention Shirts of any condition

Don't throw away those old Convention Shirts; make them a part of Florida Convention History by donating them to the 2014 Convention Committee. The logos from all of the donated shirts will be made into a Convention Quilt that will be Raffleed at the 2014 Convention; you will not have to be present to win.

June 6 to 8, 2014 St. Petersburg Hilton Hotel

Contact Sherry Freese, (727) 360-3102, donfreese@aol.com or mail to Sherry at

4613 Mirabella Ct., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706





Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ **William R. “Bill” Eichholz, LTC, USA (Ret),**
8136 Willow Court, Seminole, FL 33776, 727-289-8054
- ◆ **Ginni Eichholz, Mrs., AuxMbr-Spouse, 8136**
Willow Court, Seminole, FL 33776, 727-289-8054

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)**
- ◆ **Mrs. Margaret Mattson, AuxMbr-CG**
- ◆ **COL Frederick Terry, USA (Ret)**

August Birthdays (48 to 96 years)

<u>Day</u>	<u>LName</u>	<u>FName</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>SVC</u>
22	Borrowes	Marja	Mrs.	AuxMbr-CG
21	Brown	Gary	B Gen	USMC (Ret)
14	Catalano	Vincent	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
06	Christie	Robert	LtCol	USMC (Ret)
25	Dawson	Peter	Maj	USAF (Ret)
13	Fleming	William	LT	USN (Ret)
15	Freese	Sherry	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
19	Gioe	Shirley	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
08	Hetherington	Charles	Col	USAF (Ret)
23	Hunt	Hattie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
17	Klaeser	Kathleen	COL	USA (Ret)
13	Moynihan	Mary	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
05	Parsons	Charles	Col	USAF (Ret)
27	Peck	Earl	Maj Gen	USAF (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)
03	Taylor	Joanne	MAJ	USA (Ret)
12	Terry	Frederick	COL	USA (Ret)
03	White	James	COL	USA (Ret)
23	White	Neal	LTC	USA (Ret)



TAPS

◆ **Thankfully, None.**

August 14: National Navajo Code Talkers Day

They were a small band of warriors who created an unbreakable code from the ancient language of their people and changed the course of modern history.

Known as Navajo Code Talkers, they were young Navajo men who transmitted secret communications on the battlefields of WWII. At a time when America’s best cryptographers were falling short, these modest shepherders and farmers were able to fashion the most ingenious and successful code in military history. They drew upon their proud warrior tradition to brave the dense jungles of Guadalcanal and the exposed beachheads of Iwo Jima. Serving with distinction in every major engagement of the Pacific theater from 1942-1945, their unbreakable code played a pivotal role in saving countless lives and hastening the war’s end.

It is the only unbroken code in modern military history. It baffled the Japanese forces of WWII. It was even indecipherable to a Navajo soldier taken prisoner and tortured on Bataan. In fact, during test evaluations, Marine cryptologists said they couldn’t even transcribe the language, much less decode it.

The secret code created by the Navajo Code Talkers was a surprisingly simple marvel of cryptographic innovation. It contained native terms that were associated with specialized or commonly used military language, as well as native terms that represented the letters in the alphabet.

In a simple, memorable way, the military terms tended to resemble the things with which they were associated. For example, the Navajo word for tortoise, “chay-da-gahi,” meant tank, and a dive-bomber, “gini,” was a “chicken hawk,” (a bird which dives on its prey). Sometimes the translation was more literal, as in “besh-lo” (iron fish) which meant submarine; other times it was metaphorical, as in “ne-he-mah” (our mother), which meant America.

English words that didn’t have an associated term could be spelled out using Navajo words that represented letters of the alphabet. The selection of a given term was based on the first letter of the English meaning of the Navajo word. For instance, “Wo-La-Chee” means “ant,” and would represent the letter “A”. Other “A” words such as “be-la-sana” (apple), or “tse-nill” (ax), would also be substituted in order to eliminate excessive repetition, which might allow the code to be cracked.

Widely acknowledged to be instrumental in the success of every major engagement of the Pacific from Guadalcanal to Okinawa, this brilliant code allowed embattled regiments of Marines to communicate quickly, concisely, and above all, securely. It saved countless lives and helped end the war.



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

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Military Trivia Facts

Although some military experts have an incredibly in-depth knowledge of the military, no one person can know everything there is to know. These facts make great dinner conversation and could help you win on any one of the many trivia shows.

1. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)
2. Less than 28 percent of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that's only about 1-in-4.
3. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corp.
4. Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.
5. The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!
6. The Department of Defense owns 29,819,492 acres of land worldwide.



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA Monthly Luncheon

**Friday
16 August 2013**

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

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

**Guest Speaker:
Warren J Brown, M.D.**

**Subject:
Florida Aviation**

Warren J. Brown, M.D. is the past president and a founding member of the Florida Aviation Historical Society (FAHS). He currently serves the society as treasurer and news editor.



St. Petersburg holds the distinction of being the birthplace of commercial aviation in the United States. The 100th anniversary of that event will soon arrive.

Dr. Brown's program is entitled "The 100th Anniversary of the World's First Scheduled Airline – the St. Petersburg-Tampa Airboat Line." He will discuss the Tony Jannus flight from St. Petersburg to Tampa and the importance of that flight to today's aviation.

Dr. Brown served in the U.S. Navy both as a corpsman and a medical officer. He took part in "Operation Bluejay," the construction and original operation of Thule AB, Greenland.

He has retired from his family medicine practice in Largo and served on the staff of Morton Plant Hospital. He has more than 3,000 flight hours and assisted the FAA as a Senior Flight Surgeon doing physical evaluations and accident investigations.

Dr. Brown is an author, having written several books on early aviation. He is also a Ham radio operator and gives medical lectures to Ham doctors every Sunday.

He and his wife live in Largo and are the parents of four children.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

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August

- 4: U. S. Coast Guard Established (1790)
- 7: Purple Heart Day
- 14: Japan Surrendered Ending WWII
- 14: National Navajo Code Talkers Day
- 19: National Aviation Day
- 22: Be an Angel Day
- 29: First Scout Camp Opened

