



OFFICERS CALL

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



**VOL XIII No. III ★★★★★ Five Star Chapter:2000, 2002-11 ★★★★★ March 2013
Winner Print Media 2006; 1st Runnerup 2010-11; Winner 2010 Communications Award**

President's Comments:

Business required me to be in Altamonte Springs last Friday afternoon and thus prevented me from attending the February luncheon; however, I have been assured that all went well. Thanks to Dick Koch for stepping in and running the meeting. I did meet our guest speaker, Linda Gould, who I trust invited everyone to the Sarasota Convention. It should be informative and enjoyable, and I hope to see many of you there.



At the luncheon, Don Freese spoke about MOAA's emphasis on building Chapter membership. As I have frequently said, this is an important time to increase the voice of MOAA, and a very good way to do that is to build Chapter membership. We are planning some events like the visit to the Armed Forces History Museum last October which we hope will bring in new members. The next one will be a picnic in April. The details for this are located in an invite elsewhere in this OC. We are also planning to build a membership committee. If you are willing to serve on a membership committee, or if you have some good ideas for events that will bring in new members, please let me, Don, or one of the other EC members know.

Our speaker for the March luncheon will be Mark Alexander, Senior Special Agent for the United States Secret Service. I hope to see everyone there.



A TISKET A TASKET WE ARE FILLING THE PICNIC BASKET

Please join us for the First Annual MOAA Picnic on April 27, 2013 at 11:00 am at the War Memorial Park at Bay Pines, pavilion #4. Delicious fried chicken, beverages, plates and cutlery will be provided. You are welcome to bring a potluck side item or dessert. Please call either Paulette Carr at 392-6524 or Sherry Freese at 360-3102 to confirm you'll join us! Guests are welcome. We look forward to seeing you!

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The Military Officers Association of Sarasota Chapter is pleased to serve as the host chapter for the FCOC 2013 Convention, 7 – 9 June 2013. We invite you to come and enjoy our hospitality, cultural treasures, and fantastic dining. Come early and stay longer, the hotel rates will remain at our low Convention rate for 2 days before and 2 days after the event.

We have chosen our theme as Under the Big Top in Sarasota. As you may know Sarasota has been the home of the circus for many years and we have an amazing treasure trove of attrac-

See Convention Pg 4



Officers Call

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

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

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 2nd VP- MAJ Joanne Taylor, USA (Ret) 388-2384
 Secretary- Mrs. Chris Lillich Spouse-A 546-2246
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 Master at Arms ... CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG 821-7365
 Membership CAPT Don Freese, USN 360-3102
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 Nominating Cmte Col Bill Lofgren, USAF 528-3946
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 Reservations CDR Bill Bolin, USNR 584-1595
 Scholarships: Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF 522-6237
 TOPS Vacant
 VA Vol Svc LT Ed Conners, USN 347-7976
 Vet Liaison MAJ Ed Lillich, USA 546-2246
 Visitation Vacant -

Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 292
 Regular Members - 191
 Auxiliary Members - 101
 Inactive Members - 6

Military Services:

Army - 70 USMC - 15
 USAF - 60 USCG - 7
 Navy - 39 NOAA - 0

2/25/2013

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

CALENDAR

March 15th **Mark Alexander, U.S. Secret Service**

April 19th **Pinellas County Sheriff, Bob Gualtieri**

May 17th **Memorial Service, MAJ Ed Lillich**

June 21st

**** 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.

March 4th Monday

April 1st Monday

May 6th Monday

MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

Luncheons:

- Next luncheon will be
 March 12th Dolphin Beach Resort
 4900 Gulf Blvd.
 St. Pete Beach

Luncheon Reservations:

Jackie Bohnker, 812-4868 or
 Dot Plummer 586-1447

Membership Info:

- Barbara King 391-2564

Bridge: (1st Wednesday of the month) 10:00 AM

Banquet Masters, 8100 Park Blvd., Pinellas Park.

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272
 or Rose Munchbach 397-4146

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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.



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>



Minutes

Reported by **Chris Lillich**
Monthly Luncheon; 15 February 2013

Attended – 57: (58 reservations), 4 Member Guest, 4 Chapter Guests, 6 Walk in, 5 Cancel, 2 No Shows

The meeting was called to order by 1st Vice President Dick Koch. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.



