

# OFFICERS CALL

## ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



**VOL V No I**      **★★★★★ Five Star Chapter : 2002-05 ★★★★★**      **January 2007**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Runner-Up** 2005 Electronic Media; **Winner** 2003 Print & Electronic Media & Web Site



### Installation Dinner Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club

Make your plans now for January 19, 2007 Installation Dinner at the Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club 400 Treasure Island Causeway, TI. 727 367-4511. Installation official National Board member, LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret) and master of ceremonies Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF (Ret). Speaker ASD for RA RADM Tom Hall, USN (Ret). Music by "Promise quartet (our Christmas program)."

Installation of 2007 Officers, January 19, 2007

Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club

Social hour 5:30 p.m. Dinner promptly at 7 p.m.

Speaker: The Honorable RADM Thomas F. Hall, USN (Ret)

Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

Secretary Thomas F. Hall, a native of Barnsdall, Oklahoma, is the fourth Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs. He serves as the principal staff assistant to the Secretary of Defense and is responsible for all matters involving the 1.2 million members of the Reserve Components of the United States Armed Forces.



- Reservations required by Monday January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007
- Dress Code: Dinner Dress or Appropriate Civilian Attire
- Mail this reservation form with your check to SPAMOOA

**BOB EYNATTEN,**

507 Plaza Seville Ct #16; Treasure Island, FL 33706

**For late reservations &/or if you need a RIDE, call either:**

Bob Eynatten at 727 360-4637, or Don Freese at 727 360-3102,

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Each reservation \$25: \_\_\_\_\_;

Prime Rib with Twice Baked Potatoes: \_\_\_\_\_;

Mahi Mahi Tropical with Fruit Salsa & Rice Pilaf: \_\_\_\_\_.



## Officers Call

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## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### DIRECTORS

- President- Don Freese** CAPT, USN ..... 360-3102  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP- **Larry Fernald**, Lt Col USAF ..... 522-6237  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- **Janice Mogan**, LTC USA ..... 381-3997  
 Secretary- **Mrs. D Kay Benson**, AuxMbr-AF ..... 895-5116  
 Treasurer- **Pete Dawson**, Maj USAF ..... 894-3761

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— 2007 & 2008 —

- CAPT **Bob Eynatten**, USN ..... 360-4637  
 Col **Stew Palmer**, USAF ..... 343-5022  
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### Immediate Past President

- LCDR **Paul Finley**, USNR ..... 391-5908

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 Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs. Jane Gaugh ..... 367-2010  
 Bylaws/Policy Bk .. LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC ..... 360-2936  
 Chaplain: ..... COL George Brown, USA ..... 866-6859  
 Data Base ..... Col Al Neville, USAF ..... 522-5685  
 Electronic Info ..... Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF ..... 522-6237  
 Historian: ..... LTC Marie Lorence, USA ..... 595-1342  
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 ROTC ..... CAPT Tom Harrow, USN ..... 367-9050  
 ROWC Liaison ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ..... 595-5543  
 Scholarships: ..... CAPT Tom Harrow, USN ..... 367-9050  
 TOPS ..... COL Ron Merritt, USA ..... 367-9809  
 VA Vol Svc ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN ..... 545-3884  
 Vet Liaison ..... LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC ..... 360-2936  
 Visitation ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN ..... 545-3884

AND Life Members Emeritus AND Past Presidents

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 343  
 Regular Members - 244  
 Auxillary Members - 99

### Military Services:

Army - 88                      USMC - 13  
 USAF - 79                     USCG - 8  
 Navy - 55                      NOAA - 1

12/22/06

## Chapter Officers for 2007

**PRESIDENT: Don Freese, CAPT, USN (Ret)**– Donald R. Freese, was born and raised in Rock Island, Illinois the son of Fritz and Pearl Freese. Don graduated from Rock Island High School in 1959 and immediately left for the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland graduating in June 1963 with a BS Degree.



Don spent four years on active duty primarily aboard the USS New DD 818 as Anti Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Destroyer Anti Submarine Helicopter (DASH) Officer serving with the Second Fleet in the Atlantic and Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean with two tours to the Middle East and Persian Gulf.

Don left active duty in 1967 and joined the Naval Reserve advancing to Captain with eight Naval Reserve Unit commands including the reserve crews of the USS Virginia CGN 38 and USS Wainwright (CG 28) before retiring in 1993.

In civilian life Don had a variety of corporate engineering and management positions advancing to Vice President of Universal Instrument Corporation. In 1991 Don realized a life long ambition to become a lawyer and took the opportunity to go to Law School graduating from the Salmon P Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University in 1994. Don is licensed to practice Law in Ohio and Kentucky where he practiced full time until moving to Florida in 1998 and part time until 2004.

