



OFFICERS CALL

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



VOL XII No. VI ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter:2000, 2002-10 ★★★★★ June 2012
Winner Print Media 2006; 1st Runnerup 2010-11; Winner 2010 Communications Award

President's Comments:

I thought the Memorial Service during our May luncheon meeting went extremely well. Thanks to all who participated in any capacity.



Paulette and I attended the FCOC convention in West Palm Beach 18-22 May along with several other Chapter members to, among other things, support Don Freese as he handed over the reins to a new President, after an enormously successful two years. Don has now been selected as a candidate to the MOAA Board of Directors. Please support him with your vote on the ballot that will appear in the August edition of the Military Officer magazine. I also recently asked the EC to confirm Don as head of the Awards Committee, which was a recommendation Fred Edwards had made to me.

During the 15 May Meeting of the FCOC, our Chapter presented a proposal to host the 2014 Convention at the downtown Hilton, and that proposal was approved. It will be a challenge to our Chapter to make that convention as good as the 2012 convention, as the speakers and entertainers were fantastic, but I am confident we will once again rise to the occasion.

I wish all our members as well as all Americans could have heard the speakers at the 2012 Convention. If ever, because of

See President Pg 4

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2012 FCOC Convention Photos



Guest Speaker Rep Allen West

Outgoing FCOC President CAPT Don Freese and incoming President Lt Col Jim Conner exchange pins



MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan presenting Don Freese with the Chairman's Award and Sherry Freese with the President's Award for their service

St Pete Chapter President Terry Carr with Congressman Allen West





Officers Call

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



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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DIRECTORS

President- LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) 459-4026
1st VP- LCDR Bill Lee, USN (Ret) 266-4380
2nd 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

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LTC Hardy Bryan, USA (Ret) 522-0732
CPT Barbara Stakk, USA (Fmr) 808-554-1419
Mrs. Virginia Balke, AuxMbr-A 544-3598

2011 & 2012—

Maj Gen John Schoeppner, USAF (Ret) 407 694-4573
Col Charlie Parsons, USAF (Ret) 522-8198
Mrs. Jean Jessup, AuxMbr-A 865-6083

Immediate Past President

MAJ Ed Lillich, USA (Ret) 546-2246

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advertising CDR Bill Bolin, USNR 584-1595
Auxiliary Liaison ..Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N ...367-9050
Awards CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
Bylaws/Policy Bk Vacant
Chaplain COL George Brown, USA 866-6859
Chaplain Ass't COL Mike Day, USA 394-9151
Data Base Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
Electronic Info Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
Historian: CDR Maureen Conners, USN 347-7976
HOT Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N ...367-9050
JROTC MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Law: CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
Legislative: CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
MacDill Liaison ..Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
Master at ArmsCWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
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Memorial Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
Newsletter CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG 393-4160
Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
Personal Affairs ..Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
Programs LCDR Bill Lee, USN 266-4380
Publicity: Vacant
Reservations CDR Bill Bolin, USNR 584-1595
ROWC LiaisonMrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A 595-5543
Scholarships: 1LT Hazel Murphy 347-5195
TOPS COL Carol Barnes, USA 381-2334
VA Vol Svc LT Ed Conners, USN 347-7976
Vet Liaison MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
Visitation Vacant -

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 296
Regular Members - 193
Auxiliary Members - 103
Inactive Members - 5

Military Services:

Army - 66 USMC - 14
USAF - 62 USCG - 9
Navy - 42 NOAA - 0

5/22/2012

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

CALENDAR

June 15th CDR Edmond R. Morris, USCG (Ret)
July 20th Dr. Gloria Payne
August 20th Terri Griner, AWAPS
September 21st MAJ Ed Lillich POW/MIA

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

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.

June 4th Monday
July 2nd Monday
May 7th Monday

ROWC

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be in October

Luncheon Reservations:
Evelyn Hamilton, 399-1272 or
Bobbie Walters 595-4619

Membership Info:

- Barbara King 391-2464

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM
Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.
• Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272
or Bobbie Walters 595-4619

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 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.





Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**
Monthly Luncheon; 11 May 2012

Attended – 54: (56 reservations), 1 Member Guest, 5 Chapter Guests, 1 Walk in, 2 Cancel, 1 No Shows

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr. The Invocation was given by Chaplain George Brown. The Pinellas County Veterans' Liaison Honor Guard presented the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Terry introduced the head table which included; Ed Lillich, Chaplain Brown and Joanne Taylor. Our guest was Colonel Zonna Crayne, USAF. Zonna is in the National Guard and just returned from Afghanistan. Zonna participated with the Chapter Honor Guard for the Memorial Service. Thank you Zonna.

Chris Lillich won the door prize and the 50/50 was split between Penny Eisenhart and Joan Landers.

Don Freese announced that he is a nominee for the MOAA Board of Directors. Ballots will be in the August Military Officer magazine. Please be sure to vote for Don and send in your ballot. Congratulations Don. Don had some handouts on Survivor benefits and other helpful information.

Following lunch George Brown was called to the podium as Master of Ceremonies to present the Memorial Service. Bill Lofgren gave a presentation on Memorial Day and he also accompanied the singing of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and God Bless America. The Chapter Honor Guard was made up of CAPT Don Freese, Lt Col Larry Fernald, Col Zonna Crayne, LTC Terry Carr and MAJ Ed Lillich. The bell was tolled for each of our members departed in the past year. The PCVL Honor Guard presented the flag folding, and David Mallory concluded the service with the playing of TAPS.

Members of the PCVL Honor Guard included Herb Karkheck, Tina Crisp, Bob St. Clair, Charlie Rubado and Jerry McGovern.

God bless America, our men and women in uniform, and their families.

Executive Committee Meeting 7 May 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr at 1130 hours. The Invocation was given by Chaplain George Brown after a moment of silence to remember Fred Edwards. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Terry. Sixteen members were present to include; Bill Bolin, George Brown, Hardy Bryan, Terry Carr, Pete Dawson, Larry Fernald, Don Freese. Anita Harrow, Jean Jessup, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Hazel McGrath, Charlie Parsons, John Schoeppner and Barbara Stakk. Guests were Donna Tritt and Gary Gilchrist.

Gary Gilchrist gave an update on the USO facility which will

be opened at Tampa International Airport on August 2 of this year. The USO room is 1132 square feet and is located on the second floor and will be furnished with televisions, computers, furniture and refrigerator and will be available for active duty personnel and their families. Retired military may also use the facility. Paid staff will include one Director and two full time Managers. Gary is soliciting resumes from anyone interested in filling one of these positions. Volunteers are also needed to man the facility once it is open. In-kind and monetary donations are needed. Gary Gilchrist is a member of our Chapter and you can contact him by telephone. He is listed on page 28 of the 2012 directory.

Donna Tritt of Bright House Media Strategies and Channel 9 presented various opportunities for advertising our Chapter on television to include a commercial and having our events posted on the Neighborhood News which is broadcasted on 60 different networks. Donna will work with Larry Fernald to find out our exact needs and come back to the Executive Council with figures.

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Hardy Bryan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ed Lillich. Motion Passed.

Treasurer's Report: The balance in the operating account is \$9,111.25. Don Freese made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Ed Lillich. Entire accountability is found elsewhere in the O.C.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Visitation: Hazel McGrath gave a report on those that are hospitalized and homebound. Hazel will no longer be able to continue with her chairmanship due to medical reasons and turned in her resignation to the Council. Anyone interested in continuing with this very welcome service is asked to contact Terry Carr. The job involves telephoning and sending get-well notes which are provided by the Chapter.

JROTC: Ed Lillich presented awards to Dixie Hollins and Boca Ciega and George Brown will present Awards to Gibbs and Admiral Farragut Academy.

Veterans' Liaison: Ed reported that the Veterans' Liaison Honor Guard will participate in the Memorial Service at the May luncheon. All members of the Chapter Honor Guard are asked to wear uniforms.

HOT: Anita Harrow is sending boxes to seven units. She has asked all those who are currently receiving boxes to let her know when they are moving and to send the name of the replacement and she has been receiving the changes.

