



# OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XIV No.II

February 2014

### President's Comments:

It was great to have such a large turnout for our installation luncheon. We had about 25% more attendees than we had for the last several years. Thanks to Dick Koch for arranging to have it at the Saint Petersburg Yacht Club. Thanks also to Larry Fernald for the work he did in setting it up, and to Paulette and everyone else who helped with the table decorations. We regret that we had to make some last minute changes to some officer positions due to health issues, Dick Koch for his wife and Bill Lewis for himself. Please join me in keeping both these members and their families in our thoughts and prayers. Thanks to Glen for being willing to step up to 1st Vice President and Joanne for being willing to continue to serve as 2nd Vice President.



It was also great having Admiral Ryan as our guest speaker and installer. He has always been such an inspiration to me. Admiral Ryan reflected on the fact that our chapter has been selected to receive the 5-star award for 13 out of the last 14 years and commented that it is not an award to be taken lightly. Let us all strive to achieve this in 2014, and to make it our best year ever.

Right after the installation luncheon Paulette and I attended the Florida Council's Winter Leadership Forum in Ocala along with

**See President Page 4**

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### Status of TRICARE

By Kathy Prout, vice chair, MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

It is now the law that every American has to have health insurance coverage. How will the Affordable Care Act (ACA), commonly known as "Obamacare", affect servicemembers and military retirees and their families and survivors?

The vast majority of active duty servicemembers and their families will see no change in their coverage as a result of the ACA. The only changes will be fee increases, which occur by law. TRICARE fees may not increase by more than the annual COLA. Military retirees under the age of 65 will see a COLA in their TRICARE fees. Annual TRICARE Prime fees will be \$273.84 for individuals and \$547.68 for families. TRICARE Young Adult monthly fees will increase from \$176 to \$180 for the TRICARE Prime option, while the fees for the TRICARE Standard option will increase from \$152 to \$156 a month.

Those who are on the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs also are covered completely under the ACA.

TRICARE For Life (TFL) meets the minimum standards under the ACA, however, the requirement that all TFL beneficiaries enroll in TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery begins February 14. Part of the 2013 National Defense Authorization Act, this was a compromise to avoid tripling pharmacy copayments. All TFL beneficiaries must enroll in home delivery through Express Scripts for maintenance medications and remain in the program for a year, after which beneficiaries may opt out of the program. Express Scripts might issue individual waivers on a case-by-case basis. Nursing home patients and those who use a military treatment facility are exempt. Enroll online or by calling Express Scripts at (877) 363-1303.

However, Congress and DoD have proposed fee increases for TRICARE and TFL. MOAA is against these proposed fee increases and is fighting the issue by educating Congress that claims military health care costs are spiraling out of control are untrue. We all must remain vigilant to protect the health care benefits that have been earned through military service.

**Discover The Benefits Of Life  
Membership In MOAA.**



# Officers Call

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

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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****DIRECTORS**

**President- LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) ..... 459-4026**  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP- CDR Glen Crabb, USN (Ret) ..... 561-0697  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret) ..... 388-2384  
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich Spouse-A ..... 546-2246  
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret) ..... 894-3761

**EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD****2014 & 2015 —**

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

**2013 & 2014—**

CDR Maureen Conners, USN (Ret) ..... 347-7976  
 LTCol Robert Palsha, USA (Ret) ..... 391-6431  
 Mrs Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC ..... 360-2936

**Immediate Past President**

MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret) ..... 546-2246

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Advertising .....	Vacant .....
Auxiliary Liaison .	Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050
Awards .....	Vacant .....
Chaplain .....	COL George Brown, USA ..... 866-6859
Chaplain Ass't .....	COL Mike Day, USA ..... 394-9151
Database Manager	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237
Help Our Troops	Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050
Honor Guard Coord	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246
Historian: .....	CDR Maureen Conners, USN .. 347-7976
Hospitality .....	CDR Glen Crabb, USN ..... 561-0697
Installation Cerem	Vacant .....
JROTC .....	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246
Law: .....	Vacant .....
Legislative: .....	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160
MacDill Ret Actv	Lt Col Bill Lewis, USAF ..... 480-6766
Master at Arms ....	Vacant .....
Membership .....	Vacant .....
MOWC Liaison ...	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543
Newsletter .....	CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160
Nominating Cmte	Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946
Parliamentary .....	Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946
Personal Affairs ...	Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543
Pinellas Co Vet Lia	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246
Programs .....	CDR Glen Crabb, USN ..... 561-0697
Publicity: .....	Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936
Reservations .....	CDR Bill Bolin, USNR ..... 584-1595
Scholarships: .....	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237
TOPS .....	Vacant .....
VAMC Vol Svcs ...	Vacant .....
Vet Liaison .....	MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246
Visitation .....	Mrs Virginia Balke AuxMbr-A . 544-3598
Webmaster .....	Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237

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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 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday — mixer  
 11:00 - 11:45; luncheon program 11:45 - 13:15;  
 Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Pk.

