



OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XIV No.VIII

August 2014

President's Comments:

What a great program we had at the July luncheon! As founder of Heaven on Earth for Veterans, Inc., Chapter member Carol Barkalow, USA (Ret) has selected a very worthwhile cause that she is passionate about and justifiably so. She is also a great speaker, and if you missed this luncheon, you missed a good one. Carol is looking for contributions in support of her mission, and I hope our membership will do so.



Prior to the luncheon I made a visit to ABILHouse at the invitation of the Abilities Foundation. The ABIL (Acquired Brain Injury Life) House mission is to promote self-sufficiency and ensure community reintegration for veterans and others living with traumatic brain injuries. It is located on 49th Street in Pinellas Park, within a 10 minute drive of Bay Pines.

As the number of overseas service units deployed continues to decline our Chapter HOT program will look for other worthwhile missions to support such as those mentioned here.

At last month's luncheon meeting, I mentioned that our Chapter had been invited to attend a reception and a tour of the pictures at the St. Petersburg Museum of History on 11 July. As notified earlier, that event has been rescheduled for 31 July,

See President Day Pg 4

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The Coast Guard Turns 224

The Coast Guard celebrates its 224th birthday in August this year. The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790, when the first Congress authorized the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue.

Some facts about the Coast Guard in World War II

Before the American entry into World War II, cutters of the Coast Guard patrolled the North Atlantic. In January 1940 President Roosevelt directed the establishment of the Atlantic Weather Observation Service using Coast Guard cutters and U.S. Weather Bureau observers.

After the invasion of Denmark by Germany in April 1940, President Roosevelt ordered the International Ice Patrol to continue as a legal pretext to patrol Greenland, whose cryolite mines were vital to refining aluminum and whose geographic location allowed accurate weather forecasts to be made for Europe. The Greenland patrol was maintained by the Coast Guard for the duration of the war.

The USCGC Modoc (WPG-46), was peripherally involved in the chase and sinking of the German battleship Bismarck.

Shortly after Germany declared war on the United States, German submarines began Operation Drumbeat ("Paukenschlag"), sinking ships off the American coast. Many Coast Guard cutters were involved in rescue operations following German attacks on American shipping. The USCGC Icarus (WPC-110), a 165-foot (50 m) cutter that previously had been a rumrunner chaser during Prohibition, sank U-352 on 9 May 1942, off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina, and took 33 prisoners, the first Germans taken in combat by any U.S. force.

The USCGC Thetis (WPC-115) sank U-157 on 10 June 1942. During the war, Coast Guard units sank 12 German and two Japanese submarines and captured two German surface vessels.

When the USCGC Campbell (WPG-32) rammed and sank the German U-606, her enlisted mascot Sinbad became a public hero at home and brought attention to the role of the Coast Guard in convoy protection.

Coast Guardsmen also patrolled the shores of the United States during the war. On 13 June 1942 Seaman 2nd Class John Cullen,

See Coast Guard Pg 8



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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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 15th Brian MacNeel, Crime Prevention

September 19th Remembering POW/MIA

October 17th

November 21st

**** Need a ride to the luncheon?
 Call: LTC Terry Carr 459-4029**

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 4th Monday

September 2nd Monday

October 6th Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be
 Tuesday October 14th The Club at Treasure Island
 1130 hours 400 Treasure Island Causeway
 Treasure Island

Luncheon Reservations:

Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146 or
 Evelyn Hamilton, 727-399-1272

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

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 247
 Regular Members - 159
 Auxiliary Members - 88
 Inactive Members - 1

Military Services:

Army - 68 USMC - 11
 USAF - 46 USCG - 7
 Navy - 28 NOAA - 0

7/30/2014





Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**

Monthly Luncheon; 18 July 2014

Attended – 56: (54 reservations), 2 Member Guest, 0 Chapter Guests, 3 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 1 No Shows

The meeting was called to order by the President, Terry Carr, at 1145 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Seated at the head table were 1st Vice President Glen Crabb, Chaplain George Brown, President Carr and our Guest Speaker, LTC Carol Barkalow, USA (Ret).



