



OFFICERS CALL

ST. PETERSBURG AREA CHAPTER,

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



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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CAPT Don Freese, USN (Ret), President

The flags and banners are furled, the buglers' last note blown, the President of the Florida Council of Chapters of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) pounded the closing gavel and the band played "Good Night Sweet-heart" for over 200 people who attended the 29th Annual Convention held at the Tradewinds Island Resorts on St. Pete Beach, Florida.



I want to thank all of those that attended and volunteered to help the 2006 Florida Council of Chapters Convention! I am very proud of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter and our wonderful members as well as the great working relationship that was developed with the Clearwater Chapter!

Our new Florida Council President, Bill Monk, and other Florida Board Members praised the 2006 Convention as being one of the best ever. It was also stated that the 2006 Convention set a very high standard for future Conventions to meet!

Volunteers who made the 2006 Convention such an artistically successful and enjoyable event are: Pat Anderson, George & Dorothy Brown, Basil & Eleanor Burrell, Marge Christy, Pete & Linda Dawson, Mrs. James Donovan, Fred & Pauline Edwards, Bob & Maggie Eynatten, Barbara & Larry Fernald, Beth Fenstermaker, Betty & Paul Finley, Ray Fontana, Don & Sherry Freese, Jane Gaugh, Brent Gudmundson, Tom & Anita Harrow, Sue Hunter, James & Barbara King, Dich Koch, Joan Landers, Marie Lorence, Jerry & Yolanda Margulis, Hazel McGrath, Ron Merritt, John & Marjorie Milford, Janice Mogan, Ralph & Asa Myers, Al & Johnnie Neville, Earl & Margaret Peck, Anne Reilley, Roger & Carolyn Shields, June Simon, Violet Smith, Pat Tamalis, Mike Tomasulo, Ron Wildes, Martha Willis, Harold & Pat Grace, Skip Hartnet, Sue Morse, Jackie Simpson, Polly Tappa, Victor Wood. Quite a long list! I apologize if I missed someone!

All chapter members are cordially invited to join in thanking all our hard working volunteers at a chapter paid for breakfast, June 10, 9 AM, Banquet Masters on Park Boulevard.

Please confirm your attendance by calling Bob Eynatten, 360-4637 or Don Freese, 360-3102 by Wednesday June 7.

PROGRAM JUNE 16

LTC Levonda J. Selph, USA

My two years in Iraq: mission, major tasks & accomplishments

Lieutenant Colonel (P) Levonda J. Selph began her military career in September 1978, with the US Air Force. She attended Basic Training at Lackland AFB TX, followed by her first assignment in the 3rd Combat Communications Group, Tinker AFB, Oklahoma. She attained the rank of E-6 in the communications field prior to separating from the Air Force with eight years of enlisted service. LTC Selph then attended Officer Candidate School in 1986, and received her commission that same year. She attended Officer Basic in 1987, in the Adjutant General Branch. In 1988, she attended the Transportation Branch qualification, and in 1990, she completed



the Ordnance Officer Advance Course. LTC Selph served nine months in Desert Storm and Desert Shield in 1991. After the Gulf War, LTC Selph was assigned to the Command Logistics Review Team at the National Guard Bureau as the Maintenance Branch Chief. In 1993, she acquired the Multifunctional Logistics, 90A skill identifier. In 1996, LTC Selph was assigned to the Logistics Policy Branch at the National Guard Bureau, where she served for two years. In 1998, she took an assignment as a Logistics Plans Officer for the Eighth US Army, Seoul, Korea, followed by the Logistics Development Executive Course (LEDC) at Ft. Lee, Virginia from August-December 2000. In December 2000, she was assigned to the Department of the Army, G-4, Pentagon, Washington, DC as the Information Systems Staff Officer and Automated Information Technology Program Sponsor. She is currently assigned to the Logistics Plans Division, CCJ4, MacDill AFB, Florida where she spent two years forward in Iraq. She will PCS to Washington DC in June and fill the position of Chief, Command Logistics Review Team for the National Guard Bureau.



Officers Call

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and: Life Members Emeritus and Past Presidents

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 336
 Regular Members - 240
 Auxillary Members - 96

Military Services:

Army - 89 USMC - 13
 USAF - 79 USCG - 8
 Navy - 51

From the Editor

COL Roger J. Shields, USA (Ret)

Veteran's Earned Entitlements – The Department of Defense attempted to cut veteran's earned entitlements to help pay for the significant cost of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Congress balked and deferred any such action to penalize the people who fought our wars. Why didn't Congress support Secretary Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs of Staff? Your letters, phone calls and visits helped Congress to understand the consequences of acting on the cheap. At a recent Senate hearing, a table overflowed with letters and email from veterans, families and friends protesting the proposed cuts in veteran's pay. You and other veterans saved the day by taking a few minutes to tell Congress what should be done. Vote for those who vote for you!