## CALENDAR

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**      **CAPT Robert Silah, USN (Ret)**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**      **Dick Crippen, Tampa Bay Rays**

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**      **Mr. Michael Fineo, 9-11 Survivor**

**May 16<sup>st</sup>**      **Memorial Service**

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

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

**February 3<sup>rd</sup>**      Monday

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>**      Monday

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**      Monday

## MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

**Luncheons:**

- Next luncheon will be  
 Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>      Banquet Masters  
 1130 hours      8100 Park Blvd.  
    Pinellas Park

**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      - 237  
 Regular Members      - 152  
 Auxiliary Members      - 85  
 Inactive Members      - 1

**Military Services:**

Army - 63	USMC - 11
USAF - 44	USCG - 6
Navy - 28	NOAA - 0

12/24/2013



Visit our Chapter Web Site =&gt;





## Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**

### Monthly Luncheon; 17 January 2014

**Attended – 107:** (106 reservations), 2 Member Guest, 2 Chapter Guests, 7 Walk in, 2 Cancel, 4 No Shows

The Installation luncheon was held at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club on Friday January 17, 2014. President LTC Terry Carr called the meeting to order and the Chapter Chaplain, LTC George Brown, gave the invocation. Master of Ceremonies Maj Gen Earl Peck called for the Admiral Farragut Academy NJROTC to present the Colors.



Those seated at the head table were; VADM Norb Ryan and Judy Ryan, Maj Gen Earl Peck and Margaret Peck, LTC Terry Carr and Paulette Carr, and CDR Glen Crabb and Katie Crabb.

Maj Gen Earl G. Peck, USAF (Ret), a Life Member Emeritus, Distinguished Member and Past President of the St. Petersburg Chapter of MOAA introduced the following:

Exceptionally Distinguished Service Members; Mrs. Violet M. Smith, Mrs. Anita J. Harrow, PhD and Vice Admiral Norbert Ryan, Jr., USN (Ret), President of MOAA.

Life Members Emeritus and Distinguished Members present were; Maj Peter J. Dawson, USAF (Ret), Mrs. Violet M. Smith, Auxiliary Member-A and COL George L. Brown, Jr., USA (Ret).

Other Distinguished Members present were: LCDR J. Paul Finley, USN (Ret), Lt Col Laurance N. Fernald, USAF (Ret), Mrs. Anita J. Harrow, PhD, Auxiliary Member-A, CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret) and CDR William C. Bolin, Sr., USN (Ret).

Past Presidents present were: Maj Peter J. Dawson, USAF (Ret), COL George Brown, USA (Ret), LCDR J. Paul Finley, USN (Ret) and Lt Col Larry N. Fernald, USAF (Ret).

Distinguished Chapter guests welcomed were the Mayor of Pinellas Park, Her Honor Mayor Sandra Bradbury, and Pinellas Park City Councilwoman Patti Johnson.

New members Carol Barkalow and Mark Foster were welcomed to our Chapter. Visitors and Guests included; Patrick Clements, Mike Jones, Steven Koch, Fred Olson, Steve Loesch, Peer Lovfald, John and Irene Sumner, Phil Fogle, Ken Ernst, Ollie Donelan, Donald and Joanne McCrae and Mary Ann Lombardi. The Admiral Farragut Academy Honor Guard members were; Owen Li, CDR Kevin Bell, Billiana Tran-Lei, Mike Xu and Ariel Nechemia.

The POW/MIA Table of Remembrance was provided by Mrs. Anita Harrow.

Col William Eisenhart, USAF (Ret) was given time to address the Chapter and say farewell as he and Penny are moving to South Carolina. Bill and Penny will be missed and we

wish them well in their new adventure.

