



# OFFICERS CALL

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



**VOL VII No. VI ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter: 2000, 2002-07 ★★★★★ June 2009**

**Print Media Winner 2006; Also, 2003 Won: Print & Electronic Media & Web Site!!**

## President's Comments:

I'll be brief this month, since space is limited in this edition.

Attendance at the May luncheon was a record for the summer months, with over 100 folks, fully a third of the Chapter.

Those who were not present missed one of the best speakers we have ever had! LTC Sandy McNaughton, USA, was absolutely outstanding with her account of her travels with a Special Forces A-Team in Afghanistan.



Even more meaningful, was our special guest, CWO2 Romy Camargo, USA, the leader of the team that LTC McNaughton was assigned to, and his wife, Gaby, and some of her family members. Mr. Camargo was shot in the neck during one of the patrols, stabilized by LTC McNaughton and other medics, airlifted out of Afghanistan, was back in the States in 3 days, and is now recovering from paralysis at James Haley in Tampa.

We'll be seeing Mr. Camargo again, since he promised to come back and hoist one of the Chapter glasses with us when he beats the paralysis, which he certainly will do.

Looking ahead, June is convention month. And, with that in mind, there will not be an Executive Committee meeting in June, but we will have the regular monthly luncheon on the 19th of June. Be there--don't risk missing another great speaker.

Thank all of you for your help and support in planning and conducting the Florida Council of Chapters 2009 Convention. It promises to be one of the best ever!

See you at the Convention and again on the 19th.

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## Our June Speaker:

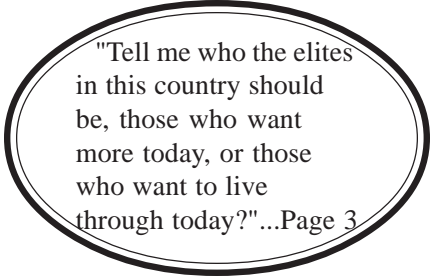
### Maj Gen Robert R. Allardice, USAF

*Note: Maj. Gen. Robert R. Allardice has been nominated for appointment to the grade of Lieutenant General with assignment as commander, Eighteenth Air Force, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, Ill. Allardice is currently serving as director, strategy, plans and policy, J-5, Headquarters U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla.*



Maj. Gen. Robert R. Allardice is the Director, Strategy, Plans and Policy, Headquarters U.S. Central Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. He is responsible for command development of all strategy, plans and policy, including preparing and maintaining bilateral and multilateral operations as well as contingency plans. He is the command focal point for integration of theater strategic activities designed to promote stability, enhance security, and strengthen military interoperability and readiness throughout the USCENTCOM region.

General Allardice entered the Air Force in 1980 as a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering. His career includes a variety of operational and staff positions, to include command at the squadron, group and wing levels.



"Tell me who the elites in this country should be, those who want more today, or those who want to live through today?" ...Page 3

General Allardice is a command pilot with more than 4,700 hours in the C-141, C-5 and C-17. He deployed three times during the Global War on Terrorism. In 2001, he commanded the strategic humanitarian airdrop, which began on the first night of combat operations in Afghanistan. In the opening days of Operation Iraqi Freedom, he commanded and led the airdrop of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, seizing vital territory in northern Iraq. Most recently, he deployed to Iraq as Commander, Coalition Air Force Transition Team. There he was responsible to the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq for standing up the Iraqi air force.



# Officers Call



Print Media Winner- 2006

Print Media 1st Runner-Up - 2008

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- Reporter/Photos – CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
- Consultant-- Col Al Neville, USAF..... 522-5685

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### DIRECTORS

**President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF ..... 522-6237**  
 1<sup>st</sup> VP- MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 2<sup>nd</sup> VP- LTC Terry Carr, USA ..... 392-6524  
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich ..... 546-2246  
 Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF ..... 894-3761

### EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD

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 CDR Maureen Conners, USN ..... 347-7976  
 Mrs. Anita Harrow, AuxMember-N ..... 347-3730

2009 & 2010 —

CDR Bill Bolin, USN ..... 584-1595  
 LT Ed Conners, USN ..... 347-7976  
 Mrs. Barbara Walters, AuxMember-A ..... 595-4619