Carol is a member of the Chapter and was a member of the first class of women to graduate from West Point. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery. For an extensive bio please refer to the July O.C.

Guests included; Jim and Cindy Baxter from Illinois, Louisa Dykstra from the Clearwater Chapter, Delmar Terry and Linda Streaty, son and daughter of Fred and Maxine Terry, and Cheryl and Dick White. Also welcomed back was Pat Anderson.

Joan Landers was the winner of the door prize and Sherry Freese and Isabelle Osborn split the 50/50.

Anita Harrow, the HOT lady, said she has spent 8 wonderful years working on this worthwhile project and thank all the members for their generous donations and help. Due to the reduction of troops in Afghanistan there is not the need we had to send as many boxes to the troops, so along with the lesser amount of boxes she is sending she would like to expand the mission to include helping active duty troops and homeless and/or wounded vets in the immediate area in addition give annual donations to the VA Stand Down project and Operation Helping Hands. She would also like to supply welcome baskets containing practical items to the new residents of the Heaven on Earth for Veterans project. She thanked Maureen Conners and her Sorority, Violet Smith and the Widows Society and Sherry Freese of the Bridge clubs for their monetary contributions to the HOT program, in addition to the knitting of helmet liners done by the Bridge clubs. The Executive Committee approved the expansion as requested by Anita. Anita will need lots of volunteers with their time, talent and treasures. Please let Anita know what you are willing and able to help her do.

President Carr announced that Banquet Masters will be moving to Ulmerton Road and 49th Street, probably in September. The membership will have adequate time to make their reservations for the luncheons and be informed of the exact location of the new facility.

The final viewing of the Prints of the American Soldier in St. Petersburg will on July 31, 2014 from 6 pm to 9 pm. The event is sponsored by Operation Helping Hands and refreshments will be served. Our Chapter members are urged to at-

tend this final showing at the American History Museum, which is found on the approach to the St. Petersburg Pier.

Following lunch, our speaker, Carol Barkalow, told us about the program she and her partner, Sheila Mustascio, have founded to assist Pinellas County in providing shelter for the homeless Veterans. Their charitable organization is Heaven on Earth for Veterans, Inc. There are 1600 known homeless veterans in Pinellas County but there are many veterans just one step away from homelessness and many veterans live in their cars and are not currently classified as homeless. Heaven on Earth for Veterans, Inc. (further referred to as HOEV) purchases homes, refurbishes them and furnishes them completely to include washers, dryers and televisions. The project began in 2011 when Carol and Sheila refinanced their own home to buy the first home for the project, a four bedroom, 2 bath house that they purchased for \$18,000. They now have a total of eight homes - six currently able to be rented and two that soon will be. The 6 homes house 25 veterans at the present time.

There is no government funding for this project and at the present time most of the work is done by Carol and Sheila, with Sheila responsible for the inside and furnishings and Carol doing the outside to include yard work, painting and any repairs she is able to accomplish herself. The company relies on donations and any donated professional help they can find. All monies received are turned over 100% to helping the veterans have an affordable residence and ability to maintain their dignity while they try to adjust to civilian life. The Veterans pay \$400 to \$600 a month for a room and they are asked to pay the first month and last month rent and the security deposit. There are rules in the house such as no drugs, and a stipulation on drinking. There are veterans from all conflicts including World War II and Afghanistan. Currently the Veterans have been men with the exception of one female who lived under an overpass for two years prior to moving into a HOEV house. She was able to get a full time job and was able to move out into her own apartment. While she was with HOEV she decorated the house for Christmas and made it a homey place for the rest of the residents. Carol and Sheila have a passion for HOEV and they devote many hours of their time working on the homes in addition to holding outside jobs. Some future plans are to house a family and also have barrack type separate housing for men, women and families until they are able to get on their feet and move into their own homes. HOEV is looking for donations of appliances, furniture, utensils, etc. and they will pick up the items, but currently their most pressing need is a place to store these goods. Sheila spends her time on weekends going to yard sales to look for usable and suitable items, but the purchases are limited until they can find a warehouse of some sort. They are also looking for handy men and women, electricians, carpenters, plumbers, who are willing to donate some hours to help with getting the homes ready. Flags are flown at each home. If there is anything you can do, monetarily or sweat labor, here are the contact addresses:

See Minutes Pg 4



President from Pg 1

1800-2100 hours. This event is sponsored by Operation Helping Hand, and I hope to see a number of you there.