Following lunch VADM Ryan installed the Officers and Executive Advisory Board as follows: President, LTC Carr, USA (Ret), 1st Vice President, CDR Glen Crabb, USN (Ret), 2nd Vice President, MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret) and EAB members for the term expiring December 2014, LTC Robert Palsha, USA (Ret), and for the term expiring 2015 COL Roger Popham, USA (Ret) and LTC Duane (Ozzie) Osborn, USA (Ret).

President, LTC Terry Carr presented the Chapter Distinguished Life Member Emeritus plaque to Lt Col Laurance Fernald, USAF (Ret). CWO4 James Patton, USCG (Ret) was presented the Chapter Distinguished Member plaque by President Carr. President Carr also presented the 5 star award for the Chapter which he had received at the National MOAA convention in Colorado Springs, CO.

Guest Speaker VADM Ryan, in his opening remarks, said that our Chapter has received the Level of Excellency Award for many years in a row and the significance of obtaining this award. VADM Ryan spoke on the current situation and MOAA's actions with the legislation that is ongoing in Washington, D.C.

President Carr presented VADM Ryan with a check for \$300.00 for the MOAA Scholarship program.

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

### Executive Committee Meeting 6 January 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Carr at 11:40 hours. In the excused absence of Chaplain Brown, Ed Lillich gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was said. Fourteen members were present to include; Bill Bolin, Hardy Bryan, Terry Carr, Glen Crabb, Pete Dawson, Larry Fernald, Anita Harrow, Bill Lewis, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Jim Patton, Violet Smith and Joanne Taylor.

The President acknowledged Bill Lewis who had asked to say a few words prior to the reports being given.

Bill tendered his resignation as incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President effective immediately due to health problems. His resignation was accepted with regret. Pursuant to Article V, Section 5 of the Chapter By-Laws (which wording can be found on the Chapter Website) Larry Fernald made a motion to appoint Glenn Crabb, the recently elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President to the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Joanne Taylor to be appointed as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. The motion was seconded by Hardy Bryan and motion passed unanimously by the Executive Committee.

**Secretary's Report:** Hardy Bryan made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous E.C. as printed in the Officers Call. Jim Patton seconded the motion and motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Pete Dawson reported a balance in the operating account of \$9,362.08. The Officers Call Booster Account has been closed effective January 1, 2014 as directed by motion at previous E.C. meeting. The \$700 which

See Minutes Pg 4





### President from Page 1

Chris and Ed Lillich and Sherry Freese. Ed gave a great pitch to the other chapter leaders as to why their members should attend the Convention we are hosting in June. Sherry did great with raffle ticket sales for the quilt, and Paulette and I pushed for chapter ads.

Our speaker for the February luncheon meeting will be CAPT Robert Silah, USN (Ret), who will speak on the helping hands project. I hope to see everyone there.

### Minutes from from Page 3

had been designated for the Booster account for year 2014 will be split between the HOT program and the Scholarship fund. Pete reported that the Chapter account is in good shape. The Treasurer presented a summary of income and expenses. It was noted that the Luncheon income for the year was \$11,249.00 and the expenses were \$10,396.54 for a profit of \$852.46. Larry Fernald said we might want to use this money to sponsor a membership drive brunch. This will be brought up again at a future meeting of the E.C. Hardy Bryan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Jim Patton second motion. Motion carried.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President's report:** Joanne Taylor talked with three officers about joining our Chapter. One and possibly two of them will attend the installation luncheon. Joanne recently met Janice Mogan when she attended a meeting of her old unit, the 349<sup>th</sup>. Janice passed on warm greetings to all the Chapter members.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Membership:** Larry Fernald reported that we have a membership of 219 which includes 147 regular members and 72 Auxiliary members. Auxiliary spouse members are not included in the MOAA totals, although they are counted in the Chapter totals. Larry thinks that we should address the possibility of sending letters out from the lists provided us from MOAA again. We did get some members from the previous contacts made.

**HOT** Anita Harrow will be sending boxes out the second week of January. Anita said that she is losing contacts because some groups are coming back home and she would like to pursue other avenues for the HOT Program. Anita made a motion that we expand our outreach to include the V.A. hospital and service troops in this area and possibly get involved with Operation Helping Hands. Ed Lillich seconded the motion and motion carried.

**JROTC:** Ed Lillich said the Admiral Farragut Academy honor guard will present the colors at the installation luncheon.