Don married Sherry Ann Gray in 1964 and is the proud father of Major Marc Daniel Freese, USMCR and Michelle Lynn Star and three grandsons Jackson Paul Star (4), Sawyer Johnathon Star (3) and Alexander Daniel Freese (18 months). Marc is married to Melody Jones and Michelle to former Marine Corps Captain Jason Star.

**1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Larry Fernald, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**– Lt Col Fernald retired from active duty in the USAF on 1 December, 1989, after more than 20 years of service.

Larry is a native Floridian, who returned to St. Petersburg after his retirement. He received a BS degree from Troy State University (now Troy University) and an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Additionally, he is a graduate Squadron Officers School, Air Command and Staff College, National Security Management course, and Air War College.



After commissioning in September 1969, Larry attended Undergraduate Pilot Training at Webb AFB, Big Spring, Texas, graduating in Sept 1970. From there, he attended Forward Air Controller training, qualifying in the OV-10 Bronco, and was assigned to Pleiku, AB, RVN, in March of 1971. A year later, he was transferred to Ellsworth AFB, SD, to fly the B-52G, where he served as a copilot, aircraft commander, and instructor pilot, standardization/evaluation pilot.

In April of 1976, Larry was transferred to Plattsburgh AFB, NY, to begin training as an FB-111 pilot. Following that training, he served with the 529<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron at Plattsburgh AFB as a pilot and instructor pilot. After 4 years in the 529<sup>th</sup>, Larry was transferred to the 4007<sup>th</sup> Combat Crew Training Squadron where he worked as a flight and simulator instructor as well as an

Larry continued page 10



Let's have a great 2007





**2<sup>nd</sup> VICE PRESIDENT: Janice Mogan, LTC, USA (Ret)–**

Born Janice Vuillemot in Syracuse, NY, she left for nursing school in Amsterdam, NY at age 17. On the day of graduation, she was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. in the Army Nurse Corps and went off to Basic Training at Fort Sam Houston, TX.



She was stationed at Fort Gordon, Augusta, GA. Then the Army sent her to Denver, CO to earn an Intensive Care Specialty. Her last year of active duty in 1974 was at Fort Leonard Wood, MO.

While in her first year of reserves, she attained the rank of CPT while living in VT to use the GI Bill to get a Bachelor’s Degree. Janice lived in VA for a few years then moved to FL to be near her parents who had relocated to Ocala.

Janice married Timothy Mogan, a Viet Nam Veteran, in 1980, and they were married for 17 years until he left to ride his motorcycle. They each served 21 years in the reserves.

Janice has worked at Bay Pines VA since 1978 and has a wonderful daughter Mollie and a sweet granddaughter Destiny age 6 here in town.

As a Major, she completed a Masters Degree in Nursing from USF in 1990.

She earned a 30 year service award in Aug 2006. The last 10 years were in Home Care.

Volunteering is a way of life for many people. The Girl Scouts fostered this interest at a young age. Janice has devoted time to the American Red Cross, her Church, the American Heart Association and various other organizations.

This brings her to MOAA and collaboration with other patriotic members of Joint Military Services.

**SECRETARY: D. Kay Benson Auxiliary Member-AF–**

I was born Dorothy Kathryn Marie Lawrence Lockwood in Salisbury, Maryland, nicknamed Dotti-Kay quickly shortened to D.Kay. When I was nine, my family moved to Annapolis, Md. I graduated from Annapolis High School and George Washington University. My first “real” job after college was teaching Physical Education. Teaching Physical Education to High School girls was not my bag, so I decided to attend Baltimore Institute of Law and began searching property titles in the Anne Arundel County Courthouse for Baltimore Title and Guarantee Company.



I meet my future husband, Edward H. Benson, while performing in an Annapolis dinner theater in “Dracula”. My husband had

to slew Dracula for my hand. He was a physical therapist who was re-called into active duty in the U.S. Air Force. We lived in Abilene, Texas, Anchorage, Alaska, St Petersburg, FL, San Antonio, Texas and retired back to St Petersburg.

My career was checkerboard – Aside from wife of a military officer and mother of two children, I became very interested in Interior Decorating and pursued several courses until I was hired as an Interior Decorator for J.C. Penney’s. From there I became a buyer for Dillard’s Interior Design Studio – with 17 stores in the Texas, New Mexico division. I then became the Corporate Trainer for J.C. Penney’s Custom Decorating Department. I trained all the decorators and studio coordinators for the Southeast region. Last stop was Sales Manager responsible for 21 stores, 100 decorators, 25 Coordinators and 50 installers in the state of Florida. I retired March 1995.

My children grew up, graduated from Dixie Hollins High School, one graduated from FSU, the other graduated from University of South Carolina, each married and each have two darling boys.