Dick Koch announced that the Lightning hockey team donated \$50,000 to the Honor Flight of Florida. The flights begin again on April 16 when 75 Veterans and 75 escorts will make the trip to Washington, D.C. to view the monuments. It is hoped that there will be six to eight flights this year. Last year 542 veterans took advantage of this free trip.

Sherry Freese and Paulette Carr are exploring the idea of having a Chapter picnic. Please see Sherry or Paulette if you would be interested in attending. Date and time will be forthcoming if an interest is shown in having this type of outing.

Seated at the head table were; MOAA Board member Don Freese, Chaplain George Brown, Bill Lee, speaker Linda Gould and Dick Koch.

We were pleased to have with us as guests Pauline Mallory, LTC USAR (Ret), her husband David Mallory who is a familiar face around the Chapter as he is the bugler for the Pinellas County Honor Guard. It was also a pleasure to welcome Dan Seeman and Mel Sautter, guests of Stanley Maratos, Jon Barber, USA (Ret), and active duty CAPT Kathy Christina Manley, Army National Guard. Jack Sami was a guest of Ed Riley.

The door prize was won by Dick Koch who then donated his winnings to the HOT program. The 50/50 winnings were split between Violet Smith and Mel Sautter.

Anita Harrow announced that the Valentine boxes had gone out to the troops and the St. Patrick's Day boxes are now being prepared. She was happy to report that for the first time since she has been sending boxes out, all boxes are going to local troops.

Don Freese gave an update on the status of MOAA. There are 390,000 members nationwide. Currently 66,000 are serving on active duty or in reserves. Florida has 40 Chapters with 8,000 total members. The emphasis this year is Growing Chapters and Members. More members are needed and everyone is encouraged to get involved and bring new members into the Chapter. Don will be the Chairman of the Chapter membership committee and asked for volunteers to help him. He would like to have a 5 member committee. Please call Don if you would like to be on the ground floor of this committee. Don needs your help and support.

Following lunch we had the opportunity to hear of all the exciting plans that are being formulated for the Florida Council of Chapters convention to be held 7-9 June, 2013 in Sarasota. Colonel Linda Gould, USA (Ret) is co-chair of the convention committee. Special tours are planned along with all the informative Seminars. The theme of the convention is "Under the Big Top". The attendees will be entertained by jugglers, mimes and other circus entertainers throughout the convention. You can tour the Ringling Circus Museum, take a boat cruise on Sarasota Bay or visit the beautiful Selby Botanical Gardens. You can make this a vacation/work week. Low hotel prices are available two days prior and two days after the convention.

The hotel is the Hyatt Regency and the reservations committee will make the reservations for you, thus saving at least 12% off the cost of the room. Florida Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll has been invited to speak at the All Hands Breakfast. There will be a President's Reception on Friday June 7th and a Military Ball on Saturday the 8th. Gen John H. Tilelli, Jr., Chairman of the Board, MOAA will be the key note speaker. The Memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 9. This sounds like a very interesting and fun-filled convention and all members of our Chapter are urged to attend. Please e-mail Linda at llgould@aol.com or call her at 941-388-7149 for more information. Incidentally, this is one of the closest conventions to our area and the trip is an easy one hour on Route 41. The hotel is easily accessible from #41 and the accommodations are very nice.

Following a question and answer period Linda was presented with our customary gift of drink glasses.

1st V.P. Koch announced that Secret Service Agent Mark Alexander will be the guest speaker at the March luncheon. He will give us some helpful hints on how to prevent unexpected occurrences while traveling and talk about the protection of the President and others. In April we will hear the Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri.

Chaplain George Brown closed the meeting with the benediction.

Executive Committee Meeting 4 February 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Terry Carr at 1130 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Members in attendance included; Virginia Balke, Bill Bolin, George Brown, Basil Burrell, Hardy Bryan, Terry Carr, Maureen Connors, Pauline Edwards, Larry Fernald, Don Freese, Anita Harrow, Bill Lewis, Chris Lillich, Ed Lillich, Bill Lofgren, Jim Patton and Joanne Taylor.

A motion was made by Hardy Bryan to approve the January 7, 2013 Executive Committee minutes as printed in the Officers Call. Motion was seconded by Larry Fernald and motion passed.