**Immediate Past President**

CAPT Don Freese, USN ..... 360-3102

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising ..... LTC Janice Mogan, USA ..... 381-3997  
 Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N .. 367-9050  
 Awards ..... Maj Gen Earl Peck, USAF ..... 525-1688  
 Bylaws/Policy Bk LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC ..... 360-2936  
 Chaplain: ..... COL George Brown, USA ..... 866-6859  
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 Electronic Info ....Lt Col Larry Fernald USAF ..... 522-6237  
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 JROTC ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
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 Legislative: ..... CAPT Don Freese, USN ..... 360-3102  
 MacDill Liaison ...Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Master at Arms ....CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG ..... 821-7365  
 Membership ..... LTC Terry Carr, USA ..... 381-3997  
 Memorial ..... Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Newsletter ..... Vacant  
 Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946  
 Personal Affairs ...Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Programs ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 Publicity: ..... Mrs. Chris Lillich ..... 546-2246  
 Reservations ..... LCDR Paul Finley ..... 391-5908  
 ROWC Liaison ....Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .... 595-5543  
 Scholarships: ..... Col Stew Palmer, USAF ..... 343-5022  
 TOPS ..... COL Ron Merritt, USA ..... 367-9809  
 VA Vol Svc ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN .... 545-3884  
 Vet Liaison ..... MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246  
 Visitation ..... LCDR Hazel McGrath, USN .... 545-3884

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 310  
 Regular Members - 227  
 Auxillary Members - 83  
 Inactive Members - (6)

### Military Services:

Army - 72                      USMC - 16  
 USAF - 78                     USCG - 10  
 Navy - 51                      NOAA - 0

5/20/2009

**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.

## CALENDAR

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: MGEN Robert R. Allardice, J5  
 CENTCOM

**July 17<sup>th</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: Mr. Paul Stecewycz, Fantasy of  
 Flight

**August 21<sup>st</sup>**, Friday. Speaker: COL Sharon Richie-Melvin,  
 USA (Ret) Florida Veterans Affairs

**\*\* Need a ride to the luncheon?**

**Call: LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908**

**or Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237**

**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.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>** Monday (No meeting due to Convention)

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** Monday

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

## ROWC

- **Luncheon** – 12 May (last of season) 11:30, lunch 12:30  
 Reservations: LTC Rose Munchbach, 397-4146, or  
 Bobbie Walters, 595-4619 (luncheons resume in  
 October) **Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

**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

**Having trouble reading the *Officers Call*?** Have a home  
 computer?

**Did you know** that if you were to subscribe to the *Officers  
 Call* via email that you could, using your computer, easily en-  
 large 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 me at 522-6237.





## Storming the Hill Efforts Prove Successful

by

MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee

MOAA Council and Chapter Presidents from the 50 states and Puerto Rico, accompanied by members of the national Board of Directors and headquarters staff, plus members of MOAA's Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee (AMAC), swarmed Capitol Hill on April 22nd to visit representatives' and senators' offices on key MOAA legislative initiatives. The annual event ensures legislators and staffs are personally aware of our issues and solicit their co-sponsorship of selected key bills.



This year, the "Hill-stormers" literally walked through the rain to get their legislators focused on three main issues:

- Oppose disproportional TRICARE fee increases
- Eliminate unfair compensation penalties imposed on thousands of military survivors and disabled retirees
- Sustain much-needed military manpower increases to ease deployment burdens and upgrade the active duty military pay raise to 3.4% (vs. the 2.9% budget proposal)

MOAA Hill-stormers carried a wealth of information supporting those goals, including an information brochure illustrating the fixes needed to eliminate survivor benefits and concurrent receipt inequities and received very positive feedback from most legislators.

Co-sponsorship increases in the wake of those visits are a clear indication that they had the desired effect:

Eliminate remaining offsets of retired pay

- H.R. 303 - 26 new cosponsors (75% increase)
- H.R. 333 - 25 new cosponsors (50% increase)
- S. 546 - 17 new cosponsors (106% increase)

Repeal the SBP-DIC offset

- H.R. 775 - 69 new cosponsors (47% increase)
- S. 535 - 26 new cosponsors (162% increase)

Protect against disproportionate health fee increases

- H.R. 816 - 46 new cosponsors (64% increase)

You can enhance MOAA's Hill-storming results by entering your ZIP code in the applicable box for each bill to send your legislator a MOAA-suggested "please co-sponsor" or "thank you for co-sponsoring" letter, as applicable.

MOAA is extremely proud of the Hill-storming efforts of our Council and Chapter Presidents, advisory committees, national board and staff members to meet with their legislators. However, none of this would be possible without the grassroots efforts of our 370,000+ members across the country. It's because all of you are willing to write, call (MOAA's toll-free Capitol Switchboard number: 1-866-272-6622), and email your representatives that we have so much success on Capitol Hill.

