



# OFFICERS CALL

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



★★★★★ Five Star Chapter ★★★★★

Vol XV No.III

March 2015

### President's Comments:

Last month, I ended my comments by saying that I hoped to complete a state of the chapter review, and to provide that review to you in this month's comments. Unfortunately, outside time constraints kept me from as detailed a review as I would have liked. Therefore, I will touch on a few issues mentioned last month.



First was membership. Several members who were out of the area and are now back have renewed, and we have one new member, bringing our membership up to 220, of which 22 are spouse members and not counted by MOAA. In April, we will be getting a new list of prospective members who live in our containment area and are not affiliated with our chapter. When that list arrives, we will target those folks and begin an effort to get them to join. In the meantime, though, we are sending the *Officers Call* to 30 folks each month who are on last years list. We do that for a period of 3-4 months in an effort to let them know we are here and welcome them joining us.

I did not mention finances last month, but will briefly state that the chapter is very sound financially. The two state conventions that we ran in 2009 and 2014 boosted our treasury nicely.

One issue I did touch on last month was chapter leadership. We have a wealth of great folks in the chapter, all with supurb leadership skills, as evidenced by the positions they held in the military and the civilian work force after retiring from the military. The problem we face is getting these folks to step up and volunteer. I think the old axiom of not volunteering for anything in the military is alive and well in MOAA, and especially the St Petersburg Area Chapter.

However, I can tell you that leading the chapter will be the easiest leadership position you have even held, and, very likely, the most fun. This is the third time I have been president, and know of what I speak. Ask other past presidents. They will tell you the same thing.

So, forget everything you were ever told about not volunteering, and step up to help YOUR chapter.

At the Executive Committee meeting on 2 March, we will be addressing the luncheon location committee recommendations, so please keep your eyes open for the results of that discussion.

In closing, I'll summarize, in a nautical way, the two major issues facing our chapter--SHIPS: Membership and Leadership.

### Free Lunch Winners

(With respect to Robert Heinlein and Milton Friedman, there really is a FREE lunch)

**New Member: LTC Fran Chancey, USA (Ret)**  
**Sponsor: Mrs. Pauline Edwards**

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### BABY SHOWER OF LOVE

The St. Pete Military Officer's Wives Club is sponsoring a baby shower for a female Navy Vet, Melissa, who is a resident of one of the homes operated by the Heaven on Earth for Veterans. The boy's name is Bowen and we are looking for clothes for ages 3 to 12 months. The shower will be held at Panera Bread at Bardmoor Shopping Center, on the corner of Starkey Road and Bryan Dairy Road. It will be March 7th from 1 to 3 PM. For more information you can contact Jeanie Popham at 498-6860 or Rose Munchbach at 397-4146.



# 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

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE****DIRECTORS**

**President- Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF** ..... 522-6237  
**1<sup>st</sup> VP- CDR Glen Crabb, USN (Ret)** ..... 561-0697  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Mrs Betty Finley AuxMbr-N** ..... 391-5908  
**Secretary- Mrs. Ginni Eichholz AuxMbr Spouse** 347-9538  
**Treasurer- Maj Pete Dawson, USAF (Ret)** ..... 894-3761

**EXECUTIVE ADVISORY BOARD****2015 & 2016 —**

CDR Maureen Conners, USN (Ret) ..... 347-7976  
 LTC William Eichholz, USA (Ret) ..... 347-9538  
 Mrs Evelyn Hamilton, AuxMbr-A ..... 399-1272

**2014 & 2015—**

LTC Duane "Ozzie" Osborn, USA (Ret) ..... 570-8817  
 COL Roger Popham, USA (Ret) ..... 498-6860  
 Capt Frances "Fran" Shivers, USAFR (Fmr) ... 347-9538