For our August 15th luncheon meeting our speaker will be Brian MacNeel of the Crime Prevention Task Force. I hope to see everyone there.

Minutes from from Page 3

For Carol cbarkalow@heavenonearth4veterans.com, and for Sheila smutascio@heaveononearth4veterans.com. The website is www.heaveononearth4veterans.com.

Following a question and answer period, President Carr presented Carol with the traditional set of drink glasses. Carol and Sheila also stayed after the meeting to answer further questions.

President Carr presented Bill Bolin with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Florida Council of Chapters in recognition of his contribution to the Council the past two years.

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

Executive Committee Meeting 7 July 2014

The meeting was called to order by the President, Terry Carr, at 1130 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was given by all. Fifteen members of the E.C. were present to include; George Brown, Terry Carr, Glen Crabb, Pete Dawson, Pauline Edwards, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Ozzie Osborn, Robert Palsha, Jim Patton, Roger Popham, Fran Shivers and Joanne Taylor. Also present was Sherry Freese who presented a check to the Chapter from her Bridge Club to be given to the HOT program.

Secretary's Report: Ed Lillich made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as printed in the July O.C. Anita Harrow seconded motion and motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Pete Dawson reported the balance in the operating accounting as \$3,950.16 as of June 30, 2014. All monies are in from the convention along with paid receipts and a full report will be forthcoming in the near future. Ed Lillich motioned that the treasurer's report be approved subject to audit, seconded by Jim Patton.

1st Vice President: Glen Crabb made a motion to give Carol Barkalow, our speaker for the July luncheon, a check for \$50.00 in support of her charity, Heaven on Earth for Veterans. Heaven on Earth is designed to provide low cost housing for veterans in the St. Petersburg area. The August luncheon speaker will be Brian MacNeel who will speak on Crime Prevention.

2nd Vice President: Joanne Taylor is working diligently to get new members for our Chapter and gave an application to a prospective member who will be at the July luncheon. One of the new members has a prospect.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Sherry Freese said she had very positive reports from friends from other chapters on the convention just hosted by us in June.

She would like to have a special thank you for Ellen Fine, who designed and made the quilts, in the form of a gift of some sort. It was the consensus of the Executive Committee that this be done. The President will take care of this. Fourteen hundred dollars was made on the quilt auctions and \$840 on the silent auctions. A check was received from the Bridge Center in the amount of \$360.00 to be turned over to the HOT program. Sherry suggested that we consider doing another project such as the helmet liners that were made to send to the troops in Afghanistan and suggested that we make covers for amputees to wear after surgery. This will be taken into consideration when new projects are decided upon later this year.

Publicity: Pauline Edwards sent out thirteen announcements.

Membership: Pauline Edwards said that Banquet Masters will be moving in September to 49th Street and Ulmerton to a building that is much larger than the current one. President Carr said that there was concern by some where we would be meeting and if we should look for another meeting place. Discussion took place on the pros and cons of staying with Banquet Masters and Bill Lofgren suggested that we give Banquet Masters a try since they have always been very accommodating to us and the price of the luncheon is within budget for our members. Anita Harrow suggested that we stay with Banquet Masters through December before we decide what to do. More discussion will be introduced at the October meeting after we have more feedback from the members.