OLD BUSINESS:

2014 FCC Convention: Don Freese and Larry Fernald contacted the Hilton in St. Petersburg and were given a proposal for holding the convention there. The Sirata was again considered but the costs have gone up considerably. Bill Lofgren made a motion to accept the report and authorize the committee to present the proposal to the Florida Council at the West Palm

See Minutes Pg 4



President from Pg 1

my work or other commitments, my commitment to MOAA should ever start to wane, I will recall the words of Admiral Ryan, and dispel such thoughts.

At the FCOC meeting during the Convention, a number of issues were discussed that you will hear more about in the future. This includes the MOAA Community Blueprint Program, and some initiatives on advertising.

For the June luncheon meeting, we will return to the normal meeting time of the third Friday of the month. Our speaker will be CDR Edmond R. Morris, USCG (Ret), Port Security Office. I hope to see you there.

Minutes from Pg 3

Beach Convention. Ed Lillich seconded the motion and the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Awards Committee: President Terry Carr, in accordance with the by-laws appointed Don Freese to be Chairman of the Awards Committee. Don accepted the appointment.

Community Blueprint: A Community Blueprint, established by Admiral Ryan, will be presented to the Chapters at the convention. This is a program that Chapters can be involved in helping veterans and their families transition from military to the community. For more information on this program go to <http://vimeo.com/40108251>.

USO: After discussion, Bill Lofgren made a motion to donate \$250.00 to the USO project and to place a plaque from the St. Petersburg Chapter of MOAA in the room. Motion was seconded by Anita Harrow and the motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: George Brown said that MacDill Seascapes, the restaurant out by the water and Family Campgrounds has been refurbished and has new management who provides varied menus. The facility is open for lunch.

Don Freese said he enjoyed "Storming the Hill" and was very pleased with the welcome received from all those he had appointments with. He said when MOAA walks in the door they listen. He will be talking about some of the issues at the R.O.W.C. meeting.

There being no further business, George Brown gave the Benediction and the meeting was adjourned.

PERSONAL AFFAIRS

Report from Violet Smith

I would be remiss if I didn't offer a special thanks to George Brown. George has been so faithful in providing me with additional information from MacDill. Thanks George.

Legal Assistance is offered at MacDill by appointment only. Wills can be executed on Thursdays from 0900-1200 hrs. For other documents M,T,W and F from 0900 - 1500 hrs. For information and appointments call 813-828-4422.

Although the official tax filing deadline has passed, Retiree Activities Office can still do taxes. For appointments and more information call 813-828-4555.

Some changes at the PharmaCARE Center. All new RX's including faxes and transfers will be picked up inside the PharmaCARE lobby between 0830 and 1700 hrs. M through F. Drive - thru will be used only for call-in RX during the week and on Saturday from 0900 - 1200 hrs. Except holidays. Remember that the pharmacy closes at noon for training every third Weds. If you are a retiree picking up RXs for your spouse(or vice versa) inside the pharmacy lobby you will need to present copy of spouse's ID card.

For disposal of unused medications permanent disposal boxes have now been installed in each of the pharmacy locations. When using the disposal boxes remember to remove or mark out your personal ID information if it is on the container, medications should be in their original containers when placed in the disposal box. Liquids should be wrapped in a paper towel or absorbent material and placed in zip-lock bag. DO NOT place syringes, sharps or other medical waste in the boxes. If unsure, speak with a Pharmacy rep.

The new dining facility has undergone major renovations since Jan. and is now open. Retirees may eat at the Diner's Reef. Open for breakfast from 0530 to 0900 hrs. lunch from 1030 to 1315 and dinner from 1500 to 1700 hrs. Try to avoid the hours between 1100 and 1200 since they are very busy at that time serving active duty personnel.

Next Retiree Appreciation Day will be 10 Nov (Veteran's Day weekend) Many facilities will be open from 0900-1500 hrs. Most activities will be held in the Exchange mall food court area. Schedule of events will be published later this year.

The Commissary will host a "Dog Show" from 1200 - 1600 hrs. on 19 May. Prizes will be awarded.