**Programs:** Larry Fernald made a motion that the May Memorial Service and the POW/MIA programs be reinstated. Motion was seconded by Anita Harrow. Discussion ensued. Larry stated that it is very important that we continue these two programs. The Memorial Service is the Chapter's way of remembering and honoring our fallen members and is a very well attended luncheon by members and guests, and that the memorial service should be the program with no outside speaker. The POW/MIA luncheon coincides with National POW/MIA Recognition Day

and again is something that our Chapter should take part in, but tweak the format and have a speaker along with the presentation of the table. Following discussion, the motion unanimously passed.

Jim Patton read the program chairman's report for the February luncheon regarding the Meet the Candidates Forum program. This would include those who are running for election to fill Congressman C.W. Bill Young's position for the balance of his unfulfilled elected term. Larry Fernald made a motion to cancel the Meet the Candidates program. Violet Smith seconded the motion. During discussion it was pointed out that MOAA does not support political debates between candidates running for office and it has been our Chapter policy not to have debates by political figures running for office. Following discussion, the motion to cancel the Meet the Candidates program passed unanimously.

**Scholarship:** Larry Fernald said that the Chapter would be sending \$5,315 to MOAA to complete our Designated Scholarship II. He then made a motion that we initiate the Designated Scholarship III fund retroactive January 1, 2014. Ed Lillich seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

**Installation:** Admiral Ryan will be the key note speaker and the installer for the installation luncheon. Admiral and Mrs. Ryan will stay at the Hilton Hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> of January. There are two menu choices.

**Convention:** Ed and Chris Lillich will be the representatives for the winter conference in Ocala on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

There being no further business Ed Lillich gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

### **Special Executive Committee Meeting 14 January 2014**

A special meeting of the Executive Committee was called by President Terry Carr at 1140 hours at Perkins Restaurant, Seminole, Florida. All Executive Committee members were notified by e-mail of the impending meeting on January 13, 2014. The purpose of the meeting was to fill the position of President which was made vacant by the resignation of incoming President Dick Koch and to discuss the possibility of filling the position of Secretary in case of vacancy in that position. A quorum was present consisting of; Jim Patton, Bill Bolin, Pete Dawson, Glen Crabb, Terry Carr, Larry Fernald and Chris Lillich.

For the good of the Chapter, Larry Fernald made a motion to extend Terry Carr's term of office as President another year. Motion was seconded by Bill Bolin. Motion passed.

As a contingency, Larry Fernald made a motion that if the Secretary's position becomes vacant that Chris Lillich be asked to fulfill the duties for the balance of the term ending on the 2015 installation of officers. Pete Dawson seconded the motion and motion passed.

Chris Lillich made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jim Patton and meeting was adjourned.





# MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

## COLA Fix Materializing?

January 17, 2014

Congress took a small step this week towards repealing recently passed COLA cuts for military retirees. Both the House and Senate passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H. R. 3547) – an omnibus package to fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year – exempts medical (Chapter 61) retirees and survivors from the COLA cuts.



A comprehensive fix could be on the way.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) is planning to combine the Senate omnibus veterans' benefits bill with a full repeal of the COLA cuts. The new bill (S. 1950) has the support of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and could be fast-tracked to the Senate floor for a vote soon.

The original veterans' legislation (S. 944) enjoyed bipartisan support when it cleared the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee last fall.

The new bill incorporates repeal of the unfair 1 percentage point COLA reduction for working age military retirees and currently serving members established in the Balanced Budget Act.

It also addresses a number of major MOAA priorities for veterans including:

- Extension of advance appropriations for all Dept. of Veterans Affairs accounts
- Authorization for in-state tuition rates at public colleges for all student veterans using the new GI Bill
- Honoring as veterans certain career Reserve members eligible for reserve retired pay
- Authorization for Iraq and Afghanistan surviving spouses to the Post-9/11 GI Bill via the Gunnery Sgt. John D. Fry Scholarship Program
- Retention of DIC by eligible widows who remarry at age 55
- Improved care and services for veterans who were sexually assaulted in military service
- Extension of VA health care enrollment opportunity for OIF-OEF veterans from 5 to 10 years
- Renewal of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act veterans retraining assistance program
- Requirement for more timely claims backlog reporting

MOAA believes Congress must reach a bipartisan solution to fully and immediately repeal COLA-cutting provision, and address critical veterans' needs.

## Bottom Line - The Military/Civilian Divide

January 16, 2014

By Col. Mike Hayden, USAF (Ret)

The recent passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act (BBA) was trumpeted as a bipartisan, two-year, sequestration-alleviating budget deal.