Today I find myself widowed after being married for 40 years to the most wonderful of husbands – If there had been any but he, there would be a dozen dozen in his place. I am a member of Pasadena Presbyterian Church where I sing in the choir. I am a resting Elder and Stephen Minister. I serve Meals on Wheels, enjoy all the concerts of the Florida Orchestra and the performances of American Stage and St Petersburg Little Theater. I am treasurer of my PEO, Publicity Chairman of my Garden Club and a member of the Board of Directors for Pinellas Point Civil Association. Life has been very good!

**Treasurer: Pete Dawson, Major USAF (Ret)–**

Pete joined TROA in 1976 while still on active duty. He joined the St Pete Chapter in 1979. In 1983 he served as Special Project Officer. Served as Treasurer in 1984 and reconstructed 5 past years of financial statements to help



successfully apply for tax exempt status from IRS and State of Florida.

In 1985 elected to 2nd VP and Program Chairman. In 1986 elected to 1st VP and served as Membership Chairman. Elected President in 1987 and 1988. In 1990 appointed 1st VP in July when elected VP moved from area. Finished term as Acting President when President became incapacitated due to illness. Elected President in 1994 & 1995 and 2nd VP in 1996. Elected Treasurer for 2003, 2004 and 2005. Convention Treasurer for 1999 and 2006. Has been selected as a Distinguished Member and Life Member Emeritus. Enthusiastic but skill challenged golfer.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret)

The period of time after the Holidays is often referred to as the dark ages. This is particularly true for those of us that either left home to go back to our ships and bases or had loved ones that left us to return to their duty station.



Sherry and I recently had the delightful experience of flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta. As we were boarding the aircraft I noticed several Marines that were also boarding. They were on their way to training in Virginia and then to the Middle East after the holidays. I told the Flight Attendant to buy them a drink and to tell them that Captain Freese said "Ooh Rah!" 10 minutes later the Flight Attendant excitedly came to my seat and said "sir there are 50 of them?" I checked my wallet and Sherry's purse and found out we had enough money to buy them "one drink each." Oh well I did not want that new golf club anyhow.

Later the Flight Attendant told me "only two of them were old enough to drink and my bill was \$10.00." This reminded me that not much has changed about the age of the men and women going into harms way as a lot of us were under 21 when we first went overseas but I wonder how many of us would have turned down a free drink? I know I would probably not have.

The holidays and dark ages are particularly difficult times for the survivors of loved ones that passed away during the year. For most survivors this will be the first time in years that they are without their spouse. Several have said that this is the time of the year when the loss really hits hard and the loneliness sets in. Fred Edwards has been told by at least two surviving spouses that after they are handed the flag from their spouse's funeral they are left alone to deal with everything.

Your Chapter recognizes this loss and has for years extended the surviving spouse's Auxiliary membership in your Chapter to the end of the year following their spouse's death, 12/31/2007 for deaths occurring in 2006. The Executive Committee decided to expand this policy to include membership in both your Chapter and national MOAA to the end of the following year. Survivors now have time to cope with the difficulties of their loss and do not have to worry about their membership status.

We want them to know that MOAA is here and will be here for them long after the flag has been folded and as long as they want us to be. **DON FREESE**

## From the Editor COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

**A Present For Us:** Congress adjourned recently but left us a present! We do not have to worry about losing our medical benefits because of a formerly proposed 5% cut in medicare reimbursements to our health care providers. Congress rescinded the cut which had been scheduled to start in January 2007. Details are in our Legislative Update which appears in this issue of Officer's Call.



**An Outstanding Chapter:** Colonel Bill Monk, President of the Florida Council of Chapters, presented our chapter with a pennant for our colors announcing us as a Fivestar Chapter. This our fifth annual award of five stars! Very few chapters are so honored. Please do your part and see that your dues are paid, both to the Chapter and to MOAA National. Maintaining paid up members counts quite heavily in determining which chapter(s) is awarded the top honors each year.

**Changing of the Guard:** Please mark your calendar to reserve



Chapter members at the Pearl Harbor dinner: The Shields, Andrews, Freeses, Marja Borrowes & friend, the Kings. Carroll Andrews Ed Caton & Al Neville are our Pearl Harbor survivors

Friday evening, January 19th to attend the Annual Chapter Installation of Officers to be held at the Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club beginning with the social "hour" at 5:30 pm until dinner at 7pm. The Installation of Officers starts after dinner followed by our guest speaker, RADM Tom Hall, USN. Admiral Hall is the Ass't Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs – and is also a

classmate of Don Freese, our current chapter President! As reported last month in Officers Call, Boca Ciega JROTC will provide the Color Guard and entertainment will be provided by Nancy Hill and the "Promise Quarter." Maj Gen Earl Peck will be the Master of Ceremonies and Lt Col Fred Edwards will be the installing officer. See you there!

