



# OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XIV No.VII

July 2014

### President's Comments:

A big thank you to everyone involved in making the FCC Convention the success it was. Many of us were involved in last minute glitches and challenges, but everyone put in the effort necessary to meet those challenges and raise the bar for future conventions once again. A final accounting and an after action report will be forthcoming. I can't imagine that anyone in attendance did not have an enjoyable time. We are planning a celebratory get together in the near future for all involved, and I hope everyone can make it.



Thanks also to our guest speakers at the June luncheon meeting for a very informative presentation on the Civil Air Patrol. Congratulations to those winners of the silent auction items.

As I mentioned at the luncheon our Chapter has been invited to attend a reception and a tour of the pictures at the St. Petersburg Museum of History on 11 July. This event is sponsored by Operation Helping Hand, and I hope to see a number of you there.

For our July 18th luncheon meeting our speaker will be LTC. Carol Barkalow, USA. I hope to see everyone there.

### Awards

At the Florida Council Of Chapters Convention last month three chapter members received awards.

Violet Smith received the "MOAA Leadership Award" from MOAA President Admiral Norb Ryan.



Newsletter Editor Jim Patton received the 2013 "Col Marvin J Harris Communications Award" from Admiral Ryan.



Past President and current FCOC board member Ed Lillich received a "Certificate of Achievement" from FCOC President Jim Conners.



### INSIDE

|                                     |          |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Calendar and Contact List.....      | Page 2   |
| Luncheon Minutes .....              | Page 3   |
| Executive Committee Minutes .....   | Page 3   |
| Legislative Update .....            | Page 5   |
| Luncheon Photos .....               | Page 6-7 |
| Financial Statement .....           | Page 9   |
| Birthdays .....                     | Page 8   |
| TAPS .....                          | Page 9   |
| New Members .....                   | Page 9   |
| Sick List .....                     | Page 9   |
| Donations .....                     | Page 11  |
| Upcoming Luncheon Information ..... | Page 12  |



# Officers Call

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

-*Officers Call* is published monthly by The St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA, Inc. P.O. Box 7054, St Petersburg, FL 33734. Articles in *Officers Call* are the sole opinion of the authors and do not necessarily reflect policies or opinions of the publisher. Mailed as third class mail at the Manasota Post Office, Permit #1533. Printed by Creative Technology of Sarasota, Inc.

- 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 .. 954-0482     |
| 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 .....   | Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936    |
| 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 |

**Did you know** that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily enlarge the pages and even selectively print out a page or more? Or, just read or print it all out in color!

To subscribe to the electronic version of *Officers Call*, and save valuable funds for your Chapter, call Larry--727-522-6237.

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

## CALENDAR

**July 18<sup>th</sup>** LTC Carol Barkalow, USA  
 Heaven on Earth for Veterans

**August 15<sup>th</sup>** Brian MacNeel, Crime Prevention

**September 19<sup>th</sup>** Remembering POW/MIA

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**

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

**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.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>** Monday  
**August 4<sup>th</sup>** Monday  
**June 2<sup>nd</sup>** Monday

## MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

**Luncheons:**

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

**Luncheon Reservations:**

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

**Membership Info:**

- Barbara King 391-2564

**Bridge:** (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM  
 Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 247  
 Regular Members - 159  
 Auxiliary Members - 87  
 Inactive Members - 1

**Military Services:**

Army - 67 USMC - 11  
 USAF - 46 USCG - 7  
 Navy - 29 NOAA - 0

6/25/2014





## Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**

**Monthly Luncheon; 20 June 2014**

**Attended – 53:** (54 reservations), 2 Member Guest, 2 Chapter Guests, 1 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 2 No Shows

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Seated at the head table were; President Carr, Vice President Glen Crabb, Chaplain George Brown, and the guest speakers, Adrian Cuarta and Joyce Nader of the Civil Air Patrol.



Bill Lofgren introduced new members Janet and John Graham. Bill mentioned member John Penny's return to the luncheon meetings and also introduced John's guest, Linda Guessling. Tom Broderick introduced his guest, John Kruck.

Terry thanked Larry Fernald and all those who worked on the Florida Council of Chapters 2014 Convention. Terry then presented Larry with a Convention Banner. Larry thanked all the volunteers who contributed many hours to make the Convention such a success.