Larry Fernald reported that the balance in the operating ac-

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Convention from Pg 1

tions. Our most prominent is the Ringling Museum, with the Circus Museum's Tibbals Learning Center having the world's largest miniature circus, The Howard Bros. Circus Model. The model is a replica of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus from 1919 to 1938. It was created over a period of more than 50-years by master model builder and philanthropist Howard Tibbals. Plus, the Art collection of circus magnate, John Ringling. In addition to the Ringling, we have the beautiful Selby Botanical Gardens with a myriad of orchids, bromeliads and other beautiful plants. Take a Bay tour on the Sarasota Bay explorer and learn/see various kinds of plant and animal life.

Our hospitality committee will be ready to advise you on many of the other exciting places of interest, including an array of suggestions for restaurants, some offering special promotions for our attendees.

SARASOTA OFFERS THE BEST OF EVERYTHING!!!!

Early reservations are a tremendous help to your convention planners. The reservation form and schedule of events can be found at <http://www.moaafl.org/Convention/Default.aspx>. More information is also available on line at <http://fcoc2013.blogspot.com> please check out this site.

Hotel reservation for the Hyatt Regency will be made by our reservations committee. Please indicate your wishes on the second page of the reservation form. This allowing the convention committee to make the reservations will save at least 12% off the cost of your room. Let us know if you have any special needs or desires.

Troy Scott and Linda Gould are the Co-Chairs for the convention. Troy can be reached at 941-379-3023 or entscott@verizon.net and Linda at 941-388-7149, or llgould@aol.com. They are happy to answer any questions.

The members of the Military Officers association of Sarasota want you to have a great time Under the Big Top in Sarasota, and know you will enjoy a very special 2013 FCOC Convention.

Minutes from from Page 4

count on January 31, 2013 was \$9,591.48. An entire accountability of all income and expenditures can be found elsewhere in the O.C. A check was just received from MOAA in the amount of \$105.00 as membership incentive.

1st V.P. report: Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri will be the speaker for the April 20th luncheon meeting.

2nd V.P. report: Joanne Taylor reported that she will have two new members at our March luncheon.

Committee reports:

Publicity: Pauline Edwards sent out twelve news releases to advertise our February luncheon.

HOT: Anita Harrow reported that the HOT program is in full swing and the Valentine Boxes are scheduled to go out on the 5th

or 6th of this month. Anita is in need of tooth paste and tooth brushes and asked that anyone having dental appointments in the near future ask his or her dentist if they could donate some hygiene items. She is also in need of addresses of units recently deployed. A thank you letter from the 2nd Intelligence Battalion, U.S. Marines, was received and shared with the E.C.

Data Base/Electronic Info: Larry Fernald will get the directory to the printer in the next two weeks. Twenty have not renewed for the new year and calls are being made to them to make sure that all those who are renewing will have their names in the directory.

Bylaws/Policy Book: Bill Lofgren thanked all those who turned in their amended worksheets. Bill will review all of them in the next 30 days or so and include the revised work sheets in the Policy Book.

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership: Don Freese made a motion to add Ed Spears and Robert Murphy to the inactive list. Motion was seconded by Larry Fernald and motion carried.

Convention 2013: Don Freese made a motion to place two full color ads for the price of \$295.00 each in the 2013 Sarasota Convention booklet, one paid for by the 2014 Convention Committee to announce our Chapter's 2014 convention in St. Petersburg and the second the standard Chapter Ad paid by the Chapter. Ed Lillich seconded the motion and the motion passed.

MOAA Membership: Don Freese said that MOAA has switched its emphasis on membership from National to Chapter recruiting. In order to accomplish this the Chapter needs to have a membership chair with at least five people on the committee.

We need to develop Chapter ads for the news media and MOAA will help with the cost of those ads. We also have to have people in our Chapter to welcome newcomers, talk with them, sit with them, introduce them to fellow Chapter members. MOAA will give the Chapter \$10.00 for each new member. Please help the Chapter recruit new members by being on the membership committee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Don Freese announced that Gray Warmunde from the Calusa Chapter has replaced Joyce Harte on the MOAA Auxiliary Member Advisory Committee.

