

June 2017

President's Comments:

The main program at this month's luncheon was dedicated to the Memorial Observance of those members of our Chapter who have passed away since last year's ceremony. Fallen members included: Lt Col, USAF (Ret) Henry L. Marois, Jr. (7/5/2016); AuxMbr-A, Mrs. Wilma P. Fowler (9/3/2016); CWO4, USA (Ret) Richard D. Green (10/21/2016); AuxMbr-A, Mrs. Anita P. Connelly (1/14/2017); AuxMbr-A, Mrs. Joan P. Landers (1/19/2017); AuxMbr-A, Mrs. Bettye Phillips (2/24/2017); and, Col, USAF (Ret) William E. Eisenhart (3/24/2017). Chapter members aiding in this memorial observance were: COL, USA (Ret) Roger Popham; CAPT, USNR (Ret) Peter Gunderson; MAJ, USA (Ret) Ed Lillich; Lt Col, USAF (Ret), Larry Fernald and LTC, USA (Ret) Terry Carr. Special thanks go to our bugler, Steve Hightower. "If they are remembered, they are not gone truly, they simply changed duty assignments and are amongst our best". On behalf of a grateful nation we thank their families for sharing with us the lives of their fallen family members and we pledge to never forget them or their service to this great country.

At the luncheon, special recognition was given to Larry Fernald through presentation of a Military Officers Association of America's Five- Star Award for Communication Excellence as the St. Pete Chapter's Webmaster. Additionally, LTC Fran Chancey was also presented with a Five- Star Award for Communication Excellence for preparation of the Chapter's Outstanding Officer Call. Both awards are truly deserved and is certainly indicative of the professionalism exhibited by your Chapter. Congratulations to both. Also, COL George Brown and LTC Rose Munchbach remain on the sick list. Please keep them in your prayers. Lastly, next month's guest speaker, Walt Ulbricht from Eckerd College, will speak on opportunities for seniors in continuing education and travel opportunities, among other subjects. Please join us at lunch for camaraderie and continuing advocacy for our military community.



WHO MOVED THE PELIKAN?

By **Hardy W. Bryan, LTC, USA, (Ret)**

(Printed with permission from LTC Bryan, and continued from last month)

I went to the port to brief the Pelikan's Captain, to see the troops board and that the operation was going well, and returned to battalion headquarters. Then all hell broke loose. The battalion commander, wherever he was at the time, observed the Pelikan being pushed away from the jetty by the tugboats. He turned on his radio and demanded to know what was going on. Already there was anger in his voice. He was a very difficult person to work for and equally difficult to please. I responded to his radio call and offered to come to his location and inform him what I had done, since it could not be said over the airwaves. He ordered me to stay at the headquarters as he was on his way there.

I knew this would be a turbulent meeting but what could I do? In short order, his jeep roared up to the building and he hopped out wearing civilian clothes. He rushed in and I reported to him. "What," he demanded, "is going on?" I told him of the threat and what I had done to move the Pelikan. Steam came out of his ears. His eyes got red. His cheeks reddened. He shook with anger. He was livid. I had obviously done the wrong thing. I explained that we had been constantly trying to reach him, but that got nowhere.

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Officers Call



Marvin J. Harris 5 Star Award-2015
Website Harris 5 Star Award-2015

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.

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 • Photos – Col Bill Lofgren, USAF (Ret) 742-0181

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Luncheon Meetings The 3rd Friday — mixer 11:00 - 11:45 luncheon; program 11:45 - 13:15; Pasadena Yacht Club, 6300 Pasadena Pt Blvd So, Gulfport, FL 33707

CALENDAR

June 16th, Friday: Speaker: Walt Ulbricht, OLLI

July 21st, Friday. Speaker: Mike Clay, BayNews9

August 18th, Friday. Speaker:

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

Call: LTC Bill Eichholz, 289-9653

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 5th Monday

July 3rd Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

MOWC meetings are suspended for the summer months. Monthly meetings will resume in October.