Sherry Freese announced that she brought a few auction items that were left over from the Convention to be auctioned during the luncheon.

Terry invited everyone to attend the Governor's Service Awards at American Legion Post 111 on June 30th in Tampa.

Terry also extended an invitation from Operation Helping Hand to a reception at the Museum of History in downtown St. Petersburg on July 11, from 6-9 pm. A photographic exhibit entitled "The American Soldier" will be featured.

Sherry Freese presented Larry Fernald with a check for \$1400.00 from the proceeds of the quilts, so expertly made by Ellen Fine, that were raffled during the Convention. Sherry also presented Larry with a \$700.00 check from the Convention's Silent Auction.

The winner of the door prize was Paulette Carr. General Peck and Evey Hamilton each won the 50/50.

Anita Harrow reported on the success of the HOT table at the Convention. Particularly popular was the album of thank you letters from grateful troops. Anita brought the album to the luncheon for all to enjoy.

Glen Crabb introduced the guest speakers, Adrian Cuarta and Joyce Nader. They are a married couple who offer their talents as volunteers of the Civil Air Patrol. Adrian is retired from his career as Director of Facilities Management at the University of South Florida. Joyce is an attorney. The two described the history of CAP which was established by President Harry Truman during World War II. Approximately, 150,000 volunteers gave more than 500,000 volunteer hours patrolling the

United States coastline primarily with their own privately owned aircraft.

The three missions of CAP are Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs. The CAP is responsible for 90% of search and rescue that is held over land in the United States. CAP was the first to photograph aerial views of the destruction after 9/11. Aerospace education is a prime mission. Also, Cyber Patriots are trained as teams of cadets nationwide learning to protect against cyber attacks. Funding for CAP comes from the United States Air Force. Presently, there are at least 60,000 volunteers serving nationwide.

During the question and answer session, Betty Finley announced that she volunteered in the CAP in Birmingham in 1946. Terry Carr is especially grateful that Betty saved Birmingham, Alabama.

Chaplain Brown gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

**Paulette Carr substituted the irreplaceable Chris Lillich in this report.**

### Executive Committee Meeting

**2 June 2014**

The meeting was called to order by the President, Terry Carr, at 1140 hours. Ed Lillich gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Nineteen members were present to include; Bill Bolin, Terry Carr, Pauline Edwards, Larry Fernald, Anita Harrow, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Ozzie Osborn, Robert Palsha, Jim Patton, Roger Popham, Fran Shivers, Violet Smith, Sherry Freese, Barbara Fernald, Paulette Carr, Ellen Fine, and Ken Fine.

**Secretary's Report:** Larry Fernald made a motion to approve minutes as published in O.C., seconded by Ed Lillich and motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pete Dawson was unable to be at the meeting as he and Linda were out of town due to the death of Linda's sister-in-law. Larry Fernald reported that there was a balance of \$3,950.16. Please see entire accountability of accounts elsewhere in the O.C. Ed Lillich moved to accept the Treasurer's report subject to audit.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Publicity:** Pauline Edwards sent out thirteen news releases. Gulf Beaches Paper had a special announcement regarding the convention.

**HOT:** Anita Harrow is getting the June boxes ready to go. Currently there are only four units receiving our boxes. Anita said that when the troop population draws down from Afghanistan we will not be sending many boxes there and we should find another way to support the troops. Any one with suggestions is welcome to talk with Anita about it. Sherry Freese announced that her Card group again held a charity day on Memorial Day to benefit the HOT program. The group collected \$440.00. Thank you Sherry

**See Minutes Pg 4**



### Minutes from from Page 3

**Membership:** Discussion took place regarding the fact that new people are not being greeted by the members and it was felt that we need to do a little better job of getting around and talking with the new members and not saving seats. A suggestion was that a current member be appointed as Table Captain at each table to ensure that all the guests are welcomed properly and announced to the membership. This problem has been taken under advisement and ways to make this better will be implemented.