**Immediate Past President**

LTC Terry Carr, USA (Ret) ..... 459-4026

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Advertising .....    | Vacant .....                             |
| Auxiliary Liaison .  | Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050    |
| Awards .....         | Vacant .....                             |
| Chaplain .....       | COL George Brown, USA ..... 866-6859     |
| Chaplain Ass't ..... | COL Mike Day, USA ..... 394-9151         |
| Database Manager     | Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237 |
| Help Our Troops      | Mrs Anita Harrow, AuxMbr-N . 367-9050    |
| Honor Guard Coord    | MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246       |
| Historian: .....     | CDR Maureen Conners, USN .. 954-0482     |
| Hospitality .....    | CDR Glen Crabb, USN ..... 561-0697       |
| Installation Cerem   | Vacant .....                             |
| JROTC .....          | MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246       |
| Law: .....           | Vacant .....                             |
| Legislative: .....   | CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160     |
| MacDill Ret Actv     | Lt Col Bill Lewis, USAF ..... 480-6766   |
| Master at Arms ....  | Vacant .....                             |
| Membership .....     | Mrs Betty Finley AuxMbr-N ... 391-5908   |
| MOWC Liaison ...     | Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543   |
| Newsletter .....     | CWO4 Jim Patton, USCG ..... 393-4160     |
| Nominating Cmte      | Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946    |
| Parliamentary .....  | Col Bill Lofgren, USAF ..... 528-3946    |
| Personal Affairs ... | Mrs Violet Smith, AuxMbr-A .. 595-5543   |
| Pinellas Co Vet Lia  | MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246       |
| Programs .....       | CDR Glen Crabb, USN ..... 561-0697       |
| Publicity: .....     | Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936    |
| Reservations .....   | Pauline Edwards, AuxMbr-MC . 360-2936    |
| Scholarships: .....  | Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237 |
| TOPS .....           | Vacant .....                             |
| VAMC Vol Svcs ...    | Vacant .....                             |
| Vet Liaison .....    | MAJ Ed Lillich, USA ..... 546-2246       |
| Visitation .....     | Mrs Virginia Balke AuxMbr-A . 544-3598   |
| Webmaster .....      | Lt Col Larry Fernald, USAF .... 522-6237 |

**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.

**Luncheon Meetings** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday — mixer  
 11:00 - 11:45; luncheon program 11:45 - 13:15;  
 Banquet Masters, 13355 49th St. N., Clearwater

## CALENDAR

**March 20<sup>th</sup>**                      **Leslie Waters**

**April 17<sup>th</sup>**                     **Elliott Steele**

**May 15<sup>th</sup>**                      **Memorial Service**

**June 19<sup>th</sup>**

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

**Call: Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237**

**Business Meetings** are on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month 11:30-12:30 at Perkins Restaurant on the NE corner of Starkey Rd. & Park Blvd., Seminole.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup>**                      Monday

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

**May 4<sup>th</sup>**                      Monday

## MILITARY OFFICERS WIVES' CLUB

**Luncheons:**

- Next luncheon will be  
 Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup>  
 1130 hours  
 The Club at Treasure Island  
 400 Treasure Island Causeway  
 Treasure Island

**Luncheon Reservations:**

Rose Munchbach, 727-397-4146 or  
 Barbara Walters, 727-595-4619

**Membership Info:**

- Barbara King 391-2564

**Bridge:** (1st Wednesday of the month) **10:30 AM**

- Reservations or Information: Evelyn Hamilton 399-1272

## Chapter Statistics

Total Membership - 220  
 Regular Members - 145  
 Auxiliary Members - 53  
 AuxMbr-Spouse - 22  
 Inactive Members - 0

**Military Services:**

Army - 59                      USMC - 10  
 USAF - 39                     USCG - 6  
 Navy - 31                      NOAA - 0

2/23/2015





## Minutes

Reported by **Ginni Eichholz**

### Monthly Luncheon; 20 February 2015

**Attended – 44:** (47 reservations), 1 Member Guest, 2 Chapter Guests, 0 Walk in, 0 Cancel, 3 No Shows

The February luncheon meeting was called to order by President Larry Fernald at 11:45. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Larry then introduced the head table consisting of 1st VP Glen Crabb, Chaplain George Brown and guest speaker Lewis Hoffman.



Larry then welcomed new member Francine Chancey and guests Larry Hoffman, John McGuire and Charles Hamilton, son of EAB member Evey Hamilton, also recognized were returning members Mike and Sue Vision.

Larry thanked the previous board officers and members and asked for members to step forward to fill some of the many open committees.

Door prize was won by Rose Munchbach and the 50/50 was split between Charles Hamilton and Larry Hoffman.

Anita Harrow, the HOT chairperson, reported that they gave eight welcome baskets to the Heaven of Earth for Vets and have provided a list of needed items on each table. They presently have in residence a female Navy vet who gave birth to a baby boy and the MOWC will be holding a shower for her on 7 March.

We then broke for lunch following which Glen introduced our speaker Lewis Hoffman. The topic of his speech was Pandemic. Following his talk and a question and answer period President Larry presented him with our chapter gift.

It was announced that the next meeting will be on 20 March at Banquet Masters

Chaplain George Brown gave the Benediction and the meeting was adjointed.

### Executive Committee Meeting 2 February 2015

Reported by Jim Patton

The meeting was called to order by the President, Larry Fernald, at 1130 hours. Chaplain George Brown gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Fifteen members were present to include; George Brown, Terry Carr, Maureen Connors, Glen Crabb, Pauline Edwards, Larry Fernald, Betty Finley, Paul Finley, Evelyn Hamilton, Bill Lofgren, Ozzie Osborn, Roger Popham, Jim Patton, Fran Shivers and Violet Smith.