Smoke alarms for people who are deaf and or hard of hearing. Smoke alarms with built in or separate strobe lights can be purchased through home improvement store web sites or by searching the Internet for "strobe light smoke alarms" BRK/First Alert, Gentex and Kidde brands offer this type of smoke alarm. Smoke alarm accessories such as bed/pillow shakers, transmitters and receivers are available through "lifetone.com, safeawake.com and silentcall.com."

Marie Lorence is now home after a lengthy stay at Bay Pines. Ron Wildes is also home after a stay at Palms of Largo. These individuals have been long time members of SPAMOAA, please remember them with a phone call or an e-mail.

Vacant Committee Positions

We have two open Committee Chair positions. If you would be interested in serving as chairman on the Visitation or the Publicity committee contact Terry Carr or better yet come to an Executive Committee to find out more. Benefits are great but pay is low.



MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

Senate Champions Offer TRICARE Bill

Senators Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) joined forces to introduce a bi-partisan bill to stop unfair TRICARE fee hikes for military beneficiaries.

Their “Military Health Care Protection Act of 2012” (S. 3203) would:



- Acknowledge that servicemembers pre-pay significant healthcare premiums through decades of service and sacrifice, over and above what they pay in cash
- Limit the annual percentage increase in cash fees including Pharmacy copays, TRICARE Standard deductible, and the cap on annual out-of-pocket expenses to the percentage increase in military retired pay
- Bar any further increase in the existing TRICARE Standard retiree inpatient copay of \$708 per day, recognizing that the current amount is plenty high enough
- Specify that should the Defense Department establish an enrollment system for TRICARE Standard, any eligible beneficiary filing a claim must be automatically enrolled until they opt to dis-enroll. (This is to ensure beneficiaries who fail to get the word about any new Standard enrollment system don't have their claims rejected for failure to enroll — e.g., in the event of a serious vehicle accident.)

“We're grateful for Sen. Lautenberg's and Sen. Rubio's leadership in introducing this bill to protect uniformed services beneficiaries from disproportional TRICARE fee increases,” said MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan (USN-Ret).

“Repeated proposals to raise their healthcare fees by up to \$2,000 a year have been extremely unsettling to the military community. The Lautenberg-Rubio bill would restore a much-needed sense of stability for this core career retention incentive.”

Let your voice be heard

This bill would acknowledge that career servicemembers and families pre-pay huge premiums of service and sacrifice, and limit increases in cash TRICARE fees in any year to the percentage increase in military retired pay.

With the Senate Armed Services Committee set to begin drafting its version of the FY2013 Defense Authorization Bill, your help is needed to build maximum Senate support for the Lautenberg-Rubio bill as quickly as possible.

Please act now to send your two senators a MOAA-suggested message both thanking Senator Rubio for his sponsorship and asking Senator Nelson for his support.

Normally when we do these bill-specific alerts, we can do it through MOAA's “bill track” mode that allows different messages to cosponsors vs. non-cosponsors.

This is an unusual case because we wanted to send the alert immediately (with the Senate Armed Services Committee drafting the Defense bill), and the bill information isn't in the electronic system yet.

Unlike bill messages, alerts aren't variable for different addressees. Still, the message is editable.

In the text box, recommend you insert at the beginning:

“To Senator Rubio: Thank you for sponsoring S. 3203.”

And then right below that, before the rest of the message text, insert:

“To Senator Nelson:”

That way, although the same text will go to both senators, it will be clear that the first line is for Sen Rubio and the rest of the text is aimed at Sen Nelson.

MOAA President Defends Military Benefits

MOAA President VADM Norb Ryan defended military people at a three-person debate on military pay and benefits at the Center for American Progress (CAP) in Washington, DC.

He sparred with Maj. Gen. Arnold L. Punaro (USMCR-Ret.), a member of the Defense Business Board, and Michael J. Bayer, former Chairman of the Defense Business Board, whose 2011 report recommended major cutbacks in military retirement. The panel was moderated by Lawrence Korb, Senior Fellow for CAP and former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs, Installations and Logistics.

The debate was over a new CAP study (of which Korb was one of the authors) that recommends cutting back on military pay raises, converting military retirement to a contributory 401(k)-style system, and dramatically increasing TRICARE fees for military retirees, among other things.

