

OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



VOL IV No VII ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter - 2002, 03 & 04 ★★★★★ July 2006
Winner 2003 Newsletter Contest–Print & Electronic Media & Web Site !!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

On June 9, Al Neville, Basil Burrell and I had the opportunity to attend the change of command of the United States Coast Guard Cutter, Resolute WMEC 620. Captain Charles D. Michel was relieved by Commander G. Todd Prestige. It was a beautiful day and the Master of Ceremonies, Lieutenant Commander Nicole Carter, conducted a good ceremony as I have seen. It was a real honor to represent our chapter! It makes you feel proud to be an American when you around so many young (and I mean young) men and women serving their country.



USCG Resolute Change of Command: new chapter member, Dick Ardavany of the Navy League, new CO CDR G. Todd Prestige, past CO CAPT Charles D. Michel & Don Freese

There are six or seven other changes of command in the next six months. Please let me know if you want to attend and I will get you an invitation. You will enjoy it! Resolute celebrated her 40th birthday in April and is older than all her crew. It is amazing to think that at a time of War we have men and women flying airplanes and driving ships and utilizing other equipment that are older than they are. They are doing a great job and we in MOAA need to continue our support.

On a lighter note, after the change of command, we went to a reception at the Windjammer Club on the North Side of Sector St. Petersburg Coast Guard Station (by the airport across the harbor from the Exchange.) It is a beautiful spot on the water overlooking Tampa Bay. We are thinking about hav-

PROGRAM JULY 21

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE & BERNIE McCABE

State Attorney, FL 6th Judicial District

State Attorney Bernie McCabe will be the speaker at our July 21 program. He will explain the operation of the State Attorney's office in the enforcement of law in the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Florida consisting of Pasco and Pinellas counties. He will also address the problem of scams which affect seniors.



McCabe was born and raised in Mt. Dora, Florida. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Stetson University in 1969. He then went to the Stetson College of Law and received his Juris Doctor degree, cum laude, in 1972.

After graduating from Stetson he became an assistant State Attorney. Between 1972 and 1992 he served as Chief Assistant State Attorney, Executive Assistant State Attorney, and Division Director in St. Petersburg and Pasco County.

He was elected State Attorney in 1992 and reelected in 1996, 2000, and 2004.

He is an active member of state, local and national Bar Associations as well as the Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association and the National District Attorneys Association as well as numerous other professional and civic organizations.

McCabe and his wife, Denise, have two children, Jennifer, 25, and Patrick, 20. — **Dick Koch**

ing a monthly meeting at the Windjammer this fall around 5 PM on a Friday. We would invite the Coast Guard Officers to attend. Let Al Neville or I know if you would be interested?

I recently had my ID renewed at the Clearwater Airport Naval Reserve Center. Anyone can renew by appointment only by calling 727-531-7033 0830 to 1530 Tuesday to Friday. Sure beats the drive to and the long wait at MacDill. As I was walking out of the center I heard someone call "Captain...Captain!" When I turned to see who was calling. A Navy Recruiter was there and said that I was the only Officer at the Center at the time, he asked me if I would administer the Oath of Office to a new recruit? I had just come in from fishing and looked more like a beach bum than a Captain but never the less I swore in a new Navy recruit into the Navy, "Florida style?" **DRF**



Officers Call

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AND: Life Members Emeritus & Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 338
 Regular Members - 241
 Auxillary Members - 99

Military Services:

Army - 90 USMC - 13
 USAF - 79 USCG - 8
 Navy - 51

From the Editor

COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

Flag Day – The Clearwater Chapter of MOAA conducted their annual ceremonial burning of faded and tattered American flags on Flag Day at Indian Rocks Beach. We witnessed a solemn and well executed observance of the ceremony which was highlighted by an Honor Guard from the VFW demonstrating a flag folding ceremony. Our thanks to President Skip Hartnet of the Clearwater Chapter and to his members as well as to the VFW for a very moving ceremony.



In Memorium – Each year at one of our Chapter luncheons we pay our respects to the memory of those members who have passed on. This year we will hold a memorial ceremony following the luncheon and guest speaker of July 21. COL George Brown will open the ceremony followed by a reading of the names of the deceased and a rendition of TAPS. We hope to have a bagpiper to play appropriate music as well. Please make an extra effort to attend the luncheon and Memorial ceremony.