**Convention:** Larry Fernald talked about the arrangements for various meals at the convention and said the President's Reception will offer more substantial food than the usual cocktail party fare. There will be a carved roast station as well as a Mexican station, plus fruits and cheeses and a Viennese dessert station. There will be tables and chairs as well as the high top tables. The luncheon on Saturday will feature baseball type food and there will be a barbershop quartet to sing patriotic and baseball themed songs. Dick Crippen will be the speaker. The POW/MIA table will be present at the All Hand's Breakfast and the Military Ball. Anita Harrow will handle the setting of the table and the Master of Ceremonies will do the reading. There are 216 nights contracted for the hotel. One Hundred Seventy Three have signed up for multiple events and twenty five have signed up for a single event. Current totals for each event are: President's Reception 165, All Hands Breakfast 139, Luncheon 148 and Military Ball 179.

Larry has 25 tickets for the Rays ballgame on Sunday afternoon. Each ticket is \$35.00 and includes a t-shirt. We will be sitting in section 130 and will be announced as a group and no doubt be shown on the telethon. There is free parking in the hotel lot and an overflow lot for \$4.00 a night. Convention shirts or Florida casual is the dress for all but the Military Ball which is dress uniform, tuxedo or dark suit for the officers and comparable dress for the spouses.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Ozzie Osborn said that the Museum of American History will hold an open house on 13 June and 11 July from 6 to 9:00 for the Clearwater, St. Petersburg and Tampa Chapters of MOAA. Beverages and Appetizers will be served.

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

---

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



#### **Receptions:**

St Petersburg Museum of History  
335 2nd Ave NE, St Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 894-1052

St. Petersburg  
Museum of History  
*Where Yesterdays Come Alive Everyday*

-13 June 2014 600pm-900pm  
-11 July 2014 600pm-900pm (Final 3 days of Exhibit)  
Beverages and Hors d'oeures included

-Open to Clearwater and St Petersburg Chapters  
-We will be recognizing those who have served and sacrificed  
-Spend time to view the 116 photographs from the Civil War to Today and entire museum



RSVP and more information  
Scott "Mack" Macksam  
813. 504.3092  
[smacksam99@gmail.com](mailto:smacksam99@gmail.com)



### **HOT Project: Florida Council of Chapters 2014 Convention**

Reported by: Anita Harrow, Chair

#### **HOT Display**

Our HOT project display received a great deal of attention at the Florida Council of Chapters 2014 Convention. Representatives from other chapters stopped by to ask questions about our HOT project and view the awards, certificates, and pictures we received from several units in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many people took the time to read the HOT Mail Notebook filled with all the letters and cards received from our troops expressing their thanks for the care packages we sent. Several people returned to our display to browse again through the letters from our troops. Visitors to our display donated \$100 to help support our HOT project.

#### **Auxiliary Display**

Our St Pete chapter made a significant contribution to the convention through our special Auxiliary display. Many important publications (books and pamphlets) from MOAA headquarters for military spouses and surviving spouses were displayed generating a great deal of interest. Representatives from other chapters came to chat with Violet Smith and me regarding ideas for encouraging surviving spouses to become active, contributing members of the chapter. We shared with them some of the activities our chapter sponsored in the past



## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

### Rep. David Jolly listens to vets about VA issues



More than 300 veterans took U.S. Rep David Jolly up on his offer to listen to them describe their problems with the VA.

The Republican congressman for District 13 said he wants to get beyond the politics of the scandal and help those at the core of the problem.

Representatives from the Bay Pines VA Medical Center, the Veterans Benefits Association and Stetson University College of Law were at Jolly's St. Petersburg College Seminole campus office to answer questions and assist veterans with their VA problems.

"I had cancer, prostate cancer, cancer of my throat. and so I came over here with my son to see if they can do something about my claim," Army veteran Alvin Kalicki said. Kalicki said the claim has been going on for four years.

Disabled Army veteran Al Kelly had questions about himself and a close relative.

"My other concern is my brother-in-law who served in Vietnam and due to untreated PTSD for 40-some years, he's been through a lot in his life that caused him a lot of mishaps," he said.

Officials had veterans fill out a questionnaire about the quality of their care, length of wait times and follow up and reminder calls.

"This is a historic crisis and I have said it requires historic reforms," Jolly said. "The only way we do that correctly and do it appropriately, though, is to listen to the veterans specifically about their cases, their quality of care and then any reform needs to focus in on exactly what the veterans believe should be the future of VA health care."

The national scandal hit close to home in Jolly's district, where the Bay Pines VA Medical Center is located.