Membership Info: Fran Chancey, 727-251-9653

Bridge: 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:30 AM. To RSVP, call Evelyn Hamilton, 727-399-1272

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 193
 Regular Members - 130
 Auxiliary Members - 63

Military Services:

Army - 62	USMC - 7
USAF - 30	USCG - 7
Navy - 24	NOAA - 0

5/21/2017

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Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Executive Committee Meeting
St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;
1 May 2017
 Reported by **Ginni Eichholz, Secretary**

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. The invocation was given by Glen Crabb. Bill Eichholz led the Pledge of Allegiance. Larry Fernald moved to accept the Secretary's minutes for March meeting as published. Seconded by Pauline Edwards. Minutes approved.

Pete Gunderson asked for suggestions for guest speakers. Also, Bill Eichholz advised Board members to contact their Congressional representatives asking them to keep spaces open at Arlington National Cemetery for retired military members. The Treasurers report was deferred to an internet vote to be confirmed at next month's meeting.

Chris Lillich is at home recuperating after emergency eye surgery. Pauline Edwards reported she has sent news releases to local papers advertising the MOAA meetings. Fran Chancey purchased items for 5 welcome baskets for new residents at Heaven on Earth for Vets.

Roger Popham provided food items to HOEV from his church food bank. Pauline Mallory reported that ticket sales for the handmade quilt donated by her quilting group netted \$3000.00 for HOEV.

Motion was made by Ginni Eichholz to produce a shortened version of the directory/ membership roster to cut cost. Seconded by Pauline Edwards. After some discussion Ginni rescinded the motion to allow Larry Fernald time to send a shortened version of this to the board for review. Bill Eichholz reminded everyone that Honor Flight Mission 30 for WW II Vet's takes place on 16 June.

After the Benediction by Glen Crabb the meeting was adjourned.



Luncheon Meeting
St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA;
19 May 2017
 Reported by **Ginni Eichholz, Secretary**

The luncheon meeting was called to order by President Bill Eichholz. After leading the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance, Bill introduced Miss Sarah Alonso, the guest of Roger and Jeanie Popham. Sarah is a high school junior who is interested in a military career. Chapter members were asked to please remember George Brown who continues to recover at home as well as Rose Munchbach who continues in rehab. Door prize winner was Terry Carr. This was the first time that he has won after many years with our chapter. Moral, never give up! The 50/50 drawing winners were Iwan Choronenko and Ken Fine.

Dick Koch also shared information regarding the dates of Honor Flights for 2017 for WW II. The dates for the next mission, number 30, is 6 June, departing St Pete/ Clearwater airport and arriving back there approximately 8:00PM. Mission 31 is 12 September and Mission 32 is on 24 October. Dick also created some fun rivalry by advising Sarah Alonso about the higher academic standing of the Air Force Academy over the other service academies. Sherry Freese brought two Five Star awards back from the MOAA Council convention. These were presented to Fran Chancey for preparation of the Officers Call and Larry Fernald received the Five Star award for communications as the chapter's Webmaster. Thank you, Fran and Larry, for your outstanding commitment to our chapter. After a break for lunch the Chapter conducted a Memorial Observance for our members who passed away this year.

Our fallen members, 1 May 2016 to 1 May 2017, are:

Marios, Jr, Henry L., Lt Col, USAF (Ret)
 Fowler, Wilma C., Mrs., AuxMbr-A
 Green, Richard D. CWO4 USA (Ret)
 Connelly, Anita P., Mrs., AuxMbr-A
 Phillips, Bettye, Mrs., AuxMbr-A
 Eisenhart, William E. Col, USAF (Ret)

Happy Birthday U.S Army
14 June 2017

14 June 1775-2017

242 Years Old



Legislative Update

From MOAA and other sources

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR DEFENSE SPENDING?

President Donald Trump is expected to unveil his 2018 budget next week. The administration will request \$603 billion in defense spending.