Your Letters, Email, Phone Calls At Work - The Senate on Wednesday approved an amendment by Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) that would bar the Department of Defense from increasing pharmacy co pays in the Tricare retail network through Fiscal Year 2007. The Lautenberg amendment was introduced in opposition to a provision in the FY 2007 Defense Authorization Bill (S.2766), as drafted by the Senate Armed Services Committee, that would allow the DoD to increase fees by about 67 percent for drugs purchased in retail pharmacies starting Oct. 1. On the other hand, S.2766 would bar most other Tricare fee increases for at least a year and, in the pharmacy area, it would actually reduce co-pays to zero for most drugs ordered through the Tricare mail-order pharmacy system. Members of the military retiree community are urged to follow S.2766 as amendments affecting the military are debated.

Team Spirit – The outstanding spirit of many of our members was shown recently as the date of the annual convention drew near. Much remained to be done before the start date and volunteers came through. Where a need existed, a member stepped forward and the big problems became little problems and no problems. There is a need to translate that willing spirit into some volunteer action to fill some of our leadership positions. The Chapter is halfway through the year and still does not have an elected First Vice President or a Secretary. We have had success in the last few years when the Chapter was designated as “Outstanding.” Our chance of winning an award this year would be much improved if we were fully staffed. Is it fair for one person to be overworked because no member has volunteered for the open positions? Basil Burrell should be commended for acting as our Secretary while also being the Photographer and the Sergeant-at-Arms. “Nuff” said. **RJS**



Help Our Troops “HOT” News

Mrs. Carolyn Shields, HOT Chairlady

The Spirit of “76 – This phrase has many meanings. Often heard is “Never give up.” A well known painting portrays three marchers with fife and drum as the spirit of the American Revolution. A copy of the print appears elsewhere in this issue of Officers Call. Today our Chapter may take license and refer to Project HOT as our Spirit of “76 since 76 boxes have been mailed to the troops in Afghanistan in less than two months time. We may all be proud of this accomplishment as our members pitched in and donated the goodies and the money which has enabled the project to go forward. The St Petersburg Duplicate Bridge Club with their generous donation and the anonymous Executive Board member who slipped a \$20 bill into a bag of toiletries – the spirit is there! Our goal is to send 100 boxes by the time of the next luncheon. Several people have asked for a revised list of items wanted by our troops and are listed: Books fiction and non-fiction on US politics, current affairs, DVD movie series and new releases, e.g. Sopranos, Family Guy, Lost Survivor, Smallville, Stargate, Desperate Housewives, Nip Tuck. Other items are food: Deviled Beef or Chicken (no pork products), crackers, Lances Peanut Bars, Crystal Light, gum, Cheetos, Pringles. More items are: combat boot socks, Dial Body Wash, Mouthwash, toothpaste, dental floss, wipes (for hygiene and for cleaning computer screens). A larger list will be available at the next luncheon. Please come and thank you for your generosity.



Letter from Afghanistan

Dear Ms. Shields,

Thank you for the boxes that were sent to us. We would like to show our appreciation to you and everyone who contributed for your support. It really means a lot to us, especially for our guys that do not receive much mail or any at all. It was really a welcome surprise to get back to the FOB (Forward Operating Base) and see boxes sitting in the hooch. So from all the TACPs (Tactical Air Controllers) here in Afghanistan with the 10th Mountain Division, Thank you, A1C Gary Demmons.



HOT Donors

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Luncheon Meeting

16 June 2006

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

Attended—47: Members—21, Wives—13, Guests—2, AuxMbrs-8; Walk-ins—3, No shows—1, Cancellations—2

Our President CAPT Don Freese USN(Ret) called the meeting to order at 1145 hours and asked Mrs Betty Finley to deliver the invocation. Don then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. Don announced the passing of two of our very valued members in the past month: BG Charles J. Kaniss USA(Ret) and LtCol Edward H. Benson USAF(Ret). They will be sorely missed by their families, associates and community. Don mentioned a MOAA book called “Help Your Survivors Now” that is available today at the table in the front or directly from MOAA. Thanks Violet for getting this valuable booklet to us.