But, in reality, the budget deal was a backroom, eleventh-hour pact that was rushed through both the House and Senate before the holidays, bypassing the committees of jurisdiction and highlighting a growing military/civilian divide that fails to recognize the necessary sacrifice that comes with two decades of service.

Even though the budget deal would help ease the harmful effects of sequestration for two years for the Pentagon, doing so on the backs of servicemembers who serve our nation for more than 20 years is disgraceful.

Fortunately, several members of Congress — now that they have seen the harmful effect of the change — have introduced more than 17 bills to repeal some or all of the COLA provision.

But there are still critics, including many members of the press, who are supporting the COLA cut, calling it exceedingly modest to “a military pension plan that is already far more generous than private-sector equivalents.”

What has caused these critics to believe the military pension is out of line?

It started when our own uniformed and civilian leaders within the Pentagon created the perfect storm, providing political top cover to slash pay and benefits with their repeated, alarming, and false claims about “exploding” personnel cost growth.

The Pentagon's current rhetoric on exploding personnel growth has emboldened some in Congress to consider making drastic changes to the military benefits, compensation, and retirement system in the name of fiscal responsibility and without fully understanding the unintended consequences of their actions, the immediate impact on morale, and subsequent effect on retention.

Congress, the press, and the American people should not take for granted the sacrifice and service (and retention) of our all-volunteer force by equating it to civilian careers. Sustaining the all-volunteer force cannot be done on “the cheap,” and equating the benefit package to those in the civilian workplace devalues and trivializes the very nature of career service in uniform.

The men and women in uniform cannot say “no” when presented with orders they don't like. They, unlike civilians, are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. And in order to earn the retirement benefit, servicemembers must make it through an up-or-out personnel system or potentially face being separated or discharged.

The entire military family makes tremendous sacrifices on the road to potential retirement. Military spouses seldom estab-

**See Legislature Pg 8**





VADM Ryan administering the oath to incoming to new officers and board members



President Terry Carr, 1st VP Glen Crabb, 2nd VP Joanne Taylor, Advisory Board members Robert Palsha, Roger Popham and Ozzie Osborn



President Terry Carr presenting Larry Fernald with the Life Emeritus Award as Gen Peck observes



President Terry Carr presenting Jim Patton with the Distinguished Member Award as Gen Peck observes



Guest speaker VADM Norb Ryan President MOAA



Visitors Patrick Clements and Gen Mike Jones



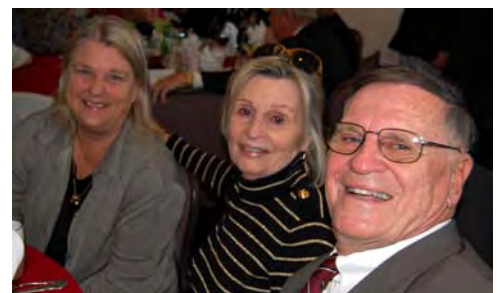
Visitor Mike Douglas



Visitor Ken Fogle



Judy and VADM Norb Ryan



Carol Roberson, Guest Hal's sister Mary Ann Lombardi and Hal Roberson



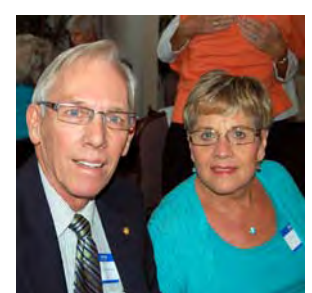
Visitors Donald and Joanne McCrae



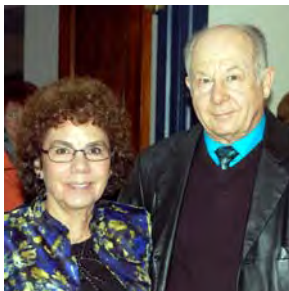
Returning members Jean and Robert Reed



Cindy Vitters and Jeanne Hardin



Visitors John and Irene Sumner



Linda and Robers Summers



George Stenhjam and guests Fred Olson, Steve Loesch and Peter Lovfald



Evey Hamilton, Pauline Edwards and New Member Carol Barkalow



Ken Ernst and Ollie Donelan

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](mailto:LarryFern246@tampabay.rr.com)







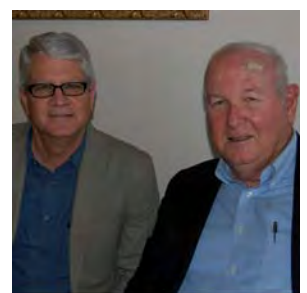
Pinellas Park City Councilwoman Patti Johnson and Mayor Sandra Bradbury