That amount would be an increase over the Obama administration's proposed budget but short of the \$640 billion House and Senate Armed Service Committee members want to see.

While details on the budget are scarce, history gives us an idea of what the proposal might entail.

In a worst-case scenario, we could see another round of military pay caps, commissary funding cuts, and higher TRICARE fees.

These fee increases and benefits cuts would be especially problematic in 2018, as the services begin enrolling new entrants into the Blended Retirement System.

But the new administration said throughout the campaign trail national defense would be a priority. So what would a best-case scenario look like?

Full military pay raise: For the first time in four years, Congress passed in FY 2017 a full military pay raise for servicemembers. This helped slow the military-civilian pay gap. According to MOAA's estimates, the military pay gap currently stands at 2.6 percent.

At the very least, the administration should provide a pay raise matching that of private sector wage growth, currently projected at 2.4 percent. In a best-case scenario, the administration would provide a pay raise plus an additional 0.5% to help narrow the wage gap.

No new health care fees: Previous administrations on both sides of the aisle often turned to health care fees as a way to save money. Proposals included means-tested enrollment fees (an uncommon practice in the private sector and something no other federal employee faces), new enrollment fees for TRICARE For Life, and steep increases in pharmacy copays.

MOAA believes health care costs to military families should only increase by the commensurate increase in COLA.

Eliminating the "widow's tax:" In a March memo to the House Budget Committee, lawmakers on the House Armed Services Committee asked for help to get funding to eliminate the widow's tax. Under current law, eligible survivors are penalized with a dollar-for-dollar offset of DoD's Survivor Benefit Plan from the VA's Dependency and Indemnity Compensation.

Unable to completely fund a full repeal, Congress was able to provide some relief for military survivors, passing what's known as the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance. Absent congressional action, funding for the \$310 allowance will expire in May 2018.

Last month MOAA flew in members from across the country to storm the Hill on this issue. MOAA members visited nearly every congressional office urging lawmakers to end financial penalties for military survivors.

At a minimum, Congress needs to extend and increase the allowance.

How likely are these scenarios to play out?

At this point, it's uncertain. Delayed guidance from the administration means Congress is woefully behind in its appropriations process. And congressional appropriators don't appear to support the Armed Services Committees proposals either.

By this time last year, the House Appropriations Committee had passed five of the spending bills out of committee and was preparing to debate its first spending bill of 2017.

Congress is scheduled to be in session for only 11 weeks between now and Oct. 1 - an incredibly short amount of time to fully consider and debate a defense budget.

In an effort to give lawmakers breathing room to handle other priorities - raising the debt limit, reforming the tax code, working on a major infrastructure plan - there may be reluctance to introduce controversial proposals to defense programs.

What that means is we may get a Band-Aid bill that stays the course somewhere between what the hawks and doves want.

Pelikan, from Page 1

"Captain Bryan, don't you know Cam Ranh Bay has never been attacked!" "Yes, Sir," I replied. "Captain Bryan, are you not aware we are starting a truce period?" "Yes, Sir," I responded. "Captain Bryan, don't you know we are critically short of JP-4?" "Yes, Sir," "Captain Bryan, don't you ever move another ship again." "Yes, Sir."

He then turned to the non-commissioned officers on duty and asked if the Pelikan could be brought back to the jetty immediately, if not sooner. No, he was told. It was dark and would be too dangerous.

Now flushed with anger, he turned to me and ordered me into his office, and he followed me in, slamming the door behind him. He repeated the questions I had just been asked. I had materially hurt the war effort, he said, and he does not want one of his officers to take such actions on their own. He sent me to my quarters, and told me to stay there until further notice. That was the first step towards being returned to the States. I would not have been immediately released from active duty, but the efficiency report he would render on me would have ended any career hopes. The Army does not need officers who cannot perform under combat conditions, and I certainly was of no use.