Jolly said at least one veteran's problem was solved on the spot as it was discovered a patient's wait time was delayed because of a records problem, which was addressed today.

"At the end of the day if I look at everything that's come in today and everybody we've spoken to, my takeaway is veterans need choice," Jolly said.

---

### Defense Leaders Make Budget Push

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Martin Dempsey made their final push in support of administration's FY 2015 budget proposal at a Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee hearing on June 18.

Members of the subcommittee used the majority of the hearing to gather information about the reemerging conflict in Iraq, but the DoD witnesses emphasized that the current budget environment required personnel accounts to be trimmed to preserve military readiness.

They restated their support of administration proposals to cap military pay, hike TRICARE pharmacy fees, consolidate TRICARE options, increase out-of-pocket housing costs, and cut the commissary subsidy.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) echoed his support for making cuts to military personnel programs, insisting that personnel costs consume 50 percent of the defense budget and continue to grow at an unsustainable rate. However, MOAA's own analysis shows that military personnel and health care costs comprise the same share of the defense budget (a little less than one-third) that they have for the last 30 years

In May, the House rejected all of the administration's proposals to shift costs onto the backs of servicemembers and retirees in its version of the FY 2015 defense authorization bill. However, the Senate Armed Services Committee adopted a second-year pay cap for servicemembers along with increases in pharmacy fees and increased out-of-pocket housing costs

MOAA believes DoD leadership and the administration are presenting a false choice between providing adequate compensation for servicemembers and providing the training and equipment needed to accomplish their mission safely.

---

### Rare Conference on Veterans' Bill

Chairmen Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) and Jeff Miller (R-Fla.), respective chairs of the Senate and House Veterans Affairs Committees gavelled the opening of a rare conference June 24 to discuss pending legislation that seeks to speed up access to VA care for thousands of veterans on waiting lists at VA medical facilities across the country.

Though cordial, the conferees offered competing views on how best to resolve the access problem.

Republicans, led by Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), House Veterans Affairs (HVAC) Chairman Miller, Senate Veterans Affairs (SVAC) Ranking Member Richard Burr (R-N.C.) and others, would give veterans a 'gold choice' card that would allow them to get care from outside the VA system if they met certain criteria to trigger the election.

Democrats, led by Sen. Sanders and HVAC Ranking Member Mike Michaud (D-Maine), voiced preferences for expanding VA's capacity through various measures addressed in the legislation including more effective use of existing purchased care contracts.

In his opening remarks, Sen. Burr denounced the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) high cost estimate to field a 'choice,' card. Burr said the CBO's \$35 to \$40 billion price

---

See Legislature Pg 10



Chaplain George Brown delivering the invocation



Guest Speakers Adrian Cuarta and Joyce Nader, CAP



Terry Carr presenting Larry Fernald with the 2014 Florida Convention banner



New members John and Janet Graham



Sherry Freese presented Larry Fernald with a check of the proceeds from the raffle of the quilts



John Penny and guest Linda Gesling



Earl Peck receiving 50/50 winnings from Rose Munchbach



Tom Broderick and guest John Kruck



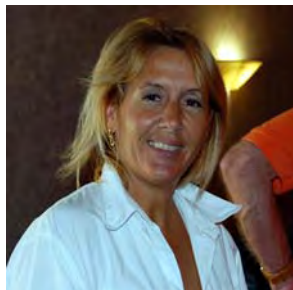
Anita Harrow with thank you letters from the troops