## Crosshairs - Military Matters in Review

By LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret)

**An American military ethos: What's wrong with it?**

May 15, 2009 -- English author George Orwell is said to have written, "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." Are Americans who sleep peaceably afraid of those "rough men" who protect them? Let's look at two cases.

First, scholars are warning of a civil-military gap in the United States. They say that members of the all-volunteer force tend to see themselves as part of an elite group different from the average civilian hedonist. Thomas Ricks wrote in *Making the Corps* how various members of a group of 63 Marine recruits found themselves alienated from their former peers. The recruits who made it through boot camp had cloaked themselves in honor, courage, and commitment, and couldn't understand why others refused to don the cloak. Ricks' book implies that such a military cultural ethos is somehow dangerous to America, and some purveyors of populism have expressed concern.

Our warriors of all military services are doing a magnificent job in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have earned the right to view themselves as a cut above other Americans. How many other Americans start each day with thoughts of it ending prematurely because of an improvised explosive device, a sniper's bullet, or an ambush with deadly weapons? How many other Americans are facing another deployment instead of planning for the next tailgate party? Tell me who the elites in this country should be, those who want more today, or those who want to live through today?

Meanwhile, the Marines are now drawing flak from another quarter. A provision in the 2009 Defense Authorization Act directs the Defense Department to partner with school systems that serve at-risk students. Such programs would give high-school kids who are capable graduating -- and who want to graduate -- a chance to do it. The program does not portend an out-of-the-blue attempt to militarize America's schools. It only adapts the concept of Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps programs.

Under the new program, teachers with master's degrees in their fields will remain with their students for all four high-school years. Instead of turning the kids loose for idle pursuits on summer vacation, the schools will allow only periodic, short breaks. If this is militarism, and it will salvage talented kids, let's go for it.

If some have their way in greater Atlanta, Ga., however, it won't happen in DeKalb County. A Marine institute has been proposed to give talented, at-risk students their chances for success. We're not talking of a Marine air-ground team assaulting DeKalb County. We're just talking of a similar venture to one that has already started in Chicago, although it is not a mirror image. Just the same, some of DeKalb's residents are protesting.

**See Military Ethos; Pg 8**





## Executive Committee Meeting St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA; 4 May 2009

Reported by **Chris Lillich, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:30 a.m. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Larry. Twenty four were present including Bill Bolin, George Brown, Basil Burrell, Terry Carr, Ed Conners, Maureen Conners, Pete Dawson, Fred Edwards, Pauline Edwards, Larry Fernald, Paul Finley, Betty Finley, Don Freese, Anita Harrow, Ed Lillich, Chris Lillich, Marie Lorence, H.B. Love, Hazel McGrath, Stew Palmer, Jim Patton, Earl Peck, Violet Smith and Bobbie Walters. Violet Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as presented in the O.C., seconded by Ed Conners, motion carried. Treasurer's report was given by Pete Dawson. Don Freese made a motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Ed Lillich. Report is approved as presented.



**First Vice President:** Ed Lillich discussed reading a proclamation to honor Peace Officers on Peace Officers Memorial Day which is May 15. It was decided that the proclamation would be read after the speaker. Bobbie Walters made a motion to purchase ten pair of gloves for the Chapter Honor Guard, seconded by Hazel McGrath. Motion carried.

**Second Vice President:** Terry Carr discussed his ideas for recruiting new members. Larry will talk with Bob Silah to see if we could work with one branch from the ROTC units in Tampa.

**Officers Call:** An article is needed for next month.

**H.O.T.:** Anita Harrow is currently sending boxes to two officers and Anita is corresponding with them asking them to provide the name of their replacements when they leave the area because it is a requirement that the boxes be sent to a specific person rather than a unit. Fifteen boxes were sent in April and an additional three boxes were sent to COL Walters for his Brigade. Pictures of COL Walters were passed around. Bill Bolin has agreed to be Anita's co-chairperson and they are planning on a table at the convention showing a sample of all items that are packed in the boxes. Royal Palms is donating a gift basket which will be raffled off at the H.O.T. table and all proceeds will go to the H.O.T. program.

**JROTC:** Ed Lillich gave out awards at Boca Ciega on April 15 and will be giving awards to Gibbs on May 7th and Admiral Farragut Academy on May 15. Larry Fernald said he attended the AFROTC Military Ball at the University of South Florida.