Bayer said, “Until personnel costs are wrestled down to manageable levels, there won't be enough to fund other defense needs.” He advocated a radical overhaul of what he asserted is “an archaic system of [military] pay and benefits”, noting that 83% of military people leave service without any benefit.

Punaro said he agrees with MOAA that we don't want to return to the “erosion of benefits” era of the late 1970s, but still argued for significant benefit cuts for future entrants. He noted that military retirees' life expectancy likely will continue

See Legislature Page 8



Honor Guard, Guest Zonna Crayne, Larry Fernald, Don Freese and Terry Carr



Ed Lillich reads names of deceased members



Bugler David Mallory



Posting the colors



Color Guard, Jerry McGovern, Charlie Rubado, Tina Crisp and Bob St. Clair



Flag folding ceremony



Sherry Freese and Mike Vision



Larry Fernald and Terry Carr



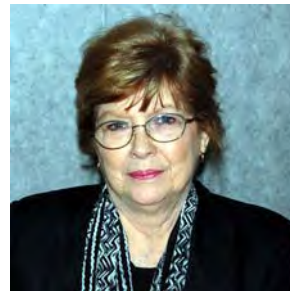
Penny and Bill Eisenhart



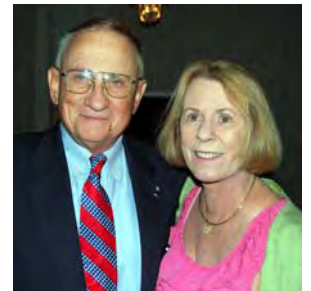
Sherry and Don Freese



Charlie Parsons



Jean Jessup



John and Martha Schoepner



Chris Lillich and Paulette Carr



Anne Isley, Barb Fernald and Anita Harrow



Don Freese and guest Zonna Crayne

Photos by Bill Lofgren





George Brown



Bill and Lynn Bolin



Tony Quattromani



Virginia Balke and guest, sister Helen Hajek



Paul and Betty Finley



Bobbie Walters



Fran Shivers



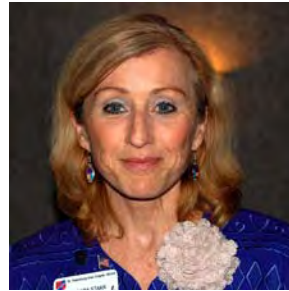
Cal Imboden



Anita Harrow and Joanne Taylor



Ted Wall



Barbara Stakk



Fred Schlager



Marlene and John Talbitzer



Rose Munchbach



Hazel McGrath



Joan Landers



Kathryn Roy



Faye and H. B. Love



Richard Green



Dick Koch

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify Larry Fernald of your correct email address at the following email address: LarryFern246@tampabay.rr.com



Legislature from Pg 5

to rise another 6 to 8 years, “creating another huge financial burden for the country.”

VADM Ryan countered that Defense leaders are “missing the forest for the trees” on these issues, and that the real focus should be on sustaining needed incentives for the 17% to stay rather than whacking their benefits to help the 83% who choose to leave.

“There’s a reason only 17% stay for a career,” Ryan said, citing the huge sacrifices inherent in a military career. “The 83% don’t leave with nothing. Congress approved a GI Bill worth upwards of \$80,000 per person to help them with that transition.”

He noted a 20-year NCO earns retired pay of only \$23,000, and that proposing big pay, retirement, and healthcare cutbacks “dishonors their service.”

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

“The time has come at long last to have the general membership of MOAA vote on a very important proposal.

There will be a national ballot in the August edition of the Military Officer magazine.

Widows and Widowers (Surviving Spouses) of MOAA members have held a special place in the association since their addition to the ranks in 1975. The group receives the same level of membership benefits as officer members but they have never had the opportunity to vote for MOAA’s Board of Directors or make their voice heard on platform issues. Hopefully this status will change.

Auxiliary Members (Surviving Spouses) make up 17% of MOAA’s One Powerful Voice and play key roles in leadership at all levels. There have been several efforts in the past that examined the voting issue. Extensive demographic data and input from major stakeholders such as the Council and Chapter Affairs Committee, Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee and other chapter leadership groups have supported the recommendation that Auxiliary members be granted full voting privileges at national level.