Pauline Edwards presenting Paulette Carr with door prize



Rose Munchbach presenting Evey Hamilton with 50/50 winnings



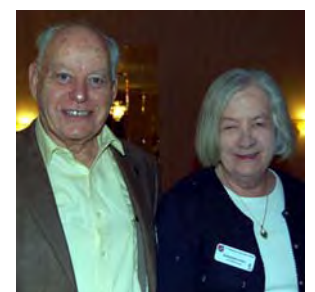
Sheila Mustacio



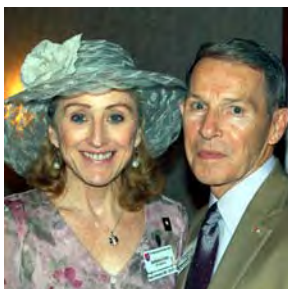
Julia and Bruce Love



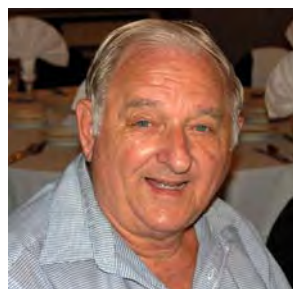
Bill Lewis



Jim and Barbara King



Barbara Stakk and Robert Palsha



Fred Schlager

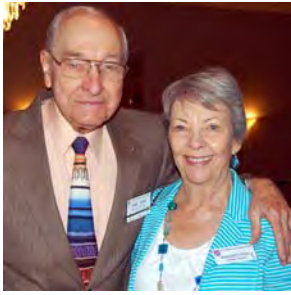


Cindy Vitters, Joanne Taylor and JoAnn Burch



Glen and Katie Crabb





Earl and Margaret Peck



Ginni and Bill Eicholz



Jeanie and Roger Popham



Terry and Paulette Carr



Fran Shivers



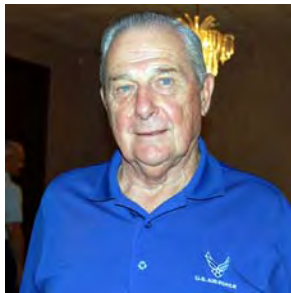
Betty and Paul Finley



Isabel and Ozzie Osborn



Barb and Larry Fernald



Pete Dawson



Anita Harrow and Joan Landers



Pauline Edwards, Evey Hamilton and Violet Smith



Sherry Freese



Ellen Marie and Ken Fine



Carol Barnes, Joanne Taylor, Van Barnes and Cindy Vitters



Anita Harrow, Larry Fernald and Anne Isley



Jim Patton



Attendees

Photos by Bill Lofgren

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify him of your correct email address at the following email address: lofgrenlepc@earthlink.net



## Independence Day

Independence Day, commonly known as the Fourth of July, is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, declaring independence from the Kingdom of Great Britain (now officially known as the United Kingdom). Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the National Day of the United States.

During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail:

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.

Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.

Historians have long disputed whether Congress actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, even though Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin all later wrote that they had signed it on that day. Most historians have concluded that the Declaration was signed nearly a month after its adoption, on August 2, 1776, and not on July 4 as is commonly believed.

In a remarkable coincidence, both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, the only signers of the Declaration of Independence later to serve as Presidents of the United States, died on the same day: July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration. Although not a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but another Founding Father who became a President, James Monroe, died on July 4, 1831, thus becoming the third President in a row who died on this memorable day. Calvin

Coolidge, the 30th President, was born on July 4, 1872, and, so far, is the only President to have been born on Independence Day.

### Customs

Independence Day is a national holiday marked by patriotic displays. Similar to other summer-themed events, Independence Day celebrations often take place outdoors. Independence Day is a federal holiday, so all non-essential federal institutions (like the postal service and federal courts) are closed on that day. Many politicians make it a point on this day to appear at a public event to praise the nation's heritage, laws, history, society, and people.

Families often celebrate Independence Day by hosting or attending a picnic or barbecue and take advantage of the day off and, in some years, long weekend to gather with relatives. Decorations (e.g., streamers, balloons, and clothing) are generally colored red, white, and blue, the colors of the American flag. Parades are often in the morning, while fireworks displays occur in the evening at such places as parks, fairgrounds, or town squares.

The night before the Fourth was once the focal point of celebrations, marked by raucous gatherings often incorporating bonfires as their centerpiece. In New England, towns competed to build towering pyramids, assembled from hogsheds and barrels and casks. They were lit at nightfall, to usher in the celebration. The highest were in Salem, Massachusetts (on Gallows Hill, the famous site of the execution of 13 women and 6 men for witchcraft in 1692 during the Salem witch trials, where the tradition of bonfires in celebration had persisted), composed of as many as forty tiers of barrels; these are the tallest bonfires ever recorded. The custom flourished in the 19th and 20th centuries, and is still practiced in some New England towns.

Independence Day fireworks are often accompanied by patriotic songs such as the national anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner", "God Bless America", "America the Beautiful", "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", "This Land Is Your Land", "Stars and Stripes Forever", and, regionally, "Yankee Doodle" in northeastern states and "Dixie" in southern states. Some of the lyrics recall images of the Revolutionary War or the War of 1812.