### Committee Reports:

Pauline Edwards is still selling shirts, caps and ditty bags.

Anita Harrow will have red carnations tied with red, white and blue ribbons and a card stating "A Symbol of a Love and a Life Remembered" for the Memorial Service.

Violet Smith attended the Hospital Commander's meeting on 28 April. Occupancy of the new medical facility will take place the week of 24 September and several days are set aside for open house with tours of the facility. Volunteers are still needed to act as escorts to take people through the building. If anyone is interested please e-mail Violet at [alexgrammie@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:alexgrammie@tampabay.rr.com) or call her 727-595-5543. The wrecking ball will start tearing down the old hospital building on 1 November. The new Pharmacare Building will be operating in about six weeks with three drive through lanes. The next meeting will be 25 August and Violet will have more up to date information at that time. Violet will represent MOAA at an IG meeting on 14 May at the hospital.

Closing dates for the hospital are 20, 22 and 25 May, noon on 17 June, 3 July and 15 July. The new formulary is available at the pharmacy. The death of a surviving spouse will now appear under Sounding Taps in the MOAA magazine. MOAA is recruiting for someone to take Violet's place on the board as this is her last year.

Hazel McGrath was presented with a Voluntary Service Certificate for 18 years of volunteer service, culminating in 4,726 hours, for dedicated service given to veterans at the Veterans' Administration Medical Center. A round of applause was given to Hazel for her outstanding service to veterans.

Fred Edwards mentioned that the MOAA magazine had a very nice article about Al Neville, mentioning his Life Member Emeritus status. Fred also told a story of a grandson calling his grandparents from Canada saying he was in an accident, had been put in jail, but was now out but he needed \$4,000 to pay for the damage to the car he hit. Grandparents had only \$2,000 to wire to him and he later called back and said that was enough as his friend's parents gave the balance. A few days later the grandmother e-mailed the grandson to see if he was home safely only to get an e-mail back asking "where was I supposed to have been?" As it turned out this was a scam. The story was told in order to prevent others from falling into this scheme which has been worked for quite a while. It was noted by Don Freese that a certificate of insurability is needed to drive a car in Canada whether it is privately owned or a rental.

Earl Peck gave a report of the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee met in plenary session on April 7, 2009 and recommends the following:

*To be granted Distinguished Member status:*

**LTC Marie M. Lorence, USA (Ret),**

**Lt Col Laurance N. Fernald, USAF (Ret)**

*To be granted Life Member Emeritus status:*

**LTC Marie M. Lorence, USA (Ret)**

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**See Minutes, Pg 10**





## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Don Freese**

From MOAA and other sources

### COLA Slowly Makes Ground

The consumer price index (CPI) rose 0.2% in March but it is still down 3.8% for the first half of this fiscal year, so unless it gains at least 4% more in the second half of this fiscal year you won't get retired pay raise in 2010. At least the law does not allow for a pay cut.



### DFAS Briefs MOAA, Coalition

The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) retired pay chief met with MOAA and Military Coalition partners in April to provide an update on several ongoing programs. DFAS supports over 2.6 million military retirees, annuitants, separation pay recipients, and former spouses – the oldest being a 109-year-old Navy retiree. DFAS is touting the electronic MyPay option that lets DFAS customer's access and update their accounts by computer. As of February 2009, 41% of retirees have MyPay accounts.

### Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act

Despite saying "Health care is eating the department alive," Defense Secretary Robert Gates told listeners at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, AL, that he would not seek TRICARE fee increases in this year's defense budget. Instead, he indicated that he would begin a conversation with Congress to increase fees and co pays in the fiscal year 2011 budget and beyond. However the process is still unfolding and far from decided. There is ample opportunity between now and the final 2010 budget in October for DOD or Congress to attack the benefits military retirees earned. And under current law, DOD retains lawful authority to raise certain fees such as TRICARE Prime premiums and Pharmacy co pays.

HR 816, a bill, sponsored by Rep. Chet Edwards (D-TX) and Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC), would strip DOD of its present authorities to increase TRICARE fees and co pays. You are encouraged to contact your elected Representatives and ask them to co sponsor H.R. 816, the "Military Retirees Health Care Protection Act."

Congress can put a stop to the Pentagon's continual threats to our earned benefits. When the Administration and Congress start to choose between defense spending and nondefense domestic "priorities," we want our elected officials to know where we stand - send a message today.