Bill Lofgren said the Barque Eagle three masted sailing vessel will be docked at the St. Petersburg Harbor on April 12-14.

George Brown reported that the Air Fest will be held on April 6 and 7 at MacDill. George also proudly announced that he and his lovely wife, Dorothy, have just celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Congratulations Dorothy and George.

The benediction was then given by Chaplain Brown and the meeting was adjourned. The next Executive Committee meeting will be on March 4 at Perkins restaurant.



MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

Military service chiefs warn budget cuts will undermine readiness

Feb 21, 2013 10:57 PM EST

The Washington Post



After staying largely on the sidelines of the debate over deficit reduction, the U.S. military's service leaders have begun painting a stark picture of the toll a congressionally mandated budget cut could take on the readiness of the world's largest armed forces.

The \$46 billion dent to the Pentagon's fiscal 2013 budget, long considered by the brass as nothing more than a political pawn, has taken on an air of inevitability, forcing commanders across the military to plan for painful reductions and argue that American lives and livelihoods are hanging in the balance.

Injecting ominous warnings about national security into policy debates has in the past snapped elected leaders into action, but there is no sign that Republicans and the White House are close to compromising on a more measured approach to reducing the deficit. Some lawmakers and analysts have dismissed the caution as posturing by a force reluctant to shrink too much in a postwar era.

In response, the military's service chiefs are amplifying the months-long warnings of Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and others and providing what they have described as the specific and serious consequences of the across-the-board cuts.

Gen. Ray Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, recently warned that the cuts may curtail training for 80 percent of ground forces, including some in the deployment pipeline, forcing him to extend the deployments of troops already in Afghanistan.

Facing a \$8.6 billion shortfall, the Navy has delayed the deployment of the USS Harry Truman, leaving just one aircraft carrier instead of two in the Persian Gulf, where tensions continue with Iran. The budget crunch also will mean delays for repairs of a carrier and the construction of another.

The Air Force has warned that slashing \$12.4 billion from its budget for the remainder of the fiscal year would require cutting 200,000 flying hours. That means that by May, two-thirds of the force's pilots would "drop below acceptable level of readiness," Air Force chief Mark Welsh told lawmakers recently.

After holding out hope for a compromise, Pentagon civilians were startled Wednesday when Panetta notified 800,000 employees that they might face a 20 percent pay cut if furloughs are implemented starting in April. Although the payroll for uniformed personnel is spared, the threat of extended deployments has confounded troops in Afghanistan.

"It's like I'm just waiting for the other shoe to drop," said one service member there, Maj. Dustin Navarro, 31. "I'd rather have higher taxes and fewer base resources at home than have this kind of uncertainty while deployed."

With cuts set to begin March 1, Odierno said in a speech last Friday that the Army is scrambling to find up to \$24 billion in reductions for the last seven months of the fiscal year. The shortfall will affect training, he said, presenting a thankless choice between sending untrained troops to Afghanistan and keeping certain units there months beyond their exit dates. American lives are at stake, he warned.

Lawmaker Focuses on Military's Physical Standards

A veteran of the first Battle of Fallujah is pushing legislation aimed at trying to prevent the military from lowering physical standards to allow women to serve in more combat roles.

Rep. Duncan Hunter (R., Calif.), a member of the House Armed Services Committee who served as a Marine officer in Iraq and Afghanistan, is offering legislation designed to ensure that the military establishes a single physical standard for combat infantry jobs.

Senior department officials have repeatedly insisted that while standards could be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate, they will not be lowered and the combat prowess of the military will be strengthened, not weakened by allowing women to serve in combat roles.

But some members of the Army and Marine Corps have privately expressed concerns that Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's decision to lift the ban on women in combat will result in the military deciding to lower physical standards to allow women to serve in the combat units.

Mr. Hunter's legislation would also require the military to notify Congress of any changes to the physical standards for various combat specialties being opened to women.

"There's every expectation that the Department will eventually force the military services to have separate standards for combat specialties," said Joe Kasper, a spokesman for Mr. Hunter.

Mr. Kasper said the legislation will help ensure that the military does not create different physical standards for men and women in infantry or other combat units.

"This means the military services will keep selecting the best individuals and not have to make decisions that could undermine effectiveness," Mr. Kasper said.