Chaplain George and Dorethy Brown



Joan Landers, Ed and Maureen Connors and Richard Green



New member Mark Foster and Hardy Bryan



Carol Barnes, Johnnie Neville and Van Barnes



Jon Barber



Ralph and Asa Myers and Anita Harrow



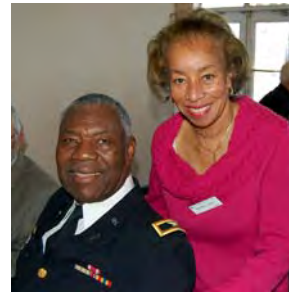
Anne Isley, Margaret Peck and Margaret Lewis



Alice and Tony Quattromani



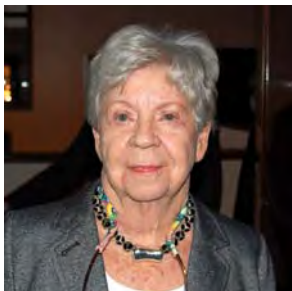
Dr Jack Westman



Chaplain Frederick and Maxine Terry



Fred and Carolyn Schlager



Hattie Hunt



Jim Garvey



Barbara Stakk and newly elected EAB member Robert Palsha



Charlene Sanders



Bill and Margaret Lewis



Kathi and Jim Patton



Bill and Penny Eisenhart at their final luncheon before moving to South Carolina

Photos by Bill Lofgren



### Legislature from Page 5

lish their own careers because of frequent and involuntary separations and relocations, and because of frequent moves, rarely do military couples spend enough time in one place to gain any equity in a home.

Military children, on average, will attend six to eight schools during grades K-12. Their young lives are also peppered with extended separations from their military parent. Along the road to retirement, many will decide the personal sacrifice is too great.

And some critics are the first to point out military retirees leave in the 40s or 50s and immediately find gainful employment. But not all military skills translate well into civilian jobs, regardless of what some pundits say. And the reality is two incomes are necessary to reach the standard of living to maintain a household and send their kids to college.

But what is most disturbing is equating military service to the private sector. We've seen the service and sacrifices our men and women in uniform and their families have had to endure over the past 12 years of war — and they are far from civilian-like.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey, USA, stated in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee in October 2011 that the military retirement program “needs to be fundamentally different than anything you can find in the civilian sector.”

**The bottom-line:** Until you can adjust the conditions of service for those in uniform to be more “civilian-like,” stop trying to compare the two.

### Stateside Tricare Service Centers Closing April 1

Military.com Jan 14, 2014 | by Amy Bushatz

All stateside Tricare in-person service centers will be closing April 1, Tricare officials recently confirmed.

The closure of the 189 facilities is expected to save the Defense Department about \$50 million a year, officials said. The Tricare Service Centers, which handle about 137,000 visitors a month, are staffed by contractors and handle issues ranging from processing provider changes to billing problems.

“The change will not — let me repeat that — will not affect any Tricare medical benefit or health care service,” Army Col. Steve Warren, a DoD spokesman said in a statement. “What it will do is allow the department to save \$250 million over the next five years, allowing Tricare to invest in more important services.”

Are Tricare service center closures a broken promise or a reasonable cut? Sound off!

All of the services currently dealt with by service center staff can be currently handled exclusively over the phone, they said.

**See TRICARE Service Centers Pg 11**

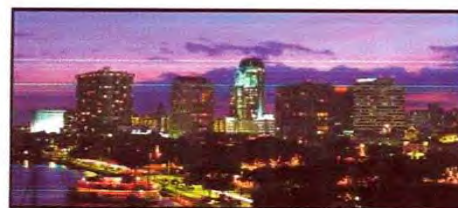


## St Petersburg Area Chapter

Military Officers Association of America, Inc.



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### Registration Package

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As a special treat, we are making arrangements to attend the Tampa Bay Rays major league game on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested, and there is a large enough group, we will make arrangements and provide you with details.

For your convenience, we have made arrangements with the hotel to book your room through us saving you approximately 18%. You will see a place on the registration form to indicate your arrival and departure dates. Room rates are valid for three days prior and three days following the convention, subject to room availability.

The registration form is available on the St Petersburg Area Chapter website at; <http://moaastpetearea.com> or by contacting Larry Fernald at the number or email listed below.