Don welcomed guests and new members to our luncheon. He also asked for suggestions and ideas for alternative times and locations for other meetings such as breakfast meetings, evening meetings and special event meetings. One location suggested for a Board meeting was the north moorings at the Bayboro Coast Guard Base in the wardroom. The Coast Guard Base also has a location for larger meetings or parties that can be reserved.

Mrs Carolyn Shields spoke about the ongoing success of the HOT program and collected some contributions for HOT. I think her solicitation was very successful today. Carolyn really knows how to solicit!

After a typically great lunch by Banquet Masters Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF(Ret) introduced our speaker LTC Levonda J. Selph USA. She prefers to be called “Joey” by friends. LTC Joey Selph began her military career in the U.S.

Air Force and attained the rank of E6 before separating from the Air Force. She attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned in the U.S. Army.

Her first deployment to Iraq was from August to November 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom then she was selected to represent the J4 by the Commander, General John Abizaid. LTC Selph was responsible for logistic support for the Coalition forces during her first 6 months in the Iraq area. She reported to her Commander that stability in Iraq was impossible unless a security force of Iraqi Police, Border Patrol, Facility Protective Force and Military was established. She said that her report reinforced the feelings of others about the same problem. She spoke of her problems with getting enough translators, the dangers in traveling from one site to another and how she tried to vary her routes to avoid ambush by the insurgents. She even wore a black burcca and dress at first then when travel became more dangerous she traveled in an up-armored vehicle and in convoys.

LTC Selph met LTG David Petraeus USA who was Commander of the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq when he came to conduct a staff visit to Abu Graib to see the Logistics Distribution operations. She was very impressed by General Petraeus and he is scheduled to pin her eagles on when she is promoted to Colonel this year in Washington. He asked her to return to Iraq to work for him from October 2004 to September 2005. Her entire time in Iraq was a struggle to do the job with too few people and in poor conditions.

In summing up, her tours in Iraq were successful and she felt she did a job that was appreciated by her Commanders and troops. After her presentation she answered a lot of questions and gave very cogent answers.

CAPT Freese asked Mrs Betty Finley to deliver the benediction and then closed the meeting.



•L- Carolyn Shields & Dick Ardavany

•R- Lynn & Bill Bolin, Charlie Parsons

•L/B- Fred Edwards, Ed & Chris Lillich

•R/B- Dick Ardavany & Hazel McGrath



16/06/2006





• C. J. & Dottie Brauner



• Marg Christy



• Cris Lillich, Carolyn Shields, Larry Fernald



• Dick Koch



• Gary Gilchrist & Janice Mogan

THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

ROWC Speaker – A Staff Member of MOAA, CAPT Warren “Bud” Schneeweis, USCG (Ret) is the ROWC speaker for 10 October 2006, 11:30 AM at the Wine Cellar in North Redington Beach. He will speak on “Benefits and Information” which should interest all members of MOAA. Reservations: Call Lt Col Rose Munchbach, USA (Ret) at 397-4146 or Bobby Walters at 505-4619. Questions? Please call Violet Smith 595-5543.

Keys to the City – Our Chapter has made it into the “Ace” category since we now have five members who have been awarded the Keys to the City of St Petersburg. Violet Smith is the latest recipient and joins four other Chapter members: Maj Gen Earl Peck, Col Bill Clark, LCDR Hazel McGrath and COL George Brown. Our congratulations to our Aces!

In Memorium – Please mark your calendar to remind yourself to attend our special July luncheon on Friday, July 21 at 11:45. We will have an interesting guest speaker followed

by our annual Memorial Ceremony presented to honor those of our members who have passed on in the preceding twelve months. Our Guard of Honor will be joined by a bugler and a bagpiper to lend poignancy to our ceremony. Maj Gen Earl Peck has graciously agreed to introduce the ceremony and COL George Brown will be the Master of Ceremonies. Please plan to attend.

Our Earned Entitlements – In the case of our earned entitlements, it is better to receive than to give. In the past six months, the Department of Defense backed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff has attempted to cause military retirees to help pay for our wars! At the same time, the Administration has tried to cut taxes for the most wealthy of our citizens. How can this lunacy be stopped? We cannot prevent ridiculous and abominable ideas from surfacing but we can cause their proponents to fear the potential loss of the military retiree’s vote. Several anti-veteran proposals were killed this Spring by a deluge of mailed protests from members of MOAA and other organizations of the Military Coalition. Are you doing your part?