**A Past President:** We regret to report the passing on Christmas day of Lt Col Charles R. (Chuck) Hedrick USAF (Ret) who was our Chapter President in 1986. His sense of humor was most evident at our monthly Board Meetings and his courage in accepting the inevitable was respected by those close to him.





## How National Councils and Chapters Works

By LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret) Chairman, Councils and Chapters Committee, MOAA National Board

Chairman, Councils and Chapters Committee, MOAA National Board A chapter member suggested to me that I explain to "Officers' Call" how I, as the new Chair of MOAA's Councils and Chapters (C&C), Committee fit into MOAA's operations. The following is a breakdown.



It starts when one-third of MOAA's 36 national board members are replaced every two years by membership vote. Because of the board's size, the cutting edge of its work is bycommittee. The 12 new members are assigned to at least one of the committees, generally to a committee they have requested. They likely will remain on that committee for the six years of their tenure on the board.

A member who completes four years and has been on the same committee for that time becomes eligible for consideration to be appointed committee chair by the Chairman of the Board. When Col. Ron Buchert, USAF (Ret), left the board this year, I was honored to be appointed his successor as the C&C

Committee Chair. The committee currently consists of six members and two staff advisors. Among the members are Violet Smith, who is co-chair of MOAA's Auxiliary Advisory Committee and a member of our chapter's Executive Committee, and Capt. Bill Knehans, USN (Ret), the immediate past president of the Florida Council. The staff advisors are Col. Lee Lange, USMC (Ret), who is Director of MOAA's C&C Department, and Col. Barry Wright, USA (Ret), who is Deputy Director of the C&C Department.

What does the committee do? With almost one hundred years of cumulative experience on council and chapter boards, we are involved at the national level with anything affecting C&C. For example, we sponsor the annual Council Presidents' Symposium in connection with the Storming the Hill evolution. We also operate the annual Chapter Presidents' Regional Symposiums. More closer to home, each year we conduct subjective evaluations of the chapters that have applied for a Chapters-in-Excellence award. We do not review our own chapters, although we pair up to review all other chapters we might have visited. If our independent evaluations differ markedly, the chapter in question gets a careful look by a third evaluator.

### Thank you for what you have done & will do!

Please join me in extending a big "Thank You" to outgoing Officers and Directors. Al Neville, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Acting Secretary Basil Burrell and Advisory Board Mbr, Bob Eynatten, Violet Smith and Mike Tomasulo! Great job!

Also, please join me in thanking the incoming Officers and Directors: Larry Fernald, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Janice Mogan, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, D. Kay Benson, Secretary, Pete Dawson, Treasurer; Advisory Board: Dick Koch, Gary Gilchrist, Bill Eisenhart, H. B. Love, Stew Palmer, Bob Eynatten. **Don Freese, President**



## Recruit new Members

**Lt Col Thomas Broderick, USAF (Ret)**  
3925 Queen St. N, St Petersburg, 33714  
727 256-8340 tom\_brode@yahoo.com

**CDR Michael E. Henderson, NOAA (Ret) (Ellen)**  
10501 Dotham Ct, Tampa, 33626  
813 855-7797 dawgnav@hotmail.com

**Maj Gen Ralph "Bob" Rohatsch, USAF (Ret) (Janie)**  
590 Boca Ciega Point Blvd, N, St Petersburg, 33708  
727 398-8742 spectrasolutions@aol.com

**LCDR Wm. M. "Matt" Poage, USN (Reserve)**  
2924 W Douglas St, Tampa, FL 33607  
727 224-5156 matt.poage@prudential.com

## December 2006

Operating Account:	
Income:	\$1,402.00
Expenses:	\$2,288.11
Cash Flow (Out)	(\$886.11)
Operating funds:	\$5,794.39

Scholarship Fund:	
Dec 1st	\$2,265.66
Donations:	\$34.34
Dec 19th	\$2,300.00

Help Our Troops Fund:	
Dec 1st	\$1,369.77
Donations:	\$328.00
50/50:	\$66.00
Expended:	\$0.00
Dec 19th	\$1,763.77

Maj. Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)  
Treasurer

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Everyone recruit a member





## Luncheon Meeting; 10 November 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

**Attended—93:** Members—36, AuxMbrs-16; Wives—21, Guests—10, Walk-ins—7, No shows—(2), Cancellations—(0)

President, Don Freese, opened the meeting at 1200 with a good turn out of 95 attendees for our Christmas celebration. Chaplain George Brown gave the Invocation and then led us in the salute to our flag.