The physical standards for infantry jobs vary by service, and by position. For example, to become an infantry officer in the Marine Corps, Marines must complete an 86-day training course, carrying heavy loads, completing hand-to-hand combat drills and undergoing lengthy marches. Other combat roles

See Legislature Pg 8



Chaplain George Brown



1st VP Dick Koch presided over the meeting



Guest speaker Linda Gould



Bill Lee introducing our guest speaker Linda Gould



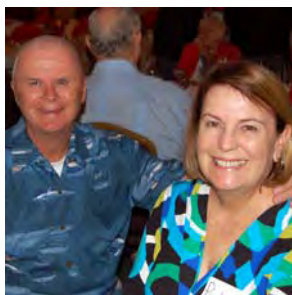
Linda Gould accepting chapter gift from Dick Koch



Visitor and National MOAA member Jon Barber, Virginia Balke and her sister Helen Hajek



Ed Riley with guest Jack Sami a WWII vet



Guest Dave Mallory with wife and new member Pauline



Guest Mel Sautter, Stan Maratos and guest Col Dan Seemann, USMC (Ret)



Margaret Peck, Margaret Lewis and Anne Isley



Johnnie Neville, Sherry and Don Freese



Guest Tina Manley and Joanne Taylor



Bill Lee and Cal Imboden



Ed Riley and Robert Palsha



Tony Quattromani



George Stenehem



Kaari and Jack Shine





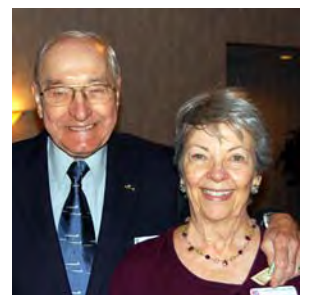
Glen and Katie Crabb



Anita Harrow and Chris Lillich



Betty and Paul Finley



Earl and Margaret Peck



Will and Bon Johnson



Anne Isley and Violet Smith



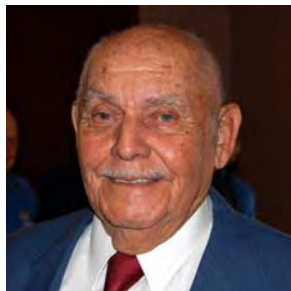
Maureen and Ed Connors



Zonna Crayne



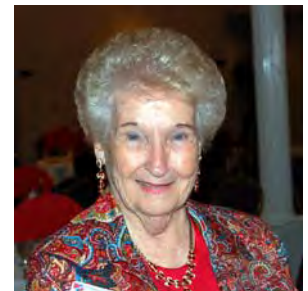
Bill Lewis and 50/50 winner and guest Mel Stautter



Herb Tondreau



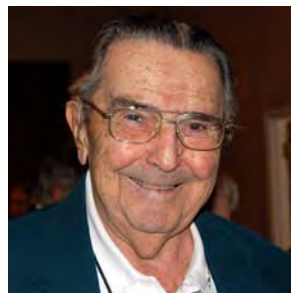
Hattie Hunt



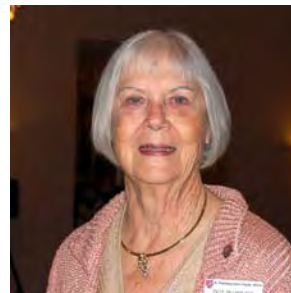
Pauline Edwards



Joan Landers



Bill Eisenhart



Dot Plummer



H. B. Love



Fred Schlager



Pete Hermann



Fran Shivers



Bill and Lynn Bolin

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

Photos by Bill Lofgren



Legislature from Page 5

are more specialized, and the physical tests more specialized. Tank crews, for example, must prove they are able to lift 40-pound shells by arm strength alone.

It is unclear whether Mr. Hunter's legislation will become law. Even if adopted by the Republican majority in the House, the legislation will likely be greeted with skepticism in the Senate, where the Democratic majority has been supportive of Mr. Panetta's removal of the ban on women serving in combat roles

New Medal Causes Stir



Last week, Defense leaders announced the creation of a new Distinguished Warfare Medal (DWM) to recognize the changing face of conflict in the 21st century.

The DWM recognizes the combat achievements of personnel who aren't physically present on the battlefield, but whose actions have a direct effect on combat success (drone operators, for example).