HOT Anita Harrow said that she has been the chairperson for the HOT program since 2006 and has seen a big decline in the number of troops that are receiving our boxes. It was the usual custom to send fifty to sixty boxes per month and we were sending to at least ten different units. At present we have three units who are receiving the boxes and we are sending no more than 20 boxes per month. She spends 25 to 30 hours a month on the boxes and has enjoyed it very much and feels it has been a good project for the Chapter. The Chapter has received a lot of publicity from it, but she feels it is time now, with the troop reductions, to support some other kind of project involving troops, wounded vets and homeless vets. Anita suggested Welcome Baskets for the Heaven for Veterans Homes to include snacks, toiletries, paper towels, soaps, etc. Last year we supported the VA Stand Down for Homeless Veterans program financially and she thought this might be something we could do annually. Giving an annual donation to Operation Helping Hands is another suggestion. Anita made a motion to expand our mission for helping the military. Chris Lillich seconded the motion and motion passed. Anita will give an informative talk on the new mission to the membership at the July luncheon meeting. Anita also suggested that we give a certificate to the Bridge Club for all the help they have provided to the HOT program. This will be done.

OLD BUSINESS:

Terry Carr thanked all those who had a part in making our convention a success. He and Larry will plan a get-together for

See Minutes Page 8





MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

VA Seeks Access Funding



Since June, a Senate and House conference committee has been working to build consensus on legislation to address the enormous backlog of veterans waiting for appointments in VA health care facilities. The cost of this fix would range from \$34 to \$50 billion, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson injected his own plan into the discussion at a Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing Wednesday.

Gibson would hire more health care providers, greatly expand VA medical leases and patch the system that schedules veterans into the VA. The estimated cost is \$17.6 billion.

About \$10 billion of the estimate would be used to fill shortages of health care providers in the VA. But Gibson cautioned that the VA does not know exactly what the actual requirements are because past budgets were built from the top down after Congress approves the funding for the VA health system.

The remainder would be used to rapidly expand VA medical leases, the space needed to see more veterans, and to begin overhauling the VA scheduling system.

Neither Gibson nor lawmakers mentioned the “gold card” initiative sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) that would enable veterans to manage their own care in the community. But Acting Secretary Gibson explained that the VA has already made 430,000 referrals of veterans into private care outside the VA, an increase of over 79,000 referrals from last year. He said the goal is to build VA’s own capacity to provide care internally and gradually lessen the more costly outside referrals.

Gibson acknowledged that the VA has “unacceptable, systemic problems and cultural issues ... preventing some veterans from receiving timely care. That breach of trust — which involved inaccurate reporting of patient wait times for appointments — is irresponsible, indefensible, and unacceptable to the Department. We apologize to our veterans, their families and loved ones, Members of Congress, Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), and to the American people. We can and must solve these problems as we work to earn back the trust of veterans.”

Gibson outlined his plan to address the access crisis, including:

- Removing the 14-day scheduling goal to eliminate incentives for employees to game the system
- Getting veterans into care and off waiting lists
- Holding senior leaders accountable and suspending performance awards
- Changing VA culture

- Increasing transparency of patient wait-time data
- Initiating an independent, external audit of scheduling practices
- Modeling best practices in facilities that need improvement
- Quantifying resource requirements
- Protecting whistleblowers

Ranking Committee Member Sen. Richard Burr (R-N.C.) used his time to excoriate the VA on another issue, the veterans’ benefits claims backlog. He quoted a VA Inspector General witness and a witness from the Government Accountability Office (GAO) from a House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing Monday night that there were serious “data integrity issues” on backlog numbers.

Burr questioned why the VA put out a press release a day after that hearing taking credit for halving the claims backlog and reaching 90 percent quality levels. Gibson maintained that great progress was being made in reducing the backlog.

Later in the hearing, Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) cited a 2003 report indicating there were about 240,000 veterans waiting over 6 months for care at that time.

Panel Chairman Senator Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) said the goal was to build consensus on pending legislation to address the access problem before the August recess.

MOAA agrees that addressing VA health care access is the first step to rectifying the problems exposed by the scandal in Phoenix. But we believe a high-level, independent commission is necessary to take a broad look at the VA health care system and recommend reforms for the 21st century.

Health Care Survey Results

MOAA recently surveyed 12,000 military beneficiaries for their perceptions of the health care received within the Military Health System (MHS). The survey’s purpose is to assist DoD as it conducts a comprehensive 90-day review of the MHS to determine if it is troubled by any of the problems exposed in the recent VA health care scandal.