The Magic Pin – MOAA has a small lapel pin for sale which features the MOAA logo crossed with an American flag. Some have reported wearing the pin and asked by others to explain what "MOAA" means. The ensuing conversation about what MOAA and the local chapters may be about has produced new members. Can you afford the \$5.00 cost of the pin to attract new members? RJS

ARMY'S BIRTHDAY



Convention Celebration

Breakfast – Saturday, 9am, June 10th

All members are invited to join in a chapter paid breakfast at Banquet Masters on Park Blvd thanking all the volunteers who made the

2006 Convention a success .

Call CAPT Bob Eynatten, 360-4637 or

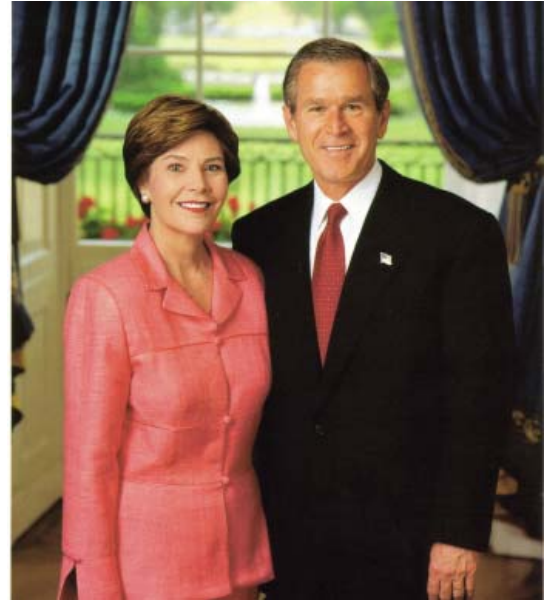
CAPT Don Freese, 360-3102

Our Army's 231st birthday



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 8, 2006



I send greetings to those gathered for the 2006 Annual Convention of the Florida Council of Chapters, hosted by the Saint Petersburg Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America.

In every generation, members of our Armed Forces have answered the call of service in America's hour of need. Today's service members are taking their rightful place among the heroes of our Nation's history. They have defended the freedom and security of the American people, triumphed over brutal enemies, and liberated millions who were oppressed. These brave men and women are selfless, tireless, and unrelenting in the face of danger. They have brought honor to the uniform. Our country is proud of their service, and I am proud to be Commander in Chief of the finest military in the world.

America is grateful for our military families who serve our country by giving their love and support to our troops. We also are thankful for the many friends and neighbors who support our service members and their families through their compassion and generosity. We ask for God's special blessing on the families who have lost a loved one. Our Nation will always remember the courage and selfless dedication of those who paid the ultimate price for our security and freedom. We honor their sacrifice by completing the mission and laying the foundation for peace around the world.

Laura and I send our best wishes. May God bless you, may God bless our troops, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.



CONVENTION 2006

Extended coverage of the convention;

pages 4 - 10.

Basil on our Convention

Basil Burrell, CWO4 USCG (Ret)

We had a lot of fun at the Tradewinds Resort where our convention hosted by the St. Petersburg Area and the Clearwater Chapters was held. We had a lot of participation and we owe our volunteers and the Clearwater Chapter volunteers and their president, Skip Hartnett, a big THANK YOU. Thanks folks!

The Memorial Service was one of the best ever held according to those who have attended those in the past. The piper and bugler were outstanding and proper appreciation for our members who have passed over the bar was evident by the services.

Now to the '50's event: Some of us really got into the spirit of the occasion and I won't mention any names but Janice Mogen was prominent among those. Of course there were a number of others, all ladies as I recall, who also remembered those long-ago times. I believe it was Margaret Peck who remembered the 50's for the maternity clothes rather than the poodle skirts and saddle shoes. Several other ladies affirmed Margaret's remembrance of those times. Me, I don't remember a lot because I spent a lot of time away from home in those days. The DJ played some good tunes that we all remembered. Music was melodic back then, but I know that young whipper-snappers don't think so. After shaking our booties trying to dance many of us were exhausted and cut out early, present company included. I didn't realize that we had so many talented dancers in our age group. Marje Borrowes and her escort really put on a show. I have to say that the buffet put out by Tradewinds was excellent and I really liked the vegetable medley.

On Wednesday night the Military Ball got under way. How is it possible that so many old guys and gals can still fit into their uniforms. I don't even remember what my uniform looked like and I absolutely know that I couldn't wear it now. Well, as a matter of fact, that style doesn't even exist any more. The Coast Guard changed the uniform some time ago.