RJS



Volunteer Breakfast

10 June 2006

Reported by **Don Freese**

On June 10, 2006 the over 50 volunteers that helped make the 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention a success were thanked at a volunteer appreciation breakfast at Banquet Masters. Over 40 attended.

A good time was had by all and it was agreed that we should try a Saturday breakfast again as an alternative or addition to our regular monthly meeting. What do you think about a Saturday breakfast meeting? Let me or any Executive Committee member know.

Now that the Convention is over we need to focus on filling the slate for 2007 chapter officers and current vacancies for 1st VP and Secretary. We have a great chapter, 3 time 5 star winner, and working on the chapters behalf is both rewarding and fun!

Although not mandatory, internet e-mail capability is highly recommended for all leadership positions.

So get connected to the internet, get involved and let your fun begin! Contact Nominating Committee Chair Tom Harrow or any Committee member.



Buffet line



Dick Ardavany & Don Freese



George Brown, Anita Harrow, Pete Dawson



Bob Eynatten, Al Neville, Pete Dawson, Roger Shields



Fred Edwards & Larry Fernald



Don Freese, Beth Fenstermaker, Violet Smith



Roger Shields, Marjory & John Milford

MOAA March Legislative Update

24 June 2006

Edited for brevity by
COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

Congress Gets Serious on Military People Issues In 2005, the Senate didn't finish action on the Defense Authorization Bill until November. They lopped five months of that timetable this year, passing the bill on June 22 by a 98-to-0 vote. In the process, they debated amendments on everything from renaming military facilities to whether we should have a timetable for getting out of Iraq. Last year, when the Senate started so far behind the power curve, many issues got dropped in final negotiations — at least in part because the legislators just ran out of time at the end of the year. So chances are we won't have final decisions on the issues for many months. But an earlier start this (election) year means that, just maybe, there's a shot at more timely action. The Senate spent most of this week debating a few high-visibility amendments, such as whether the U.S. should have a timetable to get out of Iraq. In contrast, they spent just a few seconds adopting several groups of amendments that Senate leaders had agreed, for various reasons, to approve without debate. But many involved huge issues for thousands of MOAA members.

Here are some selected highlights of the amendments adopted by the Senate this week: ***Concurrent Receipt:** Sen. Harry Reid's (D-NV) amendment would implement full concurrent receipt for "unemployable" disabled retirees, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005. ***Guard/Reserve Retirement Age:** Sen. Saxby Chamblis's (R-GA) amendment would reduce the normal age-60 requirement by three months for each 90 days mobilized since 9/11. ***Guard/Reserve GI Bill:** Sen. Blanche Lincoln's (D-AR) amendment would allow Guard/Reserve members to use their mobilization GI Bill benefits for up to 10 years after leaving Selected Reserve status. ***Abusive Lending Practices:** Sen. James Talent's (R-MO) amendment would significantly tighten laws governing so-called "payday lenders," who now entice service members into loan schemes involving 300-400 percent interest rates. ***SSAN on ID Cards:** Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison's (R-TX) amendment would require a Pentagon report on the feasibility of removing Social Security account numbers from military ID cards. ***Family Assistance Program:** Sen. Wayne Allard's (R-CO) amendment would authorize \$5 million for a new program to coordinate assistance for military families at selected sites around the country. ***Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP):** Sen. Mike DeWine's (R-OH) amendment would expand eligibility of certain survivors (whose sponsors died in active service after Oct. 1, 2001) to transfer SBP eligibility to children, if any. ***Guard/Reserve Transition Assistance:** Sen. Hillary Clinton's (D-NY) amendment would establish various requirements to assist Guard and Reserve members who served in Iraq or Afghanistan in successfully transitioning to civilian employment, with particular emphasis on those who suffered traumatic injuries.