The review is focused on three primary areas; access to care, safety, and the quality of health care in military treatment facilities (MTFs) and the TRICARE network. The review is due to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on August 29.

72 percent of all respondents thought the military health system met their needs and the needs of their family.

Beneficiaries who received most of their care at MTFs felt the strongest that the military health system met their needs (82 percent) with those using the TRICARE network in a close second (80 percent).

Users of MTFs gave high satisfaction marks to the skills and competencies of medical providers and support staff, as well as the cleanliness of facilities. Almost 85 percent of MTF ben-

See Legislature Pg 10



Chaplain George Brown delivering the invocation



Guest Speakers Carol Barkalow



Terry Carr presenting Carol Barkalow with our chapter gift



Terry Carr presenting Bill Bolin with a Certificate of Appreciation from the FCOC



Visitor Louisa Dykstra and Barbara Stakk



Bruce Love with guest Sheryl White, Julia Love and guest Dick White



Anita Harrow reporting on the HOT program



Bill Lewis awarding the 50/50 winnings to Sherry Freese



Chaplain Fred Terry with son Delmar, daughter Linda Streaty and wife Maxine



Bill Lewis awarding the 50/50 winnings to Isabel Osborn



Paulette and Terry Carr (who controls the money??)



Bill and Ginni Eicholz



Jim and Cindy Baxter



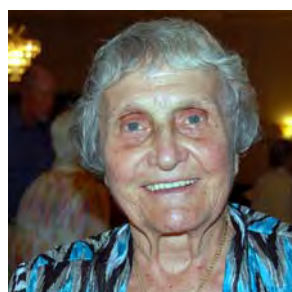
Sheila Mustacio and Carol Barkalow



Margaret and Earl Peck



The reservation desk ladies: Violet Smith, Pauline Edwards, and Evey Hamilton



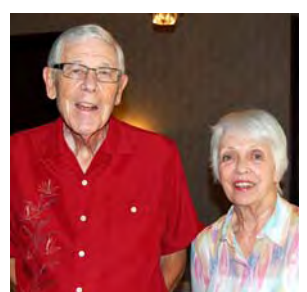
Rose Munchbach



Jo Ann Burch and Joanne Taylor



Pauline Edwards and door prize winner Joan Landers



Glen and Katie Crabb





Dick Koch and Bill Lee



Fred Schlager



Pat Anderson



Bill Bolin and Bobbie Walters



Paulette Carr and Sherry Freese



Betty and Paul Finley



Ken and Ellen Marie Fine



Anita Harrow and Maureen Conners



Isabel and Ozzie Osborn



Ed and Chris Lillich



Pete Dawson



Richard Green



Jim Patton



Bill and Margaret Lewis



Joan Landers and Fran Shivers

Photos by Bill Lofgren

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



Minutes from Page 4

all those who were on the committee and helped during the convention.

Bill Lofgren has pictures from the convention and he will be happy to give you a copy of any picture you might want.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MOAA Honor Guard: Ed Lillich asked all those in the honor guard to be at Bay Pines Cemetery for the service for Ed Connors at 9:45 a.m., Friday July 11th in duty uniform. The Pinellas County Honor Guard will also take part in the service.

The cocktail party and final showing of the American Soldier at the American Museum of History will be on July 31st. This change will be announced at the July luncheon.

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

Coast Guard from Page 1

patrolling the beach in Amagansett, New York, discovered the first landing of German saboteurs in Operation Pastorius. Cullen was the first American who actually came in contact with the enemy on the shores of the United States during the war and his report led to the capture of the German sabotage team. For this, Cullen received the Legion of Merit.

The Coast Guard had 30 Edsall class destroyer escorts under its command that were used primarily for convoy escort duty in the Atlantic.

In addition to antisubmarine operations, the Coast Guard worked closely with the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Many of the coxswains of American landing craft, such as the Higgins boat (LCVP), used in amphibious invasions were Coast Guardsmen who had received amphibious training with the cooperation of the U.S. Marine Corps. Coast Guard cutters and ships partially manned by Coast Guardsmen were used in the North African invasion of November 1942 (Operation Torch) and the invasion of Sicily in 1943 (Operation Husky).