Firework shows are held in many states, and many fireworks are sold for personal use or as an alternative to a public show. Safety concerns have led some states to ban fireworks or limit the sizes and types allowed. Illicit traffic transfers many fireworks from less restrictive states.

A salute of one gun for each state in the United States, called a "salute to the union," is fired on Independence Day at noon by any capable military base.

In 2009, New York City had the largest fireworks display in the country, with over 22 tons of pyrotechnics exploded. Other major displays are in Chicago on Lake Michigan; in San Diego

---

See Independence Day Pg 9







# TAPS

Thankfully, no one.

## 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)



## Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ LTC Kristine E. Ashley, USAR (Ret),  
3581 Oak Lake Dr, Palm Harbor, FL  
34684, 727-692-0370

## July Birthdays (59 to 96 years)

| Day | LName      | FName     | Rank | SVC         |
|-----|------------|-----------|------|-------------|
| 2   | Ashley     | Kristine  | LTC  | USAR (Ret)  |
| 27  | Billington | Norton    | LTC  | USA (Ret)   |
| 20  | Bryan      | Hardy     | LTC  | USA (Ret)   |
| 23  | Johnson    | Willis    | CPT  | USA (Fmr)   |
| 02  | Lofgren    | William   | Col  | USAF (Ret)  |
| 8   | Mallory    | Pauline   | LTC  | USA (Ret)   |
| 02  | McGrath    | Hazel     | LCDR | USN (Ret)   |
| 26  | Montrem    | Helen     | Mrs. | AuxMbr-AF   |
| 21  | Oliver     | Richard   | LT   | USN (Ret)   |
| 30  | Popham     | Roger     | COL  | USA (Ret)   |
| 02  | Poteat     | Genevieve | Mrs. | AuxMbr-A    |
| 05  | Sanders    | Charlene  | Capt | USAF (Ret)  |
| 14  | Shivers    | Frances   | Capt | USAFR (Fmr) |
| 04  | Talbitzer  | John      | LT   | USN (Ret)   |
| 21  | Vision     | Michael   | CDR  | USN (Ret)   |
| 03  | Ward       | Wayne     | CPT  | USA (Ret)   |

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of May

### HOT Fund

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 2,608.84 |
| .... Donations .....                   | \$ 178.00   |
| .... 50/50 .....                       | \$ 41.00    |
| .... Memorials .....                   | \$ 60.00    |
| .... Expenses .....                    | \$ (472.66) |
| ..... Balance, End of Month .....      | \$ 2,414.98 |

### Scholarship Fund

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 1,250.00 |
| .... Donations .....                   | \$ 38.00    |
| .... Expended .....                    | \$ 0.00     |
| ..... Balance, End of Month .....      | \$ 1,288.00 |
| 0.00                                   |             |

### Operating Account

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 4,501.35 |
| .... Luncheon Income .....             | \$ 720.00   |
| .... Dues .....                        | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Misc Income .....                 | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Interest Earned .....             | \$ 0.81     |
| .... Luncheon Expense .....            | \$ (624.00) |
| .... Supplies .....                    | \$ (58.83)  |
| .... Post Office .....                 | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Other Organizations .....         | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Niscellaneous expenses .....      | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Memorial to HOT .....             | \$ (60.00)  |
| .... Printing/mailling .....           | \$ (192.00) |
| .... Newsletter Costs .....            | \$ (337.17) |
| .... VA/JROTC .....                    | \$ 0.00     |
| ..... Balance, End of Month .....      | \$ 3,950.16 |

## Independence Day from Pg 8

over Mission Bay; in Boston on the Charles River; in St. Louis on the Mississippi River; in San Francisco over the San Francisco Bay; and on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.. During the annual Windsor-Detroit International Freedom Festival, Detroit, Michigan hosts one of the world’s largest fireworks displays, over the Detroit River, to celebrate Independence Day in conjunction with Windsor, Ontario’s celebration of Canada Day.

While the official observance always falls on July 4th, participation levels may vary according to which day of the week the 4th falls on. If the holiday falls in the middle of the week, some fireworks displays and celebrations may take place during the weekend for convenience, again, varying by region.

The first week of July is typically one of the busiest American travel periods of the year, as many people utilize the holiday for extended vacation trips.