### VA Announces Recovery Spending

The VA will spend more than \$1.4 billion as part of President Obama's economic recovery plan. VA's Overview of the [American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009](#) (ARRA) website provides current information about VA's planned use of Recov-

ery Act funds to benefit veterans. The Act will enable the VA to improve medical facilities and national cemeteries, provide grants to assist states in acquiring or constructing state nursing homes and extended care facilities, and to modify or alter existing facilities to care for Veterans.

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## My Man in the Uniform

By Chris Lillich

The first time I saw him he wore a gold and blue cheerleader uniform

And then I saw him in a Boy Scout uniform, an Eagle scout, being so trustworthy, helpful and courteous.

College days came and the uniform changed to Army pinks and greens,

Eisenhower jacket and khakis.

Then active duty brought another change

Starched green fatigues, more khakis, the new all green uniform and the dress blues.

As years progressed there were more changes

The starched green fatigues were replaced with green wash and wear and then green and brown cammies

And of course for very formal occasions there was the white dress mess and the blue dress uniform.

Along with all the uniforms there were different hats

Overseas cap, service cap, steel pot, fatigue hat and a green beret, the blue dress hat, and the white hat.

Oh, and then there were shoes. Brown low quarters, brown boots, black low quarters, black boots, both Corcoran and jump and then of course green camouflage boots

When retirement came it was time to hang up the uniforms.

Not for the man I first saw in a cheerleader uniform

The Army uniforms were replaced with the Navy blue and the whites and the salt and peppers

The shoes were black or white and there was only one hat

When retirement came again it was time to hang up the uniform

Not for the man I first saw in a cheerleader uniform

Today the uniform is grey and white and the hat is a dark blue beret and the boots are shiny black with white shoe laces

And the wearer of the uniform does not lead cheers at high school football games,

Or tie knots to earn badges, or jump out of airplanes or lead a special forces unit,

Or go to foreign countries to help keep America safe from insurgents,

Or run a business office of a military school

Today he proudly commands an Honor Guard which renders final honors to those military veterans who have faithfully served their country .

A veteran serving veterans.

That's my man, the one I first saw in a cheerleader uniform.





## Monthly Luncheon; 15 May 2009

Reported by **Basil Burrell**

**Attended – 115:** (115 reservations), 3 Member Guests, 14 Chapter Guests  
[3 Walk-in, 1 No-show, 2 Cancellations]

After a very busy and pleasant social hour President Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF (Ret), called the meeting to order. He then asked Chaplain COL George Brown, USA (Ret), to give the invocation. Larry then asked us to remain standing and join him in the pledge to our Flag and Country. After distributing the door prize he told us to hang on to our door prize tickets and then he used them to give away 3 boxes of fudge that were donated by members Larry and Deborah Butterfield from their shop at John's Pass. Thanks Larry and Deborah for the donation. Needless to say, I was



not fortunate but some deserving people were. Larry then asked Anita Harrow to speak about the HOT (Help Our Troops) program. Anita told us that she and her helpers had mailed out 15 boxes this month serving about 100 troops. She said that she has an empty trunk in her car to accept any donations today. She thanked us for the support to her and her helpers. Larry, because of the large number of visitors today, explained the HOT program to us. We are serving two Army units, a Marine unit and two Air Force units. Larry explained that our web site has the information about HOT. Larry received a letter from VADM Norb Ryan thanking our Chapter for our contributions to the Scholarship fund.

Larry asked Don if he had a few words about the Convention. Don, although not being a man of few words, gave us good news that the Convention goals were being exceeded.

Larry called Chaplain George Brown to the podium to set up for our Memorial Service Ceremony. George asked us to stand and sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" with him. Then George led us in a Call To Remembrance. The Honor Guard was posted and the reading of the names of our deceased members and spouses followed by First Vice President MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret). LtCol Fred Edwards, USMC (Ret), tolled the bell after each name was read. After the reading Bugler James Roth played Taps. Ed then dismissed the Honor Guard. After a Meditation, we joined in singing "God Bless America" and George gave a short prayer in thanksgiving for the service of our departed members and spouses. After the conclusion of the Memorial Service Larry recessed the meeting for lunch.

Col Bill Eisenhart, USAF (Ret), had the honor of introducing our speaker LTC Sandra McNaughton, USA. Bill has known Sandra since she was 10 years old and was a neighbor. She is the daughter of members Landy and Barbara Nelson. She is currently serv-

ing as Officer in Charge of the Warrior Clinic at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Sandra's service in Afghanistan with a Special Forces A Team placed her in harms way and she was accepted by the group as one of them. She travelled with the A Team and was with them in ambushes and fire fights. Sandra and her medics treated the indigenous people as well as her team members.