Tet Eve turned out to be a disaster for me. As I headed to my quarters, my mind raced from topic to topic. Yes, the commander was correct in all that he said. I knew those issues and weighed them when I decided to move the Pelikan. Any thoughts of a military career ended, even though I had not really decided to remain on active duty. That decision had just been made for me. How do I face my family and friends? What will I do with my life? What new career? I never knew an officer relieved of his duties, and now I am one.

I don't know when I drifted off to sleep, but I awoke at my usually early hour, just a tad bit later than normal. I grabbed a towel and my flip-flops, and went to the communal shower, a frame, tent-covered structure that had showerheads in the ceiling. All you did was pull a chain and down would come some cold water. Not really cold in Vietnam, but not heated either. There were three other men taking their showers, as they had just come off the night shift, probably from the Support Command Headquarters. I overheard one of them remark that a ship got hit during the night.

Well, this was January 30th, the first day of truce and there I was sitting on my cot, so unsure of what was in store for me. Any chance the battalion commander would charge me for taking the unauthorized and unprecedented action I did? A real possibility. What would the charge be, what sort of malfeasance would I face? Court martial? God!

No one came to get me. So I walked to the battalion headquarters, a distance of a couple of miles. I recall noting more activity on the roads than normal, which was strange given the truce. By the time I got to the battalion, I was dripping with sweat. And I really did not want to go in and face all the staff.

To my surprise, the operations section was a beehive of activity. Men were on the phones and radios, shouting orders, asking for inventory figures, ordering aircraft so we could fly POL, having meals brought to the office and everything one would expect in a crisis mode. I saw the Pelikan had been returned to the jetty and another tanker moored along side her. This was a crisis mode, but why?

I quickly learned that all hell broke loose all over Vietnam. There was heavy fighting everywhere. The US Embassy had been overrun and was in the control of enemy forces. The Viet Cong and the NVA had thrown everything they had into battle, and we were getting our butts kicked. Then I learned that the other two POL battalions had been knocked out and our battalion was the only source of POL in Vietnam. No one told me to go to work, I just joined in and got with the action. I saw the commander in his office and during the many times he came out shouting some order, he looked at me as if yesterday did not happen. He did not speak to me but did not kick me out of the building either. He was too busy for that.

Then I was told what happened.

At midnight, six NVA frogmen arrived at the jetty with the mission to blow her up. They knew the Pelikan, by name, was

moored and pumping JP-4. They also knew the tide was outgoing, and the destruction of the Pelikan, the jetty and the men would be only the beginning of the end of the port because burning fuel would have flowed towards the other cargo piers with as many as eight ships tied up discharging cargo. If the fire did not destroy the ships, certainly it would have destroyed the docks and all the materials handling equipment operating there.

But, when the frogmen got there, the Pelikan was gone. Disappeared. The jetty was empty,

Had this been an American attack on an enemy port, the standing instructions would have been to attack any target of opportunity if the primary objective could not be hit. Just north of the jetty, two ammo ships were unloading ammo. South of the jetty, eight cargo ships were unloading containers. Any one or two of them would have made an excellent target. This squad was ordered to sink the Pelikan. They had no freedom to select another target, so they turned and swam back across the Bay. About half way across, with the night lights of the ships at anchor awaiting their turn to unload, they spotted the Pelikan because of the extra drop lights I ordered be placed around the ship so the guards could see at the water line.

With their target in sight, they swam the three or four miles to the ship, and when they arrived, they discovered they had lost their devices that were to hold the bombs on the side of the ship. Exhausted and facing a wall of steel, they gathered around the anchor chain and began tying the bombs to it.



The guards heard them and opened fire. Mind you, these men were not foot soldiers used to pulling the trigger. But without hesitation, they did exactly what they were supposed to do, including calling Market Time for help. In minutes, swift boats swarmed the Pelikan and dropped depth charges in the water. When it was over, five were killed and one captured. The captured NVA frogman provided much of the information just provided about their attack.