Don reminded us that reservations are required by January 15 for our Installation of Officer Banquet at Treasure Island Yacht and Tennis Club on 19 January. Festivities begin at 1730 hours. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, RADM Tom Hall, USN (Ret) will be the speaker. RADM Hall is a 1963 Naval Academy classmate of Don Freese.

The entire slate of Chapter Officers and Executive Board was elected by acclamation.

Please note that next year our lunch prices will increase to \$11.00 per person. It has been a long time since Banquet Masters has raised their price and \$11.00 is still a bargain. Other Chapters are paying \$15.00 to \$20.00 per person.

We were honored by the presence of CAPT Bill Monk, USN (Ret), President of the Florida Council of Chapters. Bill presented our Chapter the “Five Star Chapter” award for 2005. Of 423 Chapters nationwide, 58 received Five-Star awards and of those 58, eleven Chapters are from Florida. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have won the award as a “Chapter of Excellence.”

Tom Harrow reported that we collected 213 toys today for the Marine Corps program that will be delivered to the Marine Reserve unit in Tampa.

Carolyn Shields gave us the HOT report. She expects to have shipped out 277 boxes by the end of January 2006. Carolyn thanked Roger Shields, and the “HOT” ladies for helping her prepare the boxes for shipment to Afghanistan. Carolyn also read a moving thank you letter from a unit in Afghanistan.

New members attending were Maj Gen Bob Rohatsch, USAF (Ret), Lt Col Tom Broderick USAF (Ret). New member CDR Michael Henderson, NOAA (Ret) joined this month but could not be with us today.

We had several guests including, Jack Shine, Sandy & Ollie Donelan and Mrs. Bonnie Underhahl. Jack is a retired Marine, from Chicago that served with Ted Williams and Tyrone Power in WW II. Sandy is Martha Willis’ daughter and Ollie is another 1963 classmate of Don.

Martha Willis arranged for our musical entertainment today, the “Promise Quartet,” that includes her granddaughter Nancy Hill, the daughter of Ollie & Sandy Donelan. The “Promise Quartet” will also be the entertainment for our January Installation Dinner. Thanks Martha for arranging their presence.

Chaplain George Brown gave the Benediction and Don adjourned the meeting at 1320.



Bill Monk presents Five star banner to president Don Freese and past president Paul Finley



Toys for Tots chairman, Tom Harrow



Promises: Mary Jo Hahn, Angela Hobson, & Nancy Hill



Fred Schlager



New member Tom Broderick





Bill Monk, Carolyn Shields, Jessica Monk



Eleanor Burrell, Jean Jessup, Genevieve Poteat



Roger Shields & Anne Isley  
Jack Stine & Don Freese



Chris & Ed Lillich  
Martha Willis & Thrum Dwyer



Sandy & Ollie Donelan, Martha Willis' daughter & son-in-law (Annapolis classmate of Don Freese)

Below-Pete & Linda Dawson



### THE BUZZ

#### COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

**More Presents?** – Several merchants offer discounts to those active and retired members of the military services. Home Depot offers 10 % off your bill when you show your military ID Card at checkout time. Other vendors who offer military discounts may be found by searching the internet.

**MOAA Benefits** – As most of us know, our Chapter has been recognized as a 5-Star Chapter for five years in a row and most of us are aware of how the Chapter operates and provides services at our local level. It seems that some are not aware of the benefits offered by membership in MOAA National and so fail to belong and to pay annual dues. For as little as \$20, you may receive the award winning MOAA monthly Military Officer magazine each month. Regular email updates on current and proposed legisla-

tion as well as an easy to use letter to Congress for your use is provided every day and night. Your emails count to influence your pay and benefits. MOAA National provides personal benefits advisors, career transition services, low-cost insurance, travel discounts and scholarships and student loans for your children and grandchildren. Please join MOAA for your own benefit and for the benefit of our Chapter.

**Reaching Out** – When a new member (or a guest who is contemplating becoming a member of MOAA and our Chapter) comes to our luncheons, he or she is greeted at the door by one of us and welcomed to the luncheon. That may be as far as it goes with the prospective member confused about where to sit and wondering if anyone will introduce themselves. One or two “greeters” alone cannot follow through to make the guest feel comfortable so we may expect never to see them again at another function. Please do your part and let’s all be greeters. **RJS**





## Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;

4 December 2006

Reported by D Kay Benson, AuxMbr-AF

The meeting was called to order by President Don Freese, at 11:30. Gorge Brown led us in the Invocation and Don Freese led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

17 members were in attendance: H.B Love, Hazel McGrath, Marie Lorence, D. Kay Benson, Violet Smith, Fred Edwards, Larry Fernald, Don Freese, Brent Gudmundson, Tom Harrow, Pete Dawson, Basil Burrell, Bob Eynatten, Roger Shields, Paul Finley, George Brown and Mike Tomasulo.