Where We Stand on Concurrent Receipt, SBP

Let's take it issue by issue: ***Concurrent receipt:** The only issue still left on the table this year is the Senate provision recommending full payment, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005 for

disabled retirees designated by the VA as unemployable. There's nothing on this in the House bill. ***Paid-Up SBP:** The Senate defense bill would implement 30-year paid-up SBP as of Oct. 1, 2006 (rather than waiting until 2008 under current law). There's nothing in the House bill on this. ***SBP/DIC Offset:** The Senate defense bill would end the deduction of the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) from SBP when the member's death was caused by service. Again, there's no such provision in the House bill. ***Guard/Reserve TRICARE Coverage:** The House bill would provide all members and families of the Selected Reserve the same option for TRICARE coverage, and get rid of the higher premium requirements for members who haven't been mobilized since 9/11. The Senate bill would make only a minor tweak to the current three-level premium system, which MOAA feels is too expensive for members who haven't been mobilized. ***Guard/Reserve Retirement Age:** The Senate plan would reduce the retirement age by 3 months for each 90 days mobilized since 9/11, but there's nothing on this in the House bill.

***Guard/Reserve GI Bill:** The Senate bill would authorize portability of educational benefits earned on active duty, but the House does not address the issue. On the Guard/Reserve TRICARE issue, MOAA's goal is to convince the Senate to accept the House plan. For the other four, we want the House to accept the Senate's plan. Congress will be consumed with other issues next week and then will recess for the week of July 4th. When they return, we'll have alerts up on the MOAA Web site and ask you to push your legislators for positive action on all of these issues. **COLA Watch** In mid-June, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced the May 2006 monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for military retired pay, VA disability compensation, survivor annuities, and Social Security. The CPI continued its upward trend, rising 0.5% in May — for a total of 2.9% growth so far this fiscal year. A 2.5% increase in energy costs played a key roll in the jump. Last year, the CPI had risen 2.7% through the month of May and ended the year at 4.1%. With inflation running only slightly ahead of last year's pace so far, it would seem likely that we'll end this year in the same 4% ballpark. But there's plenty of CPI roller-coaster left to navigate in the next four months, and that outlook could change in a hurry. For more information, please click here to visit MOAA's website. Copyright (C) 2006, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), all rights reserved. (Edited for brevity) **RJS**

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Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;

5 June 2006

Reported by Basil Burrell

The June Business Meeting of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA was called to order at 1135 hours by President CAPT Don Freese USNR(Ret). The Invocation was given by Chaplain COL George Brown USA (Ret) and was followed by the pledge of allegiance to our Flag.

President Don Freese suggested that the minutes of the 1 May 2006 meeting be approved as published in May Officers Call. Motion was made and seconded and passed. Don commented on the overall success of our Convention at the Tradewinds Resort 14-18 May. Only a small matter of over-booking of rooms remains to be negotiated. Maj Pete Dawson USAF (Ret) is on this. Roger informed us that the Tradewinds Resort had donated a large quantity of soap bars and small bottles of shampoo to HOT for our delivery to Afghanistan. Col Al Neville made motion to pay for our breakfast at Banquet Masters on Saturday 10 June with Chapter funds. This proposed breakfast is intended to honor the volunteers at our recent convention. Motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote. Don brought up the price we charge for ads in Officers Call. There was some question about our price being enough. After some discussion Don suggested we continue with the same price for the ads. Subject was tabled (dropped). Don informed us that the St. Petersburg Bridge Club, of which he is a leading member, donated \$240.00 to HOT. Don made a motion that we give them a free ad for a year which was seconded and passed. Our busy President, CAPT Freese has registered our chapter in the "Give me Ten" drive for the next year. He continues to suggest that we give a free one year membership to anyone returning from duty in the War on Terror such as Afghanistan or Iraq. Of course there are other places that would qualify one for this membership such as Indonesia or the Phillipines. This idea met with general approval by the Board.

Second Vice President: Col Al Neville USAF (Ret) called for a big vote of thanks and a standing round of applause for CAPT Don Freese for his outstanding work and efforts when he stepped in the vacuum left in the Convention leadership and made it a success. Al has sent out revised membership application forms to board members for their perusal and approval. Note that National membership is a prerequisite for Chapter membership. Al asked how we can best recognize contributions to HOT. Suggestion made to recognize Chapter members in OC and other contributors by letter.

Treasurer's Report: Maj Pete Dawson USAF(Ret) passed around copies of his report. The only unusual expense was a donation to HOT of \$107.00. Motion to approve Treasurer's Report was made, seconded and passed. Pete made a motion to change the signatories on the MacDill Federal Credit Union account to reflect changes in Chapter Officers. Changes are: Delete: Pat Tamalis from the account Add: Donald Freese, President to the account Add: Al Neville, 2nd Vice President to the account. Retain: Peter Dawson, Treasurer. Changes to be made as soon as all three (3) are present at the same time at MacDill FCU office on MLK Street. Motion was seconded and passed.