The bombs were still tied to the anchor chain. The Navy summoned the Explosive Ordnance Detachment but the bombs exploded before EOD arrived. Exploding about four feet under water, they blew a hole in the bow of the ship where paint was stored. It missed the JP-4. If the Captain of the Pelikan had the presence of mind to simply let out more anchor cable, the bomb would have been moved further away from the ship and would have caused no damage.

At daybreak, the Pelikan returned to port and resumed offloading. To speed up the process and to get the damage above

See Pelikan, Page 8





Honor Guard



Playing TAPS; Bugler Steve Hightower



Bill and Ginni Eichholz



Chris and Ed Lillich



Evey Hamilton and Pauline Edwards



5-Star Award winners: Larry Fernald for the chapter website and Fran Chancey for the chapter newsletter. Presented by Bill Eichholz, right.



Fran Chancey and Laurie Lanier



Tom Shoupe



Kathy and Pete Gunderson



Evey Hamilton presenting 50/50 winnings to Ken Fine



Jacque D'Louhy

LEFT TOP: Bill Eichholz presenting the MOAA 5-Star Award to Fran Chancey for the chapter newsletter. LEFT BOTTOM: Bill Eichholz presenting the MOAA 5-Star Award to Larry Fernald for the chapter website





Roger Popham, Sarah Alonso, and Jeanie Popham



Paying tribute to our deceased chapter members L to R: Popham, Gunderson, Carr, Fernald, Eichholz, and Lillich



Dick Koch talking about Honor Flight and noting that the Air Force Academy is rated higher academically than the other service academies



Fred and Carolyn Schlager



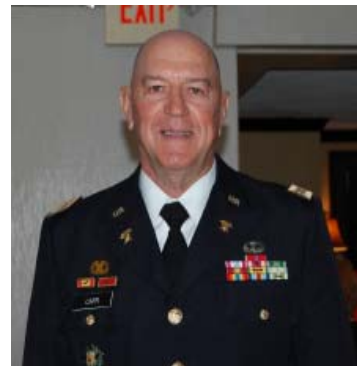
Dave and Carol Sjolund



Sherry Freese, Ellen Marie Fine and Fran Shivers



Barb and Larry Fernald



Terry Carr



Door Prize Winner: Terry Carr with Pauline Edwards

RIGHT: Iwan Choronenko, Pete Dawson, and Dick Koch



Ellen Marie and Ken Fine



TOP: Evey Hamilton presenting 50/50 winnings to Iwan Choronenko



Photos by Bill Lofgren. If you would like a copy of a photo, please email Bill at papabill77@outlook.com

Pelikan, from Page 5

water, a second ship was moored alongside and took JP-4 into its tanks. The Pelikan's captain and crew were most anxious to unload and get out of there!

With the 262nd sending fuel, mostly by aircraft all over Vietnam, the crisis level of activity did not subside until the other POL battalions resumed operations and the Tet Offensive, as it would be named, came to a decisive end. The enemy forces suffered tremendous losses but made some temporary and spectacular gains. We encountered losses too, but our fighting capability was not degraded. Some enemy gains took a while to reverse, but when it was over, we were the winners in every place except the US media. The offensive actually turned out to be a huge defeat for the enemy, but history does not see it that way. The Viet Cong never regained its strength and the NVA took over the war.

Maybe the enemy did understand that if you cut off the fuel supply, the army cannot fight. The NVA came so close to knocking out all three POL battalions on the first day of the battle. Had their attack on Cam Ranh been successful, had the Pelikan been at the jetty as expected, the resulting explosions and fire would have been a greater victory than seizing the Embassy. Newspapers worldwide would have had front-page photos of the entire port in flames. It would have been the most spectacular enemy action inflicted during the time the US Forces were in Vietnam.

Is it possible that the NVA was so certain this attack would succeed that only one attack on Cam Ranh Bay was planned? Were they that sure they would catch us with our pants down? They did not put all their eggs in one basket for their other Tet Offensive ventures, so why this one? Their intelligence finding was that the attack would not be challenged or difficult and would achieve its goal.