Look for the ballot in the August edition of the Military Officer magazine and vote to have the right to vote granted to the MOAA Auxiliary (Surviving Spouses) membership. Help make the “One Powerful Voice” even stronger.”

VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011

Are you or do you know an unemployed Veteran age 35-60?

If so, there is a new Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Labor’s (DOL) education benefit program that helps train Veterans in high demand occupations.

As a VetSuccess.gov user we would like to share information about our new programs and benefits that are underway due to the enactment of a new law. In an effort to reduce Veteran unemployment, the President signed into law the VOW

Financial Report Summary for the Month of April 2012

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ (39.46)
..... Donations	\$ 150.00
..... Ads	\$ 240.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (363.11)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ (12.57)

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 3,035.26
..... Donations	\$ 165.00
..... 50/50	\$ 42.00
..... Memorials	\$ 0.00
..... Expenses	\$ (1,562.30)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,679.96

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 1,535.00
..... Donations	\$ 350.00
..... Expended	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 1,885.00

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 9,098.22
..... Luncheon Income	\$ 558.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 0.00
..... Misc Income	\$ 0.00
..... Interest Earned	\$ 2.46
..... Luncheon Expense	\$ (510.00)
..... VA/JROTC	\$ 0.00
..... Supplies	\$ (37.43)
..... Printing (Directory)	\$ 0.00
..... Post Office	\$ 0.00
..... Memorial to HOT	\$ 0.00
..... Other Organizations	\$ 0.00
..... Miscellaneous Expense	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 9,111.25

to Hire Heroes Act of 2011 last November. Included in this new law is the Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) for unemployed Veterans, which VA begins accepting applications May 15, 2012.

VRAP will provide 99,000 eligible Veterans with up to one year of additional Montgomery GI Bill benefits in order to help you earn training and certifications in high-demand job. In order to receive these benefits, you must attend a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school.

The requirements to be eligible for the VRAP program are:

- You must be unemployed the day you apply
- You must be least 35 but no more than 60 years old

See VOW Pg 9





TAPS

- ◆ Lt Col L. Wayne Atkinson, USAF (Ret)
22 April 2012

Sick List

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

- ◆ Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ CDR Alda Haley, USN (Ret)
- ◆ Mrs. Clarada Pribble, AuxMbr-MC
- ◆ Lt Col Sky Crowell, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ Col Mildred “Gene” Butler, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ Mrs. Margaret Mattson, AuxMbr-CG
- ◆ COL Anse “Ed” Speairs, USA (Ret)
- ◆ LTC Marie Lorence, USA (Ret)
- ◆ Lt Col Ron Wildes, USAF (Ret)



Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ MAJ Bill Burgess, III, USA (Ret) (Collette)
8335 Monarch Circle, Seminole, FL 33772,
727-642-4915



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Stephen E. Fisherkeller



June Birthdays (62 to 96 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
01	Binzer	William	Col	USAF (Ret)
10	Crabb	Glen	CDR	USN (Ret)
29	Fine	A. Kenneth	MAJ	AUS (Ret)
19	Fontana	Raymond	LT	USN (Ret)
9	Garvey	James	Capt	USAF (Ret)
29	Harren	Robert	MAJ	USA (Ret)
04	Hoddinott	June	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
03	Jessup	Jean	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
01	Kaniss	Margery	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
9	Lewis	William	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
09	Palsha	Robert	LTC	USA (Ret)
04	Stafford	Margaret	COL	USA (Ret)
24	Stakk	Barbara	CPT	USA (Fmr)
22	Wadham	Peggy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
16	Wildes	Shirley	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse

VOW from Pg 8

- You must have an other than dishonorable discharge
- You must not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program (e.g., the Post 9/11 GI Bill, Montgomery GI Bill, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment)
- You must not in receipt of VA compensation due to Individual Unemployability (IU)
- You cannot be enrolled in a federal or state job training program
- You must be enrolled in a VA approved program of education offered by a community college or technical school

You can begin applying May 15, 2012, but cannot start any education or training until June 1, 2012 and you must apply to VA by March 31, 2014.

I cannot encourage you enough to take advantage of this unique opportunity if you are eligible, and if you are not, but know a fellow Veteran, who may be eligible, please pass this information along to them.