After some concern that the band had gotten lost they finally arrived and started tuning their instruments shortly after 1800. Bill Knehans did his usual excellent job as MC and introduced the head table. We had some visitors from MOAA nationsl, Col Chriss Giaimo USAF(Ret) and CAPT Bud Schneeweis USCG (Ret). The Mayor of St. Pete Beach, Ward J. Friszolowski, honored us with his presence. The highlight of the evening was the guest of honor LTC Kevin W. Farrell USA. LTC Farrell recently returned from Iraq where he commanded the 1-94 Armor

Battalion of the Second Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division. His Battalion is currently a Ft. Stewart Georgia and training for future service. LTC Farrell gave an inspiring talk and he is obviously a real American hero. I had occasion to take the picture of MG Cleland and asked him which part of the Army the color of his dinner dress jacket facings denoted. I learned

that when one becomes a General, the Army doesn't care if he was an engineer, armor, or other specialist and all Generals have the same color facings on their jackets. So this turned out to be an educational evening for me as well as a fun evening.

Again, the Tradewinds Resort served up a wonderful dinner. Most of us had the steak and it was really done right.

After dinner the big band started playing and started off with Glen Miller's "American Patrol." They went on to some fast and some slow arrangements that encouraged almost everyone to get up and shake a leg. All-in-all a really enjoyable evening and convention.

REGISTRATION & DOOR PRIZES

Monday through Wednesday
Volunteers made it work





PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION Monday Evening



ALL HANDS BREAKFAST Tuesday Morning

Cerjan Stirs 'em Up

reported by Dick Koch, Lt Col USAF (Ret)

The keynote speaker at the All Hands Breakfast introduced his remarks by saying that he was probably going to make some remarks that were not politically correct, "...but I hope I don't offend anybody."

Retired Army LTG Paul G. Cerjan spoke before a capacity crowd of 102 at the 29th Annual Convention of the MOAA Florida Council of Chapters. He then went on to speak about the war on terror as he sees it from his point of view. And his perspective is very important and quite unique.



Cerjan retired after 34 years service in a variety of command and senior staff positions including two tours of duty in Vietnam. After retirement he went to Iraq and Afghanistan as a vice president of KBR, a Halliburton company serving the military in that area.

He said that he enjoyed being there in a civilian capacity. He would frequently speak with the troops in the dining halls. They did not know who he was but freely shared their thoughts about the U.S. war effort. Of the hundreds and perhaps thousands of men and women that he spoke with,



“...not one was anything but positive about our efforts and their role in it.”

“We are at war,” he said, “as well as at any other time.” He pointed out that only 3% of the U.S. gross national product is directed toward the war on terror as opposed to 6% to support WWII.

He said that the biggest problem today in Iraq is unemployment which is quite typical of countries struggling toward independence.

He commented on the spate of generals who have recently spoken out on television against the war and criticized our civilian leadership. He said that the generals were wrong to criticize. “When we signed on,” he said, “we understood that it is OK to have disagreements...”, but we do that in private not in public.

In reference to the recent cartoon overseas criticizing Mohammad which resulted in rioting in France and other places, he said, “do you think this could not happen in our country?” He recommended that audience members review the book, “Infiltration: How Muslim Spies and Subversives Have Penetrated Washington” by Paul Sperry. He left no doubt that he felt the U.S. is vulnerable to this type of rioting.

He concluded by saying that “to be a good leader (in the military), you must love your troops!

MEMORIAL SERVICE Tuesday Morning



- Armed Forces Vacation Club
- Personal Affairs Workshop
- Community Involvement Workshop
- Presidents Meeting
- Auxiliary/Spouse Seminar

Tuesday afternoon seminars

FABULOUS 50'S DANCE Tuesday Evening







COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday Morning



- USF Suncoast Alzheimer and Gerontology Center
- Starlite Cruise — Boca Ciego Bay

Wednesday Morning/Afternoon

CENTCOM BRIEFING

MG Gerald P. Minetti, USA

Wednesday Afternoon



MILITARY BALL Wednesday Evening

Military Ball a Resounding Success reported by Earl Peck, Maj Gen USAF (Ret)

Despite difficulties in planning leading up to the event, the Military Ball of the Florida Council of Chapters Convention 2006 proved every bit as interesting and enjoyable as its predecessors. This notable achievement was due in no small part to the last minute efforts of our Chapter leadership and a dedicated band of our Chapter volunteers.