That did not happen, all because one junior captain acted on the intelligence he heard and did the right thing. The battalion commander never mentioned anything about me moving the Pelikan nor did he ever take the action he said to end my career. Not even a pat on the back. No medal, nor was any mention of it made in my efficiency report. If anyone at the Support Command asked why the Pelikan was moved. I never heard of it. Granted, when hostilities broke out, everyone was too busy to look back, but one would think that after the dust settled, someone would. The soldiers placed on the ship were due medals for their actions, but that did not happen either. Interesting to note that the intelligence report I heard never came through the regular command channels, not even weeks later.

Being so new on the staff and not knowing all the procedures, I moved the Pelikan anyway. What I did not know was that only the Support Command, our higher headquarters, could order a ship moved. The Support Command controlled all the ships in the harbor. That explained why I could find nothing in the battalion SOP about moving a tanker!

One month afterward, the battalion commander relieved the company commander of the 525th for cause, and he offered the job to me. Command time in a combat zone for a Quartermaster

There was a slight formatting problem with the April Financial Statement. It will be corrected and published in next month's *Officers Call*

officer is a plum opportunity, and he selected the very officer he was going to drum out of the service a few weeks earlier. I can only guess it was his way of righting the wrong that occurred. He never said why he selected me over many other fine officers under his command, all of whom would have welcomed the assignment.

There is no question that my action saved lives and preserved our fighting capability. Not only did it result in lives not lost at the port and aboard any ship that would have been destroyed, but with the ability to continue supplying fuel during the Tet Offensive also saved lives as well.

I've gone over, in my mind, what happened hundreds of times and wondered about the "what ifs."

What if I did not make the trip to the ROK compound to hear the briefing? After all, there was no expectation for me to do this. The port would have been destroyed, but no one would be blamed for any failure. I would have been the officer on duty when it happened. Perhaps, in time, the fact that the NVA mission was discovered before the attack, somebody, somewhere might have uncovered this and made issue months or years later. It would simply be another failure to get intelligence in the right hands, a system problem.

What if I ignored the intelligence information, returned to Cam Ranh, and did nothing? Most likely the enemy would have achieved its objective. We would have lost the port and the POL jetty. The Pelikan would have gone to the bottom, blocking access to the jetty and hampering efforts to restore a fuel supply. The US and allied forces would have been without fuel for some time, which would have allowed the enemy to make greater gains. I do not doubt that we would eventually prevail, but losses to all of our troops in Vietnam would have been much greater. Surely, at some point, someone would have reported that a captain from the POL unit was present when the intelligence was disseminated. Then I would have been identified and there would have probably been a court martial.

The second "what if" is what would have happened if I had been able to reach the battalion commander and his staff with the report. It is obvious that he would have not acted. Perhaps he would have put more guards on the ship at the jetty, but I doubt he would have done even that. After all, a truce was just getting started. No need to increase security then. One can only guess what would have transpired as investigators looked into determining what happened and why. And who would be blamed.

Another "what if" is really much as the last one. What if, when the commander came to the operations area and asked if the



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••BRONZE –

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Edwards, Richard CAPT
Fratangelo, Paul MajGen

Member donations ONLY:
\$1,780 as of 5/21/2017

June Birthdays (63 to 89 years)

Day	L Name	F Name	Rank	SVC
15	Beach	Stanley	CAPT	USN (Ret)
01	Binzer	William	Col	USAF (Ret)
30	Chancey	Frances	LTC	USA (Ret)
10	Crabb	Glen	CDR	USN (Ret)
29	Fine	A. Kenneth	MAJ	USA (Ret)
29	Harren	Robert	MAJ	USA (Ret)
09	Palsha	Robert	LTC	USA (Ret)
27	Reed	Robert	LCDR	USN (Ret)
24	Stakk	Barbara	CPT	USA (Fmr)
22	Wadham	Peggy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A

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Havana Nights
Lofgren, Bill Col
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.