On 9 September 1942 the USCGC Muskget (WAG-48) was sunk with a loss of 121 crewmembers while on North Atlantic weather patrol by U-755.

In November 1942, legislation was passed creating the Coast Guard Women's Reserve, also known as the SPARS. Led by Captain Dorothy C. Stratton, around 11,000 women served in various stateside positions, freeing men for overseas duty.

On 3 February 1943 the torpedoing of the transport USAT Dorchester off the coast of Greenland saw cutters USCGC Comanche (WPG-76) and USCGC Escanaba (WPG-77) respond. The frigid water gave the survivors only minutes to live in the cold North Atlantic. With this in mind, the crew of Escanaba used a new rescue technique when pulling survivors from the water. This "retriever" technique used swimmers clad in wet suits to swim to victims in the water and secure a line to them so they could be hauled onto the ship. Escanaba saved 133

men (one died later) and Comanche saved 97. Escanaba herself was lost to a torpedo or mine a few months later, along with 103 of her 105-man crew.

During the Normandy invasion of 6 June 1944, a 60-cutter flotilla of wooden WPB 83-foot (25 m) Coast Guard cutters, nicknamed the "Matchbox Fleet", cruised off all five landing beaches as combat search-and-rescue boats, saving 400 Allied airmen and sailors. Division O-1, including the Coast Guard-manned USS Samuel Chase (APA-26), landed the U.S. Army's 1st Infantry Division on Omaha Beach. Off Utah Beach, the Coast Guard manned the command ship USS Bayfield (APA-33). Several Coast Guard-manned landing craft were lost during D-Day to enemy fire and heavy seas. In addition, a cutter was beached during the storms off the Normandy coast which destroyed the U.S.-operated Mulberry harbor.

A number of the 60 cutters were based in Poole as part of Rescue Flotilla One.

The USCGC Taney (WHEC-37), a notable World War II era high endurance cutter, is the only warship still afloat today (as a museum ship in Baltimore) that was present for the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, although she was actually stationed in nearby Honolulu.

On 27 August 1944, the all Coast Guard-manned USS LST-327 was torpedoed – but not sunk – by U-92 while crossing the English Channel. 22 Coast Guardsmen were killed.

On 12 September 1944, the Liberty ship George Ade was torpedoed by a German U-boat off Cape Hatteras, N.C. USCGC Jackson (WSC-142) and USCGC Bedloe (WSC-128), heading to assist the survivors of the Ade, were caught in the Great Atlantic Hurricane of 1944 the day after, sinking both cutters and killing 48 Coast Guardsmen. A U.S. Navy seaplane rescued the survivors.

On 29 January 1945, the USS Serpens (AK-97), a Coast Guard-manned Liberty ship, exploded off Guadalcanal, Solomons Islands, while loading depth charges. 193 Coast Guardsmen, 56 Army stevedores, and one U.S. Public Health Service officer were killed in the explosion. This was the biggest single disaster to befall the Coast Guard during the war.

As was common during this period, many of Hollywood's able-bodied screen stars became enlistees and left their film careers on hiatus in order to support the national defense. Specifically, actors Gig Young, Cesar Romero, and Richard Cromwell all served admirably in various capacities in the USCG in the Pacific for several years. The A&P heir Huntington Hartford also served in the Pacific as a commander.

Douglas Munro

Signalman 1st Class Douglas Munro (1919–1942), the only Coast Guardsman to receive the Medal of Honor, earned the decoration during World War II as a small boat coxswain during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942. A Navy destroyer escort, USS Douglas A. Munro (DE-422), was named in his honor in 1944. The cutter USCGC Munro (WHEC-724) was commissioned in 1971, and is still on active service





TAPS

- ◆ **Edwin J. Conners, LT, USN (Ret),**
1 April 2014
- ◆ **Norton L. Billington, LTC, USA (Ret),**
6 April 2014

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)**
- ◆ **CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret)**
- ◆ **BG Paul Smith, USA (Ret)**