## For Fish, Steak Pasta & Chops We are Tops!

Serving the beaches since 1992



**Breakfast \* Lunch \* Dinner**

**Beer • Wine • Cocktails**

**Happy Hour 5 - 7 pm**

**Early Bird Menu 4 – 6 pm**

**Open 7 Days 7 am - 11 pm**

*Voted Best Greek & Best Family Value*

**5799 Gulf Boulevard, St. Pete Beach**

Across Gulf Boulevard, just

North of the **SIRATA**

**727 360-1029**

Thru June 2012

### Legislature from Pg 5

tag was ludicrous. The numbers are “grotesquely out of line” and, in his view, were actually higher than the cost of providing care to currently enrolled veterans. He said it made no sense to expect that almost 8 million veterans would drop other coverage such as TRICARE, Federal Employee Health Benefits insurance, Medicare or private insurance to get a VA choice card for the two-year pilot program set out in the Senate bill.

Democrats fretted that the focus should be on fixing the VA, not diverting resources by expanding outside referrals beyond current arrangements (The VA will spend about \$5 billion this year for contracted – purchased – care from outside providers). Former SVAC Chairman Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.V.) said the goal should be to “improve the VA, not tear it down.”

A number of conferees agreed that the focus should be on how to quickly resolve the backlog of wait-listed patients, change the culture within the VA and establish greater accountability at all levels.

House panel member Rep. Phil Roe (R-Tenn.), a physician and former Army Reserve medical officer said throwing more money at the VA won't solve the problem.

Two members endorsed seizing the moment to take a longer view on the future of VA health care. Rep. Tim Walz (D-Minn.), a former Army National Guard sergeant major and Iraq war veteran asked rhetorically why there isn't an over-arching strategy on veterans. Rep. Dan Benishek (D-Mich.), who served

See Legislature Pg 11

## Arden Courts... Memory Care is all we do



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

Call Arden Courts today to learn about this little-known benefit for Veterans and how you can receive up to \$2,020 per month to help with your memory care needs.

**Arden Courts**   
Memory Care Community

**300 Highland Avenue NE • Largo, FL 33770**

**(727) 559-8411**



Call (727) 559-8411 or e-mail [largo@arden-courts.com](mailto:largo@arden-courts.com) to speak to our dementia specialist.



Bring this ad in for a **FREE**  
chocolate pretzel!

**Larry G. Butterfield**  
**Debbie Butterfield**  
Owners / Managers

**KILWIN'S of JOHN'S PASS BOARDWALK**  
160 John's Pass Boardwalk • Madeira Beach, FL 33708  
Phone: (727) 397-9800 • Fax: (727) 397-9802  
Email: [LarryButt@netzero.com](mailto:LarryButt@netzero.com)

## Banquet Masters

Conference Facilities & Accommodations  
for parties of 30 to 700

All Catered Affairs From 2 to 10,000

**WEDDINGS • CORPORATE CATERING**  
**BANQUETS • PICNICS**

**(727) 541-1582 FAX (727) 546-6258**

**[www.banquetmasters.com](http://www.banquetmasters.com)**

**8100 PARK BLVD N. • SUITE 201 • PINELLAS PARK, FL 33781**

**Stephen E. Fisherkeller**



Please support our advertisers



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



## 2014 Help Our Troops Donors

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

### ••GOLD –

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

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

### ••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL  
Carr, Paulette Mrs.  
Hamilton, Evelyn Mrs.  
Hermann, Peter Col  
Hetherington, Chuck Col  
Koch, Dick Lt Col  
Myers, Asa Mrs.  
Sartorio, Sal Maj  
••BRONZE –  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Peck, Margaret Mrs.  
Reed, Bob LCDR  
Taylor, Joanne MAJ  
Vision, Mick CDR  
Wildes, Shirley Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:  
\$ 2,218 as of 6/25/2014

## 2014 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

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

### ••GOLD –

Carr, Terry LTC  
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Flint, John Col  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Harrow, Anita Mrs.  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Lee, Bill LCDR  
Lofgren, Bill Col  
Love, H. B. COL  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Patton, Jim CWO4  
Patton, Kathi Mrs.  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

Spears, Tom 2LT  
Talibitzer, John LT

### ••SILVER –

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

### ••BRONZE –

Fratangelo, Paul MajGen  
Hermann, Peter Col  
Koch, Dick Lt Col  
Lewis, Bill Lt Col  
McCormick, Jim Lt Col  
Myers, Ralph Lt Col  
Osborn, Ozzie LTC  
Sartorio, Sal Maj  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

Member donations ONLY:  
\$2,656 as of 6/25/2014

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

## Legislature from Pg 10

veterans for 20 years as a physician at a VA facility, said the best health care minds should be brought in to compare and contrast VA performance with outside health care practices.