Popham, Roger COL
Smith, Violet Mrs.

••SILVER –

Christie, Bob LtCol

••BRONZE –

Lanier, Laurie Maj

Member donations ONLY:
\$2,450.00 as of 5/21/2017

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(Includes donations to National MOAA)

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Smith, Violet Mrs.
Talbitzer, John LT

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Bolin, Bill CDR
Christie, Bob LtCol
Dawson, Pete Maj
Finley, Paul LCDR
Mallory, Pauline LTC
Newton, Dick Col
Sims, Bob Maj

••BRONZE –

Bax, Giles COL
Bolin, Bill CDR
Crabb, Glen CDR
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Gioe', Shirley Mrs.
Gunderson, Kathy Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
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Terry, Maxine Mrs.
Tondreau, Tunney CWO4

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Pelikan, from Page 8

Pelikan could be returned to the jetty immediately, it had been done. The same scenario as the second one would have occurred.

It is ironic that enemy action actually spared my military career! Had the attack not taken place, my option to make a life in the Army would have been off the table. What a strange twist of fate. I know in my mind that even if the attack never happened and I was exited from the Army, I would always believe I did the right thing and would do it again if necessary. Being afraid to act decisively is not one of my characteristics.

Knowing what the NVA High Command must have done in planning, selecting and training the team, propositioning supplies, practicing the attack, infiltrating the team, gathering last minute intelligence for this small but crucial mission for his TET offensive, Ho Chi Minh, the leader of North Vietnam, whom we referred to as "Uncle Ho," must have counted on this attack to be successful. Poor Uncle Ho, he never learned what happened since this action never made the news and there was no way for his team to render a report. All Uncle Ho knew is that the attack failed. And I have him to thank for the continuation of my military career!

It caused me to wonder how many other unreported actions that had a significant impact on the war also never made the history books. Those books are full of war stories involving ignored intelligence leading to lost battles, as this one would have. It

See Pelikan, Page 10



Chaplain's Corner

By SPA MOAA Assistant Chaplain, Chaplain (CDR)
Glen Crabb

Mercy's Victory

"Mercy triumphs over judgment" James 2:13. The more godly any man is, the more merciful that man will be.

The next time you need someone to cut you some slack and forgive, make a note of the feeling. Savor it and cultivate it.

Then remember it the next time you are outraged at another's fault. In doing so, you will apply Mercy's victory to your own heart.

You will also understand more about God's mercy.

Pelikan from Page 10

took a young captain exceeding his authority, without precedence, in the absence of senior leaders, risking his career, to act decisively and render and execute a decision that prevented this attack from joining the list of ignored intelligence reports.

And finally, do I consider myself a hero? No! Am I an unsung hero? No, not that either. To me, a hero puts his life in danger to protect or save others. I was never in danger, did not even get wet. I did not charge a machine gun nest or cover a live grenade with my body; nothing like that. What I did was to have the courage to make a decision that proved to be crucial in saving the port and countless lives and prevented a degradation of our military capability at the very same time our military forces battled the most massive enemy offensive and destructive battle it faced in the entire Vietnam War.

My regret is that the story behind the moving of the Pelikan remains unknown. It could be used in leadership classes as a classic example of a young officer following his gut instinct. It could be a lesson for senior officers to allow junior leaders to make decisions and if it plays out to be wrong, to allow the officer to learn from experience.

When I lost my rifle, the Army charged me \$85. That's why in the Navy, the captain goes down with the ship.

--Comedian Dick Gregory

My friend, an Air Force officer, was riding his scooter when he passed an airman who didn't salute. My friend stopped, turned around, and glared at the airman.

"Thanks for coming back for me," the airman said, jumping on the back of the scooter. "Airmen's mess, sir."