**Secretary's Report:** In the absence of the secretary Violet Smith made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous

meeting and installation luncheon as printed in the Officers Call. Jim Patton seconded the motion and motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of Pete Dawson, Larry Fernald reported a balance of \$6,578.53 in the operating account. Motion was made by Glen Crabb, seconded by Fran Shivers to approve the Treasurer's report subject to audit. Motion passed.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Glen Crabb reported on the installation luncheon that everything went well. In the future we need to let the wait staff know that we have a cake and when to distribute it. The speaker for our March luncheon will be Leslie Waters the Mayor of Seminole who speaks on military history and the subject of her presentation will be on Doolittle's Raid. The April speaker will be Elliott Steele Co-Founder of Vincent House.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Betty Finley will be starting to get familiar with the membership aspect of the job. This will be a big item in the coming year as Larry explained how MOAA National is putting the emphasis on increasing membership at the chapter level. We will continue sending copies of the Officers Call to National members in the local area in hopes of getting them to join the chapter. Larry Fernald reported the need to generate new membership and then asked for approval of the Executive Order that was published in the February OC. It calls for all members of the chapter to be appointed to the Membership Committee under the leadership of Betty Finley.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Personal Affairs:** Violet Smith reported that she had received big thanks from Mario regarding the service for Marie Lorence,

Sherry Freese discussed applying some of the HOT money to Heaven on Earth for Veterans, it was decided to table this item until Anita is present. She also wanted to remind us of the next state convention in St. Augustine in May and asked that it be posted in the OC.

**Publicity:** Pauline Edwards sent out the usual notices for the meetings to the local newspapers.

**Old Business:** Glen Crabb had previously reported on the installation luncheon. Terry Carr is still working with the Meeting Location Committee and requested more time to do more investigation.

**Policy Book:** Bill Lofgren was ready to present the Policy Book for approval but with the recommended changes regarding free meals for new members, it was decided to include this change before approving, so it will be sent out for approval and with no further changes will be voted on at the next meeting. There being no further business, George Brown gave the invocation and the meeting was adjourned.

The next E.C. meeting will be held on March 2, 2015 at Perkins.

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## Discover The Benefits Of Life Membership In MOAA.



### Military Trivia Facts

Although some military experts have an incredibly in-depth knowledge of the military, no one person can know everything there is to know. I have searched books and the Internet and have come up with 15 military facts I bet you didn't know. These facts make great dinner conversation and could help you win on any one of our trivia games.

1. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)

2. Less than 28 percent of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that's only about 1-in-4.

3. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corp.

4. Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.

5. The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!

6. The Department of Defense owns worldwide 29,819,492 acres of land worldwide.

7. The United States has 737 military installations overseas alone.

8. The Navy's bell-bottom trousers, are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.

9. The Coast Guard seizes 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine worth \$9,589,000.00 everyday.

10. The Coast Guard is smaller than the New York City Police Department.

11. The Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," was adopted in 1883 as the official motto. It is Latin for Always Faithful.

12. The nickname "Leatherneck" originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.

13. The English Bulldog, also known as "Teufel-hunden," or "Devil Dogs," is the unofficial mascot that symbolize the ethos of the Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines. The U.S. Marine Corps earned this unofficial mascot during World War I, when many German reports called the attacking Marines "teufel-hunden," meaning Devil-Dogs. "Teufel-hunden" were the vicious, wild and ferocious mountain dogs of German Bavarian folklore.

14. The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

15. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly

So there they are, 15 facts you didn't know, but now you do. Now you can amaze your friends and family with your knowledge of military trivia.

Ok did you learn something? Let's try some more

### Miscellaneous war and military trivia questions and answers about wars, battles, people and places.

For whom was Italian dictator Benito Mussolini named?

A: Mexican liberator Benito Juarez.

How many inmates were liberated from the Bastille after it was stormed by an angry mob on July 14, 1789, at the start of the French Revolution?

A: Seven.

How did the Dutch in Amsterdam mobilize to defeat the invading Spanish during the winter of 1572-73?

A: The ice-locked Dutch routed the Spanish on skates.

What did the real Butch Cassidy do after escaping to Bolivia with his partner-in-crime, the Sundance Kid?

A: Cassidy whose real name was Robert LeRoy Parker, reportedly returned to the U.S, and went into the adding machine manufacturing business.

Where did Adolf Hitler's sister-in-law work during World War II?

A: For British War Relief in New York City. Bridget Hitler was the Irish-born wife of Hitler's older half-brother, Alois.

Who was the first American congressman to don a uniform following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941?

A: President-to-be Lyndon Johnson, who served in the Navy.