The minutes of 6 November meeting were approved as written.

The Board approved the appointment of D.Kay Benson as Interim Secretary. As there can be nominations from the floor during our December meeting, we do not know the results of our election. The results will be announced at our December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Because of a cost increase by Banquet Masters, we have to raise the price of our lunch. Tom moved that effective February 2007, we increase our lunch cost to \$11.00. It was seconded by Mike. Some discussion followed. We will re-visit this issue in six months after we have a chance to see how our budget is doing. Motion carried.

Tom moved that we make a donation of \$150 for each of Nancy Hill's programs (Dec and Jan) to her church. And that we pay for her and her Promise Quartet's lunches. Basil seconded and the motion carried. Tom moved that we also paid the lunches for the Color Honor Guard. Brent seconded and the motion carried.

Give Me 10 was discussed. There was much discussion as to the extension of membership and the paying of National dues for new widows/widowers. It was decided to continue this practice as it helps them to maintain a link with the chapter and the excellent support system it provides.

Forty-five of our members have not renewed their membership. The list was divided between Hazel, Larry, Don and D.Kay. They will call and encourage them to pay their dues.

Don announced that there will be a "Remember Pearl Harbor" dinner and dance on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> and a Naval Toys for Tots on Dec 16<sup>th</sup>. Don will attend both events and will do some recruiting.

Larry announced the following programs:

December 15<sup>th</sup> – Toys for Tots with Nancy Hill and the Promise

January 19<sup>th</sup> - Installation Dinner with Tom Hall as the speaker and Nancy Hill and the Promise Quartet providing the music.

February 16<sup>th</sup> – Capt Philip Kenul NOAA Aircraft Ops MacDill

Larry has issued an invitation to Congressman Young for March 16<sup>th</sup>. A joint meeting with another chapter might be in order if Congressman Young accepts our invitation. Guide Dog was suggested as another possible program.

The Bay Pines VA Hospital needs Volunteers, per Hazel. Please call 398-9394 to volunteer. There is an orientation every other week on Thursdays 9AM to 11:30 AM.

The Treasurer's report was read by Pete Dawson and approved as read. Pete will compare 2006 to 2005 and report his findings

next month. Help Our Troops (HOT) continues to be an overwhelming success. There are 200 boxes that should be shipped by mid January. National is interested in our HOT program and would like to run a story about it. Don will check into the possibility of MacDill AFB shipping our HOT boxes.

Tom reported that our four JROTC units need materials and supplies. As we are their sponsors and they carry our flag – we should be the ones to fund them. Tom suggested that we give each of our units \$100. After much discussion, it was tabled until next month so we can review the budget and be able to make a financially wise decision.

Marie apologized for missing the last meeting. She didn't know the date had changed as she was out of town. She hopes to be able to make up the monies next meeting with the 50/50.

Violet reported \$20 was given to the Treasurer for HOTS from Military Widows. She has purchased more MOAA and Auxiliary pins. More doctors are getting out of Medicare. PLEASE contact your legislators via the MOAA website. She also announced that the "shingle" shot is not available at MacDill AFB; nor has Medicare approved it to date.

Fred reported on the National Board. He attended the annual meeting held in Washington DC Nov. 18, 2006. There are many new chairman appointees with Fred being one of them. Congregations Fred! The things that could affect of chapter:

1. Give Me 10 has been continued at the National level.
2. Mini-symposium for Chapter Presidents and Vice Presidents will be planned.
3. Career Fair was a great success, good money maker and helped active people who are retiring or separating get in touch with Military friendly companies. Tampa is the possible site of the next one.

At 1300 President Freese called on George Brown for the Benediction and then adjourned the meeting.

### 2006 Officers Call BOOSTER Donors

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Capt Wm. Zurbrick

\$2,132 as of 12/12/06



## Scholarship fund

Many of our members have asked about our scholarship fund after seeing our chapter's name in the December issue of the *Military Officer* magazine. The Scholarship Committee of the is proud to say that our chapter has again reached its goal of \$5,000.00 for the year. Three years ago it was decided by the Executive Board and the Scholarship Committee to pursue the National MOAA 5X5 Scholarship Program. The goal of the 5X5 Program is for each chapter to raise \$5,000.00 a year for five years and establish a Designated Scholarship that will exist in perpetuity. By being a designated chapter, students who receive scholarships from our chapter will stay in contact so we are able to follow them through their college experiences. The past three years our members have generously supported the efforts of the Scholarship Committee. With your continued generosity, our chapter should meet our goal of 5X5 within the next two years. Thank you again for helping children of our military families receive a college education.