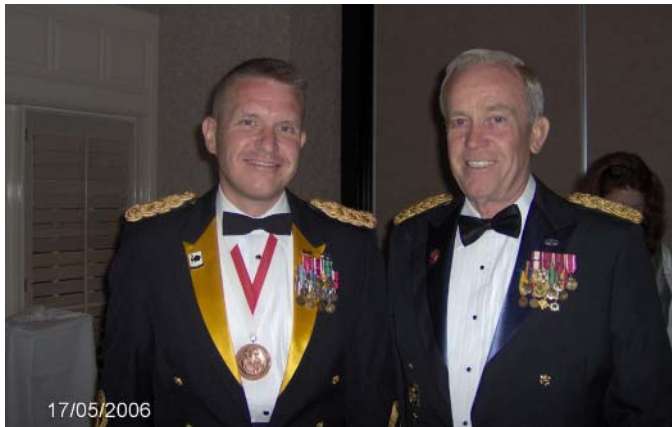
A pre-dinner cocktail hour in the Grand Palm Colonade of the beautifully refurbished Tradewinds Resort prepared the guests for a memorable occasion. The room was beautifully decorated with gorgeous centerpieces, ten-guest rounds, an impressive raised dais, and a bandstand for the piece de resistance, the Big Band of Frank Parsons.

Outgoing Council President, Captain Bill Knehans kept things moving until the Installation Ceremony, wherein he turned the reins over to his worthy successor, Captain William M. (Bill) Monk, USN(Ret) and the new Vice President, Colonel Troy Scott, USA NG (Ret), Past President of the Sarasota Chapter.

The guest speaker was Lieutenant Colonel Kevin W. Farrell, USA, Commander 1-64 Armor Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (M). He gave us an inspiring twenty minutes on his on-scene, ground-level view of the war in Iraq. Notably, he led the 1-64th Armor into East Baghdad, securing parts of the city and fighting the ensuing insurgency. Colonel Farrell has just returned from the front, so we could still smell the gun powder!

The grand finale was a Big Band tribute to the Armed Forces in a well-rendered medley of the service melodies. Of course, the non-partisan crowd cheered mightily for each tune - maybe a bit more for the one with which we each identified! Frank's Big Band followed the medley with a Glenn Miller-like rendition of American Patrol. It sounded just like fifty or sixty years ago! They then continued into the night with dance music suitable for our middle-aged cohort! A grand time was had by all!





Our Army's 231st birthday



HOT News

Fifty (50) boxes were mailed as of this writing in less than one month. The kind members of our chapter are very enthusiastic about the HOT project. Since its inception last February, we had enough donations to not only fill the boxes but to pay for the postage.

Goodies were sent to all 8 addresses. Three boxes of toiletries, nutritional snacks and comfort food were given to every two troopers – enough to share with others. It is interesting to see the variety of items coming in. For example, a 24 pack of 2 oz boxes of assorted dried fruit. These are handy items for our troops to carry out in the field and easy to pack. Does anyone know where I can find more? If you're doing Spring house cleaning, the troops could use those travel size toiletries from hotels that have been sitting in your closet. While there



are 21 names and 8 addresses, they share what they have with the others.

In honor of Derek Louviere, John Anderson and James Schaus, employees of the TradeWinds Resort and now stationed in Afghanistan, 450 bars of soap and 350 bottles of shampoo were donated to Help Our Troops by this fine hotel. A thank you letter was sent for this gift of good will.

Thank you Sherry Freese for writing out the labels, Johnnie Neville doing custom forms and Asa Myers for sharing her experience and expertise from working with charities. And thank you to the members of the St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA for their generous donations. The emails from our adopted unit express their deep appreciation. Please come to our luncheons on the third Friday of each month and hear their responses.

Carolyn Shields

THE BUZZ

COL Roger J. Shields, USA, (Ret)

• **Honors** – Rumor has it that Violet Smith, our Personal Affairs Chairman, will be honored by the Mayor of St. Petersburg and the City Council of St Petersburg by being awarded the Keys to the City. We are proud to announce the names of our members who have also been so honored in the past: Maj Gen Earl Peck, COL George Brown and LCDR Hazel McGrath. Our congratulations to Violet and congratulations to all who have been so honored.



• **“Unsung Heroes” of Our Convention 2006** – Many hands were required to plan and operate our convention. Many worked behind the scenes and unfortunately may not have been recognized and thanked. Every task performed was important to success and every person who was involved deserves our thanks. It might not be fair to all to attempt to list the names of everyone who helped make the convention a success because there may be some names inadvertently left out. So let's congratulate each other for a job well done. Our Chapter together with the Clearwater Chapter made it all happen!

• **The Florida Council of Chapters** – Chapter delegates to Convention 2006 voted for the incoming officers of the Florida Council as follows: President – CAPT Bill Monk USN (Ret), Vice President – COL Troy Scott, USA (Ret). Appointed as Secretary was COL Roger Shields USA (Ret).