What military firsts were achieved by Benjamin O. Davis Sr. and Benjamin O. Davis Jr.?

A: In 1940, Davis Sr. became the first black general in U.S. Army history; in 1954, his son Davis Jr. became the first black general in U.S. Air Force history.

What actor has attained the highest U.S. military rank in his career for an entertainer?

A: James Stewart, who rose to the rank of a brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force Reserve.

Before the U.S. Navy adopted the standard 21-gun salute in 1841, how many blasts did its warships fire when they sailed into foreign ports?

A: One for each state in the union.

What was a tenth-century Chinese alchemist trying to discover when he accidentally produced gun powder?

A: A formula for immortality.

See Trivia Pg 9



## MOAA Legislative Update

Edited by **Jim Patton**

From MOAA and other sources

### Reform, Don't Eliminate TRICARE

February 20, 2015



A new report by the Center for a New American Security (CNAS) says that TRICARE is in “dire” need for reform in order to sustain the program. The report coincides with recent proposals to transform pay and benefits by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission (MCRMC).

Unlike the MCRMC’s proposals, which would be a seismic shift in benefits to servicemembers and their families, the CNAS report calls for modest reforms to TRICARE.

According to the report, “the core problem is that TRICARE’s fee-for-service approach is subject to the same perverse incentive structures that have driven up health care costs in the United States by explicitly connecting payment to volume of care, not value of care.”

TRICARE’s fee-for-service reimbursement model has created volume-over-value thinking that has driven up costs without improvements in outcome or quality.

The report calls for DoD to follow the direction of agencies like the Center for Medicare and Medicaid and private insurers by switching from a fee-for-service model to a value-based model. By rewarding providers based on quality outcomes instead of quantity, TRICARE would be able to control costs.

“We’ve seen fee-for-value programs work successfully elsewhere,” said MOAA’s deputy director of government relations, Kathy Beasley, USN (Ret). “The Department of Defense should be more receptive to changes being made within the health care industry.”

MOAA thinks that more can be done to reduce DoD’s health care costs without adversely affecting beneficiaries. MOAA’s put together 16 ways that DoD can save money in health care.

MOAA will be testifying on health care before the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee on February 25.

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### MCRMC Survey Results

February 20, 2015

MOAA recently surveyed over 7,500 members of the military community on recommendations from the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

Our survey went out to MOAA Legislative Update subscribers, members of MOAA’s Currently Serving and Currently Serving Spouse Advisory Councils, our partners in The Military Coalition, as well as our friends at Military.com.

Two-thirds of survey respondents prefer the current 20-year cliff-vesting retirement system. 82 percent said that the government has an obligation to provide a robust retirement benefit in order to recruit and retain someone for 20 or more years of arduous service.

Respondents were split on the idea of a hybrid retirement plan, where servicemembers receive a smaller defined pension with the government providing a portable career device like a Thrift Savings Plan or a 401k-style retirement benefit. 51 percent of people surveyed believed that providing such a benefit would make a servicemember less likely to serve a 20-year career.

Of the active duty population that responded, 71 percent prefer the current retirement model to the MCRMC’s proposal. 53 percent said that they would be less likely to serve a 20-year career with a portable career device.

In terms of health care, eight out of ten people surveyed prefer TRICARE for retirees and military families to a health plan similar to what federal civilians use. A resounding 89 percent of people surveyed do not believe that the Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the federal agency that administers the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan, would be able to understand and accommodate the unique needs of military families.

Given the choice of a FEHBP-like program, nearly half of active duty respondents said that they would need extensive information on different program costs and plans.

MOAA believes that overwhelming choice may be just that – overwhelming and confusing, especially in the face of the existing stressors military families face. Educating beneficiaries on their TRICARE benefits has been a challenge since the program’s inception. We are skeptical that the Department of Defense could effectively educate beneficiaries on an even greater array of plans.

The results were mixed on the topic of survivors’ benefits. Under current law, survivors who are eligible for both the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) must forfeit a dollar of their SBP annuity for every dollar of DIC received from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Often, the offset wipes out the SBP annuity for which the military retiree paid. Eliminating the SBP-DIC offset remains a key legislative goal for MOAA.

The Commission recommended two plans for servicemembers:

The first plan continues to offer the current, subsidized system of SBP coverage. Retirees would continue to contribute 6.5 percent of pre-tax retired pay to SBP coverage and survivors would be subject to the SBP-DIC offset.

The second plan would require servicemembers to fully fund SBP by contributing 11.5 percent of pre-tax retired pay towards program costs, but it would not subject survivors to the SBP-DIC offset.