Lt Col Fred Edwards USMC (Ret) passed out copies of the new Policy Book. He asked that if any misprints were found to refer them to him. If any are found he will issue amendments to the Policy Book. He also informed us that MG Earl Peck is ill with pneumonia but doesn't expect to be down long.

Mrs. Violet Smith gave her report. Nothing much new at MacDill AFB at the May meeting there. She had some Auxiliary pins that the folks from National MOAA brought her. She can sell them for \$5.00 each and they are very nice pins. Violet brought us some information about discounted cell phone service, the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 discount to Federal Employees. The Act states: "Federal Employees, retired or currently employed or civilian are entitled to a Federal discount on your cell phone service plan and equipment. Surviving spouses are also entitled to this discount on their cell phone service. Note: The cell phone companies will not volunteer this information. YOU MUST REQUEST THE DISCOUNT and show your military ID. The discount varies depending on the your service company. Contact your company and request the "Discount to Federal Employees."

Violet has copies of the MOAA booklet "Help Your Survivor." The booklet has forms to complete that will help your survivor cope with the paperwork when you buy the farm. MAJ Mike Tomasulo was honored at Admiral Farragut Academy for his 16 years working with the cadets there. He was promoted to "Honorary Cadet." Congratulations Mike but you are a bit old to be any kind of cadet, even an honorary one!

CAPT Bob Eynatten USN(Ret) commented about his experiences with his children when he sent them copies of the "Help Your Survivor" forms that he completed. Seems that they figured he was about to snuff it! Bob says that Banquet Masters will have to increase prices next January. This comes as no surprise to most of us. We have a very good deal there and we all know that prices everywhere are increasing. He doesn't know yet how much the increase will be. Pete Dawson informed us that he will be out of the area 13 thru 26 June.

Our HOT representative COL Roger Shields USA (Ret), standing in for Mrs. Carolyn Shields, gave us the HOT report. He asked how we wanted to track and recognize contributors to HOT. No problem if a check is given but cash contributions are difficult to follow. Cash donors should give a note to Carolyn, Roger or Al Neville. Roger says that excerpts from letters and e-mails from Afghanistan will be put in the OC. Roger talked to CAPT Peter Wylie USN (Ret), the MOAA legal officer. He recommends that we stay with IRS 501 (c)(19) as a veterans organization for contributions to HOT. We may solicit outside our organization but must make it clear that such donations are NOT tax exempt for Income Tax purposes. Our Chapter has lost 2 members since our last meeting. Several of us attended a memorial for Lt Col Ed Benson Sunday 28 May.

At 1246 hours President Freese asked Chaplain Brown to deliver the benediction and adjourned the meeting.

Attendees: Marie Lorence, Violet Smith, Paul Finley, Fred Edwards, Don Freese, Al Neville, Basil Burrell, Roger Shields, George Brown, Mike Tomasulo, Pete Dawson, Bob Eynatten, Larry Fernald.



Welcome our new Members

CPT **George B. Hansen, Jr.**, USA (Fmr)
P. O. Box 41812, St Petersburg, FL 33734
727 546-0678 gidge807@hotmail.com

Mrs. **Madeline I. Secor**, AuxMbr-AF
1001 Starkey Rd, Lot 668, Largo, FL 33771
727 539-6362

The Latest Tricare Outrage

June 21, 2006 More Drugs Moving to Third-Tier
<<http://moaaonline.org/ct/lp1SiHE1nzIs/>>

Four classes of drugs reviewed by TRICARE have one or more drugs moving to the non-formulary beginning late June through July. These classes include Gamma-aminobutyric (GABA) - Analog Agents, Antidepressants, Overactive Bladder Agents, and Antihypertensive Agents.

Where will it stop? Is this an end run around Congress? If we don't protest to our Senators and Representatives we may lose more benefits. Let's get the camel's nose out of our tent!