Modern technology enables servicemembers with special training and capabilities to more directly and precisely engage in military operations far from the battlefield.

The DWM will be awarded to servicemembers whose extraordinary achievements, regardless of their distance from the traditional combat theater, deserve distinct recognition from the Defense Department.

As announced by the Pentagon, the DMW medal will sit directly below the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC), and above the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. This decision has caused some stir in the military community.

MOAA strongly supports appropriate recognition of our troops' extraordinary service in periods of conflict, including recognition of those who conduct operations from remote locations away from designated areas of operations. The DWM is appropriate to recognize this exemplary service.

However, we have concerns about giving the DWM precedence over the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

MOAA President VADM Norbert R. Ryan, USN (Ret), has written Secretary of Defense Panetta supporting the concept of the DWM, but recommending a change of precedence to put the new decoration just below the Purple Heart.

Financial Report Summary for the Month of January

Officers Call Booster

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 0.00
..... Donations	\$ 420.00
..... Ads	\$ 0.00
..... Postage & Printing Expenses	\$ (36.46)
..... From Operations	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 59.94

HOT Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 2,493.83
..... Donations	\$ 425.00
..... 50/50	\$ 0.00
..... Memorials	\$ 30.00
..... Expenses	\$ (586.28)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 2,362.55

Scholarship Fund

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 0.00
..... Donations	\$ 893.00
..... Expended	\$ 0.00
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 893.00
.....	\$.00

Operating Account

..... Balance, Beginning of Month	\$ 9,827.59
..... Installation Income	\$ 1,800.00
..... Luncheon Income	\$ 0.00
..... Dues/Give Me 10	\$ 1,565.00
..... Misc Income	\$ 0.00
..... Interest Earned	\$ 1.68
..... Installation Expense	\$ (1,826.54)
..... VA/JROTC	\$ (100.00)
..... Supplies	\$ (5.00)
..... Printing	\$ (88.00)
..... Honoraria/tips	\$ (100.00)
..... Memorial to HOT	\$ (30.00)
..... Other Organizations	\$ (218.25)
..... Balance, End of Month	\$ 9,591.48

Income Tax Assistance

Assistance with Income Tax preparation will again be provided by the RAO (Retiree Activities Office) at MacDill. Their office is located between the PX and the Commissary.

If the RAO did not prepare your previous year's return, please bring a copy of your return which was filed for last year.

Appointments will be available starting 17 January, please call 813-828-0248. Walk in service will be available starting 6 February, first come, first served. Active duty in uniform will have priority between 0900 Hrs and 1100 Hrs.





Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ **Mallory, Pauline J., LTC, USA (Ret)**, 7669 Caponata Blvd, Seminole, FL 33777-4459, 727-329-8254
- ◆ **Fontana, Linda, Mrs., AuxMbr-N**, 5396 Gulf Blvd, #1003, St Pete Beach, FL, 727-360-0611

Sick List

Your cards, prayers, and thoughts are welcome.
(Contact **VACANT**)

- ◆ **Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)**
- ◆ **Col Mildred "Gene" Butler, USAF Ret)**
- ◆ **Mrs. Margaret Mattson, AuxMbr-CG**
- ◆ **COL Anse "Ed" Spears, USA (Ret)**
- ◆ **LTC Marie Lorence, USA (Ret)**

2013 Help Our Troops Donors

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

••GOLD –

Balke, Virginia Mrs.
Bolin, Bill CDR
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Dawson, Pete Maj
DeArment, Hal COL
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Harrison, Christa Mrs.
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Keene, Bernice Mrs.
Kottich, Chuck COL
Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL

Milford, John Lt Col
Misuraca, A. J. 1st Lt
Nelson, Landy COL
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Thomas 2LT

••SILVER –

Green, Richard CWO4
Myers, Asa Mrs.
Shine, John Col
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

••BRONZE –

Johnson, Frank LCDR
Koch, Dick Lt Col

Member donations ONLY:
\$ 1,290 as of 2/25/2013

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 lofgrenlep@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.



TAPS

- ◆ **Wildes, Ron, Lt Col, USAF (Ret)**, 4 Feb 2013
- ◆ **Slicker, Elsie, Mrs, AuxMbr-AF**, 30 Jan 2013
- ◆ **Hoodecheck, Vernice C. Mrs. AuxMbr-AF**, Date Unknown

Our thoughts and prayers are with family and friends.