**Tom Harrow**, Chairman, Scholarship Committee

## 2006 Scholarship Fund Donors

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Maj Gen Earl Peck  
Maj R. Reischmann  
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Mrs. June Simo  
Maj Bob Sims  
Mrs. Violet Smith  
COL Margaret Stafford  
LTC Marion Steinhilber  
Col Shirley Wetherby

**\$1,200 as of 12/20/06**

## January Birthdays

(59 to 86 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
29	Ardavany, Richard		LT	USN (Fmr)
28	Ashley	Robert	CWO	USA (Ret)
15	Barnes	Carol	COL	USA (Ret)
08	Cease	F. William	1LT	USA (Fmr)
21	Chappell	Leah	LTC	USA (Ret)
31	Clark	Anna	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
17	Conforti	Thomas	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
06	Cravens	Martha	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
25	Eisenhart	William	Col	USAF (Ret)
29	Gills	James	CAPT	USN (Ret)
31	Harrison	Christa	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
26	Hassin	Donald	COL	USA (Ret)
19	Jeffords	Joseph	CWO4	USNR (Ret)
28	Kottich	Charles	COL	USA (Ret)
14	Lakey	Pearl	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
30	Martin	Barbara	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
12	Niblack	Sarah	LTC	USA (Ret)
16	Palmer	Samuel	Col	USAF (Ret)
07	Patton	Charles	LTC	USA (Ret)
18	Ponder	Elza	CPT	USA (Ret)
26	Rimby	William	LCDR	USN (Ret)
30	Varn	Fred	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
09	Wetherby	Shirley	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
05	Willard	Charles	LTC	USA (Ret)
01	Zurbrick	William	Capt	USAF (Ret)

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## MOAA Legislative Update December 2006

Edited by Col Roger Shields, USA (Ret)

### This Week's Implications for MOAA's Agenda

MOAA's e-mail inboxes and phone lines are burning up with inquiries about how the election results and/or Secretary Rumsfeld's resignation may change the outlook for success of MOAA's legislative goals. The answers are far from certain, but there are several considerations worth noting.

On the congressional side, we've worked hard to gain support for our issues from members of both parties, recognizing that our democratic process periodically leads to leadership changes like the ones generated by this week's election. Because of those bipartisan efforts, leaders such as Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV) have become vocal proponents for some of our top agenda items, including concurrent receipt and elimination of the deduction of VA survivor benefits from Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. We have no reason to believe that enthusiasm will diminish once they assume leadership of the House and Senate, respectively, next year.

On the other hand, some on the Republican side who also support many of our initiatives have at times felt constrained by loyalty to an Administration that strongly opposed these initiatives. To the extent such political obligations may be eased with a change in congressional leadership, we hope this improves the potential for bipartisan action. As President Bush has noted since the election, both parties want America to succeed and both want our military to succeed. We take at face value recent statements on both sides that they intend to work together to achieve bipartisan progress. As for Secretary Rumsfeld's resignation, it's no secret that MOAA has had significant differences with the Secretary on military service end strengths, health fees, and other issues. But we also recognize him as a dedicated patriot who has served his country in many capacities-including service as Secretary of Defense under two U.S. presidents. Leadership changes are part of the democratic process. They offer important opportunities for fresh sets of eyes to examine the problems and consider alternative options. But the national defense policy-setting process is bigger than any one person, and we expect the new secretary will be focused first and foremost on the present and future conduct of the war. MOAA works on behalf of a strong national defense with whomever is in the position of Secretary of Defense, and, if confirmed by the Senate, we look forward to working with him.

**2008 Military Pay Raise Projection: 3.0%** The Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics released the quarterly Employment Cost Index (ECI) changes on October 31, 2006. The ECI measures employee pay growth in the private sector and, by law, is the standard for military pay raises. The newly released ECI data indicates the 2008 (yes, 2008) pay raise for active duty, National Guard, and Reserve members will be 3.0% — unless the Administration or Congress decide to propose a different raise.

Why does the 2008 pay raise have to be projected this far ahead of time? Unlike retired pay cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs),

### Larry - from Page 2



academic instructor for the FB-111A, and became Chief of Standardization for the 4007<sup>th</sup>.

In May of 1983, Larry was transferred to Strategic Air Command Headquarters to head the B-1B Air Crew Simulator Acquisition program.

In May of 1986, Larry was transferred to Edwards AFB to become the B-1B Operational Test Director, working for the Air Force Operation Test and Evaluation Center. While at Edwards, he resumed flying the F-111, flying three different models, as well as flying test and evaluation missions in the B-1B. He was the senior flight examiner in the F-111 and was an instructor in both the F-111 and the B-1B.

All good things must come to an end, though, and with the completion of the flight test on the B-1B and the final report written, I retired from the USAF in December of 1989.