If you are planning to attend only one event, there is a special registration rate.

Should you have any questions about the registration process, or the convention in general contact;

Larry N. Fernald, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

Convention Chair

[Larry246MOAA@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:Larry246MOAA@tampabay.rr.com)

727-692-6237



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>







# TAPS

◆ Shine, John “Jack”, Col, USMC (Ret), 2 September 2013

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.



## Welcome Our New Members!

◆ William “Bill” Terwilliger, MAJ, USA (Ret), 4320 45th Street South, St Petersburg, FL 727-864-2435

◆ Jeanne Hardin-Gres,, 7625 Sun Island Dr So., South Pasadena, FL 33707, 727-346-5664

## 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)

## February Birthdays (45 to 96 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
29	Barnum	Ralph	CDR	USN (Ret)
05	Berns	Robert	Col	USMC (Ret)
07	Carter	Nelson	WO3	USN (Ret)
02	Fernald	Laurance	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
24	Fratarangelo	Paul	MajGen	USMC (Ret)
23	Freese	Marc	LtCol	USMC (Res)
17	Hanson	Marlowe	LTC	USA (Ret)
23	Mortensen	Marilyn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
10	O’Toole	Charles	CAPT	USN (Ret)
19	Patton	James	CWO4	USCG (Ret)
22	Redman	JoAnn	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
20	Tondreau	Herbert	CWO4	USA (Ret)
14	Vallario	Rudolph	LTC	USA (Ret)

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of December

### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ (1,3327.86)
..... Donations .....	\$ 75.00
..... From Operating .....	\$ 1,589.85
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ (336.89)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 0.00

### HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 3,406.63
..... Donations .....	\$ 351.00
..... 50/50 .....	\$ 52.00
..... Memorials .....	\$ 0.00
..... Expenses .....	\$ (63.483)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 3,206.15

### Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 4,090.00
..... Donations .....	\$ 1,225.00
..... Expended .....	\$ (5,315.00)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 0.00

### Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 10,282.94
..... Luncheon Income .....	\$ 1,160.00
..... Dues .....	\$ 835.00
..... Misc Income .....	\$ 0.00
..... Interest Earned .....	\$ 1.83
..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ (975.00)
..... Honotia/donations .....	\$ (50.00)
..... Supplies .....	\$ (56.60)
..... Post Office .....	\$ (124.00)
..... Miscellaneous Expenses .....	\$ (1,589.75)
..... Memorial to HOT .....	\$ 0.00
..... Printing/mailing .....	\$ (122.34)
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 10,282.94

### Do You Have Some Free Time?

Check the list of VACANT Committee Chairs on page 2 and think about how you can help our chapter. If interested speak to one of the Executive Committee or Executive Advisory Board members.

We are expecially looking for someone to take over the job of handling the reservations for our monthly luncheons, Bill and Lynn Bolin have been handling this job for many years and find that they are unable to continue. If interested contact Bill and come work a luncheon with them to find out just what the job entails. It is a great opportunity to meet our members



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## STATE OF THE CHAPTER AS OF 31 DEC 2013

As of the end of the year, the Chapter had 269 members. As of 1 January 2014, due to 32 members not renewing their membership and two new members, today we have 237 members, broken out as shown on page 2. We had 23 members who passed away, and we had 19 new members join in 2013.

You, the members of this great chapter, donated \$4,945 to the Scholarship Fund, enabling us to fully fund our second Designated Scholarship and start a third. The St Petersburg Area Chapter Designated Scholarship Fund, I, II, and III when fully funded, will provide a \$500 grant, and a \$5,000 interest-free loan to a son or daughter of an active, retired, or former military person. Every penny of what you and others contribute to the MOAA Scholarship program goes to the scholars. Not a single penny goes to overhead. That is paid by our dues to MOAA.

Speaking of the scholars, as the Scholarship Chair, it has been my privilege to host several of the scholars who have been awarded funds from our scholarships at monthly luncheons. Many of you were kind enough to meet and greet these young folks and to offer them encouragement as they progress through the educational process. Thank you for making our scholars feel welcome. You'll get more opportunities to do that.

You donated \$2,050 toward the Officers Call Booster Fund, which supported the printing and mailing of the award-winning *Officers Call*. Due to several factors, the Executive Committee decided to eliminate that fund beginning in 2014. That has been done, and any donations sent to that fund will automatically be divided equally between the Scholarship Fund and HOT.