March Birthdays (62 to 90 years)

Day	LName	FName	Rank	SVC
22	Bartlett	William	CAPT	USN (Ret)
27	Choronenko	Iwan	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
30	Foutz	Delores	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
27	Green	Robert	CDR	USN (Ret)
13	Hamilton	Rosemary	Mrs.	AuxMbr-AF
25	Hughes	Yvonne	1 LT	USA (Fmr)
17	Hundley	Charles	Lt Col	USAF (Ret)
22	Imboden	John	2nd Lt	USAAF (Fmr)
16	Isley	Anne	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
25	Jackson	Mallett	Col	USMC (Ret)
18	Lewis	Margaret	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
09	Milford	Marjory	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
09	Patton	Kathleen	Mrs.	AuxMbr-Spouse
04	Phillips	Bettye	Mrs.	AuxMbr-A
19	Quattromani	Anthony	LTC	USA (Ret)
22	Roberson	Harold	Col	USMC (Ret)
2	Summers	Robert	Col	USAF (Ret)
29	Vitters	Cynthia	LTC	USA (Ret)

2013 Officers Call Booster Donors

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

••GOLD –

Burrell, Basil CWO4
Fernald, Larry Lt Col
Isley, Anne Mrs.
Lee, Bill LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Milford, John Lt Col
Nelson, Landy COL
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj

Member donations ONLY:
\$880 as of 2/25/2013

Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Thomas 2LT

••SILVER –

Dawson, Pete Maj
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Green, Richard CWO4
Keene, Bernice Mrs.
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

••BRONZE –

DeArment, Hal COL
Johnson, Frank LCDR
Lanier, Laurie Maj



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••GOLD –

Fernald, Larry Lt Col
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Lee, Bill. LCDR
Lofgren, Bill Col
Love, H. B. COL
Nelson, Landy COL
Palmer, Stew Col
Patton, Jim CWO4
Peck, Earl Maj Gen
Sims, Bob Maj
Smith, Violet Mrs.
Spears, Thomas 2LT

**Member donations ONLY:
\$1,599 as of 2/25/2013**

••SILVER –

Bolin, Bill CDR
Burrell, Basil CWO4
Dawson, Pete Maj
Flint, John Col
Patton, Kathi Mrs.

••BRONZE –

Cornelius, Bernard CW4
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.
Green, Richard CWO4
Keene, Bernice Mrs.
Klaeser, Kathleen COL
Mahan, Allen Lt Col
Myers, Ralph Lt Col
Tondreau, Herb CWO4

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.

Missing for 46 years, air commando laid to rest

by Capt. Kristen D. Duncan
Air Force Special Operations Command Public Affairs

10/29/2012 - HURLBURT FIELD, Fla. (AFNS) — An air commando who died when his C-123 Provider flare ship was shot down over Ahn Khe, Vietnam, was laid to rest Oct. 26 at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas.

The 310th Air Commando Squadron loadmaster, Airman 1st Class Jerry Mack Wall, 24, was killed when his plane was hit by enemy fire and crashed into the central highlands, May 18, 1966. Until recently Wall, who was one of five crew members, was listed as Missing in Action.

In an intense recovery operation, three of the other Airmen's remains were recovered shortly after the crash by soldiers of the 7th Cavalry Regiment. The flight engineer, Bill Moore, remains missing.

"I thought there was a possibility Jerry and Bill were still alive," said retired Senior Master Sgt. Gary Thomas, a volunteer with Wall's unit. "That situation stuck with me for my whole life."

That situation involved a small, tight-knit group of aircrew volunteers from various backgrounds. Thomas, a first sergeant with the 14th Munitions and Maintenance Squadron, spent a few months with Wall. Wall trained Thomas and several others as "flare kickers" loading the 200 or so, 27 pound flares.

"Jerry was so cool and calm, he was one heck of a guy," Thomas said. "He had already been into battle and was highly

trained. When I first trained with him, it really shocked me to go into battle, and when he started going over how those flares could blow up and kill us... There's a lot of heroism in the 310th Air Commandos."