My next career took me back to the skies, this time as a commercial pilot. I was hired by Northwest Airlines and began training in October, 1989 (terminal leave is a wonderful thing). Coincidentally, I took my initial check ride from the FAA on December 1<sup>st</sup>, my official retirement date from the AF.

While at Northwest Airlines, I flew the Boeing 727 as a Flight Engineer, Co-Pilot, and Captain. I also flew the Douglas DC-9 as both a Co-Pilot and as a Captain when the 727 was retired.

The FAA ended that career with their mandate that one cannot fly past the age of 60 as a Captain or Co-Pilot. And, since I did not want to be a Flight Engineer again, I retired from NWA in January, 2006, and started a third career in construction as well as an active involvement in MOAA.

I look forward to meeting all of you and to working with the very impressive and knowledgeable chapter leadership as we navigate the challenges ahead.



Ron and Gunni Merritt

military pay raises aren't automatic or mandatory. They have to be budgeted for, and the funds have to be appropriated. The Pentagon is preparing the FY2008 budget right now, so October 2006 is the latest they can wait for ECI data to set the 2008 raise.

BLS calculates the 3% growth by comparing the ECI for the third quarter of 2006 with the ECI for the third quarter 2005. From MOAA Update, Dec 2006.



## Operation HOT

Since the end of March of this year, 188 boxes of goodies have been sent to our adopted USAF unit in Afghanistan. This was made possible because of donations from the Chapter, from the Military Widows of Clearwater, Chapter 27 and from friends of Help Our Troops (HOT). Some of those friends are the sons and daughters of our members. Also deserving credit are the HOT Ladies:



Violet Smith and Peg Cowardin who were instrumental in getting the Military Widows to support HOT and in collecting the donations. Sherry Freese who prepared labels, Johnnie Neville for preparing Custom Forms and keeping our troops supplied with huge jars of loose candy, Asa Myers and her well qualified advice. These ladies deserve a big thank you for their work. My husband Roger who helped tape and mail all 188 boxes. Does everyone among the membership feel the enthusiasm that the Help Our troops project generates? Much of the credit for this inspiration for Help Our Troops goes to General Earl Peck and his son General Alan Peck for their involvement in securing addresses for our adopted Air Force unit in Afghanistan.

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year.

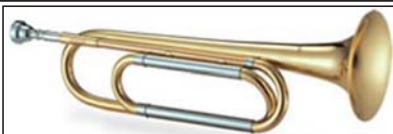
**Carolyn Shields**, Chairperson, HOT

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CAPT Donald Freese  
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LTC Marie Lorence  
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Col Shirley Wetherby  
Lt Col Ronald Wildes  
Mrs. Frances Williams  
Mrs. Martha Willis

\$1,487 as of 12/15/06



## TAPS

**Lt Col Charles R. "Chuck" Hedrick**, USAF (Ret)  
(12/25/06), Page 28, 2006 Directory  
Life Member Emeritus, Chapter President 1986,  
He was 83, no surviving spouse.

## Sick List

(Contact LCDR Hazel McGrath, 545-3884)

\* 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez**, USMC (Ret)  
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709

\* LTC **Richard H. Natzke**, USA (Ret)  
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706

\* BG **Albert J. Redman**, USA (Ret)  
12112 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 3377

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

**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.

## CALENDAR

**January 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 5:30pm Social, 7pm Dinner,**  
Installation, Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club,  
400 Treasure Island Causeway, TI; ASD for Reserve  
Affairs, RADM Tom Hall.

**February 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** Captain Phil Kenul CO,  
NOAA aircraft operations, MacDill AFB.

**March 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**April 20<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**May 18<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**June 15<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 11:00** TBA

**Need a ride to lunch or installation?  
Call CAPT Bob Eynatten, 360-4637**

**January 8<sup>th</sup>** Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday);  
**February 5<sup>th</sup>** Monday;  
**March 5<sup>th</sup>** Monday;  
**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** Monday;  
**May 7<sup>th</sup>** Monday;  
**June 4<sup>th</sup>** Monday;

## ROWC

**Luncheon** – (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30

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

• **9 JAN 2007** My Big Fat Greek Restaurant - 4300 Park  
Blvd. PPK. Program: The Rose Place. Flower arranging.

• **13 FEB 2007** - Isla Del Sol - Yacht and Country Club. 6000  
Sun Blvd. Program: Dot Phillips as Dolly Madison.

• **13 MAR. 2007** - Shells, 17855 Gulf Blvd. No. Redington  
Beach. Program: Steve Middents (Music)

• **10 APR 2007** Treasure Island Tennis & Yacht Club 400  
Treasure Island Causeway, Program: Fashion Show by  
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**Bridge** – (1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM  
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.  
• Reservations: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or  
Margaret Peck 525-1688

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