--Savita Singh, Noida, India

A Paraphrase of the Twenty-Third Psalm For the Armed Forces of the United States of America

By Chaplain (COL) Robert L. Morris, Jr.,
USA (Ret)

January 2006

The Lord is the Shepherd of our Armed Forces.
He makes Marines to lie down in green pastures;
He leads Sailors beside the still waters;
He restores a Soldier's soul;
He leads those in the Air Force into paths of righteousness for His name's sake.

Yea, though we all walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we will fear no evil,

For You, O God, are with all of us.

Your rod and staff comfort Coast Guard men and women.

You prepare a table before Soldiers and Sailors in the presence of enemies;

You anoint Marine heads with oil;

Those in the Coast Guard and Air Force have cups running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard men and women, and those who serve in the Merchant Marines all the days of their lives, and all, who have served with honor and sacrifice, especially those who have paid the supreme price or who live with their wounds, and families and friends, will dwell in the house of The Lord forever.

(NOTE: There is no significance to the order of the various services used in this paraphrase.)

Written with apologies to King David the author of the original

When a soldier came to the clinic where I work for an MRI, he was put into the machine by an attractive, young technician. Sometime later, when the examination was over, he was helped out of the machine by a far older woman. The soldier remarked, "How long was I in there for?"

Joanne Korman, Bedford, Nova Scotia

Few civilians know what a quartermaster does. So during my aircraft carrier's Family Day, I demonstrated a procedure called semaphore—I grabbed my flags and signaled an imaginary ship. Then I asked a little girl, "Now do you know what I do?"

She said, "You're a cheerleader."

—Danny Sullivan





TAPS

Maurice M. Stickney, LT, USN (Ret), 5/15/2017

Robert A. G. Berns, Col, USMC (Ret), 5/18/2017

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.



Welcome Our New Members!

◆ Sadly, no new members

I served in a parachute regiment. During a nighttime exercise, I was seated next to a young officer. He was looking a bit pale, so I asked, "Scared, lieutenant?"

"No," he replied. "Apprehensive."

"What's the difference?"

"That means I'm scared, but with a university education."

Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.
(Contact **Mrs. Virginia Balke**, 544-3598)

COL George Brown
LTC Rose Munchbach



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My husband and I were watching Forrest Gump at the base theater. The crowd was pretty quiet throughout the film, until the scene when Forrest graduates from college and is met by an Army recruiter. That was met with a shout from behind us: "Run, Forrest, run!"

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Guest Speaker: Walt Ulbricht from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Eckerd College



Walt received a BA in English from the University of Wisconsin- Parkside and MA in Film Studies from the University of Wisconsin- Madison. He developed a career in higher education marketing communications as a senior manager and administrator at five universities

in the Midwest and Northeast. Walt is also a member of the OLLI Advisory Council and Chairperson of its Marketing Committee.

Walt's presentation will speak on non-credit tailored classes and topics on biography, culture and travel, current events, day trips, international travel study, film and television, Florida studies, history, theater and visual arts as well as specialized offerings relating to seniors needs. These classes are designed for people age 50-plus and open to all adult learners across Pinellas County.

Each year OLLI provides more than 350 affordable and intellectually stimulating non-credit classes, interest groups, local and international trips and special events at multiple locations to expand and enrich the lives of its 1,600 members in Pinellas County. OLLI, a non-profit educational organization, is based at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg.

Through OLLI, choose from a variety of travel opportunities, from trips curated and escorted by OLLI at Eckerd College staff and faculty, to those arranged by trusted travel agencies and cruise lines and endorsed by OLLI at Eckerd College. All of OLLI's study travel opportunities feature pre-trip meetings with fellow travelers, companion classes on relevant topics, and a chance to travel with fellow lifelong learners from your own hometown.

US Military Holidays and Observances

6 June: Anniversary of D-Day (1944)

14 June: Flag Day

14 June: United States Army Birthday

18 June: Father's Day

27 June: National PTSD Awareness Day