TAPS

None as of June 25, 2006

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
- * Lt Col **Charles R. Hedrick**, USAF (Ret)
12136 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 33772
- * Mrs. **Mary Eisenhart**, Spouse
1734 72nd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33702
- * Mrs. **Marja Borroes**, AuxMbr-CG
1 Beach Dr, S.E., #1102, St Petersburg, FL 33701

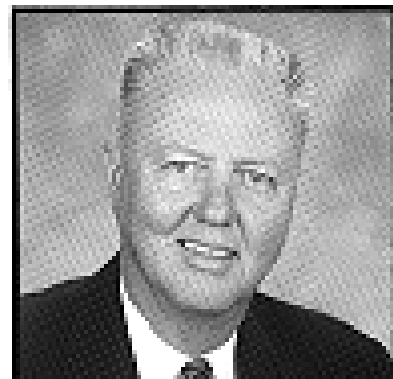
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Something to Ponder

The following was written by Ben Stein and recited by him on CBS Sunday Morning Commentary, Sunday, 12/18/05.

Herewith at this happy time of year, a few confessions from my beating heart: I have no freaking clue who Nick and Jessica are. I see them on the cover of People and Us constantly when I am buying my dog biscuits and kitty litter. I often ask the checkers at the grocery stores. They never know who Nick and Jessica are either. Who are they? Will it change my life if I know who they are and why they have broken up? Why are they so important? I don't know who Lindsay Lohan is either, and I do not care at all about Tom Cruise's wife.

Am I going to be called before a Senate committee and asked if I am a subversive? Maybe, but I just have no clue who Nick and Jessica are. If this is what it means to be no longer young. It's not so bad.

Next confession: I am a Jew, and every single one of my ancestors was Jewish. And it does not bother me even a little bit when people call those beautiful lit up, bejeweled trees Christmas trees. I don't feel threatened. I don't feel discriminated against. That's what they are: Christmas trees. It doesn't bother me a bit when people say, "Merry Christmas" to me. I don't think they are slighting me or getting ready to put me in a ghetto. In fact, I kind of like it. It shows that we are all brothers and sisters celebrating this happy time of year. It doesn't bother me at all that there is a manger scene on display at a key intersection near my beach house in Malibu. If people want a creche, it's just as fine with me as is the Menorah a few hundred yards away.

I don't like getting pushed around for being a Jew, and I don't think Christians like getting pushed around for being Christians. I think people who believe in God are sick and tired of getting pushed around, period. I have no idea where the concept came from that America is an explicitly atheist country. I can't find it in the Constitution, and I don't like it being shoved down my throat.

Or maybe I can put it another way: where did the idea come from that we should worship Nick and Jessica and we aren't allowed to worship God as we understand Him? I guess that's a sign that I'm getting old, too. But there are a lot of us who are wondering where Nick and Jessica came from and where the America we knew went to.

In light of the many jokes we send to one another for a laugh, this is a little different: This is not intended to be a joke, it's not funny, it's intended to get you thinking. Billy Graham's daughter was interviewed on the Early Show and Jane Clayson asked her "How could God let something like this happen?"

(regarding Katrina) Anne Graham gave an extremely profound and insightful response. She said, "I believe God is deeply saddened by this, just as we are, but for years we've been telling God to get out of our schools,

to get out of our government and to get out of our lives. And being the gentleman He is, I believe He has calmly backed out. How can we expect God to give us His blessing and His protection if we demand He leave us alone?"

In light of recent events...terrorists attack, school shootings, etc. I think it started when Madeleine Murray O'Hare (she was murdered, her body found recently) complained she didn't want prayer in our schools, and we said OK. Then someone said you better not read the Bible in school. the Bible says thou shalt not kill, thou shalt not steal, and love your neighbor as yourself. And we said OK.

Then Dr. Benjamin Spock said we shouldn't spank our children when they misbehave because their little personalities would be warped and we might damage their self-esteem (Dr. Spock's son committed suicide). We said an expert should know what he's talking about. And we said OK. Now we're asking ourselves why our children have no conscience, why they don't know right from wrong, and why it doesn't bother them to kill strangers, their classmates, and themselves. Probably, if we think about it long and hard enough, we can figure it out. I think it has a great deal to do with "WE REAP WHAT WE SOW."

Funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Funny how you can send 'jokes' through e-mail and they spread like wildfire but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Funny how lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene articles pass freely through cyberspace, but public discussion of God is suppressed in the school and workplace.