Sandra's stories of the horrible living conditions of all the people, but especially the women and children were heart breaking. Women have families of 14-15 children and malnutrition was rampant. Diseases usually went untreated unless someone like Sandra came to help them. Generally, the culture prohibits the treatment of women by male doctors. The teams were not permitted to offer birth control advice or methods to the women. The people would travel for miles on foot seeking treatment. That includes civilian men as well as Afghanistan Army troops as well as the women and children. In winter it gets very cold in the Kanduhar area and people did not have adequate clothing for the climate. Sandra's mother and some friends sent blankets to be given to the people.

Sandra told us of a big meeting with some village elders at which they feasted on lamb and goat among other delicacies. Makes you hungry, doesn't it?

LTC McNaughton was accompanied by a member of her A Team who was seriously wounded in an ambush. He is CWO Romulo Camargo, USA, and his life was saved by the prompt and competent treatment by Sandra and her assistant medic. They got him stabilized and on a medevac helicopter where he was transported to the hospital in Kanduhar and then on to Walter Reed eventually. He is now a patient at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa. Romulo or "Romy" as he is known by his friends, and Sandra came with his extended family and friends. Meeting them all was a heart-warming experience. It is impossible for me to express my feelings when meeting the real heroes that Romy exemplifies. At one point in Sandra's presentation, I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

After the completion of her presentation LTC McNaughton was given a long and loud round of applause. I can say with great surety that this was the best lunch meeting, Memorial Service, and guest speaker that I have ever experienced.

Thanks to our Chapter leaders and LTC Sandra McNaughton for this.

Larry announced that the SIRATA Beach Resort has made an offer to provide 100 first-night-free room nights on 25, 26, 27, and 28 May to active duty military, Guard and Reserve. These are 100 free rooms each of those nights. Our next luncheon meeting is 19 June. There will not be an Executive Committee meeting in June because of the Convention.

Chaplain George Brown gave the benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

Photos by Basil





Our guest speaker, LTC Sandy McNaughton, USA



Our honored guest, CWO2 Romy Camargo, USA, and his wife, Gaby



L to R: Barbara Nelson (proud mother of our guest speaker), Genevieve Poteat, Eleanor Burrell, and Dolly Couture



New member: Patty Packer (Stuart's picture didn't come out well)



Landy Nelson (proud father of our guest speaker)



Ed Spears and Tom Spears



Sandy and our WWII nurses who were present



John Holecek



The Bolin's: Bill Jr., Lynn, and Bill Sr.



Ralph Settle



All nurses present



Sandy's neighbor, Ellen Krekle, who came from the DC area to hear Sandy speak





## ROWC Installs New Officers

The Retired Officers Wives Club is pleased to announce the new board of officer's for 2009-2010. Five elected members were installed on May 12th and proudly accepted their positions to perform the duties required of them for the coming year.



Pictured from left to right :

- ... Corresponding Secretary ..... Asa Myers
- ... Recording Secretary ..... Jean Clark
- ... Treasurer ..... Barbara King
- ... Vice President ..... Violet Smith
- ... President ..... Moonyeen Everett

Congratulations to all.

The Installing Officer was Jane Gaugh

## Military Ethos, from Pg 3

For example, Tim Frazen, who works with the Quaker-run American Friends Service Committee, is quoted by Military.com as saying, "... we may be on the verge of the military trying to bail out schools from their discipline problems. If this succeeds, they will open others. I can see it spreading like wild-fire."

Well, if it works, it should spread.

Grace Hawkins, of the Atlanta Grandmothers for Peace and the Georgia Peace and Justice Coalition, told Military.com, "We are opposed to recruiting children into the military this way at such early ages. This is the trend: Giving out free violent video games, inviting them to come and fire weapons to get them used to the idea of shooting. Thinking that nothing bad will happen."

It makes one wonder about drive-by shootings during summer vacations. It makes one ask what's better for those kids - gangs, or a disciplined learning environment.

Dana Tofig from the Georgia Department of Education simply compares the proposed institute to a magnet or charter school with a military theme. She doesn't sound like a military martinet when she says: "We have received some e-mails in our office from concerned parents. We feel like it's good to have the debate and have it publicly. As long as students have the choice to attend and the school follows state and federal law, we don't see a problem."

Despite the protests, the school board has chosen a temporary site for the new institute and hired a principal. It looks like the Marines will land in peace as soon as approval comes from Acting Secretary of the Navy, B.J. Penn.