Regarding the HOT program, you contributed \$5,091 to send packages of goodies to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq before that. Thanks to Mrs. Anita Harrow, this program is a huge success and one that the troops have complimented many times.

All in all, it was a good year, despite the numbers shrinking some. Thank you all very much for supporting your chapter.

## TRICARE Service Centers from Page 8

Officials don't plan to add any staff to call centers as a result of the closures since shuttering the service centers is anticipated to only marginally increase call center volume, officials said.

"If every single person who has visited a TSC called the existing toll-free call centers it would average less than a 10 percent increase in call traffic," Austin Camacho, a Tricare spokesman said. "Since many of the visits to TSCs can be handled by various toll free or online services that is very unlikely."

Camacho said help options for most issues users face, such as enrollment or changes to enrollment, can be easily found on the Tricare.mil homepage.

Still beneficiaries are unlikely to be happy about the change. Over 80 percent of Tricare users polled by Military.com's SpouseBuzz blog in early November said that they do not want the service centers to close. About 11 percent of the 3,321 respondents said the closures might be a good thing. Only about nine percent of respondents said they support the closures.

Readers of Military.com's initial November report of the closures worried that the loss of in-person help dealing with difficult billing issues would be even more convoluted.

"I honestly do not know what we would have done this past year without in-person Tricare help," wrote Danielle Kaczor, on Military.com's SpouseBuzz blog. "My daughter was diagnosed with leukemia and gets all treatment and medications at a children's hospital, and billing for all this was quite screwy in the beginning. We visited the Tricare office for help several times and the ladies there were amazing, making sure everything was taken care of and filed/submitted correctly."

But Tricare officials said such complicated situations are typically assigned a special case manager as a point of contact for the user. They said that while there is no way to make sure you speak to the same person twice at the call center, each staffer can see notes from your previous calls.

"While the call centers do not offer a way to speak to the same person each time you call, whoever takes your call has access to all the notes from previous calls and the detailed notes kept by previous people you've spoken to," Camacho said. "If it's more of a billing or claims issue, the appropriate Tricare claims processor has access to all past claims and billing records to assist the beneficiary with questions or issues they may have."

Other readers worried they would not be able to swiftly or easily deal with issues the way they currently can in office. They said the face-to-face interaction makes a big difference.

"I've been on the phone and used the website and both are useless," Jim Lamberson wrote on SpouseBuzz.com. "When I go to the Tricare Service center, they are always helpful. There is a level of care and concern when talking face to face vice over the phone or website. I vote to keep these centers. They are valuable to the aging retiree."



# St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

## Monthly Luncheon

**Friday**  
**21 February 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 Speaker:**  
**CAPT Robert J. Silah, USN (Ret)**  
**Operation Helping Hand**

**CAPT Robert J. Silah, USN (Ret)**



Captain Silah is a graduate of Marquette University in Milwaukee and is a native of Wisconsin. He was commissioned an ensign in the U.S. Navy in 1963. Captain Silah was qualified in surface warfare and has had duty in aircraft carriers, amphibious, and mine warfare ships, among others, with numerous deployments to the Caribbean, Western Pacific, and Mediterranean and two tours in Vietnam. His 27-year career also included assignments with the offices of the Chief of Naval Personnel and the Chief of Naval Operations in Washington, D.C., and U.S. Central Command. In this last assignment, he served as deputy inspector general with duties in Southwest Asia, inspecting embassies in Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Somalia, and Pakistan, briefing ambassadors and staff on embassy operations. He also served as chief inspector in a number of Central Command major exercises. In 2004, he founded Operation Helping Hand to help the wounded/injured active duty patients being treated in Tampa, Fla., where he and his wife, Kathy, reside. Operation Helping Hand is a special initiative of the Tampa Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America, operated by military officers and volunteers who donate their time and care and do not receive any compensation.

Operation Helping Hand arranges and hosts monthly dinners at the James A. Haley VA Hospital for these injured heroes and their families. Loved ones are presented with flowers and gift bags containing items ranging from gift certificates to things needed for their stay while their hero is being treated at the hospital. Welcome kits are also handed out to the wounded and their families upon arrival.

### MONTHLY LUNCHEON

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2014**  
**Banquet Masters**

**8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL**

• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

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## February

- 1: National Freedom Day
- 2: Super Bowl Sunday
- 2: Groundhog Day
- 8: Boy Scouts of America Founded (1910)
- 14: Valentine's Day
- 17: Presidents' Day