Are you laughing? Funny how when you forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they WILL think of you for sending it. Funny how we can be more worried about what other people think of us than what God thinks of us.

Pass it on if you think it has merit. If not then just discard it... no one will know you did. But, if you discard this thought process, don't sit back and complain about what bad shape the world is in.





Global Hawk UAV

Here is the Global Hawk UAV (Unmanned Air Vehicle) that returned to Edwards AFB, CA from the war zone recently under its own power. Not transported via C5 or C17. Notice the mission paintings on the fuselage. It's flown over 250 missions. That's a long, long way for a remotely-piloted aircraft. Think of the technology and the required quality of the data link to fly it remotely from a nice warm, comfortable control panel at Edwards AFB. Guess that's why it's truly "Global".

July Birthdays (35 to 92 years)

Day	L NAME, F NAME	RANK	SVC
03	Baltz, Ericka	CPT	USA (Frm)
01	Bonney, Jean	Mrs.	AuxMbr
20	Bryan, Hardy	LTC	USA (Ret)
16	Burdette, Katherine	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
22	Cormier, Emery	Maj	USAF (Ret)
08	Freese, Donald	CAPT	USN (Ret)
14	Frost, Murl	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
06	Heilman, John	COL	USA (Ret)
17	Hoodecheck, Vernice	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
03	Johnson, Frank	LCDR	USN (Ret)
18	Kersey, John	CDR	USN (Ret)
03	Kline, Allen	2nd Lt	USAAF
02	Lofgren, William	Col	USAF (Ret)
24	McCormick, William	CDR	USN (Ret)
29	McGillicuddy, Terry	CAPT	USN (Ret)
02	McGrath, Hazel	LCDR	USN (Ret)
26	Montrem, Helen	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
19	Murphy, Hazel	1LT	SANC(Frm)
04	Nelson, Landy	COL	USA (Ret)
21	Oliver, Richard	LT	USN (Ret)
02	Poteat, Genevieve	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
20	Rembert, Ernestine	LTC	USA (Ret)
02	Rozecki, Louise	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
05	Sanders, Charlene	Capt	USAF (Ret)
21	Smith, Margaret	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
04	Talbitzer, John	LT	USN (Ret)
03	Ward, Wayne	CPT	USA (Ret)
20	Willis, Martha	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A

2006 Scholarship Fund

\$410 – Through — 24 June 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN
Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
Lorence, Marie, LTC USA

Neville, Al, Col USAF

2006 Officers Call BOOSTER

\$130 – Through — 24 June 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
Brown, George, COL USA
Eynatten, Bob, CAPT USN
Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA

Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
Neville, Al, Col USAF
Shields, Roger, COL USA
Smith, Violet, Mrs. AuxMbr-A

LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, **Friday, July 21st**
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday July 19th**

Your name: _____.

Each reservation \$10:

Roast Pork: _____.

Almond Crumb Salmon: _____.

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

to=> **CAPT Bob Eynatten,
507 Plaza Seville Ct, # 16
Treasure Island, FL 33706**

For late reservations, call either:

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

or

CAPT Don Freese 360-3102

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

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

CALENDAR

July 21st, Friday, 11:00 Bernie McCabe, State Attorney, Florida 6th Judicial District Annual Memorial Service;

August 18th, Friday, 11:00 Dick Fletcher, TV Channel 10, Hurricanes Present and Past.

September 15th, Friday, 11:00 Ms. Jimmie Kerdi, Goodwill Industries will brief us on that operation.

October 20th, Friday, 11:00, Ms. LeeAnn Ned, S. E. Regional Manager, USAA (with Subject matter experts)

November 17th, Friday, 11:00

December 15th, Friday, 11:00

July 10th Monday (2nd Monday);

August 7th Monday;

September 11th Monday (2nd Monday) at the Bayboro USCG Station;

October 2nd Monday;

November 6th Monday;

December 4th Monday.

ROWC

Luncheon – (2nd Tuesday) 11:30, lunch 12:30
• **Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146
• **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

SUMMER RECESS:

- **October 10th** - Luncheons resume

Bridge – (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.
• **Reservations:** Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272, or
Margaret Peck 525-1688

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- 3. Move around the enlarged pages using the mouse pointer (a “Hand”) while holding down the left mouse button.**
- 4. Print all or individual pages.**