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**See Legislature Pg 8**



Chaplain George Brown



1<sup>st</sup> VP Glen Crabb introducing our guest speaker



Guest speaker Lewis Hoffman



Immediate Past President Terry Carr



Guest Charlie Hamilton son of EAB member Evey Hamilton



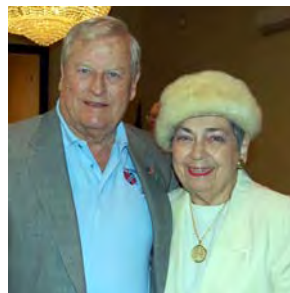
President Larry Fernald presenting chapter gift to our guest speaker



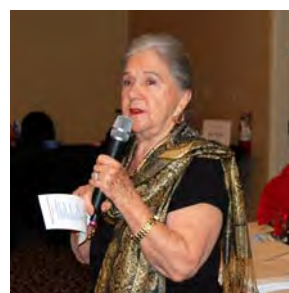
New member Fran Chancey



EAB member Bill Eichholz and Secretary Ginni Eichholz



Paul and 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Betty Finley



Anita Harrow providing an update on the HOT program



EAB member Ozzie Osborn



Evey Hamilton and Pauline Edwards



Visitors John McGuire and Larry Hoffman



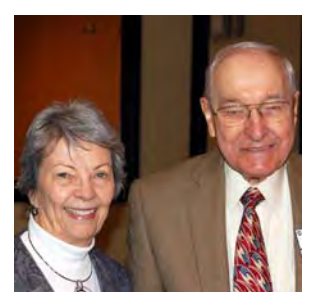
Sherry Freese receiving 50/50 winnings from Bill Lewis



Bill Lewis presenting 50/50 winnings to guest Charlie Hamilton



Lynn and Bill Bolin



Margaret and Earl Peck



**NEW MEMBER APPLICATION**



# St Petersburg Area Chapter

Military Officers Association of America

P.O. Box 7054,

St. Petersburg, FL 33734-7054

**Initial Dues:**

Officers- \$25; Auxiliary Members- \$20  
(Includes your name tag. If spouse not joining and you desire a name tag for your spouse, please include \$5 additional)

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Suffix: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Service: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Just month and day if you wish)

National MOAA # : \_\_\_\_\_ Status of Uniformed Officers: Retired: \_\_\_\_\_ Active: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reserve: \_\_\_\_\_ National Guard: \_\_\_\_\_ Former officer: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary Member deceased spouse's first name, rank, service: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's preferred name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

My Spouse would like to join the Chapter as an Auxiliary Member, and I have included \$20 for his/her membership and a name tag.

ID renewal date (for Spouse & Widow): \_\_\_\_\_  
(We will send you a reminder prior to the expiration of your ID)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Sponsor or Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Sign me up for the Military Message Center (MMC) (Important news sent from the Chapter via email): \_\_\_\_\_

To save the Chapter valuable funds, I wish to receive *Officers Call* via email delivery only (in *pdf* format): \_\_\_\_\_

(Chapter applications cannot be accepted until the applicant joins MOAA "national" per our ByLaws)

Per Chapter ByLaws, spouses are eligible to join the chapter as Auxiliary Members. If you wish to do so, please check the box above.

**Please make checks payable to SPA-MOAA and mail to address above.**

27 February 2015

**FILL OUT AND RETURN FOR A  
FREE LUNCH**



EAB member Maureen Connors



Katie and Glen Crabb



President Larry and Barb Fernald



Secretary Ginni Eichholz with Guide dog Sotheby



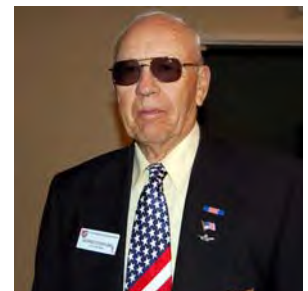
Bill Terwilliger



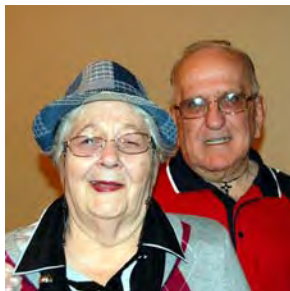
Cindy Vitters, Jo Ann Burch and Joanne Taylor



Mike and Sue Vision



George Stenehjelm



Julia and Bruce Love



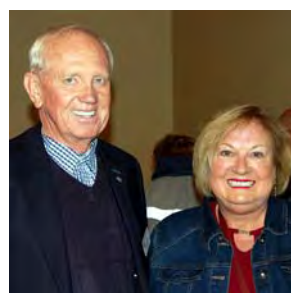
Rose Munchbach receiving door prize from Pauline Edwards



Fran Shivers



Fred Olson



Bill and Ginni Eichholz



Bill and Margaret Lewis



Sheila Mutascio and Carol Barkalow

**Photos by Bill Lofgren**

**Photos**

If you would like a copy of your monthly luncheon photo taken by Bill Lofgren, please notify him of your correct email address at the following email address: lofgrenlep@earthlink.net



Anita Harrow, Barb Fernald and Anne Isley



Jim Patton





### Legislature from Page 5

Respondents were split down the middle on whether there should be two SBP systems, but nearly two-thirds of people surveyed said they would be unwilling to pay the higher premiums.