August Birthdays (49 to 90 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
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)
2	Ernst	Kenneth	Capt	USAF (Ret)
13	Fleming	William	LT	USN (Ret)
15	Freese	Sherry	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
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)
27	Peck	Earl	Maj Gen	USAF (Ret)
21	Sims	Robert	Maj	USMC (Ret)
19	Speairs	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)

Financial Report Summary for the Month of June

HOT Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 2,414.98
.... Donations	\$ 424.00
.... 50/50	\$ 52.00
.... Memorials	\$ 0.00
.... Expenses	\$ (551.97)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,339.01

Scholarship Fund

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 1,288.00
.... Donations	\$ 260.00
.... Expended	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,548.00
0.00	

Operating Account

.... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,950.16
.... Luncheon Income	\$ 720.00
.... Dues	\$ 120.00
.... Misc Income	\$ 0.00
.... Interest Earned	\$ 0.79
.... Luncheon Expense	\$ (648.00)
.... Supplies	\$ (10.03)
.... Post Office	\$ 0.00
.... Other Organizations	\$ 0.00
.... Niscellaneous expenses	\$ 0.00
.... Memorial to HOT	\$ 0.00
.... Printing/mailing	\$ 0.00
.... Newsletter Costs	\$ (331.15)
.... VA/JROTC	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 3,801.67



Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ **MAJ Paul DeWitt, USAR (Ret),**
7894 Lantana Creek Dr., Largo, FL 33777,
727-393-5141
- ◆ **Mrs. Patti DeWitt, AuxMbr-Spouse,**
7894 Lantana Creek Dr., Largo, FL 33777,
727-393-5141

Membership

Do you have a friend or know of someone who is eligible for membership in MOAA? Invite them to one of our luncheons.



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Thru June 2012

Legislature from Pg 5

eficiaries felt that there was a climate of patient safety where they received their care.

Two areas of concern for MTF users were the ability to get appointment times and the ability to get access to specialists.

Of those who experienced difficulty getting medical treatment over the past year, one in five experienced problems booking an appointment. One surveyor commented: "I have had my Primary Care Manager (PCM) change three times in the past year. I have had such hard times getting appointments because the PCMs are getting shifted around so much with the budget cuts. Waiting close to a month to get an appointment is really hard, especially when it isn't serious enough to go to the ER, but something you want taken care of soon."

17 percent of those who had problems getting care at an MTF said that seeing a specialist was an issue.

Only 8 percent of beneficiaries using the TRICARE network reported problems booking appointments and seeing specialists.

MOAA plans to share the survey results and analysis with a full report to the DoD.

Our survey indicates TRICARE is consistently seen as a strong benefit. MOAA believes it's a necessary benefit to attract and retain high-quality personnel for careers in uniformed service despite the unique and arduous service conditions imposed.

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Did you know that there is a special financial benefit from the Veteran's Administration called Aid & Attendance that can fund a stay at a memory care community such as Arden Courts?

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Debbie Butterfield
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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.

Army “Pink Slip” Details Emerge

July 25, 2014

Earlier this week, Army officials provided greater clarity behind its ongoing involuntary drawdown efforts with MOAA and other major veteran and military service organizations.

The teleconference followed swift negative reaction by the press and legislators when various “pink slip” news stories surfaced regarding the way the Army handled the notification of nearly 1,200 officers involuntarily selected to separate; some while deployed combat zones.

During the teleconference, Army officials emphasized that leaders were involved in the notification process. The 87 deployed captains (O-3), once notified, immediately received “change of mission” orders and will be out of country within 30 days. They were given the choice to either return to home duty station or to a transition location of choice and given 10 months to separate.

These separations are just one method the Army is undertaking to bring their active duty force down from 570,000 members to 490,000 by 2015. Enlisted drawdown efforts will largely be adjusted by reducing the accession pipeline but more officers can expect pink slips early next month when the involuntary separation board results are released for majors (O-4).

The Army is in a difficult predicament. Sequestration and other budget cuts have led to significant end strength reductions that hit the Army and Marine Corps hardest.