Mike honored

It was a beautiful day when Major Mike Tomasulo USA (Ret) and CAPT Tom Harrow USNR (Ret) represented St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA at the Admiral Farragut Baccalaureate Services. Major Tomasulo and CAPT Harrow watched as cadets marched in review on the Admiral Farragut parade grounds before entering the Baccalaureate Services. Major Tomasulo has been visiting the JROTC at Admiral Farragut and other ROTC and JROTC schools in the St. Petersburg area representing MOAA for the past sixteen years. It was during the Baccalaureate Services after Major Tomasulo gave the MOAA Award that he was brought back to the podium by Captain Tom McCullen USN, Chairman of Marine Science and JROTC. Captain McCullen then conferred the title of Honorary JROTC Cadet on Major Mike Tomasulo and awarded an Admiral Farragut shirt and cup for his long and devoted service. Both students and parents recognizing his outstanding services gave Mike a standing ovation. The St. Petersburg Area Chapter of MOAA is indeed fortunate to have members like Mike representing MOAA in our community.

Thanks, Mike Tomasulo for a job well done.

Help run your Chapter !

Every year a nominating committee is appointed by the president to identify members willing to become candidates for election to serve as President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Board of Directors. This year the nominating committee is composed of:

- CAPT Tom Harrow USNR (Ret), ----- 367-9050
- CAPT Bob Eynatten USN (Ret), ----- 360-4637
- Mrs. Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A ----- 595-5543
- Mrs. Carolyn Shields, (Spouse), ----- 392-4323

The committee is working diligently to find members willing to become candidates for office for 2007. However, currently there are two vacant positions, 1st Vice President and Secretary. In order for our chapter to run smoothly and spread the workload, these two positions should be filled as soon as possible. Any eligible member willing to serve in either of these positions and/or as an officer in 2007 please contact any member of the nominating committee.



Executive Committee Meeting

St Petersburg Chapter, MOAA;

1 May 2006

Reported by Basil Burrell

Meeting was called to order at 1127 hours by President CAPT Don Freese USN(Ret). President Freese asked Chaplain COL George Brown USA(Ret) to give the invocation. Then Don led us in a salute to the Flag of the United States of America..

Maj Gen Earl Peck made a motion to approve the minutes of the 3 April Board meeting as published in Officer's Call. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

A meeting to discuss and finalize the Convention is to be held at the Tradewinds Resort tomorrow 2 May at 1500 hours. This is an important meeting and all concerned should attend.

Mrs. Joan Landers AuxMbr Army will handle ads for Officer's Call.

A proposal that we open our January Installation Dinner to other organizations and Chapters was approved.

Fred Edwards has a person who is an expert in the subject of annuities who can speak to us. MG Peck says he would feel uncomfortable with this. Others in attendance expressed the same opinion. Something to think about though if membership would be interested. Of course, sales of annuities at meetings of the Chapter would not be permitted.

Larry Fernald says he has talked to the manager of the class 6 store at Bayboro Coast Guard Base about a wine tasting event. This idea produced total agreement by the Board.

The Board approved a selling price of \$12.00 per set of four (4) hi-ball glass tumblers engraved with the MOAA logo and our Chapter logo on opposing sides of each glass. These are nice looking tumblers and would make an attractive addition to your bar. If sufficient interest is expressed we can also get six ounce martini glasses and brandy snifters from MOAA's marketing group with the same engraving. They will cost a little more and can be purchased individually rather than in sets of four each.

Pete Dawson gave the Treasurers Report and we are in good financial shape.

Fred Edwards proposed an addition to Section 23: Chapter Awards Committee, to wit:

"The Awards Committee also shall determine whether to recommend to the Executive Committee an individual for the "St. Petersburg Area Chapter's (year) MOAA Award for Exceptionally Distinguished Service." Any individual that the Awards Committee considers for this award must have performed exemplary service in connection with one or more of the eight purposes listed in the Bylaws. The Awards Committees written report must demonstrate that such service was above and beyond that which would be expected of any patriotic American. A nominee for this award may be, but does not have to be, on the rolls of the Chapter or of MOAA."

A discussion about the "Person of the Year" award followed. Such award is not a part of this addition and in fact is not mentioned in the Policy Book. Fred made a motion to make the above addition to the Policy Book. The motion was seconded and approved by voice vote. Fred will print a new Policy



Welcome our new Members

Mrs. **D Kay Benson**, Auxiliary Member - AF
Page 17, 2006 Directory

Mrs. **Margery Kaniss**, Auxiliary Member - A
Page 31, 2006 Directory

Mrs. **Marion K. Probeck**, Auxiliary Member - AF
275 6th Ave N, Tierra Verde, FL 33715
727 866-0510

Mrs. **Louise S. Rozecki**, Auxiliary Member - A
5555 Gulf Blvd., # 104, St Pete Beach, FL 33706
727 360-6767

Book and include all current amendments and additions in the new book.