The night of the fateful crash, Thomas was scheduled to fly, but was sidelined due to an ear infection. The lead scheduler, Master Sgt. Raymond C. Jajtner took his place.

Thomas said everyone knew the danger of flying those missions, loaded with highly flammable magnesium flares. Wall's flight was hit with a 40mm round according to witness statements.

When you're in combat and when you make friends, even if it's for a very short time, it's a real brotherhood," Thomas said. "It never goes away."

Air Commandos provided combat air patrol and airlift to the soldiers, delivering ammo, food, supplies and troops. They also flew out wounded and killed in action GI's, as well as prisoners, but one of the most harrowing jobs was the "candlestick" mission. During those missions, loadmasters and flare kickers would load, unload and drop hundreds of flares from the skies over southern Vietnam, illuminating the enemy.

"It was a firefight, the Viet Cong loved to attack," he said. "We had B-52s dropping bombs right outside our wings, ground artillery coming up, everybody is unloading. It got to be like the 4th of July, but of course you were scared."

According to the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing Personnel Office, since 1973, the remains of more than 900 Americans killed in the Vietnam War have been identified and returned to their families for burial with full military honors.

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command conducted an investigation mission in June 2007 and identified a site that was recommended for recovery. In March 2011 and March 2012 JPAC conducted recovery operations at the site and recovered human remains and material evidence at the site, according to the press release.

For more than a decade the United States has conducted joint field activities with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to recover the remains of missing Americans, according to their website. Throughout those countries, teams continue to investigate crash and burial sites, as well as interview locals to gain additional knowledge. Today, more than 1,600 Americans remain unaccounted for from the conflict.

"I'm so very proud of my nation that persevered for so long in searching for my father's remains," said Lea Ann Wall McCann. "It's been a long journey home."

Thomas and several of Wall's family members greeted the flag draped casket when it arrived to San Antonio Oct. 24, aboard American Airlines Flight 497. Passengers on the plane watched from their windows as the fire department honored the flight with a water cannon salute and as the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Honor Guard carried Wall's remains to an awaiting hearse.

"Everyone involved in making this happen has been wonderful to our family, from the sergeant who escorted his body to San Antonio, to the VA and the VFW, to the color guard," Wall McCann said.



St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

Monthly Luncheon

Friday
15 March 2013

Banquet Masters
8100 Park Blvd.
Pinellas Park, FL

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

Guest Spraker:
Mark Alexander, U. S. Secret Service

Subject:
Personal Protection

Our speaker for the March program will be Mark Alexander, Senior Special Agent for the United States Secret Service. Assigned to the Tampa field office, Alexander will discuss how our members can protect themselves from credit card fraud, counterfeit currency, protection of the president, the recent inauguration and other subjects.



Alexander started his federal law enforcement career in 1988 as a uniformed division officer of the Secret Service assigned to the White House. He transitioned from a uniformed officer to a Special Agent assigned to the Detroit field office. While in Detroit he worked multiple criminal investigations involving counterfeit currency trafficking, financial institution fraud, and threats toward nationally elected officials.

In 1997 he was transferred to Washington where he served 10 years in the agency's Protective Intelligence Division. He worked in the Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center and the James J. Rowley Training Center where he managed protective intelligence training for Special Agent and Uniformed Officer recruits.

Senior Special Agent Alexander is currently assigned to the Tampa field office. He serves as the Protective Intelligence Coordinator and liaison to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force. In this role he manages threat information directed toward the President and all designated protected federal officials.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, March 15th 2013

Banquet Masters

8100 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL

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

Name: _____

Each reservation \$12:

Corned Beef & Cabbage: _____

Salmon w/Dill: _____

Cobb Salad : _____

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March

- 3: National Anthem Day
- 10: Daylight Savings Begins
- 17: St. Patrick's Day
- 20: First Day of Spring
- 25: Passover begins at sundown
- 30: Pencil w/Eraser Patented 1858
- 31: Easter

Monthly Luncheon Notice

Effective immediately when you check in at our monthly luncheon, if you made a reservation, you will receive a ticket for your requested meal item; Fish, Meat or Salad. Walk-ins will not receive a meal ticket until we have a final count on the meals to be served and will be assigned a ticket based on the type of meals available. This change is necessary to insure that those with reservations received the meal they requested.