I say the sooner, the better, so those kids in DeKalb County will have their chance to get their high school diplomas. Maybe someday one of them will be a U.S. cabinet secretary, or chief of staff of the armed forces, or even president of the United States. And people can sleep peaceably in their beds at night.

## Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.  
(Contact **LCDR Hazel McGrath**, 545-3884)

- \* **Lt Col Ron Wildes**, USAFR (Ret)  
Page 44, 2009 Directory
- \* **Louann Andrews**, Spouse  
Page 15, 2009 Directory
- \* **Lt Col Ralph Myers**, USAF (Ret)  
Page 33, 2009 Directory
- \* **Col Al Neville**, USAF (Ret)  
Page 34, 2009 Directory



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Miller, Katherine Mrs.  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Albert Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Sims, Robert Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:  
\$879 as of 5/19/2009

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Christie, Robert LtCol  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4

## ••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
Cormier, Emery Maj  
Lanier, Laurie Maj  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Simon, June Mrs.  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

**May Birthdays**

(72 to 93 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
01	Kaniss	Margery	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
04	Hoddinott	June	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
04	Stafford	Margaret	COL	USA (Ret)
09	Palsha	Robert	LTC	USA (Ret)
10	Balke	Dale	COL	USA (Ret)
10	Hadley	Dorothy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
11	Kometas	Ermene	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
19	Fontana	Raymond	LT	USN (Ret)
22	Wadham	Peggy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Jenkins	John	CDR	USN (Ret)
28	Miller	Katherine	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
29	Fine	A. Kenneth	MAJ	AUS (Ret)
29	Harren	Robert	MAJ	USA (Ret)

**2009 Scholarship Fund Donors**  
(Includes donations to National MOAA)

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## ••GOLD –

Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Burrell, Basil CWO4  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Freese, Donald CAPT  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Lofgren, William Col  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Love, H. B. COL  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Albert Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Parsons, Charles Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Sims, Robert Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.  
Spears, Anse COL

## ••SILVER –

Christie, Robert LtCol  
Conners, Ed LT  
Jessup, Jean Mrs.

## ••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Cormier, Emery Maj  
Curren, Henry LT  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
Green, Richard CWO4  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Simon, June Mrs.  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

Member donations ONLY:  
\$2,451.00 as of 5/19/2009

**2009 Help Our Troops Donors**

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## ••GOLD –

Barton, Ann Mrs.  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Freese, Donald CAPT  
Gudmundson, Brent LTC  
Isley, Anne Mrs.  
Kottich, Charles COL  
Lofgren, William Col  
Miller, Katherine Mrs.  
Misuraca A. J. 1 Lt  
Nelson, Landy COL  
Neville, Albert Col  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Sims, Robert Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.  
Talbitzer, John LT

## ••SILVER –

Baney, Eleanor Mrs.  
Burrell, Basil CWO4  
Christie, Robert LtCol  
Dawson, Peter Maj  
Eynatten, Robert CAPT  
Green, Richard CWO4  
Lanier, Laurie Maj  
Lorence, Marie LTC  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Simon, June Mrs.

## ••BRONZE –

Andrews, Carroll Lt Col  
Cormier, Emery Maj  
Dwyer, Thurm Col  
Gottry, Catharine Mrs.  
McGrady, Judge  
McGrath, Hazel LCDR  
Munchbach, Rose LTC  
Pelszynski, Irene Mrs.  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
Trahan, Creighton LTC

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**TAPS**

- Thankfully, none.





## Minutes, from Pg 4

### *To receive the St. Petersburg Area Chapter's Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Service :*

#### **Mrs. Anita J. Harrow, AuxMbr**

The Committee wishes to make known it recognizes that others are worthy of the recognition ,but requirements of Chapter policy mandate deferral until the criteria is met.