Active duty servicemembers appeared to be more receptive to the idea of two SBP plans; however, 59 percent said that they would be unwilling to pay higher premiums.

MOAA believes that increasing SBP premiums could be a major disincentive for servicemembers to elect SBP coverage upon retirement.

While MOAA is thankful for the hard work and analysis that went into the MCRMC's recommendations, it is clear that considerable discussion and debate is needed on any proposals to change pay and benefits for servicemembers and their families. Congress must carefully examine any proposals that could affect the recruitment and retention of the all-volunteer force.



As President Larry Fernald explained at our luncheon we are in need of chapter members to step forward to fill some of our vacancies. Our needs can be seen by checking the list of Committee Chairs on page 2, you will notice the following vacancies; Advertising, Awards, Installation Ceremony, Master at Arms and VA Volunteer services. If you have an interest contact any of the officers or boards members who will be able to provide you with more information on the job responsibilities.

We are also looking for members who would like to fill officer or board positions in the future, now is the time to start thinking about it and find out if you might be interested.

Also we are all members of the membership team, talk to friends and neighbors who are prior military and see if they might be qualified and interested in joining us.

### 2015 Scholarship Fund Donors (Includes donations to National MOAA)

**Gold** (\$100 & more); **Silver** (\$50-99); **Bronze** (\$1-49)

#### ••GOLD –

Bartlett, Bill CAPT  
Carr, Paulette Mrs.  
Carr, Terry LTC  
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Flint, John Col  
Isley, Anne Mrs  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Patton, Jim CWO4  
Patton, Kathi Mrs.  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

Member donations ONLY:  
\$2,365 as of 2/23/2015

#### ••SILVER –

Augustine, June Lt Col  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Hetherington, Chuck Col  
Lewis, Bill Lt Col  
Phillips, Bettye Mrs.  
Sims, Bob Maj

#### ••BRONZE –

Edwards, Richard CAPT  
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.  
Hermann, Peter Col  
Kirkland, Doug CDR  
Quattromani, Tony LTC  
Reed, Bob CDR  
Sartorio, Sal Maj  
Schlager, Fred CWO4  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
Warren, David LTC

### 2015 Help Our Troops 2015 Heaven on Earth Donors

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

#### ••GOLD –

Augustine, June Lt Col  
Bartlett, Bill CAPT  
Bolin, Bill CDR  
Carr, Paulette Mrs.  
Carr, Terry LTC  
Edwards, Pauline Mrs.  
Fernald, Larry Lt Col  
Gioe, Shirley Mrs.  
Holmes, Lee LTC  
Isley, Anne Mrs  
Johnson, Mardi Mrs.  
Kottich, Chuck COL  
Landers, Joan Mrs.  
Lofgren, Bill Col  
Love, H. B. COL  
Milford, John Lt Col  
Misuraca, A. J. 1st Lt  
Neville, Johnnie Mrs.  
Palmer, Stew Col  
Patton, Jim CWO4

Member donations ONLY:  
\$ 2,055 as of 2/23/2015

Patton, Kathi Mrs.  
Peck, Earl Maj Gen  
Phillips, Bettye Mrs.  
Quattromani, Tony LTC  
Schoeppner, John Maj Gen  
Sims, Bob Maj  
Smith, Violet Mrs.

#### ••SILVER –

Bax, Giles COL  
Hansen, Gidge CPT  
Hermann, Peter Col  
Hetherington, Chuck Col  
Lewis, Margaret Mrs.  
Reed, Bob CDR  
Sartorio, Sal Maj  
Terry, Frederick COL  
Tondreau, Herb CWO4  
Warren, David LTC

#### ••BRONZE –

Edwards, Richard CAPT  
Hamilton, Rosemary Mrs.  
Schlager, Fred CWO4

### Help Our Troops (HOT)

The SPA-MOAA Executive Board voted to support Heaven on Earth, a St Petersburg based support organization for veterans.



Visit our Chapter Web Site =>





# TAPS

◆ Crook, Meredith, Mrs., AuxMbr-A  
4 February 2015



## Welcome Our New Members!

- ◆ Chancey, Frances “Fran”, LTC, USA (Ret)  
538 Garland Circle, Indian Rocks Beach, FL  
33785. 727-251-9653
- ◆ Terry, Maxine, Mrs., AuxMbr-A, See Directory
- ◆ Greenwald, Harry, LT, USN (Fmr), 9334  
Silverthorn Rd, Seminole, FL 33777, 727-215-4595

Every member get a new member!