The Army’s Soldier for Life Transition program is working with MOAA and other Military and Veterans Service Organizations to assist in providing transition services for these service members.

As a member benefit, MOAA also offers a military-friendly job board, interview preparation tools, and career transition seminars around the country. The career transition team is prepared to assist with military-to-civilian résumé critiques, personalized one-on-one counseling, salary negotiation, and more. To learn more about MOAA’s career transition services, visit www.moaa.org/career.

Officers Call Booster Donors

Just a reminder: This fund was discontinued effective 1 January 2014. Any monies donated prior to that for 2014 were divided equally between the Scholarship Fund and HOT

2014 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

••GOLD –

Carr, Terry LTC
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Flint, John Col
Green, Richard CWO4
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Landers, Joan Mrs.
Lee, Bill LCDR
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.

Spears, Tom 2LT
Talibitzer, John LT

••SILVER –

Bolin, Bill CDR
Dawson, Pete Maj
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Hamilton, Evelyn Mrs.
Hetherington, Chuck Col

••BRONZE –

Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Hermann, Peter Col
Koch, Dick Lt Col
Lewis, Bill Lt Col
McCormick, Jim Lt Col
Myers, Ralph Lt Col
Osborn, Ozzie LTC
Sartorio, Sal Maj
Tondreau, Herb CWO4
Member donations ONLY:
\$2,706 as of 7/30/2014

2014 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••GOLD –

Bolin, Bill CDR
Carr, Terry LTC
Dawson, Pete Maj
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen
Freese, Sherry Mrs.
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Green, Richard CWO4
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Harrow, Anita Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Kottich, Chuck COL
Landers, Joan Mrs.
Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Milford, John Lt Col
Misuraca AJ 1st Lt
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col
Palsha, Robert LTC
Patton, Jim CWO4
Patton, Kathi Mrs.
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen

Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Tom 2LT
Stakk, Barbara Ms.
Talibitzer, John LT
Tondreau, Herb CWO4
Vitters, Cindy LTC

••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL
Carr, Paulette Mrs.
Hamilton, Evelyn Mrs.
Hermann, Peter Col
Hetherington, Chuck Col
Koch, Dick Lt Col
Myers, Asa Mrs.
Sartorio, Sal Maj
Taylor, Joanne MAJ
Terry, Frederick COL

••BRONZE –

Lorence, Marie LTC
Peck, Margaret Mrs.
Reed, Bob LCDR
Taylor, Joanne MAJ
Vision, Mick CDR
Wildes, Shirley Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:
\$ 2,493 as of 7/30/2014



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

Monthly Luncheon

Friday
15 August 2014

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 Speakers:

Brian MacNeel

Helping Citizens Be Aware

Brian MacNeel was born in Virginia and raised in Florida. In June 1982, Brian entered the US Army and after completing Basic Training, Advanced Individual Training, Airborne School and Ranger Leadership Training he became a Medic in the 2nd/75th Ranger Battalion Recon Platoon. He was an instructor in Ranger School and later served as the combat medic and bodyguard for the commanding general of the renowned 82nd Airborne Division. Brian suffered a near fatal parachute accident in August 1986, and after 2 ½ hours of hospitalization and rehabilitation he was medically retired in 1989.



After retirement Brian attended the University of Florida and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Business Administration. He became a Crime Prevention Practitioner after attending the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute after attending the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute under the auspices of the Office of the Florida Attorney General

He has now successfully transformed the stereotypical "boring" Crime Prevention Program into an entertaining and educational experience.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, August 15th 2014

Banquet Masters

8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL

• Reservations MUST be in by Wed, August 13th

Name: _____

Each reservation \$15:

Prime Rib: _____

Stuffed Flounder: _____

Cobb Salad : _____

Reservations call;

Pauline Edwards 727-360-2936 or
Evelyn Hamilton 727-399-1272

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before arrival

For a RIDE call:

LTC Terry Carr 459-4026



August

4: Coast Guard est 1790

19: National Aviation Day

14: VJ Day

25: National Park Service est 1916

27: Mother Teresa born 1910

29: First Scout camp opened 1934

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