Mrs. Carolyn Shields gave us an update on the work she and the other Help Our Troops (HOT) ladies are doing. She says that as chairperson of HOT she will continue to research 501C(19) and 501C(3) in order to determine the best way to raise funds outside the Chapter.

Maj Gen Peck spoke about a subject that has been around before. That is people who walk in to our luncheon without having made reservations. Unfortunately this can cause persons who have made reservation, but may be a little late arriving to the luncheon, to go without their meals or portions thereof such as salads. This happened at our 21 April luncheon. Don said he will speak to CAPT Bob Eynatten USN(Ret) about a solution.

Carolyn suggests that we donate the profits from our equity distribution and the left-over funds from baseball to HOT. Pete reminded us that the baseball funds that are in our account will be used to make up the \$5.00 discount for early registrations to the Convention. Any left over after that can be put in the HOT account. This was agreed to by our Board and the equity distribution profits from 1 January on will be put in the HOT account.

Mrs. Violet Smith told us of a change in the Military ID procedure for dependents. When applying for renewal ID cards it is now necessary to have your SPONSOR present. If the sponsor is not able to be present because of medical reasons, it will be necessary to receive paperwork from the Pass and ID office and have a Doctor sign off and have it Notarized and returned to Pass and ID. If the spouse is deceased a copy of the Death Certificate will be necessary.

In the event the computers are down you should take with you (1) your old ID card; (2) your sponsor's DD214; and (3) your marriage certificate. In the case of a deceased sponsor, a copy of the Death Certificate. For information on any of this the Pass and ID Office at MacDill AFB is: 813-828-2278. Their hours are: M. T. W.F. From 0730 to 1530 hours. On Thursday hours are 0900 - 1530 hours. At 1235 hours President Don Freese asked Chaplain George Brown to give the Benediction and the meeting was closed.



Commission Debates Disability Insurance Review.

During its May 18-19 hearing in Arlington, VA, the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission members and veterans' service organization representatives exchanged views on whether Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) awards should be considered in assessing VA and military compensation amounts for service-disabled veterans. The commission, chartered by Congress to study the benefits that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service, is now scheduled to provide their final report in October 2007. Over the past two months, the commission had failed to reach an internal consensus on whether to collect SSDI data. This week's hearing gave military and veterans' organization representatives the opportunity to comment. MOAA's input to the commission made the following points: 1) SSDI is an independent Social Security insurance program that all American workers pay for through payroll tax "premiums." As such, it serves a different purpose than compensation earned through service and sacrifice for the Nation. 2) MOAA is strongly opposed to offsetting VA disability compensation by SSDI, just as we believe it is inappropriate to offset retired pay for VA disability compensation or to offset Survivor Benefit Plan annuities for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation payments. In the case of SSDI, the statute has always prohibited any such offset to military retirement or veterans' disability benefits. 3) Congress established the commission at the same time it acted to eliminate the disability offset to retired pay for 100-percent disabled retirees - the only group that might qualify for SSDI. In that context, it would be the ultimate irony for the commission to investigate whether there should be a new offset to these members' disability compensation where none existed before. After considering all of the organizations' inputs, the commission decided that it should get more information on SSDI. However, the commissioners took pains to emphasize that they do not intend to consider SSDI as a possible offset to VA disability compensation. Rather, the commission may consider possible options to improve coverage for disabled veterans, such as waiving the normal requirement to have paid 40 quarters of Social Security payroll taxes to be eligible for SSDI. For more information on the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission please visit www.vetscommission.com.

COLA Watch In mid-May, the **Bureau of Labor** Statistics announced the April 2006 monthly Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is used to calculate the annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) for recipients of military and federal civilian retired pay, VA disability compensation, federal survivor annuities, and Social Security. CPI rose another full percentage point in March, for a total of 2.3% growth so far this fiscal year. Again, energy cost increases of 4.2% from March to April were the dominant reason for the increase. View the month-by-month change in the CPI and historical inflation data on MOAA's website.

Combat Troops' IRA Rights To Be Restored a week after House passage, the Senate acted on May 18 to approve legislation (H.R. 1499) that will ensure combat troops won't

lose the right to contribute to individual retirement accounts (IRAs). The bill will now go to the president for signature. At the urging of MOAA and others Congress passed H.R. 1499, originally introduced by Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-NC), to fix a situation in which service members assigned to combat zones effectively can be barred from making contributions to IRAs under current law, since their basic pay is exempt from federal income taxes. With no taxable earned income, they fail to meet eligibility rules for IRA contributions. This legislation will ensure that service members who are sent in harm's way won't be penalized in their ability to build future retirement savings.