Also under this new law, if you are a Veteran with a service-connected disability and have previously completed a VA vocational rehabilitation program and have used the initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits you may qualify for an additional 12 months of VA vocational rehabilitation benefits. To be eligible you must:

- Have previously completed a VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program and been considered “rehabilitated” by VA.
- Apply within six months of using up your initial 26 weeks of unemployment benefits. You may still qualify for extended or emergency unemployment benefits.

To apply or learn more information about VRAP or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits, including on how to apply please visit www.benefits.va.gov/VOW



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Memory Care Community

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(727) 559-8411



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



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



If you wish to donate to one of our funds, please send the check to SPA-MOAA, PO Box 7054, St. Petersburg, FL, 33734 or better yet bring it to the next luncheon.

2012 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••GOLD –

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Freese, Don CAPT
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
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Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Misuraca, A. J. 1st Lt
Munchbach, Rose LTC
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Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
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Jessup, Jean Mrs.
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Tondreau, Herb CWO4

HOT Candy

HOT Candies will no longer be made and brought to the monthly luncheons in hopes for a sale. However, candies are still available by special order. Contact Bill Lofgren at 727-742-0181, or email lofgrenlepc@earthlink.net, giving your name and phone number and the type of assorted tin you would like to have. The tins will be specially made to your personal tastes. Orders must be received by Wednesday preceding the next Friday meeting. Price will remain the same, \$15 with all proceeds going to the HOT program.

2012 Officers Call Booster Donors

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

••GOLD –

Burrell, Basil CWO4
Carr, Terry LTC
Edwards, Fred LtCol
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Freese, Don CAPT
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Nelson, Landy Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.
Palmer, Stew Col

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,090 as of 5/22/2012

Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Thomas 2LT
Talbitzer, John LT

••SILVER –

Green, Richard CWO4
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

••BRONZE –

Eisenhart, Bill Col
Lanier, Laurie Maj
McGrath, Hazel LCDR

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.

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Thru June 2012



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

Monthly Luncheon

Friday
15 June 2012

Banquet Masters
8100 Park Blvd
Pinellas Park, FL

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

Guest Speakers:
CDR Edmond R. Morris, USCG (Ret)

RNC Security

Commander Edmond R. Morris USCG (Ret) USCG Port Security Specialist – Western Florida

CDR Morris is a graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, class of 1974. He holds a M.A. degree in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University, and originally hails from Wadesboro, North Carolina. CDR Morris sailed as Operations Officer on two coastal buoy tenders. He retired from the Coast Guard in 1996 and returned in 2004 as a civilian with a position as a Security Specialist (port). He is currently the Port Security Officer for Sector St. Petersburg, responsible for the west coast of Florida.

Other relevant assignments and career activities include:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| 1985-87 | Secondment to the International Maritime Organization. Duties included cruise ship security in the Caribbean Basin following terrorist takeover of the S. S. ACHILLE LAURO. |
| 1987-91 | Chief, Port Safety and Security School. Responsible for training all US Coast Guard personnel with Port Security duties, including Port Security Units deploying in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. |
| 1991 – 94 | Alternate Captain of the Port, Anchorage, Alaska. |
| 2002 – 04 | Team leader for congressionally mandated Port Security Assessment Team following 911 terrorist attacks. |
| 2004 - Present | Port Security Specialist for Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg, FL with AOR from Tallahassee to Naples, FL. |
| 2010 | USCG Sector Coordinator of 2012 RNC security activities. |
| Training & Certificates: | Counter Terrorism School, USA Military Police School, Dynamics of International Terrorism Course, USAF Special Operations School, Hurlburt Field, FL
ASIS certification: Certified Protection Professional |

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, June 15th 2012

Banquet Masters

8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL

• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, June 13th**

Name: _____

Each reservation \$12:

Chicken Cordon Bleu: _____

Lemon Crumb Scrod: _____

Cobb Salad : _____

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LTC Terry Carr 459-4026



June

- 6: D Day
- 14:  Flag Day
- 14: U. S Army 237th Birthday
- 17: Father's Day
- 21: First Day of Summer



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>