Along these lines, MOAA continues to endorse the establishment of a high-level, independent commission to chart the future of VA health care in the 21st century.

Sen. McCain warned that the “last shoe” had not dropped on the VA scandal. He emphasized that the situation in the VA was an “emergency” and urged his fellow conferees to lay out the parameters of what needs to be done and move forward.

The conferees are expected to hammer out a compromise after returning from the July 4 recess.

## Army Opens Jobs to Women

On June 17, Secretary of the Army John McHugh issued a memorandum opening more than 33,000 duty positions to women.

Of the more than 400 total military occupational specialties (MOS), only 14 are closed to women.

The 33,000 positions will not include occupations within Special Operations Command.

According to the memorandum, female soldiers will still be prohibited from infantry roles, however, jobs that were once

## Officers Call Booster Donors

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

## Legislature continued

closed at infantry battalion headquarters level will be opened. Some of the newly opened MOS positions include chaplains, intelligence analysts, health care specialists, paralegals, signal sergeants, and supply sergeants.

Female soldiers had been prohibited from being assigned to combat units below the brigade level since 1994. In early 2012, the Army began easing those restrictions.

MOAA is dedicated to maintaining a strong national defense and to ensuring our armed forces are manned and led by the most capable, qualified servicemembers, regardless of gender.

## Membership

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



# St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

## Monthly Luncheon

**Friday**  
**18 July 2014**

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

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

**Guest Speakers:**

**LTC Carol Barkalow, USA**

**Heaven on Earth for Veterans**

Lieutenant Colonel, retired, Carol Barkalow graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in May 1980 as a second lieutenant in the Air Defense Artillery. After three years she switched her branch to the Transportation Corps. She has held a variety of command and staff positions including Staff Officer, Company Commander, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Army; Battalion Executive Officer, Plans and Operations Officer, and Battalion Commander. In addition, she served as a Division Transportation Officer with the 24th Infantry Division during Operation Desert Storm. Lieutenant Colonel Barkalow retired on 1 September 2002 after more than 22 years of service.



Born in Freehold, New Jersey, Lieutenant Colonel Barkalow grew up in Clifton Park, New York and holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy.

In 1990, Lieutenant Colonel Barkalow published a book, *In the Men's House*, detailing her four years as a member of the first class of women to graduate from West Point. The book also highlights her first eight years of active duty service. Stories, photos, and interviews with LTC Barkalow have been published in numerous publications and she has been interviewed on many popular TV shows. LTC Barkalow has also testified to Congress on the subject of women in combat. In 2010 she was inducted, as a member of the first class, into her high school's Athletic Hall of Fame and in June 2013, she was again honored, as a member of its inaugural class, as a distinguished graduate of her high school. In 2012 she was honored by the Florida Business Professional Women's Association as a "First Woman of Tampa Bay."

In 2013, Carol co-founded an organization, Heaven on Earth for Veterans, Inc, focused on providing safe, affordable, furnished living quarters to military veterans in need of housing. She also currently works part time for Pinellas County Human Resources and lives with her spouse in St Pete Beach.

### MONTHLY LUNCHEON

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, July 18<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Banquet Masters**

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

• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, July 16<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each reservation \$15:**

**Roast Pork:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Almond Crusted Salmon:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cobb Salad :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations call;**

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

**Please pay at the door**  
**Cash or check made out to**  
**SPA-MOAA**

**To expedite entry, please have checks prepared**  
**before arrival**

**For a RIDE call:**

**LTC Terry Carr 459-4026**



## July

- 4: Independence Day
- 8: Liberty Bell Cracks 1835
- 11: St Petersburg Museum, Reception (See Pg 4)
- 16: Apollo 11 lifts off for the moon
- 30: National Cheesecake Day