## Sick List

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

- ◆ Lt Col John Milford, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ Col Mildred “Gene” Butler, USAF (Ret)
- ◆ CWO4 Basil Burrell, USCG (Ret)

## March Birthdays (64 to 90 years)

| Day | LName       | FName    | Rank   | SVC           |
|-----|-------------|----------|--------|---------------|
| 22  | Bartlett    | William  | CAPT   | USN (Ret)     |
| 27  | Choronenko  | Iwan     | Lt Col | USAF (Ret)    |
| 5   | Eichholz    | William  | LTC    | USA (Ret)     |
| 21  | Fink        | Marion   | Mrs.   | AuxMbr-AF     |
| 30  | Foutz       | Delores  | Mrs.   | AuxMbr-A      |
| 13  | Hamilton    | Rosemary | Mrs.   | AuxMbr-AF     |
| 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)     |

## Financial Report Summary for the Month of January

### HOT Fund

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 4,855.51 |
| .... Donations .....                   | \$ 80.00    |
| .... 50/50 .....                       | \$ 57.00    |
| .... Memorials .....                   | \$ 0.00     |
| .... Expenses .....                    | \$ 0.00     |
| .... HOT Balance, End of Month .....   | \$ 4,965.51 |

### Scholarship Fund

|  |          |
|--|----------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 25.00 |
| .... Donations .....                   | \$ 50.00 |
| .... Expended .....                    | \$ 0.00  |
| ..... Balance, End of Month .....      | \$ 75.00 |

### Operating Account

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| .... Balance, Beginning of Month ..... | \$ 7,089.14   |
| .... Luncheon Income .....             | \$ 1,130.00   |
| .... Dues .....                        | \$ 320.00     |
| .... Misc Income .....                 | \$ 0.00       |
| .... Interest Earned .....             | \$ 1.45       |
| .... Luncheon Expense .....            | \$ (1,036.96) |
| .... Supplies .....                    | \$ (293.03)   |
| .... Post Office .....                 | \$ 0.00       |
| .... Honraria/donations .....          | \$ 0.00       |
| .... Other Organizations .....         | \$ (186.00)   |
| .... Memorial to HOT .....             | \$ (100.00)   |
| .... Printing/mailling .....           | \$ (100.00)   |
| .... Newsletter Costs .....            | \$ (346.07)   |
| .... VA/JROTC .....                    | \$ 0.00       |
| ..... Balance, End of Month .....      | \$ 6,578.53   |

## Trivia from Pg 4

On what side did British-born newspaperman-explorer Henry Morton Stanley (of “Dr. Livingston, I presume” fame) fight in the American Civil war?

A: Both. He first joined the Confederate Army, but after being captured at Shiloh, he enlisted in the Union Navy to avoid imprisonment.

What rank did Russian czar Peter the Great give himself in the Russian Army?

A: None. He served as a common soldier in the artillery.

In the military world, what is EGADS?

A: The signal used when it’s necessary to destroy a missile in flight. EGADS is an acronym for Electronic Ground Automatic Destruct System.

Will you be able to remember all these important facts?



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## Last surviving member from Hiroshima nuclear bombing mission reflects on 70th anniversary

by Tech. Sgt. Brandon Shapiro

6th Air Mobility Wing Public Affairs

2/19/2015 - MACDILL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla., — In a small one-bedroom apartment in Clearwater, Florida, 91 year old Russell Gackenbach, sits on his floral patterned sofa, thumbing through a photo album containing originals of some of the most iconic people and events in United States military history.

“This is me and Tibbets (Col. Paul Tibbets, pilot of the Enola Gay),” Gackenbach says, as he points to two Army Air Corps officers standing next to one another. “This was me and Necessary Evil, the plane I flew on as we dropped the bomb on Hiroshima.”

Gackenbach was a second lieutenant aircraft navigator and photographer who flew into the heart of Japan on Aug. 6, 1945, as Little Boy, a 9,000-pound uranium-235 atomic bomb was dropped onto Hiroshima, Japan. The significance of this event is immeasurable, as it was the first time a nuclear device had been used as a wartime strategy, which ultimately led to Japan agreeing to an unconditional surrender on Aug. 14, 1945 and the end of World War II.

“In September of 1944, we were approached by a colonel who stressed that he was ‘forming an elite group that was to be made up from the best in the Air Force,’” said Gackenbach. “The missions were to be dangerous and if anyone was not able to deal with the secrecy of the group, they may leave, because what you see here, when you leave here, must stay here.”