From MOAA Legislative Update. **RJS**



Grant Culverhouse
Sales & Leasing Consultant



Cadillac

HUMMER

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TAPS

BGen Charles J. Kaniss, USA (Ret)
 April 26, 2006
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Lt Col Edward H. Benson, USAF (Ret)
 May 25, 2006
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BGen Charles J. Kaniss, USA (Ret)

Charles Kaniss was a most distinguished member of our MOAA Chapter, a long time St Petersburg City Council member and a Supervisor of Elections for Pinellas County. He was a graduate of the University of Wisconsin with a major in Philosophy. What we didn't hear about was his record in WWII which was quite remarkable. Service in Italy and North Africa was recognized by his two awards of the Silver Star, two awards of the Bronze Star and two awards of the Purple Heart. Other of his accomplishments were ownership of a jewelry business for 22 years, past presidency of the St Petersburg Kiwanis Club, chairman of the local chapter of the American Red Cross, and membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars as well as in the St Petersburg Area Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. **RJS**

Sick List

(Contact LCDR Hazel McGrath, 545-3884)

- * 1Lt **Robert L. Alvarez, USMC (Ret)**
6070 80th St, N, #401, St Petersburg, FL 33709
- * LTC **Richard H. Natzke, USA (Ret)**
530 59th Ave, St Pete Beach, FL 33706
- * Lt Col **Charles R. Hedrick, USAF (Ret)**
12136 Kay Dr, Seminole, FL 33772
- * Mrs. **Mary Eisenhart, Spouse**
1734 72nd Ave, N.E., St Petersburg, FL 33702
- * CWO4 **Robert C. Hodgen, USAF (Ret)**
7979 Sailboat Key Blvd, #506, S. Pasadena, FL 33707

Your cards, prayers and thoughts are welcome.

2006 Officers Call BOOSTER

\$120 – Through — 20 April 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Brown, George, COL USA
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA

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

2006 Scholarship Fund \$360 – Through — 20 April 2006

Arnim, Rosemary, AuxMbr-A
 Gudmundson, Brent, LTC USA
 Kaniss, Charles, BG USA
 Lorence, Marie, LTC USA
 Neville, Al, Col USAF

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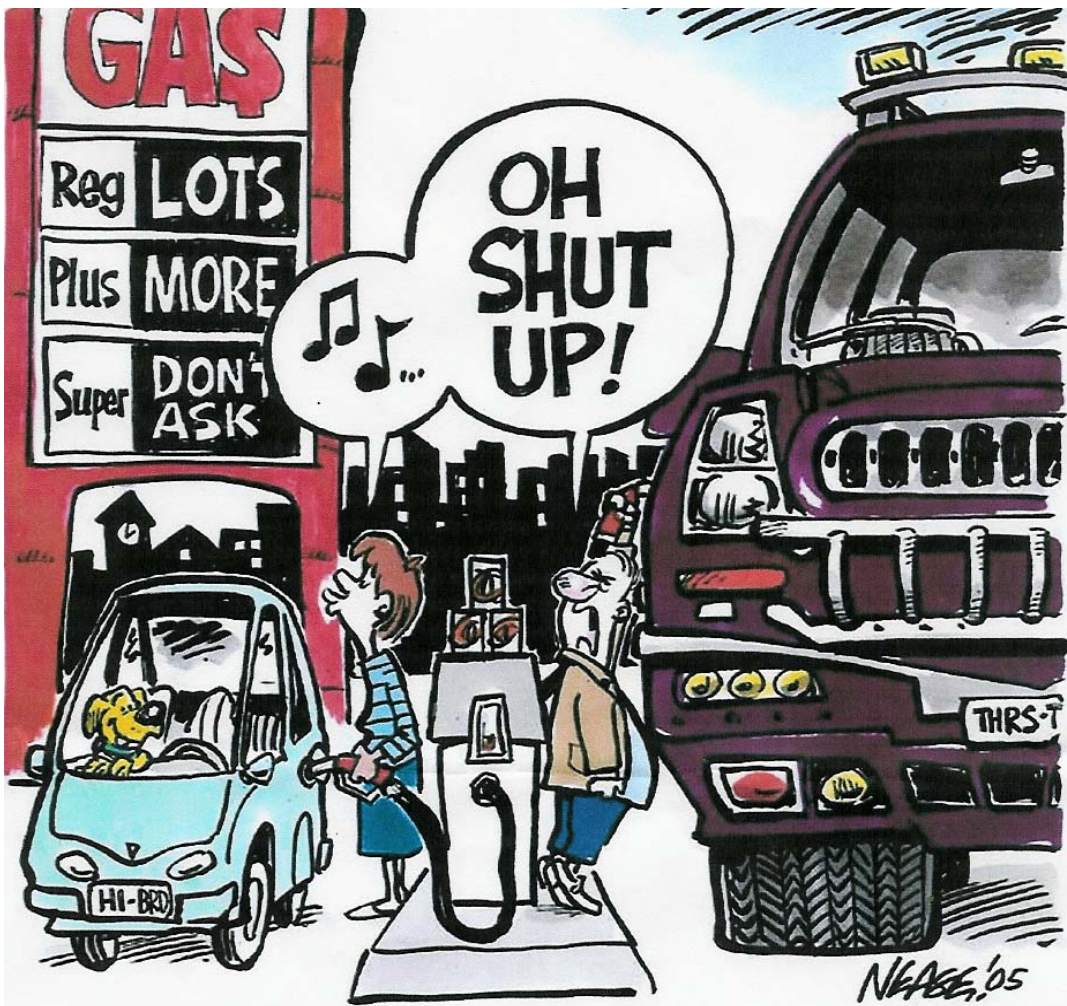
June Birthdays