**Publicity:** An article was sent to all the local newspapers announcing the luncheon on the 15th of May.

**Convention Report:** Don reports that the 2009 convention is already a success. The three goals set have already been met. Fifty one of our Chapter members have registered to attend the convention which is the largest number from any chapter but Don said the host chapter is not eligible to be awarded the highest member attendee award. Current registrations total 202.. Fifteen people are staying at the Sirata who have not yet registered for an estimated total of 217 attendees. Sirata has confirmed 225 room nights with 190 people from 3 June to 9 June. It is anticipated that the attendance may be as high as 230. The Sirata is still accepting MOAA discounted rates, but are selling out their rooms for June 5 and 6 so the discounted rooms may not last much longer. Souvenir Book ads total 60 with \$10,140 in revenue of which \$7,290 has been received. Sixteen advertisers will have tables in the Majestic Ballroom Foyer. Betty Finley, Sherry Freese and Pauline Edwards have done a great job obtaining donated items for raffles, door prizes and auction. Dr. and Mrs. Robert Dodson donated 8 original oil paintings, valued at \$150 each, Haypennie Jewelers donated an original coral and sterling silver multi strand necklace and earring set valued at \$535 and MOAA Vacations and Royal Caribbean donated a 7 day cruise for 2 valued at \$1,000, which will be given away at the Saturday presentation by MOAA Vacations. Active marketing for the convention is ongoing. A Saturday lunch has been confirmed for \$12.00 including ice tea or lemonade, tax and gratuity. The tickets for the luncheon will be limited to 150. The next planning committee meeting will be at the Sirata's Compass Grille Restaurant on 19 May at 1100 hours. Close out for obtaining ads is May 8.

Marie Lorence thanked the Awards Committee for the honors bestowed on her.

#### **Installation of Officers:**

After discussion, a motion was made by Earl Peck, seconded by Larry Fernald that the 2010 installation take place at the Bayou Club on January 16. Motion carried. Cost of the dinner will be approximately \$36 or \$37 per person. It was unanimously approved to use the 2 night room certificate at the Hilton for our installation speaker. RADM Tom Hall, Assistant Secretary of Defense for President Bush's administration will be the guest speaker. RADM Hall left the administration 2 or 3 weeks ago after staying on for the transition with President Obama.

**Other Business:** Earl Peck had a concern that the proposed defense budget does not cover sufficient costs of maintaining the aircraft and other defense capabilities needed to defend our

country and protect our troops. He believes that MOAA should also emphasize these issues. Fred Edwards suggested that the Chapter authorize the Chapter President to incorporate in a letter thoughts that were brought before this meeting to be sent to the President of MOAA or to go to the Florida Council with a resolution which would then be from the entire State of Florida. Authority was given to the President to write a letter on the Chapter's behalf to the President of MOAA.

There being no further business, George Brown gave the benediction and the meeting adjourned at 1315 hours. There will be no Executive Committee meeting in June.



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## Welcome Our New Members!

- **Packer, Patty**, Capt, USAF (Fmr); 7979  
Sailboat Key Blvd #207; South Pasadena, FL;  
727-360-3364
- **Packer, Stuart**, Capt, USAF (Fmr); 7979  
Sailboat Key Blvd #207; South Pasadena, FL;  
727-360-3364

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of April 2009

### Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ (330.86)
..... Donations .....	\$ 145.00
..... Ad Income .....	\$ 120.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses .....	\$ 326.51
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ (392.37)

### HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 4,333.92
..... Donations .....	\$ 285.00
..... 50/50 Income .....	\$
..... Expenses .....	\$ 573.39
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 4,045.53

### Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 2,915.41
..... Donations and 50/50 .....	\$ 335.00
..... Memorials .....	\$ 60.00
..... 50/50 Income .....	\$ 36.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 3,346.41

### Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month .....	\$ 3,265.08
..... Monthly Luncheon .....	\$ 675.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10 .....	\$ 55.00
..... Miscellaneous Income .....	\$ 55.00
..... Luncheon Expense .....	\$ 630.00
..... Supplies & Non-recurring .....	\$ 0.00
..... Postage .....	\$ 16.80
..... Printing Expense .....	\$ 0.00
..... Memorials Expense .....	\$ 60.00
..... VA/JROTC .....	\$ 100.00
..... Misc Expenses .....	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month .....	\$ 3,243.28

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## Next Meeting

WHEN: **19 JUNE 2009**

WHERE: **Banquet Masters,  
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Park**

TIME: **Social "Hour" 11:00;  
Program begins at 11:45**



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Fathers Day, June 15<sup>th</sup>

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Edwards to purchase



## LUNCHEON MEETING

11:00 AM - 1:30 PM, June 19<sup>th</sup>

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• **Reservations by Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup>**

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_.

**Each reservation \$12:**

Chicken Cordon Bleu: \_\_\_\_\_

Lemon Crumb Scrod: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*\*\* CLIP and MAIL, with check to:

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Largo, FL 33777

**For late reservations &/or a RIDE,  
call:**

LCDR Paul Finley, 391-5908 or

Lt Col Larry Fernald, 522-6237