Gackenbach stayed with the group.

The group trained for nearly a year—dropping what they called “pumpkins,” which were the same weight as the atom bomb, but had slightly different characteristics. Preparation missions continued all the way up until Aug. 5, 1945 the day prior to the dropping of the first atomic bomb.

On August 5th, the crews scheduled for the bombing mission were called to a special briefing. Here, they were given only the information needed for the flight—route and individual job assignments. Few knew exactly what was aboard the plane.

“We did not know what type of bomb we had; did not know what type of blast to expect; did not know the effect off it,” said Gackenbach. “The only thing we were told was, ‘don’t fly through the cloud.’”

As we approached Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, the Enola Gay and The Great Artiste went forward, as we stayed behind and did a looping 360 degree turn, recounts Gackenbach. When we came out of the turn, the radios went dead; and when the radio went dead, we were alerted, “Bomb bay doors open, bombs away.”

Shortly after, the Enola Gay and The Great Artiste made diving turns to the right, to get as far away from the bomb as they could. As for Gackenbach and Necessary Evil, because they

lagged the first two aircraft, the bomb exploded, on time, in front of them.

“The delay between our aircraft was planned; we were to document the event,” said Gackenbach. “The photographs seen around the world were ones I had taken approximately one minute after detonation, at a height of 30,000 feet, roughly 16 miles from the city.”

From the time the mission began until the time the crews returned, they knew that this was no ordinary bombing mission.

“We were awestruck; we didn’t know what to say, or do, or anything. We made three turns around the cloud and headed home to Tinian,” said Gackenbach. “I did not hear the word atomic until the next day.”

The significance of the event was unclear until days later, when the crews were shown photographs of Hiroshima—that is when they truly understood the devastation of their mission.

“Looking back at the event 70 years later, I still believe the right decision was made and I think that President Truman knew that as well,” said Gackenbach. “Can you imagine if people found out that we had this capability and did not use it?”

To this day, you can still find Gackenbach, the lone-surviving member from the first atomic bombing, traveling from school to school, city to city, shaking hands and giving his firsthand account from one of the most defining moments in U.S. military history. Ask him if he would do things over and he’ll tell you, “I do not regret the part I played in it; it was the right decision.”

## The Ancient City Chapter St. Augustine, Florida Presents

### Florida Council of Chapters 2015 Convention

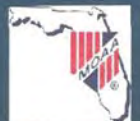


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# St Petersburg Area Chapter, MOAA

## Monthly Luncheon

**Friday**  
**20 March 2015**

**Banquet Masters**  
**13355 49<sup>th</sup> St. N.**  
**Clearwater. FL**

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

### Guest Speakers:

**Leslie Waters**

**Subject: Doolittle's Raiders**

Leslie Waters is currently the Mayor of the City of Seminole

Leslie Graduated from Florida State University, B.S., M.S.; Supreme Court Certified Mediator. Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) Relations



The Florida Legislature – 1998-2006; House of Representatives; Chairman – House Insurance Committee; Chairman-House Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations; Co-Chair of the Joint Select Committee on Hurricane Insurance; Speaker Pro-Tempore, 2004-2006.

City of Seminole – Elected to Council 2009, Mayor, 2014-2016, Pinellas County Council of Mayors; Suncoast League of Cities; Florida League of Mayors, Board of Directors League of Cities, Legislative Co-Chair.

Leslie Waters Government Relations – Since 2006; Experienced Washington DC & Tallahassee Lobbyist; Facilitator of “good government” motivational programs.

International Republican Institute (IRI), Washington DC, International Democracy Consultant, Member of the Women’s Democracy Network Council, an initiative of IRI, 2013-2015

USF St. Petersburg & Eckerd College; Adjunct Political Science Professor

**11:45 AM - 1:15 PM, March 20<sup>th</sup> 2015**  
**Banquet Masters**

**13355 49<sup>th</sup> N., Clearwater, FL**

• **Reservations MUST be in by Wed, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Each reservation \$15:**

**Corned Beef & Cabbage: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Salmon w/Dill: \_\_\_\_\_**

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

**Reservations call;**  
**Pauline Edwards 727-360-2936**  
**(If no answer please leave message) or**  
**Evelyn Hamilton 727-399-1272**

**To expedite entry, please have checks prepared before arrival.**

**For a RIDE call:**

**Lt Col Larry Fernald 522-6237**



## March

- 1: Share a smile Day
- 6: Oreo cookies first sold 1912
- 8: Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12: Girl Scout Day
- 14: Albert Einstein born 1879
- 17: St Patrick's Day
- 18: First walk in space
- 20: First Day of Spring
- 29: Armed Forces left Vietnam 1973
- 29: Palm Sunday