(69 to 96 years)

Day	L NAME, F NAME	RANK	SVC
10	Balke, Dale	COL	USA (Ret)
21	Boutwell, Susanna	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Chamberlain, Helen	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
14	Davenport, Rennie	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
29	Fine, A. Kenneth	MAJ	AUS (Ret)
19	Fontana, Raymond	LT	USN (Frm)
10	Hadley, Dorothy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-N
29	Harren, Robert	MAJ	USA (Ret)
04	Hoddinott, June	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Jenkins, John	CDR	USN (Ret)
28	Miller, Katherine	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
09	Palsha, Robert	LTC	USA (Ret)
15	Phillips, YY	COL	USA (Ret)
24	Plummer, Willis	CWO2	USN (Ret)
23	Simon, June	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
04	Stafford, Margaret	COL	USA (Ret)
22	Wadham, Peggy	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A

Cartoon from Basil:

He has the gas guzzling SUV on the right, he wants the small hybrid on the left.



May 2006

- Operating Account:
 Income: \$74.00
 Expenses: \$647.38
 Cash Flow out: -\$573.38
 Operating cash on hand: \$4,114.93
- Scholarship Fund:
 April 30: \$625.66
 Donations: \$20.00
 May 22: \$645.66
- HOT – Help Our Troops Fund
 April 30: \$602.52
 Donations: \$544.03
 Expenses: \$609.58
 May 22: \$536.97
- Baseball Fund
 April 30: \$363.73
 Convention: \$175.00
 HOT: \$188.73

Fund closed

Comment: With no luncheon due to the convention, activity slowed to a crawl in May.

Maj. **Pete Dawson**, USAF (Ret)
 Treasurer

LUNCHEON MEETING

11 AM - 1:30 PM, Friday, June 16th
 Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd.

• Reservations by Wednesday June 14th

Your name _____

Each reservation \$10:

Chicken Cordon Bleu: _____

Lemon Crumb Scrod: _____

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

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

For late reservations, call either

CAPT Bob Eynatten 360-4637

or

CAPT Don Freese 360-3102

Calendar of Events

Luncheon Meetings are on the 3rd Friday of each month—mixer 1100 - 1145; luncheon and program 1145 - 1315; at Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

June 16th, Friday, 11:00 LTC Levonda Shelph, USA, "My two years of experience in Iraq to include mission, major tasks and accomplishments"

July 21st, Friday, 11:00 Annual Memorial Service;

August 18th, Friday, 11:00 Weatherman Dick Fletcher, hurricanes present and past.

September 15th, Friday, 11:00

October 20th, Friday, 11:00

November 17th, Friday, 11:00

The St. Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA
P.O. Box 7054
St. Petersburg, FL 33734

Business Meetings are on the 1st Monday of the month 1130 - 1230 at Perkins Family Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. and Park Blvd. in Seminole.

June 5th Monday

July 10rd Monday (2nd Monday)

August 7th Monday

September 11th Monday (2nd Monday)

October 2nd Monday

November 6th Monday

ROWC

Luncheon—(2nd Tuesday) meet 11:30 AM, lunch 12:30 PM

•**Reservations:** LTC Rose Munchbach 397-4146

•**Membership:** Martha Willis 579-4116.

Summer recess:—

•**October 10th** - Luncheons resume

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

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